

What's on today....

BSAF rally: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) will hold a rally to mark Girl Child Day, as part of the Child Rights Week 2000. Venue: From Press Club to Shishu Academy. Time: 8.00 am.

National confere: BCS Coordination Committee (26 cadre) will hold its national conference 2000. Chief guest: Food Minister Amir Hossain Anu. MP. Time: 10.00 am.

Reception: Bangladesh Students Welfare Association will accord a reception to the 1st three position holders of the HSC 2000 exam merit list in all three groups. Venue: Osmani Auditorium. Time: 11.00 am.

BSCIC exhibition: BSCIC will hold an exhibition of the handiworks of its internal training session of April-June 2000 batch. It will also hold a 3-day long handicrafts and design mela and give out certificates to the graduates of its Jan-March 2000 training session. Venue: Conference room of BSCIC. Time: 11.00 am.

BIIT seminar: A seminar on "Palestine and the Status of Jerusalem" will be held. Chief guest: Shahta Zarab, Ambassador of Palestine and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT) seminar room, 145 Green Road. Time: 4.00 pm.

Meeting: Bangladesh Poribesh Rokkha Parishad (Porosh) will hold a meeting on the Arsenic Task Force it is working on. Venue: DPHE conference room. Time: 4.00 pm.

IUB discussion: Centre for Social Science and Public Policy research of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will hold a discussion meeting on "Implications of Globalization and Policy of Market Economy for the development prospects of South Asian countries. Venue: IUB campus, House No 6, Rd No 14, Baridhara. Time: 4.30 pm.

Contemporary dance: Sristi Cultural Centre presents an evening of contemporary dance titled "Akriti". Venue: Main auditorium of National Museum. Time: 7.00 pm.

Musical soiree: Kranti will hold Sangeet Niyomito, its regular musical soiree. Compositions by Komal Das Gupta will be presented at the programme. Venue: Isfendiya Auditorium of Biswa Shalitiya Kendra. Time: 7.00 pm.

Porosh seminar: Poribesh Rokkha Shopoth (Porosh) will hold a seminar on "Urbanisation in Bangladesh: Challenges". Chief guest: Minister for LGED Zillur Rahman. Venue: Council Bhaban of BUET. Time: 10.00 am-7.30 pm.

Charity concert & film show: The students of North-South University (NSU) will organise a charity concert & film show to raise funds for the acid burn victims sponsored by the Bengali daily Prothom Alo. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 10.30 am.

Workshop: Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco alliance will hold a day-long workshop on the World Health Organizations Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Venue: Dhaka Ahsania Mission. House No 19, Rd No 12 (new), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9.00 am.

DRU meet the Reporters: Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) presents Minister for Agriculture Motia Chowdhury in its "Meet the Reporters" series. The minister will deliver a talk on "State of Politics in Bangladesh" and later answer queries by reporters of different dailies. Venue: DRU auditorium, 8/4 A, Tophkhana Road. Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.55 am.

Seminar: Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences of Dhaka University will hold a seminar on "Importance of FDI in the Developing Countries with Particular Reference to Bangladesh. Venue: 401, Lecture Theatre, DU. Time: 11.00 am.

BFUW seminar: Bangladesh Federation of University Women (BFUW) will hold a seminar on "Globalisation: Culture of Peace Through Education". Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium, House No 20, Road No 16 (new), 27 (old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 3.00 pm.

ASB Meeting: The regular monthly meeting of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) will be held. Dr Md Shahadat Ali, Professor of Zoology Department of Dhaka University will present a talk on "Status of Fisheries in Bangladesh". Venue: Seminar room of ASB, 5 Old Secretariat, Nimtali, Ramna. Time: 5.00 pm.

BELA workshop: Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) will begin a 2-day long workshop on "Environment, Environmental Law and Justice" in collaboration with Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI). The Asia Foundation and UNDP. Venue: CIRPAD auditorium, Chamiel House, Tophkhana Road.

..... and tomorrow

Inauguration: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the programmes on occasion of World Habitat Day. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 10.00 am.

NSU-CPD lecture: North-South University in association with Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will hold a lecture on "Mutual trading system and challenges for developing countries". Venue: NSU campus. Time: 9.30 am.

