



Senior US official in city
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US special representative for international labor affairs, Barbara Shailor, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a two-day trip to learn labour issues in Bangladesh's formal economy.

During her visit, she will meet with officials of the ministries of home and labour and international and local labour bodies in Dhaka, sources said.

Barbara Shailor was appointed to her current position on May 9, 2010, a US Embassy press release said.

Shailor leads her department's efforts to promote workers' rights, liaise with the global labour movement, and focus on strengthening labour function at US embassies across the world.

She is responsible for issues involving international labour affairs and the impact of American foreign policy and programmes on international labour rights and living standards.

Prior to her current appointment, Shailor was the director of the International Department of the AFL-CIO and served as an advisor on foreign and international policy issues.

Shailor is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has served on the Board of Directors of the American Center for International Solidarity, the German Marshall Fund, the International Rescue Committee, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Global Reporting Initiative, as well as numerous labour and foreign policy advisory committees prior to coming to the State Department.



Women hold up candles during the programme 'Aadhar Bhangar Shopho' (pledge to break darkness), a slogan demanding safety of women every second and everywhere, at the Central Shaheed Minar at the first minute of International Women's Day today. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique is also seen.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

MODHUMOTI TOWN SC verdict any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court, on any day, can declare the verdict on the appeals filed against the High Court judgment declaring illegal the Modhumoti Model Town project of Metro Makers Ltd, an institution of Bhaiya Group, in Savar.

The SC's Appellate Division yesterday kept the appeals waiting for verdict, scheduled to be announced yesterday.

Following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmentalist Lawyers Association, the HC, on July 27, 2005, declared the project in Bilamalia and Baliarpur near Aminbazar at Savar unauthorised, illegal and against the public interest.

INDO-BANGLA RELATIONS

New Indian envoy wants to link vision to reality

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

New Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran, who arrived here yesterday to take up his diplomatic assignment in Bangladesh, said he would play his role to translate the vision of the leaders of the two countries into reality.

"I look forward to playing my part in ensuring that we translate the vision of our leaders into reality, based on full respect for each other and mutual benefit."

"I especially look forward to the next few years in Dhaka with excitement, anticipation, and great hope for our relations, and to working in close partnership with the Bangladesh government and all sections of Bangladesh's vibrant society to this end", he said on his arrival in Dhaka.

The High Commissioner of India (designate) to Bangladesh, who arrived at 3:15pm on a Jet Airways flight, in his statement before the press at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, said it was a "great privilege and honour for him to be assigned as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh".

Bangladesh is a close and extremely important neighbour, with whom India enjoys ties that cut across almost all areas of human activity, he said. "We share common challenges, have similar aspirations, and have a lot to learn from each other."

The visits of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010 and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to Dhaka in September 2011 have laid the contemporary foundations for our bilateral cooperation, he said.

On a personal note, he said, "My wife and I are most delighted to be back to this country of exceptional beauty, warmth, and rich cultural heritage, and to revive the very pleasant memories we have of our earlier stay in Bangladesh".

Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of State of Palestine in Dhaka Shaher Mohammad, Acting High Commissioner of India Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Dr Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, and other officials of the high commission and the foreign ministry were present on the occasion.

Congratulations Bangladesh



Message from the United Nations Resident Coordinator on International Women's Day 8 March 2012



International Women's Day this year is an appropriate occasion to congratulate the people of Bangladesh for the significant strides the country has made in ensuring the rights and empowerment of women in this country.

Today more Bangladeshi women than ever before are emerging in leadership roles from the topmost tiers of governance and policy-making to the local levels. While Bangladesh has tripled its literacy figures for women, maternal mortality has dropped significantly, as has the total fertility rate, reducing population growth, and ensuring women's reproductive health.

Challenges, however, remain. Food security, economic and human rights, and maternal health, are among the major areas where the country needs to invest, in order to consolidate its achievements. When women are part of solutions to tackle hunger and poverty, the benefits are amplified across families and generations.

This year's International Women's Day celebrations are dedicated to rural women and girls who make up one quarter of the global population, and still figure at the bottom of every economic, social and political indicator.

Today, let us reaffirm our commitment to women's rights and move forward with courage and determination. Let us defend human rights - the inherent dignity and worth of the human person, and the equal rights of men and women.

To end, I once again congratulate Bangladesh on its achievements in the last 40 years of independence.

Neal Walker

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