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STATE MINISTERS

 NASRUL HAMID POWER DIVISION	 KHALID MAHMUD CHOWDHURY SHIPPING	 ZUNAI AHMED PALAK POSTS, TELECOM AND INFOTECHNOLOGY	 ZAHEED FAROOQUE WATER RESOURCES	 SIMEEN HUSSAIN (RIMI) WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS	 KUJENDRA LAL TRIPURA CHATTOGRAM HILL TRACTS AFFAIRS	 MD MOHIBBUR RAHMAN DISASTER MANAGEMENT, RELIEF	 MOHAMMAD ALI ARAFAT INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING	 SHOFIQR RAHMAN CHOWDHURY EXPAT WELFARE & OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT	 RUMANA ALI PRIMARY AND MASS EDUCATION	 AHASANUL ISLAM TITU COMMERCE
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A new team up against stiff challenges

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Ahsanul Islam Titu, a lawmaker from Tangail-6, is the new state minister for commerce.
Mymensingh-9 lawmaker Abdus Salam has been made the new planning minister. This is the first time he has made it to the cabinet.
Muhammad Faruk Khan, who was commerce minister from 2009 to 2011, is the new civil aviation and tourism minister.
Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a former deputy minister and president of Bangladesh Cricket Board, is the new minister for environment.
Eleven ministers of the immediate past cabinet have retained their berths in the new one. They include Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, LGRD Minister Tazul Islam, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder, and Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman.
Faridul Haque Khan and Farhad Hossain are now ministers for religious affairs and public administration. Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, who was the deputy education minister, is the

education minister, replacing Dipu Moni. The latter will head the social welfare ministry.
Obaidul Muktadir Chowdhury, a lawmaker from Brahmanbaria-3, is the new housing and public works minister while former fisheries minister Narayan Chandra Chanda is the land minister.
AL praesidium members Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Abdur Rahman are the new textiles and fisheries ministers.
Former chief whip Abdus Shahid is replacing AL praesidium member Abdur Razaque as the agriculture minister.
Samanta Lal Sen, who is inducted in the cabinet for the first time as a technocrat, is the new health minister.
Rajbari-2 lawmaker Zillul Hakim will be the railways minister, replacing Nurul Islam Sujon.
Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan is the new sports minister.
Nasrul Hamid, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Zaheed Farooque will continue to be state ministers for power division, shipping, information technology, and water resources.
The other state ministers appointed yesterday are Simeen

Hussain (women and children affairs), Kujendra Lal Tripura (CHT affairs), Mohibobur Rahman (disaster management), Shofiqur Rahman Choudhury (expatriates' welfare), and Rumana Ali (primary education).
Hours after the oath-taking ceremony, the PM appointed Mashur Rahman, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Gowher Rizvi, Salman F Rahman, Kamal Abdus Naser Chowdhury, and Tarique Ahmed Siddique as advisers.
However, the circular did not contain the name of PM's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, who was her ICT adviser.
In the January 7 parliamentary polls, the AL won 222 constituencies, and independents, mostly AL leaders, won 62. The Jatiyo Party bagged 11, and AL allies Bangladesh Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Bangladesh Kalyan Party won one seat each.
The PM dropped 30 members of the previous cabinet, including heavyweights like Abdur Razaque, AHM Mustafa Kamal, AK Abdul Momen and MA Mannan and inducted 12 new faces.
Of the 30, 15 were ministers, 13 state ministers and two deputy ministers. Besides, she dropped three technocrat ministers who resigned in November.

BNP activists break padlock

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area, this correspondent found about two dozen leaders and activists gathered outside the office. Some office staff were cleaning up the rooms inside.
A small number of police personnel were standing near the office.
Later in the day, three BNP standing committee members held a press conference at its central office.
The party will create the environment to establish a democratic government through fair polls in future, said Abdul Moyeen Khan, BNP standing committee member, at the event.
"The BNP believes in people's power. We are on the streets with the people to establish democracy. We will restore people's voting rights."
The AL government has made free and fair elections impossible under its rule, he said.
"We have been waging a peaceful movement for the last 15 months and

saying that free and fair elections are impossible under the Awami League government. The world has now realised the concern that we had expressed has come true."
Displaying a book on evidence of electoral irregularities, Moyeen said: "In this book, we have documented 250 incidents of irregularities by the government. The book bears a testimony to the rigged election."
Another book was being compiled with 250 more incidents, he said.
A 15-minute video documentary on 250 incidents of irregularities was screened during the press conference. Most of the clips were collected from media reports and social media posts.
"Evidence of violence, fake votes and wrongdoings is there."
Democracy is no longer alive in Bangladesh, he said.
"In order to establish democracy and protect people's rights, the nation achieved independence. But

