



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT

**GATES FLAYS OBAMA**

The ex-Pentagon boss' memoir reveals tension between the White House and military leaders

PAGE 8

BACK TO LONG FORM

Mashrafe is picked for BCL team East Zone after stating his desire for a Test return

PAGE 14

OLD+NEW MPs=638!

MPs-elect take oath today amid new constitutional debate; two parliaments to coexist till Jan 24

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The newly-elected lawmakers take the oath of office today, sparking off a debate whether the constitution allows them to do so with the current parliament still in existence.

A section of legal experts claim that there is no constitutional bar for the MPs-elect to take the oath, while another disagrees with it, saying an MP-elect takes charge once he is sworn in.

Legal expert Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday that there was no constitutional provision that prevents the lawmakers-elect from taking the oath.

"But the MPs won't be able to take charge

until the ninth parliament is dissolved or its tenure expires on January 24."

Huq, also an MP-elect from the AL, said the new parliament would sit on January 25.

Contradicting Huq's claim, eminent Jurist Shahdeen Malik said, "Such an interpretation shows a lack of understanding of the constitution."

A lawmaker takes office immediately after he is sworn in, according to Article 148 (3) of the constitution, said Malik.

He said once the newly-elected lawmakers were sworn in, there would be two MPs in a single constituency, which is unprecedented anywhere in the world.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Low turnout, poor reflection of voters' will

Germany, France on Bangladesh polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The influential countries have continued to express their concern over the violence centring the just-concluded national elections in Bangladesh, noting that the polls were an extremely poor reflection of voters' will.

In separate statements on January 5 polls, France and Germany strongly regretted the violence, especially against religious minorities, surrounding the elections.

They stressed the need for resuming dialogue among political parties to resolve the current crisis and bringing about inclusive, peaceful and credible democratic elections.

The Federal Foreign Office of Germany yesterday said, the federal government had noted with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

I will lead opposition

Says Raushan, claims Ershad to take oath today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jatiya Party's senior presidium member Raushan Ershad yesterday claimed party chief HM Ershad had asked her to be the "leader of the opposition" in the upcoming 10th parliament.

"How would it look if I, who was once the president of the country, become the leader of the opposition? So, you'd better become the opposition leader and I will be with you," Raushan quoted Ershad as saying at a press briefing at the media centre of Jatiya Sangsad.

Raushan, wife of Ershad, also said the newly elected lawmakers of the party yesterday selected her as the chief of the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party at a meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and they would take the oath today.

Raushan was flanked by several high-profile leaders including party's Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader and minister of the interim cabinet Anisul Islam Mahmud and adviser Ziauddin Bablu.

After declaration of Ershad that he would not contest the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

MORE STORIES ON PAGE 16

ATTACKS ON HINDUS Govt mulls forming spl tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday prepared a draft for forming a permanent special tribunal to deal with polls violence cases, particularly the atrocities on the minorities.

"We have prepared the draft which will be placed before the state minister

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

DISTORTED REPORT ON MAY 6 Odhikar secretary, director indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two officials of the rights body Odhikar were indicted yesterday for running "a distorted report and doctored images" on the May 6 police action on a Hefajat-e Islam rally in the capital's Motijheel.

The two are Odhikar secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and its direc-

tor ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

On June 10 last year, Detective Branch (DB) of police filed a general diary (GD) with the Gulshan Police Station in this connection, which was later converted into a case.

Rejecting the discharge petitions of the two accused in the case, Judge KM Shamsul Alam of the Cyber Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka yesterday



'ATTEMPTED MURDER' CASE Mahbub, Milon remanded Selima sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP leaders Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and Fazlul Haque Milon on a two-day remand each in an "attempted murder" case.

The court also sent the party's vice-chairperson Selima Rahman to jail after rejecting her remand and bail prayers.

Earlier in the day, the BNP leaders were shown arrested in the case filed for "attempted murder" of a deputy

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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A crying Halima holds back her son Liton from running after the stretcher taking his father Farid's body to the morgue from DMCH burn unit yesterday. Halima had feared the worst on Friday, inset, when criminals hurled a petrol bomb at Farid's bus near Ruposhi Bangla Hotel burning him fatally. More on page 2.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/FILE

