

**Monitor NGO activities strictly in CHT: JS body**

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) ministry yesterday stressed the need for strict monitoring of the activities of the non-government organisations (NGOs) working in CHT areas.

This was decided in its 19th meeting of the standing committee with its Chairman Md Shah Alam in the chair. State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipangkar Talukder, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Gias Uddin Ahmed and Md Abu Zahir attended the meeting.

The meeting strongly recommended the government to supply adequate vehicles to the law enforcers for recovering illegal arms, ensuring punishment to the illegal arms holders, extortionists and militants.

It also suggested that the officers work sincerely and build up friendly relations between the tribal and non-tribal people.

Acting Secretary to the CHT Ministry Nabo Bikram Kishore Tripura and other concerned officials also attended the meeting.

**Correction**

In a report headlined "2 City Bank staff shot, mugged of Tk 10.50 lakh" published yesterday on page-3, we stated that muggers shot two City Bank staff. In fact, the victims were employees of a real estate company. No City Bank staff was shot or mugged in the incident. We regret the mistake.



Illegal makeshift food shops with chairs and tables occupy major parts of the Suhrawardy Udyan, known also as Ramna Racecourse ground, hampering natural beauty and environment of the historic park. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**52 per cent men assault female partners**

Reveals study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 52 per cent of men in both urban and rural areas in the country physically assault their intimate female partners, while 10 per cent of urban and 14 per cent of rural men commit sexual violence against women (partner and non-partner), said a study.

Over 60 per cent of men think that woman deserves to be beaten, while many think women should tolerate violence to maintain family bonding, according to the study revealed at a city hotel yesterday.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) with the help of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Partners for Prevention, an international NGO, conducted the survey from January to June in 2011.

The survey was conducted on 1,254 men in urban and 1,146 men in rural areas.

While addressing the occasion, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury stressed that a topic on gender equality should be in textbooks at school level.

She put emphasis on coordinated efforts to end violence against women.

The study shows 29 to 35 per cent of men sexually abuse women out of their anger or for punishing them, while 57 to 67 per cent just for 'fun'.

After committing violence, about 43 to 51 per cent of perpetrators do not have any reaction, while 37 to 39 per cent feel guilty and 15 to 25 per cent face legal consequence.

The study also placed some recommendations to end violence against women including changing men and boy's gender attitude, comprehensive media awareness campaign, empowerment of women and implementation of more gender equitable policies.

UNFPA Bangladesh representative Arthur Erken and ICDDR,B acting Executive Director Dr MA Salam, also spoke.

**'Bangabandhu Tower' to be built at DU**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities will build a 20-storey building named 'Bangabandhu Tower' at Shibbari on the campus to accommodate the class four employees of the university.

The decision of building the tower was taken in a recent syndicate meeting.

The building will be named after the name of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to recall his contribution in the movement of class four employees of the university, said Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

"The authorities are working to make the design of the tower and the construction work will begin soon", the VC added.

DU authorities expelled Bangabandhu from DU on charge of spearheading a movement of fourth-class employees on April 17, 1949.

DU withdrew the expulsion order last year at an emergency meeting.

**SUNDAY'S 'DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES' Govt tolerates for democracy: PM**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government had tolerated Sunday's "destructive activities of the opposition party" for the sake of continuation of democracy.

The "pre-planned" incidents on that day were designed to foil the trial of war criminals who had perpetrated in killing, rape, looting and arson, she said.

Hasina made the remarks while addressing the inaugural session of the SME Fair 2011 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

The premier said that judiciary in the country is free and independent.

"If the accused persons can prove they are innocent, they will come out from the custody. What is the problem here?" she observed.

The present government believes in healthy competition in democracy where people will freely exercise their right of franchise. For that reason, the government did not act harshly although two people were killed during Sunday's incidents, she said.

Indicating opposition BNP, Hasina said that in the 2008 general elections, the people of the country had rejected this party. "Now they are taking revenge on the people."

She said what is wrong if the government takes action against people who were engaged in money laundering, looting, embezzling

funds of an orphanage and other evil deeds.

"Even an FBI agent gave her testimony against money laundering during the BNP regime. It was a shame for the whole nation," she said.

The premier said if the government does not take action against such misdeeds, how the country will advance?

Referring to Sunday's incidents, Hasina said, "What was the reason behind such activities? Election is the best way to change any government through democratic process."

In this connection, she mentioned that the last couple of elections under the present government were held in a free and fair manner, and in many places, the ruling party backed candidates were defeated.

"We show that election can be held freely and neutrally under a political government," Hasina said.

She blamed the opposition party for putting people under unnecessary pressure by creating anarchy in the country.

"We all have seen the non-democratic system in the name of caretaker government or army backed caretaker government system. We are exercising restraint for the wellbeing of democracy," she said.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the five-day fair to showcase the SME products of the country.



PHOTO: STAR

French Envoy Charley Causeret confers prestigious French decoration, the medal of Chevalier des Arts et Letters, on internationally famed Bangladeshi mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder at the envoy's residence in the city yesterday.

**Every war criminal to be tried: AK Khandker**

BSS, Dhaka

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) Chairman and Planning Minister AK Khandker Bir Uttam yesterday said every war crimes suspect will be brought to justice.

"The trials of war criminals, who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971, have already started and every war criminal will be tried," he said.

He said the ongoing trial process will never be a farce rather it would be of international standards.

AK Khandker was speaking at a Victory Day discussion and cultural programme at National Academy for Education Management (NAEM) in the city.

**Forged money factory busted in city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police on Monday night busted a forged money factory in the city's Lalbagh area and arrested two people with fake currencies of different countries worth around Tk 5 crore.

The currencies include Bangladeshi Taka, Indian Rupee, Myanmar Kyats Kuwaiti Dinar and US dollar, said Ashrafuzzaman Doula, assistant commissioner (public relation) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

The detained were identified as Mohammad Sagir Ahmed, 52, and Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid, 49, of the capital's Shahidnagar.

During the raid, the DB also seized materials and equipments for making the fake currencies from their possession.

According to the police, the fake currency making gangs are expanding their items of making the fake currencies in the country.

"In earlier incidents, we seized fake currencies mainly of Bangladesh, India and USA, but the seizure of the currencies of Myanmar, Kuwait and Oman is new in the country," the DB assistant commissioner Golan Azad Khan told The Daily Star.

The detained Sagir Ahmed was arrested before for several times, but resumed the illicit activity soon after coming out of jail on bail, he said.

The both detained Sagir and Harun were placed on a seven-day remand for interrogation, he added.

**DoE fines 4 brickfields**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) fined four illegal brickfield Tk 14.5 lakh in four districts for destroying agricultural land and topsoil during a weeklong eviction drive that ended yesterday.

The brickfields were set up without DoE's clearance certificate destroying agricultural land, said DoE Director Mohammad Munir Chowdhury.

The brickfields are Abdus Sobhan Bricks in Manikganj, Allahar Daan Bricks in Narayanganj, PBC Bricks in Narsingdi and AN Bricks in Nilphamari.

These brickfields destroyed local ecology, caused hazard to public health and shrunk agricultural land, Munir said.

The DoE team also asked the owners to remove all brickfield settings within three weeks.

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