Weather

No charge in temperature

Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions and weather may remain mainly dry and sunny elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.4 degree Celsius was at Khulna and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.47 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.50 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 | 33.5 | 26.4 | 71 60 |
| Chittagong | 34.2 | 24.3 | 80 82 |
| Rajshahi | 33.5 | 25.2 | 80 82 |
| Khulna | 34.4 | 25.2 | 74 71 |
| Barisal | 34.2 | 26.0 | 73 77 |
| Sylhet | 34.2 | 24.2 | 82 76 |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.6 | 24.5 | 88 82 |



The students and teachers of Aga Khan School raised a fund of Tk 115,000 for the treatment of Saikat Rahman Amit, a victim of rare wild polio disease. Photo shows M Mashfiqul Haque handing over the cheque to Amit on behalf of the Aga Khan School Charity Club.

Jackal's Meat

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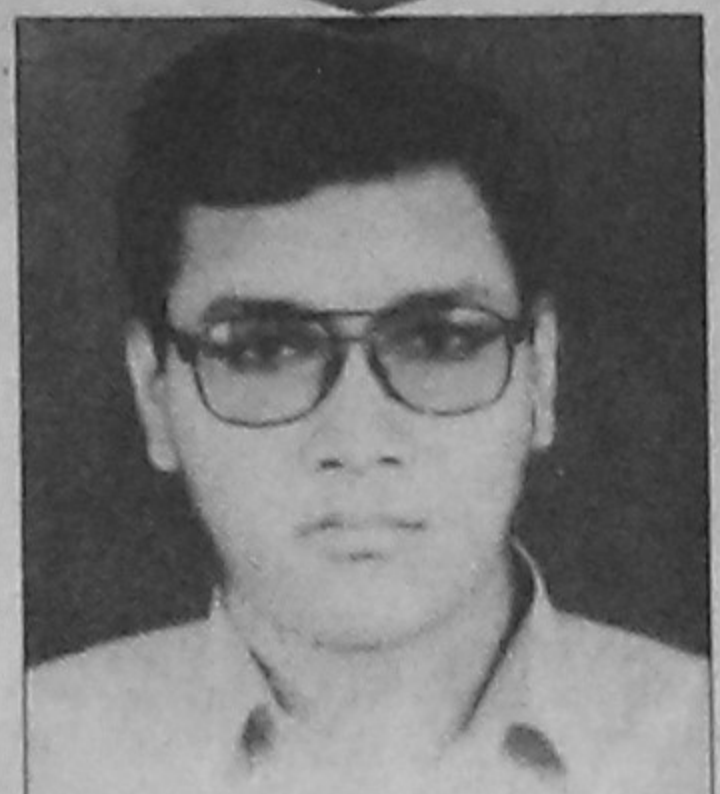
head, belly and other parts of a jackal.

RU authorities in a press release today said the dining manager caught a jackal last night and slaughtered it to feed his mother its meat for her treatment. He did it as per prescription of an Ayurvedic physician.

A five-member probe committee headed by Shah Alam, Professor of Botany, has been formed to probe the allegation.

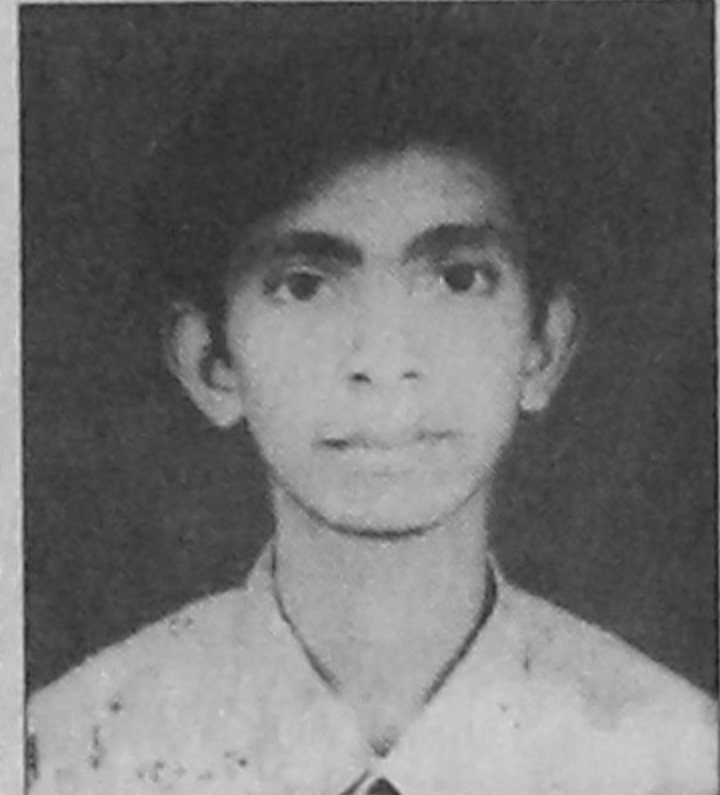
The committee has been asked to submit its report within five days.

Congratulations



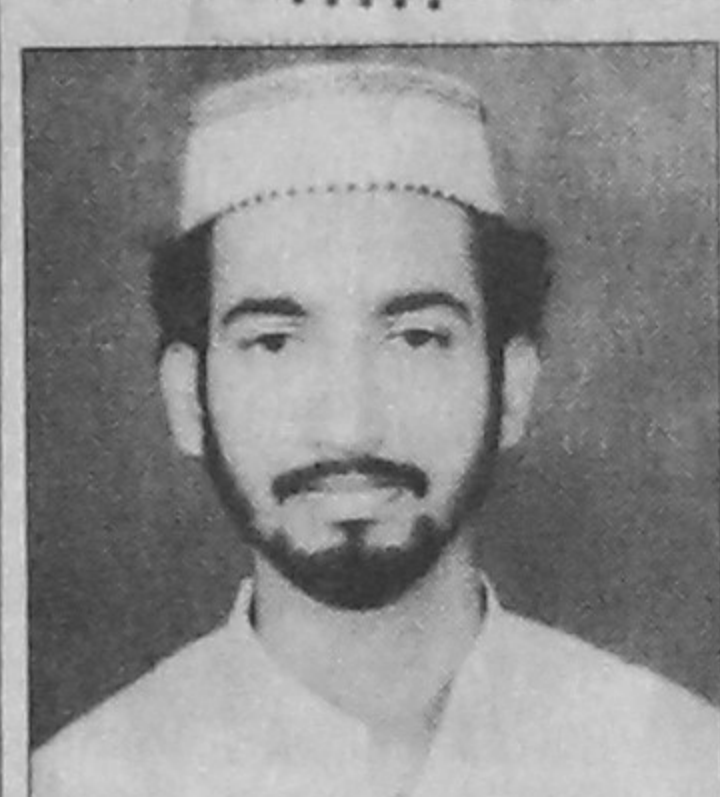
Muhammad Shahidullah of Dhaka Commerce College has stood first class first in the BCom (Honours) exam of 1998 (held in 2000) National University, says a press release.

Shahidullah is the son of Dr Rahmatullah and Dr. Sufia Khatun, both medical officers of Adjamjee Jute Mills.



Muhammad Shamim Al-Mamun of Dhaka Commerce College, has stood first class third in the BCom (Honours) exam of 1998 (held in 2000) under National University, says a press release.

Shamim is the son of Mohammad Shahjahan Ali, headmaster of Chalan Government Primary School and Marjina Khatun, teacher of Kachudanga Non-government Primary School.



Muhammad Rezaul Haq of Madrasah-i-Aliya has stood fourth in the Adab group of the Kamil examination of the Madrasah Board exams, says a press release.

He obtained 829 marks. He is the son of Moulana Muhammad Haq, Principal of Darul-Ul-Haq Senior Madrasah of Kashipur, Narayanganj.

BINP project

From page 2

tres, hundreds of unmarried girls between the ages of 10 to 19 come for health lesson once a month.

At the adolescent centre at Shikarpur under Chokoria thana, 156 girls come once a month since the centre opened in March this year. Nasiruddin Mahmud, a local affluent, has voluntarily donated a room in his house for health classes.

Ummie Tarzina, a student of class ten, said they were taught important facts regarding their health, physical changes, how to be good mothers in future and other women related health matters.

National Consultant of BINP Yakub Patwari told newsmen that a group of 10-12 women selected by the project is given training on how to prepare the supplementary food packet and they now earn money by packing and supplying the packs.

