

DOHA FORUM 2023 Momen discusses evolving trends in global trade

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday attended a high-level panel session on “Changing Priorities in Global Trade” at the Doha Forum that began in Doha, Qatar.

Momen discussed the evolving trends in global trade, the impact of trade measures, and redrawing the supply chain routes as well as focusing on the gains.

He also highlighted Bangladesh's achievements in vaccination efforts both during and before the pandemic.

Earlier, he attended the opening ceremony of the forum, inaugurated by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar.

Momen is leading a five-member Bangladesh delegation at the invitation of the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Qatar, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This is the 21st edition of the Doha Forum with the theme “Building Shared futures”. Held annually, the forum brings together policy makers, government leaders, private sector representatives, civil society and non-government organisations to discuss global challenges, promoting dialogue and diplomacy.

BNP announces programmes for Victory Day

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday announced programmes to observe the Martyred Intellectuals Day and celebrate Victory Day with due respect.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the programmes at a virtual press briefing.

To mark Martyred Intellectuals Day, BNP leaders and activists will pay homage at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Memorial on December 14 morning, he said.

The party will keep the national flag at half-mast and hoist black flags atop all its offices, including the Nayapaltan central office.

Besides, the BNP will arrange a discussion in the capital on the occasion.

Rizvi said BNP will hoist national and party flags atop the party offices in the morning on December 16.

Party leaders and activists of two Dhaka city units will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar on the day.

BNP will also hold a discussion highlighting the significance of the day.



A young boy runs through a mustard field waving the national flag, his face filled with joy. The nation is set to celebrate Victory Day on December 16. The photo was taken in Bogura's Shajahanpur upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

Turning setbacks into success

Al Amin thrives in fibreglass motor parts making business

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

After losing his overseas job during the pandemic, Al Amin Howlader, a 35-year-old former expatriate from Patuakhali, encountered repeated setbacks in his quest for alternative employment. He turned the tide of his fortune by establishing a small factory in his village, crafting decorative motor parts from fibreglass.

Al Amin was first introduced to this business when he moved to Dhaka in 2004 and started working at a fibre parts factory. After four years in the sector, he moved to Dubai.

However, he decided to try his luck in this sector again after returning to the country during the pandemic, investing Tk 1 lakh to establish his own workshop in 2020.

“We built the factory in an abandoned piece of land next to our house and named it Ma Babar Doa Fibreglass,



manufacturing and selling 50 types of decorative parts for motorbikes, including tank and back seat covers, and wing-sets,” said Al Amin, who now employs four workers in his factory.

Al Amin explained the manufacturing process, which includes blending chemicals

with the fiber, placing the mixture into a specific mold, and allowing it to dry. Once solidified, the formed structure is then carefully carved out of the mold and prepared for packaging. He now earns Tk 30 lakh annually.

“I supply these products to a commercial organisation

in Dhaka. They market these products through various companies,” he said.

The products made of fibre are bendable but not easily breakable. Thus, it has gained a good reputation in markets across the nation, he said, adding that the products can become a marketable good abroad.

While locals take pride in Al Amin's success, challenges still knock at his factory doors.

“Price hike of raw materials is one of the major challenges at the moment. Last year, a roll of fibre, weighing 30kg, could be bought for Tk 4,000, but now the price is Tk 7,000. A drum of chemicals has to be bought for Tk 58,000 now, which was available at Tk 35,000 before,” said Al Amin.

Md Alamgir Sikder, assistant manager of Patuakhali Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, said this is the first factory of this kind in the southern region.

Star awards three

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who won for his write-up on “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Human Rights”.

Nazia Zarin Orna, another DU Law student, won for her insightful article on “Climate Refugees”.

Finally, Md Rubel Hossain, a law student at Jahangirnagar University, emerged as one of the best writers for his piece on “Human Rights and Businesses”.

At the event, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam handed over certificates to the participants.

Addressing the

programme, he said without law, nothing exists.

“Consider boarding a bus or residing in a building. We only engage in these activities because we feel secure, knowing that the bus operates within a legal framework, maintaining its certificates, and the building adheres to construction codes,” he said.

Like these, everything is covered and guaranteed by the law. That's what makes life confident and secure. So, the knowledge of law is important, Mahfuz Anam added.

Psymhe Wadud, in-charge of Law Desk, moderated the event.

She still waits for her father

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“My son was burned to death in such a manner that I couldn't even recognise his face. My heart was shattered to pieces seeing his corpse,” said the mother of Abu Naim, a bus helper who was engulfed in flame after unidentified arsonists set fire to a bus of Achim Paribahan in the Demra area of the capital on October 29.

“My son was the lone breadwinner of our family; we are struggling to survive after his death,” said the bereaved mother.

Gita Shil, who was injured in an arson attack in 2013, said no one is now safe from the arsonists. “They have brought back the terror of 2013. We are neither safe on

the roads nor on the buses. I have been bearing the brunt of arson attacks for the last 10 years. I can't use my hands to eat. I even face difficulties swallowing food,” she said.

She also urged everyone to boycott BNP and Jamaat.

Nasima Ferdous, who was seriously injured in the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004, said she is still carrying numerous splinters inside her body.

Maksuda Parvin, whose father was a sergeant in the Air Force in 1977, said she lost her father when she was three. “I have spent 47 years crying for my father,” she said.

At the event's outset, a documentary was

screened, highlighting various incidents that took place at different times.

Apart from that, different acts of sabotage were displayed through symbolic representations.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, among others, were present on the occasion.

But none of them spoke.

Member of AL executive committee Tarana Halim, daughter of Col Khandaker Nazmul Huda (killed on November 7, 1975) Nahid Izahar Khan, and martyred intellectual Dr Alim Chowdhury's daughter Nuzhat Chowdhury moderated the event.

