

STALKING AT CU
Two students
stabbed
over protest

CU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday stabbed two fellow students for protesting against stalking of a girl.

The injured are Shantanu Barua and Ahmed Afif, both students of computer science (CS) department.

A group led by Noman, a student of applied physics, harassed a female student of CS department in front of Pritilata Hall on Thursday. Barua that day protested it.

When Barua and his friend Afif were at CUIT cafeteria around 12:00pm yesterday, the Noman group attacked them, said witnesses.

Witnesses identified one of the attackers as Zahirul Islam of botany and another Moeen Uddin of law department.

The wounded were rushed to the university's medical centre.

The victims made a complaint to Proctor Mohammad Akter Hossain. The proctor said stern action will be taken against those involved in the attack.



PHOTO: STAR

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare brings out a procession from Shahbagh in the city yesterday marking Safe Motherhood Day.

'Wake up to senior citizens' needs'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A favourable environment should be ensured for elderly people so that they can live with dignity and in comfort, said social researchers at a seminar yesterday.

Besides, awareness about their needs and responsibilities of others toward them should develop to reduce problems they face daily in their lives, they observed.

The seminar styled "Prospects of Ageing Well in Bangladesh" was jointly organised by Age Well Foundation Bangladesh and Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) of Dhaka University (DU) at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

Addressing the discussion, Prof Muhammad Samad of ISWR said, "The government and NGOs (non-government

organisations) should sincerely work to provide healthcare and social services to elderly people for their care and welfare."

Presenting a keynote paper, Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman of ISWR said a small portion (seven percent) of the total population in Bangladesh constitute the elderly. But, actually the number is around 10 million, which is quite significant.

The elderly people in Bangladesh face different problems including complexities regarding their health, negligence, isolation and loneliness, and fail to assert their rights and access to resources and shelter, he stated.

Prof Atiqur said the elderly need proper medical care, adequate financial support, necessary housing and accommodation arrangements, social security and safety, and friendly transportation and communication facilities.

Khaleda returns today

UNB, Dhaka

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will return home today concluding a two-week visit to the UK and the USA.

This was her first visit in the two powerful western counties as leader of the opposition.

On May 14, Khaleda left Dhaka for London.

In London, Khaleda met British politicians and ministers.

On May 21, Khaleda flew to New York from London.

In the US, she had meetings with the national security adviser to US Vice President and US Congressmen.

Slap higher tax on tobacco products

Roundtable suggests hiking fine on public place smoking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts from different sectors yesterday recommended imposing higher duties on tobacco products and raising fines to prevent smoking in public.

They also advocated to accommodate pictorial warnings on tobacco products and ban cultivation and import of tobacco.

The recommendations came from a roundtable, titled "Dangers of Tobacco: Way Forward", jointly organised by daily Prothom Alo at its conference room with Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) and National Tobacco Control Cell.

The speakers suggested that the government should raise the public smoking fine to Tk 500 from Tk 50.

"It's unfortunate that some of the lawmakers are lobbying against the probable tax raise on tobacco products fearing it might make the government unpopular and leave adverse effect in the next election," said Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury.

Health Minister AFM Ruhal Haque, the chief guest of the roundtable, denied entertaining any such lobbying.

He said his ministry has already sent a proposal to the finance ministry to raise the duties on tobacco products.

The speakers stressed that the government should introduce licensing system for tobacco sale and implement the existing laws strictly.

Citing a 2004 study M Mostafa Zaman of World Health Organisation said tobacco causes the nation a net of

loss of Tk 2,600 crore a year. The country makes Tk 2,400 crore as revenue from tobacco-related businesses, while counts Tk 5,000 crore against tobacco-caused healthcare cost, he added.

Tobacco smoking has increased by two percent in 2009 from 21 percent in 2004, while consumption of tobacco, (in most cases chewed) increased by seven percent.

Among others lawyer ZI Khan Panna, National Professor and General Secretary of National Heart Foundation Brig Gen (retd) Abdul Malik, Iqbal Kabir of National Acid Control Cell, Farida Akther of UBINIG, Nigar Nargis of Dhaka University, Kazi Rafiqul Alam of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and legal expert Tanjibul Alam spoke at the roundtable.



Guests at a roundtable titled "Dangers of tobacco: Way forward" at the daily Prothom Alo's conference room in the city yesterday, jointly organised by the newspaper, Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) and National Tobacco Control Cell.

PHOTO: STAR

CNG auto drivers demand fare hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Auto-rickshaw drivers in the city yesterday threatened to launch agitation programmes from June 12, if their demands, which include increasing the fare in adjustment to the CNG price hike, are not met.

To press home their demands, the CNG-run three-wheeler drivers held a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity under the banner of "Dhaka Zila Auto-rickshaw Tempo Mishuk Janbahon Shramik Union."

They demanded the fare be increased from Tk 7 to Tk 8.50 per km along with a Tk 0.25 rise on its waiting charge.

The 11-point demand also includes punitive measures against the auto-rickshaw owners who charge the drivers extra despite the government-fixed rate, ending police harassment in the name of checking driving licence, adapting a hassle-free system for drivers to obtain licence and creating parking space for auto-rickshaws at different places.

Over 12,700 auto rickshaws ply the city roads everyday.

Land port activities disrupted

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Import and export activities through Sonamasjid land port were suspended Saturday morning following a protest programme of Indian truck drivers.

Shariful Islam, president of Sonamasjid Port C&F Agent Association, said security guards of Panama Yard assaulted an Indian truck driver Thursday.

Protesting the attack Indian truck drivers put barricade at zero point at the port and demanded punishment to the attackers.



World Watch Society, a human rights organisation, forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting against food adulteration.

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MONEY LAUNDERING SC may hear review plea of Tarique today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court (SC) today is likely to hear a review petition filed by BNP leader Tarique Rahman against its verdict saying the money laundering case against Tarique can run under Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002.

The petition was listed for hearing as item number 7 in today's cause list of the Appellate Division.

Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on October 26, 2009 with a Dhaka court against Tarique and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun under Money Laundering Prevention Act 2009. They were charged for illegally sending Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

SC on February 9 this year in a verdict ruled that the trial could proceed under the 2002 act, as the alleged offence took place after its enactment, not after the 2009 act was enacted.

Tarique, now in London for treatment, filed the review petition on May 2.