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Hasina to attend Modi's swearing-in ceremony



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to leave for New Delhi tomorrow to attend her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony at his invitation. PM's Speechwriter M Nazrul Islam yesterday confirmed her joining the ceremony slated for Sunday. She will return home on June 10, he added. Modi is likely to take oath as the prime minister of India for the historic third term in a row on June 9 after his BJP-led NDA alliance won the election to Lok Sabha, the lower house of Indian parliament. Hasina and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe are among the foreign leaders who have been invited to Modi's oath-taking ceremony. Earlier, Modi invited Hasina to attend the swearing-in ceremony of his government and she accepted the invitation.

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POST-POLLS INDIA BJP, allies begin talks for coalition govt

Alliance members demand more funds, key cabinet positions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Parties in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Democratic Alliance (NDA) yesterday demanded more funds for their respective states and more federal cabinet positions as negotiations began to form a coalition government. Modi is now likely to take oath as prime minister for the third straight time on Sunday evening. Sources had earlier said that the oath-taking would take place on Saturday. Modi was named leader of the NDA on Wednesday after NDA won 293 seats in the 543-member lower house of parliament. The majority mark is 272. However, his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost its outright majority and found itself reliant on support from regional parties, mainly the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal (United). But Modi's BJP fell well short of the majority mark, making TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U) head Nitish Kumar, also the chief minister of the eastern state of Bihar, kingmakers in the alliance with their 16 and 12 seats respectively. BJP won 240 seats. In 2019, it won 303 seats. TDP also won an assembly election in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh to regain power and Naidu is set to become chief minister there. Both parties are pushing longstanding demands to grant special status to their states, according to one TDP spokesperson and five NDA sources. The special status allows states to receive more federal development funds on simpler terms. While Bihar is India's poorest state, Andhra Pradesh lost some of its resources in 2014 when the new state of Telangana was carved out of it. Besides special status and cabinet positions, TDP is also seeking more funds for irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh and to complete the building of its new capital, Amaravati, said the sources.

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USA players celebrate after pulling off a historic victory in a thrilling T20 World Cup encounter against Pakistan at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas today as the co-hosts beat the 2009 world champions in Super Over. In front of the home crowd, the USA posted 18 in the Super Over and restricted a rather lacklustre Pakistan to 13 for one after equalling their total of 159.

PHOTO: AFP

USA stun Pakistan

AGENCIES

U S A produced a brilliant run-chase to take Pakistan to a Super Over and then win it in a thrilling ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 contest at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas on Friday. This was USA's first-ever win over Pakistan in a T20I. Both teams made 159 in their regulation 20 overs, with non-Test nation the United States then setting Pakistan 19 to win in the Super Over. US pace bowler Saurabh Netravalkar held his nerve as Pakistan made 13-1 in reply. Opener Steven Taylor departed for 12 (16) in the final over of the Powerplay, but Monank Patel and Andries Gous put Pakistan on the back foot with a

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40 killed in Israeli strike on UN school

Say Gaza officials, 14 children, nine women among dead; mediators continue talks on ceasefire in Doha

AGENCIES

Israel hit a Gaza school yesterday in an airstrike that it said targeted and killed Hamas fighters inside, while a Hamas official said 40 people including women and children were killed as they sheltered in the UN site. The strike took place at a sensitive moment in mediated negotiations on a ceasefire agreement entailing the release of hostages and some of the Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Hamas seeks a permanent end to the offensive. Israel says it must destroy the group first. The United States issued a joint statement with other countries yesterday calling on Israel and Hamas to make whatever compromises were necessary to finalise a deal as the two sides gave contradictory accounts of the school attack. Ismail Al-Thawabta, the director of the Hamas-run government media office, rejected Israel's assertion that the UN school in

Nuseirat, in central Gaza, had hidden a Hamas command post. Israel's military said its fighter jets had carried out a "precise strike" and circulated satellite photos highlighting two parts of a building where it said the fighters were based. "We're very confident in the intelligence," military spokesperson Lt Col Peter Lerner told a briefing with reporters, accusing Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters of deliberately using UN

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Govt officials to come under new pension scheme

BAHARAM KHAN

Government officials recruited after July 1 next year will be incorporated in the universal pension scheme, instead of the conventional post-retirement pension benefits. Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali announced this during his budget speech in the parliament yesterday. "We will bring new recruits of all government institutions, who get pension benefits, under the universal pension scheme," the finance minister said. The move comes amid protests by employees of autonomous, state-owned, and other statutory organisations against the decision to include them in the Universal Pension Scheme. "The fresh recruits of autonomous and state-owned institutions have already been brought under this system.

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BENAZIR'S IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Court appoints administrators to look after them

ACC now sets June 23 for quizzing him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday appointed administrators to look after some of the immovable properties of Benazir Ahmed and his family members. The upazila nirbahi officer will look after the properties in Savar and deputy commissioners in Cox's Bazar and Madaripur. In Gopalganj, the deputy commissioner, fisheries and agriculture officers will take charge of land and water bodies, the court said. Judge Mohammed Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain passed the order, accepting a petition filed by ACC Deputy Director Hafizul Islam. The court ordered the ACC to look after the former police chief's four flats in the capital's Gulshan, reports Prothom Alo. Proceeds from the assets will be given to the state coffers. Meanwhile, the ACC fixed June 23 for interrogating Benazir over allegations of corruption, after he did not show up for yesterday's hearing. Asked whether Benazir requested the commission to reschedule the hearing, ACC Secretary Khorshedha Yasmin said the team

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PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

A feather duster worm spotted around 12 feet under the Bay of Bengal in Saint Martin's Island. These fascinating sea marine creatures, whose earliest fossils can be dated back to the early Jurassic period, are found in subtidal habitats around the world. For feeding, a feather duster worm captures planktons, algae and other microscopic organic particles using its feathery tentacles. By doing so, these animals play a vital role in maintaining marine health as it prevents the buildup of detritus or other harmful substances. Additionally, feather duster worms provide a valuable food source for other marine organisms. However, despite playing such a crucial role, they face several threats to their survival, including habitat destruction caused by human activities and water pollution.





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