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INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGED Who?

ZYMA ISLAM with ANISUR RAHMAN

They were made to sit under the sun for two and a half long hours and listen to speeches they could barely understand. As a minister and top government and NGO officials spoke about various successes of the government, some 400 intellectually challenged boys and girls sat on the ground, bewildered.

Aged between five and fifteen, the children were brought to the Government Physical Education College at Mohammadpur in the capital around 9:00am and made to sit till 11:30am.

Some were seen holding umbrellas to protect themselves from the heat. Several others were on wheelchairs.

State Minister for Social Welfare Promode Mankin addressed the programme. Other speakers included Director General of the department of social welfare and development Ayub Hossain, lawmaker Mir Shawkat Ali Badshah, Dhaka district social welfare department Director Harunur Rashid and National Life Insurance Company Ltd Managing Director Jamal MA Nasir.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Intellectually challenged children are made to sit out in the open under the scorching sun for hours at Government Physical Education College in Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday so that they listen to people delivering tortuous speeches, *inset*. To most of the children with challenges there, the speeches were unfathomable.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN





Worried Nurul

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Pakistan's first prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated while addressing a public meeting in Rawalpindi on October 16, 1951. His assassin was swiftly pounced upon by a mob and killed on the spot. To

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING			February 14
Azan Jamaat	Azan Jamaat	Azan Jamaat	
Fajr 5:32S 6:00	Juma 12:30 1:15	Asr 4:130 4:45	
Maghrib 5:57 6:01	Esha 7:15 7:45		Source: Islamic Foundation

Recruit 200 factory inspectors by March

Suggest 5 envoys to regain GSP from US, confidence of EU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five foreign mission chiefs yesterday gave the government until the end of March to show some "visible progress" towards enhancement of labour rights and factory safety, including the recruitment of 200 factory inspectors.

The focus is on the end of March deadline as the international community would be calling in April

to observe the first anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse, Dan Mozena, US ambassador to Bangladesh, said after the meeting with commerce, foreign affairs and labour secretaries.

The secretaries presented the progress made on the 16-point action plan from the Obama administration for regaining the Generalised System of Preferences status, suspended on June 27 last year

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

Saudi restriction to go after 6yrs

Bangladeshis now can change Saudi jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a restriction of around six years, Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia will be able to change their Iqama from February 16.

This would enable several lakh Bangladeshi migrants change their jobs in the Middle Eastern country.

The restriction on transfer of Iqama (sponsorship of employer) was imposed back in 2008, causing much suffering

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

RAPE ON BUS Driver, helper jailed for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A Manikganj court yesterday sentenced a bus driver and his helper to life imprisonment for raping a girl on their running bus in the district last year.

The court also fined driver Dipu Mia, 32, son of Araf Hossain of Gurki village, and helper Kashem Ali, 26, son of Bindu Mia of Dulapara village under

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: AP

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, right, greets US ambassador to India Nancy Powell with a bunch of flowers ahead of their meeting in Gandhinagar yesterday.

US, MODI Friends, again

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The United States has ended a decade-long boycott of the Indian opposition leader Narendra Modi over deadly religious riots as a top diplomat held talks with the man tipped to be the country's next prime minister.

Nancy Powell, the US ambassador to India, shook hands with Modi, who presented her with a bouquet of flowers at his official residence in western Gujarat state where he is chief minister, before entering closed-door talks.

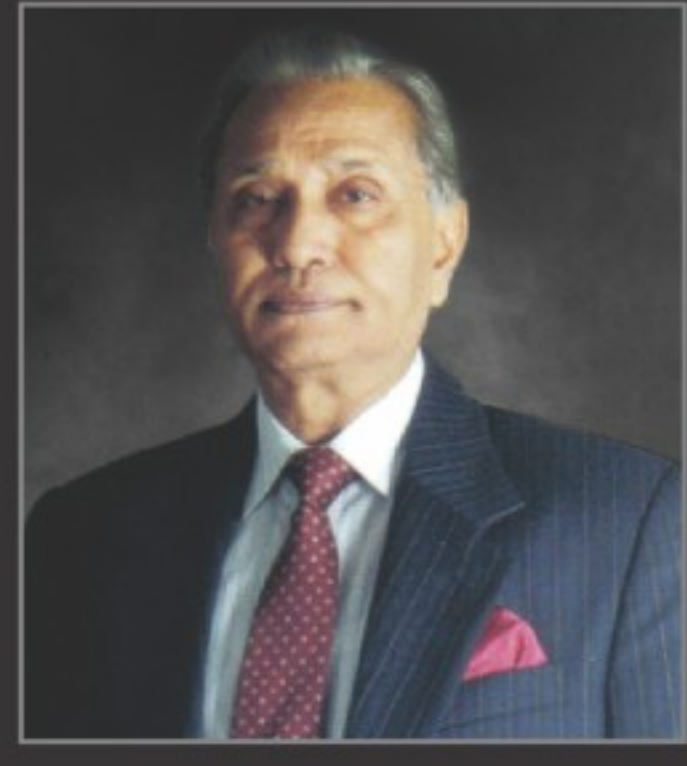
Photos showed a smiling Powell receiving the flowers and later a locally made painting, but she did not speak to reporters after the almost hour-long meeting in the state capital, Gandhinagar.

