

National Revolution Day observed

UNB, Dhaka

The National Revolution and Solidarity Day was celebrated across the country yesterday with a fresh vow to promote national progress.

On this day in 1975, soldiers and people unitedly foiled a conspiracy against national independence and sovereignty and freed the then chief of army staff Ziaur Rahman from captivity in Dhaka cantonment.

The day was a public holiday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia greeted the countrymen on the occasion.

The president in his message said people and the valiant armed forces unitedly protected the country's independence and sovereignty through a revolution on this day in 1975.

It is the sacred duty of every citizen to defend the country's

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia along with her cabinet colleagues offers prayers at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman after placing a wreath on the National Revolution and Solidarity Day yesterday.

Clash over capture of waterbody in Kushtia: 2 killed, 25 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two persons were killed and 25 others injured in a clash between two rival groups over capture of a waterbody at village Dhalsa in Mirpur upazila of the district yesterday.

According to police, two rival groups-- one led by Zoarder and the other by Sarder -- of the village had a long rivalry over control of Aujangachhi beel (waterbody).

Naharul, 30, of Sarder group was stabbed to death by the men belonging to Zoarder group when he went to the waterbody for fishing yesterday morning.

Hearing the news, villagers loyal to Sarder group rushed to the spot and locked in a clash, leaving one Zinnah, 35, of Zoarder group dead and 25 others of both groups injured.

Police went to the spot and brought the situation under control. The injured people were admitted to Mirpur Health Complex.

Two separate cases were filed with Mirpur Police Station. No one was arrested till yesterday afternoon.



Children at a correctional centre show scars of self-inflicted cuts in a symbol of freedom in their drug subculture.

Drifting into disaster

Child drug addicts on the rise

NAIMUL HAQ

Ten-year-old Dayal was a drug abuser a few months ago when he took Sedexin, a widely-used seductive available in Dhaka drugstores.

In the initial days of his fling with drugs, Dayal (not real name) took the seductive from his friends and gradually began to swallow at least 10 tablets a day to beat his frustration.

"My father deserted our family four years ago. My mother later married and is now with her new family," Dayal said.

"I tried to go to school staying with my uncle, but who would fund my living and books?" he asked.

Dayal made his living selling metal and plastic scraps scavenged from garbage. The work provided him enough to live in his style: eating bread but sleeping rough.

He also confessed to pick-pocketing to finance what he termed the 'hazardous habit'.

Enduring stronger doses, Dayal and his friends began puffing cheap cannabis to keep the numbing effect hang on late into the night and then slept at bus stands or on pavements.

They broke their chest skin in a drug subculture of showing off their freedom to people.

Dayal, from a city slum in Katashur, is now undergoing treatment for free at a drug correctional centre in Dhaka.

"I'll beat the habit, return to normal life and attend school," the boy said.

But the past years of ordeal come flashing to his young mind when he had been taken to police custody twice for offences.

Munna and Pappu (not real names), his friends at the correctional centre, also dream of returning to normal life, but thousands of other teenagers

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India's tandoor oven killer sentenced to death

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian court yesterday handed down the death penalty to a former politician convicted of shooting his wife and burning her dismembered corpse in the tandoor oven of an open-air restaurant, officials said.

Additional Sessions Judge G.P. Thareja on Monday pronounced Sushil Sharma guilty of murdering his wife Naina Sahni, 29, in July 1995 and burning her body parts in the grill of the Baghiya restaurant in New Delhi to try to get rid of the evidence.

The plea did not work as police raided the restaurant and dug out charred body parts from the Indian-style oven, which were identified as Sahni's.

Sharma, who was then president of the youth chapter of India's main

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3 militants, child killed by Israeli army

AFP, Gaza City

Three Palestinian militants were shot dead by Israeli troops in two incidents overnight in the Gaza Strip, where an 11-year-old boy was also killed by shrapnel from an Israeli tank shell, Palestinian medical sources said.

On Friday morning, Mahmud al-Qayed was killed by shrapnel to his chest after a tank opened fire in a rural area near the border between the northeastern Gaza Strip and Israel, Palestinian medical sources and witnesses said.

Nimr As-Ous, 22, was picking olives in a nearby grove when he said Israeli troops opened fire.

"I started to run when I heard the firing. Mahmud and his friends were trying to catch birds with a net when they were hit by shrapnel," he told AFP at a hospital in Gaza City.

The witnesses said no militants could be seen in the area, but a military source said fire was opened after "three unidentified figures were spotted in an area near the Nahal Oz crossing point, which is banned to Palestinians."

"They appeared to be carrying wires and other pieces of equipment for an explosive device and were thought to be planting a bomb near the community," the source said.

There were no immediate reports of any militants killed or injured in the area, but the boy's death capped a night of violence that also left three Palestinian gunmen dead elsewhere in the Gaza Strip.

Two relatives belonging to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades were killed in a clash between militants from their Fatah offshoot and troops near the fence between the southeastern Gaza Strip and Israel, Palestinian medical sources said.

Nazmi, 30, a local leader for the military organisation, and Mohammad al-Najar, 21, were killed, while four more members of their extended family were injured in the same incident, the sources said.

Nazmi's father, Mussa, was killed by Israeli troops during an incursion into the nearby village of Khuzaa last year.

An army source said "several suspicious figures were spotted walking towards the fence near the Sufa crossing point and entering the special security buffer zone, after which troops finally opened fire."

A firefight also broke out between gunmen in the central Gaza refugee camp of Maghazi and troops posted around the nearby Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom.

Most injections not safe in Bangladesh, says WHO

AFP, Paris

World Health Organisation (WHO) experts say three injections out of every four in India and other countries in South Asia are made with unsterilised needles, exposing countless people to the risk of hepatitis, HIV and other infections.

The seven countries in the WHO's Southeast Asian Region Group D -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar and Nepal, as well as North Korea -- are at the absolute bottom of a league for injection safety among developing countries, they say.

Seventy-five percent of injections in the Group D countries were made with needles that had already been used to inject other people and which not been properly sterilised, according to the study, which appears in next Saturday's British Medical Journal (BMJ).

In the other parts of Asia and the Western Pacific, unsafe needle re-use was 30 percent; in the two regions of Africa, it was 17 and 19 percent; in the Middle East, it was 70 percent; and in Eastern Europe, the rate was 11 percent.

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2 hundi traders held in Barisal

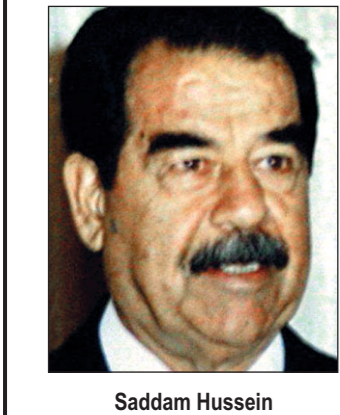
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police arrested two alleged hundi (illegal money transfer) traders with Tk 24 lakh from a Dhaka-bound launch at Barisal launch ghat Thursday night.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the MV Kirtankhola at 8:15pm and arrested Ripon Chandra Saha, 35, son of Narayan Chandra Saha of Charpara, and Haru Chandra Saha, 45, Kalikapur Sahapara, both from Patuakhali, with the money.

The arrestees claimed that two businessmen of Barisal gave them the money. But police found their claims were untrue.

Police believe that Ripon and Haru are members of a hundi racket.



New US force to hunt down Saddam, Laden

AFP, Washington

The US military have created a covert commando force to hunt down deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and Taliban leaders, The New York Times said yesterday.

The brainchild of US Central

Known as Task Force 121, the com-



Cop shot dead in 'accidental' fire by his colleague

UNB, Jessore

A police constable was shot dead reportedly in an accidental fire by his colleague at Kotwali Police Station yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rashid.

Police sources said constables Rashid and Nazrul Islam were cleaning their rifles on the premises of the police station and a bullet accidentally came out of the rifle of Islam, killing Rashid on the spot.

However, a section of police at the police station said Islam opened fire on Rashid at one stage of their quarrel.

Islam was closed to district policelines. An enquiry committee was formed.

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
12	8		5-19
13	9	4-47	5-18

Prayer Timings		
November 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-47	5-02
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-19	5-24
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation