

18<sup>th</sup>ANNIVERSARY OF  
The Daily Star

## TIME TO TURN A CORNER

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE NEW GOVT

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# Expectations from the new Government

**C**UR 18th anniversary celebrations coincide with Bangladesh's re-starting its democratic journey. A peaceful and well-conducted election, an elected government in charge and a functioning parliament have all created a huge expectation for a future of growth and freedom. The large turnout and the active participation of young and first-time voters testified to a desire for change in our political and economic life.

With the euphoria of victory receding in memory, the hard task of governing the country now stares the new government in the face. With unbridled corruption to check and an economy to rejuvenate that suffers from severe power crisis, acute infrastructure weakness, inefficient and partisan bureaucracy the task before the new government is far from easy.

In addition to the multi-faceted internal challenges that we face, Bangladesh will now have to forge its future in a world that is facing the severest financial crisis in a hundred years. The external assistance, especially in terms of adequate FDI, that we need may not be easily available in the near future.

With our three-part supplement, the first of which we publish today, we have tried to chalk out a road map of how to move the country forward. In all the three sections, to be published in three successive days, we have tried to address the issues likely to be faced by the present government.

In today's section (Part 1) we address the question of what the people expect from this government to provide answers to which we have brought in some of the most famous and eminent minds of the country. In Part 2, to be published tomorrow, we revisit the two year caretaker government experience and evaluate the contributions, positive and otherwise, made by it. Part 3 addresses the global situation without an evaluation of which Bangladesh cannot realistically plan for its immediate and mid term future. All the three parts contain highly insightful write-ups of experts in almost all fields that the present government needs to address. We hope that our policy makers will take due note of the in-depth, highly informative and well-researched articles contained in our three-part supplement.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank our readers, contributors and advertisers for the support and loyalty that they have shown over the last 18 years to make this paper by far the biggest English language daily in country. Without their support and patronisation we could not have come this far.

We hope that our readers, advertisers and patrons will find our humble effort worthy of their attention and time. Thank you.

MAHFUZ ANAM  
Editor & Publisher

EDITOR'S NOTE