

US wants rapid progress on building safety issue

DHAKA: US Secretary of State John Kerry has urged rapid progress both on fire and building safety inspection issues in Bangladesh and on quick passage of labour law amendments.

He also emphasised the importance of the war crimes trials in the International Crimes Tribunals being conducted in a fair, transparent manner in accordance with international standards.

Kerry said this during a meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at the US Department of State in Washington on Friday, according to a message received here on Saturday.

The Secretary highlighted the strong cooperation between the two countries on a broad range of issues and welcomed the second annual Partnership Dialogue that will take place in Dhaka next week, including a Private Sector Forum to further enhance strong bilateral trade relations with Bangladesh.

“We look forward to our dialogue, our partnership dialogue that will take place in Dhaka in about a week or so. And this is a very important step in working on presidential initiatives, including climate change and food security, among others. And these are important initiatives for both of us,” John Kerry said.

Secretary Kerry also expressed condolences for the tragedy at Rana Plaza. “Everybody in America shared the agony of those losses, and our hearts go out to the families. We hope that this will be able to help all of us cooperate on the issue of labor and labor standards and workers and workers’ rights, obviously. We know you want to work hard to cooperate on that, and there are a number of initiatives we have.”

On Rohingya issue, he said, “We also appreciate the difficulties you face with the issue of the Rohingya refugees. The Rohingya is really a problem that comes from Burma, from Myanmar. And the problem is that maybe 30,000 or more are registered refugees in Bangladesh.”

He said the issue creates tensions, and mentioned that it is a difficult issue. “So, we’ve a lot to talk about. We want to see Bangladesh continue to move forward...”

John Kerry also expressed their happiness as Bangladesh did not get the worst of the tropical storm Mahasen. “...but it still got hit, and we’re prepared to be as helpful as we can in any way that we can in order to relieve the suffering of people.”

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said, “We’ve worked together on a number of critical initiatives, we’ve a lot of things to discuss. And I believe that the US-Bangladesh relationship is at its best now.”

She said Bangladesh is looking forward to more cooperation in all areas of common concern, both bilaterally and also at the multinational level.

Dipu Moni invited Secretary Kerry to visit Bangladesh.

-UNB- See more at: http://fpd-bd.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/daily-sun-_-_-US-wants-rapid-progress-on-building-safety-issue.htm#sthash.ITPUI9TH.dpuf