



Cabinet Ministers (right) and State Ministers (left) being sworn in at Bangabhaban on Wednesday.

— Star photo

**Oath of ministers**

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Wazed Ali Mia who is a senior official of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

Said Hasanul Haq Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal regarding the abstention by leaders of some political parties, "whatever may be the differences, this is undesirable behaviour. This is beyond democratic norms".

The swearing-in ceremony began with recitation from the Holy Quran. Then the Acting President administered oath to Begum Zia. The audience welcomed the new Prime Minister with applause.

Eleven cabinet ministers were then administered oath of office. They are: Mirza Gohar Hafez, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Maj Gen (ret'd) Majidul Haq, Col (ret'd) A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, Saifur Rahman, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Keramat Ali, M.K. Anwar, Shamsul Islam Khan and Chowdhury Kamal-ibne-Yusuf.

The Acting President then administered oath to 21 state ministers. They are: Sheikh Razzak Ali, Tariqul Islam, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Shamsul Islam, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Zamruddin Sircar, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Abdullah Al-Noman, Mirza Abbas, Abdul Mannan, Kabir Hossain, Mujibur Rahman, Principal Yunus Khan, Nurul Huda, Anwar Ali Siddiqui, Osman Ghani Khan, Lutfar Rahman and Prof Abdul Mannan.

The whole ceremony took only 20 minutes. After exchanging greetings with the Acting President, her cabinet colleagues, diplomats, senior civil and military officials Begum Zia left Bangabhaban. She visited the Central Shaheed Minar, the Jatiya Shaheed Smriti Saudha at Savar and the mazar of shahed President Ziaur Rahman. She was accompanied by a number of ministers.

**Ershad hopes**

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ing any comment on the installation of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia as Prime Minister saying that he was not aware of the political situation of the country as the was under detention.

Ershad listened to the arguments of lawyers very attentively. At one stage he sought papers from his lawyer and gave some points to tell before the court by writing on notesheets at the dock. He was carrying his watch, his spectacles and a pen along with him.

During the hearing Ershad's counsel made some remarks which were not relevant to the case. At this stage he smiled.

Ershad also did not miss the chance to talk with the Attorney General. The Attorney General raised legal points against quashing charges which probably drew the attention of Ershad. After the adjournment of court he did not spare the opportunity to have a talk with the Attorney General, who earlier intended to leave the post.

After the February 27 elections Attorney General Aminul Haq went to the Acting President to tender his resignation. Aminul Haq said he had been the Attorney General because of his affiliation to Awami League and the post-election scenario was not conducive for him to continue as Attorney General.

The matter was brought to the notice of Khaleda Zia who at that time went to meet Acting President Justice Shahabuddin at President's Secretariat.

Khaleda Zia said she had full confidence in him and asked him to continue.

**Strike paralyzes Kashmir**

JAMMU, Mar 20: Kashmir was paralyzed today by a general strike called by anti-Indian Muslim militants to protest a security crackdown in the troubled valley, officials and witnesses said, reports AFP.

The strike forced the closure of shops, schools, banks and private and public sector businesses.

Vehicles stayed off roads, deserted except for security patrols, and officials in Kashmir's winter capital said absenteeism at government offices was high.

The strike, sponsored by several outlawed secessionist groups, also diverted attention from the withdrawal of a daytime curfew imposed by security forces in downtown areas of Srinagar on Saturday.

Srinagar is a centre of secessionist activity and massive house-to-house searches by police and troops during the curfew, which preceded the beginning of the Muslim holy

**Tension mounts further on DU campus as Ashim Ukil chased**

By DU Correspondent

Tension further mounted in the Dhaka University campus on Wednesday following an incident of chasing Ashim Kumar Ukil, General Secretary of Chhatra League (BCL).

A large number of students, driven out of their halls, were still staying outside.

Campus sources said, around two thirds of the residents of Sir Salmullah Hall left their rooms due to lack of security. Most of them are not directly involved in politics, the sources added.

Leaders of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) as per the decision of Tuesday's meeting were supposed to take measures for the return of the driven out students to their respective halls.

The attempt failed when BCL leader Ashim Kumar Ukil was, chased by the rival group on Wednesday in the Arts Building area at about 1.30 pm.

The BCL workers brought out a procession in the campus protesting the incident.

month of Ramzan, turned up more than 1,000 suspects.

But officials in the state administration said most were released after questioning, and only 265 suspects were still being held.

Militants, who also called the strike to protest the alleged rape of several village women by security forces last month used the occasion to mourn Ishaq Majid, a prominent Muslim militant killed in a gunbattle with police exactly one year ago.

Violence connected to the nearly three-year-old secessionist campaign has left more than 2,100 people dead since January 1990 in Kashmir, the only Indian state with a Muslim majority.

Reuter adds: The Indian Defence Ministry described the rape charges, the latest and most dramatic of atrocity allegations against the thousands of Indian security men fighting a separatist campaign, as "malicious and untrue."

The strike was called in response to a report by Human Rights activists on charges by

women in Kunon Poshpora that 500 drunken soldiers invaded the village and gang-raped women last month.

