



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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### AL JAZEERA EXPOSÉ

The Qatar-based news channel reveals Palestinian offers of concessions to Israel

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### CLIJSTERS MARCHES ON

The Belgian moves into the last eight of the Australian Open

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### SEC NEEDS OVERHAUL

Ibrahim Khaled points to regulatory flaws

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## STOCKMARKET CRASH

# Govt actions draw doubts

SOHEL PARVEZ

The policymakers demonstrated their lack of seriousness in identifying the real culprits behind the recent stockmarket debacle, by taking 15 days time for forming a probe committee to investigate market manipulation, said analysts yesterday.

They however said the finance minister's confession of making mistakes, and his meeting with stakeholders sent a signal to the investors that the government is giving due consideration to stabilising the market that slumped until last week and

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### Keep stock profit intact

BB asks banks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has directed 15 banks to transfer their share market

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## Blaming BB raises eyebrows

STAR REPORT

As the stockmarket inevitably crashed after huge manipulation, there has been a deliberate attempt to turn attention to the central bank, holding it responsible for causing a 'cash crunch'.

The market manipulators maintain that the central bank's decision to hike the cash reserve ratio -- the amount they have to deposit with the central bank -- had led to fund crisis in the market.

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# CLIP ACC WINGS

## Govt nods

Freedom of anti-graft body now depends on JS as cabinet okays changes to act; ACC chief vexed, says corrupt govt officials to get happy

### ACC IN 2004

(BNP-Jamaat govt)

- Probe against bureaucrats: **Permission not required**
- Transparency: **Annual report to president for JS presentation**
- Investigation deadline: **None**
- False graft case filing: **No punishment**
- Status: **Independent, impartial**

### ACC IN 2007

(Caretaker govt)

- Probe against bureaucrats: **Permission not required**
- Transparency: **Annual report to president for JS presentation**
- Investigation deadline: **60 days**
- False graft case filing: **No punishment**
- Status: **Self-governed, independent, impartial**

### ACC IN 2011

(Changes proposed by AL-led govt)

- Probe against bureaucrats: **Permission required**
- Transparency: **Commission made accountable to president**
- Investigation deadline: **120 days**
- False graft case filing: **5 years jail with fine**
- Status: **Independent, impartial**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved proposals for amendments to the Anti-Corruption Commission law clipping off its authority to file graft cases against government officials amid growing fear that the anti-corruption watchdog is losing its bite

and independence.

The ACC must obtain permission from the government before filing any graft case against government officials, according to one of the amendment proposals approved by the cabinet at its meeting presided over by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her secretariat office.

This is a major departure from the 2004 Anti-Corruption Commission Act that allowed the commission to move independently in pursuing corruption cases against anyone, including government servants.

Another amendment has sought to make the ACC accountable to the

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### JS goes into session today

BNP MPs may continue boycott

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers from the BNP-led opposition risk losing membership of parliament if they continue to boycott the House that goes into its new-year session today, and is scheduled to have 44 sittings.

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## Sangsad denied changes

### Sad old political culture rules 9th parliament

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The political culture of previous parliaments returned to the current one with full vigour soon after its inception, largely blunting its ability to meet the people's high expectation for change.

The current parliamentary landscape demonstrate a lack of sincerity on the parts of both the ruling and opposition benches in making the House perform effectively its cardinal functions --- mak-

ing laws, holding government accountable for its actions, monitoring expenditure of public funds, and being a forum for debates.

The treasury bench seems to have preferred the strategy of keeping the opposition outside the House.

Ruling Awami League (AL) did not take meaningful steps to end the culture of making the House dysfunctional. It did not come forward with patience and

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## PM goes to UK today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for London tonight on a six-day visit.

A 40-member entourage including 18 ministry officials, 11 security personnel and eight journalists will accompany the

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## Attempt-to-rape case 'politically motivated'

### Charges against AL lawmaker dropped

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

An attempt-to-rape case filed more than nine years ago against ruling Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder has been dropped, as the government



found it "politically motivated".

In the case statement, it was alleged that on December 30, 2001, some eight men forcibly took a 35-year-old woman to Kamal's Pallabi office in the

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## We Deeply Mourn

The Board of Directors and the employees of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited are deeply grieved at the sad demise of Dr. Mitali Khan (Inna Lillahi.....Rajeun), wife of our honorable Director Dr. Irshad Kamal Khan.

We express our heart-felt condolences and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and pray to the almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul.

**Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited**  
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## SHAREMARKET PLUNGE

### HC rebukes SEC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sternly rebuked Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission Ziaul Haque Khandaker for the recent stockmarket crash, and said if such a thing happened in other countries their SEC chairmen would step down.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also termed the crash in the capital market a conspiracy against the government and the country.

The SEC chairman cannot escape liabilities, said the court.

The bench questioned his competence as his commission used the

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