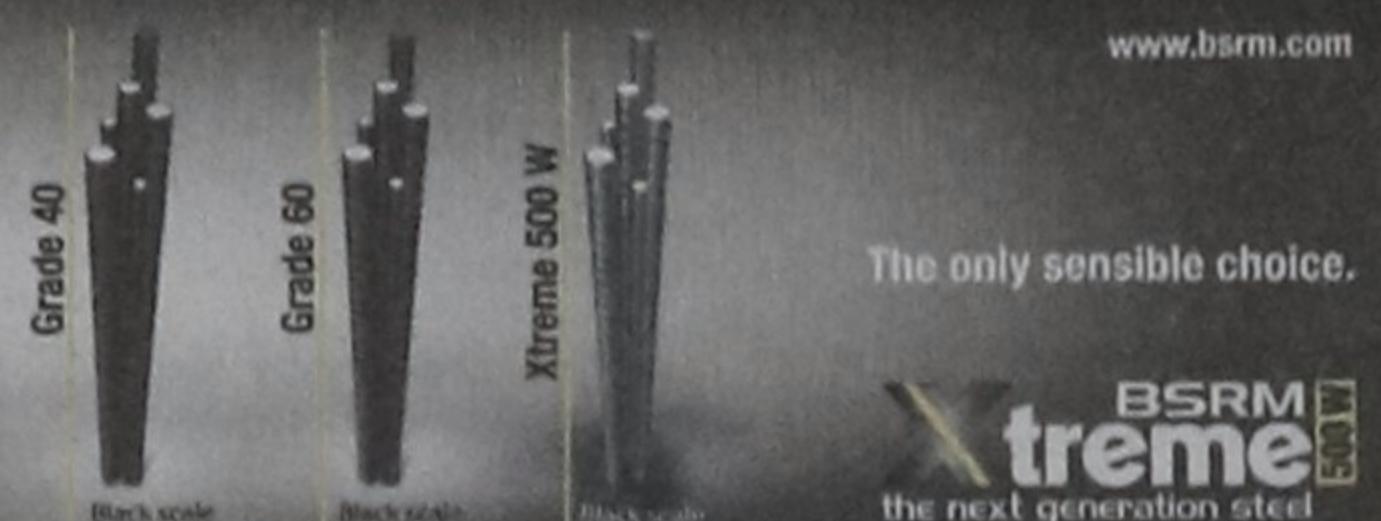


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VGF cards go to middle-class

AL, BNP men get most cards in Khagrachhari; many poor deprived

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Most of the vulnerable group feeding (VGF) cards in Khagrachhari municipality have been provided to Awami League and BNP men of middle class families depriving poor people under the VGF project.

The cards have been issued on political consideration though the party men are not eligible as per the terms and conditions of the project, sources said.

Even the VGF cards have been issued against the government service holders' wives, daughters or sons.

During the visit in the municipality area on Tuesday and yesterday, The Daily Star correspondent found anomalies of VGF card distribution and fraud in weights.

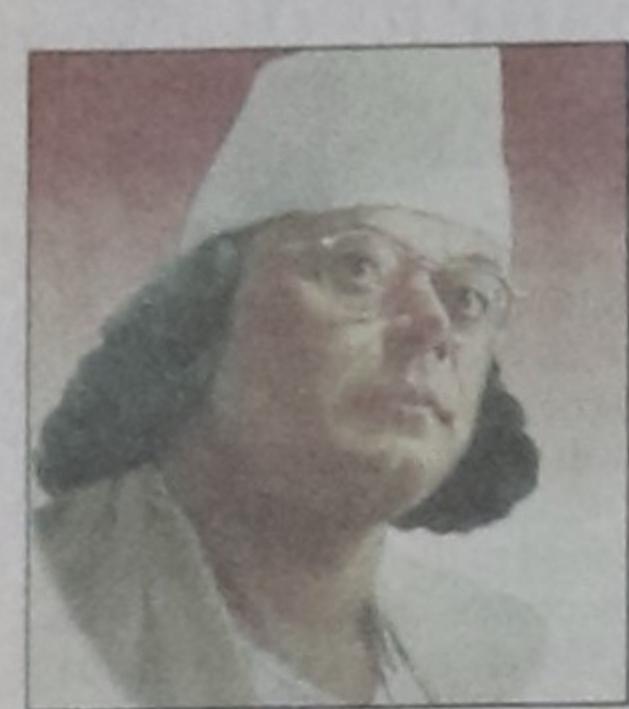
Administrative Officer of the municipality Nazrul Islam said they have issued 5,000 cards among the vulnerable groups. Of the VGF cards,

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A woman, left, receives rice at Khagrachhari Municipality Bhaban with her VGF card and the same woman is seen in the picture on the right where she is selling the rice to a shop just 100 feet away from the Bhaban as she does not need it.

PHOTO: STAR



Nazrul's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation today observes the 33rd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam across the country with due respect.

Nazrul, popularly known as Bidrohi Kabi (rebel poet),

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105 more cases to be dropped

Moudud's liquor case among 'politically-motivated' ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to withdraw 105 more 'politically-motivated' cases filed during the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government and the subsequent caretaker regime.

The cases to be dropped include a case against BNP leader Moudud Ahmed in connection with possession of alcoholic beverages.

Dropping of the case against Moudud will be the first instance of withdrawing a 'politically-motivated' case against any opposition leader, by the Awami League-led coalition government.

An inter-ministerial committee for reviewing 'politically-motivated' cases recommended the withdrawals, in its sixth meeting chaired by State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam.

The meeting reviewed 288 cases referred by relevant district

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3 criminals killed in 'shootouts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three alleged criminals including a leader of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBPC) were killed in separate shootouts with law enforcers early yesterday in the capital and Khulna.

The men killed in Dhaka were identified as Akhil, 30 and Nayon, 27 - both members of a gang called Gangchil Bahini which operates in Mirpur, Savar, Gabtali and Amin Bazar areas.

Both men are accused in different robbery and murder cases with Savar police stations, police said.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Savar police station AKM Nasir Ullah said that acting on a tip off a combined patrol team of Rab and police at around 4:00am went to at Jahid Brick Field area where the gang was said to be preparing for a strike. As the combined team approached the area, they came under gun attack from the gang. The law enforcers retaliated with bullets and after the gunfight, bodies of the two criminals were found in the spot.

Others managed to flee the spot. Police also recovered two pistols, a gun, eight rounds of bullets and four machetes from the spot.

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NBR sues Mamun for dodging tax

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday filed a case with a Dhaka court against detained businessman Gausuddin Al Mamun for dodging Tk 14 crore in income tax during the years from 2000 to 2007.

Deputy tax commissioner Ayesha Siddiqui of the NBR filed the case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court for committing the offences.

After the hearing, Judge ANM Bashir Ullah recorded statement of the complainant, took the charges into

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RMG workers get food ration today

Each worker to receive maximum 20kg rice a month

PORIMOL PALMA

Food rationing for the garment workers finally starts today after a long pondering of the factory owners on fixing the rate of rice amid price hike of essentials.

Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will inaugurate the programme launched by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at Tejgaon today.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) will inaugurate food rationing in Ashulia tomorrow.

BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshey said around 550 readymade garment factories have already sought rationed rice for workers. The total number of workers in these factories will be around four to five lakh.

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WHOSE FOOTPATH IS IT, ANYWAY?



Mother and child make their way over the construction material a developer of Siraj Tower left on the pavement of Shaheed Selina Parveen Road near Mouchak Market.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

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Online Poll

Do you think the ruling party's failure to control its activists led to the recent tender-snatching incident?

Yes (94.3%)
 No (5.0%)
 No Comments (0.7%)

Total votes: 1295

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there should be investigation into the incidents of extra-judicial punishments by beating and lashing people in the name of Fatwa?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Truck bomb kills 43 in Afghanistan

Taliban deny involvement in attack

AFP, Kandahar

Afghan officials picked up the pieces Wednesday from the nation's deadliest bombing in more than a year as results dribbled out from an election overshadowed by Taliban intimidation.

With the Taliban-led insurgency at record levels, the Islamist rebels were blamed for setting off a truck bomb in the heart of southern Kandahar city, killing up to 43 people and injuring 65, almost all civilians.

The force of the explosion shattered windows and brought down buildings, trapping people under the rubble as they were breaking their Ramadan fast, General Ghulam Ali Wahdat, the southern police zone commander, told AFP.

The bomb blew up near a Japanese construction company, a guest house used by foreigners and government offices. Kandahar is the province of President Hamid Karzai, who is narrowly leading the race for re-election after polls last week.

The president ordered the arrest of "those responsible as soon as possible" and pledged 25 million afghanis (503,425 US dollars) in emergency assistance to repair destroyed shops and homes, his office said.

The attack came around two hours after the Independent Election Commission in Kabul announced the first results from a hotly contested presidential election held last Thursday beneath a cloud of Taliban-induced fear.

5 injured as BCL factions clash at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Five Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists were injured, one of them critically, in a factional clash over previous enmity at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday.

Sources said the clash ensued when supporters of Mithu-led BCL faction chased and beat up Rubel, a third year student of law and justice department and also a supporter of Palash and Arif-led faction, over a trifling matter.

In a counter attack, Palash and Arif group stabbed Ashis, a third year student of physics department and also a supporter of Mithu group, in the ribs and left him seriously injured around 12:00pm.

Later, the groups, equipped with sharp weapons, iron rods, sticks and firearms, attacked each other, leaving Yeaheea, a third year student of law and justice department and Nahid and Sumon, both

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Aug	Sehri	Iftar
5	27		7-25
6	28	5-16	2-15
7	29	5-17	7-35

Prayer Timing

August 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-16	5-26
Zohr	1-45	
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-25	7-35
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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