

## 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

See Page 12 Col 2

## 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

See Page 12 Col 6

## 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  
Page 4

### Focus

Sri Lanka: A chance for peace; On to the streets and back, never defeated by life  
Page 5

### International

Nepali govt asks police to arrest about 100 suspects for involvement in \$ 36 m LC scandal

India 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: 230194  
Transactions in value Tk: 6.28 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 Mahbubur 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 Abdul Hasnat Abdullah, MP from Barisal-1 constituency, as the Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad. It was officially announced last night, reports BSS.

## Prime Minister pledges in her maiden address to nation

# Independence of judiciary, autonomy to Radio, TV

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday pledged to withdraw repressive laws, ensure independence of the judiciary and grant autonomy to radio and television.

The Jatiya Sangsad would remain sovereign and the centre for discussion and solution of all national problems, she said. Addressing the nation over radio and television on her first working day as Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina outlined her vision of establishing an exploitation-free society where the commonman would get the basic needs of food,

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 peasantry while all-out 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

See Page 12 Col 3

## 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 society.

The cabinet sought cooperation from people, political parties and social organisations in eradicating terrorism, according to an official press release issued in the evening.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting. Ministers and state ministers attended the meeting. Cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Primary Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

The meeting resolved that the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

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. Officials were also asked to stick to the rule of law.

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

See Page 12 Col 4

## 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.

## Polls expenses EC starts sending forms for returns

By Staff Correspondent

The Returning Officers (ROs) have started sending prescribed forms to all the candidates in the June 12 parliamentary elections to submit the returns of their election expenses. Election Commission (EC) sources said:

"As per law, every candidate must submit to the RO concerned a detailed statement on sources of fund to meet the election expenses within seven days of the date of withdrawal of candidature."

Then, within 15 days after the publication of the name of the returned candidate in the gazette he or she is required to submit an estimate of the election expenses to the RO. EC sources said that out of the 2,574 contestants including those from 81 political parties and 281 independents, only four have so far submitted their estimates of expenses.

The ROs are sending the forms to every candidate and it is expected that the candidates would abide by law and send 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

See Page 12 Col 7

## BNP MPs-elect except Khaleda take oath

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 107 MPs-elect belonging to the BNP were sworn in yesterday afternoon.

With this, 108 of the 110 MPs, elected with BNP ticket in the June 12 election, have been sworn in. BNP secured 116 seats in the polls with party chief and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia elected from five constituencies and M Saifur Rahman and Oli Ahmed from two each.

Begum Zia did not take oath as member of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad on the day. She explained to the newsmen later that she could not decide until yesterday which of the five seats she is going to retain.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali of the BNP took his oath as member of the new parliament before he administered the oath of MPs of other parties.

Razzak Ali conducted the

See Page 12 Col 8

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



A relative wailing over the body of a victim of the fire at two garments factories at Mirpur yesterday. — Star photo

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 — Trimode France Ltd and Suntext Fashion Ltd — located on the top four floors of the six-storied 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 Trimode 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

See Page 12 Col 7

## 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 Sangsad Bhavan yesterday afternoon.

Wearing a brown saree 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 Mosharraf Hossain and KM Obaidur Rahman.

The immediate past Prime Minister, who is expected to become the Leader of the Opposition in the new parliament, said she would speak more after she herself was administered the oath.

Asked why she refrained from taking oath along with other MPs of her party, Begum Zia said she was still undecided as to which one of the five seats, she won in the June 12 parliamentary polls, she would retain.

"People from all the five constituencies, I was elected from, are requesting me to represent them," she said and added a decision to this effect would be taken soon.

Sources close to her, however, indicated that Begum Zia might retain either Feni-1, her home constituency, or the Chittagong-1, the seat she won

with smaller margin than in four others. She also bagged the Laxmipur-2, and Bogra-6 and 7 seats.

Talking to newsmen, BNP vice-chairman and former Deputy Leader of the House, Prof AGM Badruddoza Choudhury said BNP would definitely play a positive role as the largest opposition party in parliament, which the previous Opposition failed to do.

"To play this role, we'll form a shadow cabinet to monitor the government role as regards the development works undertaken by the BNP during its rule in the past five years," he said adding that BNP would help the governing party to carry forward the politics of development it had introduced.

Asked if the BNP would re-

See Page 12 Col 1

## 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.

"One of the prime objectives of our foreign policy will be to enhance the image of the country abroad," Hasina said, adding that her government would seek help to make Bangladesh specially attractive to foreign investors.

Hasina said her government would continue to follow the same friendly relations with all countries, without malice to

any. "We shall strive to further strengthen and deepen existing relations and cooperation with all countries, not only bilaterally but through our interaction in the multilateral and international fora."

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.

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

broad consensus reflecting the will and aspirations of the entire nation."

She told the diplomats that her government would give special importance to strengthening relations with all neighbours, particularly closest neighbours.

The Prime Minister said her government would also seek resolution of all outstanding problems through negotiations which would be addressed with firmness in safeguarding vital national interests. But the spirit of that would be amicable and mutual understanding.

See Page 12 Col 1