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13TH JATIYA SANGSAD MPS Two-thirds are first-timers

Likely leader of the House, opposition leader have never been lawmakers either

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The new parliament will feature a significant number of new faces, with first-time lawmakers set to take up the roles of both the leader of the House and the opposition leader for the first time in the country's history.

The BNP, led by Tarique Rahman, has secured a two-thirds majority, while the Jamaat-e-Islami, under the leadership of Shafiqur Rahman, has emerged as the second-largest party.



TOTAL MPs 297
At least 209 (70%) first-timers

BNP MPs 209
First-timers 132 (63%)

Jamaat MPs 68
First-timers 59 (86%)

NCP MPs 6
All of them first-timers

Independent MPs 7
First-timers 6 (86%)

6 MPs from IAB, Bangladesh Khlefat Majlis, Khlefat Majlis, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Gano Samhati Andolan are all new.

Neither of the two has ever held the position of lawmaker, yet they will steer the future of the 13th parliament. Like them, more than two-thirds of the lawmakers elect will sit in the House for the first time, according to affidavits submitted to the Election Commission.

A total of eight parties will have representation in the new parliament, with top leaders of five of the parties being elected as MPs for the first time. They include National Citizen Party leader Nahid Islam; Gano Samhati Andolon leader Zonayed Saki; and Gono Odhikar Parishad leader Nurul Haque Nur.

Parliamentary affairs expert Nizam Ahmed said it is "unprecedented" that both the leader of the House and the opposition leader will be first-time MPs.

He recalled that in the first parliament, formed through the 1973 national polls, there was officially no opposition leader. There were only seven lawmakers on the opposition bench, who were referred to as an "opposition group".

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BNP Chairperson Tarique Rahman exchanging greetings with Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman at the latter's residence. Tarique yesterday visited Shafiqur, after the two parties dominated Thursday's national election.

PHOTO: SHAFIQR RAHMAN'S OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE

Tarique trying to balance fresh faces with old hands

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

By carefully choosing candidates for key posts, BNP seeks to build a competent, controversy-free cabinet that will send a positive message to the people, party insiders said.

Sources added that BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman is personally overseeing discussions ahead of the swearing-in of the BNP-led cabinet tomorrow.

The cabinet is expected to have 25 to 30 members. The leadership will consider former ministers from the BNP-led 2001 government, Standing Committee members, and new faces in an attempt to balance seasoned leaders with younger figures.

Tarique Rahman is poised to become prime minister, taking charge of at least five ministries, including defence.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir may become the next president, though the appointment process could take time.

In the meantime, he is expected to helm a key ministry.

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Former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and former textiles and jute minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed are likely to return in ministerial roles.

Former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and former information minister Abdul Moyeen Khan are also being considered. Other names include former health minister Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, former communications minister Salahuddin Ahmed, and former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku.

BNP Standing Committee members Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and AZM

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Heads of govt, ministers to be at swearing-in ceremony

Indian speaker to represent Modi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Maldivian Prime Minister Mohamed Muizzu, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Indian Lok Sabha Om Birla and foreign ministers of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected government of Bangladesh led by BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman tomorrow.

The interim government invited the heads of government from more than a dozen countries including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as well as foreign ministers from other countries.

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NEW PARLIAMENT Businesspeople far outnumber politicians

ZYMA ISLAM

Businesspersons will make up more than half of the new parliament, according to affidavits filed with the Election Commission during the election.

In total, 178 lawmakers declared "business" as their profession in the affidavits. Except for two of them, who did not declare their incomes, the average annual income of these lawmakers is Tk 1 crore.

The second-largest group is lawyers, with 40 elected to parliament. Their average annual income is Tk 26.8 lakh.

Fourteen lawmakers identified themselves as farmers or involved in agriculture, with an average annual income of Tk 11.7 lakh.

The lowest-earning farmer is Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's Md Golam Rabbani of Rangpur-5, who earns Tk 40,000 per year. However, he has movable assets worth Tk 22.9 lakh, while his wife has movable assets worth Tk 16.5 lakh.

At least 28 teachers were elected to parliament, all but four of them from Jamaat.

Only nine people identified themselves as politicians. From the BNP, they are Chairperson Tarique Rahman; Khulna-4 lawmaker Azizul Bari Helal; Chandpur-1's ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon; Khagrachhari's Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan; Barishal-2's Sarder Sharfuddin Ahmed; Bhola-4's Md Nurul Islam; and Manikganj-2's Moinul Islam Khan.

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Workers cleaning and preparing the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday for an open-air oath-taking ceremony of cabinet members and members of parliament to be held tomorrow. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Congratulations!

Global Insurance PLC is pleased to announce that its esteemed Chairman, **Mr. SAYEED AHMED**, has been elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) for the **Shariatpur-1** constituency in the 13th National Parliamentary Election.

This accomplishment is not only a personal milestone for him but also a source of great pride for the entire Global Insurance family, including the Sponsors, Board of Directors, officers, employees and well-wishers.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Sayeed Ahmed on this achievement.

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