



Dhaka wants BRICS to help developing countries

Says Momen; PM flies to S Africa tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka wants BRICS to be considered a means by which emerging economies help developing countries, not a platform for exerting influence that leads to geopolitical tension.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said this yesterday ahead of the prime minister joining the BRICS summit in South Africa on August 22-26.

"The developed countries should be happy that the BRICS emerging countries, who have resources, would like to help the developing countries," he told journalists at the foreign ministry.

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Rooppur will be ready on time

But power generation will be delayed

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The much-awaited Rooppur nuclear power plant is coming along at more or less the expected pace but the country has to wait longer to enjoy the benefits as the power evacuation facility from the plant would not be ready on time.

One of the two projects for power evacuation from Rooppur, which was taken up in April 2018 for completion by December this year, saw 63 percent physical progress and 47.78 percent financial progress as of June, according to the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB). The Tk 10,981 crore transmission project is unlikely to be completed before the middle of next year, according to officials.

The physical progress of the other project, which was taken up in July 2022 for completion by June 2025, is just 5 percent and the financial progress is 7.47 percent as of July 3, according to PGCB.

Under the project, 7 kilometre-long

400 kV and 230 kV double circuit lines crossing the Jamuna river and a 2 km-long 400 kV single circuit line across the Padma river were supposed to be set up at a cost of Tk 6,056.3 crore.

"It will not be possible to start test production unless the power evacuation facility is up and running," said a top official of the Tk 113,092 crore Rooppur power plant project on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly on the matter.

As of July, the Rooppur power plant in Pabna has seen 60 percent physical progress and 58 percent financial progress, according to a report of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division on the status of eight fast-track projects taken up between 2009 and 2016.

The project has reached its most important stage: fresh nuclear fuel will soon be delivered to the site, which will mark the transition of the nuclear

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AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Living with traumas and splinters

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Daulatun Nahar shudders when questions are asked about the August 21 grenade attack that forced her to adjust to a life of pain and trauma. Many nights she cannot sleep due to the physical suffering caused by splinters that live in her body in the hundreds.

Though the 55-year-old woman survived the gruesome attack, she lost sight in her left eye, developed multiple health complications and cannot walk properly despite undergoing six surgeries in Bangladesh and India. Thoughts of the fateful afternoon still send shivers down her spine.

"Our leader [AL President Sheikh Hasina] was about to end her speech. All of a sudden we heard the first explosion. Then there followed the blasts of several other grenades. I fell down after sustaining splinter injuries and passed out. As I regained consciousness, I found blood gushing out of my legs profusely," Nahar, the then vice-president of Pallabi thana unit Mohila Awami League.

"I still have nightmares. No matter how much I tried, I could not get over those painful memories. All we want now is justice and capital punishment for the perpetrators," she told this

newspaper yesterday, on the eve of the 19th anniversary of the attack, which left 24 killed and 300 wounded.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader, narrowly escaped death with injuries to her right ear. Ivy Rahman, wife of late president Zillur Rahman, was among those killed.

Three other survivors recount the attack that has caused long-term damage to their bodies, leaving them traumatised for life. They also share the pain of living with several hundred splinters and how they have been dealing with the traumas and financial strains that followed after the attack.

Back in 2004, Rotna Akter Ruby, 42, was an AL activist from Mirpur area. She was left inside the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue as everyone thought she was dead.

"After regaining consciousness, I found myself inside the morgue, next to another body ... Although I recovered gradually, the physical and mental scars did not leave me behind. Doctors told me that I have to bear this pain as long as I am alive. But the pain is so excruciating that I think it would have been better to die that day," she added.

In the photos that appeared in newspapers after the grenade attack, she was seen in a blood-stained sari,

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BNP-Jamaat trying to turn country into a failed state

PM says they harbour militants, terrorists

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said BNP-Jamaat has always been trying to make Bangladesh a failed state by patronising militants and terrorists.

