

GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE Concern over rise in criminal activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday expressed concern over the rise in criminal activities across the country.

Criminal activities have increased sharply in March, April and May this year, they said and also expressed concern over the recovery of modern grenades in the last year.

Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC), a human rights organisation, arranged the press conference at the National Press Club in the city marking the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence 2008.

According to newspaper

reports, a total of 104 firearms and 350 bullets were recovered in April and a total of 163 people were killed in the same period, said BDPC Executive Director Sharif A Kafi.

Expressing its support to the UN initiative to control illegal arms trade, the organisers announced its weeklong programme on the occasion -- three human chain programmes in Dhaka, Jessore and Satkhira on June 4; a discussion on June 5 at Gazipur and a press conference on June 8.

They will also submit memorandum to the chief adviser, advisers, and to the heads of the Saarc states.

The organisation also placed an 11-point recommendation to

control illegal arms. The recommendations include forming a national peace and security commission, updating the arms law, reforming arms licensing rules, bringing madrasa education under general education system, allocating adequate budget to create employment opportunity, taking measures in the light of UN action and establishing a network with the neighbouring countries.

Member of South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication Dr Wajedul Islam, BDPC members Papia Sultana and Shahana Begum, members of Bangladesh Network on Small Arms Sharmin Afroz and Abu zafar Mohammed Hossain also spoke.



Angry students of Premier University stage a demonstration on Bahodderhat-Kalurghat road in the port city yesterday after the death of a fellow student in a road accident. (Story on page 16)

Tk 162.32cr RCC budget announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Acting mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Rezaunnabi Duda yesterday announced a Tk 162.32 crore budget for 2008-09 fiscal year proposing new taxes on holding and water.

"In fact, the holding tax will be adjusted as it had not been reassessed since 2003 during which many new houses were built and developed," he said.

"We have decided to raise an amount of Tk 1 crore from holding tax and another Tk 1 crore from water tax," said Abdul Hamid Sarker, ward commissioner and acting chairman of the finance committee.

Explaining the increase in water tax, he said the RCC is spending Tk 3.50 crore every year in water sector, but getting a return of less than Tk 1 crore in revenue.

"Our power bills have been remaining outstanding for long and we could not pay a single power bill of current fiscal," he added.

The acting mayor said the city areas and its population have increased and the corporation had to extend its activities and manpower to provide modern services, but its income has not increased in proportion.

"For adjusting the increased expenditure, we are to fire some 300 labourers in July," he added.

The budget envisages an income

of Tk 32.74 crore as revenue, Tk 24.07 crore as development grant and Tk 93.65 crore as project grant.

The proposed expenditures include Tk 29.07 crore for salaries and other organisational purposes including Tk 25.80 lakh for road repair and maintenance, Tk 25 crore for second phase of Medium Town Coordinated Flood Control Project, Tk 10 crore for municipal development fund and Tk 5 lakh each for digital city project, SME and information technology development and Green South Asia project.

However, the budget did not show any allocation for controlling mosquito menace, one of the major problems of the city.



Newly elected office-bearers of Zonta International Dhaka Club 1 pose for photograph with President Nazneen Azim, sitting third from right, on Sunday.

Zonta Int'l Dhaka Club 1 executives

Nazneen Azim, a visual media and communication consultant, takes over as president of Zonta International Dhaka Club 1 on Sunday, says a press release.

The executive board of the club appointed Nazneen Azim for the year 2008-10.

Other office bearers are: Treasurer -- Rina Montaj; President Elect -- Dr Zareen Mahboob, Vice President -- Shamima Iqbal Rahman; Secretary -- Mashruha Hossain and Recording Secretary -- Runa Laila.

Other members and directors are Dr Firdous Quadir, Husne Ara Huq Zubaeda Zahed, Zeenat Amin, Nehreen Rahman, Rokeya Quadir and Tasleem Alam.

Zonta International is a global organisation of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide.

South Korean varsity team meets DU VC

Dr Tridib K Biswas, acting dean of Academic Affairs, International School of Business, Woosong University of South Korea called on Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhawan on Sunday, says a press release.

