

BID TO BREAK
EMERGENCY
5 RU students
arrested
RU CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces yesterday arrested five students, including a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader and an Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activist during their raids to different student halls of Rajshahi University (RU).

Tipped off that RU students were preparing to break state of emergency, the raids were carried out.

The arrestees are Modar Bux hall JCD Joint Convener Masud Pervej, Habibur Rahman Hall Shibir activist Imran Ali, Ferdous Alam, 4th year student of Finance and Banking department, Joton Biswas, 4th year student of English department, Subol Chandra Gosh, 2nd year student of Management department and Jewel Rana, a student of Rajshahi Polytechnic College.

They all were arrested from Martyred Habibur Rahman hall.

The forces led by Major Abdul Mannan raided Shibir dominated Habibur Rahman, Modar Bux and Nawab Abdul Latifhalls at midnight.

Senior teachers were present during the raids. Fearing further raid, many residential students left the dormitories.

Sources said JCD activists led by Masud brought out a procession on the campus on Monday and chanted slogans against the activities of caretaker government and in favour of former prime minister Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman.

The Shibir workers also distributed leaflets on the campus criticising the caretaker government and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

Nepal to probe
ethnic unrest in
south

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's government has launched a probe into ethnic unrest in the south of the country that has killed at least 60 people and cast a shadow over a landmark peace deal, a minister said yesterday.

"The cabinet meeting Wednesday agreed to form a commission headed by a Mahadesi judge to address the problems of Mahadesi people and the ongoing unrest," Rajendra Mahato, Nepal's Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, told AFP.



PHOTO: STAR

Child labour is still rife in the country, although efforts are underway to curb it. The picture shows a child, who works as a helper of a minibus, asking a commuter to get on the vehicle at the Shyamoli bus stand in the city yesterday.



US forces kill
'al-Qaeda
emir' in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

US forces have killed an al-Qaeda kingpin they allege sent 12-year-old Iraqi boys to their deaths as suicide car bombers, they said yesterday, amid an intense battle with insurgents around Baghdad.

With a large-scale security operation underway within the Iraqi capital, US and local forces are fanning out into a violent belt of small towns around the city in a bid to track down insurgent car bomb factories.

The urgency of the mission was underlined on Monday, when two suicide truck bombers and a gang of gunmen assaulted and partially demolished a US outpost northeast of the capital, killing nine soldiers and wounding 20 more.

The arrests came after Gujarat's government admitted Sohrabuddin Sheikh was killed in a staged gun battle in 2005.

"Deputy Inspector-General of police D G Vanzara and Superintendent of Police Rajkumar Pandian have been arrested on charges of murder," Sudhir Sinha, a senior state police officer, told the Press Trust of India.

At the time of the killing, Vanzara was head of the anti-terror squad and Pandian was his deputy. The third officer arrested was also a member of the squad.

Police had claimed Sheikh belonged to the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba and was plotting to kill Hindu nationalist Chief Minister Narendra Modi to avenge the death of hundreds of Muslims in communal riots in 2002.

Human rights groups have accused Modi of turning a blind eye to the religious rioting in which they say about 2,500 people, mostly Muslims, were killed. State records say only about 1,000 people died.

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