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## MINISTERS' FIRST DAY AT OFFICE

On the first day of their tenure, the newly-appointed ministers addressed the challenges ahead and shared their strategies to overcome them. Key topics of discussion included corruption, prices of essentials, education and innovation, increasing food production, healthcare for all and environmental concerns. Here's a look at what the ministers said while talking to journalists yesterday.



Environment Minister  
Saber H Chowdhury

100-day action plan to address environmental challenges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 100-day action plan will be implemented targeting key environmental challenges and boosting the ministry's performance, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, the newly appointed minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said yesterday.

Speaking to journalists and officials, he also emphasised stakeholder engagement on tackling air, noise, water, and

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Health Minister  
Samanta Lal Sen

Will ensure best health services for the marginalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extending vital health services to marginalised communities will be one of the main goals of the health ministry, said Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen yesterday.

"I will try my level best to ensure that healthcare services reach the marginalised. Our goal is to avert situations where people are compelled to receive medical treatment on hospital floors," the newly-appointed

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Aviation Minister  
Muhammad Faruk Khan

Improving passenger service top priority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly-appointed civil aviation and tourism minister, Muhammad Faruk Khan yesterday said his main objectives will include further improving the quality of passenger service and luggage management, as well as launching new Biman routes to profitable destinations.

The minister said this while talking to journalists after taking charge of the ministry at

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Agriculture Minister  
Abdus Shahid

Increasing production the biggest hurdle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increasing the country's crop production and controlling the syndicates will be the topmost priority of his ministry, said newly appointed Agriculture Minister Abdus Shahid.

"We have to find a way to crush the syndicates everywhere," Shahid told journalists at the secretariat yesterday.

"Increasing production is the biggest hurdle in agriculture. If

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Fisheries Minister  
Md Abdur Rahman

Will expand export volume thru marine resources

BSS, Dhaka

The government has a plan to increase export volume in the fisheries sector through harvesting marine fish resources, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Md Abdur Rahman said yesterday.

"There is a huge potential of marine fish resources... we have plans to collect and export more marine fish to different countries," he told journalists at his ministry after assuming

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Public Admin Minister  
Farhad Hossain

We will try to eliminate disparity among cadres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is committed to eliminating the disparity between different cadres within the next five years through effective measures, said Public Administration Minister Farhad Hossain yesterday.

"Attempts have already been made to decrease the discrimination among different cadres. The government wants to bring it down to zero by

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Education Minister  
Mohibul Hasan

Accountability and innovation will be our areas of focus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly-appointed Education Minister, Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, yesterday pledged to ensure accountability in all activities within the ministry. He made these remarks during a views-exchange programme with ministry officials at the International Mother Language Institute.

He said a major goal of the Awami League's manifesto is to guarantee future generations'

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Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, along with journalists and employees of the newspaper, celebrated Staff Day with much enthusiasm yesterday. On the occasion, many were recognised for their outstanding performance in 2023.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'GM Quader, Chunnu abandoned us'

Allege JP candidates, grassroots on their role during national polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Blaming Jatiyo Party chairman GM Quader and secretary general Mujibul Haque Chunnu for the party's debacle in the January 7 national polls, JP's candidates and grassroots leaders said the duo "left them in polls race like orphans".

They also demanded that Quader and Chunnu ensure democracy and accountability within the party.

Several central leaders and around 133 grassroots leaders of JP who had contested in the national elections spoke during a views-exchange at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Dhaka.

Syed Abu Hossain Babla, a JP co-chairman who contested from Dhaka-4, presided over the meeting.

Many of the leaders alleged that the two top JP leaders did not stand beside them during the polls.

"We faced numerous problems and

obstacles during the election, including ruling Awami League men threatening us. I called the party chairman and secretary general so many times for their instructions, but they didn't even receive my calls. They just left us in the polls race like orphans," said Johirul Islam, JP candidate from Sirajganj-1.

"JP chairman and secretary general didn't keep any of their promises during the election. The party got huge fund by selling nomination papers, but we didn't get a single taka from it to run our polls campaigns," said Abdul Baten, JP candidate from Munshiganj-3.

Another JP leader demanded to know where the money collected from selling nomination papers went.

"You [GM Quader] have no democratic values. You have not thought about the party's tested leaders during seat sharing. You embezzled party funds among yourselves. You will be held accountable for all these," said

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## Star celebrates Staff Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star, the leading English newspaper in the country, yesterday celebrated its Staff Day, with much enthusiasm and a pledge to continue upholding the standard of journalism.

The day-long programme was held on the rooftop of The Daily Star Centre in the capital. The event began with a "Pitha Utsab" and cultural performances, in which multi-talented staff members of the newspaper participated.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, spoke about the challenges that emerged in the era of social media and pledged that the newspaper will continue its journalism without fear or favour overcoming all the challenges.

Romo Rouf Chowdhury, one of the directors of

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