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## Give AL one more chance to serve you

Hasina tells people at huge Rangpur rally



### STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked people to vote for "boat", the Awami League's electoral symbol, in the next general election so that her party could have another opportunity to serve them.

"People got the country independent by casting votes for 'boat'. The country's development happens only when Awami League is in power," she said.

Addressing a massive rally at Rangpur Zilla School playground, Hasina said she was ready to sacrifice her life like her father for the development of the country, report UNB and BSS.

The AL president had visited Rangpur, the district of her in-laws, in December 2018 during electioneering. Yesterday, she again sought people's support for her party.

The premier described measures taken by her government for the development of the country's northern region. She also made some new pledges to the locals.

The rally, organised by Rangpur district and city units of the AL, virtually turned into a human sea as the venue and its nearby areas were full to the brim with people.

Rangpur city had been in a festive mood for the last couple of days centring the AL chief's visit. Several hundred arches were set up to welcome her. Festoons, banners, placards and posters with photos of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Hasina were also put up across the city.

Hasina reached the venue around 3:25pm.

Speaking from a large boat-shaped stage, she said she lost her father, mother, and brothers, and now the people of Bangladesh are her family.

Hasina said whenever the AL comes to power, it improves the condition of farmers, it provides electricity to households, and advances the country.

She asked the crowd, "Will you cast votes for 'boat'? Please show me by raising your hands." The crowd raised

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The Rangpur Zilla School ground is packed to the brim with people who have come to see Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and listen to her speech at an Awami League rally yesterday. The crowd spilled over into nearby areas.

PHOTO: PID

## ILLEGAL WEALTH, CONCEALING INFO Tarique gets 9yrs, Zubaida 3yrs

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and DIPAN NANDY

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman to nine years and his wife Zubaida Rahman to three years in prison in a graft case filed in 2007.

The court found Tarique guilty of illegally earning over Tk 4.82 crore and not mentioning in his wealth statement that he owned assets worth over Tk 4.23 crore. Zubaida was convicted of aiding and abetting Tarique.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court delivered the verdict in a packed courtroom.

Tarique and Zubaida who have been living in London since 2008 were declared fugitives by the High Court on June 26 last year.

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## Exports off to a flying start in new fiscal

July's earnings up 15.26pc to \$4.59b

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Exports continued their spirited showing into the new fiscal year, bringing home \$4.59 billion in July, in what can be viewed as a lone bright spark in the economy that has been dogged by fast depleting reserves, narrow fiscal space and slowing industrial activities.

Last month's receipts -- which were up 15.26 percent from a year earlier and \$111.92 million higher than the target -- would somewhat ease the pressure on the dollar stockpile, which stood at \$23.3 billion on July 26.

Remittance, the other main source of dollars for Bangladesh,

was down 5.86 percent to \$1.97 billion last month, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

Of July's export receipts, garment, the main export earner, accounted for \$3.95 billion, up 17.4 percent from a year earlier and \$174.8 million more than the target.

"This is encouraging," said MA Razzaque, research director of the Policy Research Institute.

However, there are some internal and external challenges, he said.

The energy crisis at home is one of the challenges, according to Abdullah Al Mahmud Mahin, chairman and managing

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## 1 killed as BGB, 'drug traders' clash in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man was shot dead and six others sustained bullet injuries during a clash between drug peddlers and Border Guard Bangladesh members in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf.

The clash ensued when BGB members arrested a yaba peddler in the Leda area around 12:00pm, locals said.

BGB said seven of its members sustained injuries. Among them, one has been admitted to hospital with serious injuries.

The deceased Mohammad Rafique, 40, was a resident of "A" block of Leda Rohingya camp under Hnila union, said Mohammad Alam, chairman of the Camp Development Committee of Leda refugee camp.

Zafar Alam is a listed drug peddler.

BGB, in a press release, said a team of border guard arrested a drug peddler Md Zafar Alam with 20,000 yaba tablets around noon.

While the team was returning to base, the cohorts of the drug peddler attacked BGB members. At one point, the miscreants opened fire at the law enforcers in a bid to snatch him, it said.

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**MORE NEWS**

**Banks' Tk 16,000cr remains stuck in stocks for floor price**  
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**Attacked and intimidated, all for playing football**  
PAGE 3

**'That's all folks!': Buffon retires**  
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Today is the 10th Death Anniversary of  
**Sobera Ahmed Rizvi (Rita)**



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

Jowher (Shahinshah), Yasser, Nasser, Zain, Fatema, Zarah & Zameer