Discussion: World Peace Organisation (WPO) will hold a discussion meeting. A cultural show will follow the meeting. Venue: TSC, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

Reception: Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha wili courd a reception for its literary medal winners. Chief guest: State Min-ister for Women and Children Affairs Prof Zinnatun Nesa Talukdar. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum. Time: 10:00 am.

Dance performance: Indian Dance Society, a London-based dance group, will present a programme. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm.

Closing ceremony: The closing ceremony of the International Conference on Bangladesh Environment will be held. Chief guest: Khaleda Zia. Chairperson of BNP. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 7:00 pm.



Inaugural: The inauguration ceremony of the solo painting exhibition by Apurba Ranjan Biswas will be held. The exhibition is titled "Mother Nature." Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5:00 pm.

Music and dance festival: High Commission of India organises a 4-day long festival of Indian classical music and dance. On the first day today Jugalbandi (duo) classical music performance will be by Subhendra Rao (sitar) and Parthosarathy (sarod). Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm

Training programme: Centre for Management Development of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will begin a 2-week long training programme. Venue: IUBAT premises.

# Weather

## Dry weather may continue

Prevailing dry weather is likely to continue over the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during morning, said the Met Office.

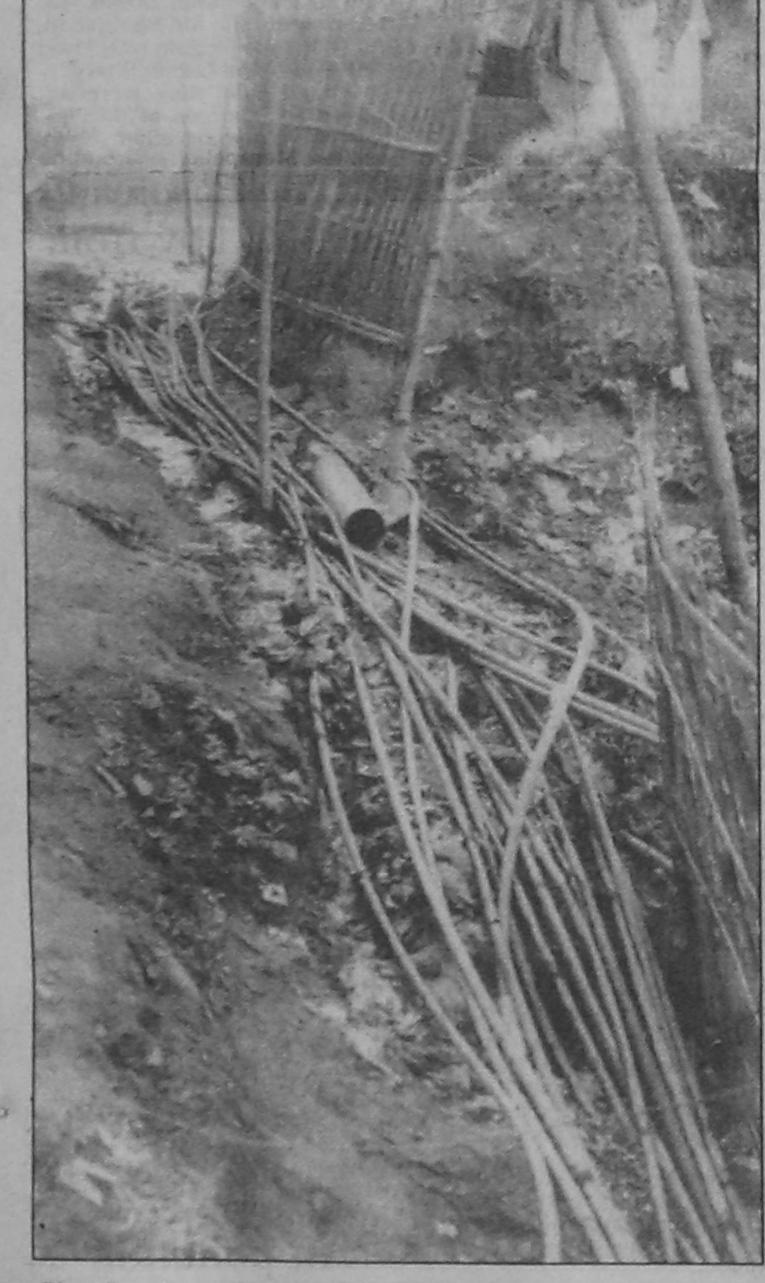
Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 30.3 degree Celsius at Patuakhali and the lowest 12.2 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:32 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

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

	in Celsius		Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.7	15.8	71	61
Chittagong	29.2	14.7 .	80	79
Rajshahi	28.1	14.5	92	72
Khulna	30.2	14.5	85	- 74
Barisal	30.0	13.6	85	73
Sylhet	23.0	15.0	85	80
Cox's Bazar	30.0	16.0	70	81



The illegal water connection in city's Nandipara. - Star photo

Five Bosnian

Croats jailed

for warcrimes

Bosnian Croats were sentenced

Friday to prison terms ranging

from six to 25 years and a sixth

was acquitted in the 1993 mas-

sacre of more than 100 Muslims

in a central Bosnian village.

one of the biggest cases yet to

come before the UN warcrimes

local head of the HVO Bosnian

Croat militia, charged with or-

dering the massacre, was given

the heaviest sentence of 25

years, while one of his men.

Two brothers. Zoran and

Drago Josipovic. got 15 years.

Mirjan Kupreskic, were sen-

tenced to 10 and eight years in

prison respectively, while their

cousin Vlatko Kupreskic got six

Papic, was acquitted for lack of

evidence and released from de-

the grisly massacre in April

1993 when Bosnian Croat

forces killed more than 100

Muslims on a rampage through

the central Bosnian town of

tention.

The sixth defendant, Dragan

The six were charged over

Vladimir Santic; a former

court here, reports AFP,

THE HAGUE. Jan 14: Five

## 37 miners trapped for four days

in China BEIJING. Jan 14: Thirtyseven coal miners remained trapped for a fourth day deep underground in eastern Jiangsu Province, local mining officials said Friday, after a collapse Tuesday that killed three other

workers. Some 63 miners were trapped in the Dahuangshan coal mine near the central city of Xuzhou when walls collapsed, with rescuers digging out 23 miners on Wednesday, a rescue official named Shen told

Rescue work is continuing luriously, but we fear that oxygen in the trapped portion of the mine is running out," he told AFP Friday morning

By early Friday evening. another official from the mine's safety department told AFP oxygen was being pumped into the shaft and it was believed that the fresh air was going to the area were the survivors were trapped, he said.

The collapsed walls, 320 metres underground, had been blamed on a water leak.

### Leaders blast comments of Golam Azam

Leaders of different political parties and forums yesterday condemned the audacious comments of Jamaat-e-Islam chief Prof Golam Azam and demanded his trial in a special tribunal, reports BSS.

They said there is no problem for trial of the war criminals of 1971 under the Constitu-

tion and the law of the land. Prof Azam has dared to utter such imperious comments to BBC on Thursday that he could escape the net for his misdeeds in 1971 due to soft stand of the previous governments, they ob-

Giving reaction to BSS. Hasan Imam, Convenor of the .Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee, demanded of the government to try Golam Azam and other war criminals in a special tribunal.

He urged the government to file a case with the Hague-based International Court for trial of all other war criminals including the Pakistanis who unleashed atrocities on the freedom-loving people.

Imam said in the absence of a special tribunal no individual lodged a case against Golam Azam to help him sneak out through the loopholes of the existing laws.

The Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee in its mass trial in 1992 gave the verdict that the crimes of Golam Azam during the War of Liberation were punishable by death and asked the then government to execute the verdict, he said.

Chairman of the Central Command Council of Muktijoddha Sangsad Principal Ahad Chowdhury said Golam Azam is showing this unusual courage as he did not face trial for his crimes in the previous regimes. He strongly demanded of the

government to set up a special tribunal to try the war criminal and take initiative to get other war criminals tried in the International Court.

