

**"If the election is not held in an acceptable and credible manner, there will be no benefit even if it is participatory."**  
ELECTION COMMISSIONER MAHBUB TALUKDAR (PAGE 3)

**"Our private sector will be in the driving seat in the next five years."**  
FINANCE MINISTER AHM MUSTAFA KAMAL

**"Bolton [Trump's national security adviser] has made a serious mistake."**  
ERDOGAN SLAMS THE US OFFICIAL OVER SECURITY DEMANDS (PAGE 8)

## Worker killed in Savar clash

*Family claims he was shot dead during clash with cops; police deny; 36 hurt in clash*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A garment worker was shot dead allegedly by police and at least 36 others were injured in separate clashes between garment workers and law enforcers at Savar yesterday.

Meanwhile, police also raided the homes of some garment workers, vandalising their properties and even shooting them with rubber-bullets, victims alleged.

In the Savar incident, family members and co-workers identified the dead as Sumon Mia, 22, a worker of Anlima Textile of Kornopara area in Savar.

His colleagues claimed he was not a protester but was caught in the clash between law enforcers and demonstrators while on his way to work.

The protests began three days ago after garment workers took to the streets over disparity in wage raises in the latest government pay scale.

Yesterday's clashes began when police fired several tear-gas canisters and charged batons to disperse demonstrators, who occupied a main road in the area.

In Ashulia, hundreds of the workers clashed with police when they were barred from blocking a road there around 8:00am, industrial police source said.

Meanwhile in Dhaka city, around 200 garment workers tried to block the Airport Road protesting the same around 11:45am. Such protests were also reported from Dakkhin Khan and Kalshi areas.

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Garment workers marching down Airport Road near the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:30am yesterday, protesting the alleged disparity in their new wage structure. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Disparities in wages to be solved

*Govt assures RMG workers as demo enters third day*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid continued demonstrations by garment workers over alleged disparity in their new wage structure, the government yesterday assured the workers of addressing the discrimination within a month.

A 10-member committee has been formed to review the wage structure.

The factory owners have also been instructed to pay the wages arrears next month, if there is any, with that of January.

The decisions came at an emergency meeting of the crisis management core committee for the garment sector. The meeting, held at the labour department in the city's Motijheel, was called to find out the reasons for the ongoing labour protests and their solutions.

Meanwhile, garment workers took to the streets in and outside the capital for

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## BRTC in trouble over arrears

*Workers of one depot go on indefinite strike; salaries of workers at 17 out of 21 depots unpaid for 3 to 16 months*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Anger and frustration among workers of BRTC depots have long been growing over their unpaid salaries, which remain due for up to 16 months in some cases.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation has 21 depots across the country -- 19 for buses and two for trucks. Of them, workers' salaries are due in 17, depots sources said.

And with their back against the wall, some 250 workers of the state-run agency's Joar Sahara depot in Dhaka went on an indefinite strike yesterday.

Some 3,500 BRTC employees, including drivers, get salaries and other benefits like that of a government employee. But under the current system, the salaries and benefits of a depot employee has to be paid from the



earnings of that particular depot.

The lion's share of the depots' earnings comes from leasing out buses to private entities and organisations, including educational institutions. The depots provide the drivers, the fuel, and look after vehicle maintenance.

High officials of the BRTC said the depots have been struggling to pay the employees

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## 'Be careful'

*Hasina warns her cabinet colleagues, says they will be always under her watch*

UNB, Dhaka

Focusing on good governance, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned her new cabinet colleagues that they would be under her surveillance.

"Be careful, I'll always keep you under my surveillance to see who's doing what."

The PM issued the warning when the newly appointed ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers met her at the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina asked all to try to know and understand their responsibilities first and then go for discharging their duties.

Talking about her anxiety about the 11th general election, Hasina said had the BNP-Jamaat clique managed to return to power, there would have been "genocide". "They would just unleash 'genocide'."

She recalled the horrible days after the 1991 election when the BNP government

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## Ministers pledge good governance

*Speak of fighting corruption, working to implement AL's election manifesto*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On their first day in office, new cabinet members yesterday stressed on implementing their election manifesto in the next five years, including rooting out corruption and ensuring good governance at every level of the government.

They also spoke of turning the country into a "model of development," with the private sector in the driving seat of the economy.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 46 of her cabinet members took oath on Monday.

The new cabinet has 24 ministers including the PM, 19 state ministers and three deputy ministers. Of the 47-member cabinet, 27 are new faces.

**PVT SECTOR IN DRIVING SEAT**

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, who was planning minister in the previous cabinet, stressed on ensuring a business and investment friendly environment to attract investors and create jobs.

"Our private sector will be in the driving seat in the next five years," he told reporters at the planning ministry.

The government's main target is development, growth, manufacturing and employment generation, he said. "The next budget will be prepared keeping these in mind."

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## ACC FINDING Illness not needed to get beds in jail hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some prisoners though not sick occupy two-thirds of hospital beds at the Dhaka Central Jail in league with unscrupulous prison officials, the Anti-Corruption Commission found yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off on its hotline, a three-member ACC team including medical officer Dr Anup Kumar Biswas visited the 170-bed hospital.

They also found some prisoners living a lavish life.

"In some rooms, prisoners are found watching TV and using refrigerators and microwave oven," reads a press release.

"From the first day of their stay, some prisoners

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Flanked by her cabinet colleagues, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at the National Memorial in Savar yesterday, a day after she formed the government for the third consecutive term.

PHOTO: PID

## Saudi sends back 13 Rohingyas

*They went to KSA with Bangladeshi passports, came back with travel passes*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Saudi authorities yesterday deported to Bangladesh at least 13 Rohingyas, who had travelled to the kingdom with Bangladeshi passports several years back.

Riyadh may send back more Rohingyas, now kept in detention camps in Jeddah, creating more worries for Bangladesh which is already burdened with over a million Rohingya refugees.

The 13 deportees arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 2:00am by a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight. They were detained following their admission that they were Rohingyas, said the immigration police.

"The higher authorities will decide what to do with them. There are no instructions until now," an official of the immigration police told this correspondent yesterday evening, seeking anonymity.

Abdur Rahman, additional superintendent of police of the Armed Police Battalion (APBN) at the airport, said they had information that the Dhaka-Jeddah flight was carrying 54 passengers, who had travel passes, not passports, and that there were Rohingyas among them.

Upon their arrival at Dhaka airport early yesterday, immigration police checked their documents but could not verify the addresses of the 13.

"At one stage of questioning, the deportees admitted that they are Rohingyas, and then they were detained," Rahman told The Daily Star.

The 13 Rohingyas had travel passes issued by Bangladesh Consulate General in Jeddah but it is unclear how they had obtained those.

In the travel passes, five of them were identified as Abdul Majid, Mizanur Rahman, Habibur Rahman, Mohammed Salim and Omar Faruk -- all from Chattogram.

The others are Khaja Moyeen Uddin from Bogra; Bokul from Jhenidah; Mohammad Mia and Shamsul Alam from Pabna; Aman Ullah from

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