The activists, led by retired Chief Justice Mufti Bahauddin Farooqi, said they interviewed 53 women who alleged they had been raped on the night of February 23.

His team, accompanied by reporters, was told the troops arrived late at night, herded the village men into a granary and raped women aged between 18 and 80.

Kashmiri officials said the charges were being investigated.

PTI adds: Security forces guarding the Nowgam residence of former union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, were attacked by militants this morning, official sources said. However, there was no report of loss of life in the incident, the sources added.

A bullet-riddled body of a person identified as Ghulam Ahmed Wani was picked up by police in Berrwah in Badgam district last evening.

**Portfolios**

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Anwar: Shipping, Shamsul Islam Khan: Industry and Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf: Health and Family Planning.

State ministers:

Sheikh Razzak Ali: Law and Justice, Tariqul Islam: Social Welfare and Women Affairs, Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain: Energy and Mineral Resources, Barrister Rafiqul Islam: Labour and Manpower, Mohammad Shamsul Islam: Post and Telecommunications, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan: Jute, Barrister Zamruddin Sircar: Land, Barrister Nazmul Huda: Food, Major (Ret'd) A. Mannan: Textile, Abdullah Al Noman: Environment and Forest, Fisheries and Livestock, Mirza Abbas: Youth and Sports, Abdul Mannan: Civil Aviation and Tourism, Kabir Hussain: LGRD and Cooperatives, Mujibur Rahman: Finance, Principal Yunus Khan: Education, Mohammad Nurul Huda: Information, Anwar Ali Siddique: Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Resources, Osman Gani Khan: Establishment, Lutfar Rahman: Relief, and Prof Abdul Mannan: Religious Affairs.

**15 held in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, Mar 20: The Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) rounded up 15 persons on various charges from different areas of the city Wednesday, a CMP press release said, reports BSS.

**Attorney General obstructed**

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nothing. He said that the officials who passed the order should be called at once, but they did not turn up until 11.45 a.m.

Assistant Commissioner of Police S. Barua then apologised to the Attorney General and requested him to wait for the arrival of higher police officials.

Later, Additional Inspector General of Police Azizul Haque and D.M.P. Commissioner Shahjahan also came and apologised.

Attorney General demanded a spot decision against the security officials who had obstructed his car and misbehaved with him.

The police officials with the Attorney General entered the room of the Judge Mohammad Habbullah.

The Judge was also furious over the behaviour of the security officials. He refused to listen to the police officers and put in said, "What I will say, I will say in the Court. I will now assemble the Court".

And it seemed that he was about to bring a charge of contempt of Court against the concerned securitymen which carries punishment for upto six months.

Later the AIG and the Police Commissioner negotiated a settlement with Attorney

General, who requested the Judge not to draw any proceedings. However the police officials, who misbehaved with Attorney General were withdrawn.

As per law, the Judge, the Attorney General, the Public Prosecutor and the Defense Counsel are part of the court and any sort of obstruction on them is subject to contempt of court.

Security official also obstructed the car of the Judge of the Tribunal from entering the Court premises on Tuesday.

The incident was however instantly settled by the personal guard of the Judge.

The security officials also misbehaved with the Press Photographers on Tuesday as they were waiting to photograph Ershad outside the court premises.

A high ranking police official blasted the press photographers himself on Feb 16 outside the court. The matter was solved when some senior journalists intervened.

After settlement of the disputes the Court resumed at 12.20 pm. Ershad was brought to the courtroom and put in the dock. He wore the same full-sleeved safari suit as the previous day.

He sent a note to the defence lawyer from the dock at

one stage when the arguments were proceeding.

After the hearing, the Judge recessed the Court to prepare his judgment.

Ershad talked to journalists for two minutes during the recess.

After the recess he again talked with the Attorney General.

He told him, "I have heard you are trying to leave the post of Attorney General."

Attorney General replied: "I tried to leave the post but they are not leaving me". "Have I met you before" asked Ershad. Aminul Haq replied, "we met once at a marriage function".

**APSU rally today**

By DU Correspondent

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) will hold a rally today at the Aparajeya Bangla premises of Dhaka University to press home their 10-point demand.

The 10 points include immediate trial of the deposed President Ershad and his associates, freedom of speech and the press, separation of judiciary from the administration, repeal of all black laws and some other demands related to education.



Deposed President Ershad was caught in the camera of the Star staff photographer when he was being escorted to the Special Judge Court on Wednesday, where he is facing the charge of amassing wealth.

**Breach of pledge**

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Sheikh Hasina in the chair in a resolution said the Joint Declaration issued by the three alliances pledged for transfer of power to a sovereign parliament. Formation of the Council of Ministers with members from a particular party simply bypassed the framework of the Joint Declaration and the national demand.

The meeting expressed its firm belief that the issue of transfer of power to a sovereign parliament was not the demand of Awami League alone. Rather, the responsibility of ensuring transfer of power to a sovereign parliament and taking initiative for necessary constitutional amendment in this respect lies with the party having majority, the meeting observed.

The resolution said Awami League was determined to block for good the chances of the revival of autocracy and for this it was reminding all parties concerned the pledge given to the nation by the three alliances including Awami League and BNP.

tion of the parliamentary system of government and transferring power to a sovereign parliament. Otherwise, it said, the concerned party would be answerable to the nation for breaching the pledge given to the nation. Awami League on its part would continue its struggle taking people with them for the establishment of sovereign parliament and parliamentary system of government, it added.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary of Awami League, said the formation of the Council of Ministers with members of a single party did not reflect the spirit of the Joint Declaration of the three alliances.

Talking to The Daily Star on Wednesday night, AL leader said the whole nation was pledge-bound to implement the modalities mentioned in the Joint Declaration.

About future action plan of Awami League, Begum Sajeda said the issue was discussed in the extended meeting of the party. The meeting has been adjourned till today and the issue will come up for discussion again. The decision will be made public after the meeting, she said.

The meeting still hoped that good sense would prevail on the concerned party. It further expressed the hope that the concerned party would take necessary constitutional initiative for the reintroduc-

**Ershad charged for amassing wealth**

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was recovered from the residence of Ershad had been demanded by the Jatiya Party and in this connection a money suit was filed by the Jatiya Party's Acting General Secretary.

Attorney General Aminul Haque disputed all the points and convinced the court that the case should not be quashed or stopped and that all allegations are tenable to the Court under the existing laws.

The Attorney General and Special Public Prosecutor said that Ershad used to draw salary and remuneration as per law of the land while he was President and as such he could be treated as a public servant.

He said that permission from the enquiry commission was not necessary to file a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

On the money suit by the Jatiya Party the Attorney General said that it was not related to the case for which Ershad was charged.

The Judge of the Special Court in his two and half page judgement rejected the Defense Counsel's prayer and read out the charges.

The charges against Ershad

are: 1. Receipt of a large number of gifts worth Taka 11,25,000 which he was to have deposited in the Toshakhana. But without doing so he fraudulently retained those gifts for his personal use thereby committing a criminal misconduct.

2. Recovery of Taka 1,90,81,565, which he acquired beyond his known sources of income from his house and had committed a criminal misconduct as a public servant.

The case was filed by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption in December 1990. The Case No. is Special Case 7/91.

**First task**

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She said during nine years of movement and the recent elections her party pledged to work for ensuring development of the country to improve the lot of the people.

She told a questioner that she was ready to take an initiative to invite the leaders of Awami League and the 8-party Alliance to work together.

**The Midnight File**

**Meningitis claims 120 in Uganda**

KAMPALA, Mar 20: A legislator Wednesday said an outbreak of meningitis had killed over 120 people in his northern Uganda constituency. Ambrose Okullu, a member of Parliament from Kitung, said health clinics had a shortage of medicine with which to treat the disease. The region is adjacent to southern Sudan where another outbreak of meningitis was reported early this month, reports AP.

**10 killed in Beirut**

BEIRUT, Mar 20: Ten people were killed in a car-bomb attack today that targeted Lebanese Defence Minister Michel Murr, officials said. Mr. Murr was among 20 people injured in the blast, which occurred in a Christian suburb north of Beirut, reports AFP.

**Soviet spy deported from NZ**

WELLINGTON, Mar 20: New Zealand has deported a Soviet secret agent who arrived on a forged British passport and tried to establish a new identity using the name of a dead man, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said today. Soviet Ambassador Yuri Sikolov said the case, the third time a Soviet citizen has been thrown out of New Zealand since 1980, was purely a misunderstanding over a man trying to emigrate illegally, reports Reuter.

**Census in Pakistan postponed**

NEW DELHI, Mar 20: Pakistan has indefinitely postponed the 1991 census due to begin this month in view of a highly explosive political situation in Sindh. The government faces a dilemma with major political parties accusing it of inflating population figures in the initial head count, reports PTI.

**China executes 32 criminals**

BEIJING, Mar 20: A city in southern China executed 32 criminals in a two-month period, leaving its residents "elated", a local newspaper received here today said. Authorities in Shaoyang, in Hunan province, uncovered 1,063 criminal cases, broke up 67 gangs and arrested 837 criminals from mid-December to February, the official Hunan legal news said, reports AFP.

**US downs Iraqi plane violating truce**

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: President George Bush today vowed that any more Iraqi planes guilty of violating the temporary ceasefire in the Gulf will be shot down, but said he did not expect future incidents, reports Reuter.

If other planes violate the agreement they will be shot down", Bush said while posing for pictures with visiting Polish President Lech Walesa. "I don't expect that to happen", Bush said.

A US warplane shot down an Iraqi jet fighter near Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit earlier today. The downed aircraft was one of a pair of Soviet-supplied SU-22s that took off in violation of provisional ceasefire terms under which the United States and its allies suspended offensive action against Iraq on February 28.

Bush, chatting with the Polish leader, refused to respond directly to reporters' questions about the air action near Tikrit but told Walesa, "one of the Iraqi planes violated the agreement and it was shot down".

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the incident did not mark a resumption of the Gulf war, temporarily halted by Bush after six weeks of fighting.

Editor: S. M. Ali