



"The opportunity for India to buy Russian oil at a cheap price comes from the fact that Ukrainians are suffering from Russian aggression and dying every day."

Ukraine's FM Dmytro Kuleba



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PMO's rejoinder, our reply

The following rejoinder was issued by the press wing of the Prime Minister's Office. We publish the full text below with minor editing.

"Our attention has been drawn regarding a news item headlined 'Probe S Alam Group assets' published in The Daily Star dated 6 December 2022.

The news published incorporating the names of HPM Sheikh Hasina and her Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus is untrue as no instructions to look into assets of S Alam Group were given to the DC, Chattogram from the higher authorities.

The Daily Star didn't contact the principal secretary before publishing the news.

When The Daily Star contacted the Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram about his comments on the issue, the DC categorically confirmed of receiving no such instruction from the higher authorities. The DC even didn't give any instruction

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Ghost cases haunting BNP men

SHARIFUL ISLAM, SAURAV HOSSAIN and ANWAR ALI

Ishaq Islam, president of a union unit of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, and 300 others blocked Narayanganj Ring Road on November 20, blasted crude bombs, and vandalised vehicles, according to a case filed against them.

Fatullah Police Station Sub-Inspector Shahadat Hossain filed this case.

Talking to The Daily Star, Ishaq and his close relatives said he has been studying in Japan for eight months now. There is no way he could be involved, they insisted.

The case was filed under the Special Powers Act and the Explosives Substances Act, which has provision for the death penalty.

Friends and families said Ishaq is studying Japanese language at Kobe International Japanese Language Academy.

"I have been out of the country for eight months. Yet they framed me in a case over vandalism and cocktail explosions," Ishaq told this newspaper.

"They would have destroyed my whole career if I were in the country now," he said.

His uncle Sohel Rana said Ishaq left Bangladesh in March.

Fatullah Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rizaul Haque Dipu said anyone can be an accused, regardless of their current location, if they have connections with the incident.

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Portugal forward Goncalo Ramos celebrates his hat-trick in a 6-1 thrashing of Switzerland in their Round of 16 fixture of the World Cup at the Lusail Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS



'There is money in every bank'

PM urges all to ignore rumours

UNB, Dhaka

A vested quarter is spreading rumours that there is no money in the banks, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

"But we have no problem by the grace of Allah. There is money in every bank," she said, adding that people should not pay heed to such rumours.

The premier made the comments while addressing the 30th national council of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the pro-AL student body of Bangladesh Awami League, at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

Hasina, also the AL president,

inaugurated the council around 11:30am.

She asked BCL leaders and activists to counter the anti-government propaganda on social media.

"We have made Digital Bangladesh. But social media has been flooded with propaganda against us. I would like to ask our Chhatra League leaders and activists to give fitting replies to those," she said.

"When they write something against us, you do not even need to respond. They will stop if only their misdeeds are mentioned in the comments," she added.

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BNP RALLY VENUE

No decision in meet with DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The venue for BNP's December 10 rally could not be decided at last night's meeting between the party leaders and Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

BNP sources said they might as well organise the event in front of its main office in Nayapaltan if the DMP does not offer any nearby places.

Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie, BNP's publicity affairs secretary, last night said he was hopeful that the police would allow the event to be organised in Nayapaltan or in front of Ideal School and College, Motijheel.

Hayatul Islam Khan, the deputy commissioner of Motijheel DMP, told The Daily Star last night, "A BNP delegation [met police and] placed their opinions, while we gave our observations. But no decision has been finalised."

Meanwhile, party sources said they were preparing to hold the rally in Nayapaltan and local leaders from adjacent districts had started arriving.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at a programme yesterday said the rally would surely be held in Dhaka.

"When people spontaneously start taking to the streets to get back their rights, the prime minister is conspiring to stop the rally," he said.

At another event, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the situation that arose over the venue would be resolved soon.

The BNP at first sought permission to hold the rally in Nayapaltan, but the DMP gave permission to hold it at Suhrawardy Udyan. Later, the DMP officials asked BNP to come up with alternative proposals. The party then proposed Arambagh and the National Eidgah.

Police said rallies or public gatherings shouldn't be held on the streets of the capital because such events could only be organised on open grounds.

On the other hand, the BNP said it would not hold the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan and would prefer an area adjacent to its Nayapaltan office.

However, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday suggested the BNP hold the event in either Purbachal, Tongi Jitima ground or Kamrangirchar.

Addressing the 30th National Council of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Suhrawardy Udyan, Obaidul Quader said the government would ensure strong vigilance across the country from today to prevent BNP's 'sabotage plan'.

Ramos hits hat-trick as Portugal thrash Swiss

AFP, Doha

Goncalo Ramos justified the shock decision to drop Cristiano Ronaldo by scoring a hat-trick on his full debut as Portugal demolished Switzerland 6-1 on Tuesday to power into the World Cup quarter-finals.

The 21-year-old Ramos, who started instead of Ronaldo, became the youngest player to strike three times in a World Cup knockout match since Pele in 1958.

Pepe, Raphael Guerreiro and Rafael Leao were also on target for a rampant Portugal, who booked a showdown with Morocco on Saturday for a place in the last four in Qatar.

Ronaldo, 37 and now without a club after his departure from

Manchester United, has hogged the headlines during the tournament while looking a shadow of his former self.

The only man to score at five



World Cups, Ronaldo was left out by coach Fernando Santos against the Swiss following his angry response to being substituted in the last group game.

It was a bold call to omit a player

with a record 118 international goals in favour of giving a full debut to Ramos, the Benfica striker who had played just 33 minutes across three previous appearances.

But it took just 17 minutes for Ramos to reward Santos' faith, and to achieve something Ronaldo has never done – score in a World Cup knockout game.

Joao Felix clipped delicately into the feet of Ramos, who quickly swivelled past Fabian Schaer and rifled into the roof of the net past a stunned Yann Sommer.

Otavio, who returned to the Portugal midfield after injury in their opening match, shot straight at Sommer before Ramos did likewise moments later.

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DESERT FEST

This is Brazil



AL AMIN

Brazil finally came to the party. They caressed the ball, dribbled it with playful mirth and passed it around with precision before burying it in the back of the South Korean net. Not once, but four times in a small matter of 36 minutes, turning Monday night's World Cup Round of 16 contest into a cakewalk.

The first half saw a full-strength Brazil burst out like a giant awoken from a long slumber following an indifferent first-round showing which included a chastening 1-0 defeat to Cameroon.

The five-time world champions came into the match with only three goals – two against Serbia and one against Switzerland – under their belt in the group stage, with a lavishly wasteful 17:1 conversion rate when it came to turning attempts into goals.

But they translated their first four attempts into goals against the Tigers of Asia, with Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr initiating the carnage in the seventh minute, finessing the ball into the far post with his right foot.

After missing the last two games due to an ankle injury, talisman Neymar

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OVERALL WINNER

22nd ICAB National Award

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Mr. Adil Chowdhury, Hon'ble President and Managing Director of Bank Asia Limited is receiving the trophy from Mr. Tipu Munshi, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce, GoB in the 22nd ICAB National Award for Overall Winner in Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, DMD, Mr. Alamgir Hossain, DMD and Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil FCA, CFO of the Bank are also seen in the photograph.



We express our highest gratitude to the Hon'ble Shareholders and the Customers for their continued support and trust in Bank Asia