"This meeting was part of the US mission's outreach to senior leaders of India's major political parties in advance of the upcoming national elections," the US embassy said in a statement.

Modi, leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party (BJP), is accused by rights groups of turning a blind

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY



"His life was earnest, his actions kind, A generous hand and an active mind, Anxious to please, loathe to offend, A loving husband, a caring father, And a faithful friend."

In the Loving Memory of

Al Hajj Lt. Col. Hesamuddin Ahmed psc (Retd).

Al Hajj Lt. Col. Hesamuddin Ahmed, psc (Retd), served as a Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh in various ministries. He was the Administrator of the Dhaka Municipality, Chairman of RAJUK and other important corporations.

Being the Founder President of the National Shooting Federation Bangladesh, One of the Founder Member and Vice Chairman RAOWA, his contributions will always be remembered.

He was associated with UCEP Bangladesh, SAHIC and various sports and social welfare organizations. In recognition of his remarkable contributions in the field of Sports development and social welfare he was awarded the National Sports Award (2003), Atish Dipannkar Gold Medal, Poet Sarojini Naidu Gold Medal, C R Das Gold Medal etc.

Dearly Missed & Always Cherished by

Wife, Son, Daughter, Son in Law, Daughter in Law & Granddaughter.

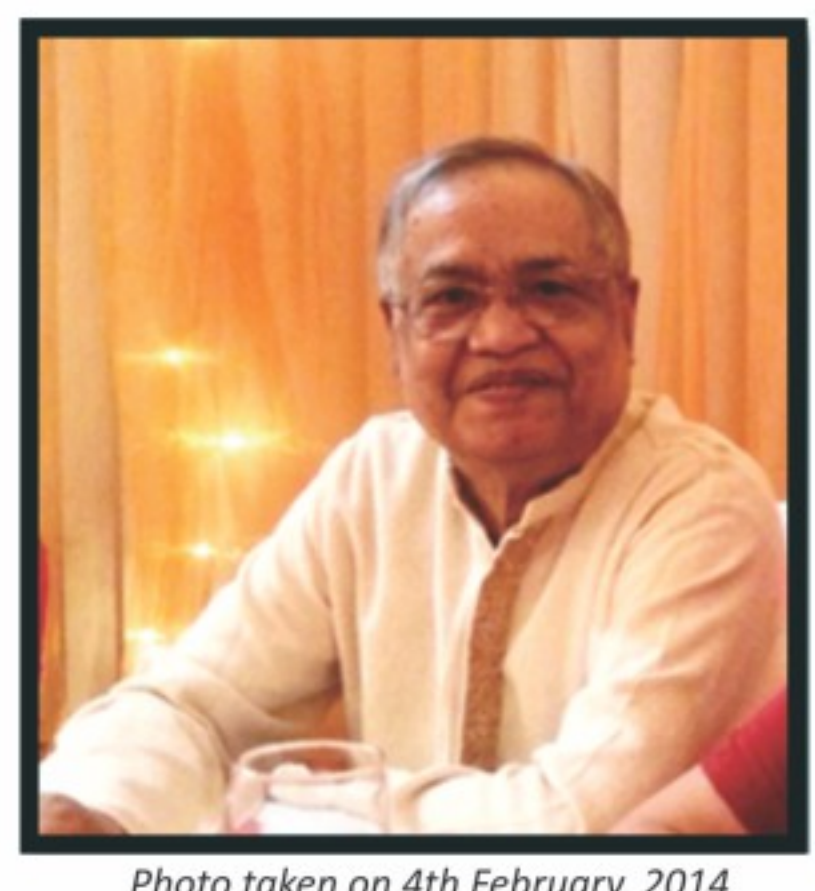


Photo taken on 4th February, 2014

Professor A.H.M. Ahsanullah

28th FEB 1937 - 11th FEB 2014

A face

We love

Is missing

A vision

We love

Remains

It's for us to

Treasure, forever

For someone

Very dear that

We've lost

Professor Fukhrun Nisa

Abrar Ahsan - Ayman Ahsan

Anisha Huq - Ayana Huq

Valentine's Day dampener

AFP, Beijing

Couples looking to enjoy a romantic Valentine's Day at one Chinese cinema will be out of luck today, thwarted by singles who bought up all the odd-numbered seats.

According to the Shanghai Morning Post, a group of Internet users reserved every other seat at a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the US to say that Bangladesh did not make sufficient progress in improving labour standards to justify revival of duty-free trade benefits?

Yes (79%)

No (21%)

TOTAL VOTES: 305

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

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TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for Additional Home Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed to say that the government has adopted zero tolerance for extrajudicial killing?

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