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Ex-president Abdul Hamid returns home

STAR REPORT

After his departure caused an uproar a month ago, former President Abdul Hamid has returned to the country following medical treatment in Bangkok.

The former Awami League lawmaker and two-time president arrived at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at around 1:30am Monday on a Thai Airways flight (TG 339), said official sources.

He was brought down from the aircraft in a wheelchair.

According to airport sources, Hamid proceeded to the immigration counter at 1:45am and left the airport around 3:00am.

On May 8, Hamid departed on Thai Airways flight TG-340, triggering widespread criticism and raising questions about how a person accused in a July uprising-related case was able to leave the country.

"The former president went to Thailand for medical treatment. We allowed it as there is no court restriction or any embargo by any agency against him," an HISA source told The Daily Star then.

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A Palestinian girl mourns over the body of one of three paramedics killed by Israeli bombardment in the Tuffah neighbourhood, during a funeral at the Sheikh Radwan Clinic in Gaza City yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

10 drown in two days

Bodies of father, son among 6 recovered from Cox's Bazar beach

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people, including two young children, drowned in separate incidents in the last two days.

In Subarnachar, Noakhali, three-year-old Faria Akhter and her five-year-old cousin Mohammad Tahasin drowned in a pond next to their grandparents' house in Char Jubili area on Monday, said Shaheen Mia, officer-in-charge of Charjabbar Police Station.

Locals said the children, who went to the village to spend the Eid vacation with their grandparents, were playing near the water when they accidentally fell in.

Villagers recovered their bodies around 5:30pm and a local doctor declared them dead soon afterwards.

In Moulvibazar's Juri upazila, Babul Ahmed Babu, 60, and his daughter Halima Mohammad, 18, drowned in a pond in Hamidpur village on Monday.

Babul, a brick kiln owner from Dhaka, travelled to his ancestral

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Islamist group drives tourists away in Sylhet

Screening of 'Taandob' stopped in Tangail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Islamist groups disrupted Eid celebrations in Sylhet and Tangail in separate incidents over allegations of promoting "immorality" and "obscenity".

In Sylhet, people visiting the Utmachhara tourist spot in Companiganj on Sunday (the first day of Eid) were asked to leave by members of the Companiganj Jubo Jamiat, the youth wing of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Bangladesh.

In a video that has since gone viral, the group members are heard telling visitors to leave the area and not return, claiming that local Islamic scholars and residents had agreed to bar tourism on account of "immoral activities, including drinking and indecent behaviour".

The incident occurred at Charar Bazar in Uttar Ranikhai union, a scenic location featuring large riverbed stones that typically attract many visitors from within and outside the district, especially during holidays.

"In the name of tourism, people are harming our environment and negatively influencing our youth," said Mufti Ruhul Amin Siraji, vice-president of the Companiganj Jubo Jamiat.

He admitted to being part of the

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29 dead, 153 hurt in road crashes since June 5

STAR REPORT

At least 29 people were killed and 153 others injured in road crashes in 16 districts since June 5.

In Bagerhat, a man died and eight others were injured after a bus crashed into a tree in Fakirhat early yesterday.

The man, aged approximately 35, died at the scene, said Sheikh Nuruzzaman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mollahat Highway Police Station, adding that his identity had not been confirmed yet.

The driver and seven other passengers were injured, he added.

In Narsingdi, three young men were killed after their motorcycle was hit by a bus on Monday night, said Ismail Hossain, station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Shibpur.

The deceased, Saiful Islam, 22, Ashiq, 22, and Apu, 20, were residents of Mirzakanadi village in the upazila.

In Khulna, two people were killed and four others injured in a head-on collision between a truck and an electric three-wheeler near Rupsha bridge early Monday, reports UNB.

The victims are three-wheeler driver Rafiqul Islam, 56, and passenger Tanzil, 12, said Abdur Rahim, OC of Lobonchora Police Station.

In Barishal's Gournadi upazila on Sunday night, at least 30 passengers were injured in a collision involving four buses on Dhaka-Barishal highway, said police.

In Faridpur, Riyan Hossain, 20, of Dasar upazila in Madaripur, was killed and another injured when a bus hit their

motorcycle in Bhangha upazila on Sunday evening, said Mohammad Rokibuzzaman, OC of Bhangha Highway Police Station.

