

'VISION 2020: THE RIGHT TO SIGHT' Vow to achieve goals of eliminating blindness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG A four-day international conference ended in the port city yesterday with a vow to achieve goals of 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight', a global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

VISION 2020 is a joint initiative of IAPB and World Health Organisation (WHO) that aims at raising profile of vision impairment, mobilising resources for blindness prevention and helping governments in implementing national eye care plans, they said at the press conference.

international intervention, the magnitude of blindness is feared to reach a shocking 76 million by the year 2020. They said every five seconds one person in the world goes blind and a child goes blind every minute although 75 percent of the world-wide blindness are avoidable.

Infant taken to baby care home from Ctg jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The confined three-and-a-half-month old infant was taken from Chittagong jail to a baby care home on Thursday.

The infant - a baby girl, along with her self-claimed and mentally disabled 'mother' Mubarak Khanam had been behind the bars since January 14, as the relationship between them could not be confirmed.

With police suspecting Mubarak as a baby thief a court on January 28 ordered for sending the infant to a baby care home -- Chhotomoni Nibash in Rofabad.

The baby girl was taken to Chhotomoni Nibash under the supervision of Department of Social Service (DSS) after the court order reached the jail authorities, sources said.



Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Protidhwani' by Harun Chowdhury at its publication ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Regulatory Reforms Commission Chairman Akbar Ali Khan, Prof Anisuzzaman, Harun Chowdhury, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam and former adviser to the caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal.

Protidhwani launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday said Bangladesh will not remain entangled in crisis if its people love the country from their respective positions.

The programme was organised at the National Press Club in the capital yesterday to unveil the cover of a book titled 'Protidhwani' (Echo), published by Ananya and written by Harun Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi expatriate in the USA.

Prof Dr Anisuzzaman, who presided over the programme, unveiled the cover.

The speakers said Bangladesh is experiencing a crisis of good writer and books worth reading.

As a result, the readers are buying books considering the name instead of their contents, they added.

"If all people love the country, Bangladesh would definitely come out of various crises facing the nation," said Advocate Sultana Kamal, former adviser of the caretaker government.

"We value logic when we consider things from individual aspects, but we become illogical when we think collectively," said another former adviser of the caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan.

The speakers said the book is praiseworthy as it presents thought of a Bangladeshi expatriate.

"The thought of an expatriate for his motherland has found its readable expression in this book," said Shamokal Editor Abed Khan, adding, "Now-a-days a good piece of writing gets lost easily in the crowd of so many trash writings. As a result most of the readers now buy books just considering their name."

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam was present as chief guest at the programme which was attended by Nurul Islam Anu, a former CSP officer, Advocate Shahida Begum and Monirul Huq, publisher of the book.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

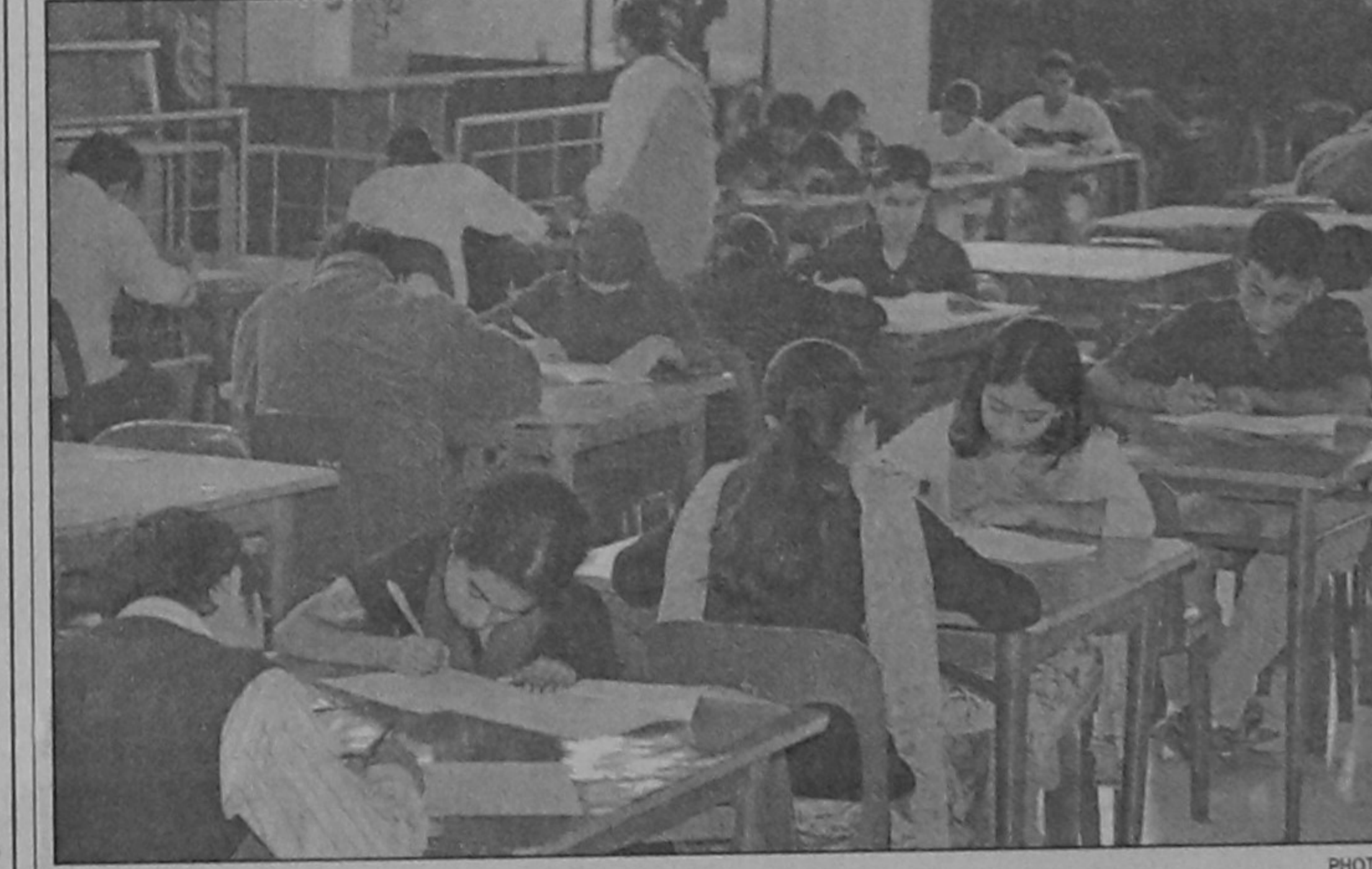
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 24th edition of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Feni Government College in Feni today.

Former lawmaker and Feni district unit BNP president Mosharrar Hossain, former minister and Awami League leader Col (ret) Zafar Imam, senior journalist ABM Musa and Joint General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Shirin Akhtar will take part in the programme as panelists.

Kamal Ahmed of BBC Bangla Service will moderate the Sanglap.

The recorded programme will be aired on BBC Bangla radio at 8:00pm tomorrow and on Channel 1 at 8:00pm on Monday.



Students take the admission test under Gha unit for the academic session 2007-08 at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Former BNP MP Masud Arun sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Former BNP lawmaker from Meherpur-1 Masud Arun, his personal secretary Oshes and Meherpur Poursava BNP President Jahangir Biswas have been sued for allegedly taking money from a person by making a false promise.

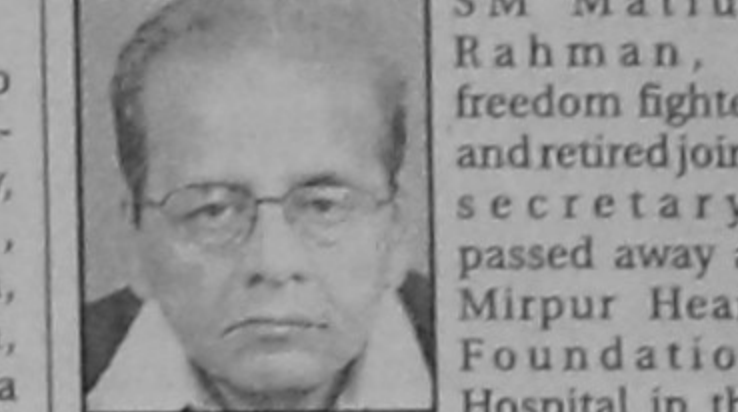
One Mohsin Ali of Fulbagpanara of Meherpur town filed the case with Sadar Police Station on Thursday night.

In the case, Mohsin alleged that Masud, Oshes and Jahangir took Tk 1 lakh from him on January 7 of 2005 assuring him of the job of a primary school teacher. But they did not provide him with the job.

As he asked for refunding the money, they threatened him with dire consequences, Mohsin added.

Masud, now in Dhaka, is already an accused in three other cases, police and other sources said.

Obituary



SM Matiur Rahman, a freedom fighter and retired joint secretary, passed away at Mirpur Heart Foundation Hospital in the city on Thursday at the age of 69, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

During his long career, he also served as the chief metropolitan magistrate in Chittagong.

He was a circle officer in Tentulia during the liberation war. On behalf of the Mujibnagar government, he helped the freedom fighters directly and turned the office of the circle officer into a health centre for the freedom fighters.

Matiur Rahman was the first to hoist the flag of independent Bangladesh in Tentulia.

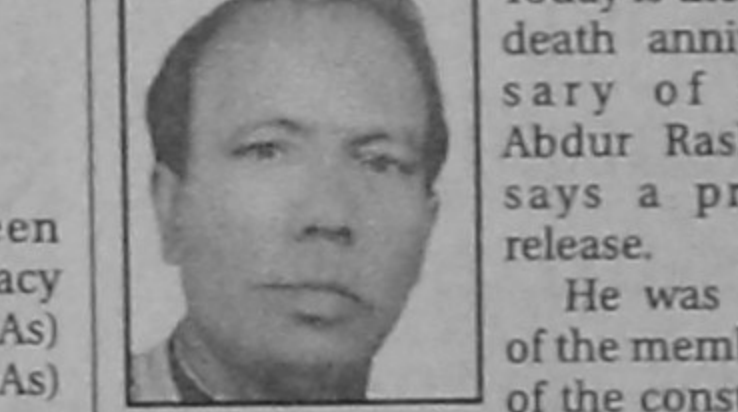
Maksuda

Maksuda, mother-in-law of Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, president of Sutarup Thana Awami Swechchaseb League, passed away due to kidney disease at her Aramtola residence in the city yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

She left behind six sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Dhaka City Awami Swechchaseb League (South) President Debashish Biswas and General Secretary Arifur Rahman expressed deep shock at her death and prayed salvation for the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Md Abdur Rashid, says a press release.

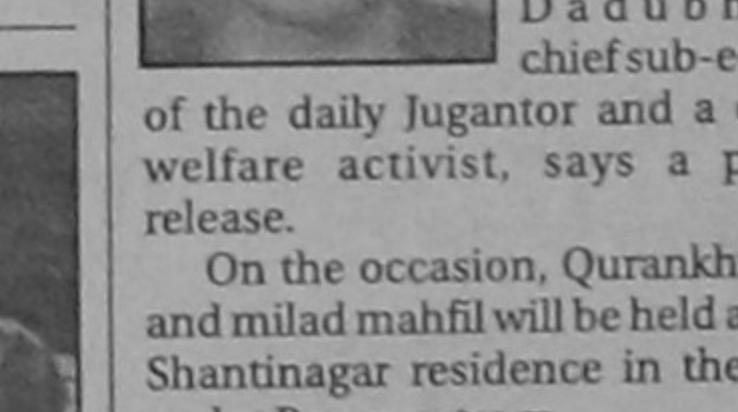
He was one of the members of the constitution formulation committee, former member of the parliament and one of the organisers of the Liberation War.

He was also one of the close associates of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his residence (Nayana Neer, House-36, Road-1, Block-1, Banani) in the city.

Relatives, political associates and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

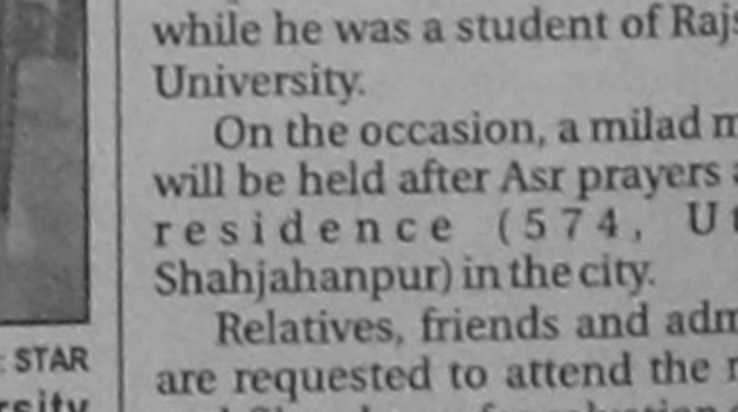
Begum Hamida Haq



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Begum Hamida Haq, a freedom fighter and wife of Rafiqul Huq Dardubhai, chief sub-editor of the daily Jugantor and a child welfare activist, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her Shantinagar residence in the city and at Rangpur town.

Nahidul Haque Khan (Titu)



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Nahidul Haque Khan (Titu), says a press release. Titu was shot dead by miscreants during non-cooperation movement in 1996 while he was a student of Rajshahi University.

Involve Bapex in oil and gas exploration

CPB urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday expressed concern over the floating of international tender for exploring oil and gas by dividing the country's maritime boundary into 27 blocks.

In a statement, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the interest of general people was not considered in production-sharing-contract model that has been designed for this time also.

They said as the possibility of getting oil and gas in the sea is very high, the people must be informed about the details of the contract before floating new tenders.

The CPB leaders urged the government to involve the Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited (Bapex) in oil and gas exploration of every block to enhance the capability of the national organisation.

They said the countrymen would reject any decision to increase the profit of foreign companies as well as their native cohorts by sacrificing the national interests.

They also called on people to strengthen their agitation for protecting the country's oil and gas resources.

Film show on drug, HIV prevention held

The premiere show of two films aiming to assist the police, prisons, narcotics and community services in communicating the messages against crime, drug dependence and preventing the spread of HIV was held in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

The film 'Mukto Jibon' is a 24-minute film, focused on raising awareness among prison inmates about STIs, HIV and drug use and the film 'Fera' is a 29-minute film focused on raising awareness on health and drug detoxification services available after being released from prison.

Family Health International (FHI) Bangladesh in collaboration with South-South Centre (SSC), IOM, CREA and Ministry of Home Affairs organised the premier show at Spectra Convention Centre.

Brgd Gen Md Zakir Hasan, Inspector General of Prisons presided over the function while Dr Sk Abdur Rashid, additional secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs attended the function as the chief guest, and Sheri-Nouane Johnson, Director, PHN, USAID, and Humayun Kabir, Director General, Department of Narcotics Control attended as special guests.

The chief guest said we can not live in peace and tranquillity if we do not consider our neighbors who are with problems like drug abuse and HIV.

He pointed out that these films would carry the messages in raising awareness among the vulnerable groups to the problems.

Officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, Departments of Police, Prisons and Narcotics Control attended the programme.



Former BNP lawmaker and General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal being taken to a court in the city yesterday.

Four killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Khagrachhari, Satkhira and Feni yesterday.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports: one person was killed and six others were injured in a road accident at Muslimpara under Matiranga Upazila in Khagrachhari yesterday.

The victim was identified as Muhammad Nur Alam, 20, a truck helper from Charpara Muslimpara village under Matiranga Upazila. The injured were Mohammad Riaz Uddin Ahmed, 26, Md Abul Kashem, 35, Md Aktarul Islam, 26, Mohammad Anwar, 32, Abu Mia, 31 and Mohammad Rafiq, 21.

Police and hospital sources said the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound truck fell into a roadside ditch leaving the truck helper Alam dead on the spot.

Three seriously injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and others were sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

The body was sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Our Satkhira correspondent adds: A motorcycle rider was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Khulna road at Laba intersection in Sadar Upazila yesterday evening.

The dead was identified as Liton, 22, son of Shahidul Mistri of Sultanpur village under Kalaroa Upazila.

Quoting locals police said the accident occurred when the motorcycle collided head on with a Satkhira-bound bus leaving Liton seriously injured. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

BSS reports: Two people were killed in a road accident at Kazirbag on Feni-Parshuram road yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as Zahirul Islam, 35, and Mizanur Rahman, 25.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding truck rammmed a roadside electric pole falling to locate the pole due to dense fog and fell into roadside ditch. Zahirul, driver of the truck and Mizanur, helper of the truck, were killed due to electrocution.

Their bodies were sent to Feni Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Table with weather forecast for Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar, including temperature and humidity data.

DHAKA TODAY

Flute concert

Murtuza Kabir Murad and his students will perform at a flute concert. Venue: Chhayanaat Sangskriti Bhaban, House # 72, Road # 15A, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

Seminar

The opening ceremony of the seminar titled 'One for all - Persons with disabilities self-initiatives in development', organised by Bangladesh Probandhi Kalyan Somity (BPKS), will be held. Venue: Dhaka Regency Hotel. Time: 6:00pm.

View exchange

LPEP Renewable Energy organises a view exchange meeting on development of renewable energy. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

The Daily Manabzamin organises a roundtable on future of democracy in Bangladesh. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Science fair

Marie Curie School organises a science fair. Venue: Marie Curie School, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

The Post Graduate Programmes in Disaster Management, Brac University and Brac in collaboration with Disaster Management Bureau will organise a roundtable on 'Experiences in Tsunami warning systems in Bangladesh'. Venue: Brac University. Time: 3:30pm.

Art exhibition

The opening ceremony of an international art exhibition will be held. Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises the exhibition to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Asiatic Society's auditorium. Time: 4:00pm. The exhibition will remain open everyday from 2:00pm to 8:00pm till February 24.

Dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will organise a dialogue on 'Input delivery strategy for higher boro production'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Scientific meeting

The inaugural ceremony of the '9th IEA South East Asia regional scientific meeting' will be held. Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh and Eminence jointly organise the meeting. Venue: ICMH auditorium, Matuail. Time: 9:30am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.