

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 Latif halls 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 Mahadhesi judge to address the problems of Mahadhesi people and the ongoing unrest," Rajendra Mahato, Nepal's Minister for Industry Commerce and Supplies, told AFP.



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.

3 top cops held  
in India for  
killing Muslim

AFP, New Delhi

Three senior Indian police officers were arrested in the western state of Gujarat Tuesday on charges of murdering a Muslim man falsely accused of plotting to kill the state's chief minister.

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

"Deputy Inspector-General of police DG 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.



Managing Director of Eskayef AM Faruque hands over 3000 capsules of Bird Flu drug (SK-flu) to Health and Family Welfare Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman at the conference hall of health ministry in the city recently.

Eskayef donates  
3000 bird flu  
capsules

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, a leading pharmaceutical company of the country, donated 3000 capsules of Bird Flu drug (SK-flu) to the government, says a press release.

Managing Director of Eskayef AM Faruque handed over the drugs to Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman at the conference hall of health ministry in the city on April 24.

The adviser appreciated the contributions of Eskayef to the country's Bird Flu preparedness.

High Officials of the health ministry and marketing manager of Eskayef were also present.

Pak fighter jet  
crashes

AFP, Islamabad

A Pakistan fighter jet crashed yesterday in the centre of the country but the pilot ejected safely and there were no casualties on the ground, an air force spokesman said.

The French-built Mirage aircraft was on a training mission when it developed technical problems and crashed near Jhang district, 300 kilometres (190 miles) south of Islamabad, spokesman Sarfraz Ahmed said.

Valuables worth  
Tk 1.65 cr gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Valuables worth Tk 1.65 crore were gutted in a devastating fire at a factory in Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries area at Golara in Manikganj in the early hours of yesterday.

A team of Fire Service from Manikganj rushed to Bangladesh

Agricultural Industry and brought the fire under control after six hours of frantic efforts at 8:00am.

Fire Service sources said the fire was originated from a short circuit at 2:00am.

The owners of the factory claimed that the damages are estimated at Tk 1.65 crore.

‘2006 most savage  
year for journos’

AFP, Vienna

A media watchdog yesterday described 2006 as the "most savage and brutal" year on record for journalists with 100 media professionals killed across the world.

It was a "war on journalism," said Johann Fritz, director of the International Press Institute.

"With 100 journalists killed, 2006 was the most savage and brutal year in the history of the modern media," said Fritz in the IPI's annual report.

Conflict-torn Iraq, where more than 150 media workers have died since the 2003 US-led invasion, topped the list as the world's most dangerous place for the media for the fourth year. In 2006, 46 journalists died reporting the conflict.

In almost all cases, the deaths were targeted killings, the report added.

Journalists were killed in 23 other nations last year with the second most deadly country being the Philippines, with 10 killings. The IPI study covered 180 countries.

Seven journalists died in Mexico; five in Sri Lanka; four in Pakistan;

three each in Afghanistan and Colombia; and two each in Venezuela, Russia, India and China.

Most of the victims were from the local media and almost all the killings were carried out with impunity, the report said.

The IPI, which comprises media workers drawn from 120 countries, said the highest toll recorded in the recent past had been in 1999 when 86 journalists had died during the course of their work.

In 2005, a total of 65 journalists had died -- 13 less than the preceding year.

The watchdog said apart from the killings several countries continued to gag journalists, making it impossible for them to work freely.

It singled out North Korea, Turkmenistan, Libya, Syria and Saudi Arabia as being among the most repressive.

And it pointed to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Zimbabwe and Russia, as countries where journalists were subject to exactions and violence.