

FIRST DAY OF 11TH PARLIAMENT

PM welcomes criticism from opposition

Shirin, Rabbi re-elected as speaker, deputy speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured the opposition that it will be allowed to criticise the government without any obstacles in the 11th Jatiya Sangsad.

"I would like to tell the opposition leader and all opposition lawmakers that criticism is always important in a democratic process. I can assure you that the opposition party will be able to make enough criticism," she said in a speech in the first sitting of the opening session of the 11th JS.

Hasina, the leader of the House, gave the speech felicitating Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah on their re-election.

She made the comments minutes after Deputy Leader of the opposition GM Quader sought the treasury bench's assistance and sufficient time for opposition MPs to make the House effective and lively.

"We will not create any obstacles [to criticising the



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People checking out secondhand electronics and home appliances displayed on a footpath on Tajmahal Road in the capital on Tuesday night. The TVs priced mostly between Tk 1,500 and 3,000 are a major attraction of this makeshift marketplace that caters to lower income people.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

House formed without voters' mandate: BNP
The party demands re-election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the current parliament has not been formed with people's mandate and demanded re-election under a neutral administration.

"We turned down the election results just after the voting. Today, we reiterate our demand for re-election scrapping the election results so that a government and parliament can be formed based on the people's verdict," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said addressing a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club.

The human chain was the first political programme of the BNP after the December 30 election. A huge number of law enforcers were deployed in and around the area to avert any possible trouble.

Fakhrul alleged that the parliament was formed through a "farical" election, during which "law enforcers

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Rajshahi
still alive,
Sylhet exit

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi Kings kept their hopes alive for a playoff spot by registering a five-wicket win over Sylhet Sixers in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

With six wins from 12 games and having played all their group games, Rajshahi will now have to wait on the results of Dhaka Dynamites, who still have two games remaining with 10 points while Sylhet, after their seventh defeat, are out of the playoff race.

Chasing a stiff target of 190, Laurie Evans and Ryan ten Doeschate added 109 runs for the fourth wicket,

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President calls for nat'l unity

UNB, Sangsab Bhaban

Calling upon all to forge national unity on the basic issues, President Abdul Hamid yesterday said peace and prosperity could not be given a permanent shape without it.

Addressing the 11th parliament on the opening day of its maiden session, he urged all lawmakers to play an appropriate and effective role in fulfilling people's expectations.

"I call for making united efforts to create unity among all irrespective of political affiliations, classes and professions on the basic issues, including continuation of democracy, the rule of law and socioeconomic development."

Hamid said Jatiya Sangsad is the centrepiece of people's hope and aspirations. Alongside the ruling party, the opposition parties would have to play a constructive role in strengthening transparency, accountability, tolerance, human rights and the rule of law, he added.

The president highlighted the government's achievements in different sectors, including economy, trade and commerce, agriculture, power, foreign relations, tourism, education, health, women and children development, rural development, expatriates welfare, science and technology, ICT and public administration.

Hamid said Bangladesh would celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the National Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman next year and the golden jubilee of its independence in 2021 as a middle-income country. The nation expects Bangladesh will emerge as a developed country by 2041, he added.

Referring to the December 30 national election, the president said it was held in a free, fair, peaceful and neutral manner with participation of all political parties under the supervision of the Election Commission.



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BB set to sue Rizal Bank in US court

Moves to recover \$81m stolen from reserve

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir said the central bank was expected to file a lawsuit yesterday night with a US court against Philippines' Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) to recover the full amount stolen in the February, 2016 heist.

During that time, hackers made off with \$81 million from the BB account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The money was wired to RCBC's branch in Manila but only \$14.54 was returned after the theft came to light.

"The main aim is to recover the full amount; nothing short of it," the BB governor said yesterday while talking to reporters during the release of the monetary policy for the second half of the current fiscal year at the bank's headquarters.

He said all preparations for filing the case were completed and a BB team was now in New York. The case would be filed with The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The Bangladesh team last night signed an agreement with NY Fed for resolution and assistance, the BB governor said.

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TK 919CR LAUNDERING Crescent group boss arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) yesterday arrested the chairman of Crescent Leather Products and Crescent Tanneries, MA Kader, in connection with three separate cases filed over laundering a total of Tk 919 crore in foreign currencies.

The move came after the CIID, a field office under the National Board of Revenue (NBR), found in its inquiry that Crescent Group colluded with officials of Janata Bank's Imamganj branch in Dhaka to launder a total of Tk 1,297.65 crore abroad against 657 fake export bills.

Legal action against other firms of the group was in the process, said a senior official of CIID, preferring anonymity.

"We will produce him [Kader] before court tomorrow [today]. We will seek remand and appeal to the court so that this becomes an example for those who are involved in money laundering," said NBR Chairman Md Mosharraf

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TI report
motivated and faulty
Claims info minister

UNB, Dhaka

Rejecting the Transparency International report, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday claimed that the report was motivated and faulty.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters on the TI report at the secretariat.

According to the TI report unveiled on Tuesday, Bangladesh ranks the second most corrupt country in South Asia, only ahead of war-torn Afghanistan. Its global position is 149th out of 180 countries surveyed

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আমাদের অর্হকর

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13,500/-	13,500/-
17,000/-	15,000/-
22,000/-	18,000/-
23,700/-	17,000/-
28,800/-	19,000/-
30,000/-	25,000/-
36,000/-	30,000/-
39,000/-	30,000/-
42,000/-	36,000/-
45,000/-	30,000/-
48,000/-	30,000/-
52,000/-	30,000/-
53,000/-	30,000/-
55,000/-	30,000/-
58,000/-	30,000/-
62,000/-	30,000/-
65,000/-	30,000/-

DIAMOND LOCKETS

5,800/-	7,500/-
10,500/-	14,500/-
18,500/-	27,000/-
27,000/-	39,000/-

DIAMOND EARRINGS

1,04,000/-	67,500/-
10,000/-	11,500/-
18,000/-	22,000/-
22,000/-	27,000/-
42,000/-	48,000/-
44,000/-	54,000/-
46,000/-	55,000/-
48,000/-	58,000/-

DIAMOND NOSES

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