Neeru M Biswas, regional coordinator, International Relations, International School of Business of Woosong University, HT Imam, chairman of Pathmark Associates Ltd, Prof Md Serajul Islam, dean of Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University, Prof M Ziaul Haque Mamun, director of IBA and chairman of different departments under business faculty and IBA were present during the meeting.

They discussed matters of mutual interests specially the possibilities of establishing exchange and collaborative research programmes between Dhaka University and Woosong University. DU vice chancellor thanked the Woosong University team members for their visit and interest in its academic and research activities.

ILLEGAL WEALTH Deputy forest conservator Hanif, his wife charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against deputy forest conservator Abu Hanif and his wife Dilruba Parvin in a case filed for amassing illegal wealth and concealing wealth information to the commission.

ACC Deputy Director Monzur Ahmed, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the couple to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka showing 26 people as prosecution witnesses.

The couple was charged with amassing Tk 29,73,117 illegally and concealing Tk 15, 13,344 in their wealth statements submitted earlier to the ACC.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against the couple and the order to attach their properties, as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

On December 24 last year, the ACC filed the case with Ramna police against Hanif and Dilruba for committing the offences.

Mass arrest condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different human rights organisations yesterday condemned the mass arrest launched by the joint forces on Saturday.

They also urged the government to stop such arrest.

Ano Salish Kendra (ASK) in a statement said although the government had launched the drive for recovering illegal arms but no significant recoveries have been done yet.

The law enforcers arrested local political leaders and even children although the government says it has no political motive.

They urged the government to ensure that the arrestees get proper legal help.

Odhikar in a statement urged the government to stop the mass arrest and demanded release of those arrested without specific allegation.

Dhaka elected titular member to ILO body

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been elected a titular member of the Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO) from the Asia Pacific group of countries for 2008-11.

The election took place yesterday in Geneva in the ongoing session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), the highest governing body of the ILO, says a release received from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Geneva.

Grameen Shakti receives Globe Energy Award

Grameen Shakti (GS) has won the First Place under the National Energy Globe Award 2007, says a press release.

It is one of the 15 best projects, out of 800 contenders from all over the world.

GS has also been selected as one of three nominees under the air category for the Energy Globe Award 2007. It has won these recognitions because of its unique and impressive programme to bring light, energy and income to energy-starved rural Bangladesh through renewable energy technologies.

Dipal Barua, managing director of Grameen Shakti, received these awards in the Plenary Hall of the European Parliament in Brussels on May 26. Eminent personalities such as European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pottering, EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev attended the ceremony.



An employee of Prime Bank Ltd donates blood under a blood donation programme at Gulshan Branch of the bank on May 29. Prime Bank Ltd in collaboration with Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital organised the programme as part of the bank's 13th anniversary programme. Managing Director M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, SEVP Md Jasim Uddin, SVP and Head of Marketing Mohammed Ehsan Habib, SVP and Head of Public Relations Ferdousi Sultana and SAVP Mahmudur Rahman of the bank were present during the blood donation programme.



Standing in stagnant rainwater, a woman buys vegetables from a roadside vendor at Shantinagar in the city yesterday. Most city areas went under water following yesterday's downpour.

SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

'Participation raises Bangladesh's image'

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury has said the conference titled Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore was "fruitful" and Bangladesh's participation enhanced its regional and international image.

He made the remarks while talking to the media after returning home from the two-day conference on Sunday, said a foreign ministry press release.

The foreign adviser said in the wake of natural disasters in Myanmar and China, naturally the dialogue focused on them.

He said there was also a lot of interest on climate change and how it relates to security.

"I was one of the keynote speakers at a session and made five proposals," Iftakhar said. These were all well received, he added.

The proposals included emphasis on climate change adaptation, depoliticising the debate and rewarding those who polluted least, making transfer of appropriate eco-friendly technology to Least Developed Countries easier, the need for the UN to provide strong leadership, and the setting up of an International Food Fund.

He said Singapore is a modern Asian country, which can be a model for Bangladesh.

