NEWS

Bhutanese to take up arms to flush out ULFA rebels

BSS, New Delhi

The people of Bhutan have said they will take up arms to flush out ULFA and Bodo militants from their country to ensure peace and security, 'The Asian Age' reported yesterday. The Bhutanese citizens, the

paper reported, expressed solidarity with the king and have said" We have always enjoyed peace and happiness under the king's wise rule but the presence of the ULFA and Bodo militants in our country threatens to deprive us of our peace and security now.

The Bhutanese citizens at a meeting with their king recently reiterated that it is the duty of every Bhutanese to provide "physical and material support" to implement decisions taken by the royal government to resolve the problem

Bhutanese Home Minister Lyonpo Thinley Gyamatsho, who was present at the meeting said the

Nigerian HC asked to take

FROM PAGE 12

month sentence long ago. Following a suo moto rule issued by the HC Division Bench comprised of Justice Abu Sayeed and Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury on February 5, a Nigerian High Commission representative appeared before the court Sunday and assured of taking all measures to send Ochendo back home.

At the beginning of the hearing yesterday, the judges asked the high commission officials whether their car was ready to take Goddya out of the court immediately. The officials in reply said that they needed more time to process necessary papers for his earliest repatriation.

The court then gave the officials five days' time to complete the procedure. The High Commission also prayed before the Bench that

Ochendo should be kept in jail for the next five days as it could not take his charge until February 17. The Nigerian High Commission

would receive Ochendo from the Dhaka Central Jail authorities on February 17 at 10.30 am and would inform the court about the steps they have taken to send him home

The suo moto was issued taking into cognisance a report published in The Daily Star. According to the report, the 19-year old Nigerian was arrested in connection with drug smuggling by an American teenager Elieda MacCord in 1992. He was

acquitted in July 1993. But on July 13, he was charged

militants have not only refused to come forward for talks but were becoming more blatant about their UNB, Dhaka presence in Bhutan, the report said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has

family planning field workers to

perform their duties with utmost

per cent of the field workers, the rest

will be absorbed in phases," she

said while addressing a rally of

Bangladesh Family Planning Field

Employees Unity Council at Paltan

said. "We have met your longstand-

ing demand before any plea from

order to ensure to healthcare ser-

vices at the doorstep of all the

present government had taken up a

massive programme, including

setting up of 18000 community

Section 120-B on the charge of

Col. (rtd) Mohiuddin, Maj. (rtd)

Ahmed Sharful Hossain, Captain

(rtd) Kishmet Hashem, Captain (rtd)

Najmul Ahsan and Lance Dafadar

Justice Fazlul Karim invited Special

Public Prosecutor (SPP) Serajul

Huq to make deposition after

defence counsel Khan Saifur

Rahman declined to take up the

case for his client Lt. Col (rtd)

Mohiuddin for lack of time, which he

said was not enough to prepare the

Mahmudul Islam pointed out that as

per High Court rule, the defence

attorney should initiate the hearing,

going through the paper book of the

make submission after Khan Saifur

However, Serajul Huq rose to

Before that, Attorney General

Yesterday's hearing begun as

The five others acquitted are Lt.

conspiracy to murder.

(rtd) Moslehuddin.

case

case

The Prime Minister said that in

Maidan yesterday.

national level.

vour side."

"We have already absorbed 40

sincerity to ensure health for all

He alleged that the militants were moving about more frequently in the border towns and villages, openly carrying arms and creating problems for the local Bhutanese.

They have mistaken Bhutan's peaceful approach of resolving the problem for weakness and were becoming more aggressive and blatant in their activities. Gvamatsho was guoted in the report as saying. Meanwhile, King Wang Chuck said if Bhutan was left with no other

option but to send its armed forces to remove the militants, it would mean going to a war. Not only life would become difficult, but there would also be the loss of many lives, the king said.

with entering Bangladesh using an

invalid passport and sentenced to

two months in jail. He could not

come out of the jail due to legal

before the HC bench Sunday, the

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam

argued that the court had no author-

ity to issue a suo moto rule in this

case under Clause 102 of the

Constitution.

As Ochendo was produced

complications for the last five years

health clinics, across the country. She said that the government mentioned that Bangladesh stands

had intensified its health activities at district, upazila and community levels and introduced essential SAARC region. health service package for the long way to go and "we will have to common people "We are also trying to reduce increase CPR to 72 per cent by the

Jobs of all FP field workers to be

absorbed in rev budget: PM

dependence on foreign and in health sector and avoid duality and wastage in the health sector to ensure better service to the people."

Hasina said people will get all Family planning field workers, necessary services the community mostly women, from all over the health clinics and the government country joined the grand rally at the will establish a link between the historic Paltan Maidan to express clinics and specialised hospitals.

their gratitude to the Prime Minister She added that health for women for recognition of their work at and children will get priority in these community clinics which will be run Referring to the inclusion of with direct involvement and help of family planning field workers in the local people revenue budget, the Prime Minister

About her government's success in the health sector, the prime minister noted that population growth rate had been brought down to 1.5 per cent from 2 per cent, CPR (contraceptive prevalence rate) had been increased to 54 per cent from 49 and total fertility rate (TFR) had come down to 3.3 per cent.

framed against the accused under

argued that accused Risaldar (rtd)

Moslehuddin had been sighted at

three places with the other accused

on the night of August 14 at the

residence of Bangabandhu. Lt. Col

(rtd) Aziz Pasha (absconding and

sentenced to death in the case) took

a gun from Moslehuddin's hand and

sprayed bullets on Begum Mujib and

others at Bangabandhu's house.

Moslehuddin was also seen when

he organised the staff at the resi-

entrance of the house.

another prosecution lawyer.

dence under a mango tree at the

Citing prosecution witnesses, he

Hearing on split verdict begins

Section 120-B.

At that stage, Advocate Nizamul Haq Nasim of the Ain-O-Salish FROM PAGE 12 Kendra (ASK) was asked by the charge but was acquitted under

court to file a writ petition. Youngman held with gun from central jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A young man was arrested with a

pistol from the visitors' room of the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday. Waskurni Palash, son of Hafiz Uddin, came to meet a prisoner at

the jail, sources said. Prior to his entry. Chief Jail Guard Abul Kalam Azad ran a check on him with the metal detector. When detector gave positive indica-

tion. Palash got scared and tried to run away, sources added. However, security personnel at the jail chased and caught him. He was later handed over to the _albagh police station. A case was

filed in this regard.

Form vigilance bodies

FROM PAGE 12

They called upon conscious section of the society, religious people, police, members of mosque and madrassah committees and madrassah teachers to be on constant vigil so that there could be no

Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) Chairperson Khusi Kabir, Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury of 5.5 per cent. Nirmul Committee, Ajay Roy of Sammilito Samajic Andolan, Nurul Islam of Trade Union Centre, Sheikh Shahidullah of Teachers US market in terms of volume. But even more worrisome development Association and Shamsul Huda is that Mexico and Honduras two addressed the press conference at emerging giants the Jatyia Press Club auditorium. growths of 16.2 per cent and 18 per Khushi Kabir criticised the govcent respectively in 1999 while ernment for taking mild actions Bangladesh could make only a 4.2 against the fanatics. The governper cent growth. ment must take stern legal action On top of these duty-free access against them otherwise the civil threats, new challenges emerged society would face problem in the as the European Union recently waived quota on certain categories future, she warned. from China and Sri Lanka. Jacket, Referring to threat by religious so far a hot item for Bangladesh, has zealots of bringing about a Talebanbecome quota-free in China. At the style style Ajoy Roy said it amounted same time, five items like trousers to violation of the constitution. and shirts have been kept out of

FROM PAGE 1 Republic 6.1 per cent, Hong Kong 6 per cent and Bangladesh

Only five countries of the North American and Carribean basin are now exporting 42.5 per cent to the

Nigeria, Kenya and Mexico are implementing reconstruction programmes for the RMG sector and are attracting foreign investment in fabrics production.

"Bangladesh also needs similar actions now," said Anisul Huq. "We need to relocate our RMG units and upgrade the technology. The government should set up factories registered which would comply with labour and environment standards." By doing so, Bangladesh can still retain its customers who would still prefer to stay in a familiar and "tested sourcing ground" than moving to "untested countries" "We now have to seriously pursue advancing the quota phaseout for Bangladesh," says Anisul Huq. "If we can get unlimited dutyfree access now, orders will again start pouring into Bangladesh." But that will critically depend on quota for Sri Lanka under a textile two things BGMEA leadership and the Commerce Ministry's negotia-When Bangladesh is exporting tion capability on the world body. the same items under quota, the "In the run up to the phase-out quota-free status of these two of MFA, every country is positioning countries would make it suffer, themselves through having free BGMEA Vice-president Anisul Huq trade agreements and free trade parity so that once the multi-fibre Meanwhile, the emerging comagreement (MFA) is phased out by 2005, they enter the new phase with the best of strength".

