REBEL TO FOUNDER

Rashid Askari reviews biography

of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

'THE HATEFUL EIGHT'

Unchained" is another western

Tarantino reveals his follow-up to "Django

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Your Right to Know

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www.thedailystar.net

Egyptian general "will view yes vote in referendum as mandate to run for polls"

AL-SISI EYES PRESIDENCY

5-party cabinet of 49 Hasina 'won't bow down to

28 new faces; JP plays dual role, only 2 tiny parties solely on opposition bench

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

PARTHA

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, who was sworn in as prime minister yesterday, formed her council of ministers by inducting lawmakers of four other parties into her cabinet.

In the 49-member council of ministers, she included the chiefs of the Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Jatiya Party-Manju and three MPs of the Ershad-led Jatiya Party. Tarikat Federation and BNF, the

two other parties having representation in parliament, are not in the cabinet. Having one MP each, they will sit on the opposition benches in the House dominated by the AL, which has a three-fourths majority. The inclusion of Ershad's JP in

the cabinet is unprecedented in that the party will also be the main opposition party. Its leader Raushan Ershad has already been recognised by the Speaker as the leader of the opposition.

Speaking about the unique cabinet, Hasina claimed, "A similar government was formed in 1996 following a consensus."

The nature of her previous government (1996-2001) was different, however. At the time, Ershad's JP joined her government SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

MINISTERS AND PORTFOLIO -- PAGE 2



President Abdul Hamid swears in Sheikh Hasina as prime minister at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban yesterday.



ministers + PM

state ministers

deputy ministers

Jatiya Party, Workers' Party, JSD & JP (Manju) join Awami

women members

32 ministers were elected MPs unopposed

League-led 49-member cabinet BNF & Tarikat Federation left as 2-member opposition!

any pressure'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she would not · by Prime Minister Sheikh bow down to any pressure at home or from abroad.

"Sheikh Hasina does not give in to any pressure whether: it is internal or external. The country is ours ... We will con- Bangladesh.... A scandalous tinue the work that needs to be done for the people."

Hasina was talking to the media after she was sworn in as : torship has started by sup-PM for the third time at the Bangabhaban.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said the new govern- · secretary general Mirza ment had assumed power for a five-year term in line with . Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in a the constitution.

Ashraf, also general secretary of the ruling Awami League, · said the next election would be held when there would be a : urged the government to consensus between the ruling alliance and the BNP. "But the : quit immediately and hand BNP must cut ties with the Jamaat and militants, and shun · over power to a non-party violence."

Hasina, also president of the AL, said her government : for holding a free, fair wanted to work together with the opposition.

On the formation of a unique cabinet that includes law- · tion of all parties. makers from the opposition bench, she said, "A similar : Fakhrul said an autogovernment based on a consensus was formed in 1996. We : cratic regime having no want co-operation from all."

In response to a query, she said the government could · imposed on the people of hold dialogue with the BNP only if it severed ties with the : the country through a Jamaat-e-Islami and shunned violence.

LGRD Minister Ashraf said, "Of course, we have assumed · and one-sided election. office for five years. You please go through the constitution : and see what is there."

Asked whether the international community endorsed : no support for the Hasina-· the new government, he said, "Have we asked them to · led government. "Awami recognise us? It is for the people of Bangladesh to decide."

net those who had failed to perform their duties properly. Replying to a query, he said Bangladesh was no longer a . principles."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

BNP terms it immoral, illegal govt' STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has said an omi-· nous journey of democracy · has begun with the oath-: taking of an "illegal and immoral government" led · Hasina.

"Today is a black day for · journey of autocratic dictapressing the democratic Speaking to journalists after the oath-taking ceremony, · spirit," said BNP acting

The BNP spokesperson caretaker administration election with the participa-

· public support has been stage-managed, voter-less

He claimed that 95 : percent of the people have . League is walking the path The AL spokesperson said the PM had left out of the cabi- : of autocracy by sacrificing all democratic norms and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

TAINTED FIGURES

Many go, a few stay

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, RASHIDUL HASAN and WASIM BIN HABIB

While several tainted figures have been left out, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's cabinet includes a few politicians who have earned a bad name in the last five years.

