



The Daily Star



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"A tyrant's era came to an end and today is the final day of his ominous reign. ... He did all he could to destroy the JCPOA (Iran nuclear deal) but could not."
IRAN'S PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHHANI ON TRUMP'S DEPARTURE

"We have sent a letter to the Rajuk, asking it not to approve any plan to construct buildings in the 18 expanded wards of the DNCC."
DNCC MAYOR MD ATIQUL ISLAM

"After four long years, Europe has a friend in the White House."
EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT URSULA VON DER LEYEN WELCOMES BIDEN'S PRESIDENCY

Biden takes oath as 46th US president

Set to issue a slew of executive orders redirecting country after four divisive years; Trump leaves Washington vowing to be back 'in some form'

REUTERS, Washington

Democrat Joe Biden was sworn in as president of the United States yesterday, assuming the helm of a country reeling from deep political divides, a battered economy and a raging coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 400,000 Americans.

With his hand on an heirloom Bible that has been in his family for more than a century, Biden took the presidential oath of office administered by US Chief Justice John Roberts just after noon (1700 GMT), vowing to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Biden, 78, became the oldest US president in history at a scaled-back ceremony in Washington that was largely stripped of its usual pomp and circumstance, due both to the coronavirus and security concerns following the Jan. 6 assault on the US Capitol by supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump.

The norm-defying Trump flouted one last convention on his way out of the White House when he refused to meet with Biden or attend his successor's inauguration, breaking with a political tradition seen as affirming the peaceful transfer of power.

Trump, who never conceded the Nov 3 election, did not mention Biden by name in his final remarks as president yesterday morning, when he touted his administration's record and promised to be back "in some form." He boarded Air Force One for the last time and headed to his Mar-a-Lago retreat in Florida.

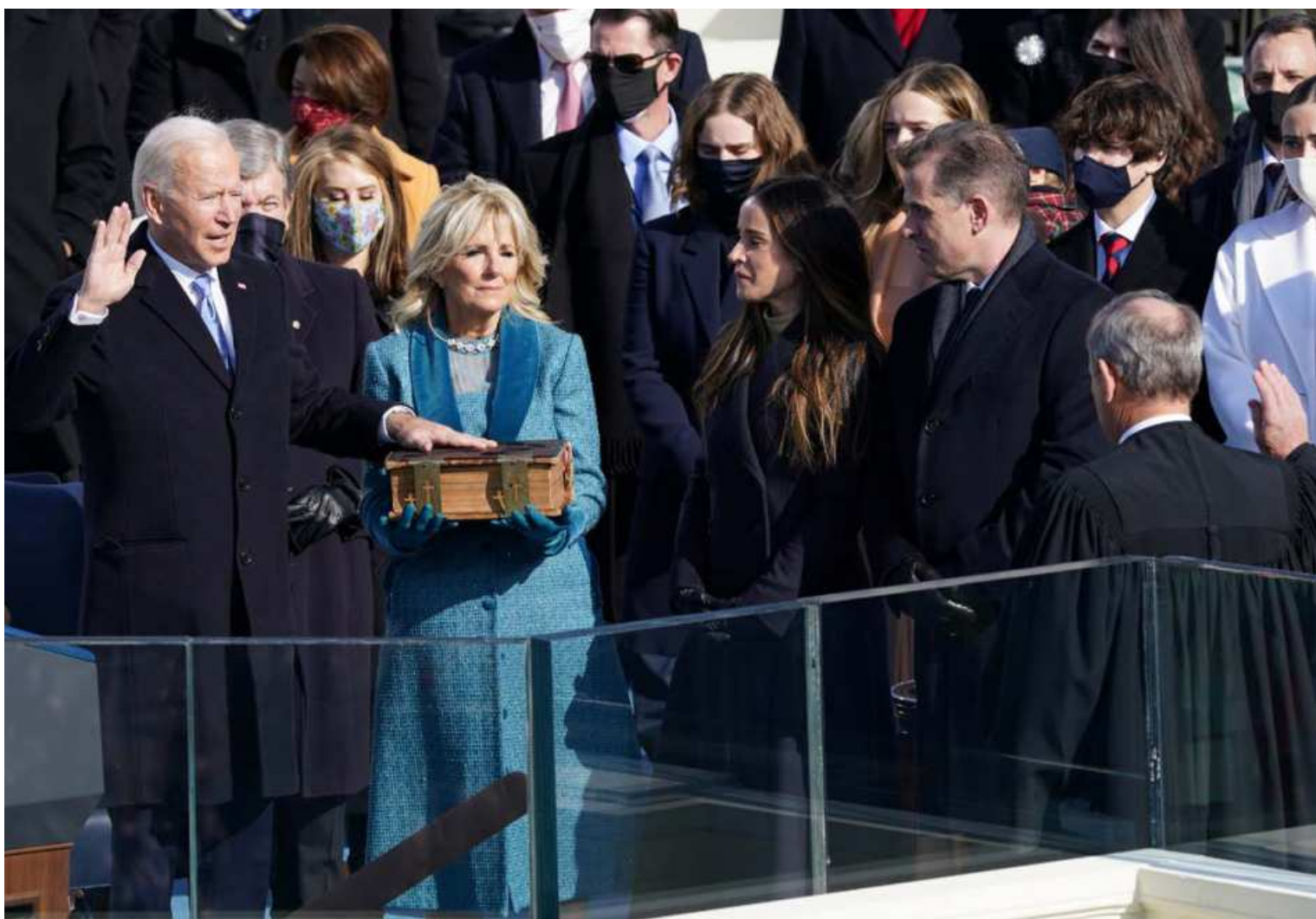
Top Republicans, including Vice President Mike Pence and the party's congressional leaders, attended Biden's inauguration, along with former US presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, became the first Black person, first woman and first Asian American to serve as vice president after she was sworn in by US Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the court's first Latina member.

