### BNP INTERNAL DISPUTES

# Two leaders lock horns

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Two senior leaders of BNP engaged in a heated debate on Saturday night when the party policymakers were discussing on how they can forge a tougher anti-government movement by resolving BNP's internal disputes across the country.

Party insiders said both are former ministers and were elected as lawmakers several times from two different constituencies under a district. One of them is an elected lawmaker of the ninth parliament.

Meeting sources said while debating over formation of a few local units of the party, one of them accused the other of interfering into the committee under his constituency. The accused vocally protested.

At that time, the other members of the standing commit-

tee suddenly became silent. Sources said a few members including Gayeswar Chandra Roy emphasised on resolving internal conflicts.

In response, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, presiding over the meeting at her Gulshan office, suggested to resolve the problem through discussions internally while planning for the agitation programmes.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia suggested to resolve the problem through discussions internally

"The way they were arguing was unexpected as both of them are senior members of the standing committee," said a standing committee member present in the meeting, convened to discuss about the agitation programmes. BNP is suffering from severe internal conflicts in many

district and upazila units. The party's central assistant organising secretary was attacked by a group loyal to a party leader in Barisal.

A similar incident took place in Kishoreganj and a few other areas. Two groups of leaders engaged in a clash at a meeting with the central leader at the party's central office in the city.

Asked about the meeting decision, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman said they will forge a tougher movement to compel the government to restore the nonparty caretaker government system to oversee the next elections.

## Army to be made modern force: PM

UNB, Rajendrapur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government will implement the 'Forces Goal 2030' to turn the army into an effective and modern force alongside implementing its 'Vision 2021'.

She voiced the resolve while addressing a function organised for awarding National Standard to Ordnance Centre and School of Bangladesh Army at the Rajendrapur Cantonment.

The prime minister called upon the members of the Bangladesh Army to build their force as a disciplined, efficient, and modern one -ready round the clock for protecting the country's independence and sovereignty.

She expressed the hope that the Bangladesh Armed Forces, founded by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will uphold the dignity of the national flag across the world.

Hasina said the Ordnance Corps was first established on November 20 in 1972 at the Central Ordnance Depot, and later, this Corps was shifted to Rajendrapur on October 1 in 1977. She said members of the

Corps played a vital role in making Chittagong and Mongla seaports operative by removing numerous mines and sunken ships after the War of Liberation. The Ordnance Corps is now well established due to relentless efforts and sacrifices of its members.

The premier mentioned that the Ordnance Corps has been playing a commendable role in the national life since its inception.

She said the members of this Corps also made significant contributions towards



School of Bangladesh Army at the Rajendrapur Cantonment in Gazipur yesterday.

rebuilding war-ravaged Kuwait, especially in removing mines after the Gulf War. They are still engaged in rebuilding the oil rich gulf

Despite many constraints, Hasina said, Bangabandhu had started rebuilding the army in the just liberated Bangladesh in order to uphold the independence and sovereignty of the country which was achieved at the cost of bloods of millions of martyrs.

She said Bangabandhu had declared, 'We don't want to get involved in matters of

others and interference by others into our affairs will not be tolerated'. In his determination to uphold the independence and sovereignty, Bangabandhu built a modern army, navy and air force, and the nation now feels proud with the performance of the armed forces, both at home and abroad.

The PM said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib had been able to send the Indian army back within only three months of independence due to his steadfastness. He established the Military Academy, which was a milestone for the advancement of the armed forces in a just liberated country, she added.

She said Bangladesh is now the largest contributor of peacekeeping forces in the world. The armed forces have brightened image of the country abroad and are also contributing a lot towards expediting the country's economic development through their remittances.

She listed various steps of her government for mod-

ernisation of the armed forces, including procurement of modern weapons and equipment and establishment of National Defence College, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, Bangladesh Peace Support Operation Training, Military Institute of Science and Technology, and Armed Forces Medical College.

Hasina sought cooperation of all in implementing the government's 'Vision 2021' to build a poverty-, hunger-, illiteracy-free digital Bangladesh based on science and technology.

Cabinet ministers, PM's advisers and high civil and military officials were present at the function.

Earlier, on her arrival at the Rajendrapur Cantonment, premier was received by Army Chief General Abdul Mubeen. She handed over the

national flag to commandant of the Ordnance Centre and School Brig Gen Mirza Baker Sarwar Ahmed.

She also placed a wreath at the 'Roktosopan' in memory of the martyrs of the War of Liberation. The PM also addressed the

Fifth Corps Reunion of Ordnance Corps and 31st Commander Conference-2011. While addressing the 31st

Commander Conference-2011, Hasina said her government would eradicate poverty at any cost and asked the army personnel to put in their best efforts in this regard.

Hasina said her government is trying its level best for modernisation of the armed forces with limited resources.

#### university student commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Schoolgirl,

A schoolgirl and a university student allegedly committed suicide in different incidents at Uttara and Mirpur in the city on Saturday.

Uttara police said, on information, they recovered the body of Shahrin Atik Khan, 14, from her resident at Lake Drive road in Uttara sector-7 early yesterday.

She hanged herself from the drawing room ceiling with a cloth piece, police said.

She was a class VII student of Milestone School and College in Uttara.

According to her father Atiqur Haq Pavel, he found her hanging around 8:00pm on Saturday. He couldn't ascertain the cause behind

her suicide. Her maternal uncle Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star that Shahrin's mother died in 2003 and her father remarried. She often locked into quarrel over this matter with her parents.

She might have committed suicide over the issue, he added.

Meanwhile around 11:00am yesterday, police recovered a youth's body from the rooftop of a sixstorey building in Mirpur.

The deceased Abdullah Al Noman, a student of architecture of Bangladesh University, used to live at a mess in the building, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kazi Wajed Ali of Mirpur Police Station.

His roommates informed the police after discovering him hanging from the iron rod of a rooftop water tank in the morning. The door to the rooftop was closed from inside.

### Int'l support for green tech for sustainable dev sought

UNB, Hamburg

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has sought support from international development partners to get affordable technology to produce green energy for sustainable development of Bangladesh.

"High initial investment and lack of proper technologies are the main barriers. International initiatives are necessary to bridge these finance and technology gaps," she said at a seminar on "Energy and sustainable development" at Hamburg Chamber of Commerce Building.

Dipu Moni said the alternative and renewable energy sources are likely to be a major part of Bangladesh's future energy strategy. Country like Bangladesh will need increased international support.

"If we fail to secure clean energy, all our efforts to sustainable development would

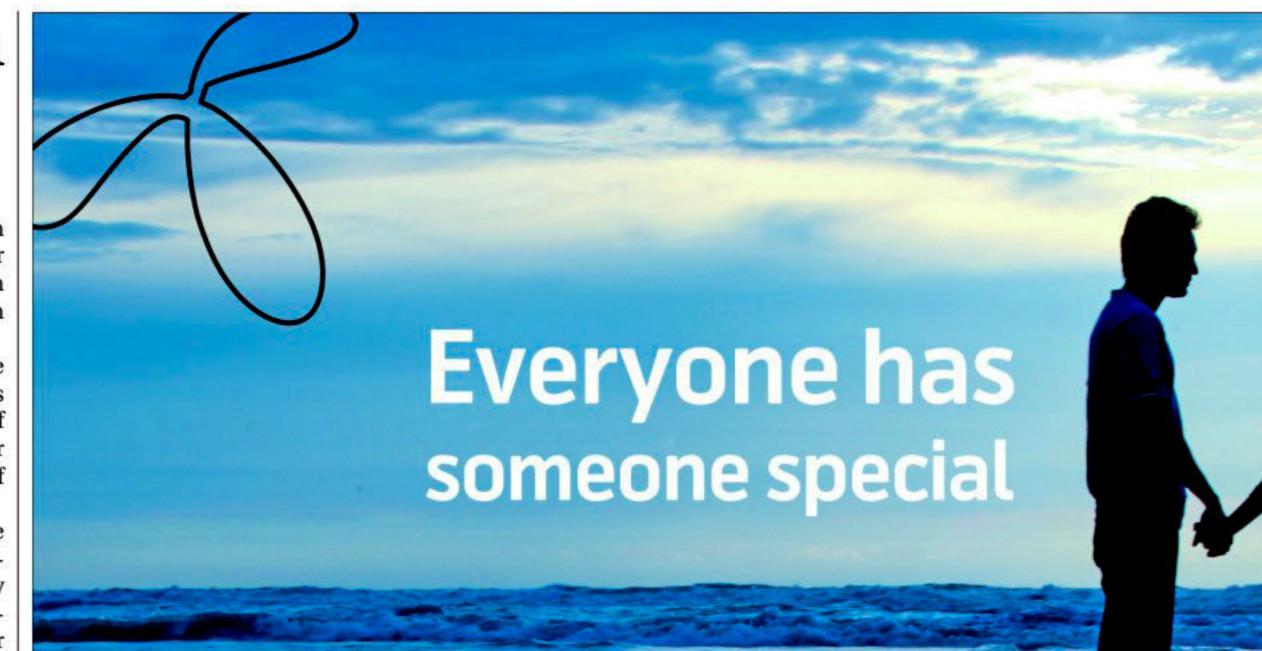
falter," she said.

Experts from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Germany participated in the seminar organised by Hamburg-based Bangladesh Development Forum in collaboration with Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

Chaired by Dr Satya Bhowmik of the Development Forum, the seminar was addressed by Prof Anu Mohammad of Bangladesh, Dr Ashit Dutta of India, Prof Dr Aslam Syed of Pakistan and Dr Onno Grob of Germany.

The FM said utilisation of renewable energy in Bangladesh is yet to assume commercial dimensions. At present the country is using less than one percent from renewable energy source, she said, adding "Our vision is to meet five percent of our consumption from renewable energy sources by 2015."

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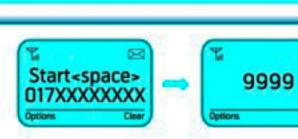


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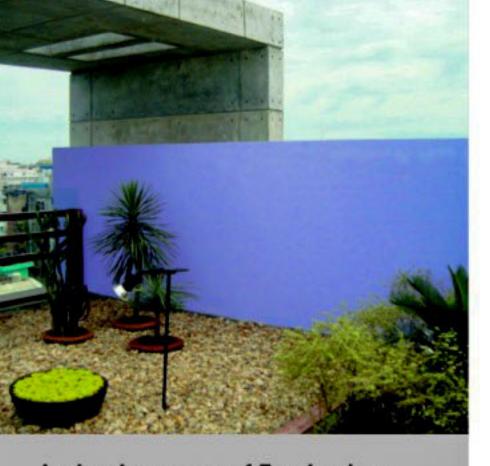
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