



"Syed Ashraf is the name of emotion and feelings of millions of people."
AL JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY
MAHBUBUL ALAM HANIF. (PAGE 2)

"The rape in Noakhali isn't an isolated incident. It's a direct reflection of bankruptcy of the country's social and economic system."
CPB PRESIDENT MUJAHIDUL ISLAM SELIM.
(PAGE 3)

"We have to build the wall.... We have no choice."
TRUMP INSISTS DEMOCRATS MUST FUND BORDER WALL.. (PAGE 8)

Hasina axes heavyweights

27 new faces, 4 returnees in 47-member council of ministers; oath today

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Sheikh Hasina, who is set to take oath today as the prime minister for the third consecutive term, has dropped most of her colleagues in the outgoing cabinet, aiming to inject fresh blood in her new government.

President Abdul Hamid yesterday appointed Hasina as the PM, and upon her advice appointed 46 ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam told The Daily Star last night.

Hasina dropped 34 of the 47 ministers, including Awami League bigwigs Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Mohammed Nasim and Matia Chowdhury, to induct 27 new faces and four former ministers in the 47-



23 out of 28 ministers of current cabinet dropped

24 ministers, 19 state ministers, 3 deputy ministers

No minister from AL's electoral allies

member council of ministers set to take oath today.

The president of the AL, which won the December 30 election by a landslide, did not include in the new cabinet anyone from her party's electoral allies.

There were six ministers and state ministers -- three from the Jatiya Party and one each from the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Workers Party and Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) -- in the outgoing cabinet.

The new council of ministers will be a single-party one for the first time in 22 years.

Following the restoration of democracy in early 90s, the first BNP-led government was formed only with its lawmakers. After that, all successive cabinets comprised lawmakers of more than one party.

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No Oikya MPs to take oath

Decides alliance, ending speculations that 2 Gonoforum MPs may join JS

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jatiya Oikyafront yesterday decided that none of its seven MPs-elect, including the two from Gonoforum, would join parliament.

It comes a day after Oikyafront Convener Dr Kamal Hossain hinted that the two Gonoforum lawmakers-elect might take oath of office to play their role in the House.

Following his comments, various media outlets yesterday reported about a possible crack in the Oikyafront, a combine of the BNP, Gonoforum, JSD (Rob), Krishak Sramik Janata League and Nagorik Oikya, formed about two months before the election.

But after a meeting of the steering committee of the coalition, Gonoforum General Secretary Mostafa Mohsin Montu trashed the media reports, saying there was no rift in their alliance.

In a written statement read out at a press conference, Montu said Dr Kamal in no way said that Gonoforum MPs would take oath.

"We hope there'll be no misunderstanding about the issue anymore," he said. "The Jatiya Oikyafront is more united now and will remain so to realise people's voting and other rights after the farce of an election on December 30," Montu said.

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Kolma relieved as local admin finally steps in

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The situation in Kolma has started to become normal yesterday.

The village in Rajshahi's Tanore was under siege allegedly by Awami League men after the December 30 election, as majority of the villagers voted for the BNP candidate.

The local administration had to intervene to bring back normalcy.

In a meeting on law and order at Kolma High School playground, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi asked all to be patient and not to take the law into their own hands.

"From today, I don't want to hear any hue and cry in this village. No one will take the law into their own hands. All will work together to maintain peace," DC SM Abdul Kader said, adding that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had directed him to ensure security of the villagers.

"Why will you create chaos among

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Hurrah for hilsa, again

Genome sequencing by Bangladeshi researchers gets int'l recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country now has another success to hail about Padma hilsa as the research on its genome sequence got international recognition, a year after the fish had secured the status of geographical indication (GI) product of Bangladesh.

BioMed Central, a UK-based journal, published the work of a team of Bangladeshi researchers who decoded the genome sequence of the fish in September last year.

"This is our primary publication on hilsa's genome sequence," said Mong Sano Marma, one of the researchers. "This is the first publication in a well-known journal about the full genome sequence of hilsa."

Hilsa, the national fish of Bangladesh and an integral part of culture in this region, was certified as a GI product of

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Feast for cops after 'fair polls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police establishments across the country have been holding feast and cultural programmes since the first day of the new year to cheer up the force members.

Several police officials, wishing anonymity, told The Daily Star that these programmes were being organised as per directives from the Police Headquarters (PHQ), as part of a reward to the policemen for playing due roles in arranging a free, fair and peaceful election "without any major violence."

All the 50 police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police held feasts on Saturday while the PHQ organised special feasts for its officials yesterday, said several officials of the

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Ershad wants 'deputy prime minister' status

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, who declared himself the leader of the opposition in parliament, now wants the status of a deputy prime minister. But such a post does not exist.

The leader of the opposition now enjoys the status of a minister. If it is to be given the deputy prime minister's status, the constitution first needs to be amended to create the post. "I will request the new

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'Beaten to death' in custody

Says suspect's family; police claim heart attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Maulvibazar

A suspected drug peddler was allegedly beaten to death by police in Phultala area of Maulvibazar's Juri upazila Saturday night.

The dead is Zahid Miah, 40, of the upazila's Kunagaon village.

Police picked up Zahid around 7:00pm from a local market and took him to his nearby rented flat. The law enforcers beat him up there, alleged Jahangir Alam, Zahid's brother.

After two hours of detention, police took him to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, Jahangir added.

However, Officer-in-Charge of Juri Police Station Zahangir Hossain Sardar denied the allegation and said they detained Zahid from the market on information that he hid drugs in his house.

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We Mourn

We are deeply shocked and in grief on the sudden sad demise of the first Chairman of the Foundation for Promotion of Education and Research, Member of Board of Trustees (BoT) of NSU and Former President of FBCCI

Mr. Iftekharul Alam

On behalf of NSU family, we wish peace to bring comfort and courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in our hearts

Our sincere condolences to the members of bereaved family



North South University Family