### Indigenous girl 'raped' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 13-year-old Tripura girl was allegedly raped by two men in Chittagong's Mirsarai upazila on Thursday.

The accused are Shimul Tripura, 19, and Md Mannan, 40.

Locals said Shimul was a contractor while Mannan a sub-contractor at a local forestry project.

Jahedul Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mirsarai Police Station, said the incident took place at Luidda Dhala Pahar near Khaiyachara waterfall around 1:30pm.

The victim's father filed a case with the police station yesterday morning.

According to the case statement, the victim went to the project site where the duo raped her. Police arrested Shimul around

7:30pm yesterday, but Mannan was on the run. The girl was sent to One Stop

Crisis Centre at Chittagong Medical College Hospital for medical examination.

#### Dhaka wants

FROM PAGE 16 Bangladesh made the request to China yesterday, the concluding day of the two-day 11th Bangladesh-China Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) in Beijing. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque and Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kong Xuanyou led their respective sides at the meeting.

The vice minister reiterated his country's commitment to play a positive and constructive role in resolving the Rohingya crisis and appreciated Bangladesh's staunch political will to address the crisis.

Shahidul noted that the crisis originated in a conflict between the Myanmar government and its own people.

A high-powered Myanmar delegation visited Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar on October 31 in an effort to start the repatriation of over 700,000 Rohingyas who crossed into Bangladesh since August 25 last year escaping an army crackdown.

However, the United Nations and its refugee agency UNHCR have repeatedly said that conditions in Rakhine were "not yet

conducive for returns". Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi yesterday told the Bangladesh foreign secretary that his country would continue supporting Bangladesh's various economic development and infrastructure projects. He gave the assurance during a meeting with Shahidul in

Beijing. The Bangladesh foreign ministry in a press release yesterday said the Foreign Office Consultation reviewed various bilateral, global, regional and sub-regional issues of mutual interests, and some new and emerging issues also came up for

The meeting focused on the progress of implementing the agreements reached during the Bangladesh visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping in October 2016 and China visit by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in June

discussion.

2014. The Chinese vice minister stated that Bangladesh was an important country for his country's Belt and

Road Initiative. The foreign secretary sought continued Chinese support for implementing the Vision 2021 and

the Vision 2041 of Bangladesh.

"Consensus was reached at the Foreign Office Consultation to expedite the approval procedure for Chinese loans for speedy implementation of infrastructure projects in Bangladesh," he added.



Jatiya Oikyafront leaders hold their hands aloft at a rally organised by the alliance and held at the Madrasa Maidan in Rajshahi yesterday.

# Rajshahi 'de-linked' as Oikyafront holds rally

FROM PAGE 1

Union over harassment of its workers.

But Rajshahi workers' union refuted the claim and said it had no conflict or issues with Natore transport workers in recent months.

Top leaders of both the organisations have ties with the ruling Awami League. Seeking anonymity, a bus owner in

they were asked not to rent their buses to rally-goers. "If anyone wants to hire a bus for a wedding ceremony, I can rent him the

Rajshahi told this correspondent that

vehicle. But I cannot do so if he wishes to hire it for carrying people to the rally," said the bus owner. Several transport owners in Rajshahi said they persuaded transport

workers to withdraw the strike around noon yesterday, but many others kept their vehicles off the road. "A number of bus owners refrained from operating their vehicles fearing violence, but some vehicles plied," said Manjur Rahman, general secretary

of Rajshahi Transport Owners' Association. Failing to get any bus, many BNP men hired trucks, microbuses and cars, while some hired three-wheelers to

stopped at many points outside the city.

join the rally.

FROM PAGE 16

background.

nearby.

said of the attacker.

Many of them alleged that police forced them to return home from the entry points to the city at Belpukur, Katakhali, Mohonpur, Kasiadanga,

Video posted to Twitter and broad-

cast on television showed the man

swinging a knife at two police offi-

cers, while his truck burned in the

One of the officers shot the man

and he collapsed to the ground

clutching his chest, the video

showed. Other footage showed two

stab victims lying on the ground

The attacker, who police said was

31, died in hospital, as did one of the

victims, Ashton said. "From what we

know of that individual, we are treat-

ing this as a terrorism incident," he

Asked about what the attacker

Jhalmalia, Kesharhat and Kamarpara. Police had set up checkpoints at

various points on the highways in Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj. Scores of BNP men said police checked documents of their vehicles and interrogated them. When the law

enforcers found out that they were heading for the rally, they asked the activists to return home. However, Masudur Rahman Bhuiyan, additional deputy inspector general of police in Rajshahi, refuted

rally-goers. "They held the rally peacefully. Police were deployed to ensure security," he told this newspaper last night.

the claims that police obstructed the

He further said that if police had conducted searches, they did it for safety reasons, not to harass anyone.

Visiting Kasiadanga, Nawdapara and Binodpur points, this correspondent found many people stranded at the bus stops there as they could not find any bus to go to other districts.

Yesterday's rally began at Hoseniganj Madrasa Maidan at 3:00pm with Oikyafront's Rajshahi Coordinator Mizanur Rahman Minu in the chair.

When central leaders of the Their vehicles, however, were Oikyafront reached there around 3:30pm, local leaders and activists of the combine had already filled a large portion of the venue with a capacity of over one lakh people.

Dr Kamal Hossain, one of the top leaders of the alliance, could not

attend the rally for illness, but he gave a speech at the rally over the phone from the capital.

The eminent jurist apologised for

his inability to join the rally. "The election schedule was announced hurriedly. This is nothing but an attempt to deprive people of

their right to vote. We think it goes against the constitution and democracy," Dr Kamal said. If the government wants to hold the election without participation of all parties, it will be a step to deprive the

be an anti-people and anti-liberation activity, he noted. "We wanted an election that would be acceptable to all. But ignoring our demands, the Election Commission announced the schedule to deceive

people of their right to vote, and it will

people," said Dr Kamal, also president of the Gono Forum. BNP Secretary General Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they would not participate in any election unless their

seven-point demand is met. "Talks will not yield any results without Khaleda Zia's release, the resignation of the present government and dissolution of parliament."

The government is ruling the country by force and is trying to suppress people's voice by filing false cases against them, he alleged.

"But all the attempts to suppress people have failed, and the huge presence of people at this rally is the proof of that."

Defying police obstructions on the

road, people joined the rally for the sake of democracy and for freeing Khaleda, mentioned Fakhrul. Accusing the government of "plot-

ting to slowly kill Khaleda in prison"

he said the BNP chief was taken to jail from the hospital though she was still No election schedule will work unless Khaleda is released and a level

playing field is created for all parties, he added Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President ASM Abdur Rob said they would not allow the government to

are met. "I am ready to go to jail and even to die ... but we will materialise our demands. Otherwise, there will be no election."

hold the election unless their demands

Manna said that if the EC had fixed January 23 as the election day, there would have been no problem.

Kader Siddique said, "Bangladesh means Khaleda Zia and there will be no election without her."

Liberal Democratic Party leader Col (retd) Oli Ahmed said people pay for the salaries of the government servants, but those servants are oppressing people under the misrule of the present government.

Gono Forum leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu said the prime minister had promised that they would not face any obstruction in holding programmes, but police intercepted the rally-goers on the way to the

### Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 16

ries, the OC added.

agencies and civil society groups said in a statement that referred to the push as "dangerous."

PBCP man killed

A suspected leader of outlawed Purba

Banglar Communist Party's Lal Pataka

faction was killed in a "gunfight" with

detectives at Rajbari Sadar upazila in

The deceased was identified as

Ali was a regional commander of

Acting on a tip off, a team raided

Mohammad Ali Sheikh, 35, son of

Ohab Ali Sheikh of Dowialganj area in

Lal Pataka, said Swapan Kumar

Kuthipakurai Bazar area where out-

laws were holding a secret meeting

around 1:45am, said Kamal Hossain

Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Detective

enforces, the outlaws opened fire on

them, prompting the detectives to

retaliate. As the criminals retreated,

Ali, who was wanted in four cases, was

He was declared dead at Rajbari

The police recovered two firearms

and five cartridges from the spot. Two

policemen also sustained minor inju-

found unconscious at the scene.

