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## BHRC Human Rights Report on June -2013 **Total 231 persons** killed in June 2013

**Prices of kitchen** 

items rising

**Human Rights Report:** The documentation section of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) furnished this survey report (Human Rights Report) on the basis of daily newspapers and information received from its district, sub-district and municipal branches. As per survey it appears that 231 people were killed in June 2013. It proves the law and order situation to be not satisfactory. The commissions extremely anxious at this situation.

Such series of murder may be entitled as unsatisfactory situation of law and order in the country. Commission deeply expressed its concern on huge killing in June 2013 and violation of human rights. The Law enforcing agencies and related Govt. departshould ments be more

responsible so that percentage of killing may be brought down to zero level. To institutionalize the democracy and to build human rights based society the rule of law must be established everywhere. Both physical and mental torture have been prohibited in constitution of Bangladesh and UN charter of human rights. But in practice the law enforcing agents of the government are neglecting those constitution of the land and as well UN charter. Through enforcing rule of law only such violation against human rights can be minimized.

It appears from documentation division of BHRC: 1. Total 231 Nos. of people

total killed in June -2013 Under-

A. Killed after Raping 1, B. Killed due to social discrepancy 143, C. Political killing 1. D. Killed by Law enforcing authority 6, E. Killed due to doctor negligency 3, F. Killing for dowry 6, F. killed after missing 71.

Besides victims of torture violating human rights in June 2013.

2. Suicide 28, 3. Road Accident 189, 4. miscellaneous Accident 97.

In a recent meeting, pricemonitoring committee discussed how to regulate the prices of most consumed commodities in order to keep them within the purchasing capacity of the lower income group of people during the month. The meeting was presided over by the Commerce Secretary Mahbub Ahmed and attended by leaders of different monitoring teams. The Ministry official said that the govern-

□ Anisul Islam Noor □ Prices of vegetables and fishes have risen in the city's kitchen markets, but that of other essentials remained stable. Again the price of a single item differed between markets for no valid reason.

The Commerce Ministry officials fear that prices of most of the essential commodities might shoot up ahead of the Ramzan, as did the traders in the past to earn excessive profit.

Sates

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ment was working with businessmen in Dhaka Chittagong and in other parts of the country to prevent hoarding during the upcoming Ramzan.

"In the meeting, we have asked the members of monitoring teams to advise the consumers not to make extra purchase of essentials to prevent increase of the price thereof," he said. As per directives of the mon-

itoring committee, the price list of the commodities will be hanged at the entrance of the markets so that consumers can check them from cheating by the dishonest retailers and the wholesalers. The members of the monitoring teams will meet the members of the bazaar commit-

to 18, snake gourd at Tk 35 to 40, bitter gourd at Tk 40 to 45, green bean at Tk 35 to 40, luffa at Tk 40 to 50, okra at Tk 30 to 35, cucumber at Tk 30 to 35, cauliflower at Tk 30 to 40, cabbage at Tk 30 to 35, carrot at Tk 60 to 65, radish at Tk 30 to 35, parbal at Tk 30 to 35, teasel gourd at Tk 40 to 45, zucchini at Tk 25 to 30, colocasia esculenta at Tk 35 to 40 and coriander leaves at Tk 250 to 300 per kg. An ash gourd and pumpkin were selling at Tk 35 to 40 and Tk 30 to 50 per piece respectively on basis of its weight and quality.

Local lentil was selling at Tk 115-125, up by Tk five per kg, and the imported variety at Tk 120-135. The green gram was selling at Tk 120-130 per kg. Dano and Diploma were sold at Tk 675 and Tk 625 respectively, Nido 2+ at Tk 350, Marks and Fresh at Tk 520 per kg. Minicate brand of rice was selling at Tk 48 to 50 on Friday, Nazirshail variety at Tk 48 to 51 per kg, Paizam and Lata at Tk 38 to 40, Swarna at Tk 34 to 38 and BR-28 varieties at Tk 34 to 36 per kg. Fish price is increased by Tk 20 to 30 per kg on average. Barbal and scorpion fishes were selling at Tk 700 to Tk 800 per kilo each, salmon Tk 250 to 300, carp Tk 300 to Tk 450, shrimp and lobster at Tk 400 to Tk 600, pangas Tk 150 to Tk 170, tilapia Tk 150

to 180, mola Tk 220, climbing fish Tk 250 to 600, lata at Tk 200 to 240, tatkini at Tk 200 to 220, sheat fish 300 to 500, small fry fish Tk 250 and butter fish at Tk 660 to 700. A pair of medium size river shad (hilsha) was selling at Tk1200 to 1400. Loose soybean oil was selling at Tk 110-114 per litre, palm oil at Tk 74-Tk 76 and super palm at Tk 78-80. Soybean in one-litre bottle was selling at Tk 130-Tk 135 and in five-litre bottle Tk 655-Tk 670.