He said both severely malnourished children as well as those with stunted growth are given the supplementary food pack for 90 days, sometimes for 120 days, while pregnant and lactating mothers are given the pack for one year and six months respectively.

The Consultant said severe malnourished in six thanas, which were brought under the BINP in the first phase, has come down to 1.3 per cent. The rate of malnourished in the seventeen thanas of the second phase is 2.5 per cent and another 17 thanas in the third phase is 2.3 per cent.

Patwari said that programme is considered one of the best in the world taken up by any government and the World Bank. He said the BINP project will expand to another 20 thanas by December this year. He hopes that all thanas of the country can be brought under the nutrition project within the next five years.



Noted artiste Nargis Chowdhury, presenting song at an evening of Rabindra Sangeet at the Indian Cultural Centre. Geetanjali, a cultural organisation, arranged the programme yesterday. — Star photo

Admn in Laxmipur

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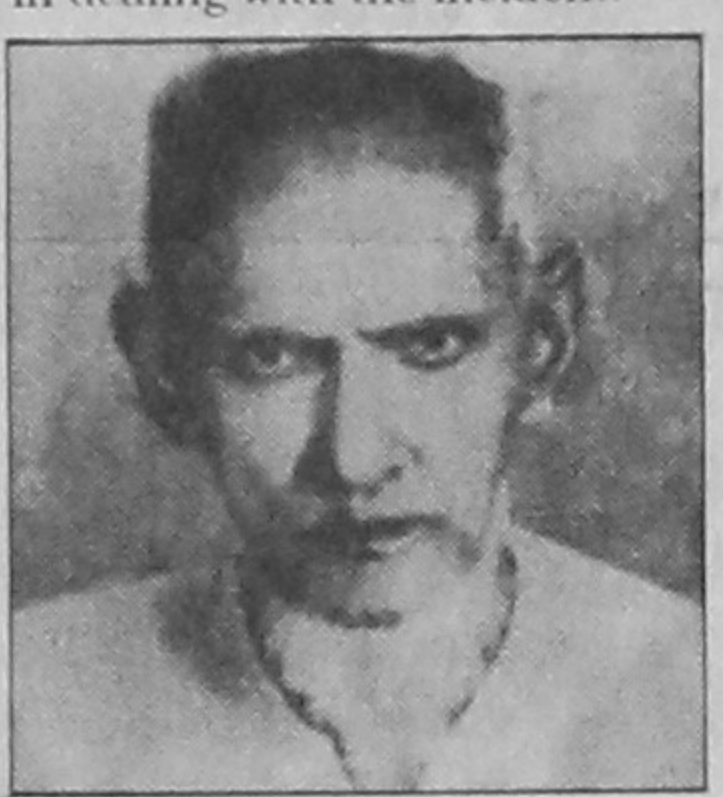
police now think that the kidnappers might have killed Islam as there has been no response from them as yet, unlike in the past.

Helplessness of the district administration was apparent when the BNP lawbreakers wanted to know from the DC and the SP about the steps for Islam's rescue.

Officials said that few hours after the kidnapping at about 11:30 on Thursday, the captors made telephone calls to the DC and the SP and assured them that they would send back Islam within 24 hours.

At one stage of the negotiation, Abu Taher's son Biplob and his close relative Abdul Halim Hasu appeared before the DC and the SP and reassured them that Islam would be sent back unhurt within 24 hours. Hasu is the chairman of Bangla Union Parishad.

Biplob and Hasu were not arrested as the administration and police relied on their assurance and waited for Islam's return. The victim is yet to return but the two self-confessed kidnappers went into hiding, the DC and the SP told the lawbreakers. They assured the MPs that they would not surrender to any pressure or threat in dealing with the incident.



Abdul Karim Sahityabisharad's anniversary of death today

The 47th death anniversary of eminent litterateur and researcher on punthi Abdul Karim Sahityabisharad will be observed today, reports BSS.

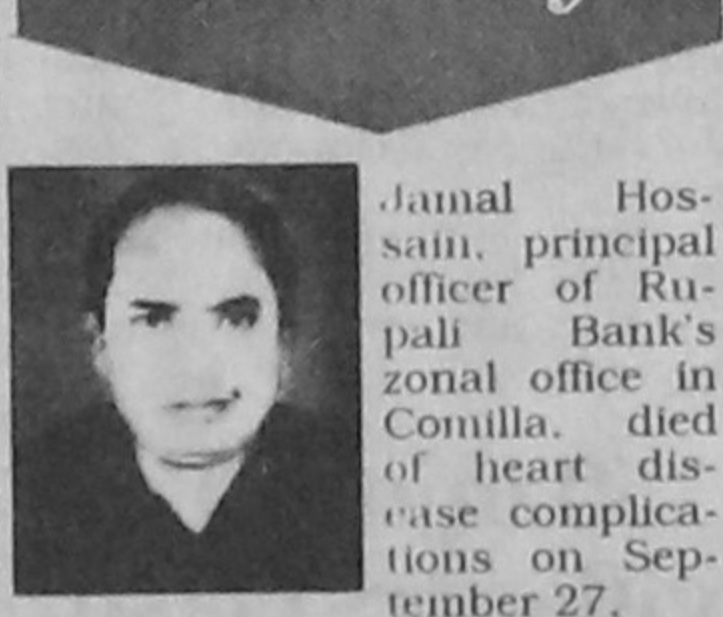
Shahityabisharad died on September 30, 1953 at his village home at Patiya (Chittagong) at the age of 83.

Different organisations have chalked out programmes at his village home and in Dhaka to pay respect to the eminent litterateur, who authored 412 stories and edited 16 rare punthi of pre-modern Bangla literature.

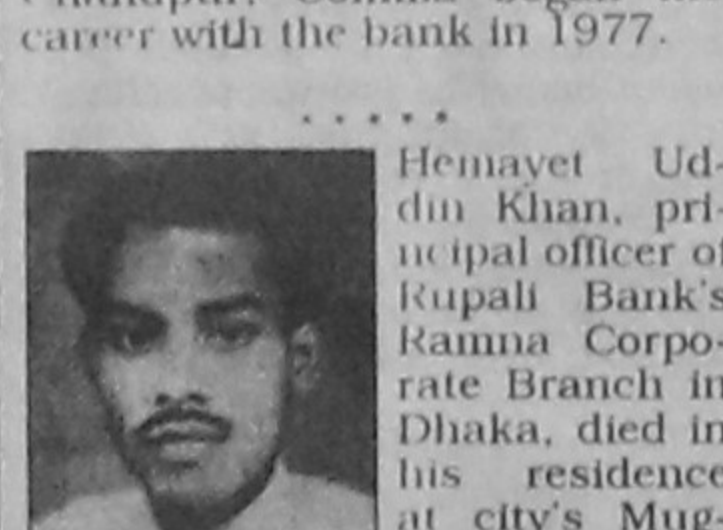
A milad mahfil and discussion will be held at his village home (Patiya) On September 30.

Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka (CJFD) will hold a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) on October 1 at 3 pm to mark the occasion.

Obituary



He is survived by his wife, 2 sons and a host of relatives. Hossain, who hails from Chandpur, Connilla began his career with the bank in 1977.



September 25, says a press release. Khan was suffering from diabetes. During his long career, Khan also served as the chief of inspection team of Narayanganj zone and as the chief of the foreign exchange of Ramna Corporate Branch.

Pir murdered

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that a scuffle took place before he was murdered. Finding a 'leveler' at a corner of the bedroom in a pool of blood, police suspected that the Pir might have been first hit on the head by it and then pushed into the bathroom. He was wearing a lungi.

A pillow used by Chisty, stained with blood, and a dagger were found on the dining room floor.

Chisty's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A CID team visited to the spot and collected finger prints and some other evidence.

The gang might have murdered the Pir to grab his property, suspected AKM Mohsinuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur thana.

Police took Razia and Alamgir to Mohammadpur thana for interrogation. Alamgir told newsmen that one Amam, who claimed to be a cousin of the Pir, accompanied by his friend Ershad, came to the house at about 8:30 on Thursday night. Alamgir severed them dinner at about 11:30 pm.

He said he left the house at about 1 am and he was asked to return at about 5 in the morning. He returned at about 8:30 am found the bedroom of the Pir locked.

A police team from Mohammadpur thana left for Joypurhat to arrest 'two young men' who stayed at the house on Thursday night.

Police in presence of personnel of other security agencies opened a room near the bedroom and found many gifts and valuables there. A suitcase was found cut open with a shovel. Valuables in the room were found scattered.

Police sealed the house and were guarding it. Razia, an aged widow, who stayed at the house where none of the Pir's kins resided, told newsmen, "Influential people from both the ruling and the opposition parties, army personnel and diplomats used to visit the house frequently." She, however, did not suspect any one for the murder.

None of the Pir's relatives was staying with him as he was an ill-tempered man. He did not allow them to stay there as he suspected that they might grab his property, said Amanullah, a former MP and a follower of Chisty. The Pir owned three houses in the capital and a huge property in Joypurhat, his home district. He placed all his property under a trustee board of which he was the chairman, some sources said.

Kidnapped trawler crew rescued

BARISAL, Sept 29: A kidnapped young trawler crew was rescued from a house at Refuge Colony in the town Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said Ripon alias Russell, 21, was picked up by a gang of terrorists from Amtola crossing while he was passing by the area earlier in the morning.

Army clarification

The Army headquarters has said the report on parliamentary standing committee meeting on defence ministry published September 4 and 26 in the press had not correctly reflected the views expressed by the Army Chief, reports UNB.

It said that the Army Chief was wrongly quoted to have told the meeting, "even the President would not be shown the proceedings of the court martial."

Clarifying his reports, it said the Army Chief, speaking on documents of 12 army officers hanged for assassination during Ziaur Rahman stated that "Authority vested on the Services Chiefs is that the proceeding of relevant Court Martial is confirmed or reviewed by the Services Chiefs and not reviewed by the President and Supreme Commander nor by the judges of the Supreme Court and High Court."

He further stated that according to the Army Act, 1952, enacted by National Parliament, there is no provision of reviewing proceedings of the court martial. But if the parliamentary sub-committee thought that the proceeding should be reviewed, it can call upon the then Army Chief and now MP H M Ershad and ascertain from him if he had taken correct decision or not.

Besides, if the parliamentary standing committee deem it necessary to review the proceedings of the Court Martial, relevant articles of the Manual of Bangladesh Military Law are to be amended. There is no scope for retrial of the verdict of the Court Martial under the existing law.

Flood

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affected upazilas have been marooned. Army and BDR personnel have started evacuation of the affected people to safer places.

Road link between Jessore and Saikira remained snapped since yesterday.

Unregistered drugs

From page 1

treatment or had operation there and require life-saving drugs," said Rasul Mohammad, one of the shop owners.

"Local physicians are also prescribing drugs, which do not have registration here," added another shop owner.

The Daily Star obtained copies of at least 15 prescriptions advising patients to use unregistered drugs in violation of the rules.

Physicians serving Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, BIRDEM, Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital, Mitford Hospital and the Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka are among those involved in such unethical and unlawful practices.

One such trader in a narrow lane behind Gani Market in Mitford showed a small store with stockpiles of unregistered drugs.

The man, claiming to be a broker of such unregistered drugs, said "The drugs mostly come from India by road. On the basis of demand from the traders in Mitford we ask our 'contacts' on the other side of the border for various types of

drugs. The drugs are supplied to us within five days or in a week at the latest."

The broker, requesting anonymity, continued, "Of course, we've to bribe the border security forces, police and customs officials. We pay in advance to avoid harassment."

A source at the Drug Administration said that their officials get a big chunk of the profit the traders make. The higher authorities are well aware of these corrupt practices but their silence clearly tells the story," said the source.

The director of the Drug Administration was not available for his comment despite repeated attempts.

However, a top official of Bangladesh Rifles said, "Most of such contraband drugs enter the country through 'customs corridors' at Benapole, Sona Masjid and Hilli borders. It's difficult for BDR to seize such smuggled drugs because its operation is restricted within five kilometres of Bangladesh territory from the border."

"Only a task force can raid and seize smuggled goods anywhere in Bangladesh," said the official, seeking anonymity.

Jones dream dies

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Fiona May of Italy once again had to settle for silver.

After his defeat, El Guerrouj sat motionless on the track as his rivals timidly offered their condolences. Later he sobbed in the holding area under the stadium until he was led away by a team official.

