

What's on today....

NMST lecture: National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) will hold a lecture on "Role of Plant in Tissue Culture in Biotechnology." Speaker: Prof. Rakho Har Sarker, Botany Department, Dhaka University. Venue: NMST auditorium, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 4.00 pm.

Painting competition: Lions and Leo Club of Dhaka Mid-Town will hold a painting competition for children to mark International Children's Day 2000. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 4.00 pm.

Book launching ceremony: Bangla Academy will hold the launching ceremony of *Kishore Biswasapatya*, a book in Bangla on world architecture for the youth by Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed. Venue: Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 4.15 pm.

Contemporary Spanish Film Session: On the concluding day of the Carlos Saura Retrospective Zahir Rahman Film Society will screen *Outrage*. Venue: Goethe Institut auditorium, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

Film show: High Commission of India will screen *Ishwar*. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

Pedro Almodovar Retrospective: Zahir Rahman Film Society will screen *Laberinto de Pasiones* (Labyrinth of Passion) by Pedro Almodovar on the 2nd part of its Contemporary Spanish Film Session. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 7.30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Film show: High Commission of India will screen *Dil To Pagal Hai* starring Shahrukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6.15 pm.

Pedro Almodovar Retrospective: Zahir Rahman Film Society will screen *Mujeres Al Bordo de un Ataque de nervios* (Women on the verge of a nervous breakdown) and *Atanuel* (Tie me up, tie me down). Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm & 7.15 pm respectively.

Weather

Downpour likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy fall at places till 6pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 31.6 degree Celsius at Patuakhali and the lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.58 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.47 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	24.7	85	88
Chittagong	30.0	24.5	77	89
Rajshahi	27.0	23.7	95	97
Khulna	31.0	24.8	86	98
Barisal	31.0	25.0	83	92
Sylhet	25.0	23.0	100	91
Cox's Bazar	31.3	24.5	85	86

HERE and THERE

Bangladesh Bar Council

Supreme Court Bar Council Vice-Chairman Barister Amirul Islam yesterday emphasised the need for forging unity of the lawyers in ensuring rule of law and called upon newly enrolled lawyers to be more hard-working and attentive towards the legal profession, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a seven-week orientation course for freshers-trainees of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Vocational Course third batch at the Bangladesh Bar Council auditorium.

Supreme Court Justice Mohammad Mansurul Haque Chowdhury, Bar Council Enrollment Committee chairman Abdul Basit Majumder and Advocate M. Mohsin Rashid were also present.

Barister Amirul said that the role of the lawyers in establishing the rule of law and human rights in the country and urged the young lawyers to come forward to uphold it.

Forum

Forum, a platform for the up-and-coming BSMBA executives, held a *milad mahfil* on Sunday on the occasion of opening its new office at Concord Tower at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue here, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

President of the Forum and Managing Director of Fortuna Group Engr M. Abu Taher, several MPs, Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka AR Khairul, second Vice-President of BSMBA Engr Nurul Haq Sikdar, Managing Director of Minhaj Group ABM Kamal Uddin Khan, Managing Director of Elite Group Ramjul Siraj and over 200 garment factory owners attended the *milad*.

Hasina

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all the halls and departments will be connected through an Internet Network immediately. Hasina directed the DU authorities to construct a tower building for fourth class employees of the university, saying Bangabandhu, when a law student, was expelled from the university for agitating to realise the demands of employees. She promised to extend all-out support for the construction of the building.

Earlier, Hasina laid the foundation stone of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall beside the Bangladesh-Kuwait Moitri Hall of the university. Construction work of the 500-seat modern dormitory for female students is going on in full swing and is expected to finish by January next.

She thanked the university authorities for naming the hall after her mother who made a lot of sacrifices during the liberation struggle. "My mother played an important role in the liberation movement and guided the party in the absence of Bangabandhu."

The meeting was addressed among others by Vice-Chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury, Pro-VC Prof. M. Shahadat Ali, Treasurer Prof. Abul Hashem, President of DU Teachers' Association Prof. RIM Anwarul Rashid and Registrar of the university Muhammad Selim.

