

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Bangladesh focusing on safety: FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh is now focusing more on safety aspects of the proposed Rooppur nuclear power plant to be set up by Russia.

"We will host a workshop with experts from Russian Federation, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and Bangladesh within next two months before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Moscow," she said.

Safety issues involving nuclear power plant need to be addressed on priority basis, as radiation leakage in Fukushima plant in Japan created concerns, said Dipu Moni while briefing journalists yesterday.

The prime minister, she said, will visit Russia after addressing the concerns at the planned workshop about the safety of nuclear power plant. "Ensuring human safety is our government's priority concern," she added.

The foreign minister, who had bilateral meeting with her Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on April 6, said she discussed with Lavrov the

developments in the preliminary steps for the establishment of nuclear power plant.

They also had discussion on assistance of Gazprom in the oil and gas exploration sector, modernisation of old electricity generation units, and the status of draft agreements some of which are ready to be signed during the prime minister's visit.

Dipu Moni informed that a delegation of Gazprom will visit Dhaka soon to discuss with Bangladesh officials to increase the efficiency of gas through compressors from Russia.

About Bahraini foreign minister's recent visit to Dhaka, she said that as Bahrain is currently facing internal political crises, the safety issue of the Bangladesh migrant workers there was discussed.

Dipu Moni is likely to visit Bahrain at her counterpart's invitation at the end of this month or early next month.

At the press briefing, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who apparently turned down the US Country Report on Human Rights-2010 on Bangladesh, questioned the sources of the information about the violation of human

rights as mentioned in the report.

Replying to a question, she said the report has been prepared based on newspaper reports, NGOs, and some international organisations, and no information from the government.

She claimed that the source of information is weak and it lacks research and she does not feel it logical to discuss the report in details. "Bangladesh is a democratic non-communal state and has been elected twice to the UN Human Rights Council for its positive track records of human rights," she said.

However, the foreign minister said the government is ready to overcome any shortcomings, if there are any, detected by anyone from in or outside the country.

On another question whether Dhaka-Washington dispute over Prof Muhammad Yunus's matter led to the State Department to prepare the report with harsh observation about human rights, the foreign minister said the US may have its own observation about him, but Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign nation acts according to its own law.



College teachers with MPhil and PhD degrees form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding their promotion and timescale.

PHOTO: STAR

GRAMEEN ISSUE Deadline for report extended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended by one month the deadline for submitting the report on Grameen Bank issues.

Finance ministry officials said the extension came following a request by the committee formed on January 11.

The five-member committee, headed by Prof AK Monowar Uddin Ahmed of economics department of Dhaka University, was scheduled to submit its report by April 10.

2 cops suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday suspended two policemen of Sutrapur Police Station, including an ASI for neglecting their duties.

On March 12, three criminals on motorbike shot dead Anisur Rahman, 35, an Ansar personnel when ASI Ashraful Islam and Constable Jahangir Alam were on duty in the check post along with two others at RN Das Lane of Sutrapur.

When the policemen gestured the goons to stop their motorbike, they shot at Anisur on the chest, who died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Deputy Commissioner Gazi Mozammel Huq of Wari Division suspended the policemen for letting the bikers make an easy getaway after shooting, said Nazrul Islam, OC of Sutrapur Police Station.

Though, Ashraful and Jahangir were armed they did not shoot at the criminals, he said.

Stabbed hotel staff dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hotel staff who was stabbed in the hotel at Banani on the city on Sunday for extortion, died at a hospital early yesterday.

Khalil Ahmed Liton, 42, an employee of Hotel Lords Inn, died at about 1:00am, said his colleagues.

They said 15 to 20 youths from Arzotpara of the area went to the hotel and demanded toll of Tk 30,000 per month that led to a clash between the employees and the miscreants. At one stage, the criminals stabbed him indiscriminately around 9:30pm on Sunday. Gulshan police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Manager of the hotel Tarek filed a murder case against about 20 persons with the police. Nur Mohammad and Al Amin were arrested in this connection.



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Prof. Vernon Lee - MBBS, D (Ortho), MS (Ortho) - CMC, Vellore, India, MCh (Orthopedic Surgery), UK, Knee Fellowship- UK, Arthroplasty- STF, France and Canada, Professor and Head of Orthopedics Dept. of Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, India, recently joined Square Hospitals Ltd, Dhaka.

- He has special interest in primary Hip, Knee, Shoulder, Elbow and revision arthroplasties
- He has done over 2000 such cases at CMC, Vellore
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He has acquired the necessary expertise from different tertiary care level hospitals of the world including UK, Australia, France, Canada, India, Singapore and Malaysia for the last 27 years. He has chaired and presented scientific papers in various national and international seminars and symposiums and more than 50 publications in different reputed medical journal to his credit.

Now he is available at Square Hospital for consulting patients and performing Arthroscopic and Arthroplasty surgeries on regular basis.

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