Harris used two Bibles, including one owned by Thurgood Marshall, the first Black US Supreme Court Justice.

Biden takes office at a time of deep national unease, with the country facing what his advisers have described as four compounding crises: the pandemic, the

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Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States as his spouse Jill Biden holds a bible on the West Front of the US Capitol in Washington, US, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PRIORITY LIST FOR VACCINE

Include those aged 50 and above: experts

MOUDUDD AHMED SUJAN

Experts have stressed the need for including all aged 50 and above in the priority list for the first phase of Covid-19 vaccination to maximise the effectiveness of the inoculation campaign.

Besides, they have suggested a longer gap between the administration of the first and second shots, arguing that it will make the vaccine more efficient.

The government is set to roll out its coronavirus vaccination programme in the first week of next month. It has purchased 3 crore shots of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, branded Covishield, from Serum Institute of India, and plans to vaccinate 1.5 crore people in the first phase.

The first consignment of 50 lakh doses is expected to arrive next week, and online registration for the campaign starts on January 26.

Ahead of the inoculation campaign, the government has prepared a priority

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GIFT FROM INDIA

20 lakh vaccine doses arrive today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India's gift of 20 lakh doses of Covishield is likely to arrive in Bangladesh today.

Besides, the first shipment of the doses bought by Bangladesh is scheduled to arrive on January 25, Health Secretary Abdul Mannan told a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd Managing Director Nazmul Hassan Papon told The Daily Star that details of the flight schedule will be known by today.

Bangladesh purchased three crore doses of Covishield, the coronavirus vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and drugmaker AstraZeneca and manufactured by Serum Institute of India.

The procurement was done through a tripartite agreement signed between the government, Serum and its local partner Beximco Pharmaceuticals on November 5 last year.

The first shipment will contain 50 lakh doses. Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said several other countries, including Russia and China, were interested in sending vaccines to Bangladesh and some private companies were willing to import them.

There will be plenty of vaccine doses in the coming days, he added. Health Secretary Abdul Mannan said the 20-lakh dose gift would reach the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 1:30pm today.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque, Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, and other government officials will be at the airport at the time.

