



# TARIQUE TAKES THE REINS

## A LEGACY RECLAIMED

His journey from exile to office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time since independence, a third member of the same political family has taken the country's helm, with Tarique Rahman having become Bangladesh's first male prime minister in 35 years.

After more than 17 years in exile in the UK, the

**Tarique gradually grew more measured, as years in exile left their mark on him – shaping his vision of greater tolerance in Bangladeshi politics.**

60-year-old returned home last December to contest – for the first time in his political career – one of Bangladesh's most consequential elections.

Tarique took over as the BNP chairman after his mother, former prime minister and party chair Khaleida Zia, passed away on December 30 last year.

From then on, he worked tirelessly to mobilise the party ranks, touring districts with promises of curbing corruption, implementing electoral reforms, and ensuring socio-economic development.

He drew thousands of supporters to his

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SAJJAD HOSSAIN and WASIM BIN HABIB

BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman was sworn in as the prime minister of Bangladesh yesterday, as the party returned to power after nearly two decades.

A new political figure as prime minister for the first time in 30 years, Tarique sprang surprises in his choices

and 24 state ministers separately at a ceremony at the South Plaza of the parliament complex.

Previously, such ceremonies were held at the Bangabhaban.

The senior BNP leaders left out of the cabinet include Mirza Abbas, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, Nazrul Islam Khan, Selima Rahman, Amanullah Aman, Gayeshwar

## Shafiqur leader of opposition

Taher deputy, Nahid chief whip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman and its Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher have been made the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition respectively in the 13th Parliament.

Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party (NCP), an ally in the Jamaat-led I-party alliance, has been made the Opposition Chief Whip in parliament.

At 12:23pm yesterday, the newly elected Jamaat candidates took oath as

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## Economy, rule of law, governance to be the focus

Say ministers after taking oath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After taking the oath of office yesterday, several ministers said that economic reforms, improvement of law and order, and good governance would be among the top priorities of the new government.

Pledging to ensure stability and inclusive growth, they said that coordinated efforts would be made to boost investments, create employment, and address institutional weaknesses.

Describing the new cabinet as "a good one", Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, who is set to assume the role of finance minister, said the new government would prioritise investment and create a more business-friendly environment.

"We want to steer the country out of the oligarchic economic system created under the fascist regime. We want an economy where everyone can take part. We will make sure that the benefits reach everyone. Bangladesh's democratic transition has already begun," he told The Daily Star.

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## Early snag for Constitution Reform Council

BNP, allied MPs skip oath; Jamaat, NCP sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Constitution Reform Council suffered a setback yesterday as BNP's elected representatives took oath as MPs but declined to be sworn in as members of the council.

Three lawmakers from BNP allies, along with several independents, followed suit.

The decision by more than two-thirds of the MPs has cast uncertainty over the formation and functioning of the Council, proposed under the July National Charter (Constitution Reform) Implementation Order, 2025.

The move initially drew a strong reaction from Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party and their allies, whose elected candidates at first refused to take oath.

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**The new council of ministers features 40 first-time entrants – 16 ministers and all 24 state ministers. Only nine had previously served as ministers or state ministers in past BNP governments.**

for the council of ministers, dominated by new faces with only a handful of old guards. Among the notable inclusions is the interim government's national security adviser Khalilur Rahman, who was appointed as a technocrat.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath of office and oath of secrecy to Tarique, 25 ministers,

Chandra Roy, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi. Abbas, Nazrul and Rizvi were later named advisers to the new PM with the rank of minister.

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Prof Muhammad Yunus, along with local and foreign dignitaries, attends the swearing-in ceremony of the cabinet at the Jatiya Sangsad's South Plaza yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

## New JS must meet within next 30 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 13th Parliament will have to go into its maiden session within 30 days of the oath-taking of the newly elected MPs, according to the Constitution.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin will convene the session by exercising the power vested in him under the Constitution.

As Speaker of the 12th Parliament, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has reportedly resigned from the post, a senior BNP lawmaker will preside over

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## Foreign dignitaries congratulate Tarique

Modi invites new PM, family to India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

World leaders have congratulated Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and the BNP government, while looking forward to advancing their relationships with Bangladesh as the country begins a new chapter in its democratic journey following the mass uprising.

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Pakistan Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhury, Nepal Foreign Minister Bala Nanda Sharma, UK Under-Secretary for Indo-Pacific Seema Malhotra, Sri Lankan Minister of Health and Mass Media Nalinda Jayatissa and Turkish Under-Secretary Beris Ekinci flew to Dhaka to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new cabinet yesterday.

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Abdur Rouf Chowdhury  
Founding Chairman  
(1937–2023)

*In Loving Memory*

A visionary leader whose impact was profound and whose legacy remains everlasting

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