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## Opposition demands urgent debate on PM

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TWO of Malaysia's main Opposition parties yesterday demanded an emergency sitting of Parliament to discuss Prime Minister (PM) Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak's future as tensions mounted over a report that linked him into an alleged corruption involving the state fund, 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

A *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) report published last Friday said investigators had traced nearly US\$700 million (RM2.64 billion) to bank accounts they believed belonged to the PM.

Najib denied taking any money from the debt-laden state fund or any other entity for personal gain.

However, the pressure was back on him on Saturday after the country's Attorney

General (AG) said he had received documents from a task force investigating 1MDB that were "connected to allegations" that money was transferred into Najib's account.

"With the AG's confirmation, the WSJ allegation against Najib has assumed an even more serious character and import, sparking a political and government crisis of the first magnitude never seen in Malaysia's 58-year history/' Lim Kit Siang, the Opposition DAP parliamentary leader, said in a statement.

Members of Najib's party, Umno, have closed ranks behind the PM, who had already been on a back foot over the mismanagement of

1MDB and his handling of the economy.

However, DAP and PKR sought to stoke the furore, urging the speaker of Parliament's lower house to call an emergency sitting tomorrow.

1MDB, whose advisory board is chaired by Najib, has debt of nearly US\$11.6 billion. Even before the WSJ report, it was the subject of separate investigations by the central bank, Auditor-General, police and the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

AG Abdul Gani Patail said on Saturday that a task force made up of members of the anti-corruption commission, police and central bank had raided offices of three companies linked to the state investor.

The WSJ, citing documents from a government probe, said there were five deposits into Najib's account.

The Home (Interior) Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said on Sunday that those behind the allegations appeared to be trying to undermine confidence in Malaysia's economy and government, and their actions could be "a threat to national security", *Bernama* reported

"The Home Ministry will take action against any media that publish inaccurate information from an unknown sources for the purpose of tarnishing the country's and government's image," his ministry said in a statement late on Saturday. — *Reuters*