

# Hasina wants cooperation with Seoul in green growth

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said South Korea's technology and expertise in green growth will help her country develop renewable sources of energy and promote economic growth in the future.

"I'll encourage more economic interaction between South Korea and Bangladesh in the form of trade, investment, technology transfer and development support," she said in an interview with The Korea Times.

Hasina arrived in Seoul yesterday on a three-day visit.

Ways to foster a bilateral partnership on green growth and climate change are expected to be high on the agenda at her summit with Korean President Lee Myung-bak at Cheong Wa Dae on Tuesday.

"We will discuss how Bangladesh can benefit from Seoul's green technology and expertise to develop renewable sources of

energy," Hasina said.

She will also meet with political and business leaders to discuss joint cooperation projects.

"I intend to have a frank discussion with President Lee on all areas of our cooperation ranging from trade, investment, development cooperation, cultural exchange and ways and means to further expand these relations," Hasina said.

"I welcome Korean businessmen and investors to invest more in Bangladesh and take part in the establishment of a power plant, development of energy sources, exploration of oil and gas, construction of large roads, highways and bridges."

Hasina is paying keen attention to Lee's New Asia Initiative, under which he plans to upgrade the country's relations with regional partners in economic, security and cultural areas.

Seoul plans to increase economic contri-

buting to developing countries in Asia and promote people-to-people exchanges based on the growing popularity of Korean dramas and pop songs.

"We want more training and educational opportunity for our experts and professionals as part of knowledge sharing," said Hasina. "I shall seek to establish regular contact at the high political level and elevate our relationship to a comprehensive partnership."

She also expressed keen interest in improving women's rights and promoting the spirit of democracy.

Recalling the turbulent years following the assassination of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of her other family members in August 1975, she said her father devoted his life to liberating the country from all kind of injustice, discrimination and social evils.

Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh

Rehana were the only survivors as they were in West Germany at that time.

"Life was very harsh and painful in those days, but I have always received support from the people of my country," she said. "From my early childhood, I saw my parents actively involved in the struggle for democracy and independence of Bangladesh."

In terms of women's status in society, Bangladesh is far more advanced than South Korea.

"No society can make progress without taking on board the 50 percent of its population constituted by women. The status of women is an important indicator of that society's maturity and progress," she said.

"In a Muslim majority country like Bangladesh, women empowerment reflects the progressive and moderate nature of our society which also helps keep extremism at bay."

DOE CLEARANCE

## Ship-breakers continue strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The strike that ship breakers called here demanding clearance certificates from the Department of Environment (DoE) continued for third consecutive day yesterday.

They suspended production and supply of scrap iron at ship-breaking yards along Sitakunda coast in Chittagong.

The strike was enforced on Friday, two days after a High Court order asking the ship breakers to obtain DoE clearance certificate before dismantling scrap vessels.

The HC order came upon a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

Bangladesh Ship Breakers' Association (BSBA) leaders said 88 ship-breaking yards so far applied for DoE certificate but no one got it yet.

They demanded DoE certificates to run the ship-breaking yards and permission to scrap 43 vessels.

Acting Director of DoE, Chittagong Mostafizur Rahman Akhand, however, said only 50 yards applied for the certificate until December 31, 2009, the deadline set by the authorities but most of them failed to provide documents required for DoE certificate.

Only eight of them submitted necessary documents and their clearance certificates were under consideration, said the DoE official.

The DoE, Chittagong filed cases against four ship-breaking yards on April 21 and against three others on May 02 for not replying to the notices they were served with for running the yards without environmental certificates, and causing massive pollution.

## JS body to identify irregularities, graft in pvt medical colleges

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday formed a sub-committee to identify the areas of irregularities and corruption in private medical colleges and assist government formulate rules to regulate them properly.

The parliamentary standing committee on health and family planning ministry also formed another sub-committee to probe irregularities of ministry officials making overseas trips including the Switzerland visit by an 11-member delegation led by the health minister.

Most private medical colleges produce incompetent medical professionals due to lack of qualified instructors, medical equipments and laboratory facilities, standing committee member Murad Hasan said after a meeting at the

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Most private medical colleges take a huge amount in fees from students but do not maintain minimum standard of teaching, said Murad, also a medical practitioner.

It is unimaginable that students of some private medical colleges should be ignorant of elaboration of many medical terms, he said.

M Amanullah will head the three-member sub-committee and submit report to the main committee in a month. Two other members are Abdul Mannan and Matiur Rahman.

It also recommended that all public and private medical colleges should be brought under the authority of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The committee members said there are allegations that a number of pri-

private universities including Gano Bishwabidyalay and University of Science and Technology, Chittagong have already introduced medical education in violation of the rules and regulations.

The Directorate of Health Services told the committee that there are about 43 private medical colleges across the country.

On formation of another sub-committee headed by Nazmul Hasan, committee chief Fazlul Karim Selim said wrong people were included in different delegations of the ministry to attend seminars, conferences or other programmes abroad.

It has been alleged that the health minister's son-in-law, an assistant professor of a private medical college, was included in the delegation unjustly.



Employees of Rural Development Board form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding different rural projects be brought under revenue sector.

## Taxicab strike withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of the cabbies withdrew their indefinite strike Saturday night after they reached an agreement with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) authorities on the same night over different issues including cab requisition.

They enforced the strike on Thursday night following an unusual row that led to a clash between police and cabbies over taxirequisition.

The clash left 20 drivers injured and several cabs damaged at Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani and Manik Mia Avenue on Thursday noon.

Iqbal Kabir, general secretary of Dhaka Mahanagar Taxicab Drivers' Union, said eight leaders of their union and five cab owners held a meeting with the DMP high-ups including its commissioner on Saturday night at DMP headquarters.

During the meeting, the commissioner verbally agreed that traffic personnel will not requisition any cab on the road and no case will be lodged against the drivers concerned for illegal parking, as there is no cab parking spaces across the capital, he said.

The commissioner also agreed that police will not file any case against the drivers concerned if cab passengers bear illegal goods or drugs, as the drivers have no authority to search the passengers, he added.

Deputy Commissioner (traffic west) Selim Mohammad Zahangir said a meeting was scheduled to be held last night to take decision regarding the issues raised by cabbies and cab owners in Saturday's meeting with DMP officials.

However, he said if the taxicab owners arrange 20-25 cabs a day for requisition, police will not requisition any cab from the street.

Selim, also head of the committee to investigate Thursday's incident, told The Daily Star that they found no police members responsible for the incident, as victim driver Ripon Khan said that he became naked due to his loose pant during the tussle with police.

## Female cop contingent leaves for Haiti

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday sent its first all-female police contingent to a UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

A total of 45 female police personnel out of 160 of the all-female contingent flew to Haiti in a UN charter flight from Shahjela International Airport.

Some 50 male police personnel of another contingent also boarded the same plane to join another UN mission in the same country.

There are a total of 320 male and female police personnel in both the contingents and the remaining personnel are scheduled to fly on June 3.

AKM Kamrul Ahsan, information officer of Police Headquarters said additional police commissioner Begum Rokfar is the commander of the all-female contingent while Superintendent of Police Abu Saleh Mohammad Golam Mahmud is in charge of the male contingent.

He said both the contingents will help rebuild the earthquake ravaged Haiti apart from restoring peace and security.

Bangladesh has been participating in the UN peacekeeping missions since 1980 and the first Bangladeshi formed police (FPU) unit was sent in 2005.

There are currently 12 Bangladeshi FPUs including the two contingents working in the Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor and Darfur and a total of 1,924 police personnel are so far engaged in UN missions.

## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Syeda Khadematul Mowla, wife of late Syed Nurul Huda, founder of Bogra Shonatola Nazir Akhtar Degree College, will be held at her residence 'Asroy', House No. 127, Road No. 7, Block D, Bashundhara in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

She was the daughter of late Syed Abdul Karim, a deputy magistrate in British India, and late Syeda Amanuz Zohra, says a press release.

She passed away due to old age complications in the city on Saturday at the age of 79.

She leaves behind two sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives to mourn her death.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend.

## Ban on nighttime movement on border to stop BSF killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a latest move to stop frequent killings of its citizens by Indian border guards, Bangladesh yesterday decided to restrict nighttime movement of the people on the frontier.

The home ministry asked local administrations to announce the imposition of the restrictions over loudspeakers.

An inter-ministerial meeting on border management also revealed that the Indian authorities have violated an international law by erecting barbed-wire fences at 46 points within 150 yards of the zero line.

According to the law, no country can build any fences or establishments inside 150 yards of the borderline.

In a joint survey conducted recently, both the countries, however, agreed that India clearly violated the law by constructing the fences at least at 12 points.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said most of the border killings are taking place at night as the Border Security Force (BSF) of India opens fire on those who move along the border at night.

"Smuggling will come down if the movements of people can be restricted," he told reporter after the meeting.

The home secretary said India also imposed similar restrictions on the border to stop killings of its citizens in firing.

Bangladesh has long been requesting India for a complete stoppage of such killings on the border. The killings continue despite India's promises at different meetings with Bangladesh.

About the erection of barbed-wire fences inside 150 yards of the zero line, the home secretary said Bangladesh officially lodged protest to the Indian authorities.

Terming the inter-ministerial meeting

a follow-up of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January this year, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said all the outstanding border issues would be resolved through discussions.

Asked to mention the amount of adversely possessed territories of the two countries, Sahara said a complete survey is required to know the exact figure. She emphasised that all the border disputes would be resolved as per the Indira-Mujib Land Boundary Agreement, 1974.

The meeting again requested India to destroy contraband phensidyl factories operating in its territories near the border.

It also decided to put in place the border pillars, which have been missing for a long period.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam and officials of foreign and land ministries were attended the meeting.

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