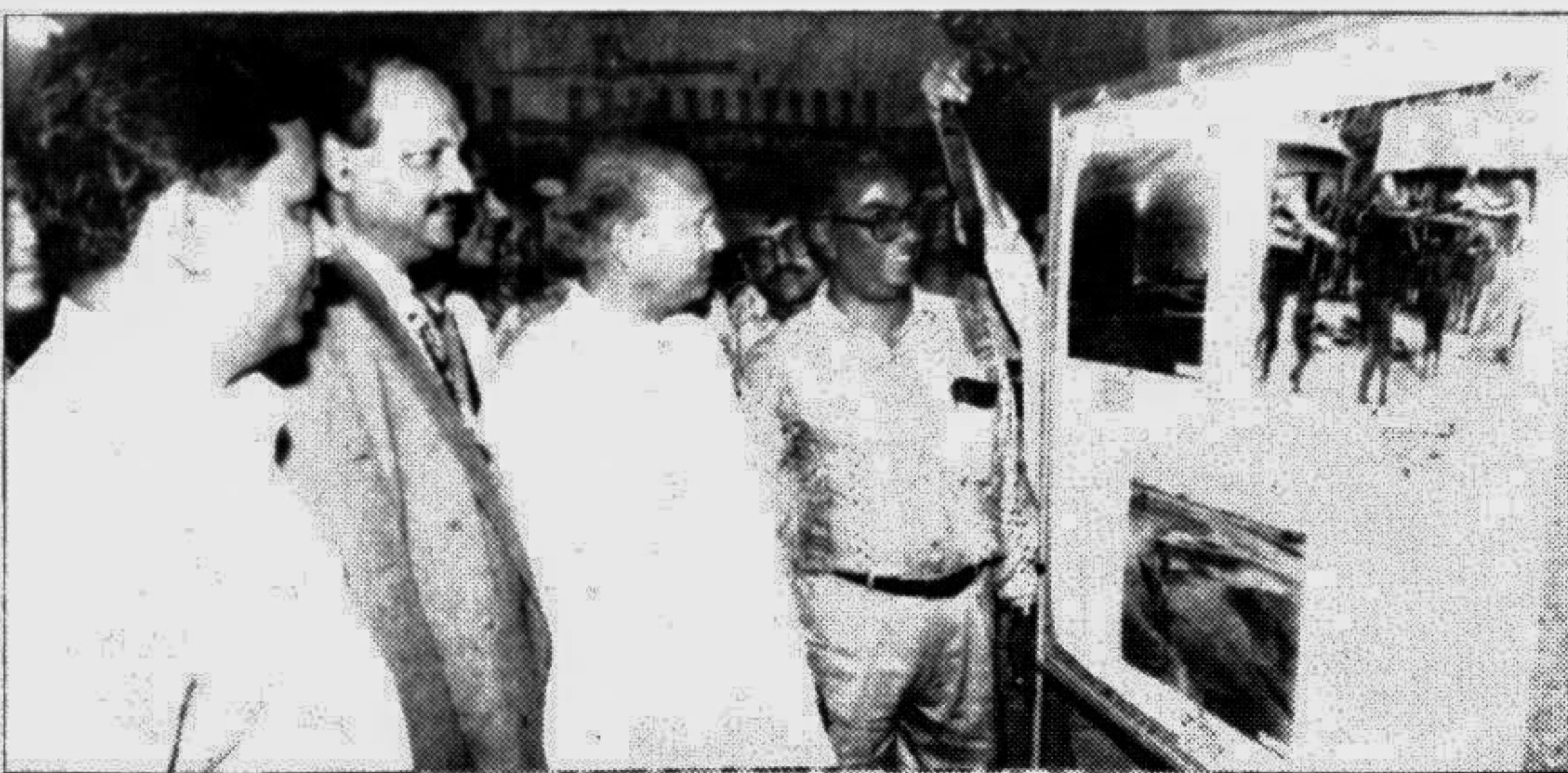


## Metropolitan



Visitors at a photography exhibition, titled 'Ruposhi Bangla', which opened at the BPJA auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Feni killings

#### Killers will be arrested, Rafiq assures BNP team

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam assured a BNP delegation, which called on him at his Secretariat office yesterday, that the killers of Tushar and Nasir in Feni would be arrested no matter how powerful and influential they are.

The minister told the BNP team that three of the accused in the two murders had been arrested and police was making concerted efforts to nab rest of the accused, according to a BNP press release.

The BNP delegation comprising M Morshed Khan, MP, M K Anwar, MP, and Barqatullah Bhulu, MP, also expressed their dissatisfaction for not taking effective measures to bring to book all the accused in the killings of JCD leader Tushar and Juba Dal leader Nasir.

The opposition lawmakers also alleged deterioration of law and order all over the country.

### Govt to recruit 4000 more nurses

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has decided to recruit 4,000 more nurses for improving the health services in the country, reports BSS.

Hasina said this while talking to a 17-member delegation of Diploma Nurses Welfare Association, led by its president Jmat Ara Parveen, when they called on the Prime Minister at her official residence yesterday. The Prime Minister said her government was committed to take health service to the doorsteps of people and measures were being taken to ensure health for all.

She said the government would take steps for higher training of nurses.

She called upon the association leaders to motivate their members to work in rural and far-flung areas of the country to provide services to the distressed people with devotion and sincerity.

The nurses' leaders put forward a charter of demand and urged the Prime Minister to take necessary steps.

### Mohiuddin laid to rest

Awami League presidium member Mohiuddin Ahmed was laid to rest at Muktiyoddah graveyard at Mirpur yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier in the morning, his body was flown to Mathbaria thana of Barisal district where his second namaj-e-janaza was held at Mathbaria High School ground. A third janaza was also held before burial.

Quikhwani of Mohiuddin Ahmed will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

### Task force report on edn boards by June 30 likely

The government has formed a task force to recommend ways for ensuring transparency, accountability and dynamism in the country's education boards, reports UNB.

The task force, with Vice Chancellor of BIT Council Dr Nazrul Islam as convener, which has already begun its work, is expected to finalise the report by June 30, said an official handout Saturday.

Elaborate programmes have been undertaken to implement the aims and objectives of the task force.

The members of the task force will exchange views and take suggestions from the experienced people involved in education administration, former officials and employees and other interested persons.

Interested people, institutions and associations have been requested to convey their opinions and suggestions or specific allegations, if any, to the task force convener, Dr Nazrul Islam, either directly or by mail at his office (House 29, Road 10/A, Dhanmondi R/A).

The task force seeks cooperation of all concerned to help raise the standard of education by ensuring a transparent, accountable and dynamic education administration.

### Hale-Bopp preparing to say good bye

The Hale-Bopp comet is preparing to say good bye to hundreds of watchers in Bangladesh but will reappear over the country about 2,000 years later, reports UNB.

"The comet could be visible in the country to naked eyes upto next month and station itself over south pole till the end of June before shooting off the infinity," said Bangladesh Astronomical Association President Dr AR Khan.

Talking to UNB, Dr AR Khan said hundreds of inquisitive young scientists could watch the comet, head to tail, with the help of a binocular but it was vivid and bright when seen with a telescope.

The comet, located at the direction of 33-42 degree north-west, is visible shortly after sun set for about two hours.

Bangladesh Astronomical Association has arranged Hale-Bopp observation camp in and outside Dhaka since March 28.

The camp in Dhaka will close on April 16, but at some places including Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj and Tangail, the camps are likely to function until the end of this month.

Budding scientists and curious observers in Dhaka including boys, girls, young and old, are still thronging the Abahani Krira Chakra Maidan everyday to watch the comet.

### Singaporean FM in city

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law Prof S Jayakumar of Singapore arrived in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad received him at Zia International Airport.

"This is my first visit to Bangladesh, aiming at knowing each other," Jayakumar told newsmen at the airport.

Describing the existing relations between the two countries as "excellent" the Singaporean Foreign Minister said he would discuss with the Bangladesh leaders matters relating to the expansion of cooperation.

Jayakumar said he would also see private sector's performances during the trip.

Jayakumar will hold official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart tomorrow covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

### Nasim asks BTTB to improve thana level telecom

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim has expressed dissatisfaction over the activities of T&T's "one point service centre," introduced to ensure proper service to the subscribers, reports UNB.

He was addressing the senior officials of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board at the BTTB conference room in the city yesterday.

Nasim said the demand for telephones in the rural areas have increased. He urged the BTTB officials to identify the barriers between BTTB and private organisations and resolve them for smooth functioning of thana level telecommunications.

The Minister directed them to strengthen regular monitoring system and submit a regular report on it to the Ministry so that effective action could be taken.

Additional Secretary in charge of the Post and Telecommunication Ministry, Mahbub Kabir, and BTTB Chairman M A Mannan Chowdhury were present.

### 2 businessmen, boy kidnapped from Savar

Two businessmen and a boy were kidnapped by unidentified miscreants from Savar and Manikganj districts, police said yesterday, reports UNB.

Idris Ali (30), a businessman at Savar, was kidnapped from Savar bazar bus stand on Friday night. Another businessman, Osman Khan (35), was kidnapped from Ghior area of Manikganj district on Saturday morning.

Badiuzzaman (11), was kidnapped from Rajshahi area of Savar at gunpoint. The boy hailing from Magura district was living at the residence of one Anil Ghosh at Rajshahi.

Police suspected that they were kidnapped to realise ransom. Separate cases were filed with the police.

### Rupashi Bangla photo exhibition begins

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed opened in the city yesterday a three-day photo exhibition and competition 'Rupashi Bangla', marking the advent of Bengali new year with a call to develop professionalism for rendering best services to the nation, reports BSS.

Sponsored by Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association in patronisation of the Rupali Insurance Company, the exhibition will remain open for the members of public from 8 am to 8 pm till April 15.

A total of 120 photographs on rural Bangladesh, collected from 33 press photographers of different national dailies have been put on at the exhibition.

The Minister of State for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will distribute certificates and prizes among the winners of the competition on the concluding day on April 15.

### Programmes for Pahela Baisakh in Khulna

KHULNA, Apr 13: Socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions have taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate Pahela Baisakh and welcome the Bengali new year-1404 here tomorrow, reports BSS.

Cultural functions, rallies and basanta melas are among the programmes of the day.

A colourful procession will be brought out in the morning from local Circuit House Maidan under the auspices of Khulna District Administration and Shilpakala Academy. Discussion on Pahela Baisakh, cultural function and distribution of prizes will be held at Shaheed Haidis Park.

Local branch of Islamic Foundation will also hold a discussion on the significance of the new year at its auditorium in the morning.

'Naba Barsha Udjapon Parishad' has drawn up a day-long programme to celebrate Pahela Baisakh and welcome the new year. Discussion, cultural function and rally are among the programmes of the parishad.

Political parties including Bangladesh Awami League, BNP, JSD and their front organisations have also taken up programmes to celebrate Pahela Baisakh and welcome the new year-1404. Exchange of greetings and distribution of sweets are among other programmes of the day.

### Burglary at Lalbagh

By Staff Correspondent

Burglars stole electronic goods and valuables worth more than Tk one lakh from a house in Lalbagh area in the city on Saturday night.

The gang, breaking the lock of the main gate, entered the ground-floor house of Parvez Khan, crime reporter of Bhorer Kago, at Azimpur New Palatan Road sometime late Saturday. No one was at home at the time.

They took away a television, a VCR, a cassette player and some clothes, police and family members said.

None was arrested in this connection till last night. A case was filed with Lalbagh thana, police added.

### 12th AGM of IDLC held

The twelfth annual general meeting (AGM) of the shareholders of Industrial Development Leasing Company of Bangladesh Limited (IDLC) was held yesterday at a city hotel.

C M Alam, Chairman, Board of Directors, IDLC, presided over the meeting, which was also attended by respective directors nominated by both local and foreign sponsor institutions and public shareholders, says a press release.

M Aminul Islam, Managing Director IDLC, presented the directors' report and financial statements for the financial year 1996 before the shareholders. Reviewing the operational and financial performance during the period, the shareholders approved 35 per cent dividend as well as issuance of one bonus share for one existing share against reserve fund.

The fourth extra ordinary general meeting of the shareholders was also held to increase the authorised capital of the company from Tk 100 million to Tk 1,000 million in order to make room for future increase of paid-up capital.

## Bangladesh cricket team congratulated

By Staff Correspondent

In an exuberance of joy over the country's 'historic' victory in the ICC tournament yesterday, leaders, people from all walks of life and organisations tendered hearty congratulations to the Bangladesh cricket team.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Choudhury from Saudi Arabia and Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid from South Korea conveyed felicitations to the victors soon after they emerged champions of the 6th ICC Trophy.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has congratulated the Bangladesh cricket team on its lifting the ICC (International Cricket Council) Trophy in Kuala Lumpur.

Education Minister A S H K Sadique termed the cricketers heroic sons and said the nation would remember them for ever for their excellent performance.

A former prime minister and a senior vice-chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury congratulated the cricket team.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has felicitated the countrymen, cricket fans, the players, officials and coach of the team on winning the exhilarating victory in the ICC Trophy in Malaysia yesterday.

In a message faxed from Malaysia, he said a glorious history has been created by the self-confidence of the Bangladesh players and with the grace of the Almighty Allah.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, in a statement, expressed his hearty greetings, saying that the victory would work as inspiration towards wins the World Cup Cricket.

Welcoming the Bangladesh victory, World Bank Resident Mission Chief Pierre Landell-

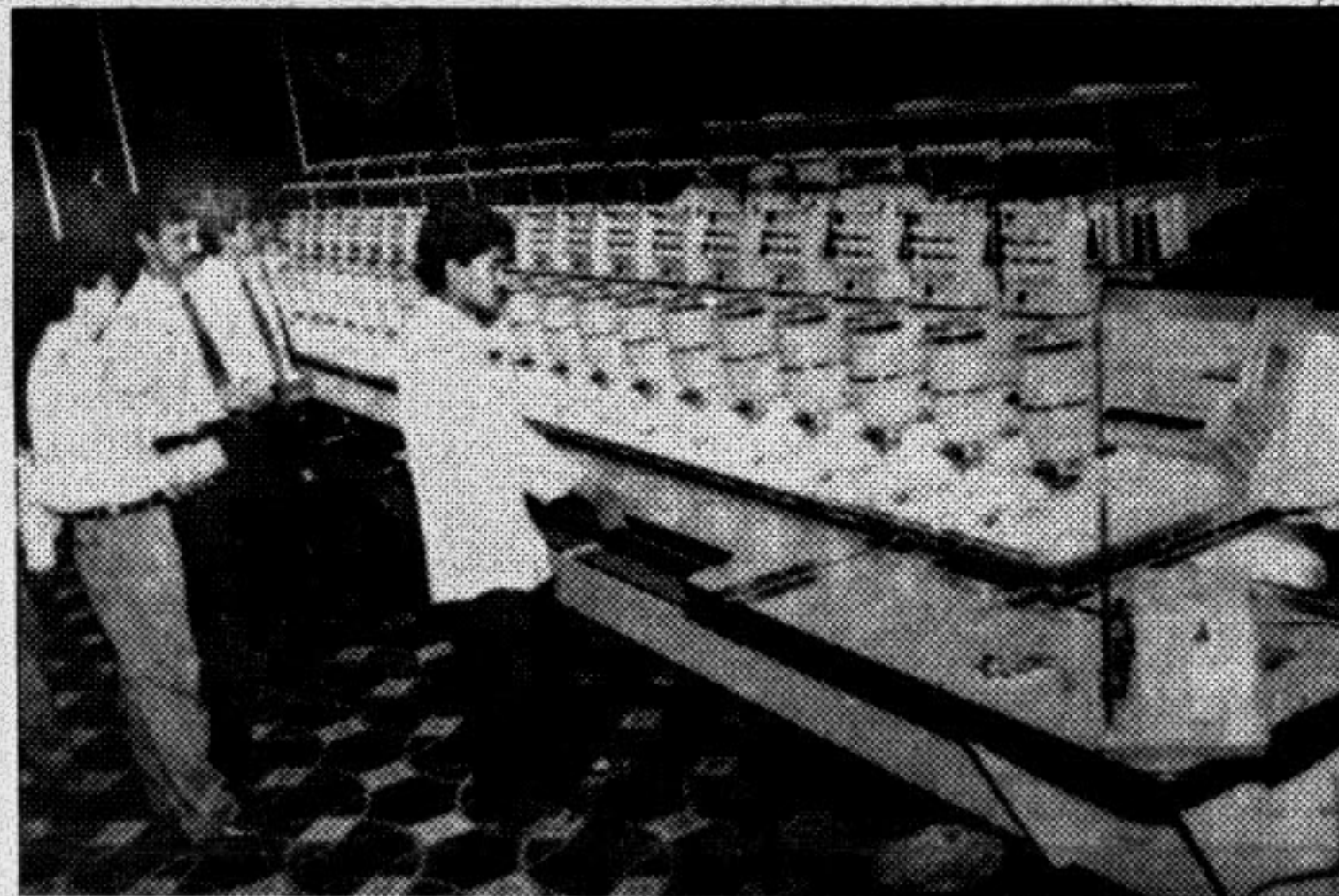
Mills said this win not only made Bangladesh a proud member of the World Cup Cricket family, but also revealed the potentials of this nation in every other sphere of struggle.

Other personalities and organisations hailing the triumph of the Bangladesh team include Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), BGMEA, Bangladesh Chamber of Industry, National Bank Chairman Abdul Awal Minto, Bangladesh Awami Swachhasebak League, President of Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation Kamal Majumder, Bangladesh Civil Service (Foreign Affairs) Association, Local Government Council Chairman of Bandarban Monkyo Chin Chowdhury, Bangladesh Pratibandhi Kalyan Samity and National Forum of Organisations, Working with the Disabled, BFUJ, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Bangladesh Olympic Association.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Agrani Bank Cricket Committee, Thai Airways, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman and Managing Director of Rangs Group, City Dental College, Padma Oil Company Limited, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Desma Shoe Industries Ltd, JTC Cargo International, First Air-Sea Transport Ltd, Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (Pvt) Ltd, International Trade Connection (PTE) Ltd, Tiffin's Wear Ltd, Consumer Products Ltd, Ornate Knit Garment Industries Ltd, Sthapathi Sangsad Ltd, Unideve Ltd,

Mohammed Sporting Club, Lotus Kamal Group,

Bangladesh Civil Service (BSC-Forest) Association



Barudan Asia Pte Ltd and Texas Resources Ltd organised a two-day Barudan Private Exhibition 1997 to display the latest Barudan Multihead Computerised Embroidery Machines and Punching System at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. — Star photo

### Weather

#### Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Dhaka and Faridpur in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected throughout the country.

Meantime, Barisal experienced the highest 50 mm rain in the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. Cox's Bazar had 19 mm shower, Comilla 15 mm and Dhaka 8 mm during the period.

Country's highest temperature 32.1 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 17.8 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 6:20 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:37 am.

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

City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage

Max Min Mor Eve

Dhaka 29.8 20.0 78 63

Chittagong 29.5 21.0 63 73

Rajshahi 32.1 18.5 72 55

Khulna 31.9 20.6 94 61

Barisal 31.5 18.6 81 78

Sylhet 31.0 19.2 75 70

Cox's Bazar 29.8 19.0 63 81