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LABOUR MARKET

Govt now looking for alternatives

PM tells JS



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mentioning that the employment situation in different countries, especially in the oil-dependent Middle Eastern states, might not remain the same as before due to the pandemic, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was working to explore alternative labour markets and send workers there.

"New labour markets are being explored through

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Project director hardly at the site

Payra port along with many of 66 other projects in Barisal limping

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

In 2019, the government took up a project to construct the first terminal of the Payra Sea Port and its related infrastructure.

The project is supposed to be completed by December 2021, but till date, it has progressed only 8.17 percent.

The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) has found that the project directors, including high-placed officials, spent most of their time in Dhaka instead of project areas.

Other than the Payra Sea Port, implementation of 66 other annual development projects has stumbled.

IMED has found several irregularities in the implementation of 67 projects undertaken for Barishal division.

Planning Minister MA Mannan will hold an evaluation meeting today on the progress of implementation of 67 projects in Barishal.

A total of Tk 7,103 crore was allocated for the 67 projects and till December 2021 only 22.61 percent was implemented, IMED found.

Of the projects, the progress of implementation of 29 projects is above 51 percent while the implementation of 19 projects ranged between 26 percent and 50 percent.

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BCL men to get top priority for univ jobs

Says RU VC

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, RU

Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof M Abdus Sobhan has "assured" Chhatra League men that they would get "highest priorities" in getting jobs at the university.

Sobhan, while talking to a group of BCL leaders who kept him confined to his residence on the university campus demanding jobs at the university, also said BCL men would "not miss" jobs at the university.

The Daily Star obtained an audio clip of the conversation in which he was assuring the protesting BCL men in the early hours of January 12.

The BCL men confined RU VC, two pro-vice-

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Tigers return in style

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were hardly tested upon their return to international cricket after more than 10 months as Tamim Iqbal's side registered a comfortable six-wicket win against an inexperienced West Indies side in the first of three ODIs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

There was double delight for Bangladesh fans as the match also marked the return to international cricket of Shakib Al Hasan following a one-year ICC-imposed ban, and Bangladesh's most consistent performer, as has come to be expected, played the key role in the comfortable win.

The champion cricketer notched the best figures by a Bangladeshi bowler in ODIs against the West Indies, ending with four for eight from 7.2 overs to help bundle out the visitors for 122 runs in 32.2 overs.

For the West Indies, the bulk of the scoring was done by debutant Kyle Mayers, who struck 40,

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SIGHT FOR SORE EYES... Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan celebrates one of his four wickets during the first ODI against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was Bangladesh's first international match in more than 10 months, and Shakib too was returning in Bangladeshi colours after serving out a one-year ban imposed by the ICC.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

MISBEHAVIOUR WITH MAGISTRATE

HC summons Kushtia SP

Asks him to appear before it Jan 25 to give explanation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the superintendent of police in Kushtia following allegations that he misbehaved with a judicial magistrate in Bheramara during the municipality election on January 16.

SM Tanvir Arafath was asked to appear before the court on January 25 and explain why policemen allegedly misbehaved with Judicial Magistrate Mohsin Hasan.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khizir Hayat gave the summon order on a suomuto (voluntary) move after a report on the incident was published on amadershomoy.com, Deputy Attorney General Taherul Islam told The Daily Star.

According to the report, Judicial Magistrate Mohsin went to the polling centre at Bheramara Pilot Model High School after receiving complaints of voter fraud.

He was talking to the presiding officer when SP Arafat, ASP Mostafizur Rahman, and several other policemen went there and called the presiding officer aside.

Mohsin then told the policemen that he was a judicial magistrate and requested them to let him speak to the presiding officer first, the report said.

SP Arafath then called the magistrate impolite and asked him to leave the centre, according to the reports.

Mohsin on January 17 filed a complaint with the Election Commission accusing the SP of misconduct, reports our correspondent in Kushtia.

Copies of the complaint were sent to the Registrar General's Office of the Supreme Court, law and home

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