

FM's visit to India likely to strengthen relations

BSS, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India would discuss the entire gamut of bilateral ties, including the existing ones like the cross-border Tipaimukh dam, as Foreign Minister Dipu Moni is to arrive here tomorrow on a four-day visit, informed sources said yesterday.

They said New Delhi was keen to "bridge differences with Bangladesh" over sensitive issues like the Tipaimukh project and move ahead on trade and transit issues as Dipu is set to hold talks with her Indian counterpart SM Krishna ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's expected New Delhi visit later this year.

Official sources said the two sides were likely to focus on enhancing connectivity and giving a fresh momentum to expanding economic engagement that would help in reducing "trust deficit" to resolve complex issues like border management, infiltration and illegal migration and terrorism.

Moni, who would be in the Indian capital on her first official visit as the foreign minister since the incumbent government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assumed power after the landmark December 29 general elections with three fourths of majority last year.

Former external affairs minister and currently Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee of India visited Bangladesh in last February and met Moni apart from calling on the prime minister. Finance Minister AMA Muhiut and Home Minister Sahara Katun.

Moni is also scheduled to call on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and hold meetings with Mukherjee and several other political leaders.

"The proposed visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India is also likely to figure during the discussions. The visit is likely to take place by the end of this year," an official familiar with the process said.

As the contentious Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Dam Project is likely to figure

prominently in the discussions, New Delhi made it clear that there would be absolutely no diversion of water in the Barak as feared by a section of people in Bangladesh, the informed sources said.

Located near the confluence of the Barak and Tuivai rivers in Monipur, the project appeared to have dominated the centre stage of Bangladesh-India ties for the last several months.

When a Bangladeshi parliamentary delegation headed by former water resources minister Abdur Razzak visited the project area last month, the Indian authorities cleared the points.

Moni's visit would provide a good opportunity to remove any misgivings over the project, the sources said.

Put together, these initiatives have set the stage for a new positive period of trust and cooperation between the two neighbours. Moni's trip comes at a time when India's relationship with Bangladesh is showing signs of improvement, the sources said.

BGMEA's demand for Tk 3,000cr an attempt to blackmail govt

Prof Akash tells BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted economist Prof MM Akash yesterday said the BGMEA's demand for Tk 3,000 crore to pay the workers' wages and bonuses is an attempt to blackmail the government.

"They are blackmailing the government by saying if the government does not pay them the money and if the workers go for any unrest, the government would be responsible for that," he said while speaking at the Bangladesh Sanglap hosted by BBC Bangla Service.

Prof Akash said they need to specifically show their balance sheets how much loss they are incurring. The government is doing it right by not giving them any fund for facing economic recession as their growth is still positive.

They [garment owners] need to recognise that how logical it would be that the government would pay the workers' Eid bonus

owned by them. I think they need other government supports than stimulus package," he said.

President of Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries Salma Ahmad said it is unfortunate that people always support the workers, not the owners. The owners' interests should also be considered.

Replying to a query at the dialogue on the contemporary issues of the country, Dr Modasser said the government has taken all the steps to fight swine flu, adding that media and the opposition party have supported the government in this regard.

BNP leader ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon said the government did not take enough measures for tackling the economic meltdown.

But he also hailed the government for different steps they had taken so far to tackle the swine flu epidemic.

About the leasing of gas blocks to two foreign companies, Dr Modasser said the government would not do anything against the interest of the nation.

The dialogue was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Participants of a workshop on 'Presentation of news in Bangla Sign Language' pose for photo with the chief guest, Syed Fahim Munaim, managing editor of The Daily Star, and other guests at the certificate award ceremony in the city yesterday.

Unite to ensure rights

Representatives urge at Dalit council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Babul Sarder and Rajkumar Das were elected president and vice-president of the 13-member national working committee of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) at its first general council yesterday, says a press release.

Other office bearers include Milan Das, general secretary; advocate Monilal Das, treasurer; Rambhoni Koiti, joint secretary; Ashok Das, organising secretary; Lalit Das, publication secretary; Shanti Mondol, women affairs secretary; and members Raghbir Das, Lovely Rani, Sajoni Rani, Nirmal Chandra Das and Pannal Bansfor.

Representatives from BDERM and its 25 organisations from six divisions across the country working for the development of the people with Dalit community took

part in the council at WVA auditorium in the city.

They called on the Dalit community to be united to press the government in order to meet their basic human rights, as years after years they have been deprived of these rights as citizens of the country and human beings as well.

Babul, newly elected president, said: "We have to be united to raise our voice against all discrimination, including racial or religious, towards the community people."

A set of demands by the representatives were placed at the council, including ensuring housing facilities of the community, enactment of an anti-racial law, implementation of election manifestos of the political parties, ensuring representatives of Dalit community at National Human Rights Commission, providing proper health, education facilities and ensuring utility facilities at the community.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Representatives of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement at the first general council of the organisation at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday.

TV channels urged to present news in sign language

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a certificate giving ceremony of a workshop on the television channels to present news in sign language to ensure the right to information for the people with hearing impairments.

The Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users organised the workshop on Presentation of news in Bangla Sign Language.

Speaking as the chief guest, Syed Fahim Munaim, managing editor of The Daily Star, said, "Nowadays the use of sign language has increased across the globe. It is our responsibility to promote its use in the country."

Lauding the government for giving recognition to Bangla sign language, he emphasised the need to arrange more training programmes to develop skills of the sign language users.

He also urged the media men to highlight the programmes on the sign language to raise awareness about it.

Osman Khalid, chairman of the Society, who presided over the ceremony, called for greater use of Bangla sign language in every sector, especially in mass media, to ensure equal rights and opportunities for the people with hearing impairments.

Shirin Sultana, president of National Women Deaf Organisation, and MI Chowdhury, executive director of the Society, were also present.

Sixteen people successfully completed the workshop that began on July 10.

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Simplex
2325-2648 sft
Duplex
3983-4982 sft

SPRING FLOWERS

Uttara
1238 & 1243 sft

THE PALICAN

North
Gulshan
3730 sft

SIX SEASON PARK

North
Gulshan
3517-3731 sft

SPRING field

Niketan
1401-1807 sft

ISLAND

Banani
1524 sft

blue moon sapphire

Shops & Commercial
Banani
1473 sft

Brasilia

Baridhara DOHS
1144 sft &
1512 sft

LUMIERE

Uttara
1728 sft

Areebah

Uttara
1915 sft

DEER PARK

Moghazar
1473 sft
Ready

HEIGHTS

Moghazar
1494 &
1569 sft

AZZARO

West Malibagh
Up Coming

Penzance

Middle
Badda
1178-1627 sft

Crimson Vale

Wari
1221-1466 sft

CRYSTAL PLAZA

Nazimuddin
Road
Shops & Commercial

PARK Valley

Nazimuddin
Road
1259 sft

PEONZA

Mirpur
1091-1286 sft

(1sft=0.0929sqm)

In Chittagong City

The Legend
Khulshi Hills R/A
Sold-out

Royal
Khulshi Hills R/A
2057-2125 sft

Allstar
South Khulshi
1340-1768 sft

BLUE SHORE
South Khulshi
1628-1687 sft

Rose Heaven
South Khulshi
1700-1708 sft

KINGS wood
South Khulshi
1324-1634 sft

WIN Stone
Panchlaish R/A
1496-2145 sft

MOONLIGHT
Panchlaish R/A
2484-2672 sft

Joy Bells
Nasirabad H/S
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Winter Sun
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