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## NEW MARKET CLASHES Cops grill 6 Dhaka College BCL men

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Law enforcers yesterday interrogated at least six Dhaka College Chhatra League men with links to the clashes between students and traders in the capital's New Market area, which left two persons dead.

Anwar Mahmud, a teacher of the college and in-charge of its South Hostel, confirmed this to The Daily Star last night.

"The law enforcers have so far questioned six students. They let two students go and four were still at their office," he told this newspaper over the phone around 8:00pm yesterday.

Asked, HM Azimul Haque, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of the Detective Branch of police, said they interrogated some Dhaka College students but refused to give any specific number.

"We are verifying information. We questioned some students in connection with the incident," he told this newspaper last night.

Sources in the college and its BCL unit said the Chhatra League leaders and activists who were interrogated are deputy secretary (international affairs) of the BCL Central Committee Samad Azad Julfikar; Dhaka College BCL unit's Convening Committee members Jashim Uddin, Atikuzzaman Rana and Zahir Hassan Jewel; and BCL activists Firoz Rabbi and Titas.

Meanwhile, one of the two young men, who hacked 19-year-old deliveryman Nahid Mia to death during the April 19 clashes, was identified as Emon Bashar, an activist of Dhaka College Chhatra League unit, said sources in police and the BCL.



Photo and video footage of the young man hacking Nahid went viral on social media.

The other attacker, who also hacked Nahid, was yet to be identified. Emon from Khulna's Paikgachha is a second-year student of Bangla. He is a supporter of Dhaka College Chhatra League leader Samad Azad Julfikar, who leads one of the BCL groups at the college, according to sources.

Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not reach Julfikar and Emon for comments.

Several students at the college said Emon left the college campus soon after the identities of some college students, allegedly involved in the clashes, were revealed through media reports on Saturday.

Yesterday, a team of the DB police seized two mobile phones of Emon from his room at the college's International Hostel.

"A DB team came to the campus around 5:15pm and seized the two mobile phones from his room at the dormitory," Anwar told The Daily Star.

Witnesses and sources involved in the investigation said Dhaka College students, led by three Chhatra League factions, took part in the deadly clashes with New Market shopkeepers that led to Nahid's death.

Those groups were led by BCL leaders Julfikar, Firoz Hossain, and

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### MEDIA WORKERS BILL

## It conflicts with other laws

Says Noab, warns  
it'd be a blow to free  
speech if passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill conflicts with the prevailing judiciary, industrial law and the country's labour law, said the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) yesterday.

Newspapers, including the freedom of the press and freedom of expression, would suffer if the law, which was placed in parliament on March 28, is passed, it said in a statement signed by its president AK Azad and vice-president ASM Shahidullah Khan.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary committee

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Standing waist-deep in floodwater, Rakib Ali and his younger brother Shafiq Ali harvesting paddy that has been almost completely ruined after being submerged for over two weeks. With borrowed money, Rakib cultivated paddy on 10 bighas of land in Uptar Haor, Sylhet. But the soggy crop will not sell and he won't be able to repay his debts.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

### PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS

## Take actions against hoarders

PM asks authorities, says govt doing  
everything to arrest rise

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is doing its best to control prices of daily essentials amid the high global inflation rate.

She also directed the authorities concerned to take proper actions against the hoarders of essential items and those who play with their prices.

Hasina said this while inaugurating 40 new fire stations in different upazilas. She joined the event at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters in the city's Fulbaria through a videoconference from the Gono Bhaban.

The premier said the pandemic has caused economic recession throughout the world, deepened by the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war.

There is a food crisis even in many



developed countries and the inflation rate went up to 17 percent in some places. The inflation rate is 7-9 percent in many European countries, she added.

Mentioning that the difficulties to import some goods due to the ongoing war, the PM asked the people not to keep an inch of land uncultivated and ensure the optimum use of the soil for food autarky.

Hasina asked the authorities of development work – architects, engineers or project planners of different ministries – to keep the provision of fire-fighting facilities in every development project.

She also called for ensuring wide roads for smooth movement of fire service vehicles and water sources at nearby places.

"During designing a project, everyone has

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### TENTULTALA PLAYGROUND

## Protester, teen son picked up

She went live on FB to show  
cops building wall there;  
police release them after 12hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kalabagan police yesterday picked up Syeda Ratna, a community leader trying to save Tentultala playground, and her 17-year-old son.

They were released around 12 hours later.

Ratna, coordinator of Tetultala Maath Rokkha Andolon, and her son were detained when they went live on Facebook to show Kalabagan police building a wall on the playground around 11:00am, said Mahmudur Rahman, a local.

Ratna's daughter Sheunti Shahgufta told The Daily Star, "Police had been piling bricks and brick chips on the Tentultala ground since the night before. My mother was picked up when she went on live on Facebook at the ground in the morning."

"When my brother, an HSC student, went there, he too

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### SANCTIONS ON RAB

## Won't be lifted without actions, accountability

Says US ambassador in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unless concrete actions are taken and accountability is ensured, there is no scope for lifting the sanctions on Rab, said US Ambassador Peter Haas at a discussion yesterday.

"We want to see a Rab which is capable of combatting terrorism but which is also capable of respecting basic human rights," he said at a seminar on US-Bangladesh relations.

Just prior to his remark, the Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun spoke about how the force in 2011 established an internal enquiry cell with US cooperation to ensure accountability of Rab personnel.

Under the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme, 147 Rab personnel were trained on basic interviewing skills and human rights, he told the discussion organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

The trained individuals are working to ensure transparency and uphold human rights, the Rab DG added.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen commented that it was former US Ambassador James F. Moriarty who

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With her right leg in a cast, Nilufar Begum came to the site of Rana Plaza yesterday, the eighth anniversary of the collapse of the building. Her leg was broken and she received serious injuries to her spine when the building collapsed in 2013 leaving at least 1,136 dead and over 2,500 others injured. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON