

Help states vulnerable to sea level rise

FM urges ARF ministerial meeting

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday laid emphasis on regional and global efforts to assist countries vulnerable to sea level rise because of climate change.
Speaking at the 17th Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi, he said Bangladesh as a disaster-prone country has advanced considerably in disaster management.
She said, "We believe there is a need to shift emphasis from relief and response to a broader and more encompassing risk

management framework to reduce the vulnerability of people," said a foreign ministry press release.
Turning to Asean activities, she said Asean is moving forward with non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, international crimes, cyber-crime, climate change, maritime security etc.
She also said, "In Bangladesh we have a constitutional mandate and obligation to maintain the centrality of the United Nations (UN) in the conduct of all our international affairs."
Dipu Moni said Bangladesh is pledged to support UN peacekeeping

and peace building efforts. In this context, she said Bangladesh has developed a national policy for rapid deployment of well-trained and well-equipped forces.
She also mentioned the Centre of Excellence that Bangladesh established to train UN peacekeeping forces from home and abroad.
The Foreign Minister emphasised Hanoi Plan of Action to implement the ARF vision statement, aimed at making ARF more action-oriented.
A total of 27-member countries participated in the meet.



Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a workshop on "Improving City Governance and Private Sector Development" at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

'Govt to modernise constitution'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government would modernise the constitution according to the High Court verdict on the Fifth Amendment of it, Awami League yesterday member Obaidul Quader said yesterday.
Urging the main opposition BNP to join the parliamentary special committee to bring fundamental changes in the constitution, he said numbers do not matter, logical stand from one or two members could prove vital than all other members.
"According to the High Court verdict,

there is no chance to get back to the constitution of 1972 and even full abolishment of the Fifth Amendment," Quader said as the chief guest at a discussion meeting on "Context present politics and constitution of '72" organised by Bangabandhu Academy at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.
"The constitution will be modernised in the light of the verdict upholding the basic spirit of the Liberation War."
Indicating to the Opposition leader Khaleda Zia, the AL leader said he could not make out why she doesn't want the fundamental spirit of the Liberation War

to be revived in the constitution as upholding the spirit of Liberation War is also in their election manifesto.
Termining the constitution not a holy book, Quader said, "It can be changed according to the people's needs and the demand of the time."
Quader said some responsible persons are making irresponsible comments which harm the party, people and the country.
AL organising secretary Ahmed Hossain and information and research secretary Afzal Hossain among others spoke at the discussion.

Good governance in public procurement to be ensured

Planning minister tells workshop

BSS, Dhaka
Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A K Khandker yesterday said the government would make necessary steps for accelerating development programmes to ensure transparency, accountability in implementation of development activities.
He said the government wants to ensure good governance in public procurement through participation of all stakeholders.
The minister said this while inaugurating a two-day workshop jointly organised by the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of IME Division, and the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programmes (BCCP).
Planning Secretary Md Habib Ullah Majumder, Director General of CPTU Amulya Kumar Deb Nath and BCCP's Project Director Yesmin Khan were present on the occasion.
The workshop was organised to design a document for developing and producing a six-episode TV Reality Show on the

issues of public procurement rules.
CPTU has been carrying out different awareness raising activities on public procurement under the Public Procurement Reform Project-II supported by the World Bank.
Representatives of the government procuring entities, bidding community, media, civil society and creative production houses are taking part at the workshop to brain-storm contents, audience analysis, message preparation and other aspects of the TV reality show with a view to popularising the Public Procurement Act (PPA) and the Public Procurement Rules (PPR) in the country.
Mentioning that communication can play important role in implementing development programme, the planning minister said in the age of information communication technology, flow of information can help establish good governance and the government wants to disseminate information on PPR through the media.
He emphasised on measures for popu-

larising PPR and PPA and bringing reforms to infuse more dynamic and added some amendments can ensure more compliance.
While talking to journalists after the session, the minister said the government is working to ensure that public procurement is conducted as per rules and also to guarantee that no corruption takes place in the procurement process.
In order to accelerate procurement process timely, speedily and for full implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP), the PP should be digitised in the light of Prime Minister's Vision 2021 for building a Digital Bangladesh.
He said through digitising the PP process, it would be possible to smoothen the lives through ensuring transparency and accountability at all stages and also to help curb corruption.
Later a technical session was held with the participation of 35 persons representing government procuring entities, bidding community, media, civil society and creative production houses.

Work sincerely to curb road crashes

State minister asks traffic police

DU CORRESPONDENT
State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Hoque Tuku yesterday called upon the traffic police personnel to be more sincere in monitoring overtaking and overloading of vehicles to stem the number of road accidents at a training.
He urged the policemen to be stricter in monitoring overloading, overtaking and speeding of vehicles under the existing laws.
Tuku was addressing the inaugural session of a 10-day training programme for policemen at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).
The Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet arranged the training on "Accident event recording and reporting".

Around 600 police personnel are taking part in the training.
Issues like fitness of roads and vehicles, physical and psychological condition of drivers and the stance of vehicle owners should be addressed properly to curb road accidents occurring in the country, he added.
Speaking at the same session, ARI Director Dr Shamsul Hoque said there are some catalysts behind road accidents and taking proper measures after identifying those catalysts can reduce the number of road accidents.
The only source of road accident data in Bangladesh is the report prepared by the police by filling a form after the accidents happen. Sometimes, police cannot fill the form properly and that creates

inconsistency in the information, he added.
The ARI director said the training aims at filling of the accident report form properly.
Buet VC Prof AMM Safiullah said the country loses many meritorious citizens every year because of road accident alone. He stressed on proper addressing of issues that cause road accidents and creating awareness among drivers, owners and others about the consequences of accidents.
Buet Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof M Habibur Rahman and Deputy Inspector General of Police (Dhaka Range) Md Mokhlesur Rahman spoke at the programme held at an auditorium in the civil engineering building of Buet in early yesterday.

