



DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2026

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXVI No. 34

FALGUN 4, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 28, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00



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## Lobbying frenzy in civil service, police

Officials jostle for posts eyeing new govt

BAHARAM KHAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Intense lobbying has gripped the bureaucracy and police, with officials scrambling for coveted postings as the contours of a new BNP-led government begin to take shape.

From mid-ranking to senior officers across ministries, officials have been manoeuvring to secure positions in the incoming administration. Even retired bureaucrats have reportedly joined the fray, seeking a return to influential posts by using political connections, according to sources.

At the Secretariat, the heart of the civil bureaucracy, groups of officials were seen visiting the public administration secretary yesterday, pressing their cases and seeking assurances about postings and promotions — a familiar pattern during political transitions, when civil servants move swiftly to align themselves with new

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus poses for a photo with officials and employees at the CA office in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday afternoon. His tenure ends today with the swearing-in of the new BNP-led government.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

## Struggle for a just Bangladesh must continue

Says Yunus in his farewell address

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, highlighting the interim government's initiatives to ensure democratic rights and values over the last 18 months, has called upon everyone to continue the struggle to build a just, humane and democratic Bangladesh.

"I call upon everyone, regardless of party, creed, religion, caste and gender, to continue the struggle to build a just, humane, and democratic Bangladesh. With this appeal, I bid farewell with great optimism," he said in his farewell address to the nation last night.

Urging all to build a Bangladesh where possibilities are limitless, and dreams have no boundaries, the chief adviser said, over the last 18 months, the people

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## Nation turns a new page today

18 months after the uprising, lawmakers-elect, cabinet take oath of office

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The arduous struggle for the restoration of democracy reaches its final step this afternoon, as an elected government prepares to take oath following the swearing-in of newly elected lawmakers this morning.

With this, the people turn to a fresh chapter of governance and hope, and it draws the curtain on 18 months of interim government rule that oversaw the long-awaited and widely-accepted national polls.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday delivered a farewell address to officials and employees at his office in Tejgaon. Several advisers also bid farewell from their offices.

Yunus later made an address to the nation as well.

The BNP has yet to decide whether its members will separately take oath to join the Constitutional Reform Council.

Under the July National Charter

(Constitution Reform) Implementation Order, 2025, lawmakers of the 13th parliament are expected to play a dual role, serving as MPs to perform normal legislative work and as members of the council tasked with reforming 48 constitutional provisions, outlined in the July charter, within 180 working days.

They would therefore need to take two distinct oaths: one as legislators and another as council members.

Regarding the swearing-in of Constitution Reform Council members, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters yesterday

outside the BNP chairperson's political office in Gulshan, "If the Constitution Reform Council is incorporated into the constitution, an amendment is made to that effect, and a form is included in the Third Schedule of the constitution for conducting the oath, specifying who will administer it, only after all these are done

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## Work towards fulfilling the polls pledges

Tarique instructs MPs-elect of BNP

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman has instructed the newly elected party lawmakers to work to implement the party's election pledges.

Tarique, who will take oath as the prime minister today, reminded them about the party's priorities, saying that establishing the rule of law, accountability, discipline, people's welfare and national development would be his key targets.

He gave the directives during view-exchange meetings with the newly elected BNP members at the party chairman's office in Gulshan over the past two days. The Daily Star has learnt from people with direct knowledge of the discussions.

During the meetings, Tarique thanked them for their electoral victories and for what he described as the "long struggle" of the party's grassroots leaders and activists over the past 17 years.

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## 68.6% candidates blow past campaign spending limit

Finds TIB survey on 70 constituencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 68.6 percent of the candidates in the 13th national election exceeded the legal campaign expenditure limit, according to a report by Transparency International Bangladesh.

TIB came up with the figure

44.24 lakh.

However, the average total expenditure of the BNP in these 70 seats was Tk 1.89 crore per candidate, which is over 327 percent higher than the limit. As many as 94 percent of the party's candidates exceeded their limits.

**"It is noteworthy that both principal rivals have raised allegations of bias against the commission, which may indirectly indicate the commission's effort to remain neutral."**

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman



after a survey on 210 candidates in 70 randomly selected seats. It also tracked other polls code violations in those constituencies.

The report, titled "13th National Election Process Tracking and Affidavits: TIB Observations", was launched at a press conference at the organisation's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

The average legal limit per candidate across constituencies is Tk

Among independents, it was Tk 1.76 crore per candidate, which is 315.2 percent higher than the cap.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami spent around Tk 1.11 crore per candidate, which is 159.1 percent higher than the limit. A total of 86.5 percent of the party candidates exceeded their limit.

Meanwhile, candidates of Jatiya Party spent an average of Tk 99 lakh each, which is 128.6 percent higher

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## Jamaat will be a dutiful opposition

Says Shafiqur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has pledged his party's commitment to standing by the people as a responsible opposition in parliament, promising to play a constructive role in safeguarding public and national interests.

Speaking at an exchange meeting with the party's MPs-elect at Al-Falah auditorium in the capital's Moghbazar, Shafiqur emphasised the need for a healthy parliamentary culture where both the government and opposition perform their roles effectively.

He noted that core institutions had decayed, while the judiciary and other state organs became dysfunctional, leading to widespread disorder. He stressed that the ruling party bears primary responsibility for restoring these.

"If the government takes the lead with sincerity, it will be possible to reactivate

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## AMAR EKUSHEY Before Bangla became a demand

A rare interview of Principal Abul Kashem



STAR REPORT

Principal Abul Kashem is an unforgettable figure in the history of the Language Movement. On September 1, 1947, under his leadership, Tamaddun Majlish, the initiating organisation of the Language Movement, was established.

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## The pitchman's big promises but small gains

Investment chief Ashik Chy sold a dazzling dream but reality remained gloomy in 2025

JAGARAN CHAKMA

In officialdom, a microphone malfunction is usually seen as a sign of disorder. Yet in April 2025, at the Hotel InterContinental, Ashik Chowdhury transformed this familiar frustration into a piece of calculated theatre.

Just as he was about to begin his keynote at an investment summit, a "technical difficulty" stalled proceedings long enough to ripple nervous tension through the audience. Then, with the timing of a seasoned showman, Chowdhury revealed the glitch had been deliberate. "Without technical difficulty, any session is a waste of time," he quipped. "Sorry, that was actually intentional; we did it just to warm you guys up."

The room, filled with foreign dignitaries and local tycoons, erupted in relieved laughter. Even Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser and Chowdhury's superior, smiled in amusement.

Chowdhury then invited investors to imagine a scene straight out of Back to the Future, a 1985 science fiction film. The year, he proposed, was 2035. Bangladesh had shed

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