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**Highlights of
PM's speech**

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad to be the centre for discussion on all issues confronting the nation.

Society to be freed from terrorism: highest priority to improvement of law and order situation.

Students to be supplied with inputs of education instead of arms. Campus would be centre for talent, culture and creativity.

Bill shortly to ensure independence of judiciary.

WB, ADB, foreign development partners assured of honouring agreements signed by past government.

Autonomy to radio and TV; state-owned newspapers to be disinvested; journalists to disseminate information and

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**PM's first
working day**

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina spent a busy day on the first day of her attending office as Prime Minister yesterday.

Hasina, who took oath as the 10th premier on Sunday, began her day's programme placing wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar at eight yesterday morning.

The new premier, flanked by her cabinet colleagues, later placed wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha at Savar and at the graves of late leaders HS Suhrawardy and Sher-e-Bangla

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Inside Today**Article****Elections in Russia**Column: The Horizon This Week
by Arshad-uz Zaman**Acid Test Ahead
for the New Prime
Minister**by Shahjahan Miah
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Page 5**International**Nepali govt asks police to arrest about 100 suspects for involvement in \$ 36 m LC scandal
See Page 12 col 8India agrees to build chemical plant in Iran
Page 8**Business**Islamic banks operating under constant threat of wilful defaults
Bail-out of South at G-7 summit to be triumph for France
Pages 6,7**DSE MARKET**DSE price index 962.30 (+1.42%)
Market capital Tk 6594.06 cr
Transactions in volume 230184
Transactions in value Tk 638 cr**NEWS BRIEFS****Chiefs of 3 services call on PM**

Chiefs of the three services jointly called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at her Tejgaon office yesterday morning. Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Mahabubur Rahman, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed stayed some time with her, reports UNB.

Hasnat Abdullah made Chief Whip

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina yesterday appointed Abul Hasnat Abdullah, MP from Barisal-1 constituency, as the Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad. It was officially announced last night, reports BSS.

The Daily Star

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Prime Minister pledges in her maiden address to nation

Independence of judiciary, autonomy to Radio, TV

By Staff Correspondent

shelter, clothing, education and housing.

The Prime Minister assured that her government shall focus on creating an atmosphere free from terrorism, corruption, unnecessary interference and control so that people could freely pursue their vocation.

She appealed to all to rally round her government in completing the unfinished task of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for building Sonar Bangla. "This objective could be achieved only through the united efforts of all," she

added.

Hasina unveiled her government plans of action assuring donors of honouring all bilateral accords in line with the free market economy. She also pledged that privatization would continue.

The Prime Minister called for a war on corruption and terrorism menacing public life.

"We had liberated this country unitedly at a difficult juncture.

With the same spirit we'll breathe together, cherish same belief and march together in a struggle to liberate the country from terrorism.

corruption and misrule,"

Hasina said in her policy statement, according to UNB.

She said her government would attach top priority to development planning in the agriculture sector, providing subsidy, if required, to the peasants while allowing measures would be taken to modernise the sector and upgrade the lifestyle of farmers.

Pointing at the present situation caused by corruption, Hasina announced that steps would be taken according to the existing laws against those

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Home ministry directed to round up terrorists, extortionists

The government yesterday directed the Home Ministry to make all-out efforts to identify and arrest the terrorists and extortionists irrespective of party affiliation, reports UNB.

It also asked the ministry to attach top priority to the drive for recovery of illegal arms.

The crackdown order came yesterday from a cabinet meeting, the first of the new government, which vowed to restore peace and discipline in concerned were present.

The meeting resolved that only the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Shei-

kh Mujibur Rahman be hung in the offices of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies.

The government called upon the officers and employees of the Republic to discharge their duty and responsibility "neutrally and freely" without bias and influence.

Cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

It decided to prepare a list of those who lost their lives and were injured or had other

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the members of the council of ministers placed wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday morning.

Hasina to visit Tungipara tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit her ancestral home at Tungipara in Gopalganj tomorrow morning.

Hasina along with her cabinet colleagues and party MPs, will offer *fateha* at the grave of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said party sources.

It will be Sheikh Hasina's first visit to Tungipara after assuming the office of the Prime Minister.

Fire in two city factories Stampede, suffocation kill 11 garments workers

By Staff Correspondent

At least 11 garments workers, 10 of them women, were killed in a stampede and due to suffocation as a devastating fire broke out in two garments factories adjacent to each other at Mirpur Section-12 in the city yesterday afternoon.

Witnesses said the inferno originated from an electric short circuit at around 1:30 pm, engulfing the two garments factories — Trimline France Ltd and Suntex Fashion Ltd — located on the top four floors of the six-story Sofura Khatun Super Market.

Of those killed, the only male worker was identified as Siraj, 16, while two of the 10 female workers were identified as Morium, 30, and Mahmuda, 40, according to our Dhaka Medical College Correspondent. All the bodies were sent to the DMCH for autopsy.

Fire fighters brought out most of the victims from the fifth floor, fire service sources said.

Local people, however, alleged that more than 13 workers were killed in the fire which originated from the store room of Trimline France Ltd. Some others said that the blaze started from an electric line.

Fire fighters with 15 vehicles from six stations in different parts of the city took more

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BNP to form shadow cabinet to monitor govt role

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has pledged that her party would play a constructive role in the newly-elected Jatiya Sangsad.

"As the opposition party, we'll play the just and positive role in the House," she told newsmen soon after the swearing-in ceremony of her party's 107 lawmakers was over at the Committee Room No 1 of the Sangsabha Bhaban yesterday afternoon.

Wearing a brown sari and scarf, Begum Zia was present in the brief oath-taking ceremony of her party's lawmakers. Later, she went to the Speaker's chamber where she spent about an hour with her senior party colleagues including M Saifur Rahman, Oli Ahmed, Khandakar Mosharrif Hossain and KM Obaidur Rahman.

The ROs are sending the forms to every candidate and it is expected that the candidates would abide by law and submit their returns, an official of the EC said.

A candidate found guilty of not submitting such statement may face rigorous imprisonment for a minimum of two years and a maximum of seven years.

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NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that M/s. Eastern Housing Limited and Mr. Manjurul Islam, son of Late Alhaj Jahurul Islam, Chairman of M/s. Eastern Housing Limited, have instituted Title Suit No. 105 of 1996 in the 4th Court of Subordinate Judge, Dhaka against Mafida Islam, Naima Islam and Kaneta Islam daughters of Late Alhaj Jahurul Islam, as the principal defendants and Syeda Islam as proforma defendant, for declaration that the deed of revocation of Power of Attorney dated 17th June, 1996 executed and registered by the said principal defendants is illegal, void and not binding upon M/s. Eastern Housing Limited and its Chairman, Mr. Manjurul Islam and also for permanent injunction to restrain the said principal defendants from disturbing the said company and its Chairman from completing the construction of apartment buildings and selling the apartments constructed in Rajuk Plot No. NE (A) 11A and 11B Road No. 71, Gulshan Model Town and Rajuk Plot No. NE (E) 1B & 1C Road No. 79, Gulshan Model Town which correspond to Plot No. 5 of Block 'NE' (A) and Plot No. 1 Block NE (E). The learned Court has passed an interim order of injunction on the 20th June, 1996 restraining the said principal defendants accordingly and has directed them to show cause why temporary injunction should not be granted against them during pendency of the said suit. This has reference to the public notice in the Daily Star of 21st June, 1996 published by the said Mafida Islam, Naima Islam and Kaneta Islam of House No. 8, Road No. 72, Gulshan, Dhaka.

A.H.M. N'A'USHER ALI

Advocate

Supreme Court, Dhaka

125/A, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Ties with neighbours to be strengthened: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government will give special importance to strengthening relations with all neighbours — particularly the closest ones — report agencies.

Addressing the heads of diplomatic missions and international agencies at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city, she said Bangladesh will seek to reinforce the relationship with the neighbours, both bilaterally and through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Hasina said the essence of country's foreign policy would

be economic diplomacy geared to the transformation of Bangladesh as it enters the next millennium.

Every effort would be given to boost exports and employment abroad of the nationals, she said.

The Prime Minister said her government should continue to play a constructive and forward-looking role in the UN, the OIC, the Commonwealth, the NAM, and all organisations. Bangladesh is deeply and firmly committed to foreign investors.

While doing so we should seek to maintain a continuity in foreign relations, based on a

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