

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

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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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 pressing 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.

“After returning, I found several things missing including a medal awarded by the emperor of Japan, and another awarded by the Bangladesh Bank,” Ghiyasuddin told this newspaper.

Narrating the incident that took place on October 17 night, security guard of the house Sona Mia said a group of seven men, equipped with machetes, wrenches and crowbars entered the compound around 2:30am, jumping over the boundary wall.

“Three of them grabbed me, blindfolded me and tied my hands from behind,” he said, adding he was in front of the entrance to the house on City Lane in Savar’s Anandapur.

“They said they would not kill me if I cooperated, and asked me repeatedly whether anyone was inside the house,” the 66-year-old guard from a private security company said.

The criminals broke open the main door, while one held a machete to his throat, he added.

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150 sued over Jubo League infighting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police early yesterday filed a case against 150 unknown persons in connection with a clash between two groups of Jubo League during a rally in port city’s Laldighi area on Tuesday.

No one was arrested till filing of this report in the evening.

Sub-inspector Sanjoy Pal of Kotwali Police Station filed the case against the accused, on charges of attacking law enforcers, impeding them from discharging duties and vandalism, said Mohammed Mohsin, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Tuesday’s rally was organised to celebrate Jubo League’s founding anniversary. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel attended the event as chief guest, said Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, an executive member of Chattogram city unit of Jubo League.

The clash erupted when a procession entered the venue around 4:30pm, said witnesses. Some started hurling chairs at them and they retaliated, creating panic among people.

Law enforcers later brought the situation under control.

The chief guest was on the stage at the time. Later, Nowfel, a lawmaker from Chattogram-9 (Kotwali) constituency, left the venue without delivering his speech, said Farid Mahmud, joint convener of the port city unit of Jubo League.

Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, who was supposed to attend the rally as a special guest, did not join it following the incident, Farid claimed.

Just one bad deed can overshadow dev: Quader

Says AL doesn't need change that derails it from ideology

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League (AL) general secretary and minister for Road Communications and Bridges Obaidul Quader yesterday in Chattogram said the party does not need “polluted blood” and it will have to removed from the party.

He was addressing a meeting organised by the north and south city units of AL, to commemorate the late Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, former presidium member of AL, at a community centre in the port city.

One of the organisers of Liberation War, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, also the father of Land Affairs Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, died on November 4, 2012.

While addressing the event as chief guest, Quader said the party would not take the responsibility of the misdeeds of a small number of “bad people” in it.

“A lot of development work has been underway in Chattogram as well as throughout the country, but the achievement

of development can be overshadowed by a single bad deed,” he said.

“Change in attitude and work is necessary to keep pace with the modern time but we do not want change that will derail AL from its ideology,” said Quader.

“AL is a mass people-oriented party, a trait that will have to remain unchanged,” he said.

Remembering late AL leader Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, Quader said Babu never used politics for making money.

Babu loved people and so he could be a leader, he said.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said Babu never betrayed the politics of AL, Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina.

Deputy minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel; Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, and Land Affairs Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed also spoke, among others, with AL Chattogram south district unit president Moslem Uddin Ahmed in the chair.

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 Kaheer 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 Satyazit 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.

Ishfaqueel 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.”



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

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 CMP.

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

came to light in the confessional statements of three arrested EC staffers -- Joynal, Mostafa Faruk and Shah Nur Mia.”

Joynal used to be office assistant at Chattogram EC office, Faruk technical expert while Shah Nur technical expert of EC Headquarters, said investigators. They gave confessional statements before a court under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Joynal is the ringleader of a NID forgery gang while Shah Nur allegedly ran another group from Dhaka, said police.

In the confessional statements, the accused mentioned names of several top election officials and their associates who knew about the forgery, and disclosed how it had been committed in a well-organised manner, said investigators.

On September 15, Anti-Corruption Commission found that using official devices, several syndicates provided Bangladeshi NID to Rohingyas through forgery in exchange of huge amount of money, using the official computers.

ACC said several laptops of EC, directly connected to NID server, were stolen and

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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 Sujjan -- locked into a scuffle near Rajshahi Rail Bhaban around 2:30pm.

Raja, secretary of Goalia thana unit of AL, and Sujjan -- 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.

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 6pm on Tuesday, said police, quoting locals.

The deceased are Dipali Paul (60) and her grandchildren Joy Paul (10), Jhinuk Paul (5) and Koushik Paul (12).

After the collision, the rickshaw-van overturned, killing Dipali and Joy on the spot. The other four were injured.

Jinuk died on the way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital that night and Koushik died on early Wednesday while being taken to Dhaka for better treatment. The other two were being treated in Dhaka.

After the accident, locals blocked the highway for half an hour. Police later brought the situation under control. The pick-up van driver fled the scene with the vehicle, they added.

Meanwhile, at least four people were killed in other accidents in two districts yesterday, our correspondents and a news agency report.

In Cumilla, two people died after a hilsa-laden truck fell into a roadside ditch at Korpai Post Office area in Burichang upazila 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.