now, I would like to ask the Awami League why they have destroyed democracy," Moyeen said.
BNP standing committee members Selima Rahman and Nazrul Islam Khan and some other senior leaders were present.
Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner (Media) Faruk Hossain yesterday said BNP leader Rizvi wrote to the DMP commissioner on January 10 requesting him to return the key to the padlock on the gate of the party office.
"The Dhaka Metropolitan Police on several occasions had said it never locked the BNP central office," he said in a press statement.
Faruk said a DMP probe found the BNP office security guard, Sohag, shut the main gate and left the office with the key on October 29 last year.
He said Rizvi's claim in this regard is not correct.

254 MPs each own liquid assets

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of the newly-elected MPs are businesspersons, which is the highest among the last four parliaments.
In the first parliament after independence, it was only 18 percent, it said, adding that over the last 15 years, the number of MPs who are businesspersons rose by 8 percent.
Meanwhile, 10 percent of the MPs are lawyers and nine percent are politicians in the new parliament.
Almost 52 percent of the lawmakers have loans or debts amounting to over Tk 10,379 crore.
Meanwhile, the TIB also found that as many as 112 MPs, 38 percent of all lawmakers, earn over Tk 1 crore annually.
Since 2018, Barishal-5 MP Zahid Faruk had the highest bump in income among the lawmakers. His annual income increased by 3,609.74 percent.
Over the past five years, Noakhali-3 MP Mamunur Rashid Kiron saw his wealth go up by 3065.58 percent.
The TIB said that 19 women have been elected as MPs in the 12th Parliament, which is 6.40 percent of all the elected members.
Meanwhile, around 80 percent have graduate or post-graduate degrees, while 11 percent passed

higher secondary and a little over two percent passed secondary level, TIB found.
Energy supply
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Meanwhile, electricity generation can be impacted due to a lower gas supply. So, production in energy-intensive industries such as ceramic, steel and textiles have dropped.
The government though is ensuring a steady supply to export-oriented factories.
The high inflation and economic downturn can reduce people's purchasing power.
Thus, sales of local companies may fall, Moazzem said.
In the last nine months, inflation stayed above 9 percent, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
Bangladesh still lags behind in achieving sustainable development goals, according to the report.
To achieve the goals, it will need a per capita investment of about \$400, up from the existing \$230, it said.
Globally, business people consider misinformation and disinformation as the most severe risks, followed by extreme weather events, societal polarisation, cyber insecurity and armed conflict.

Xi, Putin greet Hasina on being re-elected PM

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two countries have always respected each other, treated each other equally and achieved mutual benefits and win-win results.
"China and Bangladesh firmly support each other on issues that bear on each other's core interests, and jointly pursue the development and revitalisation of each country, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples," he further said.
Xi expected that China and Bangladesh would make joint efforts to further implement the important consensus he reached with Sheikh Hasina in South Africa last August, enhance political mutual trust, promote traditional friendship, further synergise development strategies, and promote high quality Belt and Road cooperation, so as to uplift the China-Bangladesh Strategic Partnership of Cooperation to newer heights.
According to UNB, Russian

President Vladimir Putin in his message said, "Russian-Bangladeshi relations have been traditionally developing in the spirit of friendship. Hopefully, your activities as the head of the government will further contribute to strengthening the constructive bilateral cooperation for the benefit of the people of our countries."
Meanwhile, Chinese Premier of State Council Li Qiang also sent a congratulatory message to Hasina, saying China and Bangladesh are close neighbours and development partners of close cooperation.
In recent years, China and Bangladesh have deepened their political mutual trust and achieved fruitful results in the Belt and Road cooperation, he said.
Li added that he stands ready to work with Hasina to promote the bilateral friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation, and further develop China-Bangladesh Strategic

Partnership of Cooperation, for the greater benefit of the two countries.
Shri Indra Mani Pandey, secretary-general of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), also congratulated the prime minister yesterday on her reappointment.
In a letter to her, he said that as one of the founding members of BIMSTEC, Bangladesh has been playing an important role in expanding regional cooperation within the sub-regional body's framework.
Pandey added that Bangladesh's leadership will remain critical in achieving the BIMSTEC's vision of building a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region.
He also said that under the leadership of Hasina, Bangladesh will continue to contribute to BIMSTEC achieving new heights in the coming years and transforming itself into a vibrant regional organisation.