



6 follow fathers' steps into the cabinet

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Six members of the new council of ministers have mirrored their fathers' legacy as the BNP and its allies assume power after winning the February 12 national election.

One of them has been appointed a full minister, the remaining five state ministers. All are first-time lawmakers.

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New govt to seek 3-year LDC deferment

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The new government formed by BNP will seek to defer Bangladesh's graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category to developing-nation status by at least three years, Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir said yesterday.

"We will initiate the process tomorrow [Wednesday] to defer the LDC graduation by at least three years," Muktedir told The

Daily Star over the phone after taking oath as a minister. He added that the deferment aligns with his party's policy position.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) will lead the process, while the commerce ministry will formally initiate the procedure, he said.

The country's business community, which believes Bangladesh is not yet ready to face the challenges of graduation,

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Prices of essentials rise ahead of Ramadan

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD ABBAS

Within a week, prices of essentials, especially iftar and sehri items such as onions, all types of chicken, meat and local fish, rose sharply ahead of Ramadan.

On average, the increase ranged from 10 to 30 percent.

During visits to Karwan Bazar, Mohammadpur Krishi Market, Mohammadpur Geneva Camp Kitchen Market, Farmgate, Shewrapara, Kazipara and Ibrahim Kitchen Market yesterday, The Daily Star found that prices varied

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Khalilur being minister will raise questions Nahid says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener and member of the parliament Nahid Islam yesterday alleged that the inclusion of Khalilur Rahman in the cabinet has brought allegations of "election engineering, result manipulation and

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ATTACK ON Star, PROTHOM ALO

Probe stalled in both cases

No new arrests since Dec 26

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

The drive against those accused of vandalism, attacks and arson at the country's two leading newspapers -- The Daily Star and Prothom Alo -- seems to have stalled, with no arrests made since December 26.

After the twin attacks on the night of December 18 -- two months ago -- two cases were filed, one by Prothom Alo and one by The Daily



Star, on December 22. Soon afterwards, 37 people were arrested, according to court documents.

Fifty-three days since the last arrests, the investigation has made little progress.

Eleven were arrested in the case filed over the attack on The Daily Star office and 26 over the attack on the Prothom Alo office.

All arrests had been made before the Detective

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অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী
জনাব তারেক রহমান ও মন্ত্রিপরিষদের সন্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দ এবং
জাতীয় সংসদের নবনির্বাচিত সন্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দ-কে
বেসিক ব্যাংক পিএলসি, পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা।

BASIC বেসিক ব্যাংক পিএলসি
সহজিকৃত পথে মানবতার সাথে
শতভাগ রাষ্ট্র মালিকানাধীন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক

যমুনা ব্যাংক

যমুনা ব্যাংক পিএলসি'র পক্ষ থেকে
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী
জনাব তারেক রহমানকে
প্রাণঢালা শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

TARIQUE RAHMAN

We celebrate your appointment and look forward to a new era of national prosperity. Under your seasoned leadership, we are confident Bangladesh will reach unprecedented heights of success.

Bangladesh Association of Banks