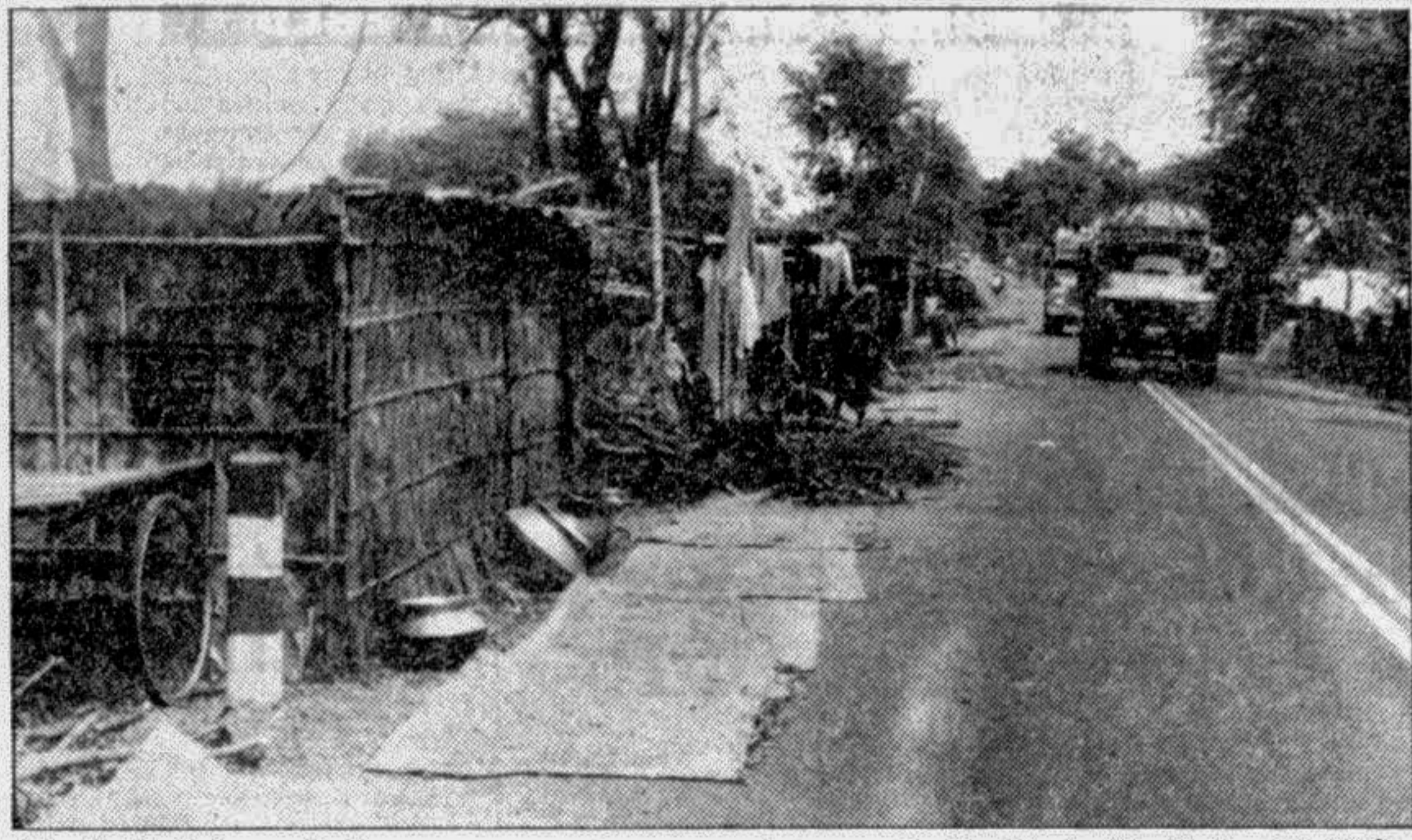




Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed addressing a discussion meeting organised by Janata Party marking the 80th birth anniversary of Bangabir M A G Osmani in the city yesterday.

