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**PRIME MINISTER TO INAUGURATE
PARLIAMENTARY ORIENTATION PROGRAM**

DHAKA – The Honorable Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate a four-day orientation program for members of the 9th Parliament. The inaugural ceremony will take place on Sunday, February 22, at the Pan-Pacific Sonargaon Hotel at 10 a.m. All members of parliament have been invited to attend this important program.

The Parliamentary Orientation Program will provide a forum to discuss the challenges facing the current parliament. Current and former senior Bangladeshi MPs and experts, as well as a selected number of distinguished international guests, will share experiences regarding good parliamentary practice.

Lord John Alderdice, a life peer of the UK House of Lords and former Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, will play an important role in the orientation program. Other invited international guests include Hon. Sebastian Edathy, Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee of the German Parliament and Chair of the German Parliamentary Friendship Group for South Asia. The MPs orientation will include a luncheon with invited members of the diplomatic community. US Ambassador James F. Moriarty and UK High Commissioner Stephen Evans are also scheduled to address the orientation program.

NDI Senior Resident Director Jacqueline Corcoran said, “We are honored that the Prime Minister will inaugurate this important event. We also acknowledge the strong support we have received from the offices of the Speaker and the Chief Whip. We are also very pleased with the commitment of the opposition to participate in this program, which is designed to assist all members of parliament.”

Cooperating organizations with NDI in this event include Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership (BDAWL), BRAC University Institute for Governance Studies, World Bank Institute (WBI), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Republican Institute (IRI), and Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency, and Integrity (PROGATI).

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