'SAARC summit to be held as scheduled'

BDR, police deployed

Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Nihal Rodrigo has reiterated here that the 11th SAARC summit will be held as scheduled from January 4 to 6, 2002 despite the unstable situation in

"Although the situation here has changed now, the SAARC summit will take place as scheduled," The Official English daily quoted Rodrigo as saying while addressing an interaction

programme with local people.
"All depends upon the government of the Nepal. It has to tighten security, which is necessary in such conditions." he said adding that terrorism will be the hottest agenda in the summit in addition to the ues of social and economic cooperation in the region.

The Nepali government imposed the state of emergency across the country after Maoist guerrillas broke a four-month long ceasefire with the government last Friday and launched massive attacks at police and security personnel, killing about 100 police and army soldiers. More than 200 querrillas were also killed.

The 11th summit of the seven South Asian countries was originally scheduled to be held in Kathmandu in December, 1999, but was postponed due to the escalating nuclear tests by India and Established in 1985 to promote

relatives in connection with the

killings. Police might file a case as

Jamaat has said it had no links with

Humayun. But police said interroga-

tion of his brother revealed a lot of

evidences that Humayun had links

how Humayun was killed. Talking to

a group of newsmen who visited the

area yesterday, police and a section

of local people said Humayun was

bullet-hit during the gunfight. Some

other local people said he was

fatally injured when a bullet went off

The local people said the gun-

fight took place when Humayun and

his accomplices on their way to

Hathazari from Fatikchhari

Maizbhanderi Darber Sharif in a

microbus came under attack by

Didar group of BCL at Rahmania

Bazar. The Didar group is backed by

Humayun along with four accompli-

ces were bullet-hit. Over 50 shots

were fired during the gunfight, local

talks in their fourth day, Abdul Qadir,

the governor of the Pashtun prov-

ince of Nagarhar and a northern

alliance delegate, walked out to

protest the lack of Pashtun repre-

sentation here, another Natigi

gained control of many areas of

Afghanistan with the help of US

airstrikes, comprises groups and

warlords who have at times been

bitter enemies. Its delegation

Mohammad Zahir Shah declared

vesterday that the exiled monarch

must be appointed as Afghanistan's

head of state or head of a proposed

"His Maiesty is the spiritual

leader of the Afghan people and at

the core of national unity," said

Abdul Sattar Sirat, who is heading

the king's delegation at power-

is the king must play a central role in

the future of Afghanistan. The king

should act as head of state or head

of the supreme council," he told a

captured 80 Taliban soldiers yester-

day near the airport at Kandahar as

anti-Taliban forces closed in on the

Islamic militia stronghold. U.S.

warplanes bombed Taliban

be followed by a four-day game

against hosts Auckland starting

Sports Fazlur Rahman and new

Bangladesh Cricket Board presi-

dent Ali Asghar met the team at the

Bangabandhu National Stadium in

a stopover in Singapore before

heading for New Zealand tonight

and assistant manager Tanjeeb

Ahsan Saad could not avail the

same flight due to a delay in obtain-

Commission in New Delhi.

The squad is scheduled to make

Manager Afzalur Rahman Sinha

the afternoon.

(Saturday).

November 5.

The Taliban soldiers surren-

defenses near the airport.

In Kabul, tribal fighters said they

The proposal of our delegation

AFP says, the delegation repre-

includes two other Pashtuns.

supreme council

sharing talks.

press conference

The northern alliance, which has

spokesman. Bahadori.

Didar was killed on the spot and

his firearm accidentally.

There are different claims as to

Meanwhile, the city unit of

plaintiff, they said.

with Jamaat-shibir.

regional economic cooperation, SAARC groups seven South Asian countries Nepal, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Forty journalists

the government's decision to ask police to reopen investigation into the murder of seven journalists over the last five years.

Two dailies were targets of vandalism, two journalists were threatened with death and one reporter was attacked on October 20 alone, it pointed out.

The journalist's who were attacked or threatened with death include Rifat bin Tuha. Akil Poddhar. Rafiqul Hasan Tuhin of Janakantha Narail, Kushtia and Habiganj respectively, Muktar Hossain Golan Sangbad in Kishoreganj, Mamunur Rashid of Janakantha DU; Mohammad Muniruzzaman Munir of Jugantor in Nachal Humayun Kabir Mithu of Mutakantha in Kushtia and KM Reza of Dainik Matribhumi in Putia,

Saiful Islam Rob of Jugantor Muzaffar Rahman of Ďanik Janmabhumi in Tara and Shaukat Milton of Janaknatha in Barisal.

Iran, Pakistan to work together for broad-based govt in Kabul

REUTERS, Islamabad

Iran and Pakistan, saving the downfall of Afghanistan's Taliban rulers had removed "clouds" in their ties. pledged vesterday to work together for a broad-based government and reconstruction in their war-ravaged neighbour.

"The sun is shining," a smiling Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar told a joint news conference with his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi in Islamabad. "Pakistan and Iran today are rid of the shadow that existed over our relations."

Echoing Sattar's views, Kharrazi said: "We are now entering a new era of our relationship.

"There is no more gap between Iran and Pakistan. Both must play an important role for the establishment of a broad-based government

Afghanistan," he said.

Shi'ite Muslim Iran and mainly Sunni Muslim Pakistan have long been at odds over the Taliban. Islamabad backed the Sunni fundamentalist militia, while Tehran supported its foes in the Northern Alliance, especially the Shi'ite Hezb--Wahdat militia.

Kharrazi reiterated his country's opposition to the deployment of foreign peacekeeping troops in Afghanistan, but said UN observers would be acceptable.

"If the UN would decide to deploy UN observers to monitor the situation in Afghanistan, that is something very different from a multinational force to be deployed there,"

Sattar said Pakistan would await the outcome of a UN-sponsored conference of Afghan factions in Bonn before making up its mind on

the question of foreign forces. Sattar said Pakistan and Iran hoped the Bonn meeting would

achieve its goal. "Both countries want a peaceful and stable Afghanistan ... in the interest of its own people and all its neighbours," he added.

60 shops gutted in Bandarban

At least to shops were gutted in a fire at Bolipara Bazar in the district or

Thursday night. Locals said the fire originated from the shop of one Abdul Sawdagar at midnight and soon engulfed the

surrounding shops. The loss has been estimated at Tk

Moratorium on JCD committee

Hathazari police arrested injured Humayn and his accomplices when they were being taken to Chittagong in an ambulance. Humayun died after admission to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

On the other hand, some local people said Humayn and his armed accomplices got down at the market and suddenly opened fire, killing Didar on the spot and injuring Gobi critically. Didar and Gobi were talking standing beside a wall at the

President

FROM PAGE 1 the 1973 batch of Bangladesh Civil Service were given forced retire-

ment on Thursday. Some sources said the government plans to give forced retirement to more officials from the batch under the provision that on completion of 25 years of service, an official may retire or may be given forced retirement. The plan is based on the assumption that BCS recruits of that time were political elements and

dered without resistance when tribal

fighters surrounded them in the

morning and ordered them to drop

their weapons, tribal leader Abdul

said the fighters also seized five

Taliban tanks, four pickup trucks

one anti-aircraft oun and a multi-

Kabul from Kandahar yesterday

reported fighting Thursday in the

three-kilometer (two-mile) area

between the airport and Kandahar

said Pacha, a taxi driver, "There is

fighting. We can't go there. ... We

Mohammad Anwar, reported

airstrikes from the U.S.-led coalition

vesterday on positions around the

ists from Kandahar, 450 kilometers

southwest of Kabul, and the reports

of fighting could not be independ-

defense minister, Bismillah Khan.

said Thursday that anti-Taliban

forces had reached the eastern

outskirts of Kandahar and that

there is heavy fighting going on."

Speaking in the Afghan capital,

Kabul, Khan said his information

was based on radio communication

Hossain, Tushar Imran, Khaled

Mahmud, Enamul Hoque, Hasibul

with his commanders

The northern alliance's deputy

The Taliban have barred journal-

Another tribal leader,

"That area is a no-man's land.'

barreled rocket launcher.

don't know who it is

Kandahar airport.

Jabbar, speaking in Pakistan,

Taxi and bus drivers arriving in

pessimistic about its outcome. A JCD leader said members of

the central body could be kept away from criminal offences, but there is no bar on the members of other JCD units, the DU unit in particular. Leaders and activists of the JCD DU unit are out there on the campus to carry out onslaughts, he added.

"JCD activists are still oppressing resident students of different halls and keep on having meals without payment. I don't see the impact of the suspension order," said a student of the Mohsin Hall.

On Sunday, JCD activists beat up a leader of Shahidullah Hall unit of BCL on the campus. Seven other BCL activists were beaten up at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday

Armed activists manhandled the proctor and a house tutor at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet, on Monday night. At the time, the proctor of SUST and the proctor of Shah Paran Hall were on a visit to the hall to identify the outsiders.

The outsiders belonging to the JCD snapped telephone and elec-

Shanker, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and

singer John Lennon also took part in

John Lennon in New York in 1980.

conscious of God, fearless of death.

and at peace, surrounded by family

BBC, they added: "He often said

'everything else can wait but the

search for God cannot wait and

the world, Fellow Beatle Paul

McCartney called him his "baby

brother," adding: "He was a lovely

guy and a very brave man and had a

time from an Anglo-Irish summit,

said his generation had grown up

Prime Minister Tony Blair, taking

"Their music, and the personali-

ties of the band, were the back-

ground to our lives," added Blair,

who himself sang in a rock group

Harrison had been ill for some

time. He was diagnosed with throat

cancer in 1998, but was given the

all-clear after receiving radiation

check-ups at the Mayo Clinic in

The scare prompted him to go for

when he was younger.

wonderful sense of humour."

Tributes poured in from around

In a statement, carried on the

and friends." his family said.

love another'.

"He left this world as he lived in it,

tricity connections and misbehaved with teachers. They also vandalised the hall and created a panicky atmosphere forcing the teachers to leave the hall.

Various factions of the JCD were reported to be involved in gunfights across the country in the last few days, intensifying the internal conflict in the student body.

On Monday, a schoolboy was killed and several others were injured in a gunfight between two factions of the Jubo Dal, a BNP wing, at Nayamati, Narayanganj. On Tuesday, ten persons were injured in a clash between the two groups of JCD at Matlab, Chandpur.

On Saturday, police arrested the joint convenor of Sylhet district JCD unit and his four associates in possession of six kilograms of gold worth about Tk 40 lakh at Malanichara point in the town.

An armed gang led by the JCD leader, Mamun, attacked Pallabi Police Station Friday night, protesting arrest of Mamun's brother. The fierce gunfight between the operatives and the law-enforcement officials left one person killed and 40

Minnesota, where in March doctors

found a large cancerous growth on

Harrison denied press reports that

he was losing his fight against

Lately, however, he had been

Harrison was almost killed in

1999 when he was knifed by an

intruder at his country mansion near

Oxford, west of London, suffering a

51, and son Dhani, 23, who were

reported to have been with him

Clayson said the Beatle's legacy

was the way he introduced alterna-

tive cultures into Western pop

when speaking to reporters here

early yesterday said: "I remember

all the beautiful times we had

for humanity, but he didn't suffer

fools gladly. He's a great man. He'll

be sorely missed by everyone.

McCartney, clearly emotional

"He was a great guy, full of love

BSS adds: Bangladesh Prime

In addition, the government has

received a credit of US \$ 40 million

from the World Bank and a grant of

US \$ 10 million from DFID for

programme is to reach out to the

high-risk people, primarily through

greater involvement of NGOs. It

One of the main purposes of the

He is survived by his wife Olivia,

Harrison's biographer Alan

undergoing treatment at a hospital

in New York since an operation on a

brain tumour earlier this month.

punctured lung.

when he died.

together.

programme.

HIV/AIDS prevention.

A statement then from his solici-

his lung and removed it.

Harrison is the second of the tor said the operation had been

"Fab Four' to die, after the slaying of successful and that he had made an

Police arrested 28 persons, including Mamun and detained them on charge of attacking the police station. Mamun is accused in a number of cases, including extortion and killing. On Sunday, a young man was killed and three others were injured when a cracker went off at a slum at Pallabi. Police believe they were accomplices of Mamun.

On Monday night, police arrested Imrul Asgar Iman in possession of a revolver in the city's Azimpur area on charge of extortion in Kataban, Elephant Road, Nilkhet and Shahbagh areas. He was staying at the AF Rahman Hall of Dhaka University and leading a gang of extortionists.

Launch mishap

FROM PAGE 1

shore. witnesses said.

A three-member body has started investigation into the accident and will submit its report within seven days. Whip Alhaj Mujibur Rahman

Sarwar, ADC (General) Mohammad Kaikobad and Additional SP Abdus Samad vesterday visited in the spot.

death of George Harrison.

Bangladesh

bution, she added.

George Harrison.

In a message of condolence, the

Prime Minister recalled the "Concert

for Bangladesh" organised by

Square during the War of Liberation

in 1971 to raise funds for

helped mobilising international

opinion in favour of Bangladesh and

inspired the freedom loving people

of the country. George Harrison will

be remembered forever by the

people of Bangladesh for his contri-

thy to the members of the bereaved

She conveyed heartfelt sympa-

UNB adds: Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament and

Awami League President Sheikh

Hasina yesterday expressed deep

shock at the sudden death of

a great contribution in the independ-

ence of Bangladesh by singing

songs on war of liberation.

the freedom of Bangladesh.

Beatles icon," Hasina said

Hasina said late Harrison made

These songs inspired the world

"The nation would remain ever

community and mobilised world

opinion in favour of the struggle of

grateful to this great singer of

Khaleda said his concert also

Discord at Bonn talk George Harrison is no more Chandra told the press conference, held at Bagerhat Press Club. Many distinguished members of Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock at the

the minority community from four villages in Sadar upazila were present at the press conference.

Iftar diplomacy

FROM PAGE 12 Maharashtra for more than a veal

now and the two parties recently joined hands to form a coalition in the northeastern state of Meghalaya also to bid for an alternative government to replace the existing ministry reduced to minority. Indications of Samajwadi Party's softening of hostility towards Congress came when Mulayam Singh's top aide Amar Singh shared a function organised by Sonia and was eloquent about her and decided to drop his private member's' bill in Parliament seeking to debar persons of foreign origin from occupying public offices.

Samaiwadi Party, according to sources, is cosying up to Congress keeping its eye on the coming assembly elections in India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh where Mulayam Singh might require the support of Congress to form a government in a post-polls scenario in the event of a hung house.

FROM PAGE 12 spondent on Thursday

But it was not possible for them to fulfill the demands. Sources said Latif maintains good links with some top leaders of BNP.

Monir, two associates of Latif. went to the shop at 2.30 pm and asked them to give Tk 20,000 immediately and also wanted to know when Tk

counter of the shop. As he could not fulfil the demand. Elin shot him in the belly. Ramzan fell on the floor. Elin and Monir went towards the commissioner's office, Asgar Ali

was shifted to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital on November 27.

A case has been lodged with Mohammadpur thana in this regard. When contacted on Thursday, the duty officer of Mohammadpur thana said they could not arrest anybody or make any progress in investiga-

the past few days, Abdul Latif could not be reached over telephone. Some sources said he changes his mobile telephone frequently

Khasru: Vengeance

Hasina offers

Bangabandhu

AL President and Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament Sheikh

Hasina went to Tungipara in

Gopalganj yesterday and offered

fateha at the mazar of Father of the

Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

A party press release said

Hasina attended a milad mahfil at

her ancestral home and later hosted

an Iftar party for party leaders and

In the evening, she exchanged

views with local newsmen on the

also exchanged views with leaders

of Gopalganj district unit and thana

people to build up public opinion

against 'anti-People' activities of

The AL chief called upon the

She expressed concern at the

The last 15 days of the BNP rule

is marked by repression, terrorism,

killing, rape, extortion and abduction

that surpassed all previous records,

6 Hindu women

The miscreants also asked them to

leave their homes for good, they

allegation as none of the victims

the matter," said the OC of the

Das, Head Master of Satgambuj

Union BSC Secondary School

under Sadar upazilla of Bagerhat

district, said at a press conference

on Tuesday that the minority com-

munity was being used as a political

tool by vested groups to destroy the

Terming newspaper reports as

"concocted." Shubol Chandra

claimed that there has been no

incident of rape of Hindu women or

any sort of persecution in any village

under Sadar upazila. He claimed

that there was no rape incident in

He further claimed that no fish

farm was looted in Sadar upazila as

was alleged by some vested quar-

No Hindu family so far left for

India fearing attack, Shubol

Srighat and Sadullapur villages.

lodged any complaint.

communal harmony.

Kachua thana police refuted the

"Yet, I shall definitely investigate

Meanwhile. Shubol Chandra

Hasina is due to return to the

workers and local people

fateha at

marzar of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mujibur Rahman.

units of the party.

ruling party.

tary Adv. Abdul Mannan Khan also made their points against the scrapping of the act at the briefing yesterday morning.

Challenging Barrister Moudud's arguments that the special security act was unconstitutional and discriminatory as all citizens are equal before law, Khasru quoted Supreme Court judgement and 41 DLR (AD), as saying that "all persons are not alike and nothing can be greater inequality than to treat unequal

He said Article 27 of the Constitution does not guarantee absolute equality requiring the law to treat all persons alike.

Khasru who piloted the Father of the Nation Family Members Security Bill, 2001 in parliament on June 20 said Sheikh Hasina's standing in the country is completely different from that of other citizens after the carnage of August 15, 1975.

None's life is at risk the way Sheikh Hasina's life is, because of being a target by the self-confessed killers of her father, he 'rising crimes' in different parts of the

The ex-law minister said perceiving constant threat on her ife, the law was enacted in an extraordinary situation when the trial of the killers was on the

verge of completion Citing references from countries in the subcontinent and the United States, Khasru said Indian Parliament framed the Special Protection Group Act in 1988 to give special security to members of Rajiv Gandhi's Raḥul, Priyanka and

family Rahi Sonia Gandhi. But unfortunately when the law was withdrawn by the VP Singh government, Rajiv Gandhi was killed, he said, adding that the Indian parliament again introduced the law in 1994 ensuring special security to all former primė ministers.

Khasru said Sheikh Hasina's entire family has been eliminated under a planned murder in 1975. So, the position of Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana is quite different on the question of secu-

Terming "ludicrous" another point of Moudud that repealing of the security act would save government money, he said the argument does not stand when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia formed a huge government of 60 ministers and 12 advisors with the rank of minister squandering crores of taka from the exche-

Khasru alleged that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's BNP-Jamaat coalition cabinet brought the bill in parliament abruptly with 'malafide intention and ulterior motive of political revenge."

Referring to the writ filed by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan against the law, he said they should have waited for the judgement of the Supreme Court instead of bringing the bill in parliament hurriedly by extending the tenure of parliament session.

He also questioned Barrister

Polythene

FROM PAGE 12

also a factor in causing cancer. They suggested use of paper, cloth and jute bags as easy alternatives to polythene bags and asked the government to offer incentives so that entrepreneurs feel encouraged Teams of young men from differ-

ent localities of the city were mobilised at the rally to launch antipolythene campaigns and create awareness among people in their respective areas about the ills of polythene and to persuade people The participants at the rally

called for unity of the citizens and their concerted efforts to stop use of polythene. They underscored the need for behavioural change of the civil society members to shift to use of the environment-friendly jute and paper bags. Different environmental and

development organisations of the city also participated in the rally held in front of the National Museum at Shahbag.

introducing the repeal bill in parliament on Wednesday violat-

ing the rules of procedure. The former law minister pointed out that a minister can ive statement in support of his bill only if any member raises

objection to it. "The way Barrister Moudud made the statement is violative of rules of procedure and unprecedented." he said.

Khasru hoped that good sense would prevail upon the government to stop repeal of the law. Otherwise, he warned that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia would be absolutely responsible if any harm came to Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana.

Presidium member Abdul Jali MP said question of security for Sheikh Hasina is not only linked with her personal security alone; it is also linked with the question of democracy, spirit of liberation war and non-communal politics.

He said if the security law is annulled, the self-confessed killers, who are waiting to take revenge on Sheikh Hasina and her sister, would be encouraged. The killers know that if Hasina remains alive, their trial must be held in the country.

Publicity secretary Abdul Mannan said Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana are not mere citizens of this country, but daughters of the Father of the Nation recognised by the Constitution and law. He questioned the justification

of giving SSF protection to forpresident Shahabuddin Ahmed and former chief advisor Latifur Rahman for one year when the government is initiating the process of withdrawing security for Sheikh Hasina whose life

Office secretary Adv. Abdul Mannan Khan said persons like Barrister Moudud Ahmed should not utter the name of the Constitution, accusing them of raping the constitution repeat-edly to fulfil their high political ambitions and to serve the military and autocratic juntas.

DRU election

joint-secretary Shakhawat Hossain

Badsha (Matribhumi), treasurer Rashed Ahmed (Sangbad), organising secretary Mannan Maruf (Khabar), publicity and publication secretary Harun-or-Rashid (Sangram), training and research secretary Shawkat Osman Rachi (Manab Zamin), cultural secretary M Mujibur Rahman (Sonali Barta), office secretary M Badiuzzaman (Dinkal) and sports secretary Rafiqul Islam (Inqilab).

The elected members are Mozammel Haq Chanchal (Jugantor), Nazrul Islam Mithu (The Daily Star), Arif Rahman (Aiker Kagoj), Morol Nazrul Islam (Ittefag), Abu Darda Jobaer (ATN Bangla), Nirmal Chakrabarthy (Bhorer Awaj), Mosharraf Hossain Bablu (Bhorer Kagoj), Mufdi Ahmed (Al-Amin), and Shaheen-ul Islam Chowdhury (Banglabazar)

Sohel Sunny (Banglabazar) and Zahurul Haq Rana (Novo Abhijan) obtained equal number of votes and the newly elected committee will elect one of them as the 10th member through an election on December 6.

AL may expel

FROM PAGE 12

plans to project the government's 'indifference to repression' on Al leaders and workers, members of the minority community and also on the people in general.

Schedule of the convention and

the new government's completion of 100-day will coincide.

Sources in political circles think that tomorrow's hartal programme would set the trend of politics during the month of Ramadan, but post-Eid political situation would largely depend on the government's attitude towards the main opposition party and the latter's response to

In contrast, October had seen 30

murders out of which 5 occurred in the Dhanmondi thana area, three each in Mirpur, Ramna and Khilgaon, two each in Sutrapur, Hazaribagh, Pallabi and Uttara, and one each in Demra, Kafrul, Badda, Mohammadpur, Tejgaon, Lalbagh,

A couple, two young brothers, four small traders, four businessmen, a garage technician, four BNF leaders and activists, a female garments employee and a security guard were among the victims in October. Also, four alleged muggers were beaten to death by angry

Three of the muggers were killed in Motijheel's Bijoynagar and Paltan areas alone. Businessmen and other sources in the area complained about an unholy alliance between police and muggers. The nexus between police and muggers was proven several times in the past but the situation has remained

The drug trade scenario in the Agargaon's BNP slum under Mohammadpur thana has not changed either, rather it seems to be thriving. Police are very reluctant to

to the huge sum of money they get as their share from the drug trade. Apart from murders, other criminal activities like mugging, extortion

and robbery were also on the rise during November, indicating a virtual collapse of law and order. Urban lifestyle

FROM PAGE 12

Private enterprises hold sway as far as road transport is concerned and the public's reliance on the country's railway system seems to be waning as more and more people are taking to the roads instead of the railways. Many private buses and coaches are now equipped with air coolers and passengers can enjoy greater comfort during their journey

The trend in fashion is also changing. The days of Sherwani during different occasions are gone and now knee-length Kurta has taken its place, particularly during religious festivals and matrimonial ceremonies. The new trend in casual wear offers a vast scope for

keeping with the demand of a new

Cricketers NZ-boundAIDS danger looming Al-Shahriar, Aminul Islam in 97 hospitals across the country street girl and another man Wanganui on December 7 which will Mohammad Ashraful, Sanwar under a blood transfusion

treatment.

December 12. Hossain, Monjurul Islam, The First Test in Hamilton com-Mohammad Sharif, Fahim Muntasir mences on December 18 while the and Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza. second Test takes place at the Basin Officials: Afzalur Rahman Sinha Reserve in Wellington from (manager), Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad December 26. (assistant manager), Trevor State Minister for Youth and Chappell (coach), John Gloster

WC draw

The move temporarily halted speculation about how Saturday's draw

(physio) and Nasir Ahmed (com-

will work out. The draw for the 32-nation finals in South Korea and Japan from May 31 to June 30 next year will be made at 6pm (Bangladesh time) Bangladesh Television will telecast the ceremony live.

ing visas from New Zealand High The teams will be drawn into eight groups of four with one seeded The are expected to fly to the nation in each group. The eight New Zealand capital Wellington on seeds are hosts South Korea and Japan, champions France, Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Italy and Khaled Mashud (captain), Habibul Bashar (vice-captain), Javed Omar,

[See also page 13]

linkages".

poverty, illiteracy - that causes spread of HIV, we can not consider that our country is risk free," said Ahmed Farooque of HIV Programme of Rotary International

in Bangladesh. Another expert said, "Some of the key challenges that lie ahead are strengthening the capacity of the government to respond to HIV/AIDS. This include advocacy with decision makers, parliamentarians and setting up of multi-sectoral

However, with assistance from the United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP), the government has formulated a 'behaviour change communication strategy' for orientation of about 55,000 field level service providers of health ministry, 24 NGOs funded for HIV/AIDS prevention activities and opinion leaders in 64 districts.

Further, it also gave contracts for

two studies by the Institute of

Epidemiology, Disease Control and

Research. Two television channels

started a campaign on HIV/AIDS

prevention on November 3, 2000.

Screening centres have been set up

would also support the National AIDS Control Programme and implementing agencies. "Information on diseases (STD) are seriously lacking among the segment of population exposed to high-risk behaviour. If they don't

know about STD and HIV, they can

not prevent it," a HIV/AIDS expert

told The Daily Star. Another expert said, "The risk of HIV infection has increased greatly because of its high transmission efficiency when a person is infected with other sexual disease. High syphilis rate means HIV will spread more auickly. "Multi-partner sex is rampant

for unprotected sex with sex worker,

enhancing the possibility of transmission of STD and HIV to wife. This results in rapid spread among the mainstream population.

Habiba Tasneem, who worked on HIV/AIDS with different national and international NGOs, said, "Since 1996, we (NGO workers) stressed that Bangladesh had the opportunity because of low HIV infection status.

"The 3rd Sentinel Surveillance results indicate that this opportunity still exists. The question is whether Bangladesh is ready to handle an HIV/AIDS epidemic if it happens. We feel that to optimise the opportunity, a donors' consortium should be formed urgently for well organised and concerted interventions that age of resource.'

strengthening. Finally, it is now time to spread AIDS prevention activities through even among married men who go joint efforts by private and public

bodies, she said.

would avoid duplication and wast-"Secondly," she said, "The National AIDS Programme needs

tion into the case.

Ramzan

On November 19. Elin and

10 lakh would be given Ramzan was sitting at the cash

The employees took him to Samorita Hospital immediately. He was operated upon but the bullet could not be removed. As his condition deteriorated, he

Despite several attempts over

46 murdered get tough with the drug peddlers due

Sabujbagh and Shyampur.

unchanged.

at a reasonable price.

colourful designs and styles. Thus our way of life is changing