

SNAPS

RUICD boycotts Revolution Day discussion

A RU CORRESPONDENT
The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) boycotted a discussion organised by Zia Parishad to mark the National Revolution and Solidarity Day at Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium on the campus on Friday.
JCD President Motiar Rahman alleged that they boycotted the discussion for failure of its organisers to hang the portraits of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and ex-President Ziaur Rahman at the venue.

Road link snapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga
Road communication on the Chuadanga to Jibannagar route was suspended due to a transport strike on Saturday.
The strike was observed in protest against assault on a transport worker.

Chhatra Shibir's 'punishment'

RU CORRESPONDENT
Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres manhandled a student of the Marketing Department of Rajshahi University (RU) and harassed another female student while both of them were taking 'lifer' together in Shaheed Minar area on Thursday.
Shibir cadres roughed up Ruhul Amin and harassed Mukta following a 'fatwa' by Imam of Abdul Latif Hall Mosque that boys and girls cannot take 'lifer' together.
Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) general secretary told this correspondent that ICS cadres were out to create violence on the campus.
But, Asrafali Faruki refused the allegation.
When contacted, Associate Proctor Harun-ur-Rashid told this correspondent that nobody lodged any complaint in this regard.

RMO withdrawn as diarrhoea unrelenting in Saidpur

One more dies, over 1,200 treated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
As diarrhoea killed one more person and attacked scores, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Saidpur 50 Bed Hospital Shashi Charan Chakrabarty was stand-released on Saturday for his "failure to control the diarrhoea situation" in the area.
The district health department called him back to the Civil Surgeon's office without any replacement at the hospital, official sources said yesterday.
Hossen Ali, 5, son of Shabul Hossen

of Bakshipara village in the Sadar upazila died of diarrhoea on Thursday, the sources said.
With this the official death toll is now 39 and the unofficial toll is 51.
A total of 448 diarrhoea patients were admitted to the six upazila health complexes and to the Nilphamari Sadar Hospital in seven days ending on November 8.
More 756 took treatment at those hospitals during the period, according to the district health department control room.

Some of the doctors this correspondent talked to said the situation is not improving as people are taking unwholesome and uneatable food in the present near-famine situation.
The government has allotted 882 metric tonnes of rice for the district for November, to be distributed through 88,200 VGF (vulnerable group feeding).
But there are hundreds of allegation of corruption and misappropriation of VGF rice and of protest processions.
A tense situation was created in Baravata union in Kishoregang upazila

as local people protested reported sale of two metric tonnes of rice in the black market by a Union Parishad chairman allegedly in collaboration with local officials.
In Sonarai union, it was alleged that the UP chairman sold 400 out of the 700 VGF cards at Tk 60 each. A complaint was lodged to the UNO, but to no effect, local people said.
Such illegal practices are going on unabated while an additional secretary of the relief ministry is in the district to monitor the relief distribution.

No clue yet to Neamoti Bandar looting

Bandits well-organised, include ex-army men, police say

CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Barisal police have formed several teams to investigate the looting of Neamoti Bandar in Bakerganj and attack on a police outpost there last week.
No looted goods could be recovered.
One of the three arrested persons night guard Jahangir--gave confessional statement under Section 164, but no important clue was found in his statement, police said.
The officer-in-charge of Bakerganj PS and the OC of DB police in Barisal are coordinating the investigation.
High police officials say the Neamoti incident is similar to the

attack on Bhandaria Bandar in Pirojpur district on July 29.
Inter-district gangs could be involved in the incidents.
Police are collecting information about criminal gangs in Muradnagar in Comilla, the Sundarbans and Meghna river estuary areas and outlaws in the southwestern region.
These gangs operate in Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna regions, they said.
Police sources said some of the ornaments looted from Neamoti Bandar could have been sold at Barisal Colony in Chittagong city.
A special team of Barisal police went to Chittagong on November 7.
The team includes Inspector Shahidullah, two sub inspectors of Bhandaria and Betagi thanas and two Union Parishad chairmen of the areas who are familiar with activities of these criminal gangs.

Police said the operation style was similar in Bhandaria and Neamoti Bandar. Both incidents were well-planned and done by trained hardened criminals, they said.
Forty-seven alleged criminals were arrested in connection with Bhandaria incident. That was a blow to the manpower of the gangs.
But recurrence of such incident at Neamoti within a short time proves that ring leaders and godfathers of the criminals are still very much active.
Use of sophisticated modern arms like SMG, LMG, Shot Gun, Chinese rifle etc and ammunition of Bangladesh Ordnance Factory also indicates their link with army men or retired army men, they said.
One source said a retired NCO (non-commissioned officer) of BDR "along with his colleagues and friends" are also in the criminal gang.

Woman gang leader of heroin traders held in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A notorious gang leader of heroin traders --Jothsna Begum, 45-- was caught by police with 400 grams of heroin Friday night from her paternal house at Bhatpara near the city.
The price of the recovered heroin is about Tk 40 lakh, police said.
Acting on a tip-off, a police team headed by an ASP raided the house of her father Majid Dakat and arrested her.
Some youths were also at the house before the raid but they escaped sensing police presence.
Jothsna was also arrested some months ago on charge of heroin trade.
She was produced before court, which sent her to jail. A case has been started against her, police said.



An education programme for 20 blind and one-eyed children by brail system began at Haribhanga under the Sadar upazila in Lalmonirhat district. The Eye Care Project of RDRS started the new project recently.

