

No one will be spared in drive against graft

PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no one indulging in corruption will be spared, irrespective of their identity, and vowed to continue the ongoing drive against graft.

"We will catch the corrupt," she said during the discussion on the proposed 2024-25 budget in parliament.

The comments came at a time when former and current government officials facing allegations of corruption are making headlines.

Responding to criticisms of the scope to legalise black money, she said, "Everything is pricier now. Someone owning one katha of land in Dhaka has a few crores of taka... They can neither show the money nor pay income tax. Sometimes these opportunities are given in order for them to pay income taxes and join the mainstream... and not do such things anymore."

Pointing to her successive governments since 2009, the PM said, "The country will not go backwards. No matter how many efforts they make, no one will be able to destroy the country."

Stating that the power and energy sector was highly subsidised, she said, "Why do we subsidise this sector? I will do everything necessary to change the fate of the people of the country. Those who consume more must pay the cost of production. But we are not doing that overnight. It is being done slowly and patiently. We are providing uninterrupted electricity and energy."



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SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BLACK MONEY HOLDERS GET AMNESTY - PAGE 12



India players and officials celebrate with the trophy after winning the ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup following a thrilling seven-run victory against South Africa in the final at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kohli, Rohit lead India's redemption

AFP, Bridgetown

India won the T20 World Cup title with Virat Kohli starring in a thrilling seven-run victory over South Africa in a classic final at Kensington Oval on Saturday.

Kohli, who later announced his retirement from T20 internationals, steadied the India innings with his fine 76 taking them to a strong 176-7.

When Heinrich Klaasen blasted a superb 52 from 27 balls, it looked as though South Africa, appearing in first final, were closing in on victory but they were halted by some outstanding Indian bowling and catching at the end.

South Africa ended on 169-8 with Hardik Pandya taking 3-20 for India to the delight of the huge Indian following at the stadium.

The win is the second T20 World Cup title for India following their triumph in the first edition in 2007 and it also ends their 11-year wait for a major title going back to the 2013 Champions Trophy.

Veteran Kohli had struggled in the tournament, coming into the final with an average of just 10.7, but he delivered his best innings at the perfect moment with his balanced batting ensuring India won the title after an unbeaten tournament.

"I am so proud to get the runs for the team the day it mattered most," said Kohli.

"The occasion prompted that change for me, I felt like it was now or never. We have wanted to lift a trophy for a long time.

"The occasion made me put my head down, respect the situation and play the innings that the team needed from me.

"I wasn't feeling myself before today. I wasn't confident. So I am very grateful and humble right now. It has been difficult, so there are a lot of emotions," he added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Glitch stops power supply from Adani plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Electricity supply from the Adani power plant in Jharkhand has stopped, exacerbating the ongoing power crisis in Bangladesh.

Power generation in the 1,496-megawatt coal-fired power plant is on halt now.

The Adani power plant authorities said they found a leak in a valve of the circulating water pump of the plant, said Khandaker Mokammel Hossain, member (generation) of Bangladesh Power Development Board.

"They forcibly shut down the unit of the plant. It will take at least two to three days to start the maintenance

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Calls for Biden to step aside grow louder

Some Democrats, NYT urge him to drop out of race; Biden admits bad debate performance

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden is facing a brutal reckoning after he repeatedly stumbled during Thursday night's debate, with some Democrats calling for him to step aside ahead of the November election.

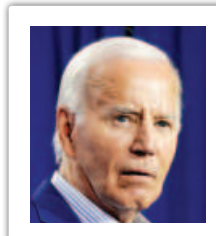
Biden was incapable of swatting down a stream of falsehoods from Donald Trump, who appeared calm and energised in contrast to a bewildered looking President who

struggled to maintain thoughts.

"This was like a champion boxer who gets in the ring past his prime and needs his corner to throw in the towel," said a Democratic lawmaker, adding that he meant Biden should exit the race.

It's "time to talk about an open convention and a new Democratic nominee," said a second Democratic lawmaker who has been a solid Biden supporter.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A train runs on the flooded lines in the capital's Malibagh following heavy rain yesterday morning. Locals say this area started experiencing waterlogging after the construction work of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway commenced.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Get organised, avoid excess

Quader asks AL leaders, activists at rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday instructed his colleagues to get organised and avoid taking things too far.

"I am telling all [party men] not to flaunt muscle power. No one will be spared. Sheikh Hasina has a strict 'zero-tolerance' policy against corruption."

Quader made the remarks at a discussion organised by AL's Dhaka City (South) unit in front of the party headquarters in the capital's Gulistan, marking its 75th founding anniversary.

The AL second-in-command said that corrupt people are the ones who are most vocal against corruption. "If you look around, you will find many such people."

Addressing the BNP, Quader said they have no moral ground to talk



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Free Khaleda or face consequences

Fakhrul tells govt; urges all opposition parties to unite

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday warned the government of facing consequences if party Chairperson Khaleda Zia was not freed.

"Either release Khaleda Zia or be ready to face any consequences," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the BNP.

He was addressing a rally in front of the party headquarters in the capital's Nayapaltan. The BNP organised the programme demanding unconditional release of Khaleda.

Fakhrul said people will not accept the sentencing of Khaleda in graft cases and the government must keep it in mind.

"Khaleda Zia is the symbol of democracy, symbol of movement. She needs to be saved and protected. All the opposition political parties must unite to save her," he said, urging the parties to get united to intensify the movement to defeat the government.

Talking about the agreements signed between Bangladesh and India during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to the neighbouring country, the BNP leader said those are against the interest of Bangladesh.

"We want water [from transboundary rivers]. We want fair share of water. We don't want to see any killing at the border. We want to resolve the pending issues. But the government gave everything to them [India] without having anything," he said.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Pubali Bank Achieved Highest Credit Rating

AAA

Ratings	2024	2023
Long Term	AAA	AA+
Short Term	ST-1	ST-1
Based on Audited Financial Statements	31 December 2023	31 December 2022

RATING DESCRIPTION

	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM
Rating Outstanding Declared on 24 June 2024	AAA Best Quality Highest Safety Highest Credit Quality	ST-1 Highest certainty of timely payment
Validity of Outstanding Rating	Validity upto 23 June 2025	
Rating Outstanding Declared on 25 June 2023	AA+ (Double A Plus) Higher Safety High Credit Quality	ST-1 Highest certainty of timely payment
Validity of Outstanding Rating	Validity upto 24 June 2024	

Credit Rating was conducted by the Credit Rating Information and Services Limited (CRISL) on the basis of Audited Financial Statements of Pubali Bank PLC. for the year ended 31 December 2023.



PHOTOS ON PAGE 3