What's on today

Open discussion: Health for All will hold an open discussion on "HIV/AIDS", Venue: Ganashasthya Nagar Bhaban, (5th floor). House no 14E, Rd no 6, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5-30 pm. Exhibition: A weeklong solo painting exhibition by Kajol atled "A Painting Show" will begin. Venue: 13, Eskaton Garden road (1st floor). Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and weather may remain mainly dry over Rajshahi division in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports

Night temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over Ra-jshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country during the period. Met Office said.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi division and river basins of the country and light to moderate fog elsewhere over

the country. The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 28.5 degree Celsius at Barisal and Patuakhali and the lowest 10.6

degrees at Faridpur. The sun sets in the capital today at 5.38 pm and rises tomorrow

at 6.42 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	in Celsius		percentage	
Dhaka Chittagong Rajshahi Khulna Barisal Sylhet Cox's Bazar	Max 26.6 24.4 26.7 26.8 28.5 24.4 28.0	Min 16.4 17.8 12.4 18.9 18.5 15.4 16.8	Morning 92 80 89 78 58 79 79	Evening 59 80 70 81 75 81 85

HERE and THERE

SCF rally

By DU Correspondent

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left leaning student organisation yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus in protest of the government order to postpone syndicate decision to name different halls after some eminent citizens at Shahjalal University.

Following the procession. the SCF held a rally in front of the DUCSU building at noon.

Addressing the rally, SCF leaders condemned the recent activities of 'religious fanatics' of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student organisation Shibir at the Shahjalal University.

They also demanded immediate withdrawal of the government decision and solution of the 'problems created by Shibir activists' at Chittagong University.

Among others, Ashrafuddin Akash, Khokan Das and Sajedul Haq Romel addressed the rally.

Buddist BSA, JU

By DU Correspondent A 27-member executive committee of Buddhist Students' Association (BSA), Jagannath University College unit was formed yesterday with Hiru Barua and Sukumar Barua Rabi as president and general

secretary respectively. The committee for the year 2000-2001 was formed by an election.

Worldview int'l

An international training workshop on developing nutrition communication programme strategies to combat nutritional deficiencies in Asia and African region was organised by Worldview International Foundation, Headquarters in Sri Lanka on January 22 in the city, says a press release.

13 participants from African Asian countries such as Botswana, Gambia, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, India, Nepal and host country Bangladesh are attending the

The inaugural session was chaired by M Sirajul Islam, Project Director, Worldview, Bangladesh.

The chief guest in the session

was Manzoor ul Karim, Senior Advisor, Unicef and special guest were Ted Greiner, Nutrition Advisor, Upsala University and Nimal Martinus from Stromme Memorial Foundation in Bangladesh.

Annual General Meeting of Asia Crime Prevention Foundation Bangladesh (ACPF) was held in Ahsania Mission on Friday with Dr M Enamul Haq in the chair. Secretary General of ACPF Dr A Hakim Sarkar and Treasurer Shabbir Mahmood presented their reports, says a press release.

The election of executive committee was also held. Dr Enamul Haq and Dr A Hakim Sarkar were elected as President and Secretary General respectively. Other office bearers are Kazi Rafiqul Alam - VP, Khondokar Showkat Hossain and Ms Nurzahan - Joint Secretaries, Shabbir Mahmood -Treasurer and Members are Salma Chowdhury, M A Rahim, Mominul Haq, Nazmul Alam, Ismail Jabiullah, Syed Ayub Ali and Dalil Uddin.

SEHD workshop

A five-day workshop on Indepth Reporting opened in Jessore town yesterday, reports

Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD), a non-governmental organisation, has organised the workshop in which 25 journalists from different southwestern districts are taking part. "Apart from tidbits of Inves-

tigative Reporting, the workshop will deal with subtler aspects of environmental concerns of the southwest region of the country," Philip Gain, Director of SEHD said

He said a professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Dhaka University, senior journalists from the capital and writers on environmental issues, among others, will participate in the workshop as resource persons.

Twenty-nine journalists from dailies of Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah and Narail and local correspondents of the national dailies are taking part in the workshop, a SEHD press release said.

State minister

visits Baily

Bridge over

Kamrangirchar

State Minister for Commu-

nications Mohammad Anisul

Hoque Chowdhury yesterday

visited the bailey bridge over

Kamrangirchar canal here and

Haji Selim MP and engineers

The 460 feet long and 11 feet

of the Roads and Highways

Department accompanied the

wide bailey bridge is too narrow

to make passage for a truck.

directed the concerned depart-

expand it, reports BSS.

state minister.



A farewell reception was hosted by Media Mode for Pan Yunzhao, Correspondent, Xinhua who is returning to Beijing following his two year assignment to the Dhaka Bureau. Photo shows M Shahadat Hossain, CEO of Media Mode presenting a farewell gift to Pan Yunzhao, at the reception last evening. Also seen are President of OCAB and Bureau Chief of AP Farid Hossain and Bureau Chief of Xinhua Pan Xiaozhu (extreme right). The First Secretary-Culture, Yao Baolai of the Chinese Embassy and members of the press and media also attended the reception.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent Bashir A Khan Babu, former East Pakistan pole volt champion, died of cardiac arrest on Thursday morning. He was 58.

He was buried at their family graveyard in Kishoreganj. His qulkhwani will be held on January 28 at 84. Nazimuddin Road after Asr prayers.

Basir A Khan Babu, a former ment to take immediate steps to East Pakistan pole vault champion, died of heart failure here on Thursday morning. He

was 58, reports UNB. Qulkhwani of late Basir A Khan will be held on January 28 after Asr prayers at 84 Nazimuddin Road.

Islam's remarks BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has protested and condemned the 'incident and false' comment by State Minister for Religious Affairs about a dead leader of the party. reports UNB.

| Mannan Bhuiyan

blasts Maulana

In a statement yesterday Bhuiyan questioned the audacity of Moulana Nurul Islam, holding the portfolio of religious affairs, in dishing out such falsehood about late Abdus Salam Talukdar.

Describing Maulana Islam as 'a leader of terrorists and an anti-liberation element. Bhuiyan said the minister's constituency of Sarishabari area was in the grip of terrorism let loose by him.

Rokeya Award distribution held at DU

The prize giving ceremony of Rokeya Award by Rokeya Memorial Foundation was held vesterday on the premises of Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University, reports BSS.

Vice Chancellor Professor AK Azad Chowdhury attended the function as the chief guest where gold medal, merit scholarships and general scholarships were formally given to awarded students of the univer-



Police recovered 10 bags of phensidyl syrup yesterday hidden beneath the floor of a shop at Dayaganj Bazar under -Star photo Sutrapur thana.

FM lends support to steer ahead IOR-ARC objectives

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday expressed the hope that the member countries of IOR-ARC could immensely exploit their untapped potential to promote their speedy economic growth, reports BSS from Muskat.

Delivering his speech at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation) here, Azad lent Bangladesh's full support and cooperation in implementing aims and objectives of the regional body

Bangladesh along with four other countries joined the new regional body, which was floated in 1997 in Mauritius. With the entry of Bangladesh, Iran, Seychelles, Thailand and Oman, the membership of the Association now rose to 19.

The Foreign Minister, who is leading a six member delegation, said Bangladesh attaches high priority on the trade and investment agenda of the IOR-

Bar Council to

provide legal

aid to Badhon

meeting yesterday decided to

provide legal assistance to

Shaon Akhter Badhon who was

assaulted by a group of unruly

youths at TSC area on 31st

Chairman of the Bar Council

Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, the

meeting took unanimous deci-

sion to provide all kinds of help

The meeting was attended,

among others, by President of

Supreme Court Bar Association

Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Ad-

vocate Syed Rezaur Rahman,

Advocate Sigma Huda, Advo-

cate Salma Ali, Advocate Go-

lam Arif Tipu, Advocate Abdur

Razzak Khan, Advocate Mo-

hammad Israfil, Advocate

Elina Khan, Barrister Tania

Amir and Advocate Abu Bakar

Presided over by Vice-

night, reports BSS.

to Badhon.