In Matlab, Chandpur, three-wheeler driver Siddiqur Rahman, 50, and a man named Tapan Choudhury, 35, were killed and six others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and an auto-



rickshaw on Sunday afternoon, said Saleh Ahmed, OC of Matlab South Police Station.

In Araihazar, Narayanganj, Khaleda Begum, 55, and her daughter-in-law Farzana Begum, 22, died after an auto-rickshaw fell into the Meghna river from a ferry at Bishnandi terminal on Saturday.

The victims were residents of Nabinagar, Brahmanbaria, police said.

In Munshiganj, Akash Hawlader, 33, was killed when his motorcycle collided with another bike on the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway on Saturday.

He was a resident of Shariatpur, said firefighters.



In Lalmonirhat, at least 55 people were injured after a bus crashed into a roadside ditch in Budartal area early Saturday, said Lalmonirhat sadar police.

In Pakundia, Kishoreganj, Dulal Mia, 45, and Shahab Uddin, 55, of Pakundia upazila, and Sarwar Hossain, 15, of

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We were kidnapped in international waters: Thunberg

Israeli gunfire kills 17 Palestinians near aid site

AGENCIES

Swedish activist Greta Thunberg said yesterday she was kidnapped in international waters by Israeli forces as she arrived in Paris Charles de Gaulle airport after being deported from Israel.

"We were kidnapped in international waters," she told reporters at her arrival in Paris. Thunberg, 22, arrived in Paris a day after the Israeli navy prevented her and a group of fellow pro-Palestinian activists from sailing to Gaza.

Israeli forces boarded the charity vessel as it neared Gaza early on Monday, trying to break through a years-old naval blockade of the coastal enclave, and seized the 12-strong crew, including Thunberg.

Thunberg was put on a flight to France, the Israeli foreign ministry said, adding that she would travel on to Sweden from there.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunfire killed at least 17 Palestinians and wounded dozens as thousands of displaced people approached an aid distribution site of a US-backed humanitarian group in central Gaza yesterday, local health authorities said.

Medics said the casualties were rushed at two hospitals, the Al-Awda Hospital in Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, and the Al-Quds in Gaza City, in the north.

The Israeli military said they are looking into the incident. Last week it warned Palestinians not to approach routes leading to sites of the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am local time, describing these roads as closed military zones.



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Lost Rodin 'copy' sells for \$1m

AFP, Rennes

The owners thought the sculpture perched for years on the corner of a piano was a Rodin copy, but after being declared as the real thing the small marble figure has now sold for one million dollars at auction, organisers said Monday.

Described as an "extremely rare" find by auction organiser Aymeric Rouillac, the figure was in fact an 1892 work, "Despair" by Auguste Rodin, that had gone missing after being sold at auction in 1906.

The work was put on sale at the weekend at an opening price of 500,000 euros, but eventually sold for 860,000 euros (one million dollars), according to Rouillac. The family had long believed the 28.5 centimetre (11 inch) figure of a sitting woman holding one foot was a copy of the legendary sculptor's work, said Rouillac.

After the owners approached Rouillac about another matter, he and his team spent months investigating the origin of the sculpture, including even looking into the family's origins.

He went to the Comité Rodin in March and the body that is considered the leading authority on the French artist confirmed its authenticity six weeks later.



Tourist attractions across the country have been seeing a lot of visitors during the Eid vacation. The photo of tourists bathing in the rocky bed of the Dhalai river in Sylhet was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Kachharibari of Tagore attacked after 'quarrel over parking'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palna

A group of people attacked the historic Rabintra Kachharibari in Sirajganj's Shahjadpur upazila yesterday. The attack stemmed from a quarrel between the staff and a local visitor over motorcycle parking on Sunday, police and locals said.

The attackers, mostly young men, broke open the entrance around 11:30am and vandalised the auditorium, doors, and windows, said Habibur Rahman, custodian of the Kachharibari.

The mansion, which houses a memorial museum named after the Nobel laureate, remained unharmed, he said.

"There were visitors at the site who panicked due to the sudden attack. We took shelter during the attack and informed police immediately," Habibur said.

"The staffers tried to resist as the attackers marched toward the museum. By this time, police had rushed to the spot and stopped the attackers," he said, adding that five

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