Kuwaiti envoy

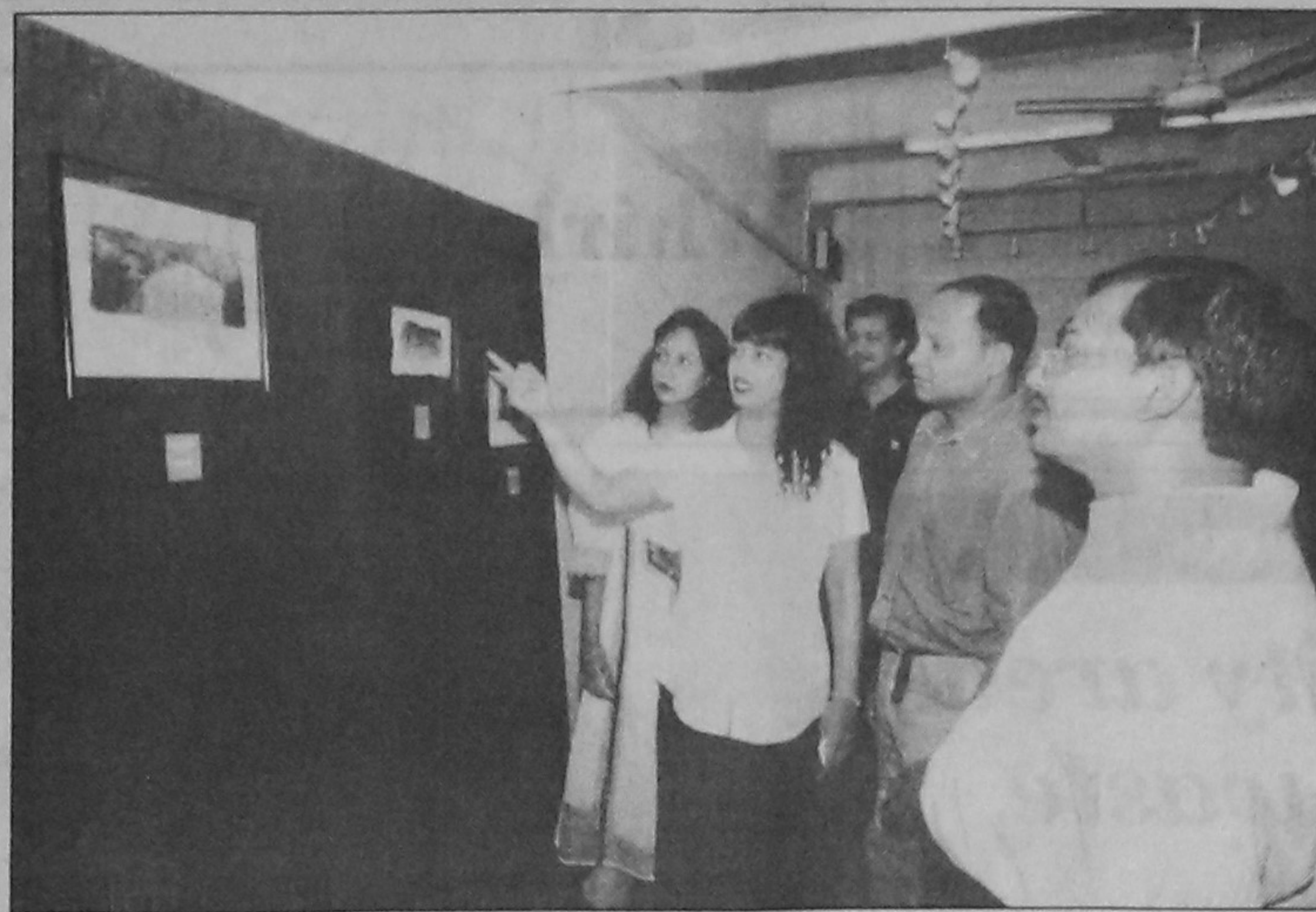
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were present at the airport to welcome the envoy.

He will hand over a message of Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

He will also call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

The Kuwaiti envoy is scheduled to leave Dhaka today in the evening.



A four-day solo painting exhibition by Laila Sharmeen began at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in the city yesterday. Picture shows the artist taking guests around the exhibition.

Paper

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tion and found that the company was engaged in collecting deposits from people in different districts. BB informed the finance ministry and said that it would conduct an investigation.

At Homna, the BB team found that ICTL was receiving deposits in the name of 'trade advances' and was giving 18 and 24 per cent commission through its Biye Muazzal and Biye Mudaraba schemes respectively.

ICTL is an organisation of SDS, an NGO which got registration from the Social Welfare Department. SDS has 12 more social and business organisations.

The central bank in its primary investigation found that the group has intensive activities in Sherpur, Jamalpur, Tangail, Rajshahi and Comilla districts.

The sources said SDS group collected about Tk 29 crore through its branch offices in Sherpur and Tangail. ICTL collected Tk 15 lakh in six months from Homna upazila in Comilla district. All these indicate that the company has already collected a huge amount of money from innocent people, the source said.

Drug abuse is a social problem

Speakers at workshop say

By Staff Correspondent

Abuse of drugs in the country has increased alarmingly. Drug abuse among the younger generation is now recognised as a social problem.

Speakers said this at a workshop on "Improvement of Treatment Services for Drug abusers in Bangladesh." The workshop organised by the Department of Narcotics Control was held at Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the city yesterday.

Quoting from a study, a speaker said that about 37 per cent of the admitted patients in Institute of Community Mental Health or Dhaka Monorog Clinic were drug abusers and among them about 73 per cent are below the age of 30. Out of them 51 per cent are Higher Secondary Education HSC certificate holders while 65 per cent of them are single.

The study also found 86 per

cent of the drug addicts have been introduced to the habit through friends and 28 per cent have become addicted by curiosity and trial.

Among them the habit has affected the family life of 73 per cent, academic life of 46 per cent and business and employment of 28 per cent.

The speakers said that the problem can be solved through multidimensional approach involving the drug addicts, family members and social organisers.

Moddabbir Hossain Choudhury, Director General of Department of Narcotics Control was present as chief guest at the workshop.

The participants will today make recommendations on how to improve the services for the drug abusers.



Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) held a dialogue on "European Union Development Cooperation in Bangladesh" at the BISS auditorium yesterday. Joaquim Antonio Miranda De Silva, MEP and Chairman of Development and Cooperation Council of European Parliament was chief guest at the dialogue.

More donation for Amit

American Express in Bangladesh has contributed Tk 102,700 for the treatment of Amit who is suffering from rare wild polio, says a press release.

The sum represents individual employee contributions which were matched by American Express Co.



Qulkhwan

The qulkhwan of Allaj Habibur Rahman (Hena Bhai) will be held today after Asr prayers at his Banani residence at House # 48 (B), Road #23, says a press release.

A *milad mahfil* followed by *doa* for the departed soul will be held on the occasion. Relatives, friends and well-wishers of late Allaj Habibur Rahman are requested to attend the occasion.

Son of the Ahmed Azizur Rahman, Allaj Habibur Rahman died of kidney related disease at his Banani residence on September 16. He was the younger brother of reputed Sports Organiser late Shahidur Rahman (Kachee Bhai), and brother-in-law of late Mostafizur Rahman, former foreign minister of Bangladesh.

He was a veteran member of Wari Club. He represented the then East Pakistan Volleyball Team.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Obituary

Begum Ayesha Siddiqua, wife of Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan, Tax Commissioner of Region-5, Dhaka, died of cancer on September 17. She was 48, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband, one daughter and two sons.

Ayesha's qulkhwan will be held on September 21 after Asr prayers at her residence at 370/B, Khilgaon, Taltola.

