

Dallo Zambia

Drug Trafficking Still On The Increase In Zambia

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Lusaka, Zambia (PANA) - Zambia's Drug Enforcement Commission arrested 8,695 drug dealers and seized narcotic and psychotherapeutic substances with a street value of 2.2 trillion kwacha in the past 10 years.

According to the country's Home Affairs minister, Peter Machungwa, 1,867 dealers were arrested in 1999 alone and drugs worth 6 billion Kwacha was seized from them.

Since the beginning of this year, 930 drug traffickers have been arrested and narcotic drugs with a street value of 3.4 billion seized (K3,000 = US dollar).

Machungwa made the disclosure in Lusaka Monday at the commemoration of the national day against drug abuse. He said that although the commission has made significant advances in netting the traffickers, the scourge and its offshoots were still on the increase. He said there has been a steady increase in drug trade despite government interventions to curb it.

The head of the commission, Raphael Mungole complained that drug trafficking and money laundering were serious problems in Zambia, requiring stringent measures to curb.

Mungole said currently there is some political finger pointing among politicians and debate in the media about real and imaginary drug traffickers among politicians.

This, he said, may help the commission have a clue on the culprits.

The international day against drug abuse and illicit traffic was observed under the theme: Facing reality: denial, corruption and violence.

Dal Pakistan

Bangabandhu death reference case: Defence seeks rejection of appointment of special prosecutor's appointment

Defence counsel in the Bangabandhu death reference case in the High Court yesterday submitted three petitions seeking rejection of appointment of special prosecutor and reconstruction of the paper-book removing irregularities, reports UNB.

Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for Lt Col (rtd) Syed Farook Rahman, came up with the two supplementary petitions before the death reference bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq. The third petition moved by Advocate Mahbubur Rahman sought for reconstruction of the paper-book.

The court set Monday for hearing on and disposal of four petitions, including the one submitted on Wednesday.

Khan Saifur seeking rejection of the Special Prosecutor, Serajul Haq in the case submitted that any law officer of the Attorney General's office should be directed to conduct the case in the interest of justice and fair play.

He argued that such appointment is unknown to law. No public prosecutor can conduct case on behalf of the state in the higher court. Such appointment is not authorised by law.

Moving the second petition the counsel submitted that records necessary for backing up some of the grounds of appeal are absent in the paper-book.

Raising another point he contended that military officers were jointly tried in this case illegally, in breach of the provision of the Army Act.

About retraction of statement, the counsel submitted that Lt Col (rtd) Farook made the so-called confession while he was in police custody.

Added Khan Saifur, the prosecution cooked up a story that Bazlul Huda was made Major from Captain by inter-changing Wahab Zoardar's insignia. In order to prove the falsity of the story, he had submitted an official document to show that Bazlul Huda was a Major since January 1975, that is, since before the occurrence.

Later in the afternoon, Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, counsel for Major (rtd)

Bazlul Huda, submitted a similar petition demanding reconstruction of the paper-book.

Hearing will continue on Sunday.

Terrorists gangrape mother, daughters in Jessore

JESSORE, June 29: In a barbaric act armed terrorists gangraped a woman and her two daughters confining them in their home in Kotwali thana for two consecutive days, according to a police case, reports UNB.

The goons led by notorious ringleader Telekha stormed into the house of the victims at village Sujalpur Tuesday night and allegedly raped the mother and the married daughters till late Wednesday night.

On information, their neighbours rescued them from the clutches of the brutes on the night. The victims took shelter at the police station for security.

Police quoting FIR said, "Telekha and his associates used to disturb the 21 and 18-year-old daughters of the woman." They swooped on them and their mother holding hostage children of the family.

A case was filed with local police. None of the felons was arrested.

Jubo Dal leader gunned down in city

A Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader was gunned down in front of his residence at East Goran in the city's Khilgaon area yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Family sources said, a gang of armed hoodlums shot Mahbubur Rahman Sajal (30) from point-blank range at about 7.30 am on his way home.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

Sajal was the general secretary of BNP-backed Jubo Dal's ward-25 committee and involved in cable network business.

The reason for the killing could not be known immediately.

2 get 10 years' imprisonment each under PSA

BARISAL, June 29: Two people were today sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment each for looting money from a residential hotel in the town.

They were also fined Tk 10,000 each, or in default, to suffer another two years' in imprison.

According to the prosecution, the two convicts- Robin Kumar Das and Md Rafiq- attacked a residential hotel of the town on February 24 and looted the money. A case was filed under the Public Safety Act against them.

Special judge of the Public Safety Tribunal A Samad after examining evidences and witnesses handed down the verdict.