Ngeny, who shadowed El Guerrouj until he kicked out of the final curve, clocked 3min 32.07sec to eclipse Sebastian Coe's previous Olympic record.

Bernard Lagat took the bronze behind El Guerrouj as Kenyan athletes ran away with four medals to take their country's total to six.

Less than an hour earlier, Seroney led compatriot Wilson Bolt Kipketer across the line, keeping alive Kenya's record of winning every Olympic 3000m steeplechase they have contested since 1968.

"As I was running I was thinking what it would be like if a Kenyan did not win gold," Seroney said. "Something unbelievable would have happened to us."

Perhaps similar thoughts flitted through Jones' mind, after the massive public buildup of her "drive for five" gold medals.

"Maybe I'll do it a little quicker next time," she said. "I know people will say 'I told you so' but I can give in the mirror and say I gave my best."

"I competed against one of the all time greats," Jones added. "I can tell my grandchildren about it 30 years from now."

Lithuania's basketball team gave themselves something to tell their grandchildren - pushing the vaunted US Dream Team to the very brink of elimination in the semi-finals.

Sarunas Jasikevicius scored 27 points but missed a three point shot at the buzzer as the Americans scraped an 85-83 victory and a place in the final against France.

Jones' defeat and the basketball close call almost obscured a superb US pole vault performance. Nick Hysong ended America's 32-year Olympic drought in the event when he led compatriot Lawrence Johnson in a one-two finish.

Jones still has a chance at two more medals at the Sydney Games - in the 4x100 and 4x400m relays. But her cause has not been helped by the withdrawal of Inger Miller and Gail Devers from the American team.

While Jones and El Guerrouj had only themselves to blame or their opponents to credit in defeat, winning and losing was less clear-cut in track-and-field and sailing.

It took a jury decision to confirm British Ben Ainslie's victory in the Laser singlehanded class after silver medalist Robert Scheidt of Brazil protested that Ainslie sailed them to collide in the final fleet race.

Ainslie became the second British sailor of the day to capture gold, after Shirley Robertson's victory in the women's Europe class.

For Ainslie it was a neat turning of the tables on Scheidt, who won the gold in Atlanta when Ainslie was disqualified for a false start, even though it was Scheidt who had jostled him.

"What goes around comes around," Ainslie said. "Four years ago I was younger and a bit more naive."

Fouzia's father dead

KURIGRAM, Sept 29: Nurul Huda, father of Bangladesh's fastest girl Fouzia Huda Jui, died of cardiac arrest at his residence here today, He was 70, reports UNB.

Late Huda left behind wife, seven daughters, five sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried beside the Khalilganj Bame Mosque after holding namaz-eyanaza at Kisholaya School ground at 5 pm.

President and general secretary of District Sports Association and elite of the town condoled his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Hajj policy

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meat management will have to report to the medical boards through the respective Deputy Commissioner's office from October 29 to November 5 this year for health examination. They will have to reach the Hajj office here at least four to five days ahead of their scheduled flights for Saudi Arabia.

No pilgrim can take with him or her any food item, tobacco, betel leaf and nut and other addictive items as well as forbidden goods or books to Saudi Arabia, the handout also said.

Frozen shrimps

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Earlier in 1997, EU countries imposed a ban on import of frozen shrimps from Bangladesh, bringing the same allegation.

The problem was overcome in late 1998 after several meetings between the government and the importers and 61 out of 124 processing plants were permitted to export frozen food on condition of maintaining quality.

The FD sources said strict measures will be taken for quality control.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Fisheries has asked the owners to install metal detectors in frozen food processing plants within three to detect any wrongdoing.

Jackpot

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"It's true, but we can't say anything more," said a Star TV official, who asked not to be identified.

Hosted by Indian film legend Amitabh Bachchan, KBC has enjoyed phenomenal ratings since its launch on the Star television satellite network in July.

Apart from Bachchan, KBC's main draw is the prize jackpot of 10 million rupees, an unprecedented sum by Indian television standards.

India's average annual per capita income is around 10,200 rupees. The game show is modelled on the British show, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?, and requires contestants to answer 15 general knowledge multiple choice questions to win the jackpot.