BTBS demands licence for public call centre

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Telecom Babosayee Samity (BTBS) yesterday said the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication has failed to provide licence for Public Call Centre (PCC) despite a commitment it made a year ago in this regard.

The ministry earlier agreed to waive 30 per cent of revenue earned from NWD and ISD calls made from a PCC, but recently it has informed the Samity of its inability to do so. M Ashrafuz-Zaman Prince, President of BTBS, told reporters at a press conference.

He said several hundred telecom businessmen have applied for a licence for PCC and they have bought spot billing machines as per rules, but the

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board (BTB) has recently snapped several hundred telephone connections of such centres in the capital and Narayanganj.

The Samity leaders demanded of the government to take immediate step to resolve the stalemate.

The leaders argued that hundreds of unemployed youths are now engaged in the telecommunication business by setting up PCC and the government has earned crores of taka in revenue from the sector.

Held at the Jatiya Press Club, the press conference was addressed by Ali Akbar Majumder, Engr. AK Sirajul Huq, and M Rezaul Karim.

Minister's son

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twenty gondas of land at Chandmari road in Lalkhan Bazar area. I purchased the land from one Minir Uddin and others who handed it over to me on my own. I got the registration this year," Tipu said.

"I don't understand why SAKS is making propaganda against me as there is no similarity between my deed and its deeds" Tipu said.

"My deed is different from those of the SAKS. It's a civil matter and court should decide it."

"I never engaged any group of terrorists to grab the land of SAKS" Tipu said.

But a member of SAKS, Borhana Kabir, alleged that the land was occupied by preparing forged deeds.

Meanwhile, police yesterday foiled an attempt by a gang of terrorists to grab a retired police superintendent's land near the SAKS housing plots at Lalkhan Bazar. The gang was allegedly backed by a minister's son.

Police also seized some fences and other materials carried by the terrorists to grab the land of the retired police superintendent.

Police said a case was recorded with Kulshi thana in this connection, but none was arrested.

Rifle Club

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mother that she had gone to Simon's mother and begged for her son's life.

Asked about the role of the spot and reportedly shared cold drinks with the gang members, the one source said the policemen were knew that the boys had been killed inside the club. The source also did not rule out the possibility of their connivance with the gang.

According to sources, the heads were wrapped in polythene bags and dumped at least 10 to 12 feet inside the manhole. Other parts of the body, however, were floating on top of it, they said.

Police had earlier recovered some pieces of blood-stained rope and trousers of Saem from the backyard of the club, the sources said.

Urs Mubarak

The three-day Urs Mubarak of Shah Suhi Moulana Hafez Mohammad Hashmatullah Shah Chisti, Quaderi, Saberi, Iftekhar, Jomipuri, Qaddas-lahu Sirrahal Aziz, will begin on September 20 at the Mazar Sharif at 94/1, Senpara Parbatia near Section No 10, says a press release.

Devotees and admirers of Suhi Sahib have been invited to attend the Urs.

Alleged mugger

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over their ornaments and cash, witnesses said.

The gang snatched Tk 70,000 in cash and 80 tolas of gold ornaments from the shop at gun point and immediately left the spot. As soon as the gang left the shop, employees of the shop started hue and cry, witnesses said.

Hearing the hue and cry, local people and shop owners chased them up to Mogultoli Lane and managed to catch two of them and started beating. The muggers were handed over to police when they become unconscious.

Two others managed to escape along with the cash and gold ornaments exploding crackers. Kartik Chandra, one of the employees of the shop received burn injuries when the gang exploded crackers, hospital sources quoting witnesses said.

Police rushed the injured muggers to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Alam died.

A pistol, a revolver and 10 rounds of bullets were recovered from their possession, police said.

Kotwali police lodged three cases in this connection.

Golden day

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included Romanian Mariora Munteanu after her national Olympic committee paid up 50,000 dollars to have lifted a ban on the entire team, imposed after three lifters failed doping tests.

Earlier Patrick Schamasch, director general of the IOC's medical commission, insisted the Romanians could not buy their way back into the Games.

