

Better power sector

FROM PAGE 1
The good news for the new government is that there are some power projects in the pipeline. In this month three small and three rental power projects totalling 168 MW capacity would go online.

Next month, another 131 MW would be added by three small plants and two rental plants. Besides, two small, two rental plants and the Siddhiganj 105 MW peaking power plant unit-1 would add another 287 MW in March. In May the unit 2 of the Siddhiganj peaking plant would add another 105 MW and in June a 50 MW Sikalbaha plant would be added.

"We have found out that outside interference had severely destroyed working spirit in PDB and other power related bodies," says a top power ministry source.

Since 2001, PDB or the power generating bodies could not make technical decisions as the ministry or even higher authorities were imposing those.

"Officials were not being naturally promoted to higher ranks. All the power related organisations were being headed by the power secretary himself. This is unhealthy. You cannot expect performance from PDB or REB when others are making their decisions," says the source.

No matter how weak an organisation is, outsiders should not make their decision. Under the caretaker government, we stopped that practice. The power secretary no longer heads all the power related organisations. The power units no longer wait for the power ministry instructions. They make their own decisions and inform the ministry," he adds.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), which was created in 2003 under donor pressure but kept inactive, has also been empowered by the caretaker government.

Instead of the power ministry, BERC now decides on power tariff and issuance of power generation licences.

In addition, the caretaker government has approved two vital policies -- Renewable Energy Policy of Bangladesh and Policy Guidelines for Enhancement of Private Participation in the Power Sector, 2008.

Both of these would stimulate wider participation of the private sector.

BNP, allies

FROM PAGE 1
office to settle on the next course of action, said party sources.

"The chairperson has asked us to be at the meeting to discuss how we can play an effective role in the ninth parliament," ABM Ashrafuddin, BNP MP-elect from Laxmipur-4, told The Daily Star over telephone yesterday.

However, the same day Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, former parliamentary affairs adviser to Khaleda Zia, said they would not take oath before January 8.

Speaking at a press conference at his Mohakhali office, he said at Wednesday's meeting they would decide whether to join parliament.

In another development, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami met the BNP chief at her cantonment residence last night.

During the hour-long meeting, the two leaders talked about different post-polls issues including oath-taking.

Earlier in the day, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman told The Daily Star that his party would follow BNP's decision.

The four-party alliance, which won the 2001 election by a landslide, managed to secure only 32 seats against 262 bagged by rival Awami League-led grand alliance in the December 29 general election.

Of its seats, BNP got 29, Jamaat two and Bangladesher Jatiya Party (BJP) one.

Parliament secretariat officials said Speaker Jamiruddin seemed quite upset for not being able to administer oath to the BNP lawmakers-elect.

In the wake of polls debacle in 2001, the AL policymakers were at first confused whether they should take oath. They however thought better of it and decided in favour of taking oath under the then outgoing speaker Abdul Hamid.

Hamid was elected speaker from AL, the majority party in the seventh parliament.

Sircar expected something similar from his party.

He said if the four-party lawmakers-elect opt not to take oath from the CEC in the next three days, they must be sworn in within 90 days since the first sitting of the new parliament to avert their seats falling vacant.

On the first day of oath-taking Saturday, Jamiruddin Sircar administered oath to 259 MPs at a simple ceremony.

Of them, 227 were from AL, 25 from Jatiya Party (JP), two from Workers Party of Bangladesh, three from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and two were independent lawmakers.

Ramna blasts

FROM PAGE 16
who had earlier been arrested and now in jail custody.

The five others are Arif Hasan Suman alias Abdur Razzak, Maulana Akbar Hossain alias Helaluddin, Shahadat Ullah alias Jewel, Maulana Abu Taher and Maulana Abdur Rauf.

At present the murder case is pending with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka.

The bloodbath that took place during Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14, 2001 left 10 people dead and scores injured.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Abu Hena Mohammad Yusuf, also the investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court of Dhaka on November 29 last year.

The IO included names of Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and 13 others in the charge sheets of the cases for committing the offences.

The other accused former deputy minister Abdul Salam Pintu's brother Maulana Mohammad Tajuddin, Maulana Abdul Hannan Sabir, Maulana Shawkat Osman alias Sheikh Farid, Hafez Jahangir Alam Badar, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Hawlader, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Maulana Yahiya and Mufti Abdul Hye have been on the run since the cases were filed against them.

The court had earlier issued arrest warrants against them and an order to attach their properties.

During the investigation of the cases, Hannan, Akbar and Suman gave confessional statements to the magistrates at different times.

Noakhali-1

FROM PAGE 16
order after hearing an appeal filed by Khandaker Ruhul Amin, an independent parliamentary candidate.

Following Ibrahim's writ petition that challenged the EC's decision of cancelling his candidature, the HC vacation bench on December 30 last year directed the commission to accept Ibrahim as a valid nominee of Awami League.

Ruhul Amin yesterday filed the appeal with the bench of the chamber judge to stay the HC order.

HM Ibrahim, an Awami League leader, earlier filed nomination as an independent candidate for contesting from Noakhali-1 constituency.

But he withdrew his candidature after the grand alliance nominated Nurul Islam in the constituency.

Nurul Islam died on December 4 last year. Later, Ibrahim submitted a fresh nomination paper getting Awami League ticket.

The EC on December 14 rescheduled the polls to this constituency for January 12. The returning officer concerned accepted his nomination paper but the EC cancelled his candidature on grounds that he was earlier withdrawn.

Ibrahim filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the EC's decision.

Rizvi sued

FROM PAGE 16
Station to submit a report after an investigation into the matter.

Rizvi's allegation was published in the Daily Jugantor under "Digital Rigging in Election" on January 2.

The statements made by the accused were false, fabricated and concocted and it was intentionally done to undermine the reputation and image of the complainant in the society, Tipu said in his complaint.

Advocate Siddiqu Rahman moved the case on behalf of Tipu.

Dec 29 election

FROM PAGE 16
Commission (EC), the delegation observed various stages of the voting process at 88 polling centres in all six divisions of the country.

Prior to Election Day, the APDP observers were briefed by representatives of the EC, major political parties and domestic monitoring groups.

Based upon their observations, the observers felt that all stakeholders would work together to bring about the next phase of democratic governance, in which all political parties have constructive roles to play.

The APDP observers, however, recommended better dissemination of information on the electoral process to voters and improvement of the process within the polling centre to reduce the length of queues by adopting a simple and standardised procedure.

The Bangladeshi people have been without an elected government for almost two years and the high voter turnout and enthusiasm of voters is an indication of a great desire by the people to participate in the selection of their representatives to the parliament and the formation of a new government, many times over.

Hours after losing Kilinochchi Friday, a Tiger suicide bomber in the capital Colombo killed two people and wounded 36. Six months after a major strategic loss in 1995, the rebels overran an army base and killed 1,200 soldiers.

The observers thanked the EC and all election reporters from the staff at the International Republican Institute for facilitating this election observation mission.

Secretariat ready

FROM PAGE 1

the people and government employees for their cooperation in discharging their duties.

There has been a mixed atmosphere at the Secretariat as ministers are expected to take over, once portfolios are distributed among them at the end of this week, ending the extended tenure of the unelected government.

The ministries were run by advisers and special assistants to the chief adviser since the BNP-led coalition government handed over power to a caretaker government after their tenure ended in October, 2006.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) also bade farewell to Zillur presenting him with a bouquet of flowers at his ministry office.

Activities at the Secretariat have almost come to a standstill as the advisers and special assistants are just signing pending files. They are expected to end tenure by attending tomorrow's oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet at Bangabhaban, officials said.

Indian minister

FROM PAGE 16

"I presume they are state actors or state-assisted actors unless the contrary is proved," he said.

Chidambaram, who took charge of the interior ministry after his predecessor resigned in the wake of the attacks, said the assaults were too well-planned to have been carried out without state assistance.

"Somebody who is familiar with intelligence and commando operation has directed this operation. And that cannot entirely be a non-state actor," he said.

Zillur warned those behind the attacks that the "price they will pay if this is repeated will be an enormous price."

India has previously blamed "elements" in Pakistan for the assaults in late November, saying that the Islamist group Lashkar-e-Taiba trained and equipped the militants who stormed India's financial capital.

Meanwhile, the cabinet division kept cars and residences ready for the would-be cabinet members. "Some 50 cars and 27 residences are ready for the cabinet members," said Cabinet Secretary Abdul Aziz yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.

They thanked each other for their cooperation and hoped that the upcoming government and its ministers would be different from the past ones in terms of attitude and performance.

The whole Secretariat is wearing a new look as the ministry offices are being cleaned and decorated to welcome the new ministers.

Officials of the Secretariat bade farewell to Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Communication and Housing and Public Works Adviser Ghulam Quader and Law and Land Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday.