

Bijoy Utsav begins in Barisal today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
A three-day long Bijoy Utsav began here today. Samonoy Parishad comprising 32 cultural organisations has arranged the utsav. Elaborate programmes have been drawn up to mark the occasion. These included holding of seminar, recitation, cultural function and drama at the Shaheed Mimar.

Make all enterprises profitable: Anwar

BSS, Ctg
Industries Minister MK Anwar yesterday directed the authorities concerned to enhance productivity and reduce production cost of public sector enterprises. The minister was addressing the managing directors and other executives of the nationalised enterprises of Chittagong region at a review meeting here. He inquired about various issues relating to the public sector mills and factories, including detailed account of sale and pur-

chase of the year, expenditure under overtime head, workers' strength and production situation, marketing system, store inventory, steps taken for utilisation of excess lands of different enterprises and the balance sheet of profit and loss. The minister asked for ensuring more transparency in purchasing raw materials and selling finished goods through open competition. He said there is scope for reducing expenditure against over time at all levels of production. Anwar observed that in all enterprises there are massive misuse of gas, electricity and water. Besides, huge unnecessary spares have been imported and kept in stores years after years. He directed the administrations to stop such misuse of resources immediately and bring everything within the purview of transparency and accountability. The minister asked the executives to rationalise the strength of manpower in their respective organisations. "You have to run all enterprises on profit earning basis and that profit must be in proportionate to your respective capitals," he said. Focussing on the declared policy of the government towards nationalised enterprises, the minister categorically said unless losses could be avoided the respective units would be sold out.



A week-long solo art exhibition by Aadil Hoque, a 12-year old autistic child, began at the Ariel Centre in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday. The show will remain open from 11.00am to 8.00pm daily until December 19.

'Dhaka, Colombo working to make SAARC dynamic'

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have been working in close cooperation in SAARC and BIMSTEC with a common goal to make both the institutions more dynamic and effective for improving quality of life of the people in the region. Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury said this while exchanging views with visiting Sri Lankan Interior Minister John Amaratunga in the city yesterday. The home minister said Bangladesh deeply values its relations with Sri Lanka. The two SAARC member countries have been enjoying excellent bilateral relations

characterised by deep-rooted common culture and history, he added. During the meeting, the home minister reaffirmed Bangladesh's deep commitment to the continued efforts of strengthening democracy, rule of law and promotion and protection of human rights. Both the ministers expressed satisfaction that as developing countries from the same region, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have been working in close cooperation in various international forums, particularly on issues of common international, regional and economic interests.

1340 more held

UNB, Dhaka
Police arrested 1,340 more people, including four listed criminals, from different parts of the country in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday. The listed criminals are identified as Kader Shikder of Narail, Abdul Mannan and Khorsheed of Feni and Sohel Sarker of Narsingdi.

SA Regional Conference Improvement of prison conditions suggested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers on the second day of the three-day conference on Access to Justice and Penal Reform in the city yesterday suggested improvement of the existing prison conditions. They said there has been very little maintenance or development of prisons in all countries of the region. The speakers observed that the prisons are dilapidated, overcrowded and unhygienic. Condition of prison cell in terms of floor space, lighting, ventilation and sanitation is deplorable, they added. They said the living conditions in a prison are regarded as a crucial factor in determining a prisoner's sense of self-respect and human dignity. The speakers also recommended adequate pre-release training for prisoners so that they can prepare themselves for life after release. "Pre-release, normalisation is vital bearing in mind that the very idea of imprisonment implies that the inner person's contact with the outside world is drastically reduced. Family, friends, professional and institutional contacts should be nurtured and guidance given to prisoners and their relatives prior to release," one of the speakers pointed out. They also expressed concern over the treatment of women in prisons. A speaker from India said about 90 per cent of the women prisoners in his country are under-

trials. The speakers, gathered in the capital for the 2nd South Asia Regional Conference being jointly organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Penal Reform International (PRI), will make final recommendations today to improve the penal system in the countries of the region. Delegates comprising senior judges, lawyers, NGO activists, police officials and government officials from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh are taking part in the conference.

Two Indian warships arrive today

UNB, Chittagong
Two warships of Indian Navy led by Rear Admiral Prodig Koushivar, flag officer commanding of Indian Navy Eastern Fleet, arrives here today on a 4-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. The warships are Missile Destroyer INS Rajput and Missile Corvette INS Kirich. The officers of the two ships will make courtesy calls on high civil and military officials here during their tour. A sports competition between the navy men of the two countries will also be held on the occasion of arrival of Indian warships. The warships will remain open for public from 3pm to 5pm on December 15 at the No. 1 berth of the Chittagong port.

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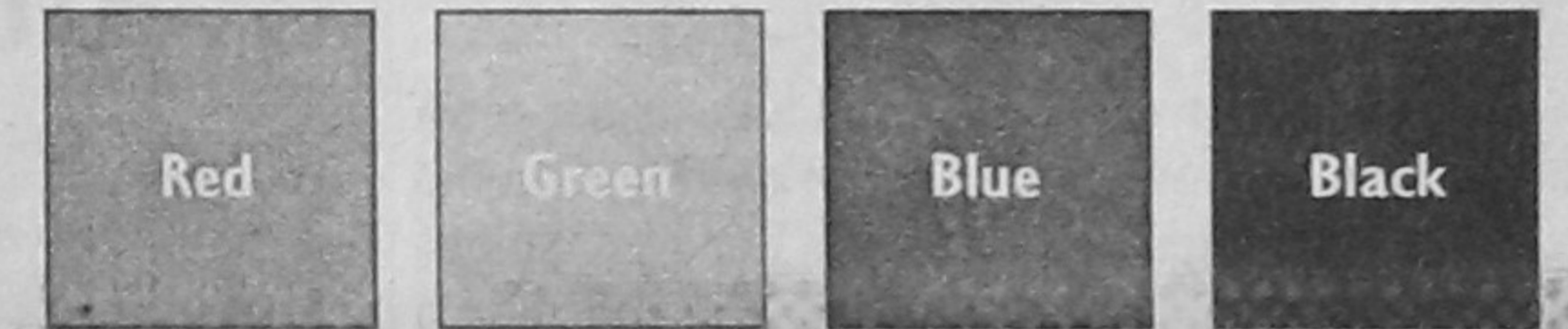


No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6pm today. Light to moderate fog may cover the river basins of the country in the early morning. Met office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature. Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimongal and the lowest of 12.5 degree at Dinajpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:33am tomorrow. The highest and lowest 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	27.0	15.1	63	66
Chittagong	27.4	17.2	74	64
Rajshahi	27.5	12.8	75	76
Khulna	28.0	15.0	88	77
Barisal	27.5	13.5	92	83
Sylhet	28.2	15.7	71	70
Cox's Bazar	27.8	17.1	82	82



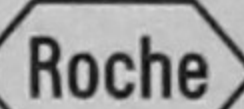
are different, so are their preferences.

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Indian smuggled goods seized

BSS, Rajshahi

BDR personnel of 10 battalion, in two separate anti-smuggling drives, seized huge Indian goods worth about Tk 6.10 lakh from the frontier areas of the district on Thursday.

A BDR team from Alaipur BOP, while on a patrol in Manikchar area under Bagha Upazila, found some smugglers intruding into Bangladesh territory along with huge smuggled goods at about 4.30 pm.

Sensing BDR presence, the smugglers crossed over to the Indian side leaving behind their goods that included chains and pins of wristwatch and its other accessories valued at about Tk 5.88 lakh.

In another drive at Achintala area under Charghat Upazila on Thursday night, the BDR personnel of Yousufpur BOP seized 218 bottles of phensidyle worth about Tk 21,800.

None could be arrested in these connections.

IBA graduation ceremony Dec 27

UNB, Dhaka

The 6th BBA and 34th MBA graduation ceremony of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) under Dhaka University will be held at 4pm on December 27 at the TSC Auditorium of the university.

Graduating students have been advised to contact their respective Programme Offices and Placement Offices for completion of necessary formalities.

Join SUMMIT

If you are confident and find yourself qualified as per our requirement, please mail your curriculum vitae with photocopies of educational and experience certificates along with one passport size photograph so as to reach the following address on or before 31st December, 2002. Please mention serial number and the name of the post applied for on the top of the envelope and the application. If you are considered, you will hear within a month.

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