She said this in a message on the eve of the 19th anniversary of August 21, 2004, grenade attack on an Awami League rally that left 24 people dead and scores injured.

Hasina, who was then opposition leader in parliament, narrowly escaped the attack with an ear injury.

She said the attack was carried out as a continuation of the conspiracy that started with the killing of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family

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Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) has Accredited GPH Ispat Quality Control Lab

which is the first time ever for a steel re-bar manufacturer in Bangladesh



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The Quality Control Laboratory of GPH Ispat, the only re-bar manufacturer of Bangladesh to possess the world's best Quantum Electric Arc Furnace Technology, has been awarded with the Accreditation Certificate bestowed by the Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB). Through this achievement, GPH Laboratory issued certificates will now gain greater international acceptance. The lab, composed of experienced and skilled technicians along with the state-of-the-art equipments, will not only ensure a superior standard of rebars but also play a greater role in the prosperity towards a sustainable development.



World's Best GPH Quantum Steel



Unilevel 23

Should existing banks get digital bank licence?

BB gets 52 applications

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank received 52 applications for the digital bank licence, with the majority of the forms coming in from the existing 62 banks – when their current licence allows them to offer the same service already.

Around 500 companies including banks, non-bank financial institutions, mobile financial service (MFS) providers, mobile operators, IT firms, start-ups, pharmaceuticals and cement manufacturers applied for the digital bank licence, The Daily Star has learnt from central bank officials with knowledge of the matter.

Digital banks are online-only banks that offer customers a range of financial services through digital channels, such as mobile apps and websites – and without any traditional physical branch networks. Globally, digital banks are set up by fintech start-ups who have the technical know-how to offer the services at scale at a low cost.

In its guideline, BB said digital banks will not be allowed to issue any physical instrument, give out loans to carry out foreign trade and disburse term loans to medium and large industries.

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Spain clinch maiden Women's World Cup

AFP, Sydney

Spain won the Women's World Cup for the first time in their history with skipper Olga Carmona sweeping in the only goal for a deserved 1-0 victory over England in Sunday's final.

In front of a crowd of nearly 76,000 at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Spain were the more accomplished side and had more chances, including missing a second-half penalty.

Spain's triumph is vindication for Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation, who stuck with the coach even after 15 players last year said they no longer wanted to represent their country under him.

Spain are the fifth team to lift the World Cup since the tournament began in 1991, joining outgoing champions the United States, Germany, Norway, and Japan.

In front of Spain's Queen Letizia, defender Carmona rampaged from left-back to thrash home the winner low and hard on 29 minutes.

"It was a really tough game, we knew it would be tricky, England have a great team, but I think it was our game," Carmona told Spanish national broadcasters La 1.

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Spain players celebrate their 1-0 win over England in the final of the FIFA Women's World Cup at Stadium Australia in Sydney yesterday. Olga Carmona's 29th-minute strike helped the Spaniards to their first ever title in women's football's showpiece event.

PHOTO: AFP

University units of JCD instructed to topple govt: DB

BNP terms the claim politically motivated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday claimed that the six arrested Chhatra Dal leaders collected firearms on instructions of central BNP leaders "to create instability in the country" ahead of the national election.

In a separate drive, detectives arrested 12 more BNP leaders and activists, including its Dhaka south city unit acting member secretary Tanveer Ahmed Robin, from the capital's Nayapaltan on Saturday night.

At a press conference at DMP media centre yesterday, DMP Joint Commissioner Khondkar Nurunnabi claimed that detectives arrested the six JCD leaders on Saturday from a Lalbagh house.

BNP earlier alleged that the six were picked up by plainclothes men on Friday.

They have been made accused in two cases filed with Lalbagh Police Station – one for carrying illegal arms and another for acts of sabotage.

"Three firearms and 36 bullets were seized from the arrestees. They collected two of the weapons from Pabna and one from Teknaf," Nurunnabi said.

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