



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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2013 RETROSPECTIVE

Political violence contributed to child abuse and neglect

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COMA TO DEATH

The controversial Israeli leader dies after eight years in a vegetative state

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The curious case of new govt, JP

Hasina takes oath today as PM, Raushan assumes role of opposition leader

SHAKHAWAT LITON

With Sheikh Hasina taking oath as prime minister today and Raushan Ershad already named leader of the opposition, the nation will have two PMs and two leaders of the opposition at the same time.

Awami League President Hasina, who has been elected the leader of the 10th parliament, also remains the prime minister elected through the ninth parliament that still exists.

Jatiya Party leader Raushan assumed the office of the opposition leader yesterday on the Speaker's consent, while BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia remains the leader of the opposition of the ninth parliament.

And there will be another curious case involving the JP. It is set to become a cabinet partner of the new government but will also play the role of the opposition in parliament.

The unusual developments began to unfold when MPs elected in the January 5 parliamentary polls took oath on Thursday with the 9th Jatiya Sangsad in force.

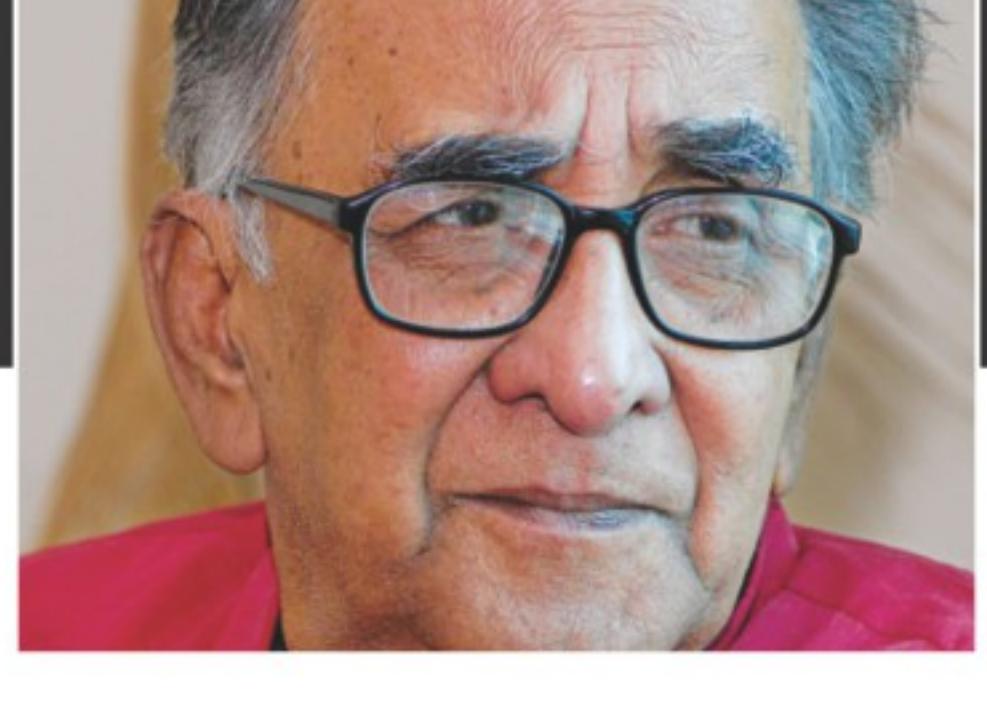
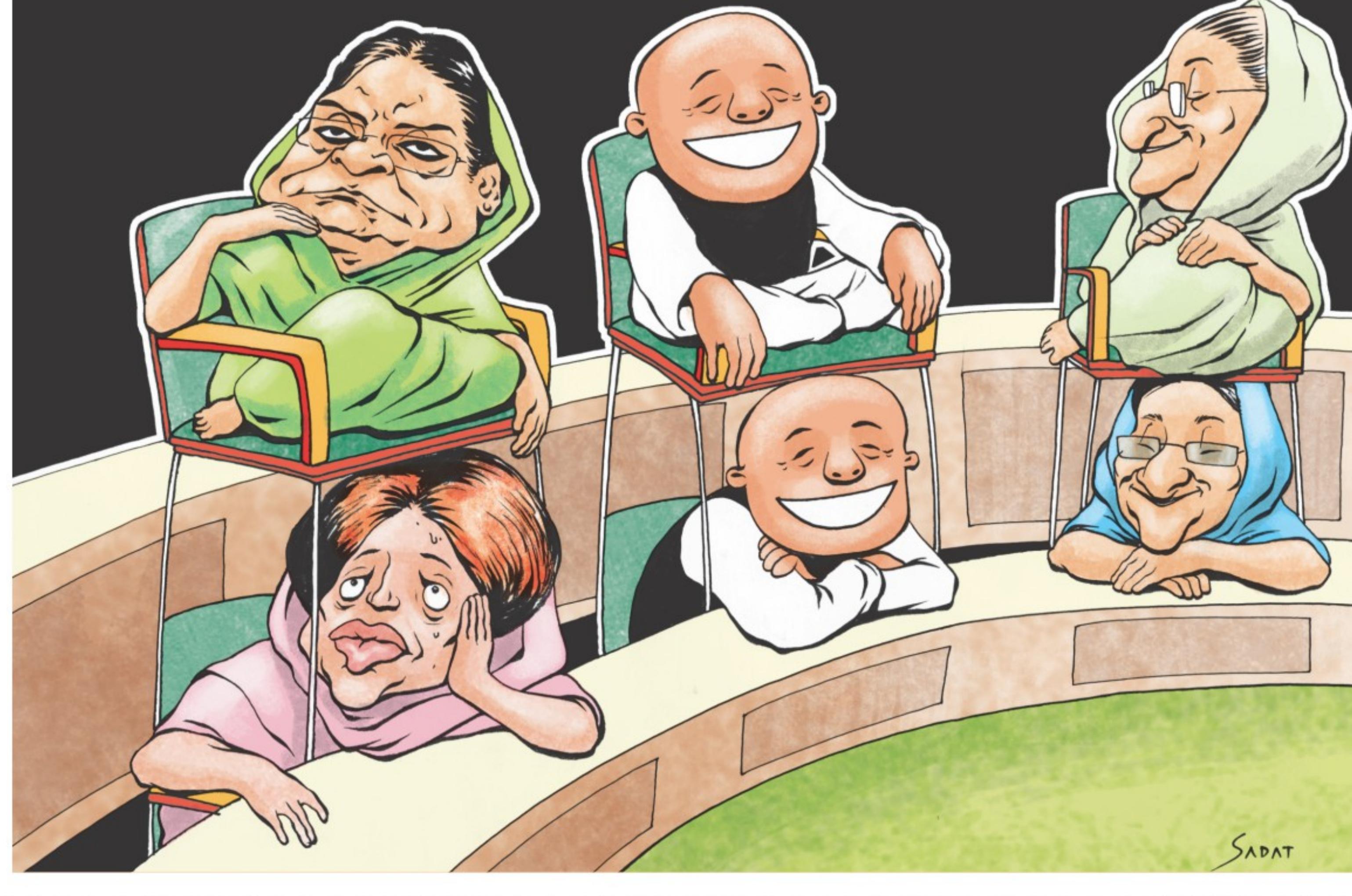
Independent legal analysts and experts in the government have given contradictory statements on the oath-taking of the MPs and the tenure of the 9th parliament.

Shafique Ahmed, law and justice affairs adviser to Prime Minister Hasina, yesterday claimed that the ninth parliament was dissolved on Thursday as soon as the MPs elected through the January 5 polls took oath of office.

The MPs assumed their offices by taking oath, he told The Daily Star.

The five-year tenure of the ninth parliament began on January 3, 2009, the day the MPs elected through the 2008 national election were sworn in.

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Justice Habibur passes away

SYED BADRUL AHSEN

We are in a state of profound grief this morning. A symbol of luminosity has faded into grey silence.

Muhammad Habibur Rahman was pronounced dead at 9:53pm last night. With that announcement came to an end a life lived in the fullness of service to society, in undiluted devotion to the cause of

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Focus on clean image

List of ministers finalised; Khaleda invited to oath-taking ceremony of new cabinet

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today will form a new cabinet free of scandal-tainted politicians to win back public trust amid criticism for the January 5 polls, according to her party insiders.

She will offer a combination of old and new faces -- ministers who performed well during the grand alliance government's tenure and leaders who contributed to the AL.

Some senior leaders close to Hasina said forming of this cabinet will be her one of the first steps to gain support, at home and abroad, for the new government.

Besides, she would take every measure to better ties with the developed countries that have not endorsed the January 5 election, boycotted by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance.

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China for talks towards free, inclusive polls

Chinese envoy tells Khaleda; BNP says its relations with Jamaat strategic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China wants to see a fruitful dialogue between the major political parties in Bangladesh for holding free, fair and inclusive polls to resolve the political stalemate.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jun said this when he called on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office last night.

At the meeting, the Chinese envoy said the recently held [January 5] general election in Bangladesh was poorly participated, BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The polls "could not fulfill people's expectations and the elections were not legitimate as people rejected it", Mahbubur quoted the diplomat as saying.

Khaleda told the envoy that her party's relations with the Jamaat-e-Islami are nothing permanent, but strategic. "In course of time, that

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Ershad finally takes oath, back to CMH

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad, who had said he would rather die than take part in the January 5 polls, took oath as a legislator of the 10th parliament yesterday, a day before the formation of a new government.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath at her office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban a few minutes past noon.

Wearing a black coat and tie, Ershad left the parliament building immediately after taking oath and went to Combined Military Hospital, where he has been staying since December 12.

The former dictator refused to talk to the press yesterday.

A number of top Jatiya Party leaders yesterday criticised Ershad the "unpredictable character". Some grassroots leaders said

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Vehicles stuck in a long tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Tangail around 2:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Trapped on highways

Thousands of passengers stuck for hours as highways see tailbacks amid recess in blockade

STAR REPORT

Thousands of passengers suffered from gridlocks on the major highways across the country yesterday as people headed for their destinations ahead of another spell of nationwide blockade beginning this morning.

The BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance had enforced a non-stop blockade of rail, roads and waterways from the New Year's Day to resist the

January 5 parliamentary polls. People only had a respite from the blockade in the last two days.

Although traffic on the Dhaka-Tangail highway came to a standstill for about 15 hours yesterday, vehicles moved very slowly on the Tongi-Joydevpur road.

There was no gridlock on the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Mymensingh highways, but vehicles plied the roads intermittently. A large

number of goods-laden trucks hit the highways.

Passengers were stuck in a gridlock stretched around 70-kilometre of the Dhaka-Tangail highway since Friday night due to a heavy traffic. Dense fog and several broken down vehicles made things even worse for the travellers, reports our Tangail correspondent.

The gridlock started around 10:00pm on Friday. It stretched from

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Blockade resumes today for 24 hrs

Postponed from tomorrow

RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP-led 18-party alliance last night thrice changed its decision on calling an indefinite nationwide blockade of roads, rail and waterways.

At 11:00pm, the alliance finally announced it will enforce a 24-hour blockade from 6:00am today. But the programme will remain postponed from 6:00am tomorrow until further notice.

Talking to The Daily Star, BNP standing committee

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In memory of 11th Death Anniversary

Today is 12th January, on this day we deeply remember our dearest founder Chairman of Shamsul Alamin Group Late Al-haj A.K. Shamsul Alamin, a renowned personality, a famous Industrialist, a social worker, charitable man and a former member of Parliament. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace for the departed soul of Late Al-haj A.K. Shamsul Alamin.

Humble, we remain,
All family members and
Officers, Staffs and Workers

 Shamsul Alamin Group
Alamin Centre, 25/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka - 1000