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Delwar trouble for Khaleda

BNP's reform initiatives stumble on secy gen

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's bid to reorganise and rejuvenate the party is thwarted by her own right-hand man—BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, said party insiders. Due to this conflict between the two top leaders reformation of the party, which conceded a disastrous defeat in the last parliamentary elections, has become uncertain.

Khaleda and Delwar's disagreement revolves around crucial issues like bringing back so-called reformists into confidence, selecting the head of the party's vital committee in Dhaka and speeding up the reorganising process in the party.

The party had earlier announced the central council to be held by the end of this year so that the submission of its constitution by January 24, set by the election commission, becomes possible. But with this slow progress, BNP is apparently to fail to achieve this goal.

The party has been morally and structurally damaged during the caretaker government regime.

After the defeat in the December 29 elections, the BNP chairperson took an initiative to reunite and reorganise the party to regain the

organisational strength. But Delwar was trying to promote some leaders of his own choice in leadership positions of different committees.

Khaleda has directed the party leaders to bring reformists back into organisational activities but Delwar stood against the decision saying that they might betray the party again.

The BNP chairperson brought back some reformist leaders including Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Osman Farruk and Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed but the secretary general did not engage them in party activities.

Following instructions of the chairperson Farruk was made the chief of party's panel to analyse this year's budget while Hafiz is playing a key role on Tipaimukh dam issue on behalf of the party.

The party leaders also said the chairperson and other senior leaders almost nominated Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as Dhaka city convener but could not implement the decision due to strong objection from the secretary general.

The secretary general himself brought a number of changes in different district convening committees where many reformist leaders were either dropped or removed from the vital positions, they added.



Much to the discomfort of locals, this garbage truck with a broken axle has been left dangerously in the middle of Airport Road near Uttara Sector-9 for the last two days.

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Women MPs not taking up women issues in JS

Speaker critical of role played by lawmakers elected to reserved seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lawmakers elected to reserve seats for women in parliament spend time flattering their party chiefs rather than talking about women-related issues, Speaker Abdul Hamid said yesterday.

"You [lawmakers elected to reserve seats] talk a lot about women-related issues outside but do not raise those in the House," Abdul Hamid told a discussion at the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) auditorium in the capital.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised the meeting titled "Women movement's expectations from female lawmakers."

Pointing to the BNP lawmakers present

there, Hamid said, "You have attended the meeting along with female lawmakers of the treasury bench and echoed them [AL lawmakers] on children and women-related issues. Then why don't you attend parliament and work together."

"Here, you [treasury and opposition bench lawmakers] have both vowed to work together, then why don't you do it in the House?" the speaker questioned.

The speaker strongly criticised this culture and said it must be stopped in the interest of the country's development.

Referring to today's order of the day in parliament, he said the poverty reduction strategy paper will be discussed in the House today.

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Settling sea limit too crucial now

Says foreign minister

UNB, Chandpur

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday hoped for a solution of the maritime boundary dispute with Indian and Myanmar through the move taken by the government for arbitration in the international forum.

Talking to newsmen here, she referred to the notice served to the missions of the two neighbouring countries before taking the dispute for arbitration.

Dipu Moni said exploration and exploitation of natural resources at the deep sea are essential for the development of the country.

Referring to the recent visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her to the United States, she said talks with US leaders were successful.

She said the country faces many challenges but she warned that militancy, terrorism and corruption would be uprooted at any cost.

The foreign minister who came earlier in the morning distributed cheques among the volunteers of women associations

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SITAKUNDA LAND GRABBING

MP apologises for assault on journalist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ruling party lawmaker ABM Abul Kashem of Chittagong-3 sought apology yesterday for assault on journalists during Wednesday's land grabbing by his two sons at Sitakunda upazila.

The Awami League (AL) legislator went to Chittagong bureau office of the daily Prothom Alo around 5.30pm and apologised for the assault on journalists while resident editor of the daily Abul Momen and Chittagong press club president Abu Sufian were present there.

