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## TRUMP ERA DAWNS

The 45th president of the United States takes oath of office, pledges to end 'American carnage' of social and economic woes in inaugural address

REUTERS, Washington

Donald Trump took power as the 45th president of the United States yesterday and pledged to end the "American carnage" of social and economic woes in an inaugural address that was a populist and nationalist rallying cry.

Sketching a bleak vision of a country he said was ravaged by rusted-out factories, crime, gangs and drugs, Trump indirectly blamed his predecessors in the White House for policies that helped Washington at the expense of struggling families.

"From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land, from this day forward, it's going to be only 'America first! America first!'" the Republican told thousands of people gathered on the grounds of the National Mall as he took over the presidency from Democrat Barack Obama.

Away from the ceremony, masked activists protesting against Trump ran through the streets smashing windows at a McDonald's restaurant, a Starbucks coffee shop and a steakhouse several blocks from the White House. They carried black anarchist flags and signs that said, "Join the resistance, fight back now."

From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land, from this day forward it's going to be only 'America first! America first!'

DONALD TRUMP



Donald Trump takes the oath of office from Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts on the West Front of the US Capitol yesterday in Washington, DC.

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Obama departs the Oval Office for the last time as president yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'You made me a better man'  
 Obama quits with farewell letter to the Americans

AGENCIES

Immediate past US President Barack Obama wrote an emotional public letter thanking Americans and encouraging them to participate in "daily acts of citizenship."

"Before I leave my note for our 45th president, I wanted to say one final thank you for the honour of serving as your 44th," he wrote on Thursday.

"Because all that I've learned in my time in office, I've learned from you. You made me a better president, and you made me a better man."

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## Looking for long lost father in Dhaka

AKRAM HOSEN

Jamie Henshall, an Englishman, never heard from his Bangladeshi father since his parents parted ways in the 80's. Henshall was only two and a half years old then but now that he is going to become a father, he embarked on a quest for his roots.

On January 4, he flew to Dhaka for the first time with a couple of photos from 1979 to look for his father who was once a chef in London.

He knew only that his father, whose name was Suab Ali according to the marriage certificate he got from his mother, was from Old Dhaka and his grandfather Umad Ullah was a "leather spinner" at a leather factory.

But that wasn't enough to find his father, who should be 62 years old, if alive.

On top of this, Henshall only had two weeks time in Bangladesh.

"This visit was the first big step on my journey to find my heritage," he



Jamie Henshall showing on his phone his parents wedding photo taken in 1979.

told the correspondent at the lobby of a city hotel last week.

His parents Ann Henshall and Suab Ali got married in London in 1979. His father named him Mohammed Hussain Ali when he was born, which was later changed by his mother.

Quoting his mother, Henshall said his father, a chef at a restaurant at the time, had to come back to Bangladesh for some emergency.

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## Worry over wheat again

After causing Tk 1,800cr crop loss last year, wheat blast reemerges this season; symptoms found in Meherpur fields

REAZ AHMAD

A year after its first outbreak, wheat blast has reemerged and this time quite early in the season, causing fears of production loss of the country's second most important cereal after rice.

Officials confirmed The Daily Star receipt of the reports of blast resurfacing in plant leaves in some wheat fields in Meherpur.

The authorities have already ordered burning down of grains at flowering stage in five hectares of wheat fields in the district.

The first ever attack of wheat blast in Bangladesh cost the country a financial loss of at least Tk 1,800 crore in terms of lost yield last year. The blast affected over one lakh hectares of wheat fields in the eight south and southwestern districts -- Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Magura, Barisal and Bhola in February last year, causing up to 40 percent of



Farmers have been advised to burn the already affected plants and spray fungicide for the protection of unaffected wheat fields

crop damage.

Caused by a fungus -- Magnaporthe oryzae -- wheat blast is one of the most fearsome and intractable wheat diseases in recent decades, according to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).



TOP QUOTE

"Religion should be confined to individual choice and should be totally separated from politics. Only then we would be able to create such a society with equality, justice and secular values."

GEETESH SHARMA  
 INDIAN JOURNALIST  
 IN AN INTERVIEW WITH  
 THE DAILY STAR

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## Sublime Soumya returns

AL-AMIN from Christchurch

Bangladesh scored 289 before being bowled out on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand at the Hagley Oval yesterday. The Tigers batted the entire day on a seaming and bouncy pitch coupled with that chilling wind blowing across the ground.

It was not a bad effort considering the glut of injuries they had going into the game. The most pleasing sight for the visitors was the return of Soumya Sarkar at the top with a sublime 86. Opening in a Test match for the first time, the left-hander not only raced to his maiden fifty but also featured in a productive 127-run stand

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Bangladesh opener Soumya Sarkar, on his return to the Test side, pulls the ball during a classy 86 on the first day of the second Test against New Zealand at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch yesterday. Bangladesh were all out for 289 after being asked to bat first.

PHOTO: AFP

## HRW asks govt to disband Rab

7-murder verdict won't hurt Rab image, says Benazir

STAR REPORT

Following the Narayanganj seven-murder verdict, the Human Rights Watch has urged the government to take immediate steps to disband Rapid Action Battalion and replace it with a rights respecting force.

A Narayanganj court on Monday sentenced 26 people, including 16 former Rab members, to death for their role in the seven-murder. Besides, nine other ex-Rab members were sentenced to different prison terms.

The HRW has termed the verdict a "rare one", but opposed the death penalty and urged the government not to carry out the order.

"While in opposition, the Awami League called for the disbanding of Rab. Before taking office in 2009, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she would reform Rab. This has not happened, so it is time for the government to take immediate steps to disband Rab and replace it with a rights respecting force," it said.

The HRW said for years, Rab has been deployed by successive governments not only to fight crime, but often as an "in-house death squad, leaving a string of extrajudicial killings -- often referred to as "crossfire" deaths, torture, disappearances, and arbitrary arrests in their wake."

In a press statement on Thursday, the New York-based rights body said for years, almost no Rab members were held to account for these crimes.

Lauding the prosecution of Rab members, the HRW said,

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