

## Child killed, 6 hurt as drug-addict goes on stabbing spree

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A drug-addicted man went on a stabbing spree in Dashmina upazila of Patuakhali on Thursday night, killing a child and injuring six others, said police.

The deceased, Safayet Hossain, 8, son of Jamal Hossain of Charhsnabad village, died on the way to Barishal hospital. Police arrested the attacker, Sabuj Mridha, 30, a known drug addict in the area.

Locals and police said Sabuj entered a house at Mridha Bari around 9:00pm and began stabbing people indiscriminately.

Safayet's parents, Jamal and Nasiam, along with five others, were injured -- two of them were later transferred to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Dashmina OC Md Abdul Alim said Sabuj, now in custody, appeared mentally unstable due to drug abuse. After climbing a tree to evade capture, he was brought down safely following a four-hour joint operation by police and fire service personnel.



**Farmers gather cucumbers from their fields and prepare them for local markets. During the monsoon, they cultivate and harvest various vegetables, including cucumbers, on raised embankments. Cucumbers are currently selling wholesale for Tk 20-32 per kg. The photo was taken from Arpara area in Narail yesterday.**

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## 'Sharot Utsav' barred at DU

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Later, the group decided to move the event to the Kisholoy Kachi-Kachar fairground without permission from the venue authority or police. Therefore, the organisers were not allowed to hold it there.

Meanwhile, Prof Mohammad Azharul Islam Sheikh, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, issued a statement yesterday explaining why the event was stopped.

The statement said permission had been granted for the Sharot Utsav at Bakultala as usual. However, objections were later submitted to the faculty by a group of "anti-fascist writers, journalists, and artists", claiming that one of the organisers was involved in "fascism".

To avoid unrest, the faculty contacted the organisers and temporarily suspended, not cancelled, and would be held later after discussions to decide the next course of action.

it added.

The statement also said a meeting would be held on Saturday (today) with faculty members and Satyen Sen Shilpigoshti to scrutinise the issue before making a final decision.

Earlier, Azharul Islam said following many objections and warnings of possible unrest, the event had been "temporarily suspended".

"We received phone calls from many people saying we were allowing fascist supporters to hold an event, and if we did, there could be unrest. That is why we had to take this decision," he said.

He clarified that the programme was suspended, not cancelled, and would be held later after discussions to decide the next course of action.

## Accommodation

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Outlining his plans, Dinar said, "A one year term isn't long. We haven't included anything unrealistic in our manifesto. Some things can be done quickly, while others will take time -- but we will at least start the process."

He identified accommodation and transportation as the most pressing issues at CU. "Then comes food. Even after paying, we don't get quality food here. I will give special emphasis to improving food quality," he said.

He also vowed to ensure campus safety so that students no longer feel insecure. "Alongside, I will work on improving the academic environment, research, and other fundamental issues."

Chittagong University occupies 2,300 acres of land. Yet even after 60 years of establishment, it hasn't ensured proper accommodation for all students -- only about 20 to 22 percent have housing facilities. We call CU a 'half university', as most teachers and students leave after noon. I will work to make it a lively, full-fledged, and fully residential university," he said.

Regarding the Cucusu polls, Dinar said, "We want a positive change in student politics -- one free from domination and based on democratic principles. The Cucusu election is being held after 35 years. Our first pledge is to include it in the university's academic calendar to ensure regular elections."

He alleged that some groups are getting undue advantages while some candidates are violating the election code of conduct without facing action.

"We see one organisation always working under the administration's influence. They never stand up for students' rights. Students know this well and will surely elect the deserving representatives," Dinar added.

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