



National Revolution and Solidarity Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will observe National Revolution and Solidarity Day today, marking the civil-military “uprising” that led to the release of then army chief Ziaur Rahman on this day in 1975. The party has chalked out elaborate programmes, including discussions, to commemorate the occasion. Amid political turmoil, soldiers and civilians on November 7, 1975, jointly freed the then chief of army staff from captivity in Dhaka cantonment, paving the way for him to assume power. To mark the day, the party flag will be hoisted at all BNP offices across the country this morning, while senior leaders will lay wreaths and offer

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CRADLED BY LILIES... A juvenile pheasant-tailed jacana rests gracefully among pink water lilies in a pond in Chattogram’s Annanya residential area. Native to tropical Asia, from India to Indonesia, this elegant bird thrives in shallow freshwater lakes and marshes carpeted with floating vegetation. Its long toes and claws let it stride effortlessly across lily pads while feeding on insects, molluscs, and aquatic plants. Known for its dramatic tail and striking plumage during breeding season, the pheasant-tailed jacana is the only migratory jacana species. Juveniles, like this one, wear softer browns and creams. Though listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, it faces threats from habitat loss and pollution.

PHOTO: KAMOL DAS

Fugitive crime boss ordered hit on Sarwar

Say police sources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Operating from overseas, fugitive crime boss Sazzad Ali, alias “Boro Sazzad,” continues to control Chattogram’s underworld. His armed gang collects extortion money, controls their turf, and eliminates rivals on his orders, police say. Sazzad once exerted power through two key deputies, Sarwar Hossain Babla and Akbar Ali, also known as “Dhakaiya Akbar”. About a decade ago, both broke away to form their own gangs. Over the last six months, they were shot dead in public, reportedly on Sazzad’s directives, police sources said. On Wednesday night, Sarwar was shot dead during an election campaign in the port city’s Panchlaish area. On May 23, Akbar was killed in Patenga. According to police sources, Sazzad’s followers often open fire if their demand for money is not met. More than five lakh residents of Chandgaon, Bayezid Bostami, Panchlaish, Hathazari, and Raozan police station areas live in fear. Since August 5 last year, Sazzad’s group has been linked to 10 murders, including two double homicides. The gang members kill rivals to keep control of their turf and also work as contract killers. Police sources said Sazzad, of Chalitetali in the Bayezid

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Lost ‘sovereignty’ in New York

Says Trump after Mamdani win

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday said the United States had lost “sovereignty” after New Yorkers elected leftist Zohran Mamdani as their next mayor. “We’ll take care of it,” Trump said without explaining what he meant, while claiming the country’s largest city would become communist. In a speech in Miami a day after Mamdani’s convincing victory, Trump added that the Florida city “will soon be the refuge for those fleeing communism in New York.” “The decision facing all Americans could not be more clear: We have a choice between communism



and common sense,” he said, also casting the choice as between an “economic nightmare” and an “economic miracle.” The speech marked the first anniversary of Trump’s election victory against Democrat Kamala Harris, reports AFP. “We rescued our economy, regained our liberty, and together we saved our country on that magnificent night 365 days ago,” Trump told his audience of supporters. Meanwhile, Mamdani on Wednesday announced an all-female team of co-chairs for his transition team, including former Federal Trade Commission chair Lina Khan, reports CNN online.

BNP pledge bound to implement July charter

Party urges others not raise new questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has asked the interim government to ensure the legal implementation of the issues agreed upon in the July charter. After long and detailed discussions at the National Consensus Commission, several issues with notes of dissent were agreed upon, and these were signed on October 17, said a press release signed by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir issued after a BNP Standing Committee meeting last night. It said the BNP, as a signatory to the document, endorses them and are pledge bound to legally implement them. It said the BNP strongly believes that all parties will stay united to implement the charter agreed upon during the consensus commission discussions and would, under no circumstances, raise new questions or create crises to delay the upcoming polls. The BNP would pay respect to the martyrs

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Displaced shelter in ‘unsafe’ Gaza buildings

Warns UN; Israel kills two Palestinians over ‘yellow line crossing’

AGENCIES

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) yesterday warned that most of its facilities in Gaza City have “sustained heavy damage” from two years of Israeli attacks. Many other facilities that Palestinians are taking shelter in across the Strip are also severely damaged and “unsafe”, according to UNRWA. “Returning families also face the risk of unexploded ordnance,” it warned. The Norwegian Refugee Council said only 100 aid trucks are entering Gaza daily through the UN system as the NGO and other humanitarian organisations are “effectively barred” from bringing in desperately needed assistance. Shaina Low, communication adviser for the council, said even basic tents are a rare commodity for hundreds of thousands of displaced people. “Many people do not even have tents,” she told Al Jazeera. “The people who have tents in Gaza are the ones who are lucky.” Meanwhile, Israeli army said yesterday it killed two Palestinians in the central Gaza Strip after they allegedly crossed the ‘yellow line’ into Israeli-held territory, despite a US-brokered ceasefire. The “yellow line” is the first withdrawal line outlined in the initial phase of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, which took effect on October 10. It separates areas

still under Israeli military control in the east from those where Palestinians are permitted to move in the west. The United States on Wednesday presented a draft UN Security Council resolution to partner nations aimed at bolstering President Donald Trump’s Gaza peace plan, including by greenlighting an international security force, Washington’s mission said. US Ambassador Mike Waltz shared the draft with the 10 elected members of the Security Council and several regional partners – Egypt, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Turkey – a spokesperson for the US mission said in a statement. No date has been set to vote on the draft, reports AFP.

- Israel declares Egypt border area closed military zone
- US circulates draft UN resolution for Trump’s Gaza plan
- Iran’s FM praises ‘accurate’ attacks on Israel during war

Stored with hope, lost in silence

Cold storages sell off 54,000 sacks of potatoes without farmers’ consent

MOSTAFA SHABUJ, back from Joypurhat

Jahidul Islam, a farmer from Chanpara area of Panchbibi upazila, had 100 sacks of seed potatoes stored at Sathi Himagar-3 cold storage. But when he arrived at the cold storage yesterday to take back his potatoes, he learnt that those had already been sold – without his knowledge. “How will I plant potatoes now? They are saying that they will give me compensation, but seed potatoes are more expensive now,” he said. Like Jahidul, many farmers are now facing a crisis of seed potatoes after three cold storage authorities in the Joypurhat district sold 54,000 sacks of potatoes belonging to farmers and local traders without their permission and before the expiry of their contracts. “How could they sell so many sacks in violation of the law?” asked Shishir Mondol from Panchbibi Upazila, who had stored 1,200 sacks in the cold storage but found only 143 sacks. Shamsul Haque, manager of Sathi Himagar, admitted to selling the potatoes of farmers and local traders. “This year, an excess of 26,000 sacks beyond our capacity was forcefully stored by farmers. Because of this, some potatoes started to rot. Therefore, we told the farmers’ agents to withdraw their potatoes, but they did not. Therefore, we sold around 20,000 sacks of potatoes.” Farmers coming to collect their potatoes now are being given money based on the current market price. “Those claiming seed potatoes are being given some from our own limited stock,” he said.

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Scientists find world’s largest spider web

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Researchers have discovered what could be the world’s largest known spider’s web, an arachnid “megacity” teeming with tens of thousands of the insects in a cave on the Albania-Greece border. The newly discovered web is a massive structure spanning 100 square metres and home to a colony of 69,000 domestic house spiders, also known as the barn funnel weaver or Tegenaria domestica, and 42,000 Prinerigone vagans, a species of sheet weaver spiders. Social spiders are known to make communal webs that may host thousands of the insects, but finding giant web structures inhabited by otherwise solitary species is already quite rare. But never before had researchers documented a cooperative web woven by multiple individuals of different spider species. Explorers first came across the giant web during an underground wildlife survey in 2022.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Displaced Palestinians run to fill containers with water in Gaza City yesterday, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

TRUMP’S TARIFFS US top court casts doubt on its legality

REUTERS, Washington

US Supreme Court justices raised doubts yesterday over the legality of President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariffs in a case with implications for the global economy that marks a major test of Trump’s powers. Conservative and liberal justices alike sharply questioned the lawyer representing Trump’s administration about whether a 1977 law meant for use during national emergencies gave Trump the power he claimed to impose tariffs or whether the Republican president had intruded on the powers of Congress. But some of the conservative justices also stressed the inherent authority of presidents in dealing with foreign countries, suggesting the court could be sharply divided in the outcome of the case. The court has a 6-3 conservative majority.

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