TCB yet to unload

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On October 28, Indian authorities set a minimum export price of onions at \$800 per tonne for the rest of the year. The price made it almost impossible for Bangladeshi traders to import the essential cooking ingredient.

On Friday, New Delhi extended the curb until the end of March.

Wholesale and grocery shop owners in Bangladesh blame India's move for the sudden hike in prices even

though the restriction is nothing new.

As rising prices of essentials have already been making it harder for people to make ends meet, the nearly twofold hike shocked consumers.

At Dhaka markets, a kg of onions was sold for around Tk 196 to Tk 220 yesterday.

The consumers rights directorate raided different kitchen markets across the country and punished over 130 businesses, but the initiative had little effect.

Security beefed up

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Border Guard Bangladesh has also started strict surveillance to prevent the smuggling of illegal arms.

The BGB will remain alert across the country to maintain law and order ahead of the national elections, said BGB Director General Maj Gen AKM Nazmul Hasan at a programme in Satkania upazila of Chattogram on December 5.

Meanwhile, the government has strengthened security at the country's three international airports ahead of the election.

Additional members of armed police have been deployed there, said sources at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

An additional 100 members of the Armed Police Battalion (APBN) are on duty at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Similarly, 60 more APBN members have been deployed at Sylhet

International Airport.

On the other hand, an additional 54 Ansar members are discharging their duties at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram.

According to sources, a meeting chaired by State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali at the Ministry of Civil Aviation reviewed the security of the airports.

On December 5, the ministry in a letter asked CAAB to follow a 12-point instruction to beef up the security at the three international airports.

Nasrul Hamid

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According to the 2023 affidavit, Hamid's immovable assets are worth Tk 74.13 lakh now, while the amount was Tk 68.78 lakh in 2018.

His wife has also seen an increase in the worth of her immovable assets, as it has increased to Tk 50.50 lakh from Tk 45.75 lakh in 2018.

Stick to the approved design

DNCC mayor tells developers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Developers must stick to the plan they present when seeking approval from the authorities concerned and keep all civic amenities like parks, playgrounds, and graveyards in the project after completion, said DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday.

Housing and development companies often get approval by showing fields, parks, walkways, and empty spaces in their designs, but later they sell the places as plots due to high prices of the land, he said while visiting the Eastern Housing area at ward-6 of DNCC.

“I have told the Eastern Housing authority to build playgrounds, parks, and graveyards as per their design, and those have been constructed. These are very important for our future generation's development, so developer companies have to build them according to the design,” said Atiq.

MINING WORKS

84-tonne explosives imported from India

STAR REPORT

State-owned rock producer Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Ltd has imported 84 tonnes of explosives from India through Benapole port in Jashore. Six trucks carrying the explosives entered Bangladesh crossing Benapole-Petrapole border yesterday morning.

The explosives were imported for mining works. After completing the customs formalities, the explosives will be released from the trucks and later some Bangladeshi trucks will take the goods to the granite mining company in Dinajpur, said Benapole Land Port Director Rezaul Karim.

Cadet College Club gets new board of directors

STAR REPORT

Tariq Abul Ala has been elected president, Ashraf Hussain director of administration and services, Ashfakul Islam director of finance and accounts and Zinnat-un-Nahar (Seema) director of women and children affairs of Cadet College Club Limited recently.

The board of directors 2024 was announced in the 21st annual general meeting of Cadet College Club Limited held on December 9 on the club premises in Purbachal, said a press release.

The other elected board of directors are -- Tanim Khan, Khandakar Md Wahid Sadique Shuvo, Mohammad Asaduzzaman Shaon, Md Abdur Rouf, Tanvir Mahmood Misho, Md Golam Morshed Rasel, Md Yusuf Ali Chowdhury, Mahmudur Rashid Mazumder and Shah Ahmadul Kabir.



Tariq

Ashraf

Mainul Hosein laid

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Justice Obaidul Hassan yesterday suspended half of the judicial functions of the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC partially as a sign of respect to Mainul Hosein, a former president of the SCBA.

Former chief justice Md Muzammel Hossain,

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, SCBA President Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir and its Secretary Md Abdun Nur Dulal, Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman and Mainul Hosein's brother Anwar Hossain Manju, former SCBA presidents and secretaries and a section of journalists attended the janaza.

Gender equality still a far cry

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citizenship rights for every individual, she added.

Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the absence of women's equal rights in inheritance and family property perpetuates their subordination in both family and society. This situation is identified as the fundamental factor contributing to violence against women and girls, encompassing issues like dowry and child marriage. Barrister Tania Amir said according to the constitution, all citizens should have equal rights. Articles 16, 27, 28 of the constitution notes that the state will not discriminate. Even if there is any legal provision anywhere, it will be void. Sections of the Succession Act



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at the roundtable at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

are inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution, so they should be repealed. Yet, we are yet to see this change and women are deprived of equal rights.

Shyamal Dutta, general secretary of Jatiya Press Club, said violence against women and girls disrupts the peace and stability of the family, society and state. It increases costs in various areas such as healthcare, education,

social protection, justice and productivity, which harms families, societies and national economies. Violence must be prevented to overcome this situation.

Indiscriminate use of technology has also made women's lives more vulnerable. Unfortunately, efforts are still being made to prevent women's right to vote by fatwas in some areas of the country, he added.

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PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 11

| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|----------------------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN 5-15 | 12-45 | 3-45 | 5-19 | 7-30 |
| JAMAAT 5-50 | 1-15 | 4-00 | 5-22 | 7-30 |
| SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION | | | | |