



Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

## Shirin elected speaker of parliament

Staff Correspondent

THE Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday elected lawmaker from women's reserved seat, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, as the 13th speaker of parliament, the first ever woman to preside over the legislature.

Parliament elected Shirin, who was state minister for women and children

Continued on page 4 Col. 1

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Continued from page 1  
affairs, to the position that fell vacant as former speaker Abdul Hamid was elected the 20th president of the republic following the death of president Zillur Rahman.

The minister for jute and textiles Abdul Latif Siddique proposed to the House to elect Sharmin as speaker which was endorsed by whip Shagufta Yasmin Emily.

Acting speaker Shawkat Ali then said since there was single proposal for electing speaker Sharmin could be announced elected, but he put it on voice vote to comply with rules of procedure

and the House unanimously yelled 'yes'. Even the lone independent member Fazlul Azim also voted yes raising his hand.

The president, Abdul Hamid, administered her oath of office in parliament house after the 17th session of the House was prorogued.

Earlier on Monday night, the Awami League Parliamentary Party nominated her for the position, ending all speculation over the party's choice for the third constitutional position of the country.

Shirin, the international affairs secretary of the Awami League, was elect-

ed MP from one of the parliamentary seats reserved for women on March 24, 2009.

She was one of the members of the lawyers' panel to conduct the cases filed against Hasina during the army-backed caretaker government in 2007-08.

Born in Dhaka on October 6, 1966 to Rafiqullah Chaudhury and Naiyer Sultana, Shirin came out first class first in her LLB (Honours) examination from Dhaka University in 1989 and passed her LLM with distinction from the same university in 1990.

On a Commonwealth scholarship, she did her

PhD on human rights and constitutional laws - 'Right to Life' - from Essex University in the United Kingdom in 2000.

She was elected a member on Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association and Dhaka Bar Association in 2000.

In 2008, she became a member of the sub-committee of Bangladesh Bar Council Legal Education and a member of the executive committee of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs.

She is married to pharmaceutical consultant Syed Ishtiaque Hossain and mother of a daughter.