

Dipu Moni upbeat

Reaches New Delhi, hopes Indian political parties will see larger picture of land boundary deal

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday expressed the hope all Indian political parties would "see the larger picture and act accordingly" on passing the bilateral land boundary agreement in Parliament.

Apart from holding talks with the top Indian leadership today, Moni, who arrived in New Delhi yesterday, will also meet Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley in a bid to ensure his party's support for smooth sailing of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), which is expected to come up in the monsoon session of Indian Parliament beginning on August 5.

"I am very hopeful that the way things have been evolving over the past few years, we will see fruition."

"We have all, on both sides, worked very hard, and I believe that at this

junction, everyone, regardless of the parties, will be able to see the larger picture and act accordingly," Moni said when asked if she was hopeful of Indian Parliament sanctioning the agreement.

Asked specifically if she would be raising this issue with Jaitley, she said "sure".

Moni is set to call on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today at 11:00am at his official residence at 7 Race Course Road and meet Jaitley at his office in Rajya Sabha complex at 5:00pm.

Stating that both Bangladesh and India are working in the same "spirit that we had worked together in 1971", Dipu Moni hoped that when "people will vote, they will take into account our initiative, our efforts and the fact that we have come so far. It will happen".

The agreement can be implemented only after a constitution amendment bill is passed by Indian Parliament as it involves



Dipu Moni

exchange of territories. The bill needs to be passed by a majority in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha of no less than two-thirds of the members present and voting. The agreement envisages transfer of 111 enclaves with a total area of 17,160.63 acres to Bangladesh while there will be transfer of 51 enclaves with an area of 7,110.02 acres to India.

While on the face of it, India does seem to be losing some territory, Indian officials maintained the government has in fact only converted a de-facto reality into a de-jure situation, as these

enclaves are located deep inside the two countries with little physical access to these by both.

Though she did not mention the issue of Teesta river water-sharing agreement, which is also stuck, Dipu Moni did emphasise a lot on river water sharing during her speech at a think-tank in New Delhi where she proposed the concept of a Ganges Brahmaputra-Meghna Basin regime involving Bangladesh, India, China, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar for joint management of common rivers, harnessing hydro power resources and exploring marine resources and minerals in the sea bed in the region.

Such a regime "would also allow creation of food banks, buffer stocks of commodities and natural resources and strengthen information and technology data bases", Dipu Moni said.

She said the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin regime does not undermine

the global order.

Arguing that rivers are a source of life, she said, "They have united us".

"While people try to find elements to divide, this is one feature, rivers, that unite us. It has the potential to augment all the processes that we have. Let's grow together and rivers can be basis for that," she said.

Asked if Bangladesh has concerns about China's plans to construct dams on Brahmaputra river, she said Dhaka was talking to all its neighbours.

"For us, being lower riparian state, we must talk of any detrimental impact to lower riparian state and we are doing that," she said.

Dipu Moni, also responded to questions on Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus besides the ongoing trial of war crimes committed during the Liberation War.

She said people of Bangladesh had waited for long for justice.

Labour minister

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law to ensure discipline in trade unions in the ready-made garment sector, said the minister.

Bangladesh government has been under pressure from the international community to improve safety standards and working conditions in factories following the Rana Plaza collapse and the Tazreen fire incident.

In efforts to guarantee workers' rights, the government moved to amend the labour law, and the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Bill 2013 was passed in parliament on July 15 to allow full freedom to workers in running trade unions.

On July 22, the ILO released a statement expressing discontent over the limited scope for running trade unions and collective bargaining in the amended law.

It particularly raised objections to the requirement of 30 percent workers' representation for forming a trade union, and the government's failure to extend workers' freedom of association and collective

bargaining in export processing zones.

"The amendments did not prohibit discrimination in employment or remuneration, as called for by the ILO supervisory system," the ILO said in the statement.

The lapses make the amended law "several important steps" short of being in conformity with ratified international labour standards, it said, urging the government to address those "as a matter of urgency".

Raju said, "We have brought about reforms in the labour law, taking into account the reality on the ground. We wanted to have a good labour law."

When contacted, Gagan Rajbhandari, deputy director of ILO Dhaka office, declined to comment on the matter.

Speaking at the press conference, Labour and Employment Secretary Mikail Shipar echoed Raju's views, and said the Bangladesh ambassador in Geneva told him that the ILO didn't hold any discussions with the ambassador

before issuing the statement.

"The ILO is our partner organisation but it gave the statement without consulting with us. The Bangladesh Embassy in Geneva conveyed to me that the ILO issued the statement under pressure," said the secretary.

It is unlikely that there would be further changes in the amended law, said Shipar.

Asked whether the labour law reforms would help Bangladesh regain the GSP facility from the US, Shipar said the amendment to the labour law was not a pre-condition for reinstatement of the GSP facility.

However, in its action plan for Bangladesh to regain the GSP facility, the US government suggested that Bangladesh reform its labour law to address key concerns over workers' freedom of association and collective bargaining.

2 children drown in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two children drowned in a pond at Rangunia upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased are Tashis Talukder Fahim, 8, and Faruk Hossain Hridoy, 9, of Ichakhali area under Rangunia municipality.

Locals said four children were playing at a muddy field at around 4:00pm.

Later they went to a pond beside the field to clean themselves, and fell into the pond.

Locals recovered the victims and rushed them to Rangunia Upazila Health Complex where on-duty doctors declared Fahim and Hridoy dead.

Another two victims Iashpia Islam, 7, Abida Sultana, 8, took primary treatment at the health complex.

US for warming Venezuela ties

AFP, Washington

The US said Wednesday it is open to improving ties with Venezuela after Caracas called off the rapprochement, accusing Washington of meddling in its internal affairs.

The nations, which were often at odds during the 14-year rule of Hugo Chavez, hinted at warmer ties after a meeting of diplomats in June.

Shafique flip-flops

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This, in other words, would give judicial power to executive magistrates but the mobile court act does not allow them to punish anyone who pleads "not guilty".

Since the separation of the judiciary from the executive in 2007, the DCs, who hold executive positions, had been demanding their power to hold summary trials be restored. They reiterated their demand during the meeting with the law minister on the final day of a three-day conference at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Amending the CrPC in April, 2009, the Awami League-led government had "given some judicial

power to executive magistrates".

The High Court in November that year issued a rule on the government asking it to explain within three weeks as to why giving such powers to the executive magistrates should not be declared illegal.

But 45 months have passed since and the government is yet to respond to the rule.

Manzill Murshid, who filed the petition that resulted in the High Court ruling on the government, told The Daily Star that trials held by executive magistrates could not be proper and fair, as they did not have the experience and knowledge like judicial magistrates.

Rejoinder

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him, as he was living in his own flat.

"There was no question of any of my relatives or staff staying in that flat," he said in the rejoinder.

OUR REPLY
The Parliament Secretariat confirmed The Daily Star on

Tuesday that Ershad was allocated flat no-603 and a JP leader lived there from 2009 to June 2010.

Ershad, however, handed over the flat to the Parliament Secretariat in July 2010. We stand corrected as the flat is currently vacant.

Initial submission

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crimes charges, prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that they had enough documentary evidence besides oral testimony against the accused.

The prosecution yesterday completed their part of initial submission on formal charges.

The tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir gave the defence 13 days to prepare their submission. The defence is set to place their submission on formal charges on August 7.

The defence yesterday appealed to the tribunal that they needed three days for privilege communication with Quasem.

Allowing two defence counsels for the privilege communication on July 28 and August 1, the tribunal gave necessary instruction to the jail authorities.

Quasem's son Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem and Tanvir Ahmed Al-Amin have been allowed to consult with the war crimes accused at jail.

During his submission Simon pointed out the

highlighted portions of the formal charges and briefly read out the 14 charges.

Simon identified Quasem as an influential commander of infamous Al-Badr force that was dubbed by some historians as the "angel of death".

A recent tribunal judgement convicted Al-Badr organiser and Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman. The verdict said Al-Badr was a fascist armed wing of Jamaat that carried out dreadful criminal activities in violation of customary international laws in 1971.

