

## Will support 'Happy, Prosperous Nepal': president

UNB, Kathmandu

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said Bangladesh will provide all sorts of assistance to Nepal to implement its "Happy, Prosperous Nepal" programme.

The president said this while attending a meeting at a Kathmandu hotel with former prime minister of Nepal and co-chair of Nepal Communist Party Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

He added that Bangladesh and Nepal hold common opinions on different international issues and support each other. The relationship will remain stable in the future, he hoped.

Dahal said the existing relationship between the two countries is excellent. There are ample opportunities to further develop this bilateral link.

Hamid also emphasised increasing connectivity between the countries through road, rail and sky, said President's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin.

The president also said Bangladesh is a big market of 170 million people and it wants to help Nepal bring trade balance as the bilateral trade has a potential to grow through duty-free access.

He said both countries are facing the adverse effects of climate change but neither of them is responsible for that. The countries can work together to address the issue and play a vital role in various international forums.

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President Abdul Hamid at a meeting with his Nepali counterpart, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, at her residence in Kathmandu yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## BREAK-IN AT EMINENT ARTIST'S HOUSE

# Police still in the dark after nearly a month

STAR REPORT

After 27 days since a break-in at the home-slash-studio of eminent Japan-based Bangladeshi artist Dr Kazi Ghiyasuddin in Savar, police has not yet been able to identify or arrest any of the culprits.

"I suspect they came to either assault me or to scare me," Kazi Ghiyasuddin, one of the most renowned visual artists of the country, told The Daily Star earlier this week.

The artist, who is also a CIP (commercially important person), was in Japan when the incident took place. On hearing about the burglary, he came to Dhaka on October 30 and has been pressuring his case with the police.

He usually stays six months of the year in Japan, and the rest he devotes wholly to painting at the Savar studio.

Ghiyasuddin was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays by the emperor of Japan in 2018 for his contributions in promoting cultural exchange through development of modern art in Japan and Bangladesh.

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## Rab rescues abducted girl from Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued a 10-year-old girl from Dakshin Surma upazila in Sylhet on Tuesday night, who was kidnapped from Gazipur on October 31 and raped by the abductors.

Rab also arrested Kader Ali (20) of Nischintapur village in Dakshin Surma upazila in connection with the abduction and rape.

At a press conference yesterday afternoon, Maj Shawkatul Monayem, deputy commander of Rab-9, said, "The victim was shopping with her grandmother at Chandura Chowrasta of Gazipur on October 31 when they were invited by two youths to have snacks at a restaurant. When the girl and her granddaughter lost consciousness after eating the food, the youths kidnapped her."

"Later, the abductors asked for Tk 2 lakh ransom and the grandmother filed a case with Bason Police Station in Gazipur on November 9," the deputy commander said.

Being informed, a team led by Additional SP Satyajit Kumar Ghosh rescued the victim from Nischintapur area of Dakshin Surma upazila.

She was sent to one-stop crisis centre of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for treatment, Maj Shawkatul said.

## 5 Sust admission seekers detained for cheating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Five admission seekers and a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) were detained by the university authority on Tuesday for cheating during the admission process.

The admission seekers are: Sakidul Islam Shakil, Abir Morshed, Arif Khan Rafi, Zahid Hasan Tamim, Riadul Jannat Riyad. Riadul is from Rangpur and the rest from Bogura.

The detained Sust student is Samiul Islam Soumik, of Food Engineering and Tea Technology department.

Professor Zahir Uddin Ahmed, proctor of the university, said, "They spent Tk 5 to 7 lakh each to get enrolled in the university through unfair means."

He said, "We suspected them after the admission test, as they all answered the same question paper set (set-75) by overwriting on the original answer sheet. Moreover, they scored almost the same."

"When they arrived for admission, we detained them and questioned them. Three of them admitted to using unfair means in the test," he said.

The Sust admission test was held on October 26 at different centres in Sylhet city and that day, five admission seekers were arrested for cheating during the exam, using improvised digital devices.

Of them, four were from Bogura and one from Mymensingh.

Proctor Zahir Uddin suspects that all the detainees were part of a bigger syndicate based in Bogura.

Asked how the question set was leaked, the proctor said it is under investigation. He also said Sust student Samiul Islam is suspected to be involved with the syndicate.

Ishfaqul Haque, registrar of the university, said, "A case has been filed with Jalalabad Police Station in this regard and the detainees have been handed over to the police, who will act as per the law."

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## Two more EC staffers held in NID forgery case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Officials of Counter Terrorism (CT) unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police yesterday arrested two more staff members of the Election Commission, in a case filed over National Identity (NID) scam involving Rohingyas.

The arrestees are Md Anwar Hossain, 45, of Noakhali and Abul Khair Bhuiyan, 45, of Cumilla, said police.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Sarwar Jahan placed the duo on a seven-day remand each, after they were produced before it, said Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed, assistant commissioner (prosecution) of Ctg.

Anwar is the office assistant of Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila election office while Abul Khair is the office assistant of Bandar Thana office. They were arrested from their port city residences.

So far, 10 persons including eight EC staffers have been arrested in the case, filed with Kotwali Police Station on September 17.

Investigation Officer of the case Inspector Rajesh Barua of CT unit said, "Their names

## AL factional clash leaves one dead

RU CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and two were injured in a clash between two groups of Awami League in Rajshahi yesterday, allegedly over tender-related issues.

Sanwar Hossain Russel died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital around 6pm, said Golam Mostofa, OC of Chandrima Police Station. The injured were being treated there.

Quoting witnesses, OC Mostofa said the groups -- one led by Anwar Hossain Raja and another by Sujan -- locked into a scuffle near Rajshahi Rail Bhaban around 2:30pm.

Raja, secretary of Goalait Thana unit of AL and Sujan -- a party activist, could not be reached for comments.

"We heard the clash took place over tender-related issues. We're looking into it," added the OC.

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## Three children among four killed in Faridpur road crash

Four die in other accidents

STAR REPORT

Four family members, including three children, were killed and two injured after a pick-up van hit the battery-run rickshaw van carrying them at Baghat Bazar area in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur around 5:15am, said police, quoting locals.

The deceased are Syed Hossain, 20, and Tarekur Rahman, 35. The accident occurred after the driver lost control over the vehicle.

On information, police recovered the bodies from the ditch. The bodies and truck were then taken to Mainamati Highway Police Station and were being kept there.

In a separate accident in the district, Assistant Sub-inspector Likon Barua of Kachua Police Station was killed on the spot after a truck hit his motorbike at Paduabazar area in Sadar South upazila around 7:15pm, said police, quoting locals.

Locals stopped the truck but its driver managed to flee.

In Satkhira, Amit Debnath, 52, was killed after a collision between a three-wheeler and a motorbike at Patkelghata Bazar area around 10am, said police.

The accident left Amit critically injured. He was taken to Satkhira Sadar Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, they added.

## No war criminals at Victory Day events: minister

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said war criminals and people with controversial roles in Liberation War will not be allowed to attend Victory Day programmes in the country.

"Directives have been given to local administration to take necessary steps in this regard," he said while talking to reporters after a meeting on law and order situation at the Secretariat.

He said all government and private organisations should follow rules while hoisting the national flag.

The minister urged all to refrain from decorating any establishment with lights on December 14 to pay tribute to the martyred intellectuals.

## Three arrested over gang-rape of teen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested three youths on charge of raping a 16-year-old girl from a local arbitration organised by a union parishad chairman on Tuesday night in Patiya upazila of Chattogram.

The incident came to light after Kolgaon union parishad chairman Ahmed Nur arranged the meeting on his Bagan Bari premises to "mediate" the rape incident, said law enforcers.

The arrestees are Erfan, 26; Mansur, 19; and Suman, 27.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Borhan Uddin of Patiya Police Station said seven youths including the three arrestees intercepted an auto-rickshaw carrying the victim and the two teenage boys in the Kalarpole area around midnight on Monday, while they were returning home.

The culprits forcibly picked up the girl from the auto-rickshaw, beat up the two teenagers and the driver. They took her to a nearby jungle and raped her, added the OC.

After the incident, the victim's family informed the chairman, and he told the victim's family to come to his house for arbitration with the accused, added Borhan Uddin.

The OC said the victim's family followed the directives of the chairman and attended the meeting, where the accused were also present.

On information, police conducted a drive there and arrested the three. They also took the

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A vendor attempts to salvage his belongings after Dhaka South City Corporation evicted makeshift shops in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON