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BNP for new govt model

Khaleda unveils Vision 2030; pledges balance in executive powers, 2-house parliament, public hearing for constitutional appointments; Council empowers her to pick leadership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If voted to power, the BNP will ensure a balance of power in the executive branch of the government by bringing necessary amendments to the constitution, party chief Khaleda Zia said yesterday.

"In recent years, people have had a deep realisation that the absolute executive authority of prime minister has given rise to a despotic and authoritarian rule," she said, addressing her party's national council in the capital.

She, however, did not explain how the balance of power will be brought about -- by limiting the power of the PM or by empowering the president.

At present, the post of president is rather ornamental with very little power to exercise.

Khaleda was prime minister thrice and enjoyed similar absolute powers since restoration of democracy after the fall of autocratic ruler HM Ershad in December 1990.

She was prime minister even when the country switched to BNP'S ELECTION TURNS INTO SELECTION -- PAGE 3



DEJA VU: Wickets falling in a chase, pressure mounting and, eventually, Virat Kohli leading India to victory; that seems to be the way every close game unfolds for the Indians and yesterday at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata was no different. Behind Kohli's unbeaten 55, India defeated Pakistan by six wickets in their rain-curtailed ICC World Twenty20 Super 10 match. PHOTO: AFP



Kohli does it again

AFP, Kolkata

Cool-headed Virat Kohli scored an unbeaten half century as India cruised to a comfortable six-wicket victory over arch rivals Pakistan at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in the World Twenty20 Saturday.

Pre-tournament favourites India put their campaign back on track after suffering a shock loss against New Zealand in the tournament opener, extending their jinx in major tournaments against Pakistan.

Chasing 119 on a track that seemed dual-paced, India lost their top three batsmen early only to see Kohli and Yuvraj Singh put together a 61-run, fourth-wicket partnership to help the hosts canter home in 15.5 overs in a game reduced

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Double blow

Bowling actions of Taskin, Sunny declared illegal; fury follows



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's ICC World Twenty20 campaign received a setback yesterday as the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that they had found the bowling actions of both Arafat Sunny and Taskin Ahmed to be illegal.

The press release from the ICC stated: "Arafat's analysis revealed that the elbow extension for majority of his deliveries had exceeded the 15 degrees' level of tolerance permitted under the ICC Regulations for the Review of Bowlers Reported with Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions, while not all of Taskin's deliveries were legal."

The bowlers will have to rectify their actions and then go through another test, akin to the one they gave in Chennai last week, in order to bowl again in international cricket.

Taskin and Sunny had taken part in a three-hour training session yesterday morning and presumably were not aware of the results when they spoke to the media in confident tones.

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TOP QUOTE

"Both bowlers have played over the last one and a half years and there was no problem. To the naked eye, maybe one or two of his [Taskin's] deliveries seemed marginal, but he has been playing regularly for quite some time, and I don't see any change in his action. So why now, during a world event?"

NAZMUL ABEDIN FAHIM
NATIONAL MANAGER OF BCB GAME DEVELOPMENT

Not so SWIFT

A month after cyber heist, two engineers arrive

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Two engineers of SWIFT have come to Bangladesh to review its servers with the central bank -- 38 days after a band of hackers breached the payment system in an attempt to steal about \$1 billion.

The Bangladesh Bank asked SWIFT Global to review its system in Bangladesh as soon as it found out about the security breach on February 7.

But SWIFT Global said it was not possible to provide on-site support at that moment, recommending off-site support instead.

Finally, last Thursday, two engineers -- one from SWIFT's office in Hong Kong and the other from Kuala Lumpur -- arrived in Bangladesh.

The engineers will examine whether the system needs to be upgraded, said BB Spokesperson Subhankar Saha.

Headquartered in Belgium, SWIFT Global provides a network that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardised and reliable environment.

After harvesting credentials for ten days, on February 4 around midnight, the hackers broke into the BB's SWIFT servers and generated 35 payment orders for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

In an interim report by BB-appointed forensic investigators World Informatix Cyber Security and FireEye, it has been revealed that the hackers deployed three sophisticated tools into the central bank's SWIFT servers to harvest credentials.

The hackers started their activities as early as January 24, installing a malware on the BB's main SWIFT platform.

The report cast the unidentified hackers as a sophisticated group who sought to cover their tracks by deleting computer logs as they went. Before making transfers they sneaked through the network, inserting software that would allow re-entry.

It's the sort of thorough operation often mounted by nation-state hackers, according to the report, but FireEye's intelligence unit believes the group, which it has been tracking for some time, is criminal. "These threat actors appear to be financially motivated, and well organised," the report said.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation

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Navy to get two subs this year

Says PM at commissioning ceremony of 3 warships

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said two submarines will be inducted into Bangladesh Navy this year for the first time, aiming to transform it into a three-dimensional force.

She was addressing the commissioning ceremony of three new warships at the Naval Berth of Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chittagong.

The PM said the government has undertaken programmes to build warships in Chittagong Dry Dock with own technology.

Hasina stressed the need for utilising huge sea resources like fish, mineral oil and natural gas which are very important for Bangladesh's national economy and the country's socio-economic development.

She termed commissioning of the newly built warships another step forward in attaining capability of Bangladesh Navy.

Elaborating on various measures taken for Navy's

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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62 killed in Russia plane crash

Two black boxes recovered

AFP, Rostov-on-don

A Boeing passenger jet operated by the flydubai budget airline crashed in southern Russia early yesterday, killing all 62 people on board as it tried to land in bad weather, officials said.

The Boeing 737, which flew from Dubai to the

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Right, relatives of the victims of the flydubai Boeing 737 crash mourn at the airport in Rostov-on-Don of Southern Russia yesterday. Below, emergencies ministry members search the wreckage at the crash site.



PHOTO: REUTERS



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