

Three stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants hacked three people on the roof of a five-storey building at Madhya Badda and looted cellphones and Tk 50,000 in cash in sequel to a previous enmity on Friday night.

The injured are Nasir Miah, 22, Arif Hossain, 24 and Mohammad Ibrahim, 24. They were rushed to a local hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Nasir told this correspondent at DMCH that the injured are employees of Gulshan DCC market and stay in the same house at Madhya Badda Bazar road.

He said six to seven criminals led by Shaheen, an employee of the same market, started stabbing them with sharp weapons while they were playing carom board on the roof of the five-storey building at around 9:00pm.

'Domestic helps most deprived among workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Domestic helps are the most deprived section among working class people and a policy should soon be finalised to protect them, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

Domestic Workers Rights Network organised the meeting at Jatiya Press Club in the city on the eve of May Day. The meeting aimed at stopping humiliation of domestic helps and to raise support for approval of Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2010.

Speakers also discussed on International Labour Organisation convention titled "Decent Work for Domestic Workers" to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in the coming June.

They urged representatives attending the convention to play an active role considering the situation faced by domestic helps in the country and preservation of their rights.

Jatiya Sramik League President Abdul Matin Master presided over the meeting.

Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, coordinator of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad; Zafrul Hasan, general secretary of Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Sramik Dal; Shirin Akhter, president of Karmojibi Nari; and Abdul Kader Hawlader, president of Jatiya Sramik Jote, Bangladesh; also spoke.



Guests at a roundtable on 'Biotechnology in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects' at The Daily Star office in the city. The Daily Star organised the roundtable. (Story on Page-20)

PHOTO: STAR



Nagorik Udyog, a rights organisation, stages demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding a policy and its implementation to stop repression of the domestic helps.

PHOTO: STAR

Breastfeeding for first 6 months can cut 13pc child deaths, says ICDDR, B report

UNB, Dhaka

Exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months, continued till 11 months would prevent 13 percent of all deaths of children below five years of age in low-income countries.

This was presented in a recent report of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and continuation for two years.

The report says appropriate feeding practices during infancy and childhood are essential for attaining and maintaining proper nutrition, health and development.

Inappropriate feeding practices particularly after the age of six

Ninety-nine percent of infants below 12 months are breast-fed in Bangladesh

months, when breast milk alone is not sufficient to meet increasing nutrient requirements for growth, result in high rate of childhood malnutrition in low income countries.

Breastfeeding is common in Bangladesh where 99 percent of infants below 12 months are breast-fed.

However, prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding is 43 percent in infants

under six months, which has not changed over the last decade, with serious implications for nutritional well-being and mortality of children.

Forty-three percent of neonates are breast-fed within one-hour of birth and the medium duration of breastfeeding is 32.8 months but exclusive breastfeeding is only 1.8 months.

In Bangladesh, complimentary feeding starts too early or too late and foods offered are often inappropriate.

Among infants less than two months of age, 17 percent drink milk other than breast milk including fresh or powdered cow milk or infant formula, six percent are given other liquids while another 6 percent receive solid or semi-solid food.

On the other hand, 25 percent of

infants between six to nine months of age are not fed any solid or semi-solid food alongside breast milk.

Among infants past exclusive breastfeeding age, only 42 percent are fed according to WHO recommended infant and young child feeding practices.

A study conducted in Matlab of Chandpur district showed that the amount of energy from complementary food offered to infants was about 74 percent of the recommended amount.

The study found that for children between six to eight months of age, mean intake of vitamin A from breast milk and complimentary food together was 44 percent. For children between nine to 12 months, it was 48 percent of the required nutrient intake.

Help poor litigants

Minister urges judges, lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday urged judges and lawyers to discharge their duties with a charitable mindset to provide the insolvent litigants with legal assistance.

The government has taken initiatives to strengthen its legal aid programme for assisting the poor litigants, and the judges and lawyers have to play key role to implement this programme, he said.

He was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "Civil Procedure Amendment and National Legal Aid Programme" organised by Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of the ministry of law at Hotel Sonargaon in the city.

The law minister said that the present government has established a separate office as Directorate of Legal Aid to provide the poor people with legal assistance without any cost in order to reduce their sufferings.

He urged the judges to settle the cases filed with legal assistance by the poor people on priority basis.

Shafique also requested the senior and experienced lawyers to involve themselves in disposing of those cases.

Shahidul Karim, secretary to the law and justice division of law ministry, presided over the seminar while State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, Md Shahidul Huq, acting secretary to legislative and parliamentary affairs division, and Md Jahangir Hossain, district and sessions judge of Dhaka, among others, addressed it.

Minister requests the senior and experienced lawyers to involve themselves in disposing of cases

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