What's on today

Nat'l Rabindra Sangeet Festival: A reception will be accorded to Ustad Akhtar Sadmari on the last day of the 11th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha. It will be followed by a cultural show. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 6.00

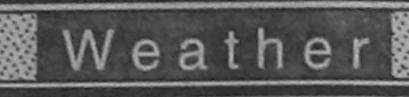
Blood donation programme: IT society and International University of Business Agriculture Technology Society organise a blood donation programme in association with Sandhani Foundation. It is the part of a day-long festival. where IUBAT students will arrange movie show. Venue: IUBAT campus. Time: 9:30 am.

Reception ceremony: A reception will be accorded to Prof Akhter Imam. the first provost of Rokeya Hall. Dhaka University. Venue: Planning and Development academy. Nilkhet.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique will attend the programme as chief guest.

Condolence meeting: Ganotantri Party has organised a condolence meeting in memory of its leader Ashraf Ahmed. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium, Segun Bagicha. ime:

Birth anniversary of Swami Pranabananda: The Swami Pranabananda Shikkha O Sangskriti Parishad has arranged special prayers, recitation from the Geeta and a programme of devotional songs on the occasion of 105th birth anniversary of Swami Pranabananda, founder of Sri Sri Pranab Math. Venue: Jagannath Hall Temple premises, DU. Time: 7 pm.



Light rain likely

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Dhaka Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 10.4 degrees at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.43 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.41 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	27.1	14.3	64	54
Chittagong	29.8	14.0	80	75
Rajshahi	25.6	13.0	87	75 75
Khulna	29.0	12.8	79	58
Barisal	28.2	12.0	76	72
Sylhet	23.0	14.5	84	79 59
Cox's Bazar	29.8	15.7	63	59

HERE and THERE

Photo exhibition

A photography exhibition styled as 'Hidden Japan' opened for public yesterday afternoon at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University. The eight-day exhibition is jointly inaugurated by the University of Dhaka and the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh. The exhibition displays the camera work of Kijuro Yahagi, a Japanese photographer, reports BSS.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka Professor AK Azad Chowdhury, Minister of the Embassy of Japan Shigeharu Maruyama and Director of the Institute of Fine Arts Professor Mahmudul Haque were among nearly one hundred people who attended the inaugural function.

The exhibition is a very special one, because the common nuance underlying each picture helps the viewers to touch the invisible image, which

memory, even though it is hidden in daily life, a press release of the Embassy said. The exhibition will remain

Japanese people keep in tueir

open until February 5 from 2pm to 7pm everyday.

Law Tutors

By Staff Correspondent A two-member delegation from the University of London visited the Law Tutors, an educational institute, in the city on Thursday. The institute is a Dhaka-based college providing tuition for the British university's examination held in over-

Susan Gidman, Deputy Director, and Dr Wayne Morrison, Course Director at the University of London, had an open discussion with the students of the Law Tutors located in Dhanmondi. Ripa Walie, Education Promotion Manager of the British Council in Dhaka, also attended the programme.

Amendments

From page 1

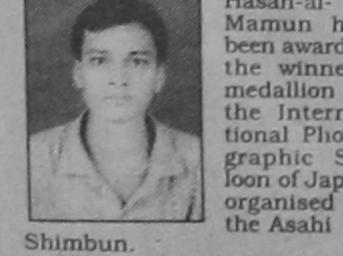
born baby, dowry and some other points. The amendments were also made to provisions relating to accountability of journalists and law enforcing agencies.

Under the provision as amended by the standing committee, police would be more responsible and more accountability of the prosecution will be established.

The standing committee in its report proposed to award two-year imprisonment, instead of three-year as suggested in the Bill. It also allowed press reports in detail on repression of women and children having much documents and enough proois.

Awarded

By Staff Correspondent Hasan-al-



Mamun has been awarded the winner's medallion in the Interna-

Mamun is a student of the Department of Architect of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

His photograph is one of the 130 works selected for the award from a total of 6,715 entries received from 51 countries, said a press release.

By Staff Correspondent

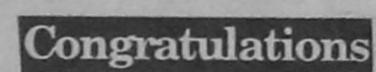


been awarded Medal of the Order of Aus-He will now be entitled to use the initials OAM after his name.

Huq migrated to Australia in 1972. Earlier, he worked as a Hydrographer. The Australian government appointed him as Geohydrologist in the Water Resources Department at Darwin. The Governor-General of Australia has congratulated

Huq on receiving the unique

distinction.





University of Dhaka has conferred PhD on Mahfuza Begum for her thesis in the area of Nutrition Science, says a press

The title of her thesis is Studies on Amylase Rice Energy Dense Cereal Based Weaning Food for Malnourished Children and its Feeding Trial in a Community. She did her PhD work under Prof Abdul Malek of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, Dhaka Univer-

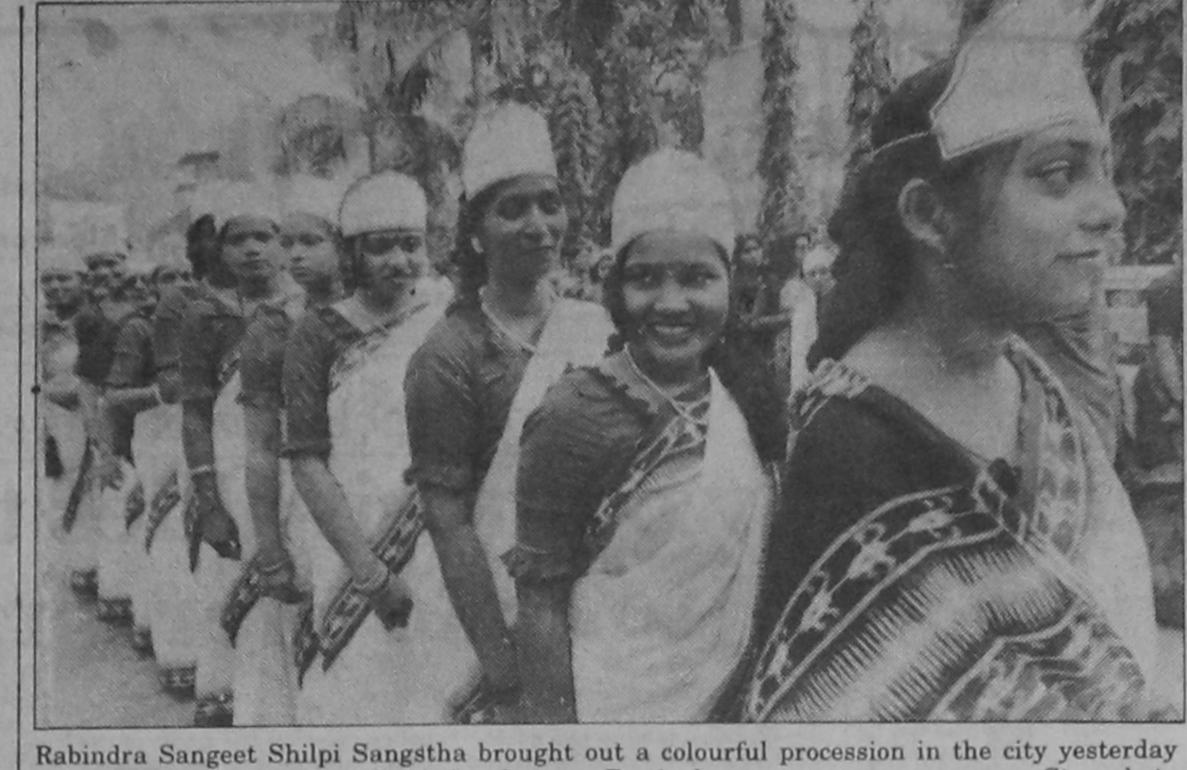
Dr Mahfuza is wife of Tofazzal Ali, Director of Standard Group of Companies, and daughter of late Mohammad organised by Shafiullah, former Principal of the Asahi Postal Training Centre, Dhaka.

Army chief passes busy day in Nepal

The Chief of Army Staff (CAS), Bangladesh Army, Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, arrived in Katmandu, Nepal Thursday afternoon along with 4 members delegation for attending the closing ceremony of Multi-Platoon Training Event (MPTE) at Peace Keeping Training Centre, Panchkhal, Katmandu, says a

press release The CAS, Bangladesh Army was given a 'Warm Red Carpet Reception" by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), of Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) General Prajwalla SJB Rana on his arrival at Tribhuwan International Airport (TIA). VVIP Lounge followed by "Guard of Honour" by a smart Nepali Army Contingent. General Mustafiz took salute

and inspected the guards. From TIA, the CAS went to RNA pavilion for wreath laying ceremony at Bir Snatak. Later General Mustafiz called on COAS, RNA at Royal Nepalese Army Headquarters.



-Star photo to mark the 11th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival.

BFUJ, DUJ, DRU condemn Kushtia incident

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday strongly condemned the incident of misbehaviour by the personal staff of the opposition leader Khaleda Zia with the reporters who were covering her programme in Kushtia yesterday, reports BSS.

Expressing indignation at the incident, President of BFUJ Abul Kalam Azad and Secretary General Akhter Ahmed Khan and President of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan in a joint statement said lack of courtesy and misconduct by the personal staff of a former prime minister and the present opposition leader is not only an unpleasant matter for the common man but it also causes sufferings to on duty journalists who usually cover the programme of the leaders.

DRU

By Staff Correspondent Dhaka Reporters' Unity

(DRU) expressed concern over the incident of misbehaviour with reporters who accompanied BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia during her Kushtia tour Wednesday, by personal staff of the Leader of the Opposition.

Protesting and condemning the incident, DRU president M Anwarul Haq and secretary Monwarul Islam noted that it was unfortunate that journalists were often harassed and became victims of misbehaviour while covering rallies and tours of different political parties in the past.

Wajeda Ahmed passes away

Begum Wajeda Ahmed of Magura. Greater Jessore District, breathed her last on January 27 at 12:30 am at her residence after prolonged illness. She was 92, says a press release. Wajeda Ahmed was born be-

fore World War I to an illustrious Muslim family of Magura. At the age of only 33 years she became a widow, but with immense patience, courage and hardwork raised 5 sons and 1 daughter, who gained recognition both at home and abroad. She established co-education in Magura Secondary School. She was co-chairperson and editor of the All Pakistan Women's Association in Magura. She was a social worker who worked for the cause of women's rehabilitation and self help women's

She learnt English at a very early age from an English governess. In the early 30's while in Delhi she participated in vocal music. Her Namaz-e-Janaza was held at the Magura college grounds, attended by thousands. Wajeda Ahmed's gulkhwani will be held on January 29 after Asr prayers at her Magura

Obituary

BARISAL, Jan 28: Muktijoddha and former SI of Police Shahdat Hossain died of heart failure on January 21 last. He was 58, reports BSS.

He was buried at local Muslim Gorostan next day after janaza prayer at Kazipara Tematha Mosjeed.

He left behind his widow. two sons, two daughters, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

The 28th death anniversary of Shaheed Lieutenant Selim Mohammad Quamrul Hassan Bir Pratik, a martyr of the independence war, will be ob-

served on Sunday, reports BSS. In observance of the anniversary, a memorial function will be held at Shaheed Lieutenant Selim Shikkhalaya. named after the martyr, at Moghbazar.

The guardians, students, relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to attend the function at the school.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Mamtaz Begum Chowdhury, a former Librarian of FPSTC, will be held at her residence at House-21, Road-9C, Sector-5. Uttara, after Asr prayers today, says a press re-Also, a doa mahfil for her

son Ahsanur Rahman Chowdhury, who died on November 18, will be held at the same venue. Mamtaz Begum, wife of Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury. Executive Director of Asian University of Bangladesh, died on December 24.

BCL leaders agree to form full-fledged committee soon

By DU Correspondent

Under mounting pressure from 'frustrated' activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), top leaders of the ruling party-backed student body have agreed to form its full-fledged central unit committee in a few

Formed in November 1998. the 52-member central body with Bahadur Bepari and Ajay Kar Khokon as its president and general secretary respectively has already expired its tenure without taking full shape.

Following agitation by the activists, the president and general secretary who are responsible for formation of the committee, sat for several-discussion in the last few days but failed to reach an agreement on the issue, BCL insiders said.

They also said that the president and general secretary are yet to reach a consensus on key

points as inclusion of their and supporters in the committee. Demanding formation of a

full-fledged central body, party activists have been agitating on the campus since the committee was formed in November last. They have also submitted several of memoranda to the president and general secretary and circulated open letters to press home their demands for formation of a full-fledged central body.

They had earlier threatened to go for a greater movement against the president and general secretary.

Ajay Kar Khokon said that they have reached a consensus and a full-fledged central committee was almost ready. "The full-fledged committee will be announced within a few days." he added.



The installation ceremony of ICDDR,B Staff Welfare Association was held at the Sasakawa auditorium on Thursday.

ICDDR,B Staff Welfare Assoc

executives

The newly elected officebearers of the ICDDR, B Staff Welfare Association (SWA) has been installed by Prof David Sack, the new Director of the Centre in a Ceremony held at the Sasakawa Auditorium on Thursday, says a press release. The office-bearers are Dr G H Rabbani, President; KMA

Rafique, Gen Secretary; Abul Hossain, Vice President, and eight executive committee members. Dr Rabbani, in his address,

assured the Director of the support of the staff to accomplish the goals of the Centre in fighting against diarrhoeal disease. malnutrition, and overpopulation in the country. Prof Sack welcomed the

SWA members and expressed his interest to work closely with the SWA in the interests of the Centre.

The ceremony was followed by a cultural show highlighting the prevention of AIDS in the community.



Saidur Rashed Mahmud Rahman

BOU teachers' assoc

executives

By Staff Correspondent

Election of the new executive committee of Teachers' Association of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) was held at Gazipur campus on Thursday. Prof Dr Saidur Rahman and Rashed-al-Mahmud Titumir have been elected president and general secretary respectively.

The other members of the committee are Prof Dr Shafi-ul-Alam, vice president; Prof Tobarak-ul-Islam, treasurer; Asstt Prof Shah Alam Sarkar, joint secretary; and Asstt Prof SM Miraj Ahmed, cultural secretary.

And the members are Asstt Prof Anwarul Islam, Associate Prof Sufia Begum, Anwar Sadat, Asstt Prof Morshedur Rahman, Asstt Prof Dr Habibur Rahman, Prof Abdul Awal Khan, Asstt Prof Zakir Hossain, Airin Perveen and Asstt Prof Hasibul Haque.

Shehnai recital From page 1

rituals.

At 84, the Ustad did not look of his age. Rather the way he was interacting with the tabla accompanist was a lifetime experience for many. The tabla accompanist was absolutely stunning all the time frolicking musically with the shehnai virtuoso.

Before the performance of the music genius, local Manipuri dance exponent Tamanna Rahman presented short pieces she composed. The pieces were mangala charan. mayuri, jugal nritya and gostha

Her presentations were absolutely fabulous. She has in fact brought in modern compositions to dovetail with the traditional Manipuri dance.

This is for the first time that the great Ustad is visiting Dhaka at the invitation of the AIDS Prevention Programme Implementation Committee to raise funds for the AIDS awareness programme.

Today's recital brings the end of three days of sublime performance of the living leg-

DU teacher From page 1

Talking to court reporters yesterday, Ferdous did not deny beating up his wife, but refuted the charges that it was for

simply a family affair," he said. Teachers belonging to the ruling Awami League-backed Blue Panel said last night that the incident "tarnished" the image of the university. "We are really ashamed of it

and would like not to speak (about the incident)," said Prof. M Shahadat Ali, pro vice-chancellor of the university. "It is surprising and unbelievable," reacted Prof. Kazi

Shahidullah, Dean of the Arts Faculty. Ayesha Siddiqua Shelly. second wife of Ferdous, however, did not comment on the

issue. Khaleed Mahmud also sent a letter to the university authorities and the DUTA leaders requesting them to take necessary steps against the Ferdous, sources added. The "White Panel" teachers

expressed their surprise at the

role of university authorities

on the issue and said they sus-

pect political reasons had

something to do with the inci-They also met the vice-chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury and requested him to take initiative for the Ferdous's release, sources said

Paris meet

different development fields, he

In the last Paris meeting, the government had sought 2.04 billion dollars in aid for implementing development pro-

Instead of making specific pledges, the development partners assured continuing normal flow of aid.

They later held a mid-term review in Dhaka in September last year. The meeting emphasised expediting implementation of the reform programmes.

JCE meet

From page 1

Dhaka within four months. Officials pointed out that India has built a 921.53 metre barrage on the Teesta at Gajaldoba under Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal for diverting about 1,500 cusec of water to the Mahananda river every day.

Bangladesh also constructed a 615 metre barrage over the Teesta for flood control and irrigation of 5,40,000 hectares of land under 35 thanas in Ranjpur. Dinajpur and Bogra districts

But the barrage has become almost inoperative due to inadequate flow of water in the Teesta and ecology of the northern region of Bangladesh has been affected severely due to withdrawal of waters by India.