Workers' Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon said the demand for trial of war criminals is not new and it is very much possible under the constitutional ambit and the existing laws. All parties except the Ja-

maat in the fifth parliament reached a unanimous consensus that the war criminals must stand trial, he said. "I remember, the then Deputy Leader of the House Prof. B Chowdhury read out the text of the consensus in the House. Menon said.

Golam Azam cannot deny that he helped, supported and inspired the Pakistani army for genocide in 1971, which is historically recognized. Menon said. adding that there is no scope to evade the charges.

Deputy leader of the opposition in parliament Prof. B Chowdhury told BSS, "Nobody should have any objection if the constitution and the law of the land are properly enforced to settle an issue." "But these must not be used intentionally against a certain person," Prof Chowdhury added.

In an interview with the BBC radio yesterday, Golam Azam questioned why he was not tried for the last 18 years. He told the interviewer that despite filing cases against him nobody could make him an accused.

#### Best Aviation to offer services for transportation of shrimp fry

By Staff Correspondent Best Aviation which runs the only private helicopter service in the country, said yesterday that they will offer services with two aircrafts for carriage of over 100 crore of shrimp fry to the shrimp cultivation area at Cox's Bazaar from the south of the country.

Two Russian made AN 26 aircraft's will arrive in Dhaka from Russia on January 16 for the service to begin from January 18.

Managing Director (MD) of Best Aviation Limited M Haider Uzzaman, disclosed this while talking to the local journalists at a city hotel in Sylhet yester-

The mortality rate of shrimp fry is less when flown by aircraft, he said. About 50 per cent of the fry die when carried by truck from Satkhira for cultivation to Cox's Bazaar. The cost of carriage through air however, is not very high.

The MD of best aviation said that they introduced cargo plane service from Dhaka to Chittagong during the floods in 1988. It helped the garment sector to transport finished goods to Chittagong and bring back raw materials to Dhaka, he added.

He also said that their existing lone private helicopter service will provide emergency service to carry patients from remote areas. The aviation is also planning to introduce a 'honeymoon package' across the country.

They said two patients can be carried at a time from any remote part of the country to the capital or elsewhere. Tk 90,000 is charged for one flying hour. Tk 5,000 is to be paid for every extra hour. Two hour rest is allowed by the authority after every one hour of flight.

The aviation has successfully completed 22 hours of flying in the first month after it opened service on December of last year. They said they have found a good response from different sectors.

"At present we have one helicopter in hand, we will raise the number if demand increases," Haider said.

Director of flight Mizanur Rahman, Parveen A Nahar Lucy, senior Manager Co-ordination and local agent at Sylhet Khandaker Shiper Ahmed were also present during the goodwill visit to Sylhet.



Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, an eminent educationist, speaking as chief guest at the biennial general meeting of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at the National Press Club yesterday.

## Biennial meeting of FEJB held

# Developed countries must be blamed for degrading our environment

The 8th biennial general meeting of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) was held at the National Press Club yesterday, reports BSS. The inaugural session of the

meeting was presided over by FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury while Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury was the chief guest and special guests were Mr Mahbubul Alam, Editor of the Independent and Shafiqul Aziz Mukul, Executive Editor of the Banglar Bani. FEJB General Secretary Bakhtiar Rana delivered the address of welcome and Vice Chairman Gaziur Rahman gave the vote of thanks

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said once the developed world had turned our country into a poor one by continuous exploitation. The open-market economy is nothing but the ideology of capitalism of the developed world, he said. Prof Chowdhury also said

The developed world should be blamed for degrading the environment to materialise that ideology. All of us should protest against their activities. "He underscored the need for setting up of an international

court to take legal measures intensify the environment against the environment pol-

He further said that the number of lanes and markets in Dhaka city is being increased diminishing green spaces and wetlands. Pressure should be created on main political parties to include green agenda in their party manifestoes, he

Mahbubul Alam laid stress on an organised movement to protect environment. He thanked the members of FEJB for their contribution in creating environmental awareness among the people.

Shafiqul Aziz Mukul said that at present the environment of the country is not only endangered, rather the people, engaged in protecting environment, are being threatened by some vested quarters. He regretted that not a single political party lodged any protest against such an act at present democratic age. He called upon all environment-conscious people to uphold our tradition and culture in protecting environment.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury said, "We will able to enjoy fresh air and pollution-free water only if we can

movement under an ideal leadership.

At the beginning of the meeting Sardar Abdur Rahman, Raishahi Bureau Chief of Dainik Sangram, was given the FEJB award for the best report on environment and Abu Taher Khokon. Chief Photographer of the Financial Express, for the best photograph on environment for the year 1999. Besides. a FEJB crest was presented to Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury in recognition of his successful leadership in the movement for saving the trees of Osmani

Udyan The second session of the general meeting was also presided over by FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowd hury. Bakhtiar Rana presented the general secretary's report while Hasan Hafiz presented the treasurer's report. Mahmud Shafiq. Alamgir Hossain, Giasuddin Ahmed, Shehabuddin Ahmed, Ahmed Nure Alam, Khandakar Manirul Alam, Mrinal Krishna Ray, Sarwar Jahan, Tahmina Ahmed, Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Rosy Ferdous and Sheikh Enamul

### HIID economist in city

# 'Globalisation has interconnected all across the world'

The visiting US economist Prof Jeffery Sachs vesterday strongly pleaded for harmonisation of the four basic factors — trade, production, capital and economic institutions — across the world for achieving desired success from the current globalisation process with particular reference to the developing countries, reports BSS.

Delivering a public lecture on "Strategies for Economic Growth in the New Millennium" at the Development and Planning Academy here this afternoon, he said some new elements had now been developed in the process of globalisation for economic integration all over the world to support different strategies and policies for speedy economic progress.

"Globalisation has interconnected all across the globe.' he said adding, globalisation of production means globalisation of trade with participation of all concerned institutions and services across the world and particularly the developing countries would benefit a lot from harmonisation of the four basic factors across all bound-

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria was the chief guest at the function organised by Bangladesh Economic Association with its President and eminent economist Prof

Wahiduddin Mahmud in the chair. It was attended by representatives of World Bank and IMF as well as economists, development thinkers, researchers, bankers, entrepreneurs and policy planners. US ambassador in Bangladesh John C Holzman was also present on the occa-

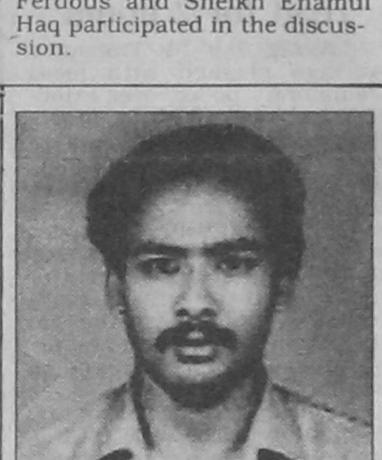
Prof Jeffery Sachs, Director of the Harvard Institute of International Development (HIID) and a world renowned economist, arrived on Thursday at the invitation of Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria. His hour-long thought-provoking speech touched thoroughly upon all pros and cons of the current globalisation, its impact on the developing as well as developed world and also prospects of countries like

Bangladesh in the days ahead. Shah AMS Kibria referred to Bangladesh's geographical position on the glob with economic giant Japan on the East and the oil-rich Arab countries on the West and said such advantage would be of greater benefit to this country.

He said Bangladesh would undertake due measures in future for the desired benefit of its economy by taking advantage of the current globalisation



Best Aviation, country's first private sector helicopter service reached Sylhet Osmany Airport on a goodwill visit. Managing director of the aviation (picture below) describing its services to the local journalists at a press hotel yesterday. - Star photo conference in a



## Industrialist dead

By Staff Correspondent The Gulkhwani of Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid, noted industrialist, proprietor of Rasel Vegetable Oils Ltd and Director of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at his OR Nizam Road residence at Chittagong.

Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid died of cardiac arrest at his Chittagong residence on Thursday last. He was 47.

He has left behind his widow, two sons, a daughter and a host or relatives to mourn his

He is the younger brother of Sultana Hasem, wife of MA Hasem, proprietor of Partex

Rashid was buried at his family graveyard at village Mahabbatpur under Begumganj thana of Noakhali district after his namaz-e-janaja at Chit-

The namaz-e-janaja was attended by local elite including Chittagong city mayor ABM Mohiuddin Ahmed.

#### Fake currency case against Pak embassy employee

NEW DELHI. Jan 14: Indian police have opened a case against a Pakistani embassy employee here for allegedly passing counterfeit Indian currency, officials said today, reports AFP. "The police have registered a

counterfeit currency case against the high commission staffer. Investigations are in progress," Joint Commissioner of Police Amod Kanth said. The employee, Muzaffar Ali

Khan, allegedly used a counter-feit 500-rupee (12 dollar) note to pay the fees at his son's school. The principal, V.K. Williams, told reporters that when Khan was told the note was fake he came to the school and offered to replace it. "But I refused and called the police," Williams said.

A Pakistani embassy spokesman here said the allegation against Khan was "utter nonsense" and that the note in question was part of money it had received from the State Bank of India.

# GBM Initiative

From page 1

disputes, after some business leaders observed that vested groups could capitalise on people's sentiments by misguiding them about the venture.

As FBCCI vice-president MA Mumin said Indian federal laws could affect trade with its eleven other states separately, Indian business leaders in formed that both Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and opposition leader Sonia Gandhi have full support to the sub-regional cooperation.

Business leaders from three other countries also came up with similar opinion. Mintoo said Dhaka fully supports their move. But several business leaders, mainly from Bhutan, raised question about the sin-cerity of the governments.

They categorically mentioned, in this respect, the present predicament of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

"Present situation of SAARC is known to all ... the summit could not be held. But it is not the reason to go for sub-regional cooperation," said Nepalese delegation leader Diwakar Golchha. Indian leader KK Bangoor,

president of Indian Chamber of Commerce, however, said the sub-regional cooperation forum. GBM, has been formed under the framework of SAARC.

Apart from members of the steering committee for South Asian Sub-regional Cooperation, initiated in Kathmandu by the business communities of the four nations in November 1998, senior officials of the Asian Development Bank attended the meeting that launched the forum. The ADB is the "honest" bro-

ker in forming sub-regional grouping across the world.

In Calcutta conference, the forum experts will present work papers to set up core groups in areas like trade, infrastructure development, tourism, which would work out the details for

facilitating greater economic cooperation in the sub-region.

the declaration said. The Delhi declaration, presented at a press conference here in the afternoon, spelt out

that the GBM initiative would \* Enhance efforts to promote sub-regional economic coopera-

tion among eastern India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal; \* Identify projects that would

enhance the scope of sub-regional economic cooperation;
\* Resolve and recommend policy issues that would enable greater economic cooperation among the members of the sub-

\* Strengthen the private sector initiative for sub-regional cooperation through a focused dialogue with the governments;

\* Propagate the benefits of sub-regional cooperation among all sections of society.

The meet decided to build a

consensus that would lead to a win-win situation for all the member countries in terms of economic development and growth.

In fact, making people aware about benefits of the sub-regional cooperation was a key agenda in the Delhi meeting.

As there is generally a negative attitude towards such cooperation in the region, FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo suggested sharing experiences of Canada and Mexico as to how they faced the problem in making cooperation with the

Asked whether armed separatists like ULFA would affect the sub-regional cooperation, Mintoo later told the press conference that such cooperation would reduce bloodshed, as it is the people who will ultimately be benefited.

"Economic disparity is the main reason for unrest. If people are economically benefited, bush war will reduce," echoed AV Lodha, Indian coordinator of the GBM.

# PM's grave concern

From page 1

gar University Prof Amirul Islam, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori (an NGO) and Prof Nazrul Islam of Emory University of USA also spoke at the inaugural session. Chairman of POROSH former finance minister AMA Muhith presided. In her speech, Sajeda

Chowdhury appealed to developed countries to come forward to protect the environment. "Responsibility of the developed world is more than that of the developing countries to protect the environment," she said, Prof Nazrul Islam said, with

access to improved communication systems, more and more Bangladeshis are actively participating in environment-protection efforts in different for + tion of a number of projects. eign countries.

