

## CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION MEETS FM Continued support for women empowerment assured

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A three-member Canadian parliamentary delegation led by Lois Brown, member of parliament of the ruling Conservative Party, called on Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The other parliamentarians were Raymonde Folco, from the main opposition Liberal Party and Judy Wasylcia-Leis, from National Democratic Party.

Earlier, the visiting Canadian parliamentary group expressed their satisfaction after visiting different projects of Brac. They also reiterated the commitment of continued Canadian assistance in the field of social development leading to women empowerment and

development of education and health system in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, MP expressed his satisfaction at the continued Canadian assistance to Bangladesh in different socio-economic projects. She also stressed the need for closer cooperation between the government and NGOs and reaffirmed all possible cooperation in the area of social development and women

empowerment.

She also stressed on coping with mechanism to address the fallouts of climate changes. Besides, the minister also informed various socio-economic policies of the government, including the policies of women empowerment, reforms in health and education sectors and poverty reduction schemes.

Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Einar Hebogaard Jensen also called on Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at her office yesterday afternoon.

The Ambassador lauded the initiatives undertaken by the democratic government to tackle the recent crisis created due to the carnage at BDR Headquarters. He also expressed his deep condolences at the loss of lives in the incident.

The envoy assured the minister of the Danish assistance to Bangladesh and continued support in promotion of Bangladesh's shipbuilding industry.

Jensen also announced that the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Denmark would visit Bangladesh to discuss bilateral issues in May this year.

He invited the foreign minister to visit his country at a mutually convenient time.

The ambassador also congratulated Dr Dipu Moni on her assumption of the office as foreign minister

## 'Strengthen surveillance to ward off avian influenza'

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque emphasised strengthening the surveillance system in the country to ward off the avian influenza so the malaise cannot affect poultry industry once again.

"I am sure that it (Avian Influenza) can be controlled through developing the monitoring system," he said, as the bugbear is again being propagated because of poor monitoring.

He made the observations while presiding over a meeting of the national advisory committee on 'National Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan 2009-2011'.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas, Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin, secretaries and officials from the ministries concerned, expert microbiologists and researchers attended the meeting at the health ministry.

Dr Ruhul said the avian influenza prevalence is very low in the country and there is no case of human death from this disease, better known as bird flu.

"Till now, no human has died of getting affected by this disease."

Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali said only a single case of human affliction from avian influenza was found last year in the country and the government successfully handled the

matter. "A boy with avian influenza was detected on May 22 last year."

He proposed that the Ministry of Live Stock remain as lead ministry to tackle the issues of avian influenza as

this virus is only found among the birds and poultry.

The meeting also discussed formation of committees at district and upazila levels to control the avian influenza through awareness.

The lawmakers as advisers will take part in district level committees chaired by deputy commissioners while the committees at upazila level would be chaired by upazila chairmen.

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