declined. The SPP begun with the Justice Fazlul Kaim made a number of queries on accounts of PWs and First Information Report (FIR) and made some observations. the background of the case. He also On PW Major (rtd) Shahadat mentioned that charges were

Hossain Khan's account that he was sent to Bangabandhu's residence by the then Chief of Army Staff to make an inspection and report to him (Chief of Staff), the judge asked whether that report was submitted The prosecution said there was no order to submit a report in this regard. The court wanted to know who was the army chief at that time.

General Shafiullah was the ther Chief of Staff, who was the 45th PW in the case. Shafiullah had explained how his command was violated at gunpoint.

The day's hearing ended after his submission and presentation of accounts of a number of prosecution witnesses (PW) by Ansul Huq, to protect the President

During Huq's presentation,

Major buyers packing up

giving added momentum to countries because despite GATT and Uruguay Round, tariff on textile products is the highest at around 20 per cent while on other commodity, it

has come down to around four per cent tions.

Activists of Jubo Dal. Zia Parishad clash at Feni: 5 arrested

BSS, Feni has been reduced while life expectancy has increased, she said and

2005, to reduce TFR to 2 and popu-

population is women and develop-

without developing their status.

ment of the country is not possible

Local Government Minister Zillur

Rahman, Health Minister Sheikh

Fazlul Karim Selim, State Minister

for Health Prof M Amanullah, A S M

Feroz MP, Health Secretary Syed

Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury, and

Family Planning Field Employees

Unity Council Secretary General

Suraiya Akhtar and council leaders

S M Samad, Sved Asadullah,

Shawkat Ali, Parimal Chandra

Bhoumig and Tofael Ahmed also

addressed the rally. It was presided

She said that half of the country's

lation growth rate to one per cent.

Five persons were arrested following a gun fight between the activists second in health-service status in of Jubo Dal and Zia Parishad at Rampur here yesterday. But she said that there is still a

Chase and counter chase between the activists of two groups led to a gunfight and at one stage the office of Zia Parishad was set on fire, police sources said.

Police recovered lethal weapons from the scene.

The gunfight was a sequel to a clash on February 4 last between district Jubo Dal president Syed Mizanur Rahman and Zia Parishad leader Monwar Hossain Dulal over establishing supremacy in Rampur

Ershad Shikdar's elder brother

arrested from Barisal STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Khulna

Ashraf Ali Shikdar alias Baro Mia 46. elder brother of condemned prisoner Ershad Shikdar, was arrested in Barisal town at noon today, police said.

He will be brought here on Wednesday in connection with several murder and drug trafficking cases

Cabinet Ministry is carrying a spe-Police still believe that Ashraf cial message for Prime Minister Shikdar is one of the custodians of Sheikh Hasina Ershad's arms and ammunition.

In October 1999, police unearthed a big underground tunnel from his house at village Sholpur under Rupsha thana of Khulna district.

ment officials The tunnel was used for conceal ing Ershad's illegal arms, police said. But no arms was recov ered from there as they were shifted elsewhere soon after arrest of Ershad Shikdar.

Tender: BCL activist shot at PWD office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League -- Shahin -- was shot and injured by some gangsters while he was coming out of the Public Works Department office at Shegun Bagicha in the city after dropping a tender, sources said.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injury in his right leg and thigh, hospital sources said.

The gangsters belonged to a BCL group led by Ripon and Zeeshan, the sources claimed. Rivalry is going on between the

Shahin group and the Ripon-

Jail Killing Case adjourned

Mansur Ali were killed in the Dhaka filing a criminal revision petition Central Jail on November 3, 1975. pending with the High Court The then DIG (Prison) Kazi Abdul division of the Supreme Court Awal filed the Jail Killing Case with

1975

However, Nurul Islam Monzoor, one of the accused, with permission of the court, made submissions about his confined life at the jail hajat. He (Monzoor) said, the cell in

FROM PAGE 1

which he stays has no window and the jail authorities supply a low quality food. He also told the court that the physician did not check him up

regularly. Eight of the 21 accused Taheruddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, KM Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farookue Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shariar Rashid Khan, Major (Retd) Bazlul Huda, and

Quamruzzaman and Captain

Hasina due todav

A special envoy of Libya, Saad

Mostafa Mujber, arrives in Dhaka

vesterday that Saad, also a Libyan

An official announcement said

He is likely to call on the Prime

today at 1:00 pm by a special flight.

Special Libyan

envoy carrying

message for

UNB, Dhaka

Minister today.

court during the hearing.

absconders on October 12 last year. Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam Major (Retd) Khairuzzaman are and special PP Mosarraf Hossain now detained at the Dhaka Central Kaiol appeared for the state while Jail. They were produced before the Advocate Abdul Maiid Munshi, Hazi Nazrul Islam, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Four national leaders, Syed Mukul and SM Rafiqul Islam for the Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM accused.

The court framed

Lalbagh thana on November 4,

on September 10, 1996

years of investigation.

they died earlier.

The case was transferred to CID

The investigation officer of the

case submitted a charge sheet

against 23 accused including former

president Khandakar Mushtague

Ahmed and former Secretary

Mahbubul Alam Chashi after two

Mushtaque and Chashi were

charges

exempted from the trial because

against 21 accused including 13

Board says Textbooks will be in market by March

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Text Book Board authorities hope that secondary level students will get all their books by the second week of March while the concerned printing and marketing group "Pustaka" says the books will be available in the market by February 25.

Executives of the board could not be optimistic about Pustaka's assurance as the chairman thought that it could even go beyond the second week of March to print and market

Fourteen essential books came to

The Libyan special envoy will be all the books. accompanied by two senior govern-Meanwhile, 25 text books including Bangla, English, Mathematics, Social Science, General Science and Islamic Studies are available in the market.

BNP's it meeting tomorrow

In a bid to make its February 18 sitin around the Secretariat. BNP has called a joint meeting of its National Executive Committee and front organisations tomorrow.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will preside over the meeting to be held at 29 Minto Road at 11 am. Leaders of the NEC staying in

Dhaka and Presidents and General Secretaries of all front organisations have been asked to attend the meeting at 4 pm.

Iaraj murder FROM PAGE 12

have their judicial statements

recorded under section 164 of the

were verifying the information

Meanwhile, a vested quarter is

allegedly trying to sidetrack the case

by influencing the police authorities.

As per instruction of the ruling

party's bigwigs, the local leaders

went to the police station to down-

received through interrogation.

CrPC.

play the case.

him

Of them eight have been arrested so far. The list also includes Aleya, who allegedly sought help from Dipu and his gang to grab a piece of land belonging to Taraj, president of a cooperative society a As Haider refused to oblige, the Dakkhin Para in Uttara. gang picked up him at gun point. Aminul Islam and Gopal Krisna They took him behind BSMMU and Biswas were produced before the severed the wrist of his left hand. CMM's court yesterday after com-The gang left the spot, leaving pletion of the two-day police Haider in a pool of blood, sources remand. No further remand prayer quoting the witnesses said. was sought, though none of the two

the market yesterday while 18 others would be available by February 18, Pustaka authorities assured the Text Book Board. They also hoped that the printing of all books would be completed by ebruary 25. About 1.5 crore books out of the total 2.5 crore are in the market now, sources concerned said

Extortionists sever wrist of fruit vendor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists severed wrist of a fruit vendor behind the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at Shahbagh in the city yesterday. The victim Ali Haider is a resident

of Mirpur Section-11. A gang of extortionists led by one Rafig came to his shop at Maghbazar Rail gate and demanded Tk 50.000 from him, sources said.

To this, Ansul Huq said Major

On the accounts of PW 4 and PW 5 that they were trying to save their

lives and weapons, the court observed that they should have been put on court martial for failing

The hearing will continue

over by Council President Hasina Khatun Hasi Mother and child mortality rates

orist training in any madrassah in future.

Condemning the recent destructive activities in Branhmanbaria, Chittagong and elsewhere in the country, they said that bigoted religious leaders and activists were using mosque and madrassahs to meet political ends.

They also castigated these people for provoking people and declaring intellectuals and prominent personalities murtad. Their main objective is to destroy democracy and stall initiative to establish rule of law, they said.

2 teenage boys hurt in bomb blasts in Ctg UNB, Ctg

Two teenage boys were injured in explosions of bombs left in a sweetmeat box behind the Hamzarbag Gausia Mosque in Panchlaish thana yesterday evening

The bombs exploded when Ismail Hossain, 12, and Abdur Rahim, 13, picked up the box, witnesses and police said.

They were admitted to hospital. Police took note of the incident but could not ascertain who left the sweetmeat box containing the bombs behind the mosque.

IOJ leaders FROM PAGE 12

Azizul Huq was arrested on February 5 in connection with the murder of a policeman at a mosque at Mohammadpur in the city.

Amini was arrested on February 4 on charge of giving provocative statements at a rally at Paltan Maidar in the city on February 3.

Both were given one month's detention under the Special Powers Act.

Tk 15 cr IT project FROM PAGE 12

Ministry of Education last year, it is yet to get approval from the ministry that would make sure that there is no setback facing the programme.

When contacted, a high official of the ministry said the file is under process and will be sent back soon after necessary appraisal

Hazari's men still on hunt for STAFF CORRESPONDENT Feni police, accompanied by local

youths belonging to Hazari's armed cadre, are still on the hunt for the parents and relatives of Tipu Sultan. the UNB correspondent in the district.

Following a raid by Hazari's men, parents and other members of Tipu's family went into hiding. While a few political leaders including the BNP chief visited Tipu, now under treatment at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, none from the ruling Awami League has so far

injured during Tuesday's clashes between madrassah students and

without visiting Tipu, although he had earlier said that he would.

decide whether Tipu, severely roughed up allegedly by Hazari's men, would be operated at home or abroad.

FROM PAGE 12

ing after filing of the case.

Tipu's parents

petitors have embarked on internal restructuring to become major apparel exporters. For example,

agreement.

feels.

FROM PAGE 1

dreadful consequences.

Bangladesh today," he said.

from India and Myanmar daily.

want it for anything from Tk 35

upwards per hour, depending on the

paid a visit to the UNB reporter. Home Minister Mohammad Nasim visited the hospital on last Wednesday to see a policeman

law enforcing agencies in Brahmanbaria. However, he left

Meanwhile, doctors are yet to

Morshed Khan

supplier or user of either. Small arms are being increas-

the largest depository of small arms and light weapons, finds itself at the receiving end of both these phenomenon, without being the primary

still under investigation. The court granted the investigation officer another 20 days' time for submission of the report.

Meanwhile, petitions filed on January 14 by lawyers on behalf of Azadur Rahman, owner of Misfalah hotel and Mizanur Rahman, driver of Morshed Khan seeking withdrawal of their cases could not be disposed of

in the absence of Azadur Rahman. Azadur Rahman has been miss The free trade agreements are

"So, once a country gets dutyfree access, it gets on to a much advantageous position and dutytagged countries can in no way compete with it," explains Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). With the duty-free access, another global phenomenon that is taking place is the huge

migration of investment. 'The global textile trade is worth 350 billion US dollars and to meet the post- MFA challenges, huge investments in textile sector are taking place all over," said Dr Rahman".

reduce their 'lead time' as the fashion season has changed from four to eight months a year. This means exporters get little time to import fabrics and meet the deadline. So, the backward linkage industry is growing and e-business is taking over the normal business transac-

The exporters are trying to

Hartal exemption: Hospital,

Zeeshan group of BCL for few days over tender for PWD work, the sources said.

When contacted, Ramna police said they heard about the incident but none came to file any case in this connection.

Hartal today FROM PAGE 1

Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain. Tariqul Islam, Shahjahan Siraj, Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Amanullah Aman MP and Abdus Salam led the procession that paraded different city roads.

Leaders and activists of JP brought out a torch procession from Muktangan

Jamaat brought out a procession from north gate of Baitul Mukarram while IOJ from Purana Paltan area.

ambulance, medicine shop, restaurant, electricity-water-gas and vehicles carrying journalists and law enforcing agencies' personnel.

Haider was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to Orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital.

Ramna police could not give Following the hearing, the court details of the incident. ordered to send them to the Dhaka Central Jail. Uttara police said they

Photographer

FROM PAGE 12 attending doctor declared him dead, hospital sources said. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Though police could not give reason behind the killing, they sus-Different sources confirmed that pected that miscreants might have Dipu was seen in different areas of killed him for resisting them from the city but police could not arrest teasing his adopted daughter.

Family sources said Kafil returned to Bangladesh from abroad three years ago and was engaged in photography.

Monwara Begum, wife of the victim, filed a case with Mohammadpur police station in this regard, but police failed to arrest any of the miscreants.

He said student politics in the current socioeconomic condition country is being controlled by a and the possible spillover effect handful of armed miscreants. These from across the border may find students have a mutual understandresonance in the country's current ing of accommodation with the political condition, leading to mainstream politics of the country.

Mentioning another report, the "Bangladesh, sandwiched retired Brigadier General said that a between the 'Golden Crescent' and good number of weapons that flow the 'Golden Triangle', one the largnto the northeastern part of India est producer of drugs and the other come in from Kashmir, not through terrorists and sub-national groups but through members of law enforcing agencies. "These are confiscated weapons that the law enforcing agencies bring out with them on being posted out and sell those in ingly used as the final arbiter of the black market. No doubt some of unresolved issues between individthese find their way into Bangladesh uals, groups and political parties in eventually."

"Two decades of insurgency in According to one estimate about the CHT has had its share in the one hundred small arms are brought influx in the influx of Small arms and in from border areas every day, he Light Weapons into Bangladesh. said, while another says between While some of these weapons were six and seven hundred pieces of handed over to the government illegal weapons are smuggled in after the Peace Accord of 1997, a large number of these have been There are 70 to 80 weapons held kept aside in secret caches, which by various armed groups, which rent have been looted from time to time out these weapons to those who since then," he said

Mujibul Huq, fomer cabinet

session said, "Small arms are being used for personal aggrandisement in politics and business. Neila Hussain in her paper said

trade in small arms which has already proliferated in many neigbouring countries have now found a growing market in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Although the Shantibahini was one of the major source of illegal weapons, the recent flow of small arms proliferation has its own dynamics that are strongly influenced by socio-economic compulsions. This is a significant shift from 1971. The focus has shifted to power and money. Today, more than ever, it is difficult to distinguish between a political and a criminal

motive Neila said that a common source of arms proliferation in South Asia has been through pilferage from government warehouses.

"Unlike its neighbours. Bandladesh is experiencing one of the worst impacts of illegal use of small arms that is not confined to any ethnic unrest. Armed violence in the society has sharply raised the demand for illegal arms. Nature of

that level of tolerance in the society is so low that any kind of disagreement may end up in using small arms. The availability of AK-47s, German-made revolvers, Five Star, MI6 nine-shooter, shotgun, etc in the black market at very high prices bear it out."

She said criminalisation of South Asian societies, including Bangladesh is perhaps one of the worst effects of arms proliferation.

What is alarming is that figures reveal that in 1995-96 there were 252 deaths for political reasons from small arms while 941 deaths occurred for apparently non-political reasons. The figures since then have increased and on an average there are 21 political killings and 57 non-political killings in a month, she said

Neila said women and vouths are increasingly becoming carriers of small arms and explosives

Major General Ibrahim. Executive Director of Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies who moderated the session, said it is not unnatural to have some flow of arms but what was important is to create

security. He said only strengthening of laws and more effective enforcement by law enforcement agencies and institutional efforts could check use and abuse of small arms.

Canadian High Commissioner David Preston said it was his country's position to ensure greater human security by containing the proliferation of small arms.

He hoped that efforts would be made through the upcoming UN Conference and by individual governments including Bangladesh to ensure that efforts are made to reduce the human misery that results from the easy availability of small arms.

Don Hubert, Security Consultant f the Canadian High Commission, said his country's human security agenda aimed at developing new concepts, adapting diplomatic practice and updating the institutions on which the international system is based, with a view to enhancing the security of all people. Maior General Jamil D Ahsan. Director Gneeral of BIISS presided over the seminar divided into four sessions.

Nasim FROM PAGE 1 control.

Presided over by Committee Chairman Mohammad Sayedul Haq, the meeting also discussed the organogram and manpower of the Directorate of Immigration and Passport. The meeting suggested

prevention of passport forgery. It also suggested immediate implementation of Public Administration Reforms Commission's recommendations regarding modernization of the passport issuance process. The government has taken up a Tk 48.60 crore project for this.

The meeting also discussed the progress in implementation of suggestions of the Jail Reforms Commission led by former Chief Justice F K M A Munim. A report on various incidents in jails was also submitted at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Tajul Islam of Awami League and Sadeq Hossain of BNP. Home Secretary M M Reza and other high officials of the ministry were also present.

Check inflow of small arms type of weapon, he said. secretary and moderator of the violence in Bangladesh also reveals an atmosphere of deterrence and Anam expressed fear that the