



NEW CABINET FORMATION

Loyalists, fresh faces likely to get priority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may bank on her party's core ranks while forming the new cabinet tomorrow evening.

Several younger leaders are likely to get the chance to be ministers as the PM wants to bring the next generation of leaders to the fore, according to insiders.

Although Hasina, the Awami League president, has not discussed the matter with her party colleagues, many leaders think several members of the current cabinet against whom there were allegations of corruption will be replaced by individuals with cleaner image.

"While picking the cabinet members, she may stick to the strategy which was followed while giving MP nominations," said a top leader.

While picking nominees for parliament, the AL dropped 71 incumbent MPs and picked 37 members from the AL Central Working Committee, which has 81 members.

Current ministers Monnujan Sufian, KM Khalid, and Zakir Hossen did not get the AL ticket to run for parliament.

"The new cabinet will have new faces along with experienced ones. But above all, those with a clean image will take priority," an AL central committee member told The Daily Star.

Besides, the leaders who have shown steadfast loyalty to the party over the years will be considered, added the leader.

After three technocrat ministers resigned in November, the current cabinet has 45 members, including Hasina and 23 ministers, 18 state ministers and three deputy ministers. AL sources say, the chances of including technocrats in the next cabinet are slim.

Some current ministers may have to serve different ministries.

An AL leader who got nominated for the first time and a central committee executive member may also get to be in the new cabinet, said the party sources.

Several leaders who were inducted in the cabinet after the 2008

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"The new cabinet will have new faces along with experienced ones. But above all, those with clean image will take priority."

An AL central committee member



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir waves to supporters as police escort him to a police van at a Dhaka court yesterday. The BNP leader was produced before the court in nine cases filed over political violence and was sent back to jail.

Fakhru shown arrested in 9 more cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir was yesterday shown arrested in nine more cases over political violence in Dhaka centring on the October 28 BNP rally.

Fakhru is already in jail since October 29 in two cases, and has been denied bail on multiple occasions.

Sultan Sohag Uddin, additional chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka, will today hear the bail petitions in the latest nine cases he was shown arrested.

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Polls not free, fair: US

UK calls it sub par; EU asks for probe into election irregularities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US said Bangladesh's parliamentary election was not free and fair, while the UK observed that standards of credible and fair competitions in the polls were not consistently met during the election period.

Both the countries condemned the acts of intimidation and violence that took place before and during the election campaign. They also regretted that all political parties did not participate in the polls.

Expressing support for the democratic journey of Bangladesh, they said they

were looking forward to partnering with Bangladesh for development and human rights.

"The United States shares the view with other observers that these elections were not free or fair and we regret that not all parties participated," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement yesterday.

He said the US notes the Awami League won a majority of seats in the January 7 elections, but remains concerned by the arrests of thousands of political opposition members and by reports of

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Bangabandhu's homecoming day today

AL to hold rally at Suhrawardy Udyan

BSS, Dhaka

The historic homecoming day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is being observed today across the country in a befitting manner.

Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the

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This election most free, fair since 1975

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Sunday's parliamentary election will be written in golden in Bangladesh's history.

"A free, fair, neutral and participatory election was held with spontaneous participation of the people," she said.

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Discharging of toxic waste into the Dhaleshwari by tanners goes on unabated, causing serious pollution to the river and damage to biodiversity next to the tannery estate in Savar's Hemayetpur. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Heartiest Congratulations to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the Landslide Victory

Sayem Sobhan Anvir President

BANGLADESH JEWELLER'S ASSOCIATION
বাণিজ্য বাংলাদেশ জুয়েলাস এসোসিয়েশন

34th Death Anniversary

DEATH: 10TH JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother "Late Masuda Begum wife of Late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.)". Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to Almighty for His divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS

UN worried over polls violence

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has called on all parties in Bangladesh to reject all forms of violence and ensure human rights and the rule of law are fully respected.

"We have seen the situation that's unfolding there. The secretary-general continues to follow what's happening. He notes the opposition's decision to boycott the elections. I mean, all the allegations of the stifling of dissenting and critical voices and

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