

10 Shibir activists arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested 10 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat student organisation, yesterday after a clash with the law enforcers in Nayasarak area of Sylhet city.

The student activists in a procession were on the way to join a rally organised by the Shikhhangan Rakkha Parishad at Sylhet Central Shahid Minar.

Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ataur Rahman said the activists were asked to stop the procession at Manik Pir Tila, but they denied to do so and clashed with the police. Later, police resorted to a baton charge on them and arrested the activists.

Meanwhile, the Shikhhangan Rakkha Parishad organised a token hunger strike at the Shahid Minar where a rally was also held in the afternoon.

The Parishad has been staging demonstration demanding measures against the culprits responsible for torching the government-run MC College

Man held for BCL leader's murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-7 produced a man, at a press conference yesterday, allegedly involved in murdering a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), a pro-Awami League student organisation, on August 11.

The accused, Md Amin, alias "Kasai" Amin, 33, of Islampur union of Rangunia, was arrested on Friday from a Balabazar house under Shariatpur district.

The deceased Rashed Chowdhury, 26, BCL Chittagong (north) unit relief and disaster management secretary, was hacked to death in Chittagong's Rangunia upazila.

Addressing the conference at Rab-7 Chandgaon Camp, the camp commander, Lt Commander Md Nur-Uz-Zaman, said in primary interrogation Amin confessed that he and some 20 local miscreants attacked Rashed.

Amin told journalists that local BNP activists and some unidentified men planned the murder and though he was forcibly taken to the attack, he had not taken part in it and had helped Rashed's brother Kamal Chowdhury escape.



Participants at a roundtable titled "Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices in the Community" at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Daily Star, Brac and Civil Society Alliance for SUN, Bangladesh jointly organised the programme.

REHABILITATING MALNOURISHED CHILDREN UNDER 5

Breastfeeding, complementary feeding both are must

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and nutritious complementary feeding must be ensured to rehabilitate around half of Bangladesh's under-five children who are malnourished, said doctors and public health experts yesterday.

For working women, lack of awareness and time are the main barriers to breastfeeding while negligence and poverty bar the feeding of complementary food, they said.

Children can subsist solely on breast milk for the first six months of life and nutritious complementary food must follow till the age of two to aid physical and mental growth, they observed at a roundtable.

Brac, The Daily Star and Civil Society Alliance for SUN, Bangladesh jointly organised the roundtable, "Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices in the Community", at The Daily Star Centre.

Presenting a keynote, Dr Mohammad Raisul Haque, Brac Health programme manager, said only 64 percent of the country's mothers provide exclusive breastfeeding to their children for the first six months.

Dr Rukhsana Haider of Alive and Thrive said, "From our experience in

promoting exclusive breastfeeding since 1990s, we think 100 percent implementation is not possible. Around 30 percent of urban mothers cannot exclusively breastfeed their children because they work."

"Moreover researches carried out by Alive and Thrive in both urban and slum areas show that families spend their money buying snacks, fruits and junk foods for children but how much nutrition would they complement with these?"

Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, director of Centre for Nutrition and Food Security, ICDDR, B, said stunting (caused by malnutrition) rate among under-five Bangladeshi children is 41 percent while it is 40 and 33 percent in Sudan and Uganda.

Bringing all mothers into providing exclusive breastfeeding and nutritious complementary food can reduce the rate, he said.

However, ensuring nutritious complementary food is difficult as 30 percent of the country's population is suffering from food insecurity. To these people, small fish and eggs are luxury items, he added.

"We also need to improve the social safety net programmes and promote nutrition-specific intervention," he said.

Dr Iqbal Kabir, vice-chairperson of Bangladesh Breastfeeding

Foundation, said, "Stunting occurs mainly due to a lack of breastfeeding followed by inadequate consumption of complementary food."

Zeba Mahmud, country director of Micronutrient Initiative, said the lack of protein-based complementary food leads to childhood anaemia, a deficiency affecting Bangladesh at the same rate since 1990s.

Dr Ferdousi Begum, country manager of Family Health International-360, said there are many instances where married women, who were physically and mentally not ready for marriage, are entering "pregnancy" status.

These women are not aware of antenatal care and have no decision-making ability in the family to introduce adequate complementary food, she said.

"Intra-family decision making is very important as mothers must decide on buying necessary complementary food instead of the father solely making the decisions," said Dr Shahed Rahman, national nutrition coordinator of Care Bangladesh.

Kaasar Afsana, Brac Health director, said, "Exclusive breastfeeding rate has significantly reduced child mortality rate in Bangladesh. It is worth celebrating that Bangladesh has joined this global shift in stunting declination."

The Daily Star Op-Ed and Strategic

AL leader held for beating education officer in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bagmara upazila unit president of ruling Awami League Motiur Rahman and his associates beat up an upazila education officer in Rajshahi on Friday.

The victim SM Mahmudul Hasan said he was beaten as a favoured candidate of the leader was not given job for a teaching post at a school.

According to Hasan, Matiur requested him to provide the job to one Mahfuzur Rahman at Sherkol Girls' High School few days ago, but Mahfuzur came out unsuccessful in the written test held on Friday.

"Motiur slapped me first, and then his followers started kicking and punching indiscriminately," he said.

With bleeding from nose and bruises over different parts of his body, Hasan was admitted to Bagmara Health Complex, said police and locals.

Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge at Bagmara Police Station, said they arrested Motiur, who is also a principal of Bhawaniganj Degree College.

While talking to journalists at the police station, Motiur claimed that he did not beat up the education officer rather he tried to protect Hasan.

Police recorded a case in this regard.

Seven killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Seven people, including a garment worker, were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Feni, Madaripur and Netrakona yesterday.

UNB from Savar reports, Zakaria, 22, a worker of Aman Knitting factory in Savar, was killed when a bus hit him on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Hemayetpur bus stand yesterday morning.

Police and locals said the Dhaka-bound speeding bus hit Zakaria in the area around 10:30am while he was crossing the road, killing him instantly.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of an unidentified youth at Buliar bus stand near Savar Police Station in the morning.

Police suspected that he he was crushed by a bus at night.

Our Feni correspondent reports, a Sonagazi bound bus from Feni rammed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Lalpool area yesterday morning, killing two people and injuring two others.

The deceased were Jumshe Alam Rubbel, 28, of Shonagazi upazila, and Md Nur Nabi, 26, of the same upazila.

Meanwhile, an unidentified girl, aged around 7, was killed as an unknown vehicle ran her over on Feni-Parshuram road in Puratan Munshir Hat area in Fulgazi upazila around 12:30pm yesterday.

Following the accident locals put up barricades on the road.

In Madaripur, Sujana Akter, 13, daughter of Ahmed Ali, and a class VII student of Madabchar RM High School, died as a truck crushed her on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Bakhrer Kandi area of Shibchar upazila yesterday evening.

In Netrakona, Ripon Mia, 30, son of Rashid Mia of Janzail village in Durgapur upazila, was killed as a bus hit him on Netrakona-Durgapur road at Janzail Bazar in the upazila yesterday morning.



PHOTO: GREEN UNIVERSITY OF BANGLADESH

Green University of Bangladesh accorded a reception to around 7,000 high achievers in the 2012 HSC examination at the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium on Friday. The university Vice Chancellor Prof Quazi Deen Mohd Khosru, State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman, and noted educationist Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal attended the ceremony, among others.

DIU has been awarded with "Amity Global Academic Excellence Award"

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Admission office

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- Uttara Campus:** H #4 & 6, R#7, S# 3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka. Tel: 8922660, 8922010, 01713493141, 01811458841.
- Ashulia Permanent Campus:** Ashulia Model Town, Dattapara, Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka. Cell: 01833102806.