The local garlic was selling at Tk 70-90 per kg, while the price of imported variety ranged from Tk 100 to Tk110 per kg. TCB data said, prices of garlic decreased by 22.45 per cent in a month. Prices of both local and Indian onion increased by Tk 5-8 per kg in a week. Local onion was selling at Tk 38 to 42 and Indian varieties at Tk 36 to Tk 38 per kg. Coarse flour (Atta) was selling at Tk 33-34 and every two-kilo in packet at Tk 78. On the other hand, fine flour (maida) ranged from Tk 42 to 44 per kg and in packet Tk 46-48 per kg. Ginger was selling at Tk 90-110 per kg, up by Tk 10 per kg from last week's price line. Beef was selling at Tk 290 per kg, red beef Tk 450-Tk 480 and poultry birds Tk 145 to Tk 150. Egg price hovered between Tk 35 and 38 per four pieces.

tees from time to time to seek their cooperation in this regard.

Zaid Bakht, Director of Research of the state-owned Institute Bangladesh of Development Studies, said the prices of essentials might increase after July because of the excess money's landing in the markets for the purpose of elections.

However, prices of all kinds of kitchen vegetables rose by Tk 8 to 12 on average on Friday in the city markets. Traders blamed short supply, and continual rainfall submerging the vegetable fields. Tomato was selling at Tk 55 to 65 per kilogram, green papaya at Tk 30 to 35, green chili at Tk 50 to 70, brinjal at Tk 50 to 60, potato at Tk 15



### **C'wealth Ministerial Meet Begins** Women's representation in every sector under focus

### press briefing.

Prime

Hasina

**Human Rights Report:** Deputy Director of Commonwealth Foundation Myn Garcia speaking at a meet the press on Women's Leadership for Enterprise held at the CIRDAP

Auditorium on 17 July 2013. Α strong for plea women's representation in the decision-



making level in every important sector came as a com- the economy and decisionmon stand as the 10th making Commonwealth Women Affairs Ministers Meeting (CWAMM) began here On 17 July 2013 to make recommendations in this regard. "Every aspect of gender equality and barriers to women entrepreneurship will be discussed during the three-day meeting," state minister for women and children affairs Meher Afroz Chumki told a press briefing at a city hotel prior to the opening of the CWAMM. Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma and special development adviser of Commonwealth

gender sector Dr Meena Shivdas were present at the

Minister Shiekh inaugurated CWAMM at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre with Meher Afroz Chumki in the chair. The theme of

year's this CWAMM is ' W o m e n ' Leadership f 0 Enterprise'. Chumki said issues of

the

women's representation in process, global financial markets, leading banks and national policymaking bodies will be highlighted during the three-day confce. She said Bangladesh has made tremendous advancement in the field of women empowerment and that the country is heading toward achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). About the 10th CWAMM hosted by Bangladesh, Chumki said Commonwealth member-countries would give their feedback on formulating a roadmap to create women entrepreneurship. Kamalesh Sharma said the new Commonwealth charter



recognizes that gender equality and women empowerment are the basic human rights and fundamentals to development.

"Every country should invest in women entrepreneurs and provide them with access to finance and markets. Women leadership helps build sustainable economy," he said adding that, "we will focus on introduction of gendersensitive investment by the government and the private sector.

He further said the meeting will recognize the importance of creating a policy environment that would enable women through political and corporate leadership so that they can contribute to the advancement and development of their countries.

Apart from the issue of women empowerment, various issues including trade, public administration, land border demarcation line. democracy and culture would be discussed in the meetings.

Commonwealth women affairs ministers, senior officials of the government, civil society organisations and partner agencies will discuss critical issues in advancing women empowerment and gender equality in the 10th CWAMM meetings.

A total 30 countries out of the 54 Commonwealth membercountries, are participating in the meetings.

### We must pursue democracy for progress

#### **Human Rights Report:**

Minister Sheikh Prime Hasina on Saturday highlighted the economic achievements of her government in the country during

the last four years and said the nation must move forward on the path of democracy for continued progress and prosperity. Winding up a

three-week general discussion on the national budget for fiscal 2013-14 in the parliament, the prime minister said we must continue our march on the democratic road; otherwise there would be no progress and prosperity and our country would fall far behind.

The prime minister reaffirmed that the next general election would be held exactly the way it takes place in all other parliamentary democracies in the world and said: "We want to follow their examples for a solid democratic foundation in the country and reinforcing people's democratic rights." Sheikh Hasina, who is also



Awami League, said the people are free to vote for whoever they wish in the next general election expected to be held later this year or early next. If they

- Sheikh Hasina

vote for opposition, it will be elected and no one should have any issue, she added. The prime minister said the four city corporation

elections in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet were held in a free, fair and impartial way and took a swipe at opposition leader and BNP chief Khaleda Zia, who was also present in the parliament, for saying that those polls were not held in a fair manner.

The prime minister told the House that a total of 5,654 polls were held across the country electing as many as 64,766 representatives of the people since her government took over power about four years ago and added that all these elections were held in a free and fair style without any complaint.

Referring to the suspension



GSP of facility for Bangladesh by the US government, Sheikh Hasina said the Awami League-led government had been trying to protect this trade benefit with the United States since 1996. It hasn't just happened all of a sudden; they gave us notice back in 2007 for its suspen-

sion, she added. In the House, the prime minister showed a copy of an article written by BNP chief Khaleda Zia that appeared in Washington Times newspaper earlier in the year and lashed out at her for what she said "proposing for suspension of GSP and other ecosanctions against nomic Bangladesh in that article." Giving a detailed account of achievements of her government over the last four years in the country, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh has received many international awards for its spectacular economic performance. "Our country has been adjudged world's one of the five top countries on the economic development index," she added. In this connection, the prime minister said in 2005 when BNP was in power, the World Bank cancelled six projects for corruption. The World Bank resident director in Dhaka was then declared persona non grata by the then government of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), she said adding: "It is a fact; it's

## CG issue can be resolved through talks: Khaleda

**Human Rights Report:** Leader of opposition and BNP chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, in a speech in Parliament on Saturday, made a clarion call

for forging greater national unity, withering political conflict and clash, and urged the government to take steps to hold the next

general election under a neutral and non-party government. She also noted that the ongoing crisis over the poll-time government can be resolved through compromise, instead of conflict.

"Our position on the poll-time government is very clear. We will not participate in the general election under any partisan government, because, in the context of Bangladesh, no partisan government can ensure a level playing field, during election," the former prime minister said, while taking part in a discussion on the budget.

In her nearly two-hour-long speech, the opposition leader dealt with critical national issues, such as, suspension of GSP by the US, Hefazat-e-Islam, Dr Yunus and Grameen Bank, Indo-Bangladesh rela- She said her party wants friend-

bridge project, freedom of human rights, and press, observed that the government has miserably failed to ensure governance in the country.

About her party's demand for the caretaker government, she said, "The Prime Minister, often, cite the example of the immediate militarypast

backed government of Dr Fakhruddin, to defend her government's move to scrap the caretaker government system, but, the fact is that government was not a caretaker government, it was an unconstitutional government."

that She alleged though Supreme Court, in its first verdict, had said that the next two general elections can be held under a caretaker government, on grounds of national interest, the ruling party scrapped the CG system ignoring this part of the verdict, which, according to the BNP chief, has caused the present political impasse.

"So, the government has to resolve this crisis, as the ruling alliance has the majority to amend the Constitution," she argued.

tions, corruption in Padma ly relations with all neighbours,

**nbevak**v

including India, but that should be on the basis of equal respect. In this regard, she pointed out the killings that of Bangladeshis by Indian border guards, along the border, was a major impediment for establishing good relations with India, and urged the Indian government to stop such killing. Terming the abusive words used in Parliament as shameful, Khaleda regretted that decent people have been hurt by indecent remarks coming from responsible leaders of the ruling party, ministers, and even the leader of the House, against the opposition and its national lead-

not a made up story."

ers. "The remarks made against Shahid president Ziaur Rahman, myself, my family members, and the leaders of the opposition, are not civilised words. We are no used to hearing such abusive statements. It is against my decency and family education, to reply to these indecent speeches. That's why, we feel embarrassed and are ashamed of taking part in parliamentary activities," she said. The opposition leader said sometimes it is best to ignore indecent remarks and remain silent.

Khaleda dismissed the government's claim that the local body polls under it were free and fair and the national election can be held under it in the same manner. She said the government manipulated the upazila elections and union parishad polls.

# Yunus vows to foil govt plans on GB

#### Human Rights Report:

Nobel Laureate Dr. Yunus seen with the delegates came from 30 countries to attend the Social Business Day Programme at a city hotel yesterday. Grameen Bank's founder Nobel

laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus on Friday vowed to resist the government's plans regarding the future of Grameen Bank. "The government won't be able to implement its plans. Rather, people's wishes will be fulfilled," he told journalists on the sidelines of the 4th

Social Business Day programme in a city hotel.

"I am worried about the future of Grameen Bank and many foreign thinkers are also worried," he said, referring to around 150 delegates from - 30 countries attending the programme. "We will stand by you and no one will be allowed to take away your bank," he said after introducing a nine-member

delegation from the Grameen

Bank. Yunus further said that people would take steps to protect the interests of Grameen Bank as it made significant contributions to the development of the country.

Responding to a question about his meeting with BNP leaders, Yunus said they expressed solidarity with him and said they would support the bank. "They also congratulated me on my getting a Congressional Gold Medal from the US government," he added. He, however, avoided a direct

answer to the question about the comments of the finance minister describing him as a politician. "I don't understand whether he appreciated or condemned me by calling me a great politician.'

Addressing the opening session of the 4th Social Business Day



programme, Yunus explained different aspects of the movement and the various developments taking place around the world as a result of the campaign.

He said the concept of social business had been adopted by many nations in Africa, including Egypt, Tunisia, Uganda and Senegal, while the European Union had made it one of its policy issues. Giving a new

dimension to the movement, a social business city was set up in Italy, Yunus told the gathering. He also praised Germany and Spain for taking leads in spreading the idea.

"Spain is facing tremendous difficulties in handling unemployment as half of its youths are unemployed," he added. Sweden and England had also welcomed social business to solve the problem of unemployment, he said.

US Ambassador Dan W Mozena, Japanese Ambassador Shiro Sadoshima and Prince Tunku Ali Redhauddin, a Malaysian royalty, also spoke at the opening session.

Mozena hailed Yunus as a great dreamer who wanted to put poverty in the museum. Of the seven persons who had received the Congressional Gold Medal, Yunus deserved it the most, he pointed out. Faber. Emmanuel Eric Lesuer from France, Binod K Chaudhary from Nepal, Hans Reitz and Suskia Bruysten from Germany, Prof Masaharu Okada from Japan and

Lamiya Morshed from Bangladesh took part in the discussion in the preliminary session of the day-long programme.

Terming social business as a real solution to poverty and unemployment, the speakers said governments across the globe had shown interest in incorporating social business ideas in their policy-making. The speakers elaborated on ini-



tiatives taken in their respective countries to spread the concept of social business.

"I am deeply touched by the idea of social business and I think a solution to the world's problems lies in this philosophy," said Binod K Chaudhary, a billionaire from Nepal and a member also of the Communist Party.

"I have come to forge new partnerships and exchange views with others as this is not only to address social issues but business issues as well," said. Ipena Lucien from Haiti said social business was a powerful tool for development and for making big social changes. She told the audience that based on the idea of social business a big afforestation programme had been undertaken in her country. Over 1000 participants including 150 foreigners from 30 countries including India, Malaysia, Nepal, Germany and France attended the daylong programme. Yunus said vision is very much important for success in social business as it will be helpful to change the people mind. With the success of social business, many people are coming but everything is depending on the success in the ground. "Whatever style we talk, it does not matter, if people see example of success, the mind of the people will change," said Yunus thanking all for attending the programme. In a social business the company must cover all costs and make profit, at the same time achieve the social objective, such as, healthcare, housing, nutrition and safe drinking water for the poor.



BHRC observed Int'l Day in Support of Victims of Torture & Financial Aid for victims of 'Rana plaza'

**Human Rights Report:** A four member team led by Mohammad Shahidur Rahaman of BHRC U.K arrived Dhaka by an Indian air last 23rd June 27, 2013. Others members are Nazrul Islam Okib General Secretary of UK Branch, Taraul Islam Vice-President of London Branch & Mahibur Rahman Chowdhury President of Betar Bangla Shrota Forum.

3.00 pm they Celebrated International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and arrange a ceremony where victims' orphans honored by a fixed deposit scheme the

venue held in National Press

They visited the tragic 'Rana Plaza' find out the situation and at the end of the day they visited Enam Medical College Hospital and watch out the situation of wounded garments workers. After that 24.06.2013 thev attended а Press Conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity, Segun Bagicha, Sagor-Runi Auditorium. 25 June 2013 on

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Club, VIP Auditorium, Dhaka. This seminar was presented by Freedom Fighter Eng. Kazi Rezaul Mostafa President of National Executive Committee of BHRC. Justice AKM Sadeque Chairman and Dr. Saiful I. Dildar Secretary General of BHRC was hold their position as a Chief guest and moderator. Other honourable presenter was Ex. Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Moniruzzaman Miah, Chairman of City Dental College and Hospital Dr. ASM Badruddoza, Managing



Enamur Rahman, Members of BHRC UK Dhaka Mission. Executive Member National Executive Committee Md. Nazrul Islam, Coordinator of Metropolitan Mohammad Motior Rahman, President of Dhaka City Corporation Aktheruzzaman General Secretary of Dhaka City Corporation (South) Abdul Aziz, Vice-President of Bangladesh Garments owner society Mr. Niru, Nor Koraishi Presenter of Betar Bangla, London, President of BHRC Lalbag Regional Branch AB Siddique Sumon. The name of the victims' orphans who take the financial aid are given below :

1. Md. Mahful Bepari (18 month), S/O. Md. Munna Bepari, 2. Sima (10 years), D/O. Anowarul, 3. Alpina Akter Brishti (4 years), D/O. Md. Alauddin Ali, 4. Nahid Hossain (8 years), S/O. Late Mir Hossain Miraj, Kulsuma Akter Jui (7 years), D/O. Md. Jahangir, 6. Rupa Akter, (8 years), D/O. Late Altaf Hossain. Md. Tarannum Akter Mira (8 years), D/O. Rahman, 8. Labonnya Akter Likhon (6 years), D/O. Late Liton, 9. Rupali (5 years), D/O. Md. Sabuj Howlader, 10. Rubina Akter Rupa (20 months), D/O. Rubel, 11. Deb Karmakar (18 months), S/O. Oshit, 12. Papia (6 years), D/O. Zahid Kazi.

#### Salar **qubeunaKui-11**

based on five reasons, namely, because of race, religion, nationality, and membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Two phrases need to be noted in the definition of a refugee. The word "persecution" and the expression "well-founded fear" must be interpreted in their actual meaning. Persecution must be a pre-condition of leaving his/her country and the government of the country of origin fails to protect that person from being persecuted.

The phrase "well-founded fear" of persecution implies that there must be adequate facts on the ground to justify the notion of fear. Fear must be perceived as reasonable and mere statement of fear will not be sufficient. There must be subjective and objective grounds of constituting fear. It must not be imaginary and fear must be perceived in the future and not to the past.

Who are not refugees? A criminal or an active soldier or a fugitive cannot be regarded as a refugee. A refugee must be a civilian and must not be accused of any crimes.

It is noted that the "Beharis" in Bangladesh are not considered as refugees under the UN Convention because they did not cross the international border. Their case falls into a separate category. In May 2008, the High Court ruled that some 150,000 Beharis or Urduspeaking people have the right to become citizens. The ruling applies to those who were minors at the time of independence or born after.

The ruling of the High Court leaves the adult Beharis at the time of independence with no citizenship and their number stands thousands. to Furthermore the older generation still wants to go back to Pakistan and Pakistan has legal obligations to take those Beharis in Pakistan

Difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker or a displaced person:

A refugee may not be confused either with an asylum seeker or a displaced person. An asylum seeker may not satisfy the criteria laid down by the 1951 UN Convention for a refugee, although the person is outside the country for various reasons, for example former Prime Minister of Pakistan late Benazir Bhutto is not considered to be a refugee but an asylum seeker in a country outside Pakistan on political reasons.

A displaced person cannot be considered a refugee because the person is not outside his/her country. The person moves to another place within the same country because of fear of life or natural disasters or other circumstances, such as accidents in nuclear reactors. Empirical evidence suggests that mostly persons are displaced because of civil war within a country. Total number of refugees and other categories:

The total number of refugees and others are as follows, according to a report released on 19th June 2013 by the United Nations.

o 15.4 million refugees, o 937,000 asylum seekers and

o 28.8 million displaced persons within their own countries The report, based on data collected from governments, nongovernmental organizations and the UN's refugee agency, says about 7.6 million people were displaced during 2012 alone because of conflict or persecution. On average, about 20,000 people were displaced every day in 2012. And more unaccompanied children sought asylum last year than ever (To be continue) before. Barrister Harun ur Rashid, Former Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN, Geneva

Eternal Truth Human being should be considered without any discrimination regarding religion, caste, creed, nation, tribe etc. In different religions like Islam, Hinduism, Christianity or Buddhism; everyone has been asked to show love, friendship and fraternity amongst themselves. A person who is successful in his own profession can only be considered as a total accomplished human being if he/she can devote her/himself for the humanity in total sense. We are "all for each other" should be the motto of our life & only then we can be proud of ourselves. - Bangladesh Human Rights Commission - Alexandre - Alex