Sources concerned said that the Bangladesh side would demand equal share of the Teesta waters. When contacted last night, a member of the Bangladesh dele-

said. " Sharing of the Teesta waters would be the prime issue on the agenda." Asked about six other rivers.

gation, requesting anonymity,

he said data on those rivers might be exchanged at the meet-

Indian Constitution

From page 12 constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad consti tution. What we have to say is that man is vile.'

In the light of the fact that India has had change of governments four times between 1996 and 1999 largely due to shaky coalition governments, the BJP has been suggesting a fresh look at the constitution to guard against instability.

In fact, India's ruling National Democratic Alliance led by BJP has, in its election manifesto, suggested certain key changes in the constitution seeking to ensure stability.

For instance, it suggests a Germany-type law to ensure the installation of a new alternative at the time of parliament passing a no-confidence motion against an existing government, in a move to avert frequent general elections at a huge cost to public exchequer. India has had Lok Sabha

While major political parties agree that political instability and frequent elections are not good for the country's economic development, they remain divided on the steps to be taken to introduce stability. India's main opposition led by Sonia Gandhi's Congress has

elections in 1998 and 1999.

rallied behind President Narayanan's views saying any attempt to review the constitution would run counted to the national tradition. Congress spokesman Ajit Jogi said the President's stand spelt out yesterday "will be a

lamp unto our feet and light

unto our path" and declared

that Congress would oppose in Parliament any attempt to alter the basic structure of the constitution. CPI (M) leader Prakash Karat termed as "correct" Narayanan's views and said there should be no tinkering with the constitution. Similar views were expressed by the CPI

Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya

Janata Dal and Indian Union of

Muslim League. The BJP, on the other hand, understandably declined to directly comment on the President's views but pointed out that the constitution had been amended 79 time in the last fifty years.

PM: Brussels

From page 1 Bangladesh is 100 million US dollars worth along with food

mitting any project, it should be

well thought out. Now the focus

oriented aid to sector-orier, ed

foreign investment, particu-

larly European investment in

Bangladesh, the Ambassador

said Bangladesh deserved

praise for the way it has liber-

alised in terms of removing

barriers. But just liberalisation

is not enough, it has to be ac-

companied by certain struc-

tural reforms in communica-

tions, power supply etc. Other-

Asked about the climate of

has been changed from project-

diminishing it.'

products for EU market." The diplomat had a word, in reply to a question, on present political climate. Yes, this sit-In reply to a question, Ambassador Menezes said it is not uation is not static situation. We have been following this quite true that aid had fallen. Rather it has been fairly convery closely. We have stressed stant. "We've no intentions of the need for human rights and

Bangladesh can diversify its

tant, what needs attention is the capacity of absorption of the funds. He said before subthat is not our role."

To a question about the Cooperation Agreement called Third Generation Agreement to be signed in March, he said the specialty of the agreement is that it is based on two pillars human rights and democratic

Bangladesh cooperation agreement focussed on only com-

wise investors might be inhib-He, however, observed the government has every intention to do it. But it is the time to istan. move from intention to imple-

Menezes also suggested fast reforms to attract foreign investment and compete with world economy. "Bangladesh is in a competitive situation. If you don't move faster enough you will miss the bus."

mentation.

About Bangladesh's products on the EU market, the Ambassador said: "EU is a bigger market of Bangladesh. We'll try to continue to give you facilities and it is to be seen how

BSF

dialogue between political par-Volume of aid is not impor-

Menezes, however, said: "We don't pass health certificate.

principles. The last 1976 LU-

merce and trade Issues. The points of democracy and human rights were not foreseen at that Explaining the point the ambassador said the agreement would be suspended if there be

suspension of parliament and judiciary does not function as happened in the case of Pak-To a question he said no country is hundred per cent perfect and in Bangladesh, demo-

cratic setups are there and functioning. Replying to a question about cooperation between EU and SAARC, Menezes said the seven-nation South Asian forum is really lagging behind compared with other groupings, including EU. If Bangladesh puts up a formal proposal through SAARC, EU will look

From page 12

misuse of power. A number of

hospital doctors have filed

written complaints against him

for 'misbehaviour', yet there

said Hossain threatens doctors

who filed complaints against

him. "We are sick and tired of

this man misusing power and

keeping doctors virtually

'hostage'," said one senior doc-

hospital Dr B Hossain must be

removed from office or things

will deteriorate," warned an-

Dr B Hossain had very close re-

lation with former health min-

Rejoinder

DCC's Acting Chief Engineer,

Shamsul Haque Bhuiyan and

attested by the Chief Public

Relations Officer, contested the

news item published in The

Daily Star on January 22 under

the caption "DCC wants re-

moval of acting Chief Engineer".

The rejoinder said that it is

Bhuiyan also denied that he

absolutely baseless that

Bhuiyan had any link with the

recent incident of violence at the

was facing any corruption

charges instituted by the Par-

liamentary Standing Committee

true that bill of Environment

Improvement Project was paid

without making sure that the

work was done to the tune for

which the contractor is due," it

for Public Accounts. "It is not

Nagar Bhaban"

A rejoinder signed by the

Health ministry sources said

"For the sake of peace in the

tor requesting anonymity

other senior doctor.

ister Salauddin Yusuf.

A number of senior doctors

has been no inquiry as yet.

He also faces charges for

DMCH

last year.

From page 1 river at night and saw two bod-

ies this morning. They said some BDR jawans also saw the bodies but they did not take any initiative to bring

the bodies. Villagers said BSF members of Olenga camp in India opened fire while the victims were

crossing the border. All BDR outposts along Zokigani border were asked to collect information about missing of any Bangladeshi nationals. They were also directed to remain alert.

Biswa Ijtema

From page 1 number of special trains and motor launches are carrying

pilgrims from different parts of

the country. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and some government high officials also joined the Juma prayers. Moulana Saad of Delhi delivered Khutba and led the prayers.

A large number of foreign delegates from 45 countries have also arrived at the litema ground. The organisers could not say the exact number of foreign participants. But one organiser said that the number would be around 3,000. The organisers hope that the

gathering would hit new high as

the whole area has already turned into a sea of humanity. Local administration took adequate measures for maintaining law and order and traffic in the area. A large number of police personnel were deployed around the ljtema

ground.

Ijtema.

A Large number of makeshift shops were also set up in and around the litema ground. Many social and religious organisations set up temporary medical camp for providing emergency treatment to the devotees.

President Shahabuddin

Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina and Leader of the Oppo-

sition in parliament Khaleda

Zia sent separate messages

wishing every success of the

Our Reply: The 50-bed hospital at Tongi also kept special beds reserved for the devotees and arranged additional medical facilities.

"It is also not correct that Dhaka City Corporation has taken any initiative for removal of its present Chief Engineer."

The Daily Star regrets that it inadvertently wrote that the corruption charges against the DCC's Acting Chief Engineer was being investigated by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts. In fact, the corruption charges are being probed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Estimate headed by Dr Mizanul Haque. Otherwise. The

Daily Star stands by its report.

UNDP to support environmental action plan for CHT

LONGADU (Rangamati), Jan 28: UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Shireen Kamal Sayeed has assured the hilly people of UNDP support for taking urgent steps to avert environmental catastrophe in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, reports BSS.

She was addressing a grassroots workshop jointly organ-"It's nothing serious... It's | ised by Environment Ministry, Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry, Regional Council and UNDP at the local Longadu Girls' High School recently. The inaugural session was

aiso addressed by Programme Coordinator of Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Dr Mahfuzul Haque, Chairman of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, SEMP Consultant Jnana Bikash Chakma

and local TNO Md Moyeenud-Shireen said UNDP was keen

to support the Environment Management Action Plan for CHT which was now being prepared by the people of the region as the UN body had a long history of funding National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) and its follow-up Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP).

Dr Mahfuz said the government was now formulating an environment management action plan for CHT in consulta-tion with all stakeholders and professional groups including government officials, teachers. farmers, peoples' representatives, headmen, social workers and women for maintaining the ecological balance.

He said this workshop was the fourth in a series of six grassroots workshops in

Rangamati district. Quamrul said a participatory Environment Management Action Plan for CHT prepared by the grassroots people could only be successfully implemented for improving the ecological balance, averting envi-

Bikash Chakma emphasised the need for highlighting the local environmental problems.

opment of the region.

ronmental degradation and

achieving sustainable devel-

Participants divided into seven groups identified around 26 issues of concern, out of which seven were mostly common. The common issues identified by 94 participants were forest depletion, depletion of fisheries, scarcity of drinking water, health and sanitation, water level of Kaptai Lake, environmental education and awareness and malaria men-



UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Shireen Kamal Sayeed speaking at NEMAP-CHT workshop at Longadu in Rangamati recently.