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**PHILIPS**

## Effective opposition

From page 1

tion of Awami League's election pledges like scrapping of the Special Powers Act, autonomy to the state-run media, and realisation of the share of Ganges water.

When asked how much the party could deliver while its members had no experience as opposition MPs, another BNP leader said, "Opposition does not mean that they must be demagogic." Listing a good number of MPs-elect for the job, he said the leadership was confident that the party would be a very effective Opposition in Parliament.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, a former BNP minister told The Daily Star, "The BNP which has freed multi-party democracy from the clutches of one-party rule will prove itself a crusader for democracy in the present Parliament." He said that the BNP would explore all the avenues of parliamentary democracy to serve the nation from the Opposition benches.

"but we will keep the option of going to the streets open."

We shall also move bills in the House in the light of our last election pledges," another senior BNP leader said, adding that they would also try to play an effective role in the parliamentary standing bodies, "provided the Awami League allows the Opposition to work in the committees."

Meanwhile, it was gathered that a section of the mid-ranking BNP leaders were planning

to seek replacement of the 'second layer' of the party leadership, especially the stalwarts who were defeated in the last polls, with some new faces.

"It is high time for us to gear up the party activities across the country. The old leadership has lost confidence of the party rank and file," an MP elect of the BNP said. Another MP-elect of the party quipped: "We need new leadership not because of the fact that the party stalwarts have been defeated in the polls. It is necessary mainly because they have damaged the image of the party."

However, an influential BNP leader told this correspondent last night that party Chairperson Khaleda Zia herself seemed to have been convinced about the necessity of changes in the 'second layer' of the organisation. "But there is no haste in making the changes," he said.



Eight ministers of state taking oath at the Bangabhaban yesterday. — Star photo

## JP will extend unconditional support to AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (JP) at its Parliamentary Party meeting yesterday decided not to form coalition with the government but extend unconditional support to the ruling party, said Anwar Hossain Manju, the secretary general of the party, while briefing newsmen at the Sangsad Bhaban.

Anwar Hossain Manju, the lone JP representative, joined the cabinet later in the evening. He was sworn in at Bangabhaban, along with other members of the Awami League's Council of Ministers.

Manju told The Daily Star last night "the JP has joined the government of consensus and not coalition". About the JP stance, he referred to South Africa saying, "this is not new" in world politics.

Asked whether they would be joining the Treasury Bench, Manju said, "The JP would be sitting on the Opposition benches."

The first parliamentary party meeting of the JP was held at the Committee Room-1 of the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday soon after the party MPs were administered oath by the Speaker.

HM Ershad, the jailed JP chief who was released on parole for swearing as MP, presided over the meeting and was unanimously elected leader of the parliamentary party, Manju added. In the absence of Ershad, Anwar Hossain Manju will be the acting leader of the JP parliamentary party.

## Time for peace: Hasina

From page 1

the war-ravaged new-born country for three years and eight months after independence, was assassinated in a military putsch on August 15, 1975.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas earlier appointed the Prime Minister, 11 ministers and eight state ministers under Clause 56 (2) of the Constitution.

Eleven ministers of the new cabinet are: Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Shah A M S Kibria, A H K Sadek, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Maj Gen (ret'd) Nooruddin Khan, Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam — all from Awami League and Anwar Hossain Manju — the lone minister from Jatiya Party.

Eight state ministers are: Dr Mozammel Hossain, Satish Chandra Roy, Obaidul Kader, Alfaruddin Ahmed, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Kaiser, Alhaj Sayed Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Maulana Md Nurul Islam, Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru.

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina, along with senior party leaders and MPs, came to the Bangabhaban at 5:20 pm.

Former Chief Advisor Justice Habibur Rahman, Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, advisors of the out-going caretaker government, Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hussain, A S M Rab of JSD, senior AL leaders and MPs, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, chiefs of the three services, diplomats, high officials, noted literateurs and artists, elite of the city and local and foreign journalists were present at the swearing-in ceremony conducted by Cabinet Secretary Md Ayubur Rahman.

Former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, whose Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) became the second-largest party in the 7th parliament, was, however, conspicuous by her absence from the function. Also, none from Jamaat-e-Islami was seen there.

Sheikh Hasina's scientist husband Dr Wazed Mia, son Joy and daughter Putul and Putul's husband as well as a host of relatives of the new premier were also present at the ceremony.

## Hasina

From page 1

after the successful holding of free and fair national elections. Rahman said this when asked about his feelings after the oath-taking ceremony of the new government headed by Sheikh Hasina at Bangabhaban was over.

Rahman said they had left some recommendations for the elected government which it could consider.

## Portfolios

From page 1

Telecommunications Ministry; Matia Chowdhury: Agriculture Ministry; Food Ministry and Disaster Management and Relief Ministry.

Anwar Hossain: Communications Ministry.

Portfolios of the state ministers:

Dr Mozammel Hossain: Women and Children Affairs Ministry and Social Welfare Ministry.

Satish Chandra Roy: Fisheries and Livestock Ministry; Obaidul Kader: Youth and Sports Ministry and Cultural Affairs Ministry.

Md Abul Hasan Chowdhury: Foreign Ministry.

Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain: LGD and Co-operatives Ministry.

Maulana Md Nurul Islam: Religious Affairs Ministry.

Alfaruddin Ahmed Khan: Housing and Public Works Ministry.

Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru: Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry.

## Photo journalists lathicharged

By Staff Correspondent

Some 20 photo journalists were baton charged by police in front of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) building yesterday morning.

According to witnesses, the police began lathicharging the photo journalists when they tried to enter the Sangsad Bhaban to cover the oath taking ceremony of the MPs.

The 20 photo journalists, representing major national dailies, were prevented by the security forces from entering parliament.

The photo journalists were not given passes by the Press Information Department to enter the Sangsad Bhaban. They asked the police ADC present at the Sangsad gate to arrange their entry into the Parliament building in consultation with the Secretary of the JS.

But the police started lathicharging injuring all the photo journalists. Among them were: Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) General Secretary A K M Mohsin, Shawkat Jamil, Piroze, Yusuf Saad and Bulbul Ahmed.

Later, the Police Commissioner came to the spot and expressed his regrets over the untoward incident.

## AL wants

From page 1

Hasina said, "No, it's not. Our's is a government of national consensus."

The new Prime Minister conveyed her greetings to the people and said, "I am now reminded of those who shed their blood for the cause of democracy. My aim is now to do good to the people."

Sheikh Hasina urged the people, who were waiting eagerly to celebrate this day, not to be overjoyous and maintain peace and tranquility in the country.

She reiterated that after taking the office of the Prime Minister her first and foremost task would be the improvement law and order.

## The Midnight File

### Arab summit ends

CAIRO, June 23: Arab leaders closed their historic summit in Cairo today after a brief afternoon session, issuing a strong statement demanding that Israel trade land for peace. After a speech by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the summit participants left the conference table to embrace and shake hands, reports AFP.

### Hasina meets Shahabuddin, Habibur Rahman

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a courtesy call on former acting president and head of 1991 caretaker government Justice Shahabuddin and the outgoing Chief Advisor Muhammad Habibur Rahman at their respective residences in the city yesterday evening, reports BSS.

After placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Hasina went to the residence of Justice Shahabuddin.

Justice Shahabuddin and Mrs. Shahabuddin welcomed the Prime Minister, her husband, nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah, and newly-appointed minister Abdur Razzak Tofael Ahmed and Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, who had accompanied Sheikh Hasina during the visit.

Later Sheikh Hasina, along with her husband, drove to the Minto road residence of Muhammad Habibur Rahman. Mr and Mrs. Rahman warmly received the guests and presented bouquet to the PM.

Rahman introduced members of his family to Sheikh Hasina. Let us have a Chinese tea, Justice Rahman told Sheikh Hasina who accepted the invitation.

### CEC thanks people

Chief Election Commission (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday congratulated the people from all walks of life for successful completion of the election in 300 parliamentary constituencies, reports BSS.

In a statement, Hena said that the support and participation of the people, their awareness and spontaneous participation were the main reasons behind this success.

He also thanked the President, the Chief Advisor of the non-party caretaker government and the members of the advisory council for extending cooperation to the Election Commission in making election a success.

He also thanked the leaders and workers of all political parties for showing respect to the electoral laws.

### Truce in CHT

From page 1

gency of the Santibahini was misguiding the people of the tribal communities as its ideals and goal are far from the reality.

They further said that most of the tribal insurgents were eager to give up insurgency and return to normal life but Santibahini leaders kept strict watch on them.

### Aid level

From page 1

phant from the start and a big mistake. There is a huge amount of expenditure still outstanding to complete the second outreach canal which needs to be carefully reviewed," he said.

The proposed Shahjalal fertiliser plant had not been properly appraised and justified, he added.

He said power supply, telecommunications, ports, functioning of the courts particularly what relates to economic activities, and functioning of the customs department should be improved immediately.

Outlining the priority areas of the economy, the WB resident chief said, "Achieving macro-economic stability is the top priority, related to that is finding ways of reducing losses of state-owned enterprises because that affects macro-economic stability."

Next is reforming the public sector agencies especially power, water telecommunication and continuing to build and expand the human resource development programme. Landell-Mills said, "I think implementing the decentralisation programmes and local government reform and public sector reform along the lines proposed in our reports are the other priorities," he added.

(Details of the interview on Page 6)

## Ershad: I am no angel

From page 1

reaction about the parole. Expressing optimism about his release from jail, Ershad said he would have been out of jail much earlier "if the law followed its own course."

Nowhere in the world the government appealed in the higher court for enhancement of punishment awarded by the lower court, he noted.

"Our support for the Awami League is unconditional... the support has been extended to the largest party for upholding the Constitution, institutionalising democracy, ensuring prosperity and above all for peace," said Ershad explaining the reason for JP's support to the AL.

He hoped that the new government would be able to restore normalcy in the society and ensure the pace of development.

About the internal rift in the JP, Ershad said confidently, "I am the chairman of the party and my decision is final."

According to officials, Ershad left the Central Jail for

## Rly ferry services

JAMALPUR, June 23: The railway ferry services between Jagannathganj and Sirajganj ghats will be restored on Tuesday after 21 months of suspension. Railway sources said the ferry services were suspended on September 18, 1994 following sharp fall of water level in the river Jamuna, reports UNB.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administered oath to the members of Parliament-elect of the JP including its chief H M Ershad in the same room at 10:00 am. After the end of the swearing-in, the JP held the meeting of its parliamentary party in the same room. The meeting was presided over by Ershad.

On his arrival at the Sangsad Bhaban, scores of employees and staff of the Sangsad Bhaban rushed to see him.

Some photojournalists were assaulted when they tried to enter the Jatiya Sangsad.

Encircled by members of the law enforcing agencies and MPs of the party, Ershad was taken to the second floor of the Sangsad Bhaban building to sign few official papers, after the JPPP meeting.

## Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board Special Notice

One Point Service Centre Started Functioning

For providing better facilities and for improving services to the valued telephone subscribers of Dhaka Metropolitan City, Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board has introduced one point service centre at Ramna Telephone House compound. Following facilities and services will be provided from this centre:

1. Telephone fault management (Receipt of complaint of faulty Telephones and restoration of the same).
2. Solution of problems regarding telephone bills (receipt of telephone bills, arrear bills which has been paid but included in the current bill and problems of non-receipt of bills).
3. Receive payments of telephone bills and Demand Note in cash through the bank situated at the service centre. This will obviate the necessity of issuing Pay Order from Commercial Bank and depositing the same at the post office as was required earlier.
4. Supply of application forms for new telephone connection and receipt of the completed application.
5. Supply of information regarding all kinds of telecom services.

Initially the service centre started functioning on an experimental basis. It will entertain only the telephone complaints of those subscribers of Dhaka Telecom Region 'North' & 'South' who have failed to get any remedy despite complaining at the '18' position and at the concerned camp office. Complaints will be received in the prescribed form available at the centre and no complaint will be received over phone.

One Branch of Bank of Small Industries and Commerce (BSIC) has already started functioning in this centre. This bank will receive cash payments of all sorts of Demand Notes of Telecom services as well as Telephone bills. Banking hours will be from 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM. This new arrangement is in addition to existing payment procedures.

Only one centre is not enough to give proper service to the subscribers of all exchanges of Dhaka Metropolitan City. So a lot of pressure will be on this centre and the valued subscribers' co-operation is sought in this connection. Later on, these facilities will be extended to other places.

**We are at your service**  
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