Technical sessions of the conference are being held at the BUET auditorium and will conclude today.

called upon all concerned to

come forward to assist the environment production programmes in the country. "It' is our firm conviction that if we work together, we will

be able to face the challenge." she said. "We have also taken step to strengthen the local government system for the benefit of

rural people. If we could complete the local government elections, economic activities would be accelerated in rural areas." she said.

The Prime Minister listed the projects taken up by the government for protecting the environment. These include

Sustainable Environment

Management Project and Air

erage in this country. We have formulated Environment (Preservation) Law 1997 to prevent degradation of environment," she said. The government is implementing programmes for countrywide afforestation, man-

agement of environment and

Quality Management Project.

Moreover, a 20-year-long

master plan has been adopted to

ensure 20 per cent forestry cov-

wildlife and conservation of bio-diversity in line with world environment system to meet the growing demand for forest Already remarkable success has been achieved in conservation and management of envi-

ronment through implementa-Hasina said. More than 29 thousand hectares of land have been brought under afforestation

and over 10 thousand kilome-The Prime Minister also tres under strip forest in last three years. The Prime Minister said her government has ensured supply of lead-free fuel since last July

> and increased use of compressed natural gas which is an environment-friendly fuel. About 21,000 tons of LP gas is being produced annually to increase supply of the cooking gas as alternative to firewood,

> she said Turning to a grim feature of Bangladesh's ecology, Prime Minister Hasina admitted that rivers and tributaries were gradually getting contaminated and also drying up. "From the severity of floods in 1998 we realised that we should not allow filling up of rivers and wa-

## India asks China for details of Karmapa's 'escape'

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: India called in the Chinese ambassador Friday and requested details from Beijing regarding the shock departure from Tibet of a 14-year-old boy lama, who arrived in India last week, reports

Ugyen Trinley Dorji, the 17th Karmapa Lama, arrived in the northern Indian hill town of Dharamsala on January 5, having apparently escaped from Tibet over the Himalayas. "The Chinese side has been asked to share with us specific

details regarding his departure

from Tibet, the route taken and other relevant details," a foreign ministry spokesman said The request was made during a meeting between T.C. Rangachari, a joint secretary in the Indian foreign ministry and

Chinese Ambassador to New Delhi Zhou Gang. During the meeting, Rangachari officially informed the ambassador of the Karmapa's arrival in Dharmsala -- seat of the Tibetan government in ex-

The spokesman said Rangachari had also stressed that the Karmapa was in good health and adequate security had been provided for his safety.

The Press Trust of India (PTI), meanwhile, said the Karmapa left his heavilyguarded monastery on Friday for a meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala.

The two had a two-hour closed-door meeting, the third since the boy monk reached Dharamsala, PTI said, adding that the talks apparently focused on the Karmapa's future and religious status in India.

According to the official Chinese version, the Karmapa only left Tibet temporarily to collect some religious relics. Dorji is recognised as the 17th Karmapa by the Chinese government as well as the Dalai

His "escape" has been seen as a major embarrassment for Beijing, which had presented the Karmapa as a model patriot.

#### Gay men make more caring fathers? LONDON, Jan 14: Gay men

make more committed and sensitive fathers than heterosexual men, according to research on gender published in press reports here on Friday, reports The study, carried out by Dr

Gillian Dunne for The Gender

Institute at the London School of Economics, said gay men were less afraid to show their "caring" side than their heterosexual counterparts.

A quarter of the 100 gay fathers or would-be fathers involved in the study took the commitment to their children

so seriously that they chose to work under 30 hours a week or gave up paid work to look after The gay fathers "offer us some very interesting role models about how men can be parents, involving extended

friends." Dunne was quoted as saying by The Independent newspaper. Apart from eight cases, in which access had been denied by court, all the men involved played a major role in the up-

networks of family and

bringing of their children. Dunne said the men interviewed had become fathers by donor insemination with a surrogate mother, adopting or fos-tering or had children from a previous marriage.
"Many of these men have

thought long and hard about becoming a parent and are posi-tively choosing to have them and look after them," Dunne