Italian President, Pak PM shocked at loss of lives, property in flood

Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro has expressed deep shock at the terrible and serious natural disaster in the country that caused loss of such a high number of human lives, reports UNB. In a message to President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday, the Italian President also expressed deepest sorrow and solidarity to the flood-hit people at this difficult moment. He extended his sympathy to the relatives of the victims with whom he shared his prayers. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has expressed deep shock at the loss of lives and property in the floods in Bangladesh. In a message sent to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, Sharif said, "I am deeply distressed to learn the heavy loss of human lives and damage to the property caused by the recent floods in Bangladesh." He hoped and prayed that life in the affected areas would return to normal soon, said a Pakistan High Commission press release.



Flood-affected people have set up makeshift shelters beside the Dhaka-North Bengal highway at Ghor of Manikganj district.

British doctor begins his journey

A British doctor marked the first day of his retirement by setting off on a transcontinental ride to London through some of the world's most treacherous routes — a mission to raise cash for the 'Save the Children' fund. "It's a dream I had for years", said Hugh Carpenter, OBE, before boarding his Land Rover 'Discovery' at the gate of the British High Commission, where he was the chancery physician since 1995. Friends and colleagues, including the High Commissioner David Walker, waved off the 61-year-old physician, who retired on Monday and began a new life down the Silk Route to raise 50,000 pound sterling for the British charity. He planned to travel to London in two months, covering a 13,220-km distance through mountains, deserts and great plains of 16 countries. "We would be driving through northern Bangladesh to Nepal via Hatibandha ... From there to Tibet, China, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Netherlands and France before reaching London on October 31," Carpenter told The Daily Star. "I hope to be under the Big Ben (at Westminster in central London) exactly at 12 noon on October 31. From there I am

By Special Correspondent

going to attend the end of the journey at Old Kent Road," he said. His wife Eleanor and four of their five children will be waiting there to receive him. Dr Carpenter named his venture 'Bengal Overland: Children of the Silk Route,' which would take him down the ancient route once frequented by travellers, traders and preachers. "I foresee no problem along the routes. Only problem that could be is weather," he said.



Dr Hugh Carpenter setting off on his overland journey to London from the city yesterday.

Tribal girl raped in city

A teenaged tribal girl working as domestic help was raped allegedly by her master, at his house at Monipuri Para in the city on Thursday, police said yesterday. The 17-year-old girl, belonging to the Garo tribe, yesterday filed a case with Tejgaon thana under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 1995, accusing Dipak Biswas, police said. Police sent the girl for medical test yesterday. A team of Tejgaon police was conducting a raid at Dipak's residence till filing of this report at about 10:30 pm last night. According to police, the victim was working as a domestic help at Dipak's house for the last four months. "On Thursday, she was cleaning dishes inside a bathroom at about 3 pm. Dipak suddenly entered there and raped her. None of Dipak's family members were in the house at that time," police said quoting the FIR. The victim left the house and went to the offices of Manobadhikar Ain Sangtha (MAS) on Saturday which suggested her to file a case.

Concern at killing of Daily Runner editor

Editors and publishers of newspapers and news agencies have expressed deep concern at the killing of Saiful Alam Mukul, Editor of The Daily 'Runner' published from Jessore, reports BSS. They described the assassination as a grave threat to freedom of press and democracy and paid tribute to the late editor, saying he had to give his life for the cause of courageous journalism. Presided over by president of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad Kazi Shahed Ahmed, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Mizanur Rahman Mizan (Daily Khabar), Alhaj Liaquat Ali (Daily Purbanchal) Iqbal Ahmed (Daily Muktakantha), Atiqullah Khan Masud (Daily Janakantha), Mahfuz Anam (The Daily Star) Mahbubul Alam (Daily Independent) M Anisuzzaman (BSS), Altamas Kabir (Sangbad), Md Zakaria Khan (Banglabazar Patrika) Rahat Khan (Ittefaq) Moazzem Hossain (The Financial Express) Benazir Ahmed (Bhorer Kagan) and Kazi Nabil Ahmed (Weekly Khobor Kagan). The meeting adopted several resolutions unanimously in-

Fisheries Research Institute survey shows

Use of chemical pesticides up by nearly 400 pc since 1977

Steady deterioration of marine eco-system due to seepage of chemical residues into coastal water as well as emission of industrial effluents has threatened the country's future growth unsustainable, according to a survey of Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), reports BSS. The survey made available from the Department of Fisheries yesterday revealed that the use of chemical pesticides has increased by about 400 per cent since 1977 and seepage of pesticide residues into coastal water is estimated at 1800 tons annually. Degradation of marine environment will ultimately affect the prospect of marine resources and economic activities in the Bay of Bengal, it said. The country has a total coastal area of more than 36,400 sq km and a coastal of 710-km extending from the mouth of Naaf river in the south to the mouth of Raimangal river along Indo-

JS body discusses two private members' bills

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions yesterday discussed a couple of bills moved in Jatiya Sangsad earlier by two lawmakers from Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami. The bill, moved by JP legislator Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan, sought a constitutional amendment ensuring on third of the Jatiya Sangsad seats to be reserved for women. According to the bill, the women MPs will be elected directly by the people. Another bill, moved by Jamaat MP Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, sought a ban on gambling and consumption of liquor. The members of the parliamentary body yesterday decided to seek opinion of various women organisations on the subject. Rabeya Bhuiyan, who is also a member of the committee, told The Daily Star. The committee will send letters to the women bodies soon. On the bill seeking a ban on liquor and gambling, the committee members observed that they needed to examine some provisions of a few existing legislations dealing with the issues, meeting sources said. Besides, the committee would discuss the bill with Sayeedi who moved the bill in parliament. Chaired by the Committee Chairman Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali MP of the ruling Awami League, the meeting was attended by State Minister for Textile AKM Jahangir Hossain and Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan.

Son et Lumiere for Lalbagh Fort planned

Alain Guilhot, a lighting engineer with nearly 30 years of experience, presented slides of lighting work at the Alliance Francaise in the city yesterday. He was presenting samples of lighting work in France, his country, to the architects of Dhaka and the press. Guilhot is here for three months to study the feasibility of a son et lumiere (sound and light) project for the Lalbagh Fort in the near future. He has come here at the invitation of both the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Alliance Francaise. Guilhot said that after his study, he might propose both local and foreign technical assistance, keeping in mind possibly the Phillips Company. French firms and French cities will be asked to assist, Guilhot added. But nothing has been discussed at present and no implementation has taken place, he added. Guilhot has also worked here along with Didier Repelling, a French architect who has worked in Old Dhaka earlier. He told The Daily Star that he expects that the project will require about one million francs. Guilhot has worked in Bahrain, St Petersburg, Brussels, Romania, Morocco, Cuba, Tunisia, Quebec, and Geneva, apart from cities like Shanghai and Ho Chi Minh. The slides showed churches, bridges, castles, hotels, and banks. "Light is life," Guilhot remarked while he was explaining the technique of lighting work with computer.

Ministers shocked at death of editor of The Runner

Education Minister A S H K Sadique and State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam expressed their deep shock and sorrow Monday at the killing of the editor of Jessore-based The Daily Runner R M Saiful Islam Mukul. In separate messages, the ministers said Saiful Islam Mukul was associated in journalism for more than a decade.

Tale of 27 returnees from Malaysia

A group of 27 Bangladeshi migrant workers returned home from Malaysia on August 26 after 'suffering torture and inhuman living conditions for three months' in a detention camp in that country, according to a press release issued by an NGO in Dhaka Monday. Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) said that the returnees were outraged against the Bangladeshi recruiting agents. "At home the Bangladeshis cheated them and in Malaysia they were abused and humiliated by the foreigners," added the press release. When contacted, a Labour and Manpower Ministry official confirmed the news and said, they had to return home after expiry of a grant period permitted by the Malaysian authorities for those who stayed without valid documents. However, he was unaware of any incident of torture. Meanwhile, the last date for the illegal workers to leave Malaysia has been extended by two months. CCDB in its press release also said that another group of five Bangladeshi workers arrived from Singapore on the same day and they were also victims of torture. But, official sources could not confirm it.

DU students protest JU incidents

The general students of Dhaka University protested the alleged rape incidents and assault of a teacher in Jahangirnagar University and submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday under the banner of Sadharan Chhatra Oikya (SCO). The SCO brought out a procession and held a rally at Aparajeo Bangla at noon. Some teachers of the university also expressed their solidarity with the students. On behalf of the teachers, Golam Sarwar addressed the rally. The rally was also addressed by student representatives including a Jahangirnagar University student. Speakers at the rally urged the authority to identify the culprits and demanded their trial. After the rally, the SCO submitted a memorandum to the VC.

Joint venture hospital to be set up

Lab Aid and the BM Birla Heart Research Centre (BHRC) of India have decided to set up a joint venture project of 250-bed cardiac hospital in the city, said a press release. A BHRC delegation comprising its Executive Vice-President Beni Daga, Chief Administrator Col (ret'd) A K Chatterjee, senior cardiologist Dr Tapan Kumar Banerjee and Dr Debashis Biswas visited the city recently to discuss modalities of the proposed hospital with the Lab Aid authorities. Dr A M Shamim, managing director of Lab Aid, hosted a reception in honour of the delegation. Chairman of Bangladesh Medical Research Council Dr Modasser Ali was present as special guest.

PM urges Bangladeshis in S Arabia Help mitigate sufferings of flood-hit countrymen

JEDDAH, Sept 1: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the Bangladeshi expatriates to help mitigate the sufferings of their flood-affected compatriots at home, reports UNB. "People of your country, your brothers and sisters, your relatives are suffering due to devastating flood ... Help them and pray to Almighty Allah so they can overcome the disaster," she said. Addressing a gathering of over 15,000 Bangladeshi expatriates at Khuzam Olympic Pool on Monday evening, the Prime Minister said she had come to Saudi Arabia to pray to the Almighty seeking divine blessing to overcome the flood. "You are staying in a holy country, pray to Allah so He saves the people of Bangladesh from all kinds of disaster and remove their sufferings," she told the gathering. Hasina said people's sufferings have increased for the prolonged flood although the government had taken all possible steps to mitigate their sufferings from the very beginning of the calamity. "We are sending adequate relief, medicine and other essentials to the flood-hit people and have taken up post-flood rehabilitation programme," she said. The government had taken measures to face the flood with its own resources. It was possible if the flood did not continue for a long time, she said. But for the prolonged flood, she said, losses have increased a lot and it has become difficult for the government to tackle everything alone, Hasina added. "We have already sought international help for the post-



Managing Director of Lab Aid Ltd Dr A M Shamim hosted a reception for a delegation from BM Birla Heart Research Centre, Calcutta, in the city recently. Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf and BMRC chairman Dr Modasser Ali were also present.

More international relief for flood victims pledged

A number of countries and international organisations have announced their pledges of assistance for the flood-affected people of Bangladesh in response to the appeal made by the government, report agencies. Medicines worth 100,000 US dollars will be dispatched by India for emergency relief. External Publicity Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said. A list of medicines has been sent to the Indian High Commissioner. Sweden, which has announced contribution of 65,000 US dollars through Swiss Red



Postogola Iron Merchants' Association distributing relief materials among flood-affected people in the city on Monday.

Bangabandhu

point and after Dalim told Shafulah, "Sir, don't compel me to do something, for which I don't come." Then Shafulah was taken to 46 Brigade HQ, where Maj Rashid and Maj Hafiz pressed the Chief to go to radio station. "Shafulah said he became puzzled," which Huq termed as a frank admission which shows that he is a human being. As Serajul Huq concluded his argument, state defence lawyer Gazi Zillur Rahman for Col (ret'd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid submitted that many of the prosecution witnesses have given contradictory statements. He said prosecution did not come with clean hand and did not bring the real witnesses in the case and it seems that the prosecution is trying to hide something. Gazi argued that none of the prosecution witnesses came up with clear statement that Rashid was involved in the killing and even failed to establish his involvement in the conspiracy. He said Rashid did not get any benefit like others and even according to a witness he had refused an offer for a job in a foreign mission. Gazi submitted that all the prosecution witnesses are biased and no evidence shows involvement of Rashid in the August 15 incident and prayed to the court to acquit his client from the case. Advocate Ruhul Islam Khan, state defence for Major Noor, said the court first will have to ascertain whether his client is dead or alive. If he is dead, there can't be any trial against him. The other state defence will place their arguments when the court resumes today at 9:30 am.

Clarification

treatment, mitigation or prevention of diseases in human beings or animals. (ii) Any substance, mentioned as monograph in any of the editions of the British Pharmacopoeia or the British Pharmaceutical Codex or the United States Pharmacopoeia or the National Formulary of the United States or the International Pharmacopoeia, whether alone or in combination with any substance exclusively used in the Unani, Ayurvedic, Homeopathic or Biochemic system of medicine in addition to other three definitions contained therein. (iii) That the directorate of Drug Administration has on several occasions refused to approve the import of diclofenac Diethylamine on the plea that this raw material is manufactured locally in the country. The fact is that certain manufacturer submitted a Block List for the approval of import of "Diclofenac Diethylamine" without any specification. (Specification is the identification of a particular raw material about its quality and standard.) Later on the applicant noticed the mistake and subsequently submitted a correct Block List of the same item which was duly approved for import from abroad. As many as two local manufacturers manufacture the raw material of Cloxacillin sodium. The raw material was registered for production after approval of its quality by the Government Drug Testing Laboratory. Recently, a multinational manufacturer raised the question of stability of locally manufactured Cloxacillin sodium. Taking this point into consideration, the Directorate of Drug Administration asked the manufacturer of Cloxacillin sodium to submit stability data of the said material. In the meantime, approval for the import of Cloxacillin sodium was allowed to maintain regular adequate supply of the product in the market.

3. There is a Standing Committee for approval of finished drug and raw material. The committee consists of four members. Dr Momtazul Haque is a member representing the Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity. 4. Import of a finished drug is usually allowed when it is not abundantly manufactured locally. Usually, a same class of finished dosage form is considered for import for the formulation and its clinical advantage. Metformin (Metformine HCl) is allowed for import in tablet form of 850 mg strength as this is not manufactured locally. This strength of 850 mg is included in British National Formulary (BNF) Number 35, March 1998.

Our Reply

The Daily Star report had mentioned that according to the Drug Act, 1940, a wide range of products fall in the definition of medicine. It only pointed out the specific use of the definition of medicine and raw materials in the 1994 circular of the Health Ministry. The Daily Star has confirmed that the DDA had not approved Diclofenac Diethylamine because it is locally produced. An applicant had also officially informed the DDA that this item was not locally manufactured. Abdul Malek, while talking to The Daily Star had also said that "It was a mistake" not to allow import of this product. He never mentioned that the manufacturer did not mention specification. However, it is known to all including DDA that Diclofenac Diethylamine is an INN producing Cloxacillin. Abdul Malek admitted that DDA had asked for submission of stability data. It is unclear why DDA did not do so before allowing companies to use this product.