

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Hunk With A Brilliant Backhand

by Fayza Haq

Shovon Jamaly is an amicable, self-effacing hunk of a tennis player, with tanned limbs, raven black hair and a firm chin. He is five times national junior champion and three times men's national champion of Bangladesh. This is despite the fact that he cannot hear. And his family and friends alone can interpret his speech.

His parents took him to Karachi when he was a tiny child and tried to get him used to a hearing aid. "In those days hearing aids were not small and convenient as you find today and the gadget he was given did not help him," says his father Masud, who was himself many times tennis champion of Ehsanullah Engineering College in his days.

At the age of four Shovon was taken to Calcutta where the doctors advised his parents not to put him in a school for the deaf "And I think this advice really paid off," says the father "being with other deaf and mute would have turned him into an incurable introvert."

Shovon, who goes by lip reading and sign language was put into small private schools till class eight. In '89 he went to Hawaii Bingham Young University for training. There his trainer David Porter suggested that he try and study in USA. Despite his handicaps he managed to get a High School diploma from the Farrington Community School for adults in Hawaii.

Shovon, who learnt to love tennis and to play the game from the age of six, developed an interest for the sport watching his father play casual matches with his friends, as he explains himself, with the help of his parents.

He got his first professional training from the Australians Alvin and Jenny Gardner of Toowoomba, who ran a 12-day coaching school in Dhaka. Charlie Hollis of Canberra also had a tremendous impact on the tennis champ. "He is a quick learner and loaded with talent. He lacks technical knowledge but we have fixed his backhand and forehand. He also shuffles his feet. I told him you must be playing against elephants. But now we have him running like a rabbit," was said about him ten years ago.

When he wins he feels encouraged to try harder next time. In case of his team playing badly he says it is due to lack of training. He laments the fact that he cannot go abroad often enough to practice and improve his game. He loves watching his cassettes of Bjorn Borg and McEnroe, who are his favourite players. Pele, from the football world, is another of his idols.

At 23 he feels he can play for ten more years. When he retires he believes he can coach young players with whom he gets along very well. If that fails he is confident about going

into business with his uncle, or his father — who is due to retire soon.

He normally practices two to two and a half hours a day. During tournaments he plays for four hours a day. Added to this is regular two miles of jogging and weight training in the gymnasium.

Shovon loves the life abroad which he has been tasting as a tennis pro for years. He loves beefsteak, pizza and western type vegetables like broccoli and Brussel sprouts. His mother tries to give him the best of meals but "has failed to progress beyond the routine fish, meat, papaya and brinjal. He has a mug of milk every morning, his mother narrates.

The tennis champ prefers life abroad to that here "When they learn that I am deaf they don't treat me abnormally. Here they are not so understanding or sympathetic. Moreover, people in Bangladesh are so interfering. Despite my limited vocabulary of English I have no difficulty in communicating with my tennis friends abroad. There are so many facilities for the handicapped overseas but this is not so in Dhaka", he says through his mother as the interpreter.

Has he had problems playing tennis with his impaired hearing? While playing doubles sometimes he cannot follow the instruction from his partner. He has also had to learn to stop shuffling his feet. He naturally cannot hear the cheers of appreciation from the crowd.

How do Shovon's parents feel about him? They have not had any children after Shovon in order to give him all the attention in the world. They say, "We are very proud of him and at the same time concerned. In Bangladesh sports is not a recognised or well paid career. He must get established in life. Yet he has gone a long way despite his handicap."

He was awarded the best tennis trophy by the Bangladesh Sports Writer's Association in '88. He got a similar prize from the Sports Journalists Association, earlier in '86. The National Sports Council gave him a gold medal in '89 for being the best tennis player. He has been playing in the Bangladesh Davis Cup team from '86.

In '88 in Chinese Taipei he won the first ever match for Bangladesh although Bangladesh lost 4-1. In '89 against Iraq he won both the singles and the doubles. Against Singapore he won the singles and doubles and helped Bangladesh go to semifinals in '89.

His hobbies include looking after his two terriers, watching English movies on the VCR, and reading sports magazines.

Shovon has an elder sister, Rumana, who is studying architecture abroad.



Shovon Jamaly cuddling his Samoan terriers.

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## Power disruption hits normal life in Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent

Faulty power supply has been disrupting the normal life in Mirpur areas for about two months.

Power disruption occurred three to four times in a day has been plunging the Madhya Pike Para and Shaora Para areas into darkness for two to three hours at a time.

One Sekandar 28, resident of Shaora Para, complained that power disruption is seriously hampering the regular study of the students.

Another, Salim Mia of Pike Para said, "We have informed the authorities about the situation but result is nothing."

## One electrocuted, another stabbed in city

A small trader was electrocuted at his residence in Mirretok Chowdhurpara in the city Friday evening local people said, reports UNB.

The accident occurred when the victim Amar Chandra Sarker (25) came in contact with a live electric wire of a table fan. He died instantly.

His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

In another incident, Farid (24), a contractor was stabbed by some toll collectors near Agargaon Science Museum the same evening.

Eye-witnesses said Farid was knifed when he refused to pay the toll.

The collectors had been pressing him for tolls for the last couple of months.

## BUET academic schedule

By BUET Correspondent

The Academic Council of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) has announced detailed academic programme schedule for the 3rd, 4th, 5th year (architecture) students of 1988-89 session and for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students of 1989-90 session.

According to the schedule, the classes will be suspended on August 23 on the eve of first semester examination. The first semester examination will commence on September 14 following a preparatory leave for three weeks.

Classes for second phase is scheduled to begin on October 12 and will continue upto January 24. The second semester exams will start on February 15 following a preparatory leave for three weeks.

The schedule further maintained that the new session will begin on April 18, 1992.

## Helaluddin laid to rest

Helaluddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a former civil servant, who died in Dhaka Thursday, was buried Friday at his village home at Rankali of Sylhet district, reports BSS.

Chowdhury, a member of the erstwhile Pakistan Civil Service of 1953 batch, died at the age of 66.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter.

## Chehlum held

Chehlum of wife of late Abdullah Zahiruddin (Lal Mian), Central Minister of erstwhile Pakistan, was held Friday in their Faridpur residence at "Moez Manzil".

Friends, relations and well wishers of the deceased attended the chehlum.

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rainfall or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind and with a few moderately heavy fall is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am on Saturday, reports Meteorological Department.

On Friday, the highest temperature recorded at Rajshahi was 34.4 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature recorded at Sylhet was 24.4 degree Celsius. The day temperature till Sunday may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

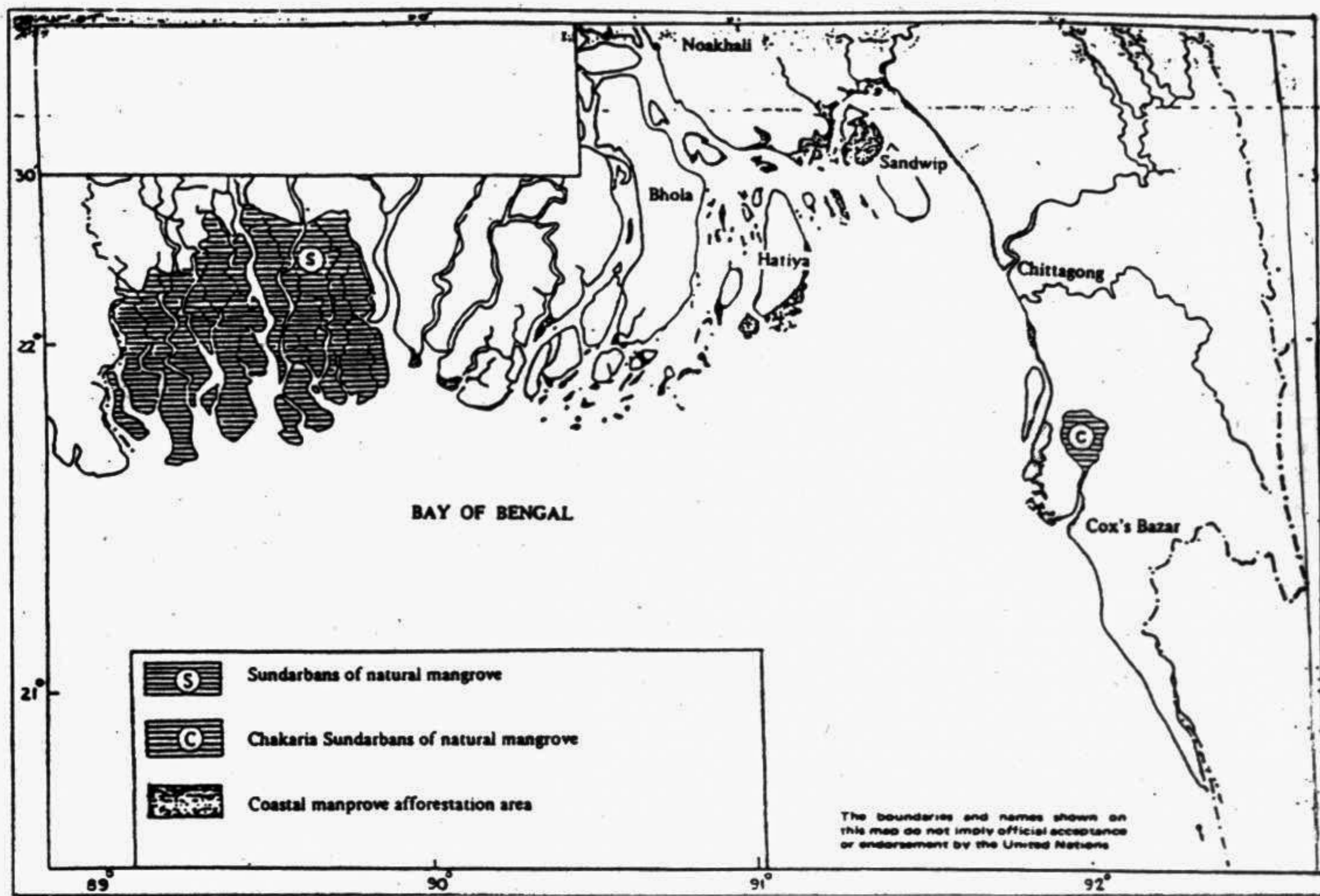
Outlook for subsequent two days: Rainfall activities may increase. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change.

