# What's on today . . . .

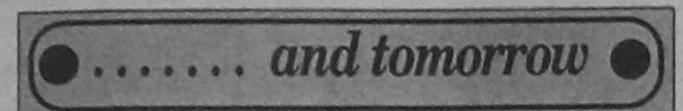
Exhibition: An exhibition of the works of artist At dus Sattar is going on. Venue : Divine Art Gallery. Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9.30 am - 9.00 pm.

Discussion meeting : Jatiya Sramik Jote will hold a discussion meeting on "Politics in the new century". Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10,00 am.

Inauguration: The inaugural session of a week-long international training workshop on "Developing Nutrition Communication Programme Strategies" will be held. Venue: Far Pavilion Ltd, House No 64, Rd No 15, Block C, Banani, Time: 10.30

Orientation: The 23rd orientation programme of "IUBAT (Spring semester) will be held. Venue : Academy for Planning and Development. Nilkhet. Time: 3.00 pm.

Cultural Programme: Rabi Rashmi, a Rabindra Sangeet Organisation, will hold a cultural evening. The programme will feature various artists invited from around the country. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 758 Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.15 pm.



Open discussion: Health for All will hold an open discussion on "HIV/AIDS". Venue: Ganashasthya Nagar Bh ban, (5th floor), House No 14E, Rd No 6, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30



Sutrapur thana unit of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) organised a discussion in the city yesterday on the occasion of 64th birth anniversary of - Star photo president Ziaur Rahman.

### Weather

### Light rain likely

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna and Barisal divisions and at one or two places elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours till 6pm today, reports UNB. Moderate fog could blanket Rajshahi division and the river basins in the morning, Met office said.

Slight fall in the night temperature is expected over the country. Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and Satkhira and the lowest of 9 degrees at

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.37 pm and rises tomorrow

on Sunday at 6.43 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns vesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius				Humidity in percentage		
	M	lax	Min	N	Aorning	ning Evening	
Dhaka	2	3.8	17.2		88	71	
Chittagong	2	6.6	15.5		77	82	
Rajshahi	2	5.6	09.0		89	66	
Khulna	2	7.8	13.2		87	75	
Barisal	2	6.6	16.5		100	77	
Sylhet	2	5.0	13.8		85	69	
Cox's Bazar	. 2	8.0	15.5		72	78	

## HERE and THERE

#### **BDRCS**

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Thursday distributed relief materials among the victims of Rayerbazar slum fire, reports BSS.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif and BRCS acting chairman Shaikh Kabir Hossain handed over the relief materials which included rice, lentil, blankets and clothing for the affected

Alhaj Mogbul Hossain MP, BRCS treasurer Monir Hossain Khan and other senior officials of BRCS were present on the occasion.

#### DAB, DMC

By DU Correspondent A 27-member executive

committee of the Dhaka Medical College unit of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) was formed recently with Dr Erfanul Haq Siddique and Dr Saiful Islam Ansari as president and general secretary respectively

The committee was formed in its general meeting which was presided over by Dr Mostak Rahim Shwapan.

The executive body includes, Meer Fawaz Hossain, Towhidul Islam John, Nazmul Huda Biplob, Imrul Haq Badal, Rashed Reza (vice president), Redwanul Islam (treasurer), Zahidur Rahman Panna (joint secretary), Rashed Sarwar Alam Rony (organising secretary), Asjadur Rahman Sovon loffice secretary), Abdul Kader Milon (literature, publicity and publication secretary). Sakhawat Ahmed Nasir (cultural and sports secretary), Baharul Alam (science affairs secretary) and Sayedus Salehin Babu (social

welfare secretary). The executive members of the committee are — Saifullah Jhintu, Sayef Ullah, Golam Mohiuddin Khan Sadi, Hayat Mahmud Rassel, Nuruzzaman Khan Khasru, Bakhtiar Uddin Jewel, Sakhawat Hossain Porag, Imrul Kayes, Enamul Haq. Khaleguzzaman Sarker Kajol, Biplob and Aziz.

#### Asian Buddhist

#### confee for peace

Speakers at a Roundtable meeting on "Buddhist approach to peace, harmony and development in the 21st century" emphasized that durable world peace in the post-cold-war era is earth. closely interwoven with equitable economic development and total nuclear disarmament, a press release said.

on Wednesday to welcome the new millennium under the auspices of Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP), Bangladesh National Center was participated by nearly a dozen leading personalities of the Buddhist community. DP Barua, Secretary General of ABCP National Centre acted as the coordinator of RTM held at the conference hall of National Council of Churches at New Es-

katon. Speakers said Buddha's message of peace and non-violence more than two and a half millenniums ago is timeless and still relevant for the stricken humanity. Describing 21st century as the era of extra-ordinary technological progress speakers said, peace and harmony constitute an integral part of development, both globally and nationally.

Speakers included Dilip Barua, Secretary General of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, Dr Sumangal Barua of Dhaka University. Dr Pravat Barua, Hiralal Barua, M P Barua, Jivanananda Barua, P K Chowdhury, P B Barua, K L Mutsuddi, Shilabrata Barua, Dr Ashim Barua, Swapan Barua Chowdhury, Uttam Barua, Sumal Kanti Barua, Parimal Mutsuddi and Shilabrata Chowdhury.

#### UPL book launched

The University Press Limited (UPL) yesterday launched Ms Raana Haider's 'Parisian Portraits and a Perspective in Development: Gender Focus' at a function on the Alliance Francaise premises at Dhanmondi here, reports BSS.

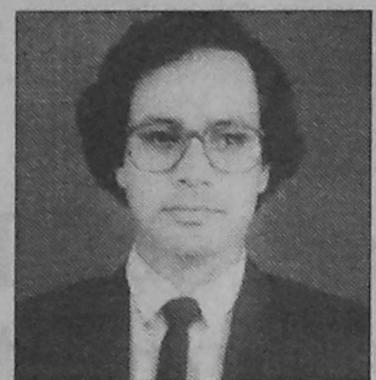
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury attended the function as the chief guest. Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami, French Ambassador to Bangladesh Alain Briottet, former foreign secretary Tabarak Hossain, ambassador Arshad uz Zaman, Director of Alliance Française de Dhaka Ms France Lasnier, author Ms Raana Haider and Mohiuddin Ahmed of UPL, among

others, addressed the function. Lauding the work on Paris. the state minister said Ms Raana Haider's book tastes like famous French cuisine if the reader has prior encounters with the most beautiful city on

Chowdhury said Parisian Portraits would enhance existing cultural ties between Dhaka and Paris and help the readers The meeting held in the city learn more about the city.



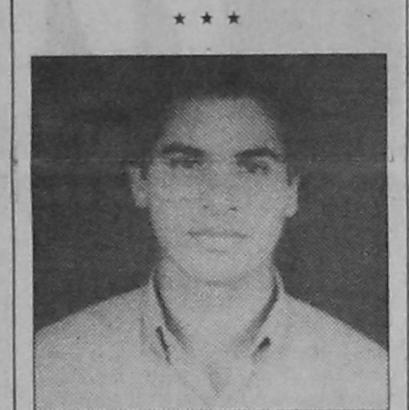
Bangladesh Energy Systems Technology (BEST), a California based firm with offices in Dhaka recently organised a seminar in the city on "Supplying Power to the People." Among others Philip Simon, BEST's Sales and Marketing Executive Ishtiaq Chisti and Feisal Siddique, Resident Director, addressed the seminar.



Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) has conferred PhD degree on Shibendra Shekher Sikder, an Assistant Profe sor of Department of Physic of Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Khulna, says a press re-

He was awarded the degree for his thesis 'Temperature Dependence of Magnetisation and Induced Magnetic Anisotrophy of some Fe, Co and Ni-based Amorphous Ribbons.

Sikder is the fourth son of late Nripendra Mohon Sikder of Baish Rashi village of Sadarpur thana in Faridpur district.

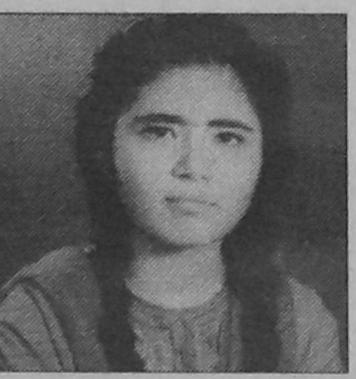


Mohammad Al-Mamun of Bangladesh Agricultural Uni versity stood first class first in the B.SC (AH) final examination, '97 (held in October, '99) says a press release.

He is the eldest son of Mohammad Niamot Ali and late Khushi Ali of Village Darikandi, Shivalaya thana of Manikganj District

He completed SSC from Vali Bararia K C High School, Manikganj and HSC from Kabi Nazrul Government College, in Dhaka.

\* \* \*



Hasina Akhter (Nipa) has passed her MSc final examination of 1996 (held in 1998) securing first class 3rd position from the department of Biochemistry, Dhaka University. says a press release.

She is the daughter of captain (Rtd) A G Muhammad Khurshid who was the Navy commander of "9th sector" established during the Liberation War, and Mrs Laila Bilquis Khurshid.

During her MSc thesis she worked as an NST fellow under the Ministry of Science & Technology fellowship programme.

#### Jakarta open to dialogue with Aceh rebels

WASHINGTON, Jan 21: Indonesia's foreign minister said Thursday Jakarta was open to dialogue with separatist rebels in Aceh but emphatically ruled out any possibility of granting independence to the province. reports AFP.

"It seems there are some rooms for dialogue still," Alwi Shihab said here before meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"Gus Dur (President Abdurrahman Wahid) is trying to use this space for dialogue to convince the factions of the independence movement of Aceh that (they) still can accept cooperation with the central government.

Shihab announced that Wahid was due to visit Acch within four or five days.

## Congratulations! China's HR abuses worst since 1989: Rights group

BEIJING, Jan 21: China's human rights abuses last year were the worst since the 1989 massacre of pro-democracy activists in Tiananmen Square, a human rights watchdog warned today, reports AFP.

"The abuses in the past year are the worst in the past few years since the crackdown on pro-democracy protestors," said Sophia Woodman, research director for Human Rights In China.

Woodman pointed to the

Communist government's

crackdown on the spiritual movement Falungong, the numerous arrests of opposition China Democracy Party activists and the suppressio of general freedom of association. Based in Hong Kong, Woodman is visiting foreign embassies in Beijing to lobby support for a US plan to table a resolution condemning China's human rights violations at the upcoming United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. "Given the situation of these

resolution. It's the mechanism agreed upon by the international community to address human rights problems, Woodman told reporters. "A resolution can support those people already making efforts inside and outside the

violations, we support the US

system to pressure China to respect human rights.' The United States last week said it would table the resolution in March, citing a deterio-

ration in China's human rights record last year.

#### Britain to tighten arms sales regulations past, insisted on strict condi-

LONDON, Jan 21: Close on the heels of Britain's pre-Christmas pledge to write of all debts owed by the world's most impoverished countries, London is to ban the use of export credits for arms sales to 63 nations, reports IPS. Forty-one of these countries

are eligible for debt relief under the heavily indebted poor country (HIPC) initiative. A further 22 can obtain 'soft loans' from the World Bank on a low cost, concessionary basis. The countries listed include

war-ravaged Sierra Leone and Ethiopia, while some of the biggest markets for British arms sales in the past such as Indonesia, Pakistan and Nigeria have been excluded.

"This is part of an attempt to ensure aid and debt relief are channeled into poverty reduction rather than military spending," said finance minister Gordon Brown last week. Otherwise, he said, the aid

could end up "flowing to prestige projects that do nothing to relieve poverty or to corrupt regimes and to military excess that destroys rather than builds for a better future. Only when combined with

the right economic and social policies, which are essential to sustainable economic development, can debt relief be the catalyst for the true release from poverty", Brown said. Treasury sources said the

hard line on export credits would include not only military hardware but also luxury goods such as yachts for political leaders in impoverished na-

Brown and the British International Development Secretary Clare Short have, in the tions for those getting debt re-

This follows the groundbreaking initiative by wealthy countries last year to write off up to 60 billion pounds owed by 41 highly indebted poor countries (HIPC). Once any of these countries starts receiving help from the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the HIPC scheme, all its debts to Britain will be scrapped.

#### Int'l Director of Lions Club due Jan 25



Nilofer Bakhtiar, International Director of Lions Clubs International, arrives in the city on January 25 on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, says a press re-

During her stay in Dhaka, she will attend different programmes of Multiple District 315, Bangladesh, Lions Club International.

She will be given a reception at Hotel Purbani at 4 pm on January 26.

Nilofer will also visit Chittagong where she will attend a seminar on 'Membership Growth and Leadership Development' on January 27. A reception will also be held

in her honour in Chittagong on January 28.



Flames and black smoke rise from a car, which is suspected to be a vehicle used by presumed terrorists, in Paradinas street in Madrid yesterday. A Spanish army officer was killed and a teenage girl wounded in twin car bombings attributed to the Basque separatist organisation ETA. - AFP photo forces team visits Jessore Cantt

Kuwaiti armed

JESSORE, Jan 21: The Kuwait Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Ali Mohammad Al-Moumen, visited the Jessore Cantonment yesterday, reports BSS.

The local area commander of the Bangladesh Army received General Al-Moumen and members of his entourage on their arrival at Jessore. The guests enjoyed a demonstration organised by the local Army Division.

The delegation of Kuwait Armed Forces later visited the Bangladesh Air Force Academy at the BAF Base Matiur Rahman here. The Air Officer Commanding of the Bangladesh Air Force Base Matiur Rahman and Commandant of the BAF Academy received the guests.

#### Free children from ethnic conflicts: UNICEF chief

TOKYO, Jan 21: UNICEF executive director Carol Bellamy today called for the world's major powers to help prevent children from being caught up in ethnic conflicts, a Japanese foreign ministry official said, reports AFP.

Bellamy, due to visit East Timor on Sunday after a fourday stay here, made the plea when she met with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono. the official said.

In the meeting, Bellamy thanked Japan for contributing to international aid efforts led by the UN children's fund to help reconstruct East Timor as it proceeds with independence from Indonesia, the official

Kono was quoted as telling the UNICEF chief that "preventing conflicts is very important to save children. This issue has been discussed at meetings of the Group-of-Eight (G8) foreign ministers.

Bellamy said she strongly supported G8 efforts in this area. "Serious undertaking by G8 to prevent conflicts is important," she was quoted as say

#### 6 killed in Kashmir unfight

SRINAGAR, Jan 21: Six people, including two Indian soldiers, were killed today in a gunbattle in India's troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir, police said, reports Reuter.

They said the gunbattle erupted around noon in Qazigund area. 70 km (44 miles) south of Srinagar.

"Four militants and two security personnel were killed in the encounter". a police spokesman said.

#### No hartal From page 1

The meeting decided to go for



demonstration programme before the litema and launch a "militant anti- government movement" including hartal and road barricades from the first week of February, meeting sources said. Jatiya Party will not hold its

scheduled meeting in the city tomorrow because party Chairman H. M Ershad will appear before court for trial in the Manjur murder case on that day. But it will observe the programmes to be announced by the alliance.

Ershad is the principal accused in the case, filed during BNP rule.

Briefing newsmen, BNP leader Anwar Zahid said All Party Action Committees have already been formed in some parts of the country.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia will address her party's public meeting at Paltan Maidan. Jamaat e - Islami Ameer Golam Azam will address his party's meeting at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque and Isklami Oikkya Jote chief Azizul Haq will address a party meeting at Purana Paltan. BNP leaders M Shamsul Is-

lam MP, Tariqul Islam and Anwar Zahid, JP leaders Naziur Rahman Manjur, Mostafa Jamal Haider, Maidul Islam and Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Jamaat leaders Matiur Rahman Nizami, Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam and 10J leaders Fazlul Haq Amini and ARM Abdul Matin attended the Liaison Committee meeting yesterday. Earlier in the morning,

Shamsul Islam and Anwar Zahid held a joint meeting with Jagpa President Shafful Alam Prodhan, Democratic League leader Saifuddin Ahmed Moni, Progressive Nationalist Party Chairman Shaikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu and Nationalist Democratic Alliance Chairman Nurul Haq Majumder.

The meeting strongly protested Cabinet approval of the Public Safety Bill and urged the government to refrain from introducing the "anti-people and black law" in the parliament.

### Obituary

CHANDPUR, Jan 21: Abdul Karim Patwari, former municipal chairman and veteran Awami League leader, died at his Taltala residence in the town this morning at the age of 73, reports UNB.

Patwari had long been suffering from respiratory prob-He left behind his wife, five sons, two daughters and a host

of relatives and admirers. His namaz-e-janaza was held at Chandpur Government College ground in the afternoon. Later, he was buried at his family graveyard.

# EC: No decision yet

From page 1 dents, and one case was disposed of exparty in the absence

of the accused. The EC report attribute the tribunals' failure to ensure speedy trials this time mainly to the 'flawed method and prac-

tice of disposal. Explaining the "inherent limitation" in the existing system, an EC official said, "The tribunals can hardly have continuous hearing of a petition as frequent adjournments are sought by the respondent who is usually a member of parlia-

ment". Under Section 57(5) of the PRO, "The Tribunal shall not adjourn the trial of an election petition for any purpose unless such adjournment is, in its opinion, necessary in the breeest of justice."

"Well, what can a Tribunal do when adjournments are sought on the ground that the date for hearing could not be fixed during the period encompassing 15 days prior to com-mencement of a parliament session, the session itself and 15 days after the prorogation of the session. In this regard, the Privileges of Members of Parliaments (Exemptions from Preventive Detention and Personal Appearance) Act, 1963 is frequently quoted by the respondent/s," the EC official

The Tribunals are therefore left with only a few working days, given the constitutional obligation for the Jatiya Sangsad to meet within 60 days of the prorogation of the previ-

ous session. According to EC sources, adjournments are also sought on various pleas like illness of respondents and their lawyers and non-availability of vital witnesses.

Trial of a case also gets prolonged if one or the other party appeals for trial of the case in another tribunal or appeals to a higher court against certain observation of the tribunal during trial of a case. "After the trial is over in a

tribunal, the defeated side usually goes to higher courts," another EC official observed. Presently, law provides for

appeal to the High Court against

### Kenya defeated

From page 1

Bangladesh cross 100 by putting on 51 runs for the fourth

Hannan, while on 17, tried to accelerate the scoring rate but was caught and bowled by off-spinner Nitin Patel.

The departure of the most experienced batsman however did not deter the determination of Kalim who celebrated his return to the playing eleven with a gritty 28, which was the highest contribution from the bat in both the innings. Kalim, coming in at the fall of Hannan, was

ignored for the last three

matches.

Kuntal scored a sedate but very useful 23 off 83 balls. Recalled for the match after being rested against Namibia, seamer Tariqul Hassan played a little cameo of 17-ball 19 and Bikash weighed in with an invaluable

21 off 27 balls. Kenyan skipper Moham led Sheikh finished with four wickets but Bangladesh still managed to score 50 runs in the last ten overs.

After the good work with the willow, Bikash and Tarigul gave Kenya no chance to score freely. Kenyans could garner only 17 runs in the first ten overs losing the wicket of opener Gore, who top-edged an attempted drive against Tariqul and Kalim took it beautifully at

cover. Although Bikash returned wicketless, his five overs yielded only 11 runs.

Anwar Hossain, coming in as first change, then ripped through the middle-order to finish with three for 21 in his ten overs.

He had one-down Collins Omondi trapped leg before for three and Nitin Patel magnificently caught by Hannan, who ran about 15 yards from uidoff to mid-on to take the skier just inches above the ground. Hannan also clung on to a fierce shot from Mohammed Sheikh. fielding at mid-on. Tariqul, the meanest of the

Bangladesh bowlers, not only passed the endurance test of bowling ten overs at a stretch but also got the reward of maintaining a tight line and length under the melting sun. He finished with two for 15.

Leg-spinner Mosaddek mopped up the Kenyan tail to return with fantastic figures of 4-3-6-2. Among the Kenyan batsmen,

opener Amit Bhudia scored highest 16 off 77 balls. With this win, Bangladesh confirmed their place in the semifinals with one match in

The match against Zimbabwe, to be held in NCC ground in Colombo on January 23, will also decide the champions from Group One.

hand against Zimbabwe.

two judges. And as a last resort, the verdict of the HC Bench goes to the country's highest judicial body - the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

"So it is natural that an aggrieved candidate does not get a final verdict within a reasonable time, although the EC is convinced that the whole exercise becomes useless because the final verdict is not available even during the tenure of the parliament concerned", a top

EC official said." The Commission believes that 'the time-limit for a final decision on any election case should not be more than one year from the receipt of an alle-

gation'. But it is convinced that mere re-fixing the time-limit is not the answer. "The composition of the tribunal and its working station have also to be

changed." The Supreme Court may appoint an Election Tribunal comprising two judges of the High Court Division, exclusively for trial and disposal of clection petitions, the EC recommendation said. The working place of the tribunal should naturally be in the capital where the parliament meets."

The EC mentioned some countries practising the system. These include Australia. Canada, Malayasia, Kenya and Ghana. In India, election petitions are disposed of at High Courts in state capitals. Arguing in favour of re-

placement of divisional level tribunals with a central one comprising High Court judges, the EC says: Elevated status of the adjudicators may dissuade the counsels from seeking frequent adjournment of hearing on frivolous grounds, while location of the parliament and the tribunal in the same city would require minimum adjustment of the tribunal's schedules.

Arguing further, the EC report said, location of the tribunal in Dhaka instead of divisional headquarters will contribute to avoiding frequent adjournment of hearing on the plea that the principal respon-

dent is preoccupied with par-

liamentary duties. "Occasions may not be rare when parliament would remain in session for a part of the day, allowing the tribunal to proceed with its business during the rest of the working hours.

#### Shikdar

From page 1

to set up a special court through a notification issued on October 23, 1999.

All formalities have been

completed for beginning trial at the Special Court. Sources said that 15 murder cases revived so far by the police

will also be tried in the special Chargesheets of nine out of 23 murder cases have already

been submitted to the court. Meanwhile, investigation is going on into the security lapses in the Khulna District Jail through which two letters were passed out with instruction from Ershad on how to snatch him from police custody and kill six persons, including three

political leaders of AL and BNP.

Rallies

From page 1 filed against him.

The fresh time and venue of the meeting will be announced later, the press release added. Leaders and activists of different thana units of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday brought out processions and held rallies in the city to make tomorrow's

Leaders and activists of Dhanmondi thana unit of BNP brought out a procession from New Market area. BNP Mirpur, Ramna, Tejgaon, Uttara, Gulshan, Pallabi,

Sabujbagh, Motijheel. Kafrul,

Buddah and Demra thana units

public meeting a success.

#### also brought out separate processions and held rallies on the occasion. Bus accident claims 17 lives

in central China BEIJING, Jan 21: Seventeen people were killed and nine injured in a head-on collision between a liquefied gas tanker and a passenger bus in the central province of Henan, state

media said today, reports AFP. The bus was travelling on a highway between Xin village and Fan county on Wednesday when the tanker crashed into it while trying to speed pass a section of the highway clouded in smoke, the Beijing Youth Daily

The smoke was created by a peasant burning wheat straws near the highway, the paper

Water poured into homes,

shops and official buildings in

Beirut and its suburbs, and in

the northern port city of Tripoli

a hospital and mosque were

also flooded, the official Tele-

their banks, flooding nearby

fields, the official ANI news

agency said. A number of re-

taining walls were washed

Many rivers spilled over

### Storms wreak havoc in ME

said.

BEIRUT, Jan 21: Torrential rain wreaked havoc in Lebanon Thursday, flooding buildings in Beirut and other towns, cutting power and turning highways first into muddy streams and then into raging torrents, re-

"It's a disaster," proclaimed the country's most popular television station, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC), which blamed the authorities for the extensive damage caused by the storm, whose arrival was no surprise to

weather forecasters.

ports AFP.

away. However despite the rains, Beirut's airport continued to

tims of the flooding.

Liban reported.

The authorities could give no function. Initial estimates late Thursfigures Thursday evening for the material damage, but said

day said between 70 and 90 centimeters (28 and 36 inches) of rain had fallen on Beirut in 24

no casualties had been reported. They have set up an "emergency hours. operations room" to assist vic-

#### the decision of the election tribunal. The appeals are heard by a Division Bench comprising