

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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Your Right to Know

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"And we're supposed to say, 'Oh, thank you for the library.' I don't know who's using it in Afghanistan."

TRUMP MOCKS MODI FOR BUILDING A LIBRARY IN AFGHANISTAN  
(PAGE 20)



"The entire election has been rendered meaningless and farcical."

CPB SECRETARIAT MEMBER RUHIN HOSSAIN  
PRINCE (PAGE 3)



"Only bad words, no good ones. Well I do know one, it's Bhalobashi."

DAVID WARNER WHEN ASKED IF HE KNEW BANGLA  
(PAGE 18)



## Let's not be monsters

PM asks new AL MPs; cabinet members to take oath on Jan 7

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party's newly elected lawmakers not to misuse their position to make a fortune or serve their personal interests.

Pointing to her party's landslide victory in the last three elections, she also called on them not to consider themselves "very powerful". Instead, Hasina asked them to be humble and stand beside the people.

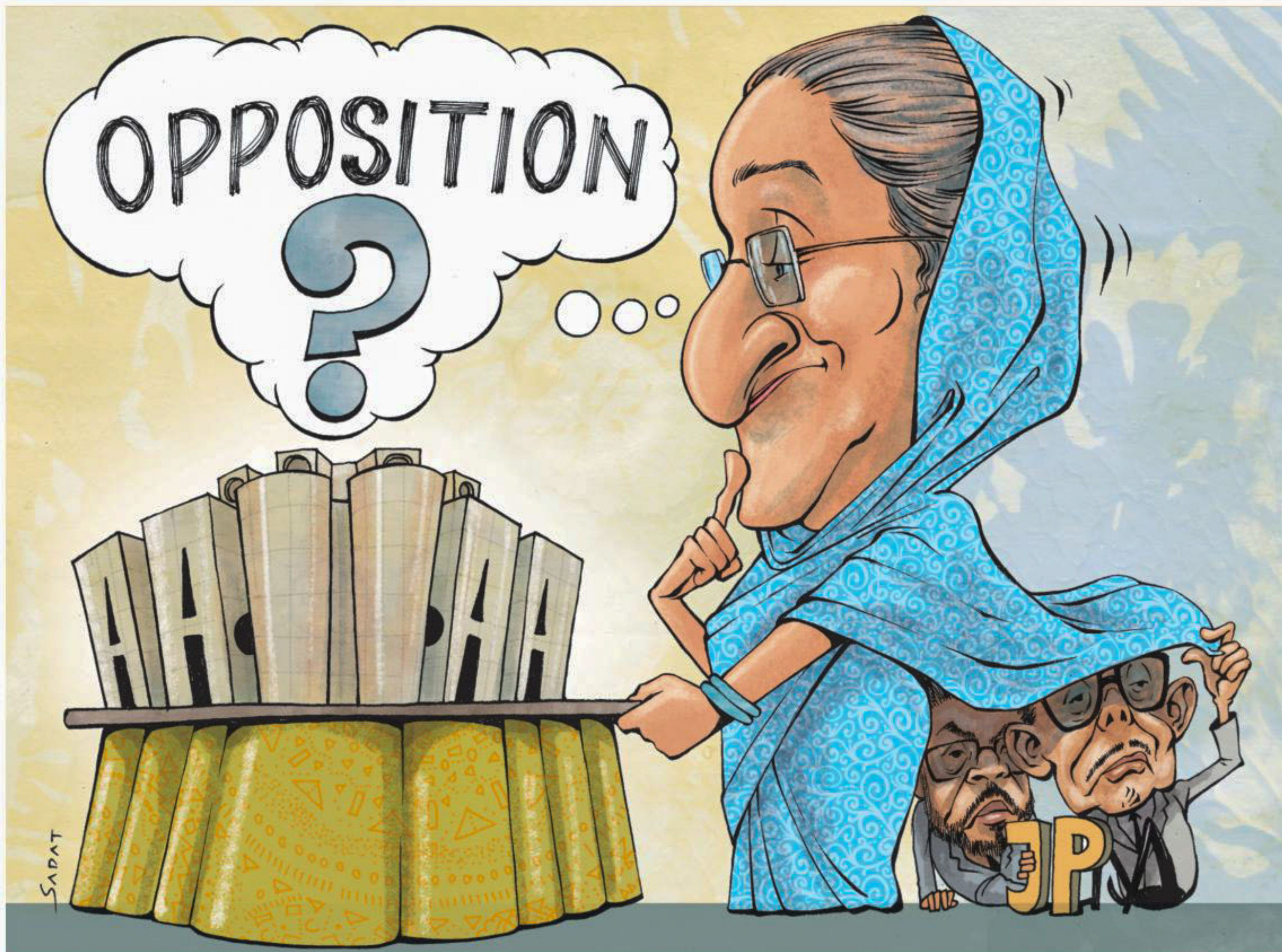
"People who remain in power for long become monsters. But we shouldn't be monsters. Rather, we will have to be humbler because of the trust the people put in us by giving their huge support in the election," Hasina said, while addressing the Awami League Parliamentary Party's maiden meeting after the 11th parliamentary election.

Six AL MPs separately confirmed her speech at the meeting, held after the oath-taking ceremony of the MPs-elect at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban around 11:00am.

Hasina, also the sitting prime minister, was the lone speaker at the ALPP meeting, which adopted a resolution unanimously electing her the ALPP chief for a third straight term.

Out of the 257 newly elected AL MPs, 256 were present. After her reelection, Hasina said it would be her last tenure as ALPP chief. Her party colleagues protested this, shouting: "No, no."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## No opposition needed!

JP wants to be part of new govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party does not want to sit on the opposition bench in parliament.

Its MPs, in a parliamentary party meeting yesterday, unanimously decided to be a part of the Awami League-led new government.

"Since we participated in the election under the banner of the Awami League-led grand alliance, we want to join the government. Who will sit on the opposition bench is not our concern," JP Co-chairman GM Quader told journalists after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

They sat for the meeting immediately after taking oath as members of the 11th parliament.

"We doubt if people will accept us as the opposition if we quit the grand alliance now to play the role of the opposition," Quader said, adding, "We don't want to sit on the opposition bench ... This is a practical problem for us."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

**SYED ASHRAFUL ISLAM**  
1952-2019

A Mukti Bahini member  
Elected MP five times  
Held LGRD and public  
administration ministries



## The death of a radiant star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was one of the brightest stars in Bangladesh politics. Known for his honesty, humility and simplicity, he was a giant of a politician. He was a charismatic leader too, but more than anything else, he commanded respect from across the political spectrum, a rarity in Bangladesh politics.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

## Instance not necessary

New lawmakers take oath while 10th JS still exists

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Lawmakers elected in Sunday's polls took oath as members of the 11th parliament yesterday with the 10th Jatiya Sangsad still in place.

The same thing happened five years ago when the lawmakers, elected in the 10th national polls, were sworn in, constituting the current parliament two weeks before the dissolution of the ninth JS.

But the constitutional provisions do not allow the MPs, elected in Sunday's polls, to take oath and assume office before the expiry of the existing parliament's tenure.

According to article 123 (3) (b), the lawmakers, elected in the December 30 polls, are required to wait for the expiry of the term of the current parliament.

Article 72 (3) clearly says, "Unless sooner dissolved by the president, parliament shall stand dissolved on the expiration of the period of five years from the date of its first meeting."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## '30-60pc votes cast night before polls'

Alleges Oikeyafront as its seven MPs-elect refuse to take oath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven MPs-elect of Jatiya Oikeyafront yesterday refrained from taking oath and the alliance claimed that ruling party men had stuffed the boxes with "30 to 60" percent of the ballots the night before the polls.

Hours after 289 newly elected lawmakers took oath at the parliament complex yesterday, an eight-member delegation led by Oikeyafront spokesperson Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir went to the Election Commission and handed over a memorandum to Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda.

In the memorandum, the alliance also alleged that the administration was blatantly used against the people. It was a "breach of trust and the voters were deceived", the Oikeyafront said.

"This election is a cruel mockery of the people," Fakhrul, also the BNP secretary general, told reporters afterwards.

"There is no question of taking oath as we have rejected the results," he said replying to a query about whether the seven lawmakers-elect would take oath.

Raising allegations of widespread ballot stuffing and irregularities, Oikeyafront rejected the results of Sunday's polls and demanded immediate national election under a nonpartisan neutral government.

The alliance yesterday submitted some "evidence of election-related anomalies and undue influence since the announcement of election schedule".

"We've submitted evidence to the commission. We hope they [commission] will review those," Fakhrul said. "The nation was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## World leaders keep greeting Sheikh Hasina

AGENCIES

The UAE president, vice president and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi yesterday congratulated Bangladesh Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on securing landslide victory in the 11th national election.

The UAE President Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, also Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Muhammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan greeted Hasina in separate messages.

"It pleases me very much to take this opportunity to send to your Excellency [Sheikh Hasina] my warmest congratulations and best wishes on securing absolute majority in the 11th parliamentary election," they said in three separate identical messages.

The UAE top leaders wished continuous success of Hasina during her new tenure, welfare and prosperity for her friendly people.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## DT journo gets bail

CPJ condemns misuse of Digital Security Act

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday granted bail to Hedait Hossain Molla, local correspondent of the Dhaka Tribune, in a case filed under digital security Act.

District Judge Moshirur Rahman Chowdhury passed the order in the afternoon after which Hedait walked out of Khulna jail around 6:45pm.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Masum Billah, one of Hedait's lawyers, said his client was given ad-interim bail which will be effective until January 14.

Members of different organisations including Khulna Press Club, Khulna Union of Journalists, Metropolitan Union of Journalists, and Khulna Reporters' Foundation were

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



President Abdul Hamid greets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a bouquet as she calls on him at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

## NOAKHALI GANG RAPE

## Police arrest man 'who ordered it'

STAR REPORT

Four days after the gang rape of a woman in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila, police yesterday arrested Awami League leader Ruhul Amin who allegedly ordered his accomplices to rape the mother of four for voting for "sheaf of paddy".

Police also held an accused in the case, Ibrahim Khalil Bechu, at Senbagh yesterday.

Ruhul, whose name was not mentioned in the first information report, was arrested in Wapda area of the district's Sadar upazila. He is also a former union parishad member.

With these two, five people, including four accused, have been arrested in connection with the incident that sparked protest and condemnation.

Meanwhile, doctors treating the 35-year-old woman have found evidence of gang rape.

Khalil Ullah, superintendent at Noakhali General Hospital, yesterday said, "The test report will be handed over to police."

The victim has all along been alleging that Ruhul ordered his men to rape her on Sunday night as she had voted for "sheaf of paddy", the BNP's electoral symbol. She claimed that she had been intimidated by Ruhul's men so that she voted for "boat", the AL's electoral symbol.

That night, some 10 to 12 men carrying sticks stormed her home. They tied up her husband, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, and four children with ropes, she said.

The victim's husband sued nine people. Ruhul was not mentioned in the FIR.

The complainant later told The Daily Star that even though he informed police about Ruhul's role, police did not include his name in the FIR.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4