following yesterday's downpour.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed

ence titled Shangri-La Dialogue

in Singapore was "fruitful" and

Bangladesh's participation

He made the remarks while

enhanced its regional and inter-

talking to the media after

returning home from the two-

day conference on Sunday, said

The foreign adviser said in

He said there was also a lot of

"I was one of the keynote

speakers at a session and made

five proposals," Iftekhar said.

These were all well received, he

emphasis on climate change

debate and rewarding those

who polluted least, making

transfer of appropriate eco-

need for the UN to provide

strong leadership, and the set-

ting up of an International Food

He said Singapore is a mod-

ern Asian country, which can be

bilateral talks with their

Minister Teo Chee Hean. We

ZIAD MURDER

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

student of the college.

cellphones is baseless.

Teachers and students of

press conference yesterday

demanded arrest of the killers of

Bangladesh Medical College in the

city, the teachers of the college said

Ziad was killed premeditatedly and

the allegation that he stole

Bangladesh Medical College at a

a model for Bangladesh.

The proposals included

interest on climate change and

a foreign ministry press release.

the wake of natural disasters in

Myanmar and China, naturally

the dialogue focused on them.

how it relates to security.

added.

Chowdhury has said the confer-

UNB, Dhaka

national image.

SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

# Concern over rise in criminal activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

yesterday expressed concern over the rise in criminal activities across Executive Director Sharif A Kafi.

increased sharply in March, April and May this year, they said and

Partnership Centre (BDPC), a ference on June 8. human rights organisation, the National Press Club in the city marking the Global Week of Action states.

against Gun Violence 2008.

350 bullets were recovered in April Speakers at a press conference and a total of 163 people were killed

Criminal activities have initiative to control illegal arms weeklong programme on the occa-Satkhira on June 4; a discussion on Bangladesh Development June 5 at Gazipur and a press con-

arranged the press conference at randum to the chief adviser, advis-

According to newspaper 11-point recommendation to also spoke.

reports, a total of 104 firearms and control illegal arms. The recommendations include forming a national peace and security comin the same period, said BDPC mission, updating the arms law, reforming arms licensing rules, Expressing its support to the UN bringing madrasa education under general education system, allocattrade, the organisers announced its ing adequate budget to create employment opportunity, taking also expressed concern over the sion -- three human chain measures in the light of UN action recovery of modern grenades in the programmes in Dhaka, Jessore and and establishing a network with the neighbouring countries.

Member of South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication Dr Wajedul They will also submit memo- Islam, BDPC members Papia Sultana and Shahana Begum, ers, and to the heads of the Saarc members of Bangladesh Network on Small Arms Sharmin Afroz and The organisation also placed an Abu zafar Mohammed Hossain



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 Dudu yesterday announced a Tk 162.32 Fcrotein revenue colici i crore budget for 2008-09 fiscal year proposing new taxes on holding and remaining outstanding for long and

"In fact, the holding tax will be adjusted as it had not been reasdeveloped," he said.

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 of Tk 32.74 crore as revenue, Tk 24.07 but getting a return of less than Tk 1

we could not pay a single power bill of repair and maintanance, Tk 25 crore current fiscal," he added.

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 lems of the city.

Newly elected office-bearers of Zonta International Dhaka Club 1 pose for

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photograph with President Nazneen Azim, sitting third from right, on Sunday.

3.50 crore every year in water sector, 93.65 crore as project grant.

The acting mayor said the city areas Coordinated Flood Control Project,

sessed since 2003 during which and its population have increased and Tk 10 crore for municipal developmany new houses were built and the corporation had to extend its ment fund and Tk 5 lakh each for activities and manpower to provide digital city project, SME and infor-"We have decided to raise an modern services, but its income has

tax, he said the RCC is spending Tk crore as development grant and Tk The proposed expenditures

include Tk 29.07 -crore for salaries "Our power bills have been and other organisational purposes including Tk 25.80 lakh for road for second phase of Medium Town mation technology development and Green South Asia project.

However, the budget did not show any allocation for controlling mosquito menace, one of the major prob-

#### 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 | Grameen Shakti (GS) has won the appointed Nazneen Azim for the year 2008-10.

Other office bearers are: pressrelease. Teasurer -- Rina Momtaj; President Elect -- Dr Zareen Mahboob, Vice President -- Shamima Iqbal Rahman; Secretary -- Mashrufa Hossain and Recording Secretary -Runa Laila.

Other members and directors are Dr Firdous Quadir, Husne Ara Huq Zubaida 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 DUVC

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 Bhaban 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 Diruba 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.

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) in a statement said although the government had launched the drive for recovering illegal arms but no significantrecoveries 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 International Labour Organisation | Developed Countries easier, the in Jessore till heattains 18 years. (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

First Place under the National Energy Globe Award 2007, says a

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 energystarved rural Bangladesh through renewable energy technologies.

Dipal Barua, managing director of Grameen Shakti, received thee 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 Manual Barroso, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev attended the ceremony

Singapore.' He said: "I explained to them that Bangladesh is now most

peaceful country in the South Asian region. They also appreci-

## 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 adaptation, depoliticising the Roney to 10 years' imprisonment in a murder case on August 14, 2006.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to keep Roney member of the Governing Body of | friendly technology to Least at the Juvenile Development Centre

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

The Juvenile Development Centre authorities recently recommended to the social welfare ministry to free Roney from the custody, as "Naturally, I took advantage he developed his character at the of the visit to hold separate centre.

But the ministry ignored the (Singaporean) Foreign Minister recommendation and upheld the George Yeo and Defence trial court verdict.

Advocate Fahima filed a petition discussed how Singapore can with the HC against the conviction of assist us with dredging our Roney and prayed for his release on rivers and ports, and about the bail.

how a country handled humanitarian crisis became a factor in judging their capacities." The Singapore defence min- the first time this year.

This was important because

rehabilitation operations.

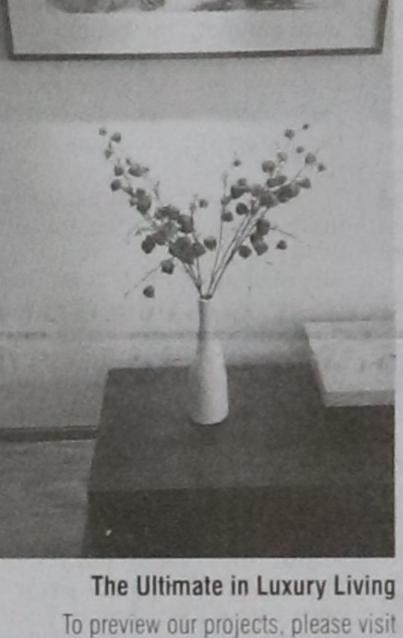
Standing in stagnant rainwater, a woman buys vegetables from a roadside vendor at Shantinagar in the city yesterday. Most city areas went under water

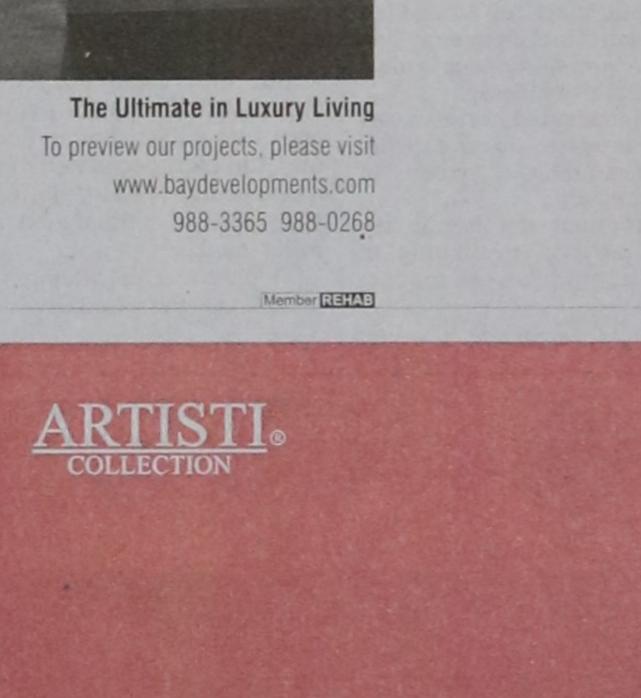
'Participation raises Bangladesh's image'

scope of greater participation of ated how well we handled our

istry and the London-based Bangladeshi skilled workers in post Cyclone Sidr relief and International Institute for Strategic Studies organised the 'Shangri-La Dialogue', an annual event for the past seven years. Bangladesh participated in this Ministerial Dialogue for



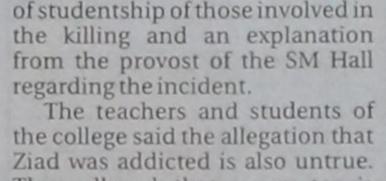




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An employee of Prime Bank Ltd donates blood under a blood donation programme at Gulshan Branch of the bank on May 29. Prime Bank Ltd in collaboration with Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital organised the programme as part of the bank's 13th anniversary 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.



Ehtesham Al Ziad, a first year They alleged that a quarter is trying to hinder proper investiga-Ziad was beaten to death by a tion of the case by making such mob at SM Hall of Dhaka false allegations. University on May 30 after being They also demanded proper accused of stealing cellphones. At the press conference at

BMC students, teachers

demand arrest of killers

investigation into the killing of former registrar of the college Dr Mofakkhar 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 Taher Manju, uncle of Ziad, and students of the college were present at the press conference.

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