Farhad.

Bangladesh Bar Council at a

Bangladesh, he said, would be very keen to examine the individual country reports on coordination of Quarantine regulations by Australia, on Tariff database by India, on Custom regulations by Sri Lanka and on Compendium of trade rules and regulations by Mauritius.

"We are meeting at a time when there has been significantly greater understanding, appreciation and awareness of the importance of regional economic cooperation." Mr Azad

He went on saying the frontiers of our thinking on trade. commerce and development has substantially expanded in this decade.

The Foreign Minister said the government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina believes in the concept of regional economic cooperation.

Referring to the launching of SAARC in 1985, he said there is regional consensus among the SAARC countries to establish a free-trade area in South Asia

following the coming into effect of South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA)

He said the member states have exchanged tariff concession's on more than 5400 items among themselves. Bangladesh has received

tariff concessions on 3016 items from other member states of SAARC and in return granted tariff concessions on 596 items to other members states, Mr Azad said. Extending his thanks to all

members states for admitting Bangladesh in the IOR-ARC, Mr Azad assured them of Bangladesh's full commitment to the principles, aims and objectives of the Charter and grals of the association.

He said it would be important to progress step by step to consolidate the gains already achieved before we move on to the next phase.

"We have many difficulties in our path but we will surely overcome those through our collaborative efforts", he added.

JU VC panel: The three-member panel led by the Acting Vice Chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University Prof Abdul Bayes (M) won the JU VC panel election yesterday. He got the highest number of 51 votes: The other two members who were elected are Prof Farida Akhter of the Chemistry Department (38 votes) and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Prof Tajul Islam (36 votes) are also seen in the pic-

Physicians slate govt approval of Public Safety Bill

By Staff Correspondent A group of 351 physicians yesterday criticised the government for endorsing the 'Public Safety' Bill and observed that it was quite possible to punish all types of criminals in the society through just and impartial implementation of the existing laws.

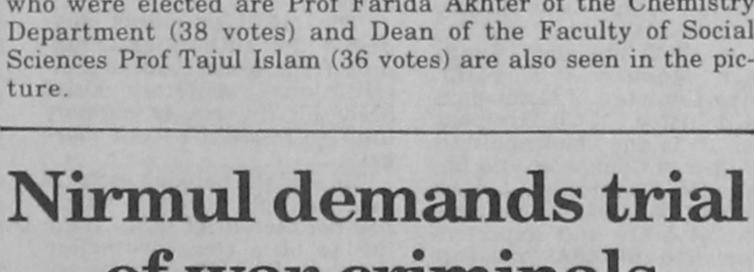
. Describing the proposed law as 'anti-fundamental human rights' in a statement signed by M Zahid Hossain, they alleged that the government was striving to formulate anti-people black laws instead of properly implementations existing laws.

Referring to the incidents of the assault of a women at TSC, killing of a joint secretary in broad day light and harassment of a physicians also alleged that the administration had been playing the role of a silent spectator knowing well who the cul-

They also urged all conscious citizens of the society to join the ongoing 'no more black laws, rather proper application of the existing laws' movement.

Cult members Kidnap Shoko Asahara's son

TOKYO, Jan 22: Disciples of Japan's Aleph cult, formerly Aum Supreme Truth, have kidnapped the seven-year-old son of former guru Shoko Asahara, police said today, reports AFP. "Six members of the sect took the eldest son away," said a police official responsible for Asahi village, 100 km northeast of Tokyo, where the boy was snatched.



of war criminals Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal

Nirmul Jatiya Samanya Committee yesterday reiterated its demand for immediate trial of the war criminals of 1971 in a special tribunal, reports BSS.

The Nirmul Committee leaders at a rally at the central Shaheed Minar said the criminals, most of whom belonged to the Jamaat-Shibir clique, not only opposed independence, but also collaborated Pakistani occupation forces to carry out the history's worst genocide during the Liberation War.

Convenor of the committee Syed Hasan Imam presided over the rally.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) president and Fisheries and Livestock minister ASM Abdur Rob, Chairman of Bangladesh Muktijodha Sangsad Ahad Chowdhury, JSD leader Nure-Alam-Ziko, Shahriar Kabir, Golam Quddus, Ahmed Raushon Jahan Sathi,

Shamsun Naher Siddique and Obaydur Rahman Chunnu spoke on the occasion.

"We now need action, not statements against the anti-liberation forces - this is high time for their elimination, Razzaq said. The vested quarters are try-

ing to undo the independence

and sovereignty of the country being dictated by their foreign Rob urged the nation, government, and leaders irrespective of party affiliations to take a firm stand against religious

talism and democracy can not go hand in hand. Ahad Chowdhury said freedom fighters can not do politics joining hands with the anti-

fanaticism, saying fundamen-

Liberation forces. Hasan Imam said Nirmul committee would organise separate conferences in six divisional headquarters by Febru-

Political Prisoners Council was renamed yesterday as "Matribhasa Sainik Parishad," a press release of the organisation said, reports BSS.

lowing a two-day meeting in view of recent UNESCO declaration announcing the 21st February as International Mother Language Day.

The decision was taken fol-

Haque in the chair, also decided

war Hossain as acting convenor for publishing a book to commemorate the event.



The visiting Chief of Staff of the Kuwait Armed Forces Lieutenant General Ali Mohammad Al-Moumen witnessed a demonstration at the Jessore Cantonment on Thursday.

Clashes at textile mill in Gazipur: 20 injured

GAZIPUR, Jan 22: A textile mill in Konabari BSCIC industrial estate remained closed for the last three days following capture of the mill by arrival group of workers, reports UNB. Witnesses said 20 people From page 1

shortly.

countries shortly.

discussions on movement of

The Indian minister said

that discussions on two out-

standing issues would be held

between the officials of the two

terrorism, smuggling of goods,

narcotics, illegal arms move-

ment and border demarcation

would be discussed in the offi-

cials' meeting. The official level

meeting in Dhaka would be fol-

lowed by meeting of home secre-

taries of the two countries in

Delhi, the minister told news-

Responding to a question,

Ajit Panja said that his country

was "quite sincere" about nar-

rowing the trade gap with

Bangladesh and said that offi-

cials of the two countries will

sit to find ways to resolve the

problem. The minister how-

ever, did not give any time-

frame for resolving the prob-

pressed happiness at the out-

come of the talks and hoped

that both countries would be able to reap the benefit through

cooperation in the era of global-

the end of the Indian minister's

visit said that the two sides felt

the need for expanding multi-

modal transportation and

communication links and increase cultural and educational

A meeting of the Joint Eco-

nomic Commission is expected

to be held at an early date in

improving border management,

Nikunja murder

From page 1

tion of S.M. and Jagannath

Hall on the morning of January

from the Ramna Police on Jan-

uary 16 after the thana force be-

have arrested over 100 suspects

in the case, only to release them

leged to have forced Shukur Ali

to make a confessional state-

Ramna Police are also al-

In other developments, the

search continued for the knife

used in the killing. Investiga-

tors are combing the areas near

the site of the killing without

UN working group

adopts a draft ban

on child-soldier

working group on Friday

adopted a draft ban on armies

using soldiers under the age of

18. UN spokesman Jamel Ben

will boost the chances of reduc-

ing the estimated 300,000 child-

soldiers employed in conflicts

feasible measures to ensure that

members of the armed forces

who have not attained the age of

18 years do not take a direct

part in hostilities," said the key

national delegations that took

part in the two-week meeting had agreed to ban all under-18s

to decided whether to agree the

protocol, which amends the

current age threshold of 15 im-

posed by the 1989 International

Convention on Children's

along with Somalia refused to

sign that Convention, agreed to

Friday's deal, though it will

continue to recruit soldiers on a

voluntary basis from the age of

of a non-government coalition

pressing for the abolition of

child-soldiers, announced that

time to end deployment of un-

der-18s in combat situations."

"the US has agreed for the first

But Jo Becker, co-ordinator

The United States, which

from taking part in combat.

The spokesman said the 70

But each state will now have

Officials hope that any ban

"State parties shall take all

Yahmed said, reports AFP.

GENEVA, Jan 22 : A UN

after accepting bribes.

ment in the case.

success.

around.

part of the text.

came embroiled in controversy

The CID took over the case

Ramna police are alleged to

Greater collaboration for

Dhaka, the statement said.

exchanges.

A joint statement issued at

Abul Hasan Chowdhury ex-

The issues of cross-border

were injured in a chase and counter chase of the feuding groups who attacked each other with bombs and brickbats to-

The clash ensued over the groups' supremacy in Tamijuddin Textile Mill that employed about 1000 workers.

The group opposed to the owner of the mill finally captured the mill. They said armed terrorists had attacked them on Wednesday night which left 15 people injured.

Mill owners meanwhile complained that they had become hostages of unruly work-

Additional police were deployed in the mill to avert any further clashes.

Nasim visits residence of late Nikunja Bihari Nath

By Staff Correspondent Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday visited the Azimpur Govt Colony residence of late joint secretary Nikunja Bihari Nath who was stabbed to death by a gang of muggers near the Swadhinata Sang am (struggle for independence) sculpture insider Dhaka University campus on January 11. said a government hand out last

Expressing his sympathy to the family members, the minister said that seven of the culprits involved in the tragic incident have already been arrested. Rest of the culprits will be arrested and punish soon, he

Mohammad Nasim assured allout of cooperation to the family members. Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddique and Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Matiur Rahman accompanied the minister during the visit, it added.

Razzak opens construction of road

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday formally inaugurated the construction of Mohammadpur-Badamtoli Road under the Integrated Flood Control Programme, reports BSS.

The minister announced the inauguration of the construction at a meeting at Rayer Bazar here.

Bangladesh Water Development Board is implementing the eight-kilometer road construction at a cost of Taka 13 crore. It will be completed by June this year. Through the construction of

the road, the maintenance of Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Programmes would be more easier and at least 20 lakh people of Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur and Lalbagh areas would be benefited.

The road will help reduce the city traffic congestion and improve socio-economic condition of the people of those areas. The minister said the gov

ernment has been relentlessly trying to eradicate poverty and improve socio-economic condition of the people. Presided over by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Dr ATM Shamsul

Huda, the function was addressed, among others, by Alhaj Mokbul Hossain, MP, Haji Mohammad Selim, MP, Chairman of Bangladesh Water Development Board Golam Sarwar. Abdur Razzak said the government wants overall devel-

opment of the country and welfare of the common people. He instructed the Water Development Board to complete

the construction of the road within the scheduled time.

Language Activist & Political Prisoner Council renamed

The Language Activist and

The meeting, with the chief of the organisation Gaziul

to hold a grand conference of the language movement veterans in February next. It also appointed Syed An

Body recovered

JESSORE, Jan 22: Abhoyna gar thana recovered an uniden tified body of a young man from village Taltda Friday night, re-

Tk 7 in his pocket.

The body was brought to Jessore general hospital today for autopsy

Dhaka-Agartala bus

water resources, increasing trade and commerce, curbing smuggling and consular matpassenger trains between the ters were also covered during oftwo countries and expressed the ficial discussions between the hope that it would be possible to operate train communications

two sides, the statement said. The two sides also recognised the need to conclude a bilateral investment and promotion agreement 'expeditiously' and utilise Rupees 200 crore line of credit extended by India.

Ajit Panja leaves The visiting Indian minister left Dhaka yesterday afternoon at the end of his three-day visit. Besides having official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart State Minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury he witnessed the

in the field of agriculture. Abul Hasan Chowdhury and the High Commissioners of Bangladesh and India were pre-

One in five marriages in Italy ends in divorce

ATHENS, Jan 22: One in five

The rate of divorce is even higher in major cities around the country, including the capital of Athens and the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki. ends in divorce,

couples tied the knot in 1999 while some 2.119 others divorced; this represents an increase of around 17 per cent in the number of divorces in the

In Greece, the proportion of people who remarried for a second time has since 1985 been on the rise, with as many as 85 per cent of people who divorce remarry a second time, and around 15 per cent of them re-

From page 1 must be prosecuted quickly. what will happen if he is re-

ment? They will come out and create more criminals. "I would also like to ask how can an accused charged with offences like murder can get bail in advance? Once they get out, they commit more murders. So,

government is left with no option but to go for a new Public Security law to ensure quick

He also said there is no scope to show leniency to criminals. "Can police interrogate and get information from these criminals over a cup of tea ?," he

ents of the accused who assaulted a woman on the Dhaka University Campus, they handed over their sons to police. Nasim said. "So, for the sake of security and curbing crimes, don't you

support such stern steps?," Nasim posed the question. Regarding the murder of the LGRD Joint Secretary, Nasim said, the accused were arrested from slums set up on illegally

Banning child soldiers

UN draft fails to set 18 as minimum age

to prohibit the use of child soldiers, negotiators from 70 countries reached a draft agreement yesterday to raise the age for military conscription and participation in combat to 18 from 15. UN officials said, reports Reuters. But campaigners expressed

disappointment that the draft accord, the fruit of six years of negotiations, failed to set 18 as the minimum age for voluntary recruitment into armed forces. Instead, government armies

may recruit volunteers aged 16 who have parental consent and give proof of their date of birth. The compromise reflects a concession to Britain and the United States, who recruit from

ports UNB.

The body of the man aged about 30 years was found hanging in a tree. The man was wearing lungi and a shirt. Police found a cinema ticket and

signing of an MOU on coor ration between the two coun., ies

sent at the airport to see Panja

marriages in Greece ends in divorce, according to a study by Greece's National Statistics Service (NSS), reports Xinhua.

where one in three marriages Local experts warn that the

country's divorce rate has increased sharply in the past years. Between 1991 and 1995, the divorce rate was estimated at 10 per cent nationwide, but this rose to 20.6 per cent in In Athens, a total of 7,450

capital compared to previous

marry their former spouses. Currently, Greece's divorce rate is far behind those in other European countries, where for every two marriages there is one divorce, but experts warn that this may soon be the case in Greece too.

Home Minister

permanent solution, criminals "A criminal may be put behind the bar for some time. But

leased after change of govern-

under these circumstances, what can I do? My hands are

The home minister said the disposal of cases and bring terrorist to book.

Only when police threatened to put behind the bar the par-

occupied lands. When I tried to remove such slum and rehabilitate the affected people, I was stopped. My hands were tied. So how can l stop these illegal activities?"

GENEVA, Jan 22: In a move 17 and 16 respectively. However, states must make "all feasible measures" to en sure recruits do not take a direct part in hostilities before the age of 18, a provision welcomed by campaigners. Armed rebel groups may nei-

ther recruit under-18s nor send them into combat, although governments' ability to enforce this measure is questionable. The United Nations estimates that 300,000 under-18s take part in combat worldwide, mainly in African conflicts. Negotiators erupted into ap-

plause upon the adoption, by

consensus, of the draft text,

hammered out in two weeks of

talks at the United Nations in Geneva. It will be known as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the "We have a protocol. May even say it has been adopted by acclamation," said Cathrine von Heidenstam, a Swedish diplomat who chaired the talks. "It should increase protection of

children and help children who

are victims of atrocities and other abuses. The United States and Somalia are the only two countries not to have ratified the 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which sets the

military minimum age at 15.