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Change political practice first

President tells JS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said in parliament confrontational political culture must be changed first to realise the people's dreams for a change, citing the ruling party's electoral manifesto styled "A Charter for Change". "The great challenge for the government now is to materialise the dream of the charter for change. We have to overcome this challenge by our united efforts. The political practice should be changed first if the dreams of Charter for Change are to be realised. There should be an end to politics of conflict," the president said in his address to parliament.

In his first address to parliament that went into the New Year session yesterday without the opposition lawmakers led by BNP, the president also emphasised the needs for playing the proper role by the

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10 conditions for JS return

Opposition leaves seat issue out of fresh demands; Speaker asks them again to join parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Continuing its boycott of parliament that went into fourth session yesterday, the opposition BNP came up with a 10-point demand and asked the government to meet those for its return to the House.

Addressing the inaugural sitting of the new year session, Speaker Abdul Hamid urged the opposition lawmakers to join parliament.

He said role of the opposition and the treasury bench is equally important to make the House effective.

"It is the opposition lawmakers who can detect the government's mistakes, and can play a role that would ensure the government is on the right track," he said.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque placed the demands at a press briefing yesterday afternoon.

He said they would return to parliament if the government meets their demands and creates a congenial atmosphere in the House.

Farroque read out a statement of the BNP parliamentary party at the briefing held at the Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre.

Interestingly, the charter of demands does not include the one concerning seating arrangements for which BNP started its boycott.

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Bangladesh top-order batsman Mohammad Ashraful drives the ball during his crafty knock of 75 in the opening match of the Idea Cup against Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Lanka tame Tigers

ATTIQUE ANAM

The last two ODIs between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka provided a lot of drama, individual heroics and nail-biting finishes, both teams having won one each, but fair to say both were very even contests. A year on, much has changed in Bangladesh cricket, and in Sri Lanka's too. Captain's armband has shifted in both sides; while Bangladesh have enjoyed a very successful year, albeit against weaker opponents, Sri Lanka's fortunes have gone up and down, losing their last series against India badly.

But those memories were brushed aside by Sri Lanka with an air of almost arrogance. The opening match of the Idea Cup, which was billed up as a fierce encounter, lived up to be a no-contest in the end as the Lankans defeated the hosts by 7 wickets with 5.1

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5TH AMENDMENT

Religion-based parties face ban

Shafiq says no parting with 'Bismillah', Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Religion based politics will be banned if cancellation of the fifth amendment to the country's constitution is finalised by the Supreme Court (SC), said the law minister yesterday.

But he added that the words Bismillah-Ar-Rahman-Ar-Rahim in the preamble of the constitution and its declaration of Islam as the state religion will remain intact.

He said Islam was made the state religion through the eighth amendment, and the High Court (HC) in its verdict did not say anything about the words Bismillah-Ar-Rahman-Ar-Rahim. He also said the words are a part of the constitution's preamble, not

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FIRST DAY OF WATER TALKS

Dhaka, Delhi stay upbeat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first day of the secretary-level talks of the Joint Rivers Commission between Bangladesh and India ended yesterday with a positive note with both sides expecting a consensus on sharing water of the Teesta river.

Besides sharing the Teesta waters, the delegations of the two countries have been discussing different related issues including dredging of the Isamoti river, small irrigation and drinking water project of the Feni river and making embankments on the bordering rivers.

The chiefs of both the delegations said they are hopeful about a positive outcome from the talks, which end today at the state guest house Meghna.

"India wants to share water with Bangladesh. We are discussing different outstanding issues and we are very hopeful about a

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AUGUST 21 CASE CID gets 2 more months for report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department yesterday got two more months to submit the probe report on one of the two

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