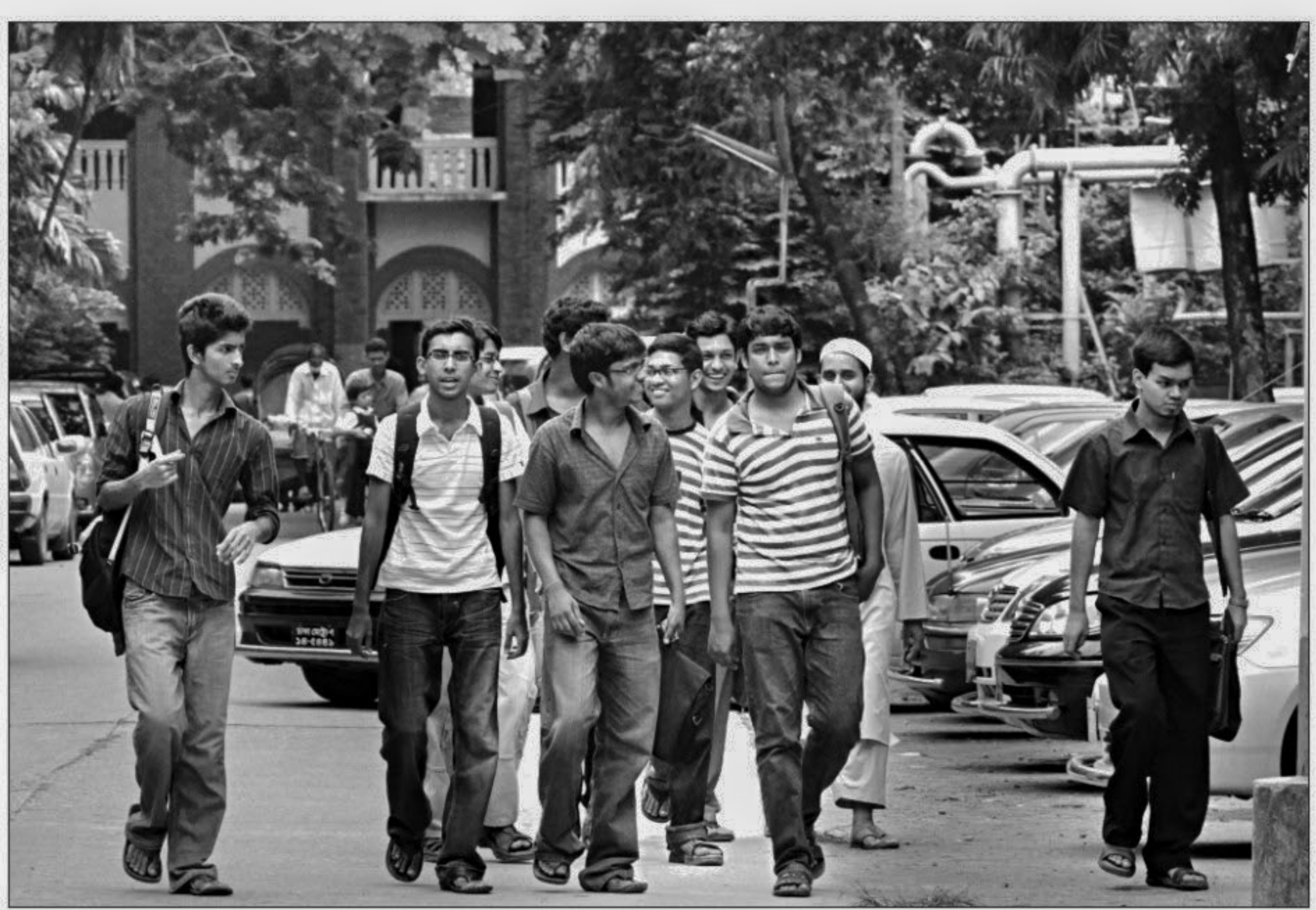
Brother, sister drown in Raozan

BSS, Chittagong
Two siblings drowned in a pond at Satbaria of Raozan in Chittagong yesterday.
The victims were Ira Akter, 7, and her five-year-old brother Mohammad Riyad.
They were the daughter and son of Kabir Ahmed of Satbaria at Gozara union under Raozan police station.
Locals said both of them suddenly fell into the pond beside their home when they were playing there.
Later, family members and locals rescued them and sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS More focus on climate migration stressed

BSS, Dhaka
Migration should be one of the main focuses for Bangladesh in the future climate negotiations to address the human displacement consequences due to climate change.
Speakers told the closing session of the two-day workshop on Legal Briefing on UNFCCC Negotiation organised by Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and Oxfam-Bangladesh at Department of Environment yesterday.
As part of its efforts, Bangladesh stressed the issue in the UN special session on climate change last year as well in the UN General Assembly by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
Oxfam lawyer Ilona Millar said parties of UNFCCC are reluctant to view migration as a form of adaptation despite the call of affected countries like Bangladesh and the Maldives.
She said under the UNFCCC negotiation process, the chair of the Adhoc-Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) put forward the migration issue for the next discussion.
"But a lot is yet to be done on this regard particularly broad consensus among the countries to raise all-out voice at global forums,

arrangement of necessary workshops and preparation of technical paper," she said.
According to a World Bank scientific study 1.5-yard rise in sea level would flood 18 percent of Bangladesh, affecting large parts of its population of 162 million.
The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that global warming could cause Bangladesh's rice and wheat production to fall anywhere from 8 to 32 percent by 2050 given increased warming and water stress.
The term 'environmental refugee' and 'climate refugee' has been around since mid 1980s said Ilona Millar. She added that issues on how to bring the displaced people in the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are yet to be resolved.
Raj Bavishi, an international lawyer, said the existing treaties and institutions should be amended to broaden the definition of the 'refugee' as the existing international refugee law is ineffective to address the issue.
Mandate of the UN agencies like UNCHR, UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and IMO should also be extended to address the migration issue, he said.



Classes resume at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday after an unscheduled closure of 34 days following a student clash over suspension of classes for watching the Football World Cup. (Story on Page 3)

Renewable energy can meet 80pc of demand for power Says expert

UNB, Dhaka
Around 80 percent of the country's demand of electricity could be addressed by using renewable energy including solar and wind power systems, says an expert.
"Germany and the Latin American countries including Cuba are now planning to generate 80 percent of their power by setting up renewable energy systems and we should consider these methods to address our ongoing power crisis," said Dr Sajed Kamal, a teacher of Brandeis University, Massachusetts in USA.
He was speaking at a seminar, titled "Solar Energy Resource: Bangladesh's unutilised energy storehouse", at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) in the city on Friday.
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) organised the seminar with former adviser to a caretaker government and BAPA Vice President Advocate Sultana Kamal in the chair.
Prof Dr Saiful Haque and Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University, and Engr Dr Khurshedul Islam also spoke at the seminar.
Keynote speaker Dr Sajed in a power point presentation displayed the technology used by the western countries for generating power from renewable sources.

Farmer kills wife, daughter in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur
A farmer killed his wife and two-year-old daughter, being angered at the alleged extra marital affairs of his wife with a man at Matlab South upazila here.
Police recovered the decomposed bodies of Hosne Ara Begum, 20, and her daughter Najneen Begum from a septic tank of farmer Najmul Hossain's house at Aswinpur village at 1:00pm yesterday, five days after the murders.
Police and locals said Najmul strangled his wife Hosne Ara and daughter Najneen and dumped the bodies to the septic tank of his house on July 19.
After killing them, Najmul told his father-in-law Abul Khasim in Kachua upazila that his wife and daughter have been missing since July 19. The farmer went into hiding after the incident.
Kashem lodged a general diary with the local police station in this connection on July 20.
Police visited the spot but they did not find any trace of the missing woman and her daughter.
Local people caught Najmul, 30, and handed him over to the police at about 12:00 noon yesterday.
On his confessional statement, police recovered the bodies from the septic tank at 1:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over all the seven divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:25am tomorrow.
Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Comilla and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius percentage		Humidity in	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	27.6	73	87
Chittagong	32.8	26.0	78	78
Rajshahi	33.0	26.4	77	73
Khulna	32.8	27.0	78	88
Barisal	32.2	26.2	64	78
Sylhet	33.8	26.2	86	64
Cox's Bazar	30.2	25.0	75	90

DHAKA TODAY

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Purbacal Ain Palli will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Ainjibi Samiti auditorium, Time: 4:30pm.

Book Launching

Scholars Bangladesh will launch a book titled "The unutilised energy mine". Venue: National Museum, Time: 6:00pm.

Dialogue

South Asia Partnership Bangladesh will hold a national dialogue on democracy and women. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Time: 2:00pm.

Human chain

Domestic Workers Rights Network-Bangladesh will organise a human chain demanding punishment to the killers of Noor Jahan. Venue: Shahbag, Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

A seminar will be held marking the eighth death anniversary of former national professor Syed Ali Ahsan. Venue: Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium (Kalyanpur), Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Garments Worker Unity Council will organise a human chain. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:30am.

Workshop

International Fertiliser Development Centre will organise a workshop on NPK Briquettes. Venue: Conference Room, BARC, Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Petrobangla will organise a seminar on "Prospects of coal gasification". Venue: Petrobangla seminar hall, Time: 12:00pm.

Presentation

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) will organise a presentation on "Recent Archaeological Excavation of Bhitargarh". Venue: ULAB auditorium, Time: 4:30pm.

Meeting

ICCIT will hold its monthly luncheon meeting. Venue: The Westin Dhaka, Time: 12:30pm.

Seminar

Centre for Dhaka Studies will hold a discussion titled "Designing Dhaka: Illusions and visions". Venue: Bangladesh Asiatic Society auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation will organise a seminar. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a discussion with teachers. Venue: Al-Falah auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.

Obituary

Staff Correspondent
Fauzia Yasmeen Chowdhury, wife of Lt Col (ret'd) Gyasuddin Chowdhury and daughter of late Col Azharul Huq Chowdhury, passed away onboard a flight from Dubai to New Jersey on July 23, said a press release.
She left behind her two daughters, mother and husband to mourn her death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 15th death anniversary of Anisul Islam, a former president of Dhaka Rotary Club and former vice-chairman of Bangladesh Peoples League, said a press release.
On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Radhanagar mosque in Pabna after Asr prayers and Qurankhwani will be held at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectual graveyard in the city.
Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the functions and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.