General Hospital around 2:30am.

Sensing the presence of law

in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

the early hours of yesterday.

Majumder of Sadar police.

Branch of Rajbari police.

the upazila.

with cops

"They fled to Bangladesh to seek safety and they are very grateful to the Government of Bangladesh for giving them a safe haven."

Oxfam, World Vision and Save the Children were among the groups working in Myanmar and Bangladesh that signed the statement.

They said refugees fear living in

enclosed settlements like the one in central Rakhine state, where more than 120,000 Rohingyas have been confined to camps for six years since inter-communal violence erupted in the region in 2012. Myint Khaing, the Maungdaw

township administrator in northern Rakhine, told AFP that November 15 is the estimated repatriation start date and that the plan is to receive more than 2,200 people in total at a rate of 150 per day.

But he seemed unsure if it would go ahead.

"We can confirm only on the 15th whether the people from our given list are coming or not," he said.

Northern Rakhine has been largely sealed off since the crackdown except for tightly organised government trips for media and senior visiting diplomats.

The UN has been granted access to the area to assess conditions on the ground but the approvals have been slow and the amount of territory accessible has been limited.

Authorities in Bangladesh worry that Rohingya may once again risk travelling to other parts of Southeast Asia by boat, a route previously popular with those seeking economic opportunities outside the grim

camps. This week Bangladesh's coast guard rescued 33 Rohingyas and detained six alleged human traffickers from a fishing trawler headed for

Malaysia in the Bay of Bengal.

## No let-up

FROM PAGE 1

BNP-Jamaat men, from six upazilas on the similar charges.

At least seven BNP activists were detained in Khulna, claimed Shafiqul Alom Mona, president of Khulna BNP.

However, Abdur Rashid, officerin-charge (watch) of Special Branch, told The Daily Star that police arrested 35 people in sabotage and other cases filed with different police stations of the district. "Police didn't arrest them seeing their political identities."

The law enforcers arrested two Jamaat activists in Gaibandha and nine BNP-Jamaat men in Dinajpur.

On Thursday, the BNP alleged that more than 2,200 of its leaders and activists were held across the country in just three days after Tuesday's rally of the Jatiya Oikyafront, an alliance of the BNP and some other political parties.

In Dhaka, law enforcers picked up at least 372 people before and after the Oikyafront rally in the city's The alliance leaders criticised the EC | Suhrawardy Udyan. They were arrested on different charges, including attacking police with brick chips, assembling illegally, creating obstacles to police duties, creating anarchy and attempted murder. Many of them were on remand after being produced before different Dhaka courts.

The police action has triggered panic among the BNP activists as they have already been accused in

different "political cases". Our correspondents in Cumilla, Jhenidah, Khulna and Dinajpur contrib-

#### had been planning, Ashton referred to the gas cylinders in the car and said: "You could make certain

assumptions from that."

Victoria police declined to comment when contacted about Islamic State's claim. The militant group also claimed responsibility for a

Somali man was killed by police after taking a woman hostage.

Terror attack hits Melbourne street

Ashton said there was no longer a threat to the public, but that security would be boosted at horse races and Remembrance Day memorials over the weekend.

NO WARNING

Police did not identify the attacker but Ashton said the man was known to them and intelligence authorities because of family associations.

All of the victims were men, Ashton said. He declined to release their names because police were still in the process of contacting families.

Police later said the two wounded men were aged 26 and 58.

Asked if the attacker had recently travelled to Syria he said: "That is something we might be able to talk more about tomorrow."

A staunch US ally, Australia has ons. been on alert for such violence after a Sydney cafe siege in 2014, and its

deadly siege in the city in 2017 when a intelligence agencies have stepped up scrutiny, though there was no warning of the latest attack. Authorities say Australia's vigi-

> lance has helped to foil at least a dozen plots, including a plan to attack downtown Melbourne at Christmas in 2016. Prime Minister Scott Morrison

said in a statement released on Twitter: "Australia will never be intimidated by these appalling attacks."

#### TEN MINUTES OF CHAOS Video posted to social media

showed chaotic scenes as bystanders scattered while the attacker fought with police and his victims lay bleeding on the footpath.

One man charged at the tall attacker, who was wearing a long black shirt, with a shopping trolley just before police drew their weap-

A witness, Markel Villasin, told Australian Broadcasting Sydney.

yelling out 'just shoot him, just shoot him'." They did. Victorian Premier Daniel

Corporation radio: "Bystanders were

Andrews said the attack was "an evil, terrifying thing that's happened in our city". Warning text messages were sent after the attack and police sealed off the downtown area, usually busy

with shoppers and diners. Some

cordons were lifted later, though the

immediate crime scene would be sealed until today, police said. Memories remain fresh of a fatal but not terror-related attack on the same street last year, in which a man drove his car at pedestrians at high speed, killing six people and wounding about 30. That prompted the city to install hundreds of security bollards.

The driver is on trial. In December 2014, two hostages were killed during a 17-hour siege by a "lone wolf" gunman, inspired by Islamic State militants, in a cafe in

# AL on polls trail, BNP on streets

FROM PAGE 1 Some 20 leaders and activists were

present with him at the time. Rizvi alleged that the Election Commission announced the schedule for the parliamentary polls ignoring opinions of all political parties.

"The sudden announcement of the election schedule before resolving the political problems is a clear indication that a one-sided election is going to be held," he said.

the election schedule to be announced after a level playing field is ensured. The commission has enough time left for holding the election and it could have deferred the announcement of schedule with- Abdullah.

out flouting the law." After the briefing, the BNP head- Gopalganj-3 (Tungipara-Kotalipara).

party leaders and activists except for ency for which the other form was Rizvi left.

Rizvi along with a few office bearers were then seen sitting idle inside the office while a good number of law enforcers were positioned out-

with activities related to the Rajshahi rally of Jatiya Oikyafront, an alliance of BNP and some other parties.

In Dhanmondi, AL General "All the opposition parties wanted Secretary Obaidul Quader inaugurated the sale of nomination papers around 10:00am by purchasing two forms for AL chief Sheikh Hasina.

Later, he handed over the forms to AL Religious Affairs Secretary Sheikh

One of Hasina's forms was for the first day at Tk 30,000 each. quarters wore a deserted look as the Quader said the name of the constitu-

collected will be disclosed later.

He bought another form for Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury for Rangpur-6 and handed over it to Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah. AL Joint Secretary Mahbub Ul Alam

The party yesterday remained busy Hanif bought a form for Quader for but failed get a form. Noakhali-5. In his speech on the occasion,

Quader said the sale of nomination forms started with huge enthusiasm of the party supporters and activists. Responding to a query, he said the

last date of selling nomination forms will be fixed after a meeting of AL Parliamentary Board to be held with Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Around 1,700 forms were sold on contesting the polls.

"I came to the office at noon but

reach the booth because of the huge Oikyafront rally in Rajshahi but did crowd," said Hafizur Rahman, who came to buy nomination form for programme. Mymensingh-3.

his supporters waited for several hours a date. Talking to The Daily Star around 6:00pm, he said he would come again

tomorrow (today).

election schedule on Thursday, the ruling Awami League-led alliance started election related activities.

Jatiya Oikyafront were holding meet-The BNP is yet to announce publicly

The BNP-led 20-party combine and ings to reach a final decision about November 19.

whether it would participate in the 22 while the last date for withdrawing failed to buy a form as I could not election. Its leaders joined yesterday's candidature is November 29.

not announce any fresh agitation The Oikyafront announced a plan Md Hemayet, who came to collect to march towards the Election form for Comilla-2, said he along with Commission but did not come up with

for announcing the schedule hastily and demanded rescheduling it. They said election schedule cannot be Soon after the announcement of the accepted without the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

> will be held on December 23. According to the schedule, the last date for filing nomination papers is The returning officers will scrutinise

The 11th parliamentary election

the nomination papers on November uted to this report.