Despite a series of controversies, Shahjahan Khan remains shipping minister while Quamrul Islam, state minister for law in the grand alliance government, becomes food minister.

Shahjahan, a top labour leader, faced severe criticism for his 2011 remark that "If one can sign his name, understand traffic signs and signals





and knows the difference between a cow and a goat, he should be issued a driving licence."

He had also defended drivers on many occasions even as rights groups demanded exemplary punishment for reckless driving following a sharp rise



in road accidents.

Shahjahan, who reportedly controlled the entire road transport sector, : sion had asked a Jatiya Sangsad committee to recommend legalising extortion "to stop rampant corruption" in the trans SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 :

Manmohan greets PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

 Indian Prime Minister · Manmohan Singh phoned . Sheikh Hasina last evening and congratulated her on assuming office as prime · minister of Bangladesh.

He wished her and the people of Bangladesh all success in the endeavour to strengthen democratic institutions in Bangladesh, according to a press release of the Indian high commis-

Ershad finally back home with new role

Made PM's special envoy

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

: Former military ruler HM Ershad yesterday : became a special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and at the same time recov-· ered from his mysterious "illness", making : it a day of double fun for him.

Ershad, who was the centrepiece of a · long-drawn drama over his party's flip-flop · on joining the otherwise one-sided January Manmohan Singh is the : 5 polls, was whisked away by government first head of government to : intelligence men from his Baridhara resi-: congratulate Sheikh Hasina : dence on December 12 to keep him behind SEE PAGE 11 COL 5 · a veil of smokescreen.

He had been, since then, at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka Cantonment for a publicly unknown "illness" but was enjoying occasional golf breaks. He went straight home from the Bangabhaban ceremony of Sheikh Hasina's new government formation.

As Hasina's special envoy, Ershad will enjoy ministerial status henceforth. It is history now that on his directives, more than 180 of his party's MP aspirants had to withdraw from the polls race.

"I'm quite well. Soon, I'll get released

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

10-truck arms haul cases at final stage

Verdict date likely today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong special tribunal could today set the date for the verdict delivery in the sensational 10-truck arms haul cases of 2004.

Former BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, former industries minister, war crimes accused and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami and a few highranking intelligence agency and government officials are accused in the cases.

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, reportedly meant for Indian separatist organisation Ulfa, was captured at the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd jetty in Chittagong on April 2, 2004, when they were being loaded on to 10 trucks.

Two cases, an arms case and a smuggling case, were filed with Karnaphuli Police Station the following day.

Yesterday, prosecutor Kamal Uddin Ahmed finished his closing arguments before the tribunal conducting the "summary procedure". The prosecutor said he would submit before the court detailed arguments in writing in two days since the tribunal rules did not allow closing arguments.

The Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 said the court allowed the closing argument to maintain the tradition of court proceedings and ordered defence lawyers to complete their arguments by today and submit the elaborate arguments in writing before the court within two days.

Following the court proceedings, prosecutor Kamal told The Daily Star the nation SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



Despite the 18-party called blockade, city dwellers in their thousands went about their business yesterday, triggering citywide gridlocks. The photo was taken at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Farmgate yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

No blockade from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18-party enforced countrywide blockade ended at 6.00am today relieving the nation of a gruelling two and a half months-long suffering due to hartals and blockades by the BNP-led opposition combine.

The opposition announced on Saturday that with the 24-hr blockade ending this morning, hartals and blockade programmes had been stalled indefinitely till further notice.

Yesterday's was the sixth bout of blockade enforced by the opposition alliance since October 27 last year.

In the last 78 days, people had to endure 15 days of hartals and 36 days of rail, roads and waterways blockades, most of which SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Notice

carries a four-page special on Dhaka International Trade Fair. The Business pages have been dedicated to the coverage of the nation's largest trade exposition.

Today's newspaper

