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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, 13-year-old Kramum 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 take several thousand taka for a 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. Almost all sick children in the village are being treated the same way.

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## SHAPLA CHATTAR

At least 32 killed in 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.

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Deliver on govt pledges with the spirit of progress  
PM urges DCs

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday called upon deputy commissioners (DCs) to play a proactive role in implementing the government's promises made to the people with a spirit to move ahead, stressing accountability, transparency and efficiency in building a people-friendly administration.

"I hope that, with your talent and competence, you will be able to play a vital role in efficiently implementing every promise made by the government to the people," he said while inaugurating the four-day DC Conference-2026 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The premier categorically said the government is committed to implementing every pledge of its election manifesto and the July charter as signed before the people. "We will implement each

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## 'No innocent journalist should be in prison'

Info minister tells event, quoting PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman made it clear that the government does not want any innocent journalist to remain in jail, according to Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon.

Tarique had made the remarks during a meeting with the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab), the minister said at a discussion marking World Press Freedom Day at the Tothyo Bhaban auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

"While talking to [Noab], he [PM] said that we don't want any journalist to remain in jail without committing a crime," Swapon said. The meeting took place on April 21.

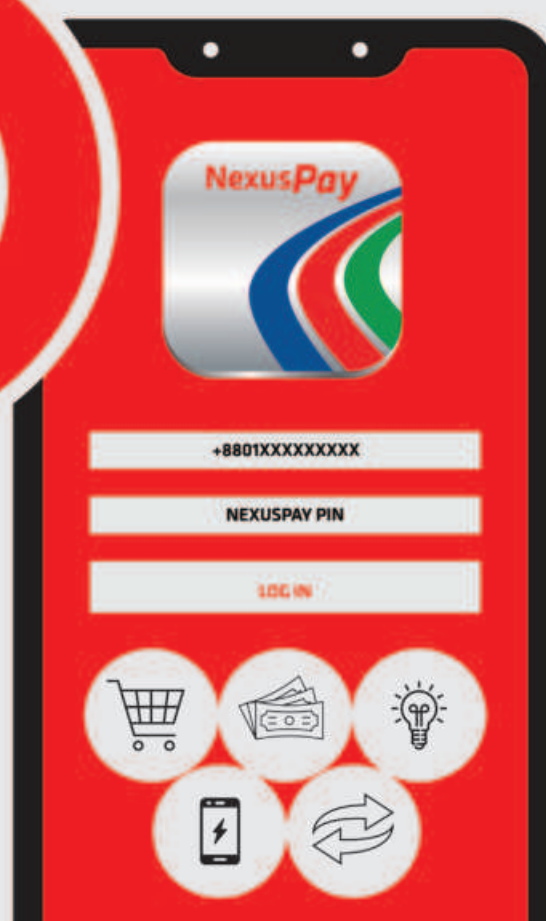
Swapon also said the government will ensure, in principle and under the law, professional security for all journalists.

Defamation cases and other legal complexities will be brought under institutional management through the Press Council, he said.

He said no individual or institution in the government would dictate terms to or call any media house.

"In our election manifesto and 31-point declaration, the BNP pledged to respect impartial

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