

A result of wrong policy, graft

Says National Committee on recent electricity crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday said the ongoing electricity crisis is neither a sudden crisis nor the result of a global crisis.

"The government's wrong policy on the energy sector and the corruption to protect the different local and foreign groups' interest created the crisis," the committee said in a press statement.

The statement, signed by an organiser of the committee, Ruhin Hossain Prince, also the general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, demanded punishment for those who were involved in the wrong policy making and corruption.

"In the name of meeting the electricity crisis, the government signed contracts without any bidding process with the private power plants' owners having provision of providing capacity charges when the power plants are not in operation," the statement reads.

The statement mentioned that in the name of capacity charges, the government paid around Tk 54,000 crore to the power plants in the last three years. Among the charges, the private plant owners got Tk 42,000 crore.

The country has a total electricity generation capacity of 22,348 MW and the highest production was 14,782 MW in a day while there was no global crisis, it added.

"Which means one third of the power plants remain idle every day and get capacity charges."

Although the government has planned a one-hour

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A horrific scene revealed itself in this photojournalist's camera, as a pedestrian almost gets trapped between two buses -- barely getting through without being crushed near the Bangla Motor signal yesterday. Although much of the blame can be shifted to the bus drivers for driving recklessly and overtaking, pedestrians too need to remain vigilant about using foot-over bridges to get across busy roads.



PM rules out Sri Lanka-like crisis

Stresses usage of all water bodies for fisheries

BSS, Dhaka

The prime minister yesterday lambasted those who are making wholesale criticism that Bangladesh will face the same situation like that of Sri Lanka.

They are making the comments without realising the global context under the fallout of the Covid-19 and Russia-Ukraine War, she added.

"Let them say that everything will be ruined. But we are doing our

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GRAFT CASE 7 ex-Sonali Bank officials convicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced seven former officials of Sonali Bank Ltd, including its managing director, and two others to different terms of jail in a case filed over embezzling of Tk 1.25 crore.

The convicts are former MD Humayun Kabir, deputy MD Mainul Haque, general managers Mir Mohidur Rahman and Noni Gopal Nath, deputy GM Sheikh Altaf Hossain and assistant GMs Saiful Hasan and Kamrul Hossain Khan.

Two other convicts are Saiful Islam Raza, managing director of Paragon Knit Composite Ltd, a sister concern of Hallmark Group, and one of its directors Abdullah Al Mamun.

Only Sheikh Altaf Hossain was sentenced to eight years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 50,000, in default of which he will have to serve three months more in jail.

The rest eight were sentenced to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 50,000 each, in default of which they will have to suffer three months more in prison.

Judge Mohammad Iqbal Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-5 handed down the sentence in presence of four accused.

He fined them Tk 1,25,70,220 lakh, which they had misappropriated, will have to pay in favour of the state.

'Don't confuse Islam with terrorism'

Say speakers at book launching event

Terrorism is a kind of disease which spreads and turns into a dangerous form. Eighty percent of the people prone to terrorism can be brought back to a normal course of life if proper actions are taken.

FARID UDDIN MASOUD
Islamic scholar

Bangladesh has been capable of proving to the whole world that it is not a bigoted state. That is why Bangladesh did not turn into Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan. However, attempts are being made to turn Bangladesh into a dysfunctional state.

ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL
Home Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to a lack of clear conception about Jihad, many get confused and encouraged in terrorist activities, said leading Islamic scholar Moulana Farid Uddin Masoud yesterday.

"Terrorism is a kind of disease which spreads and turns into a dangerous form. Eighty percent of the people prone to terrorism can be brought back to a normal course of life if proper actions are taken," he said.

Masoud was speaking at an event organised by the Anti Terrorism Unit in the capital to unveil a book titled "Extremism and Terrorism in the Eye of Islam".

Masoud, the grand Imam of Solakhia Eidgah, also served as the president of the book's editorial board. The book has highlighted 44 widely discussed and debated topics, starting from the introduction of Islam to Jihad.

Fifteen eminent scholars, researchers, professors and khatibs were involved in the editorial board of the book. The 236-page book contains counter-narratives to terrorist ideologies from an Islamic perspective.

Speaking at the programme Home Minister Asaduzzaman

Khan Kamal said an attempt was made to make Bangladesh a militant state.

He said those who made the effort are still at work. Law and order forces are dealing with it cautiously, he added.

"There is an attempt to label Islam as a religion of extremism and terrorism worldwide. But that was not possible in Bangladesh," said the home minister.

He also said militancy is brought from abroad and it has no place in Bangladesh which has turned against militancy with the support of the working class, common people, scholars-ulama, imams of mosques and teachers.

"Bangladesh has been capable of proving to the whole world that it is not a bigoted state. That is why Bangladesh did not turn into Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan. However, attempts are being made to turn Bangladesh into a dysfunctional state," he said.

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed said a lot of Islamic content is seen on social media devoid of moderation.

"There is new information everywhere you look. It is all very confusing and difficult to verify the right from the wrong. Religious scholars have to speak up against

these," he added.

He also said religious speakers show a tendency of avoiding the topic of terrorism and militancy for reasons unknown in their "Waaz" speeches.

"Campaigns against Islam as a militant religion have been going on for the last 40 years all over the world. Islam has been called a religion of terror and bloodshed. You [religious scholars] have to speak against them," the IGP said.

The police chief also said the threat of militancy is not yet over. "Until this threat is eliminated from all over the world, there will be threats in our country. But the police maintains constant vigilance against militancy," he said.

ATU Chief Additional IG Md Kamrul Ahsan said ATU is a newly-formed organisation, which carries out anti-militancy awareness work alongside combating militancy. The book has been compiled as part of public awareness work of ATU against extremism, he added.

The speakers also stressed the need for translating the book into English and Arabic and spreading it internationally and locally, particularly in schools, colleges, madrasas and use in training programmes.

'Punish him or we quit'

UP chairs seek punishment of lawmaker Razee for 'assaulting' Debidwar AL leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All Upazila Parishad chairmen yesterday demanded exemplary punishment of lawmaker Razee Mohammad Fakhrul for his alleged assault on Debidwar UP Chairman Abul Kalam Azad.

They also pledged to resign if the demand is not met.

The announcement was made by the president of the Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Association Harun-or-Rashid Hawladar at a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Harun said the dignity of public representatives and politicians was damaged due to the incident. They demanded exemplary punishment of the lawmaker before the end of the next month.

"We will hold a few peaceful programmes, including submitting a memorandum to the Speaker on September 2 and holding a rally on September 15 comprising all UP chairs and vice-chairs, if exemplary punishment is not ensured within the time frame," said Harun.

He said they will also appeal to the prime minister on September 7 to take administrative actions against Razee.

"We patiently hoped that Razee would accept

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'Will have tea if you accept demand for caretaker govt'

Fakhrul tells PM

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said they have no problem taking tea with the prime minister at her office if she accepts the party's demand for the caretaker government to oversee the next elections.

"You first say that you're accepting the caretaker government system. You come up with this announcement and then we'll have no problem having tea at the Prime Minister's Office," he said responding to PM Sheikh Hasina's offer made on Saturday.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader said the formation of a representative parliament and government having accountability to people is the only solution to the country's

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Even though this statue was meant for beautification, just a year after the installation it was damaged by some miscreants. At present, the only purpose it serves at Old Dhaka's Malitola Park is that of an eyesore as the city corporation is yet to repair it.

'His words are objectionable, unacceptable'

HC lambasts Teknaf UNO for hurling abuses towards journalist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday lambasted Md Kaisar Khasru, Teknaf's upazila nirbahi officer, for hurling abuses towards a journalist.

Kaisar scolded a Dhaka Post correspondent Saidul Farhad for quoting the UNO on "damages on some houses gifted by the prime minister to the poor" in a report published on July 21.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat said, "The words reportedly used by the Teknaf UNO are objectionable, unfortunate and unacceptable. If it is true, his use of language is worse than that of goons.

"Only a wrong-headed person can use such abusive words. As a government high official, the UNO should have been more decent."

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