

Repatriate Rohingya refugees

Dipu Moni urges Myanmar envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday asked Myanmar for early repatriation of the Rohingya refugees from Nayapara and Kutupalong camps in Cox's Bazar district.

She made the request when Myanmar Ambassador in Bangladesh Min Lwin called on her at the Foreign Ministry.

Termining Bangladesh-Myanmar relations excellent, she stressed enhancing and deepening the bilateral ties further for the benefit of two countries, said a press release.

In this connection, Dipu Moni put due importance on the improvement of connectivity through direct air services, costal shipping lines, and direct road, railway links.

She appreciated the progress made through the ongoing bilateral meetings under the auspices of Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Trade Commission, and Joint Boundary Working Group.

The foreign minister also proposed the idea of broader framework agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar for cooperation in multifaceted avenues.

Dr Dipu Moni urged the ambassador to persuade the Myanmar businesspeople to import more Bangladeshi products including pharmaceuticals, readymade garments, and jute.

She also reiterates Bangladesh's interest to import surplus electricity and gas from Myanmar.

Referring to the sincere efforts made by the present Bangladesh government to resolve issues with neighbouring countries on the basis of friendship and goodwill, the foreign minister requested the new Myanmar government to come forward to reap benefit of the goodwill and sincerity for the best interests of the two countries and the peoples.



A city dweller hangs on with all six of his family members stuffed on a rickshaw while returning from his hometown in Patuakhali at the end of the Eid holiday. The photo was taken from Topkhana Road in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Restriction on vehicular movement on roads today, tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vehicular movement will be restricted on several roads in the capital for today and tomorrow during periods when Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be using the roads and during the football match between Argentina and Nigeria.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police sources said the roads to be restricted for movement today are -- from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Hotel Sonargaon via Jahangirgate, Bijoy Sarani, Gano Bhaban and Farmgate.

However, the source did not disclose the time of Manmohan's movement on security grounds.

Meanwhile, the government decided to impose restriction on the roads adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium from 2:00pm till ending of the football match between Argentina and Nigeria today.

DMP sources said vehicles will not be allowed from Paltan intersection to Zero Point, Motijheel to Gulistan, Dainik Bangla to Gulistan and Alico to Bangabandhu Avenue via Dilkusha.

Vehicles related to the football match will be allowed to park inside the stadium while vehicles carrying the national flag and with stickers will be allowed to park at Baitul Mokarram, Link Road and Hockey Stadium.

The vehicles of common people will be allowed to park at Muktangon, Mohanagar Natya Mancha, Phoenix road, T&T College, Pirjangi Majar and Dilkusha areas.

MANMOHAN'S VISIT

Call to include health issues in discussions

BSS, Dhaka

Leading public health advocates from India and Bangladesh are desperately pursuing their highest leaders to include health issues in bilateral discussions as Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh begins his landmark official trip to Bangladesh today.

Sources in New Delhi and Dhaka said two identical memos were submitted to Singh on Sunday and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, seeking their wholehearted support for due importance to health during their bilateral meeting today.

"I submitted the letter to the prime minister of India this morning. He read the letter and was supportive. He enquired if the letter was also submitted to the prime minister of

Bangladesh.

"I told him that the letter would be handed to her by Monday," said Prof K Srinath Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India.

In the letter, Reddy said, "We are writing to seek your considered support for a strong bilateral initiative for strengthening public health in both countries through collaboration in education, learning and research."

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Pran Gopal Datta handed over the letter to Sheikh Hasina's office yesterday.

He told the news agency that they were pursuing both prime ministers to take joint initiatives to promote universal health coverage (UHC), prevent communicable and

infectious diseases like bird flu and eradicate polio.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni on Sunday said Dhaka and New Delhi are set to sign a comprehensive framework cooperation agreement alongside several other memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and protocols.

She, however, did not mention anything about health issues for discussions in the upcoming meeting.

Senior Advisor to Rockefeller Foundation's Bangkok Office Dr Mushtaque R Chowdhury said health should be one of the most priority areas for discussions and agreements during the meeting.

The two countries, Mushtaque said, have similar health-related statistics such as infant

mortality, life expectancy and maternal mortality.

Though Bangladesh remains in a marginally better position, there is a huge inter-state health inequity in India and significant inter-district inequity in Bangladesh in terms of access to healthcare and health outcomes, he said.

"Universal coverage", where everyone is covered for basic healthcare services and none is denied care as long as they are legal residents in the geography covered, is low in India and almost non-existent in Bangladesh, he said.

However, India started several schemes on UHC under direct patronage and support of Manmohan and there is no reason why Bangladesh and India cannot do it together,

argued Mushtaque.

Many low and middle-income countries such as Thailand, Ghana, Rwanda and Mexico have already achieved UHC, which reduces out-of-pocket costs, ensures greater access of women and children to healthcare and reduces corruption.

Mushtaque said it would be highly impacting if the two prime ministers, in their joint communiqué, express their determination towards cooperation in public health and, specifically, to promote and support UHC in two countries.

The Bangladesh government is considering UHC now, he said, but insisted that in order to move it forward, it requires full political commitment from Sheikh Hasina.



Samajik Rajnoitik Andolon forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding transit facilities connecting India, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Myanmar and China while preserving the interests of Bangladesh.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

'Integrate climate issue in nat'l planning, budgeting'

BSS, Dhaka

Environmentalists and experts yesterday called for integrating natural resource management, conservation, and climate change into national planning and budgeting to ensure sustainable development in Bangladesh.

They also underscored the need for improving environmental governance alongside launching sensitisation campaign among policymakers and mass people so that best practices and success stories can be replicated and scaled up across the country.

They were addressing a public lecture titled "Good governance: Environment, climate change, and sustainable development" marking the 29th year of founding of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Chaired by FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, the programme was addressed by former environment secretaries Sabihuddin Ahmed and Syed Marghub Murshed and Dhaka University Mass Communications and

Journalism teacher Dr Sudhangshu Shekhar Roy.

Sabihuddin Ahmed said the environment and forests ministry has already formulated national adaptation programme actions 2005 and 2009 and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008 and 2009. Now these plans should be integrated into five-year plan and national budget and it requires more direct involvement of the ministries of finance and planning, he said.

Ahmed underscored the need for involving the finance, foreign, and planning ministries and economic relations division in the environmental policymaking and planning discussions.

Syed Marghub said, "There are plenty of success stories and achievements in the field of environment in last two decades. The environment and forests ministry, environment department, and related agencies are trying to improve environmental governance and conservation of the nature with their very limited manpower and resources. But given the scale of environmental degradation

and adverse impacts of climate change, we do require lot more".

The former secretary recalled the contribution of FEJB in unfolding of the green agenda in Bangladesh and urged all concerned to help check growing carbon footprints and plastic footprints in the country and prevent encroachment on land and water-bodies and environmental degradation.

Emphasising capacity building of the media, Dr Sudhangshu Roy said most of the media reports on environment are now event-based rather than process-based.

FEJB member Mrinal K Roy recalled the role of the media and civil society in phasing out polybags and two-stroke three wheelers from Dhaka city and said the nation should be united in the campaign for protection of the nature, ecology, and environment.

Quamrul Chowdhury favoured promotion of green growth, green economy side by side the conservation of the nature and natural resources management to help achieve sustainable development in Bangladesh.

ট্রাস্ট স্টুডেন্ট ফাইল
আপনাকে দিচ্ছে
বিদেশী শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠানে
টিউশন কি পাঠানোর
দ্রুত ও সহজতম সমাধান

আপনার সম্ভান কি দেশের বাইরে পড়তে যাচ্ছে?
আপনি কি তার টিউশন ফি পাঠানো নিয়ে চিন্তিত?

তাহলে আজই যোগাযোগ করুন ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংকের নিম্নোক্ত শাখাসমূহে :

ঢাকা : প্রধান শাখা : ৮৭২৭৫৯-৩, ৯৮৮৮০৬৮ সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন শাখা : ৭২২৬৯৫৭, ৭২২৯২৬৩
ধানমন্ডি শাখা : ৮৬২০৪০৯, ৯৬৭৭৫৫৩ গুলশান কর্পোরেট শাখা : ৮৮২৮০৮৮, ৮৮৯৫৫৯৪
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চট্টগ্রাম : সিডিএ এডভান্সড শাখা : ০৩৭০৩০০৪৮৮ খাতুনগঞ্জ শাখা : ০৯৮৯৯০৮৯০২২, ০৩৯-৬২৭৮৬০
আব্রাহাদ শাখা : ০৩৯-২৫৯৪৭০৭ হালিশহর শাখা : ০৩৯-২৫৯২৫৯২-৩

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