'Godfather' of Hundi traders held in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Police on Friday night arrested an alleged godfather of Hundi traders from his jewellery shop in the city.
Manindra Shaha was arrested as per confession of two alleged Hundi traders -- Ripon and Haran Shaha--arrested from Dhaka-bound launch MV Kirtonkhola with Tk 24 lakh on Thursday at Barisal launch ghat.
Police said Manindra is one of the godfathers of hundi traders in region.
Ripon and Haran told police that the money (Tk 24 lakh) belonged to Manindra and Suvash Shaha and they were going to Dhaka to hand over the

money to some persons.
Police could not arrest Suvash.
When taken to the Kotwali thana, Manindra first denied any involvement in Hundi trade and knowing Ripon and Haran. But later he admitted that he sent the two persons with the money to Dhaka.
Ripon and Haran were sent to jail under Section 25/B of the Special Power Act after SI Faisal lodged a case as complainant.
Manindra was sent to jail under bailable Section 54 of the CrPC.
It is alleged that some policemen were trying to save Manindra and allow him flee the country after bail.

Police officials asked to protect farmers' crop in harvesting season

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury ordered the police officials to protect standing paddy farmers in shoal areas from loot by musclemen in the ongoing aman harvesting season.
The minister ordered this while presiding over a meeting to review the law and order in the district at the Deputy Commissioner's (DC's) conference room on Friday.
He instructed the law enforcing officials to ensure smooth travel of home-bound passengers in the ensuing Eid-ul-Fitr.
The DC informed the meeting that four separate temporary police camps were set up at Char Bangla and Char Shiba of Galachipa upazila and Char Shahjalal of Dasmina and in Bauphal upazila to protect the crops of farmers.
Shahidul Alam Talukder, member of parliament (MP), Prasanta Bhushan Barua, DC and Aurangzeb Mahubb, Police Super (SP) addressed the meeting.

Ershad demands 30 kg rice per VGF card

11 party for gruel kitchen in monga-affected areas
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
Former president and Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad has demanded adequate food relief for the monga-affected people of Rangpur and their distribution through army.
At least 30 kgs of rice should be given against each VGF (vulnerable group feeding) card instead of present 10 kgs to save the people from starvation.
He said VGF rice is being stolen allegedly by local elected representatives, most of whom are ruling party members.
Addressing a party workers' rally on Saturday at his Palli Nibash residence in Rangpur, former president said at least three lakh people in Rangpur are affected by the monga (a near famine situation) due to joblessness for long three months.
But the government so far sanctioned 1,17,300 VGF cards in the district for distribution of 1,173 metric tonnes of rice (10 kg per card).

Meanwhile leaders of 11 Party at a press conference yesterday at its office demanded opening of gruel kitchens in the monga-affected areas.
Collegiate girl abducted in Kushtia
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
A college girl was abducted from Boalia village in Daulatpur on Friday.
Police and victim's family sources said, a gang of 10 led by Khokon of the same village stormed into the house of Kabir Uddin and kidnapped his daughter Rubina Khatun, 18, a student at Daulatpur People's Degree College.
A case was filed with Daulatpur police station, but police could not trace the victim till filing of this report at noon yesterday.

BDR-'smugglers' clash leaves 50 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
At least 50 people including women were injured in a clash between BDR and 'smugglers' at Bairagirchar village in Daulatpur upazila on Saturday morning.
On a tip-off a team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) went to the village to recover thousands of bottles of Phensidyl. 'Smugglers' and their family members jointly attacked the BDR team who retaliated and charged baton on the attackers, leaving at least 50 injured.
At one stage BDR arrested two 'smugglers' from the spot and recovered 359 bottles of Phensidyl. The arrested were Jamal Uddin and Abu Bakkar while the injured were identified as Pintu 20, Ruhul 40, Mina, 23, Babita, 25, Akhi, 24, and Arifa, 22. They were admitted to local health complex.
A case was filed with Daulatpur police station.

House-building materials for shelterless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat
Over 150 shelterless families of the Teesta-erosion affected Sadar, Aditmari and Kaligonj upazilas received house-building materials on Saturday.
Deputy Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Asadul Habib Dulu distributed the materials at a function organised by Kainiya, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) managed by the local Christian community.
The house-building materials include two bundles of CI sheets, bamboo and Tk 500 in cash.
Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ismail Hossain, Administrator of Lalmonirhat Christian Mission Tapan Kumar Barman were present at the function.

15 hurt in Gaibandha clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
Fifteen people were injured, seven of them critically, in a clash over cutting Kash straw in a shoal of Brahmaputra at Karibari under Gaibandha Sadar upazila on Saturday.
According to eyewitnesses, a gang of armed men allegedly led by Mukul, Shakha, Masud reached the shoal by boats and began cutting Kash straw of villagers.
A clash ensued when the villagers resisted the miscreants, who carried lethal weapons.
The miscreants fled away when people from nearby areas chased them.
The seven seriously injured people were admitted to Gaibandha hospital. They are ATM Shamsul Huda Bablu, 44, Shamsuzzoha Badal, 40, Khairul, 40, Abdul Khalegus, 35, Jaharul Islam, 44, Khokon, 38 and Khorashed, 40.
Local people said every year miscreants swoop on Kash field and takes away straw.
In shoals in the district, 'Kash' straw is grown as a cash crop like jute, rice and other agricultural crops.



An unusual and innovative move.. Alhaj Quazi Shah Mohammad Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad, MP from Comilla-3 constituency, has taken an initiative to supply rice, pulses, oil and sugar to his electorate at lesser prices during the Ramadan. The picture shows the lawmaker distributing the items at Muradnagar on Saturday.



A partial view of the crowd at the Raas Mela in Kuakata sea beach in Patuakhali. Thousands of Hindu devotees from home and abroad attend the Mela every year. The three-day festival ends yesterday.