Meanwhile, Bogra experienced 13 mm, Cox's Bazar 7 mm, Sylhet 4 mm and Satkhira 3 mm rainfall during last 12 hours till 6 pm on Friday.

The Sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.14 am.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Friday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.6	26	90	75
Chittagong	31.4	25.8	82	73
Rangpur	32	24.5	88	79
Rajshahi	34.4	24.5	88	86
Sylhet	34	24.4	97	78
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25	88	85
Jessore	—	26.5	—	—
Khulna	34	27.2	83	86
Srimangal	32.5	25	89	85
Barisal	32	27.4	81	78
Comilla	31.5	26	88	81



## 129 species of animals threatened: 18 types of mammals already lost

By Special Correspondent

A total of 129 species of animals in Bangladesh are listed as threatened in the Red Data Book of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Among those the Royal Bengal Tiger, elephant, leopard, a number of primates, the estuarine crocodile and others are found in the Sundarbans or hill forests. Bangladesh is a signatory of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), but skins of rare and endangered species can be bought on the open market in Dhaka.

Wildlife conservation is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department. In the Third Five Year Plan wildlife received only a passing mention and is considered as only one of the many responsibilities of the forest officers. There are no staff or financial allocation assigned full time to wildlife management.

In the last 100 years the country has lost 18 species of mammals, 14 of them in the last 20-25 years. Wildlife, however, are usually only the indicators of greater ecological reductions since they cannot exist without specific habitats. The loss of those habitats generally means a loss of an array of plant, insect, amphibian, reptiles, mammals and bird life as well, which represents a host of genetic material and biological control mechanisms.

For example, the potential loss of wetlands could influence the population levels of the Indian Bull Frog which is not only a biological control mechanism for rice pests but, a commercially harvestable species. From July 1985 to June 1986 the country earned Taka 360 million from the commercial export of frog legs to Europe. Most of the frogs were collected from the Sylhet/Mymensingh wetlands. The Indian Bull Frog, which supposedly requires an ordinary hunting licence to collect, is now on the endangered list.

"Frogs play an important role in the balance of nature and are regarded as the farmers' friend, particularly in the rice growing areas, as they consume large quantities of insects and crabs. Frogs are in fact, non-selective feeders and are known to be voracious consumers of such items as are

available in plenty. Thus, the favourable role they would play in the event of insect pest outbreaks in rice, cannot be over-emphasised. Alternatively, when a pest multiplies to epidemic proportions, farmers resort to the large scale use of pesticides, which, being costly on the one hand, have undesirable side-effects on the other, both on humans and on ecological relationships". Thus, by eliminating useful natural predators, or their habitats, considerable socio-economic benefits could be jeopardized.

Bangladesh has one of the largest mangrove ecosystems in the world and this ecosystem provides the country with a number of services: (a) Food source and nursery for the offshore fishery; (b) Coastal protection from storm surges and cyclones; (c) Domestic and commercial forest products; (d) Recreation and tourist resource; (e) Essential element for onshore shrimp cultivation; and (f) Habitat for the Royal Bengal Tiger and other national heritage.

The Chakaria Sundarbans is a small forest that was declared a reserve in 1903 to provide protection to nearby human settlements following damage caused by a cyclone in 1882. The settlements have now grown to surround the forest on three sides and the demand for poles, posts, fuel-

wood, grazing and recently clearing for shrimp cultivation is leading to the depletion of the Chakaria mangroves.

The Khulna Sundarbans has been a managed forest for over 100 years. An inventory conducted by British ODA in 1983 indicated that the standing volume of the two main commercial species, sundri and gewa, have declined by 40 and 45% respectively since the last inventory 20 years ago. The reduction is due to over-harvesting by over 100% in the case of fuelwood species. It was also observed that top dying indicates sundri and gewa are declining in vigour and regeneration believed to be a result of increased salinity in the coastal waters because of the reduced flow of fresh water in the Ganges.

The Sundarbans alone account for about 74% of the total area under reserve forest in the country. ESCAP estimated that 500,000 to 600,000 people depend directly on the Sundarbans for their means of livelihood. This includes commercial and industrial enterprises dependent on the forest products. For example, fuelwood from the Sundarbans is marketed over much of western Bangladesh and as far as Dhaka for both domestic and industrial use. As a local employer it is estimated that on an average day 45,000

people work in the Sundarbans forests. In a whole year the figure comes to about 300,000 based on Forest Department licence and permit records. This may be underestimated since Forest Department records indicate 95,240 fishermen harvest in the Sundarbans while ESCAP calculations put the figure closer to 100,000.

Fish is another major product of the Sundarbans. Over 120 species of fish are caught of which the main types are shrimp and Hilsa. Shrimp are a major export item and Hilsa a favourite fish demanded all over Bangladesh.

ESCAP summarizes the situation as follows:

"Most alarming is the threat to the Sundarbans themselves. From without, there is decreased freshwater inflow and the consequent increased salinity and there is growing pollution, especially from the shipping lane that passes through the forest. From within, there is over-cutting and possibly over-fishing to supply raw material for newsprint exports, for domestic markets and for fuelwood. On a smaller scale but of great significance, there is poaching — of wild, rare and endangered species of animals for open sale in the tourist markets of Dhaka."

## Bangladeshi made Zambian bank MD

Shahinsha Rizvi left Dhaka for Lusaka on June 25 to take up his new assignment as Managing Director, Union Bank (Zambia) Ltd., says a press release.

An MBA in International Finance and Accounting from Indiana University USA, Rizvi is also an M.A in economics from the University of Dhaka.

He joined Bank of Credit and Commerce International in 1977 and served in various important capacities including Manager in Dhaka and Chittagong office.

An international banker Rizvi is also a part time teacher of IBA, University of Dhaka.

## 2 teenagers allegedly commit suicide

Two teenagers allegedly committed suicide by hanging themselves in their respective houses in the city Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

Liton (17) hanged himself from a fan point on the ceiling at his house in Dholaipar at 4 pm Thursday.

His body was sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy and a case was registered with Demra Thana in this connection.

In another incident same day, Nasrul Islam Faiz (14) hanged himself in the bathroom by rope and committed suicide.

An unnatural death case was

filed with Mirpur Thana in this connection.

Police, however, failed to give any further details of the incidents.

## Dhaka, Moscow likely to sign Consular accord

Bangladesh and Soviet Union are likely to sign a Consular agreement during Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman's forthcoming visit to Moscow, official sources said in Dhaka Friday, reports UNB.

The agreement provides rules for the citizens of both the nations to visit each other's country.

The Foreign Minister will pay a four-day official visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from July 9.

He will be accompanied by Additional Foreign Secretary Riaz Rahman and Director General (Europe) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Zamir, the sources added.

The visit will take place at the invitation of Soviet Foreign Minister A A Bessmertnykh.

Mostafiz, during his stay in Moscow, will have talks with his Soviet counterpart covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Expansion of trade, particularly, export of Bangladesh garments to USSR will figure prominently at the discussion.



5:00	Opening announcement
	Recitation from Al-Ghuran
5:15	Recitation from Tripitak
5:20	News in Bengali
5:30	Sports World
5:55	Cartoon: Gilganece Planet
6:30	Naba Tarang
7:05	Banshari
8:00	News in Bengali
8:30	Comedy Serial: The Cosby Show
9:00	Abahaman
10:00	News in English
10:30	Drama Serial: Return to Eden
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:45	Closing down.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Conspiracy
- The Sun
- Essential character
- Glossy point
- Running
- Domesticates
- "Yours, — and Ours"
- a Living
- Runs easily
- Inset
- More
- Roman date
- Bone
- Mistake
- Natural height
- Shine
- Musical or Laurel
- Pertaining to the stars
- Locations

DOWN

- Galloping gait
- Near
- Conjunction

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ALAS	CHI	BOMB
LINT	AIR	EMIR
ODEE	DEE	TIRE
ESTATE	NETTED	
POT	IRE	
LEAS	CARTER	
ALL	OLE	
GATHER	SORDID	
ATE	TIE	
DISMAL	ALTERS	
ARAL	ALB	ORAL
RARE	TIL	RIGA
KNIT	EYE	TEEM

4 Sea in Asia

- Citrus fruit
- Indignant at
- At home
- Danson role
- Arabian
- citizen
- Din
- Rent
- Epic poetry
- Kind of cloth
- Chairs
- Playthings
- Blemish
- Baker's products
- Up to the time of
- Restaurant workers
- Mine excavation
- Bank employee
- Actual
- Kite
- Stitched
- Is borne
- Challenge
- Secured valley
- Crawled
- Regret
- Spanish article
- C-F linkup