A fine can never, never replace a sanction. All the weightlifters have to leave the village," he said prematurely.

The growing list of athletes expelled from the Games for failing drug tests swelled today to include the Baumann, Norwegian weightlifter Stian Grimseth and Iranian boxer Anoshervan Nourian.

Athletics governing body banned Baumann, the 1992 5000m gold medal winner, for two years following two positive dope tests.

Baumann had claimed his toothpaste had been spiked and offered 100,000 dollars to anyone who could provide him with evidence to prove his innocence.

The United States athletics team's had its own internal dispute as the first 4x100m relay practice went ahead without the world's fastest man, Maurice Greene.

Greene took no part in the baton-changing practice, in a row believed to involve his management company exerting pressure over the make up of the team.

"It gets ugly every four years whenever there's someone who isn't selected," said US relay coach Johnny Moon, adding the team will be picked today.

The Jamaicans had their differences, but settled them before putting sprint legend Merlene Ottey into the 100m after the male and female Jamaican sprinters backed off a planned relay boycott if Ottey was chosen at the expense of national champion Peta-Gay Dowdie.

Such was the febrile atmosphere that 25 Jamaicans, half the athletics team, marched in protest in the athletes village today holding banners saying "Merlene out, Peta in, Relays out".

Gas pipeline

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pipeline, was included in the project in order to encourage technology transfer, Bangladesh does not have such a plant.

Sources said that immediately after the contract was signed Datqing, a leading Chinese company that is playing the key role in the contract, started saying that it would not be able to install the cement coating plant and that it preferred import of ready-coated pipeline.

The company also differed on the required size of pipes. Instead of providing pipe segments of 40 feet each, Datqing is now proposing to provide 30 feet pipe segments.

Considering the time constraint, the government has already decided to leave out cement-coating plant component. "In any case, installation of this plant would take a long time and if we insist on this, the pipeline project would obviously be delayed," said a source.

"We have agreed to the idea of bringing in ready-coated pipeline. But we have given the contractor a condition that we will send our experts to inspect the pipes where it would be coated and they will have to bear the cost," he noted.

But Petrobangla is somewhat taken aback by the proposition of building the Habiganj-Ashuganj pipeline using 30 feet segments instead of 40 feet. "It means there would be more interconnectors and more weight. In other words, it would be less durable and weaker," the source added.

In a couple of years, Petrobangla intends to increase the gas supply by 180 million cubic feet per day (mncfd). The existing North-South gas pipeline in that region, having a capacity to transmit 330 mncfd of gas, is almost saturated now as it is already supplying over 300 mncfd. The country presently consumes a total of 1000 mncfd at the maximum.

New gas wells are being drilled at Rashidpur, Habiganj and Titas and there are possibilities of fresh gas supplies from Kallatilla, Jalalabad, Beanibazar and Bibiyana.

Without the HA pipeline, the additional gas cannot be transmitted across the region.

Ershad's desire

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quote him on such a sensitive matter. They also said Ershad had previously made such statement in public before despite repeated warnings.

They said the JP leaders could not come up with any satisfactory reply when all the CLC members made a lot of queries at a time. A JP leader said Ershad had thrown them into difficult situation for a number of times in the past with his "unpleasant" remarks and statement.

The JP representatives also agreed to release a statement to the press saying that Ershad was misquoted. The CLC members asked the JP leaders to convey the sentiment of the component parties of the alliance and ask him not to make such announcement in future.

A senior BNP leader, who attended the CLC meeting, told The Daily Star yesterday that Ershad and his senior party colleagues had on different occasions made various "offensive" comments, creating commotion, conflict and misunderstanding among the leaders and supporters of alliance in the past.

The meeting also discussed the four-party's public meeting at Mymensingh Circuit House on September 25. It decided to go ahead with the programme despite the fact that the local Muktiuddha Command unit has convened a meeting at same venue on the same day.

Presided over by BNP Vice-chairman M Shamsul Islam MP, the CLC meeting was attended, among others, by BNP leaders Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain MP, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP and Mirza Abbas, JP leaders Kazi Firoz Rashid, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar and Saifur Rahman, Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mujahid, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam, and IOJ leaders ARM Abdul Matin and Abdul Latif Nazami.

BGCL

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crease by 3.5 per cent every year would be implemented making it 1.2 dollar per unit. In 2013, the price would be increased by 4 per cent to 1.35 dollar per unit.

The domestic bulk rate of gas, sold by Petrobangla's subsidiaries like BGCL to the state-owned power plants and fertilizer plants, is now US 1.1 dollar per unit.

The government was forced to make such a decision under pressure from the Japanese and other foreign shareholders of KAFCO, including Marubeni.

Marubeni, which played a key role in the decision-making process, is pursuing three power plant projects in the country at the moment. The company said it would stop pursuing the three projects unless the KAFCO issue was resolved. The projects are Kapati units 6 and 7 and the second phase of the 450 MW Meghnaghat power plant.

2 young men

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Police after receiving information from an anonymous caller recovered the body from the spot Sunday morning. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Police filed a case in this regard on Sunday.

Noor Islam, brother-in-law of the victim came to Sabujbagh police station after seeing his picture in newspapers. He went to the hospital morgue along with the investigation officer and identified the body.

Neither police nor the relative could give any information about the motive behind the murder of the auto-rickshaw driver.

Brother-in-law of Jewel identified the body at the DMCH morgue yesterday. Jewel was beaten as the mob suspected him to be a one of the muggers who had tried to snatch valuables from a pedestrian at Danik Bangla intersection at that time.

Police rescued him and took him to the DMCH where he died at about 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Jewel hailed from Degreer Char of Lohar thana in Narail. He was planning to go abroad and was living with his brother-in-law.

Meanwhile, the identities of the grocer who was stabbed to death at Satrasta crossing in the city Sunday morning and the young man who was found dead on the Baunia embankment are yet to be known.

Appeal for help for kidney patient

Kazi Shahana Akhter, wife of Prof. M. Sadeq of Tejoan College, is now in a very critical condition as both of her kidneys have been damaged. She is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Royal Centre and General Hospital, 5 Green Corner, Green Road, says a press release.

She has been under treatment of Prof. (Dr) Harunur Rashid, Head of the Department of Nephrology, BSMMU.

A teacher with a fixed income, Prof. Sadeq cannot afford to bear the heavy expenses for his wife's treatment. He makes an earnest submission to the affluent quarters of the society to extend financial help and cooperation for the treatment of his wife.

Persons interested to provide monetary assistance have been requested to send the money to Prof. M. Sadeq, Savings Bank A/c No 730, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka.

Kashmir

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further said in the NDTV interview. "We are concerned about India's relations with Pakistan and we want to see those improve, and the president made it clear that he will do everything he can to help that."

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Indian forces traded artillery fire at several front-line positions today in disputed Kashmir, leaving a total of 23 soldiers, guerrillas and civilians dead, the two countries said.

Pakistan said about 100 Indian soldiers staged a pre-dawn attack on a Pakistani frontier post, but the Indians were repulsed, suffering three dead and 10 wounded, the Pakistan military said.

The Indians were seen dragging their dead and wounded as they retreated under the cover of heavy artillery and mortar fire, the military added.

The Indian shelling in that assault, in Kashmir's Lipa sector, left two Pakistani civilians dead, the military added. Two more Pakistani civilians were killed in separate shelling attacks further south in Kashmir, the military announced.

Meanwhile, India said its army killed 10 Kashmiri militants in the forests of Poonch near the frontier that divides Kashmir into its Indian and Pakistani sectors.

Dacoits

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police said.

The gruesome murder could be known when Afzina's eldest son Likhon (19) returned home at about 10.30 p.m. Neighbours rushed to the house when Likhon cried out seeing the bodies lying in blood.

Likhon passed the HSC examination this year from Kh