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Hasina to be sworn in as PM Tuesday

'Grand' alliance lawmakers take oath; AL chief picked as parliamentary party leader, she warns MPs against bad report; Zillur AL's choice for presidency

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, who was unanimously elected majority party leader yesterday, will be sworn in as prime minister Tuesday. Her election by the AL parliamentary party (ALPP) came within hours into oath-taking by the AL-led grand alliance lawmakers in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the afternoon. Zillur Rahman, the veteran AL leader, was picked as the deputy leader. Speaking at a press briefing afterwards, Hasina declared Zillur will be

her party's nominee for presidency. According to the constitution, the 300-member parliament will elect president within 30 days of its first sitting. The grand alliance enjoys a thumping majority as it won 213 out of 299 constituencies that went to polls on December 29. AL alone bagged 230. At the first ALPP meeting, Hasina asked her deputies to work sincerely to make parliament effective and implement AL's electoral manifesto, meeting sources said. In a note of warning, she said she does not want to see any complaint against any of them. Stern actions

would be taken if allegations come against any AL MP, some lawmakers told The Daily Star after the meeting in the parliament building. In a resolution to be sent to Bangabhaban this morning, the ALPP will request President Iajuddin Ahmed to appoint Hasina as the prime minister. The constitution says the president shall appoint as prime minister the member of parliament who commands support of the majority of the lawmakers. Hasina and her prospective cabinet will take the oath of office at Bangabhaban, official residence of the president.

With formation of the new government, the caretaker government's tenure will come to an end. After being sure about the time of oath-taking ceremony, the cabinet division started sending out invitations yesterday evening. It was however yet to be confirmed about the number of cabinet members to be sworn in, said sources in the cabinet division. "We have almost completed our preparations. We were informed of the [oath-taking] date this morning," said a senior official at the cabinet division yesterday.

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Curbing price hike first priority

Says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government's top priorities would be containing the price hike of essentials and maintaining law and order. "Our duty now is to implement our electoral manifesto," she added. She was speaking at a news briefing on her election as leader of the AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP). Hasina sought cooperation of all including the BNP-led four-party alliance in efforts to continue the democratic process and ensure welfare of the people. She directed her deputies to dedicate themselves to fulfilling the promise to have the nation developed by the year 2021.

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Make parliament centre of politics

Sircar urges opposition; opposes street agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday suggested that the opposition should make parliament the centre of politics, rather than movements on the street. "Opposition should not take to the street. As per constitutional rights, the opposition party can wage movement but they should not destroy public properties," Sircar told newsmen at his Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban chamber after officiating the oath-taking ceremony of Awami League (AL) lawmakers. The speaker said the parliament has been having fewer legislators who are fulltime politicians and lawyers. In 1954, the number of lawyer MPs was high and since then the number has been gradually falling. He said he has heard that over 40 percent MPs of this parliament are industrialists and only 10 percent are fulltime politicians. About the AL's majority, the outgoing speaker observed, "If



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Cut ties with war criminals

Sector commanders ask BNP to help try them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) has urged BNP to sever relations with its ally 'war criminals' party Jamaat-e-Islami, and help bringing these criminals to trial. BNP's refusal to meet the demand for trial of war criminals was one of the main causes of its debacle in the December 29 parliamentary election, the forum said. "Sector Commanders Forum hopes that the leadership of BNP will now dissociate itself from Jamaat and assist the process of trying war criminals," SCF leader air vice marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker said in a written statement at a press conference at Liberation

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and the party nominee for presidency Zillur Rahman head for the Parliament Secretariat office after taking oath as lawmakers in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Hasina, Ershad vacate 4 seats for by-election

Khaleda to quit 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-election will be held in six parliamentary constituencies as Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad vacated two seats each before taking oath as member of parliament yesterday, and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is going to vacate two. Hasina won three seats in Monday's parliamentary election, and she retained Gopalganj-3 seat, vacating Rangpur-6 and Bagerhat-1 seats. Ershad also secured three seats, and he retained Dhaka-17, vacating Kurigram-2 and Rangpur-3 seats. Both Hasina and Ershad informed the Election Commission (EC) of their

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BNP, Jamaat go for poll post-mortem

Start blaming each other for stunning debacle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP-led four-party components' frantic efforts to figure out the reasons for their recent election debacle might end up splitting the alliance, as the main components BNP and Jamaat are blaming each other for the shocking defeat. Most of BNP's rank and file believes the issue of Jamaat being popularly known as a party of war criminals pushed the new generation of fresh voters towards rival Awami League (AL)-led camp while Jamaat leaders and activists think the record of unbridled corruption by immediate past BNP ministers and lawmakers brought down the stigma of wholesale rejection on their alliance. BNP insiders said people believe the immediate past four-party alliance government could not take strong steps against militancy on time due to Jamaat's resistance, although the latter has always been denying that it has any-

thing to do with militants. A group of senior BNP leaders, who just got defeated by huge margins in the recent poll, however is trying hard to keep the alliance together. "We lost about 32 percent votes which were cast by young generation first time voters, as the movement against war criminals turned into a serious issue in the pre-election period," a former BNP lawmaker told The Daily Star yesterday. But a Jamaat leader, who was also defeated in the poll, said, "It was a rigged election, although corruption was the main factor in this poll." Asked, which was more of a vital issue in the just concluded election, Jamaat-BNP alliance or corruption, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid told The Daily Star last night, "I want to say, people are not taking into cognisance the propaganda that was conducted against Jamaat before the election."

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2 Jamaat MPs-elect take oath today

BNP, BJP yet to finalise the date

RASHIDUL HASAN

Although the lawmakers-elect of the four-party alliance have decided to take oath, BNP and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) are yet to fix the date for swearing-in. However, a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the four-party combine, said the two lawmakers-elect of the party are likely to take oath today. Meanwhile, BNP asked its party leaders and activists across the country to make necessary preparations for the upcoming upazila polls slated for January 22. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar is ready to administer oath to the lawmakers-elect of the four-party alliance, along with the independent lawmakers-elect today. Several BNP Standing Committee members told The Daily Star that the party's lawmakers-elect will surely take oath but BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is yet to fix the date. The Parliament Secretariat has already invited the lawmakers-elect of the four-party alliance to take oath today.

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Concern over checks by small opposition

Roundtable calls for participatory democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representation of mass people has to be ensured in the next parliament to guarantee accountability of lawmakers and establish participatory democracy in the country, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday. The next parliament will not be effective if parliamentary affairs are conducted on the basis of seat proportion because existence of such a small opposition cannot create the checks and balances required for a functional parliament, they observed. The speakers referred to the eighth parliament during the five-year tenure of the last BNP-led alliance government when 12 of the 52 parliamentary committees did not hold any meeting while the highest number of meetings a committee held was just 12. It takes at least a month to have a bill passed in parliaments in developed countries like the UK while in Bangladesh bills were passed in that parliament within a minute without any

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PHOTO STAR

Locals at Nabagram Road in Barisal yesterday captured and beat up this fishing cat. Forest Department officials and police later rescued the animal. The wild animal was in a critical condition as of 10.00pm last night.

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কোন বিলম্ব মাশুল ছাড়া আপনার পলিসি পুনর্বহাল করুন

গত ৫ বছরে আপনার পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স এর পলিসি কি তামাদি (Lapse) হয়েছে? পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স আপনাকে এক অভূতপূর্ব সুযোগ দিচ্ছে।

আপনি যদি
* জানুয়ারী ৩১, ২০০৯ এর মধ্যে পলিসি পুনর্বহাল (Reinstate) করেন, তাহলে পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স আপনার বকেয়া প্রিমিয়ামের উপর আরোপযোগ্য বিলম্ব মাশুল মওকুফ করবে।
আপনার পলিসি চালু করার জন্য আজই যোগাযোগ করুন পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স-এর প্রধান কার্যালয় ও শাখা অফিসসমূহে। দয়া করে আপনার পলিসি ডকুমেন্ট অথবা পাস বই, অবলিখন চাহিদা ও প্রয়োজনীয় প্রিমিয়াম সাথে নিয়ে আসবেন।

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