

### Youth stabs ex-fiancée

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat and stabbed a youth after he knifed his ex-fiancée at Sabujbagh in the city yesterday.

Local people came to the aid of Marzina Akhter, 20, who received stab wounds in her head, right hand and neck, and beat up Muktar Hossain Sagar, 25, witnesses said.

Muktar, a worker at Café Khoshbu Restaurant in Manda, attacked Marzina, his co-worker, in Mugda Wapda Gate area at about 2:00pm.

Police arrested Muktar on charge of stabbing Marzina. Both of them are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Muktar told newsmen that he had an affair with Marzina for last four months and they were planning to get married on September 1.

But Marzina married Harunur Rashid, another co-worker, on August 27, he said.

Muktar also claimed that he had lent Marzina Tk 2,000 after the date of marriage was fixed.

He went to Marzina's house at Manda to get his money back yesterday, but Marzina tried to flee.

Enraged Muktar followed and attacked her before she could go far.

### Proshika creates 72.60 lakh self-employments

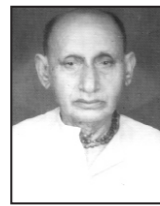
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Proshika, a non-government organisation, has created 72.60 lakh self-employment opportunities for its group members through disbursement of Tk 2616.80 crore against 4.29 lakh projects across the country.

Of the total amount, Tk 555.51 crore was distributed against 1.07 lakh projects during July 2002 to December 2003, said a press release.

Proshika allocated 73 percent of the total fund to women groups.

### Death anniversary



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Prankrishna Bala, a social worker of Gopalganj district, says a press release.

On the occasion, Puja will be held and prayers will be offered at his elder son's residences in Dhaka and Gopalganj.

# Unicef, ILO call for ending worst forms of child labour

The Unicef and ILO have called on the government and the civil society to take effective action to end worst forms of child labour, says a press release.

The call came from a meeting to review the project 'Addressing Child Labour in the Bangladesh Garment Industry'. The meeting ended in Dhaka yesterday.

It looked at interventions and practices linked with the industry over a nine-year period from 1995.

Participants called for continued efforts to ensure that children are not engaged in hazardous employment, while at the same time not being thrown into a life that deprives them of their

right to education and economic well-being.

"Getting children out of work is necessary but not sufficient to end worst forms of child labour. Alternatives must be put in place as they are removed from employment," said Louis-Georges Arsenault, deputy programme director of Unicef.

Eliminating the worst forms of child labour is a global priority under ILO's Convention 182, said Frans Roselaers, director, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, ILO.

A synthesis paper based on assessments of programmes conducted over the nine years was presented at the symposium.

The meeting recommended that getting under-age children out of work and into school is the right strategy but safety nets should be in place prior to removing children from work to mitigate the negative welfare effects and ensure that children do not end up in even worse conditions.

It also called for a monitoring and verification system to keep workplaces free from child labour.

It also suggested introducing an effective birth registration system for proper targeting of underage children.