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the apex court by empowering the parliament to impeach SC judges. In many countries with functional democracy, the parliaments have the powers to impeach judges. But those countries have better political culture and their MPs enjoy more freedom to discharge their parliamentary duties.

Last Sunday Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told AL Parliamentary Party that she felt fortunate as the government under her leadership had moved to restore the parliament's power to impeach the SC judges. With the amendment passed, the prime minister will have more authority as she dominates the parliament by controlling the ruling party MPs who will not dare to defy the premier's directive.

The BNP-led opposition alliance is unable to



HM Ershad

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have any credibility. People know how the JP was made the main opposition through the one-sided January 5 parliamentary election held amid a boycott by the BNP-led opposition alliance. The situation outside of the parliament is not comfortable for the government. The constitutional amendment bill has been facing strings of criticism from different quarters including jurists and civil society personalities. The critics have been terming the move as a threat to the independence of the judiciary. They have alleged that the government may try to control

stage any strong protest against the government. The main opposition in the parliament is not in a position to perform independently either. What will set the main opposition free? The only answer is: the resignation of its MPs from the cabinet. Many political observers believe that the JP ministers will quit the government if the government tells them to do so. So, the JP's future course of actions are also dependent on the politics of the ruling AL.

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