"Naturally, I took advantage of the visit to hold separate bilateral talks with their (Singaporean) Foreign Minister George Yeo and Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean. We discussed how Singapore can assist us with dredging our rivers and ports, and about the

scope of greater participation of Bangladeshi skilled workers in Singapore."

He said: "I explained to them that Bangladesh is now most peaceful country in the South Asian region. They also appreciated

HC orders release of juvenile on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the authorities concerned to release a juvenile detained in Kushtia jail on bail.

Following an application filed by Advocate Fahima Nasrin, a human rights activist, a HC bench comprising Justice Md Iman Ali and Md Emdadul Haque passed the order.

The sessions judge's court in Kushtia sentenced Zahidul Hasan Roney to 10 years imprisonment in a murder case on August 14, 2006.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to keep Roney at the Juvenile Development Centre in Jessore till he attains 18 years.

On May 8, Roney crossed his 18 years and then he was sent back to Kushtia jail to suffer imprisonment.

The Juvenile Development Centre authorities recently recommended to the social welfare ministry to free Roney from the custody, as he developed his character at the centre.

But the ministry ignored the recommendation and upheld the trial court verdict.

Advocate Fahima filed a petition with the HC against the conviction of Roney and prayed for his release on bail.

ZIAD MURDER BMC students, teachers demand arrest of killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Bangladesh Medical College at a press conference yesterday demanded arrest of the killers of Ehtesham Al Ziad, a first year student of the college.

Ziad was beaten to death by a mob at SM Hall of Dhaka University on May 30 after being accused of stealing cellphones.

At the press conference at Bangladesh Medical College in the city, the teachers of the college said Ziad was killed premeditatedly and the allegation that he stole cellphones is baseless.

They demanded 'cancellation

of studentship of those involved in the killing and an explanation from the provost of the SM Hall regarding the incident.

The teachers and students of the college said the allegation that Ziad was addicted is also untrue. They alleged that a quarter is trying to hinder proper investigation of the case by making such false allegations.

They also demanded proper investigation into the killing of former registrar of the college Dr Mofakkar Ahmed who was killed a few months ago.

Bangladesh Medical College Principal Dr Aktaruzzaman, teachers of the college Prof Dr Lutful Kabir, Prof Dr Aminul Islam, Abu Taber Manju, uncle of Ziad, and students of the college were present at the press conference.

Bay
THE ART OF BUILDING

The Ultimate in Luxury Living
To preview our projects, please visit
www.baydevelopments.com
988-3365 988-0268

Member: REHAB

www.baydevelopments.com

ARTISTI
COLLECTION

UP TO
SALE RATE 60% OFF
...be the first one to grab this offer
from 1st June 2008

Hot Line: 0171 ARTISTI

Asset DEVELOPMENTS

Willowbrook
Home... Live n' Enjoy

3 Bedroom Apartments at UTTARA

Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd
91 Gulshan Avenue Dhaka
(Office Of Corporate & Management Services)
Tel: 8857230, 8857231, 8857232, 8857233, 8857234
8857495, 8857496, 8857497, 8857498, 8857499
Mobile: 01714 039847, 01714 039843, 01714 015887
01713 095055, 01713 044911, 01713 032448
01713 018408, 01713 018405, 01711 594855
Fax: 880 2 8828272 E-mail: asset@agni.com

September 2008
Sun Mon Tue
"Last Chance to Apply to CANADA"
10 11

University of Windsor
thinking forward

CANADA with Windsor
With Windsor you can. You can get a world-class degree. You can get the career you want. You can get your dream job. You can become a valuable member of the Canadian economy and society, or for that matter, anywhere! With Windsor, you can.

Bachelor & Master Degree programs:

- Bachelor in Engineering
- Bachelor in Computer Science
- Bachelor in Commerce (100+ more programs)
- Master of Engineering
- Master of Management

Canadian University Application Centre
HOSNA CENTER, Suite 210, 106 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Tel: +880 2 8826445 • Cell: +88 01911 365221
Email: dhaka@canada123.org • Website: www.windsorwired.org