

Dipu Moni urges world to cling to Bangladesh RMG

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has urged the international community to remain engaged with Bangladesh and its ready-made garment industry for the development of the country as well as empowerment of women.

She emphasised that the multinational brands and retailers need to engage with Bangladesh's RMG sector conforming to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Dipu Moni said this in her inaugural address at the first OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business at the OECD headquarters in Paris on Thursday.

Aside from appraising the forum of contemporary Bangladesh and her potentials, she also raised the issues of fair pricing of products and the need for supporting long-term capacity building given an overwhelming female employment in the sector.

Later in the day, she shared an account of the government's measures on ensuring rights of the workers and overall safety in the apparel factories. She particularly elaborated on the legal and institutional changes being made by the government in the recent months, and assured them of early passage of the proposed amendments to the Labour Law.

During discussions, the representatives from various OECD countries, academia, and the industry conveyed their appreciation for the aspects highlighted by Dipu Moni.

OECD's 34 member countries, including many of the world's most advanced nations like the US, UK and Canada, and those spanning across North and South America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

Dipu Moni also met OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría and attended a fashion show organised by acclaimed Bangladeshi designer Bibi Russel at the Unesco headquarters and the foundation-laying ceremony of International Mother Language Monument in Paris.



Agitators block Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj for about six hours yesterday morning protesting a robbery. Around 20 robbers at gun point looted valuables worth Tk 30 lakh, including 42 tolas of gold, from a house at Islamabad in the upazila in the early hours.

PHOTO: STAR

HUMAN RESOURCE DEV

Japan to give Tk 14.2cr

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Japanese government will provide Tk 14.2 crore for a project to strengthen capability of young officials of the Bangladesh government.

An agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka on Thursday by ERD Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and chief representative of Jica in Bangladesh Dr Takao Toda.

The government of Japan has been providing academic opportunities for Bangladesh's government officials to study in various fields like public administration, economics, environment policy and international relations at higher educational institutions in Japan.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima said human resource development will create the basic but the most fundamental grounds for Bangladesh's development.

Treatment of gastric cancer unsatisfactory

Say health experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although occurrence of gastric cancer is increasing in the country, the status of treatment and post treatment of the disease remain unsatisfactory, said health experts at a meeting.

They were addressing a dissemination meeting on "National Guideline for Gastric Cancer Management" at DGHS on June 18, said a press release.

Prof Dr Md Mizanur Rahman, Prof Sk Golam Mosotofa, and Prof ANM Atai Rabbi, among others, were present.

CHT LAND DISPUTES RESOLUTION COMMISSION Amendment bill contradictory

Adivasi leaders tell press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous leaders yesterday identified some contradictory provisions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Disputes Resolution Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2013 and stressed cohering of those provisions before the bill is passed into law.

Only 10 of their 13-point amendment proposal have been incorporated into the bill, of which two were included "inappropriately", they told a press conference arranged by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (BAF), Shampri Mancha and Jono Uddoyog at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity. The leaders sought the bill's full conformity to their proposals.

BAF General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong said their 13-point proposal was adopted in an inter-ministerial meeting on July 30, 2012 with the law minister in the chair. "We

are assuming that some unscrupulous officials from the land ministry made the changes for their own interests," he said.

One of two inappropriately incorporated provisions excluded the word "paddhati" (practice), which was incorporated in the CHT Peace Accord 1997 but was missing in the CHT Land Disputes Resolution Commission Act 2001, said Dr Sourav Sikder, member secretary of Shampri Mancha. The word "practice" is one of the most important aspects in terms of the land management system in the CHT, he said.

Sanjeeb said one of the three provisions missing in the amendment bill involved the quorum of the commission. "Our proposal was to form a quorum of four members with the commission's chairman in the chair. The bill incorporated a provision of a three-member quorum with the chairman in the chair," he said.

Rita, Mita brought under sister's care in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Ainun Nahar Rita and Nurunnahar Mita, two sisters suffering from schizophrenia, were brought to the residence of Kamrun Nahar Hena, their elder sister, in the capital's Mohammadpur Katasur yesterday.

After going missing for over four months, they were found in a Bogura hotel on June 23. They were brought to Dhaka after a stay in "Nishindara", a rehabilitation center for mentally challenged persons on the outskirts of Bogura.

The two sisters first made news headlines in 2005 when they were discovered in their Mirpur home after a self-imposed isolation of ten years, which many blame was for their condition and neglect by their living relatives. The duo lost their parents long ago.

Rita, a medical graduate, had worked in the department of histopathology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

before her illness forced her to quit the job. Mita studied engineering in the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation Chairperson Elina Khan, who brought the sisters to Dhaka,



told The Daily Star that the sisters went missing from their rented Shankar flat in the capital on February 18.

They were found in Hotel Akbaria by police and National Mahila Ainjibi Samity representatives, she said.

Bogura Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Syed Shahid Alam said, as per the hotel management, the two sisters checked in at the hotel on February 19 citing work as their reason for their stay in Bogura.

The hotel management informed police after the two sisters stopped paying the hotel bills for a couple of days, had not opened their door for three days and were refusing food, he said.

The hotel management also informed that the two were showing signs of being mentally challenged, added the OC.

"The two sisters were paying their expenses with rent they received by leasing out their 7 katha plot in Mirpur to a furniture shop," said Elina Khan. They were first rescued in 2005 from their one-storey building in this plot.

Hena told The Daily Star that the sisters would be living with her and checked by a doctor soon. Rita and Mita were unavailable for comment.

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Project Management Skills to work at
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candidates must be highly motivated
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