"I seek unconditional apology from you for the incident," he said there.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Powered by people

US seminar tells of Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The people of Bangladesh have overcome all impediments to democracy and development, speakers at a seminar styled "Development in Bangladesh" at Harvard University said on Friday.

They said it is not true that poor leadership is the root of the country's lagging behind. The people did not sit idle depending on political leadership or experts. They continued their efforts to survive in the global competition.

Bangladesh Development Initiative-USA, Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum and S Institute for Democratic Governance and Invention of Harvard Kennedy School jointly organised the two-day seminar.

Eminent educationalists, intellectuals and NGO officials from Bangladesh and the USA participated in the seminar besides academics from different US universities and corporate organisations.

The speakers said locally devised ideas are working well

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7 Rajshahi JMB men remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Seven militants arrested from different districts of Rajshahi division over the weekend were taken on a seven-day remand yesterday in connection with a case filed under the anti-terrorism act of 2008, said investigation official M Hafizur Rahman.

The Rajshahi Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court granted the remand and the militants are likely to be taken to the Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka, he added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

80 killed in Nigeria oil tanker fire

AFP, Lagos

Between 70 and 80 people were burned alive when a fuel tanker truck exploded in Nigeria, reportedly after a policeman fired a shot to keep passersby away from a road accident, newspapers said yesterday.

The truck hit a pothole and overturned on Friday on the road between Onitsha and Enugu in the south of the country, spilling its cargo of petrol, witnesses and police told the papers.

Several witnesses said that the truck exploded when a policeman who wanted to

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Since authorities concerned failed to repair or put up warning signs on this road in Shyampur after a part of it subsided over a month ago, locals step in and place sticks with rags on them as a warning to vehicles.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

War crimes trial runs into further delay

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The trial of 1971 war criminals will be delayed since the government has the intention to hold it after the disposal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case running at the Supreme Court.

A top policymaker seeking anonymity told The Daily Star on October 10 that the government wants to defer holding the trial of war criminals, as it now concentrates on Bangabandhu murder case, and the security of the judges, who are conducting this case, and their family members.

He said although the government has provided sufficient security to protect the judges and their family members and others, any

untoward incident may take place over this "sensitive" case.

Political supports are being given to the persons involved in the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members, he added.

He, however, hoped that they would start the process of the trial of war crimes before December this year.

Earlier, the leaders of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee issued an ultimatum to government for holding the trial by the month.

The trials of the BDR mutiny and the war criminals might be held simultaneously, he said.

Sources said the Ministry of Housing and Public Works has already started shifting the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

4 killed, 40 injured in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Four people were killed and 40 others injured in a road accident at Kashiadanga on the outskirts of Rajshahi city yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Moumita, 60, her daughter-in-law Doli Rani, 35, of Nardas village, Jotsna Rani, 60, and Bhabesh Chandra Mandol, 50, of Fulpur in Bagmara upazila.

The accident occurred at around 5:00pm when a Rajshahi-bound bus fell into a ditch beside the road in the area as its driver lost control

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JS body to sit with protesters of exploration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body will sit with National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports next Thursday to discuss the much-debated issue of awarding three offshore gas blocks to foreign companies.

The parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources yesterday sent an invitation to Conyenor of the national committee engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah requesting him to send a four-member delegation to the discussion.

A press release signed by Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of the parliamentary body, yesterday said they would hold the view-exchange meeting with the leaders of the national committee as per the parliamentary body's decision taken on September 16.

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3 killed in city incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including a young woman, were killed in separate incidents in Banani and Keraniganj areas of Dhaka yesterday.

Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman aged around 20 from in front of an under construction building at Block-C of Banani around 10:00am.

The security guard of the building told police that around 6:30am construction worker Ataur took the woman

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the border aggression by Myanmar junta could be handled diplomatically?

Yes (63.0%)

No (36.5%)

No Comments (0.5%)

Total votes: 779

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the idea of converting the underground Barapukuria mine into an open pit mine for large scale coal production to cater to the country's energy needs?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

October 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-20
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-15	5-30
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation