

FIRST DAY OF GRAND ALLIANCE GOVT



1) Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday, the first day of the new government. 2) Officials and employees of the agriculture ministry greet new Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury at the secretariat. 3) Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi. 4) Officials and employees of the finance ministry greet new Finance Minister AMA Muhith. 5) Foreign Minister Dipu Moni talks with the officials and employees of her ministry. 6) Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad exchanges views with the officials and employees of his ministry. 7) Home Minister Sahara Khatun talks over telephone at her office. 8) Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at his office. 9) Law Minister Shafiq Ahmed talks with officials and employees of his ministry. 10) Officials and employees of the industries ministry greet new Industries Minister Dilip Barua. 11) State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder exchanges views with officials and employees of the ministry. 12) Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism GM Quader talks with officials and employees of his ministry. 13) Minister for Water Resources Ramesh Chandra Sen exchanges views with officials and employees of his ministry. 14) Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque talks with officials and employees of his ministry. 15) Officials and employees of the shipping ministry greet new Shipping Minister Afsarul Amin.

PHOTO: STAR/AJI PID

New govt to take steps to eliminate graft

Hope different organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, professional bodies and members of civil societies yesterday hailed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her 31-member cabinet hoping that her government would be able to fulfil people's aspiration through implementing Awami League (AL) election manifesto. They said the landslide victory of AL-led grand alliance on December 29 parliamentary election has created an opportunity for Hasina and her cabinet to establish 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They also hoped that the grand alliance government will take proper measures for wiping out corruption from all sectors, bringing the price of essentials within the reach of the common people, restoring law and order, and eliminating poverty and illiteracy from the society. In a statement, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad congratulated Hasina on assuming the office as prime minister for the second time. He also hoped that peace, stability and security will be ensured under the leadership of Hasina. Democracywatch, an elec-

tion monitoring organisation, thanked Hasina for giving the women responsibilities for vital ministries like home, foreign and agriculture. Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association, Sammilito Shikshak-Karmochari Parishad, Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association, Bangladesh College-University Teachers Association, and Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association praised Hasina for making Nurul Islam Nahid as minister of education, primary and mass education. Leaders of these organisations also said Nahid is the perfect person for wiping out corruption from education sector. Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad have hailed Captain ABM Tazul Islam for assuming the office as state minister for liberation war affairs. Other organisations that hailed Sheikh Hasina and her new cabinet included Workers Party of Bangladesh, Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Bouddha Jubo Parishad, Post-Graduate Doctors' Association, Bangladesh Nagorik Andolon, Bangladesh Fertiliser Association, Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh,

Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity, Bangladesh Islami Biplabi Parishad, Jatiya Kar Ainjibi Samity, National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisation, Bangladesh Christian Association, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Non-Commando Association, Bangladesh Medical Association, Chandpur Zila Unnayan Sangram Committee, Jatiya Gonotantrik League, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon, Bangladesh Chhatra Andolon, Bangladesh Nurses' Association and Bishwa Kabita Parishad.

Tk 20.72 lakh DWASA bill realised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) yesterday realised Tk 20.72 lakh from bill defaulters from Tejgaon industrial area, Mohakhali and Gulshan. Special magistrate of the DWASA Kazi Wasiuddin led the drive and realised Tk 20.72 lakh out of outstanding Tk 32.1 lakh. DWASA will conduct their next drive in Shyampur, Kadamtali, and Jatrabari area.

Ranglai Mro freed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Traditional leader of Mro community Ranglai Mro was released on bail yesterday after serving around one year in jail. Mro, chairman of the Sulaok Union Parishad of Bandarban, was arrested on February 22, 2008 from his Bandarban residence. He had been arrested in a criminal case under the Arms Act for illegal possession of weapons. A High Court (HC) division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain and Justice Afzal Hossain issued the bail order responding to a petition by his lawyers, says a press release. Lawyers sought release of Mro on humanitarian ground for his emergency medical treatment. They also argued that Mro had been falsely implicated in this case for the interest of a certain vested quarter. Mro was hospitalised the day after his arrest in 2008 and was required to obtain urgent medical treatment for blockages in his arteries. He is yet to receive the treatment. He was again brought to the National Heart Hospital on January 2, but the indigenous leader was kept in bar fetters in the hospital bed. However, bar fetters were later removed after interventions by human rights organisations Ain O Salish Kendra and the National Human Rights Commission.

Programme by students with disabilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from 11 institutions working for physically and mentally challenged students participated in a colourful cultural programme styled 'Cultural programme by the talented disabilities' yesterday. National Association of Sports for the Persons with Disability (NASPD) and ActionAid Bangladesh jointly organised the programme at Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library in the city. The programme was organised to enhance the sense among the students with physical and mental disabilities that they have equal rights in the society. The programme had also an objective to make a platform for the persons with disabilities to make them part of sports, cultural and entertainment programmes.

'Bring young politicians to mainstream politics'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Veteran politicians should facilitate access for young and grassroots-level politicians to mainstream politics in order to ensure a better and participatory democracy in the country, Tulip Siddiq, daughter of Sheikh Rehana, said yesterday. It is time for young people to contribute to politics, she said and called on the veteran leaders to bring changes to traditional politics by involving the young leaders in politics. She also termed young generation the future of the country. Tulip, a Labour Party policy researcher who did her master's in English literature from a college under the University of London, made the call while giving a special talk on 'Bringing About Change: US and Bangladesh Elections-2008' as the key speaker at RC Mojumder Arts auditorium at Dhaka University. DU social science faculty organised the event. Sharing her experiences during the recent US presidential elections, Tulip said the Bangladeshis and the Americans have similar aspirations as both the nations want to see a change and complete democracy. "I talked to people from all



Tulip Siddiq speaks at a talk on 'Bringing about change: US and Bangladesh Elections 2008' at RC Majumdar auditorium of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

walks of life and they said they want to live in a peaceful atmosphere. They seek changes in political culture. They want to get rid of politics of vengeance and violence," Tulip said while talking about December 29 parliamentary elections. Tulip, who is also pursuing a master's degree in government, policy and politics at Kings College in London, thinks that the people have spontaneously cast their votes for Awami League-led grand alliance with a hope for rapid development, more representation of women in parliament and a decrease in the prices of

essentials. "This time the people of Bangladesh have made it clear that they are against fanaticism. So, they rejected the religious fundamentalists in the election," she said, adding that the trial of war criminals must be held, as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has pledged to try them. "People would speak out and take the decision if any elected government does not do what the people want," Tulip said in reply to a question. Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid chaired the session attended by teachers and students.

Bring dynamism to work

Says Dilip Barua

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industry Minister Dilip Barua at a meeting with the officials of the ministry on the first day of his office yesterday laid importance on recent culture created against bribery and corruption. He also gave guidelines to the officials to bring dynamism in work of the ministry. He said to make the government of Sheikh Hasina successful, dynamism in social sector is very important.

Promote tourism industry to boost economy: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader yesterday said he wants to promote the tourism industry to boost economy and ensure development of the country. Bangladesh is the most beautiful country in the world, he said, and urged all to work together to resolve all problems in the tourism sector and make it profitable. The tourism sector can play an important role in development of the country, he said while exchanging views with the officials of his ministry at the secretariat.

My goal is to make country prosperous

Says Rezaul Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land Minister Rezaul Kabir Hira yesterday said his goal is to make the country prosperous under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The newly appointed minister said this while exchanging greetings with the ministry officials on his first day at the office. He said the officials have to work as a team, adding that reducing the suffering of people regarding land-related official tasks would be one of his prime tasks. Remembering the supreme sacrifice of the sons of the soil during the liberation war, he said their souls are looking at the countrymen. So, all of us, from secretary to the field-level officials need to work hard for a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.



Physically and mentally-challenged students perform at a 'Cultural programme by talented students with disabilities' at Shawkat Osman Auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Jamaat greets new govt

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday congratulated the newly formed government for assuming power under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. At a meeting of the central working council, held the party central office with Ameer Maulana Matiar Rahman Nizami in the chair, the party leaders expressed hope that the democratic process would continue in the country, said a press release. The release also said that Jamaat expected the new government would concentrate on solving people's problems and set an example of "democratic tolerance".

Checking prices of essentials first priority: Faruk Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first priority of the government would be to control the prices of essentials, newly appointed Commerce Minister Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan said. As the people have put their trust in the present government, the prices have already started falling and the trend would continue, said Col (ret'd) Faruk, who took over the office yesterday. "I believe that our businessmen are honest. If extortion can be curbed, the businessmen can make profits without increasing prices abnormally. In that case, they would not raise the prices unreasonably," he said.

"I have already talked with businessmen and they have assured me that the prices of essentials will go down further soon," Col (ret'd) Faruk said, adding that stern action would be taken against any businessmen resorting to dubious means. The new commerce minister also sought the cooperation from the media in bringing down the commodity prices.

Workshop on edn

METRO DESK

Northern University Bangladesh organises a daylong workshop for teachers on continuous improvement in quality education at Jamuna Resort today, says a press release.