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Portfolios

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has distributed the portfolios among the ministers and state ministers who were sworn in here yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

The portfolios are as follow:
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina: Armed Forces Division, Cabinet Division, Special Affairs, Defence Ministry, Information Ministry, Shipping Ministry, Planning Ministry, Environment and Forest Ministry, Jute Ministry, Textiles Ministry, Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, Land Ministry, Labour and Manpower Ministry, Establishment Ministry and Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

Abdus Samad Azad: Foreign Ministry;
Md Zillur Rahman: LGRD and Co-operative Ministry;
S A M S Kibria: Finance Ministry;
A S H K Sadek: Education Ministry, Primary and Mass Education Division and Science and Technology Ministry;
Abdur Razzak: Water Resources Ministry;
Tofael Ahmed: Commerce Ministry and Industry Ministry;
Nooruddin Khan: Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Ministry;
Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam BU: Home Ministry;
Mohammad Nasim: Post and See Page 12 col 6



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina taking oath as Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at Bangabhaban yesterday. — Star photo

Hasina sworn-in as PM: 19 ministers take oath

'Time for peace, progress'

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP), was sworn-in as Prime Minister yesterday.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas administered the oath of office to the new prime minister at a solemn ceremony at the Darbar Hall of the Bangabhaban at 5-30 pm.

After swearing-in of the new prime minister, the President administered oath to eleven ministers and eight ministers of state at the largely attended function that coincided with the AL's 47th founding anniversary.

The ceremony began with playing of the national anthem, followed by recitation from the holy Quran.

The 48-year-old Hasina, wearing an off-white silk saree and a black headscarf solemnly recited the words of the oath of office and secrecy amid glare of flash lights and clicking of cameras.

Confident and lively Hasina then smiled at the audience at the packed Darbar Hall which bust into clapping and applause.

After the oath-taking, she exchanged pleasantries with

the President and then signed the oath of office and oath of secrecy.

Talking briefly to journalists, she called for calm and restraint by all and sought cooperation of the opposition political parties for consolidation of democracy and well-being of the people.

"It is the victory of the people who sacrificed a lot to establish their right to vote. Now is the time for devoting ourselves to developing the country maintaining peace and order."

Referring to BNP, the largest opposition in the Parliament, she said, "We two worked together in our long struggle for restoration of democracy and I hope if we work unitedly we will be able to lead the country to its desired goal."

Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had led the country to independence, is the tenth prime minister and the second woman prime minister of Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had ruled

Khaleda sends bouquet to Hasina

BNP chairperson and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of the office of Prime Minister, reports UNB.

In a written message yesterday, Begum Zia extended on behalf of BNP and on her own behalf sincere greetings and best wishes to Hasina for taking oath as the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

"I wish you success and good health. May Allah bless you," the BNP chairperson said.

BNP joint secretary general Selima Rahman and JASAS leader Emran Saleh Prince took Begum Zia's message of greetings and a bouquet to Hasina's Dhanmondi residence at 8:15 pm yesterday.

The new Prime Minister was not present at the house at that time and the BNP delegation waited there for some time to meet with her.

Later, on being informed that Hasina might be late in returning home as she was busy in a function, Begum Zia's emissaries handed over the letter and the bouquet to S M Kamal Hossain, the only Awami League leader present at the house.

The two emissaries of Begum Zia were entertained with sweets at the new prime minister's house.

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MPs-elect take oath today

BNP to make party an effective Opposition

By Nurul Kabir

The MPs-elect of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are scheduled to take oath today at 5:00 pm, according to a high official of the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will administer the oath at the Sangsad Bhaban.

With 116 members elected to the Parliament in the June 12 general elections, the BNP has emerged as the largest ever opposition party in the Parliament.

Meanwhile, sources close to the BNP high command told this correspondent yesterday that the leadership was planning to make the party an "effective" Opposition in Parliament while also thinking



President Abdur Rahman Biswas administering oath to 11 cabinet ministers at Bangabhaban yesterday. — Star photo

AL wants to work together with BNP

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has felicitated Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the main opposition party in the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad, and said that she was looking forward to work with the BNP in consolidating democracy in the country.

Giving her instant reaction to newsmen soon after taking oath as the 10th Prime Minister of Bangladesh yesterday, Sheikh Hasina said, "We two worked together in our long struggle for restoration of democracy in the country and I hope if we work unitedly we will be able to lead the country to its desired goal and advance the journey of democracy."

Talking to the newsmen at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban, the new Prime Minister urged the BNP chief to accept the peoples' verdict.

BNP has emerged the largest ever opposition in parliament bagging 116 seats in the 300-seat Jatiya Sangsad in the June 12 elections.

Replying to a question whether the inclusion of a Jatiya Party leader in her cabinet meant that she was heading a coalition government.

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Business
With transparent policies, country's economic growth should reach 7 pc, WB Resident Mission chief tells
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Govt proposes extension of CHT ceasefire

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 23: The government has sent a letter to Shantibahini leaders with a proposal for further extension of the on-going ceasefire in the Chittagong Hill Tracts up to September 30, highly placed sources said.

The on-going ceasefire is due to expire on June 30.

The government's Special Affairs Division sent the letter recently through Hangshadaz Chakma, convenor of the Liaison Committee, the sources said.

But Shantibahini leaders were yet to give any reply, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the eight Shantibahini men who surrendered to the security forces recent months, told a press conference at Chittagong cantonment today that they laid down arms being disgusted with jungle-life, intra-party rivalry and due to frustration

Nation will ever remember role of caretaker govt: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the nation would ever remember with gratitude the important role played by the caretaker government in holding a free, fair and neutral election and helping project correctly the mandate of the people despite many hindrances, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina was talking to the members of the Advisory Council whom she met before leaving Bangabhaban following her swearing-in as prime minister of the country.

I feel good: CA
Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday said he was feeling good and relieved after the fulfillment of the responsibilities reposed in him and his council of advisers.

He said now a newly elected government has been installed

Democracy will flourish further, hopes President

Objective of constituting caretaker govt attained

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his firm hope that democracy and democratic values will flourish further with the installation of the new government in the country, reports BSS.

"I am very much hopeful that a new horizon of development process will be opened up and democracy and democratic values will flourish more during the tenure of the new government," he said in an address to the nation over Radio and Television yesterday evening.

"Today I am happy to inform you that the objective of constituting a caretaker government through the 13th Amendment of the Constitution has been successful," he

said in a speech.

The President said, "The majority party has formed the government on the basis of an acceptable election with the turnout of more than 73 per cent voters."

President Biswas said there was no lapse on his part in discharging his responsibilities neutrally as the President in holding the elections.

He expressed his gratitude to the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government, advisers, Chief Election Commissioner, election commissioners and all concerned officials and employees with the polls process including the members of Armed Forces, police, BDR and Ansars.

The President also thanked

Another batch of MPs-elect takes oath

The members of Parliament (MP)-elect from the Jatiya Party (JP), the Awami League, the Jamaat-i-Islami and the IOJ were sworn in separately at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday morning.

All MPs-elect of the JP and its leader H M Ershad, who was released on parole for the occasion, took their oaths at around 10:00 am.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administered the oaths to them at the Committee Room No. 1.

Later the Speaker administered oaths to 11 more from AL who were declared elected after repolling. The AL MPs-elect were administered oaths at the Speaker's chamber.

The Speaker also administered oaths to three MPs-elect from the Jamaat and the lone IOJ MP-elect in his chamber separately.

DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	976.19 (+0.89%)
Market capital Tk	6628.38 cr
Transactions in volume	238252
Transactions in value Tk	9.06 cr

CSE MARKET	
CSE price index	405.85 (+0.25%)
Market capital Tk	3951.57 cr
Transactions in volume	2990
Transactions in value Tk	13.05 lakh

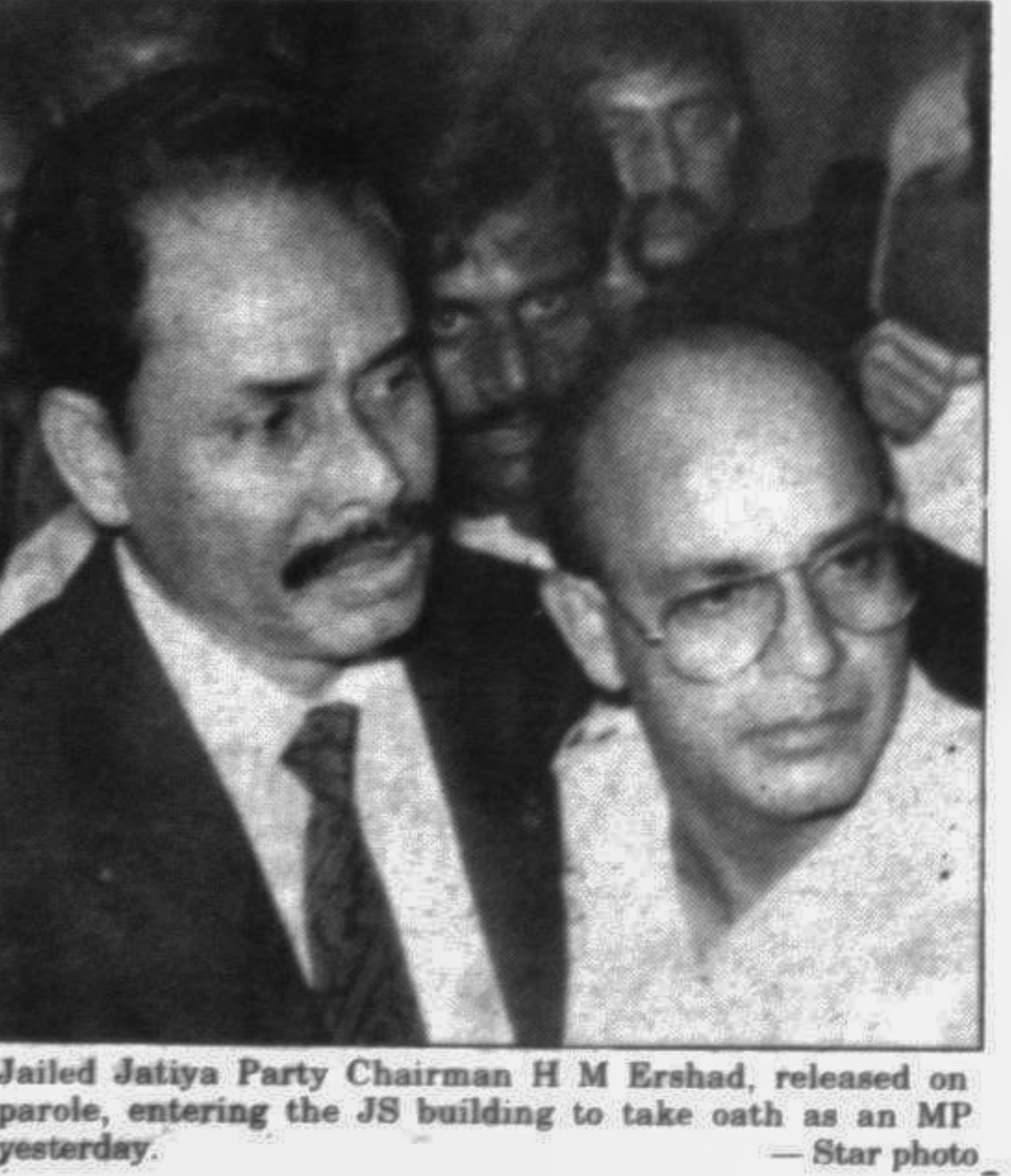
NEWS BRIEFS

Add AG Wadud Bhuiyan resigns
Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan yesterday submitted his resignation as Additional Attorney General "on personal ground". It was learnt, reports BSS.

Earlier on Saturday Attorney General M Nurullah and another additional attorney general Abdul Wadud Khondker had tendered resignations.

Official result of Comilla-3
The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced the official result of Comilla-3 constituency, according to a gazette notification, reports BSS.

I am no angel, says Ershad



Former president and the jailed Jatiya Party (JP) leader H M Ershad said that he would have apologised to the people if he was allowed to address the nation over Radio and Television prior to the elections.

Ershad came out on parole for a few hours yesterday morning, and was sworn-in as an MP along with his wife Raushan Ershad and other MPs-elect of his party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Prior to his swearing-in, Ershad was talking to newsmen in the committee room-1 of the Sangsad Bhaban.

"I might have committed mistakes though unknowingly," said Ershad in an emotional voice referring to his nine years' long rule which ended in a popular upsurge in 1990 and added, "I am no angel.... to err is human."

Giving his reaction about the June 12 elections, Ershad said "It is a victory for all," and added that his party had no complaints.

Dressed immaculately, a beaming Ershad said, "I feel better breathing in the free air after a long time," giving his

Aid level can be maintained if reforms continue: WB

By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir

Bangladesh will be able to maintain the level of aid that it had in the past, if the reform programme is implemented, said the World Bank (WB) mission chief in Dhaka.

"I do not say that there is necessarily going to be an increase in aid because the overall availability of aid is less now than it was in the past. But, Bangladesh is very well placed if it now carries forward its reform programme to make a substantial claim on the available aid resources," said Pierre Landell-Mills in an interview with The Daily Star last week.

About the economic policy of Awami League, which emerged as the largest party in parliament, Landell-Mills said that the party has oriented its policy towards the reform agenda particularly free enterprise, liberalised economy, with a big role for the private sector supported by public sector services which encouraged investment.

"He said that the Bank is 'very impressed' by the party's commitment to improve the

functioning of the parliament, to make it more responsive to the public, more client oriented, more accountable, and more transparent.

Talking about the most important preoccupation of the new government, he said introduction of a new budget is needed immediately which will bring macro-economic stability.

"Without this, it would be very difficult to carry out the programmes which she has indicated she wants to carry out," observed the WB chief.

Asked about the AL's pledge to give subsidy to the agricultural sector, he said AL is very concerned to provide assistance to the farmers "which is correct".

"But our experiences show providing subsidies has a lot of problems because subsidies rarely reach the poor farmers. They are skimmed by the intermediaries to make high profits," he observed.

So subsidy is not a very effective way of helping the small or poor farmers, Landell-

PM to meet diplomats today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will meet the heads of diplomatic missions based in Dhaka today, according to official sources.

The meeting will take place at the Prime Minister's Office at 5:30 pm.

The Prime Minister is expected to brief the diplomats about the foreign policy of the new government, based on the already established principles of 'friendship towards all and malice towards none' and seek the continued support and goodwill of all countries.

Newly appointed Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, who was also the first foreign minister of independent Bangladesh and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury will be present on the occasion.