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## 49 reserved-seat MPs take oath

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Forty-nine newly elected Members of Parliament from the reserved women's seats of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad have taken their oath.

Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad administered the oath in the Parliament's oath chamber around 9:00pm yesterday.

According to the Parliament Secretariat, 36 MPs from the BNP, 12 from the Jamaat-led 11-party alliance, and one independent took the oath together.

Afterwards, they signed the oath documents, registered in the MPs' list book, and completed formalities such as photographs and fingerprint collection for identity cards.

Out of the 50 reserved seats, BNP was allocated

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A child being treated with local remedies made from extracts of wild vines in Sinduk Mukh Para of Bandarban's Alikadam upazila. Due to poor access to healthcare, many families have turned to such practices to treat children with measles-like symptoms. PHOTO: STAR

## 1st JS session failed to address reform roadmap

**Says Nahid Islam**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said the first session of the 13th parliament failed to address how reform proposals would be implemented, warning that continued disregard could lead to a mass movement.

"The session was supposed to discuss reform implementation, but the government ran parliament in its own way. If this continues, a movement with the people will become our only option," he said while chairing the closing session of a national convention titled "Energy, Economy, Human Rights, Reform and Referendum", organised by the NCP.

The programme was held at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Kakrail, Dhaka.

Nahid said the July uprising was part of a

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# MEASLES OUTBREAK

## Healthcare still out of reach for hill children

Mro families in Alikadam turn to herbal remedies amid poor access to treatment

**MONG SING HAI MARMA,**  
Bandarban

Children with measles-like symptoms in several remote hill settlements of Kurukpata union under Bandarban's Alikadam upazila are being treated with local remedies and herbal medicine as Mro families struggle to access healthcare.

At least five children have died with measles-like symptoms, while scores of others have been infected across 10 to 15 remote hill villages in the area over the past few days.

Local residents said proper treatment remains largely inaccessible to them. As a result, many families have turned to herbal remedies, including extracts from wild vines, and other traditional practices to treat their ailing children.

In Sinduk Mukh Para along the Matamuhuri river, around

50 kilometres from Alikadam upazila headquarters and near the Myanmar border, 13-year-old Myanmar Mro was seen lying weak in her mother's arms.

Her body was covered with red rashes, and she had been suffering from high fever and extreme fatigue.

Kramum's mother, Nganrao Mro, 55, was trying to feed her a bitter concoction of herbal extracts, which made the child vomit.

"My daughter has been sick for seven days with high fever and rashes all over her body. She cannot eat anything," Nganrao said.

Asked why she had not taken her daughter to a hospital, she sighed.

"In this rain, how can I take her walking down the hilly path, followed by a boat trip to Powa Muhuri Dari Para, and then by motorcycle to the upazila health complex miles away in Alikadam? It will also cost several thousand taka for the round trip. Where will we get that money?"

Asked about the herbal remedy, Nganrao said they grind different wild vines and other items, mix the extract with water, and feed it to the child.

"It tastes very bitter, so she does not want to take it," she said. She added that almost all sick children in the village are being treated the same way.

"So I am also giving it to

my daughter, hoping she will recover," she said.

A similar situation was observed in several other remote settlements across Kurukpata union, including Maran Para, Langthoin Para, Ruitong Para, Langring, Yangring, Mendon, and Bidyamoni Para.

Local elders, including Chingtui Mro, Mongkhaid Mro, and Krongtoi Mro, said the method has been practised for generations whenever symptoms resembling measles or smallpox appear.

"We learned this from our ancestors," Chingtui said.

Local residents said health workers rarely visit these remote areas to provide routine vaccination or medical services, while poor communication and high costs make it difficult for them to seek treatment at hospitals.

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## At least 32 killed in Shapla Chattar crackdown

**Says ICT chief prosecutor**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The investigation into the Shapla Chattar crackdown on May 5, 2013, has so far found evidence of at least 32 killings in Dhaka, Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) said yesterday.

"We have yet to complete the investigation... I cannot give the total number of victims, but we have found that 32 people were killed in Dhaka," he told reporters at his office.

He said the probe is being conducted carefully to ensure a fair and controversy-free outcome. "We are taking time so that those involved can be brought to trial through a proper investigation," he added, expressing hope that the report will be submitted soon.

Aminul said investigators had aimed to submit the report before May 5, but delays in collecting key evidence and completing inquiries in Chattogram -- where a major incident also occurred -- have pushed back the timeline.

Replying to a query, he said the number of

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## 'Withdraw bar on access to SC courtrooms'

### Demand journalists at human chain

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A group of journalists formed a human chain yesterday at the Supreme Court main gate, protesting the bar on reporters from entering the courtrooms of the Supreme Court.

The programme organised by the Supreme Court Reporters Forum (SRF) started at 12:45pm, and continued until 1:20pm on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day.

At the human chain, they demanded the immediate withdrawal of the authorities' decision restricting media personnel from entering the SC courtrooms and called for full access to cover judicial proceedings and publish reports in the media.

SRF President Masudur Rahman Rana said journalists' fundamental rights had been violated as they had not been allowed to enter the courtrooms since January 7.





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