

Now Rupa Huq made UK shadow minister

BSS, Dhaka



After Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, another Bangladeshi-origin parliament

member, Dr Rupa Huq, who was elected in last year's UK general elections from Ealing Central and Acton constituency, has been appointed as the home affairs minister of the shadow cabinet of UK Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

"I am delighted to have been appointed to the Labour front bench as Shadow Home Affairs Minister. Lots of work to do to keep the pressure on the Tory government," Huq said in her Facebook post.

Rupa is a senior lecturer in sociology at Kingston University. Her ancestral home is in Pabna of Bangladesh.

Earlier, Tulip Siddiq, the daughter of Sheikh Rehana, younger daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has been inducted into the Labour shadow cabinet as the early years education minister.

Rushanara Ali, the first British lawmaker with roots in Bangladesh, performed the responsibility as the shadow minister of international development and education after being elected in the 2010 polls.

For the first time in the history of Britain, 11 Bangladesh-origin candidates vied for seats in the House of Commons through this election. Of them, most public interest and media focus was on Rushanara, Rupa, and Tulip.



Clockwise from top left, Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping with President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Bangabhaban attending a state banquet. President Xi being welcomed upon arrival at Dhaka airport. He is being given a guard of honour there. Xi Jinping and Hasina unveiling plaques of various projects at Prime Minister's Office. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia shaking hand with the Chinese president at a city hotel, where he is staying.

PHOTOS: PID, BSS, BNP



Xi focuses on expanding trade

Hamid seeks duty-free access for all Bangladeshi products to Chinese market

UNB, Dhaka

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday said there is ample scope to expand ties between Bangladesh and China in the areas of economic, trade, agriculture and industrial sectors.

He also assured of considering the matter of increasing Bangladesh's exports to Chinese market with due importance.

The assurance came when the visiting Chinese president held a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Abdul Hamid at the Cabinet Hall of Bangabhaban in Dhaka.

Earlier, President Hamid urged his Chinese counterpart to allow all Bangladeshi products duty- and quota-free entry into the Chinese market to

address the current trade imbalance.

President Hamid's Press Secretary Joyal Abedin briefed the media after the meeting.

Xi said China, as a development partner, will continue its cooperation with Bangladesh. There has been massive positive development in Bangladesh over the last six years, especially socioeconomic development, he added.

Meanwhile, the Chinese president appreciated Bangladesh's economic stability and mentioned that Bangladesh is a very important country in South Asia.

He said the diplomatic relations that established 41 years ago is being expanded day by day. Referring to his meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina, Xi said they agreed to work together and have a master plan to expand the relations further.

Hamid said the Chinese president's visit will elevate "Closer Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation" between the two countries to a new level of "Strategic Partnership of Cooperation".

"As you've your 'Chinese dream', we also have 'Vision 2021' to become a middle-income country by 2021 and 'Vision 2041' to become a developed country by 2041. We consider China as a trusted partner in this pursuit," he said.

Hamid said they commit themselves to working together closely in bilateral, regional and international arena to make strategic relations a meaningful one. "As such, this is the very first for

Bangladesh to have strategic partnership with any country in the world."

Hamid said the bilateral trade between the two countries has been growing steadily.

He recalled that the visits of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to China in the 1950s had laid the foundation of the bridge between the two peoples. "I recall my visit to China in November 2014 during which I had very fruitful discussions with you,"

He said Bangladesh's relationship with China is based on the principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and cooperation for mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence.

Chinese media also gives due importance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chinese president's visit to Bangladesh grabbed the spotlight of Chinese media that highlighted the stronger future economic and political cooperation.

The Chinese dream of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is "in perfect harmony" with Bangladesh's dream of a "Sonar Bangla", said Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"China and Bangladesh face similar task of development," he said in an arrival statement at the Shahjalal International Airport yesterday, reports China Daily.

He said China considers Bangladesh as an important partner in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

Jiang Jingkui, director of the Center of South Asian Studies at Peking University, said the South Asian region, which was not a traditional focus for China, has become more important in recent years, especially after China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013.

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National Debate Federation-Bangladesh along with Rajshahi Medical College Debating Club brings out a procession in the college's auditorium yesterday before the start of the 5th national medical college debate and quiz festival.

Fifth medical college debate dedicated to Faraaz starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The fifth National Medical College Debate and Quiz Festival began in Rajshahi city yesterday, with organisers dedicating the event to the memory of Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, who sacrificed his life in a rare display of human spirit during the Gulshan cafe terrorist attack.

The two-day debating event was launched with a call to the students to practice debate for establishing a society of tolerance, democracy, and humanity.

The learning of debate involves tolerance to dissenting views, which is a key component of democracy and human rights; so its practice is necessary for building a golden Bangladesh, said ophthalmologist Prof Dr Deen Mohammad Nurul Haque, at the inaugural ceremony at Rajshahi Medical College (RMC).

"To achieve happiness, it is necessary to have physical, financial and social freedom, which is difficult. But one



Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain

can be happy by having a good family and friends, and an organised life through healthy practice of debate and sacrifice," said Prof Haque, who was presented with a lifetime achievement award at the ceremony.

RMC Principal Prof Masum Habib chaired the ceremony.

During the July 1 Holey Artisan cafe attack, Faraaz Hossain was offered a release by the captors but he refused to leave behind his friends. The 20-year-old was slain with 19 other hostages by terrorists.

National Debate Federation-Bangladesh (NDF BD) and Rajshahi Medical College Debating Club (RMC DC) jointly organised the "Unimed and Unihealth 5th NDF-RMC DC National Medical College Debate and Quiz Festival."

The topics of debates were selected with the aim of promoting patriotism, tolerance, and merit, and they cover

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Woman forced to do squats holding ears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A woman was forced to do squats in front of a huge crowd in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

The woman said she was falsely accused of having an extra-marital relationship with a maternal uncle of her husband.

The victim told The Daily Star yesterday that on Wednesday morning she was home alone as her husband, a mason, went out for work. On the afternoon around 3:30pm, a group of people of her village led by Sadequl, Fazlu, and Jony dragged her to the Dakkhin Dhonipara Government Primary School premises to attend a village arbitration.

The so-called arbiters also brought her uncle-in-law to the school ground, she said.

"At one stage the arbiters started beating us and forced us to do squats holding our ears and beg pardon in public," she said, adding, "Over 500 people surrounding us watched it and clapped."

Police arrested two people including a union parishad

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Workers at the capital's Dhaka Medical College Hospital after being injured when some molten iron splash fell on them at the steel re-rolling factory "New Dhaka Moulding Ltd" in Fatullah of Narayanganj yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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