Al-Badr, widely known for the planned killings of the intellectuals at the fag-end of the war, was constituted with members of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat.

Quasem was Chhatra Sangha general secretary and war crimes accused Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed was its president since October in 1971, said Simon.

Among the 14 charges, two charges were pressed

for the killing of eight people. The remaining charges were for torture, arson, looting and abduction committed between November and December 16, 1971.

Charges 1-10 and 13 and 14 were brought against Quasem in connection with abduction, torture and detaining 27 people in Chittagong and setting fire to houses and shops.

Charge 11 read one Jasim along with five unidentified people was abducted sometime after Eid-ul-Fitr in 1971. They were detained and tortured at Dalim Hotel in Andorkilla and were killed later.

According to charge No. 12, Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Ranjit Das Prokash Latu and Tuntu Sen were kidnapped sometime in November in 1971. Latu and Tuntu were later killed and their bodies were never found.

Quasem was arrested on June 17, 2012 after the tribunal issued a warrant of arrest. He was brought before the tribunal yesterday.

Rony lands in jail

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He was arrested at Baridhara by the Detective Branch of police on Wednesday after a metropolitan magistrate had ordered his arrest in a case filed by the TV channel for assaulting the two.

Rony was at the DB headquarters that night. He was kept in the court custody and not produced in the courtroom during yesterday's hearing on the bail petition.

Rony's counsel had filed the bail petition, saying all the charges except the one of attempted murder were bailable and claimed that no evidence could be found in support of that charge.

On the other hand, Abu Jafar, the investigation officer of the case, in his petition said Rony would hamper the investigation if he remained out on bail.

Police had not appealed for his remand since he was arrested following a court warrant, Jafar told The Daily Star.

"There is no other information to be extracted in this case, which is unlike theft cases. So, we did not need to place him on remand for further interro-

gation," he added.

After hearing both the sides, Metropolitan Magistrate SM Ashiqur Rahman rejected the bail prayer and directed police to put him in jail.

Rony obtained an interim bail on Sunday and it was cancelled on Wednesday, following an appeal by Yusuf Ali, assistant manager of the TV channel. He said Rony had threatened them to withdraw the case or face consequences.

Meanwhile, in his reaction to the attack on the two journalists Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said attacking the media people is an unforgivable offence.

"Whoever is involved in the offence, be they a minister or a parliamentarian, must face the court," he told reporters after emerging from a working session with deputy commissioners at the secretariat.

Inu said, "Putting him [Rony] before the court reflected the government's respect for the mass media. I hope you [journalists] would cooperate with us in establishing the rule of law."

Tarique plans

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In his hour-long speech, where people had to buy tickets to get into, Tarique refrained from speaking about the ruling Awami League and its administration.

He said if the plans he mentioned were implemented, unemployment "would reduce to one crore people from the current three crore".

He also stressed the need

for the country's workforce to learn a third and a fourth foreign language, apart from English. "We will be able to take our remittance income to \$2,000 crore from \$1,400 in the next five years through employment of skilled manpower abroad, who will be able to communicate in these foreign languages."

He claimed that earnings from garment exports could be increased to "\$4,500

crore from the existing \$2,200 crore in next five years by ensuring factory safety and minimum wage for the workers".

He plans water bodies all around the Bangladesh capital.

Surrounded by professional security personnel, Tarique's public appearance on Wednesday was his second since he moved to London in 2008.

Time for rice-plus

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Chal is cooked, and tastes just like normal rice.

Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients, they said, and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate while the fortification of rice is a major opportunity to improve nutrition, especially for those who suffer from hidden hunger.

Hidden hunger is a micronutrient (vitamin and mineral) deficiency in a person's diet. People who suffer from hidden hunger often found to have eaten enough calories but their basic diet fails to provide enough crucial vitamins and minerals vital to their mental and physical health, they explained.

"Only carbohydrate is not enough for a healthy livelihood. And ultra-poor in our country often can't afford sufficient proteins in the form of fish, meat, dairy products etc. But as rice is always there in their diet, its fortification with micronutrients will help mitigate the problem of nutrition-deficiency," Minister of State for Women and Children Affairs, Meher Afroz Chumki told this correspondent.

Under a partnership with the WFP, Swiss company DSM Nutritional Products is supporting the UN body's strategic approach to rice fortification, and is engaged

in efforts in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam to include fortified rice in social safety nets, and maximise the potential of fortified rice in tackling malnutrition.

DSM Nutritional Products, which is a subsidiary of Dutch multinational Royal DSM NV, teamed up with another Swiss company --Buhler-- and established Wuxi NutriRice Co Ltd, in China in 2007 to produce the nutritionally enriched rice kernels to be mixed with regular rice.

For distribution among the safety net beneficiaries under the acceptability trial programme, the kernels are being imported from China.

Cornelia Paetz, public information officer of the WFP in Dhaka, said the kernels are mixed up with regular rice in local rice mills of Kurigram and Satkhira.

She said DSM is supplying the vitamin and mineral fortified kernels and supporting the acceptability study being conducted by Brac.

The WFP and DSM are also engaged in rice fortification in Cambodia and Vietnam, Paetz said.

Sources said that after the research on acceptability of fortified rice is done by September, detailed results of the trial are expected by the end of this year.

Assange launches party

AFP, Sydney

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange yesterday officially launched his political party to contest Australian elections this year, saying a victory for his candidates would be akin to planting the country's "best investigative journalists" in the Senate.

Assange, the Australian founder of the whistleblowing website, said the WikiLeaks Party would field seven candidates for upper house Senate seats in the states of New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

Despite being holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy in London for more than a year, the 42-year-old will run in Victoria, saying he planned to be "an inde-



pendent scrutineer of government activity".

"WikiLeaks Party's core values of transparency, accountability and justice are the template against which we will examine any important issues for Australians: tax reform, asylum-seekers, climate change policy and more," he said in an opinion piece in The Australian newspaper.

"We will not accept legislation or government policy

that is based on inaccurate, poorly disclosed or inadequate information.

"In this way our positions will always reflect fairness, good government policy and practice, and protecting the interests of all Australians."

Australia is due to go into the polls before the end of November with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's Labor up against the Tony Abbott-led conservatives.

Opinion polls suggest Abbott will narrowly win.

Assange said he plans to keep politicians honest, complaining about "the stealth with which our elected representatives have worked together (often across party lines) to pass laws without proper public consultation".

Military Engineer Services
Directorate of Works & Chief Engineer (Army)

Cancellation of Invitation for Tenders

- Invitation for tenders of the following work appeared in *Dainik Sangbad* on 04 June 2013 and *The Daily Star* on 05 June 2013 and in *Daily Star* on 04 July 2013 & *Dainik Sangbad* on 04 July 2013.
Tender name : Construction of 1x110.00 Metre long Bridge including ancillary works over lake from Sena Shahayak School to proposed JCO's & OR's residential area at Dhamalkot area Dhaka Cantt (2nd Phase).
- Invitation for tenders No. : 113 of 2012-2013/E-6 Dated 29 May 2013

The abovementioned invitation of tenders is hereby cancelled due to administrative reason.

DW & CE (Army)
Dhaka Cantt.

Bangladesh Ordnance Factories (BOF)
Gazipur Cantonment, Gazipur-1703
Phone: 9204613/4800, Fax: 880-2-9204633
Web: www.bof.gov.bd

Amendment of Tender Notice

- The advertisement published in the dailies regarding the following items are amended as under :

Tender No. & dt.	Name of item	Subject of amendment	For	Read
23.04.0000.167.235.6813. 12.13, dt. 16-2-2013	Equipment for up-gradation, Modernization and Development of Quality Control Lab (38 items)	Last date of selling tender form	29 July 2013 1300hrs	26 August 2013 1300 hrs
		Date of dropping & opening tender	30 July 2013 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	27 August 2013 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs

2. Other terms & conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Deputy Director Material
For Commandant

GD-2791