

# WB for special pool of top govt officials

## Suggests incorporating members from pvt sector, separate pay scale, promotion mechanism

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank (WB) is pushing the government to form a special pool of 1,200 to 1,300 bureaucrats, incorporating qualified professionals and managers from the private sector.

In its plan for Bangladesh's public administration reforms, the WB also suggested a separate pay scale, code of conduct and promotion mechanism for the special service pool.

The WB, which sent its Public Administration and Governance Policy Notes to the government last month, sought the government's opinion about these suggestions, sources said.

But the high-ups of different ministries who have discussed and examined the WB notes, opposed

the suggestion to incorporate private sector managers into the pool, the sources added.

The pool will be tagged as a condition for aid disbursement under the Country Assistance Strategy of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Department for International Development Fund (DFID), Japan and WB.

The WB has proposed the formation of the special pool styled as 'Senior Civil Service' (SCS) with the senior government officials from the level of secretary down to deputy secretary.

"The Senior Civil Service should be open to all cadres, and not just the administration cadre of Bangladesh Civil Service," says the policy note adding that a pool of 1,200-1,300 officials can easily be

managed.

Quotas should be phased out as soon as possible and efforts should be made to attract qualified professionals and managers from outside the civil service, the WB suggested.

WB Country Director Christine I Wallich in a letter attached to the policy note also suggested opening the service to competitive lateral entry from the private sector at different stages.

"This would require reform of the present recruitment, transfer and promotion systems with more transparent procedures and a role for external peer reviewers," Wallich observed.

The policy note said to complement the SCS and ensure that its members are held accountable for

## 55 fishermen missing after 10 trawlers capsize in Bay

UNB, Bagerhat

At least 55 fishermen went missing after 10 trawlers with 165 fishermen aboard capsized in the Bay on Tuesday.

The missing fishermen hail from Barisal, Chittagong, Pirojpur, Cox's Bazar, Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Local sources said the trawlers sank, as they were hit by huge waves while fishing within the Bangladesh territorial waters in Gangamoti.

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## Hasina returns, blasts govt for hiking perks of PM, ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked if the ruling alliance had that much confidence then why do they not accept the opposition's demand for reforms in electoral and caretaker government systems and call an early general election.

Hasina, also the leader of the opposition, said this in response to a recent speech by the prime minister. In a public rally on Wednesday, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said people would once again vote the four-party alliance in the next election.

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## 12 militants acquitted of Natore jatra blast case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The 12 Islamic militants held in Natore district were relieved of the charges for the bomb attack on a jatra show (theater) at Boraigram upazila.

The district judge, Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, acquitted them of the case on Wednesday following a police prayer.

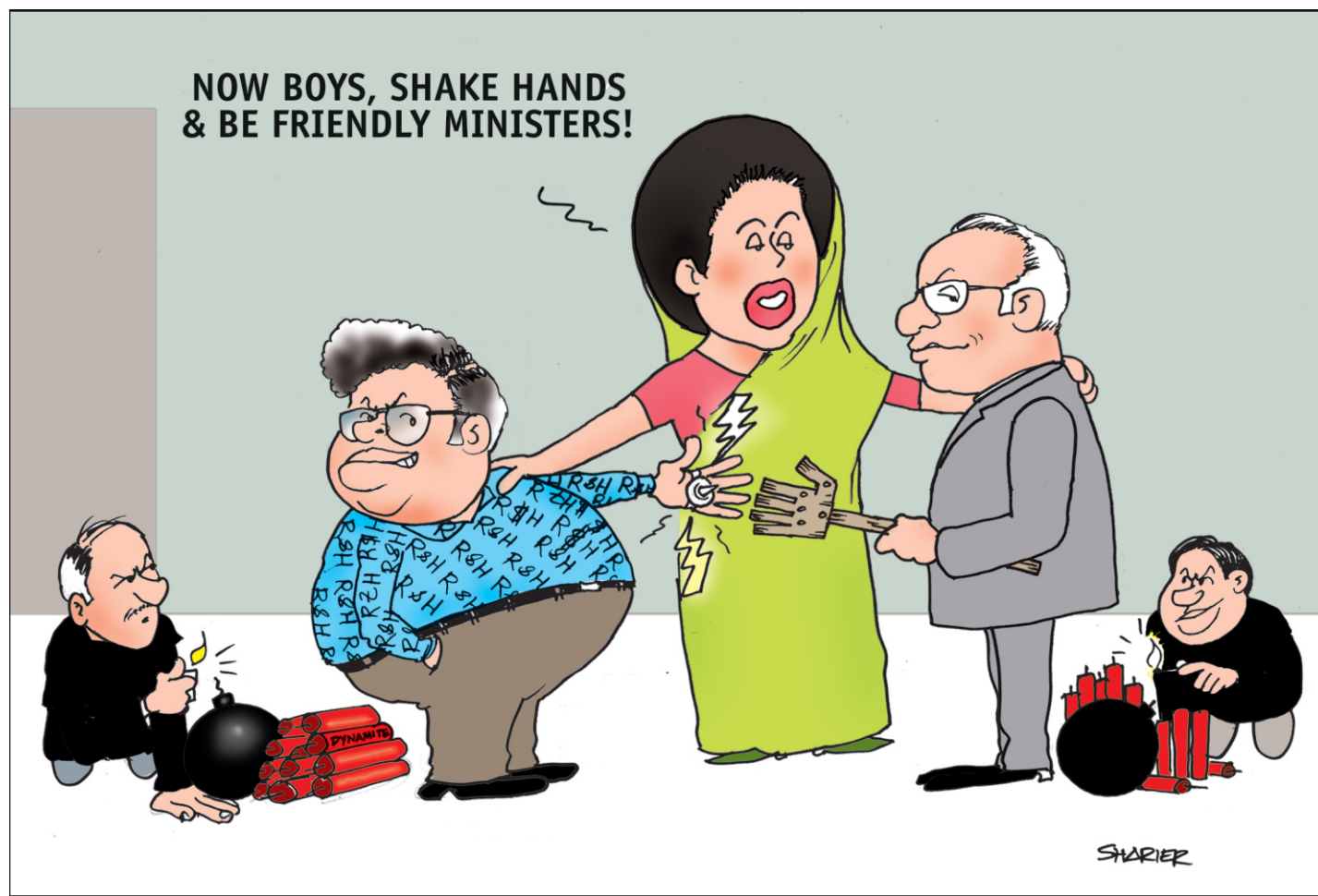
The arrestees include Forman Ali, Shahidul Islam, Alauddin, Anwarul Islam, Isahaq Ali, Ahsan Habib, Saiful Islam, Muhammad Ali,

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PHOTO: STAR

A dish of rotten fish prepared to serve to the students of Dhaka University's Mohsin Hall. A mobile court yesterday examined the food served at the dining hall of the dormitory.



## PRO-BNP LAWYERS' CONFLICT

# PM weighs in, gives nod to Aminul-backed rally

## Huda faction takes back horns but decides to boycott

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Following Wednesday's flare-up of conflict between two factions of pro-BNP lawyers, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday instructed the ruling party's lawyer ministers to let Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF) hold its grand rally on the Supreme Court premises today.

Indications, however, show that the prime minister's intervention to bring peace among the feuding ministers is unlikely to succeed. Instead of resolving the dispute, it might aggravate the situation.

The two factions, one headed by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda and the other by Telecoms Minister Aminul Haq, got in dispute Wednesday over holding the rally. JAF Senior Vice-Chairman Huda was bitterly opposed to the rally while JAF Secretary General Aminul

Haq was determined to go ahead with the plan for rally.

The conflict escalated when Huda at a press conference announced the JAF Supreme Court unit dissolved. In reply, Haq at another press conference described Huda's decision as illegal and announced suspension of JAF membership of the communication minister and BNP Law Secretary Joynul Abedin for 'anti-organisational activities'.

The conflict among the lawyers-cum-ministers plus ruling party lawmakers dates back to the time when the four-party alliance came to power. Over the years, it has dragged on as there has been anything but understanding between Huda, Haq, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP, former speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, former

BNP law minister TH Khan. The conflict originated mainly from trying to hold sway over various appointments in the judicial system.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia after a meeting on upcoming Faridpur-1 by-election, held a discussion with Moudud, Aminul Haq, Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and others at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday afternoon, sources said. She queried about the crisis and heard their versions.

The ministers apprised her about Huda's opposition to the grand rally. Khaleda asked them not to get locked in dispute in public. Besides, she extended her support to the rally.

Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that their meeting with the prime minister was no formal discussion about

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## Dhaka pins high hope on Natwar's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is expecting to dissolve the irritants with India and settle bilateral issues during Indian External Minister K Natwar Singh's three-day visit to Dhaka beginning tomorrow.

Official sources said Dhaka is eagerly waiting to welcome Singh and considering the visit an important move to strengthen relations between the neighbours.

Singh during his visit will hold official talks with his counterpart M Morshed Khan.

He is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Singh will also call on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and visit the Liberation War Museum and Ramkrishna Mission in Dhaka.

The Indian minister is expected to discuss an entire range of bilateral relations and issues in the interests

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# 50 tonnes of medical waste dumped a day

## Poses serious health risks in Dhaka, promotes unscrupulous trade

DAUD KHAN

A lack of coordination among health agencies and hospitals, combined with outdated waste management policies, contributes to the open dumping of medical waste at city hospitals, posing a threat to public health and creating a secondary market in reused medical waste.

It is a disturbing daily routine. Abdul Motaleb, 28, rummages through piles of medical waste in dustbins in Shyamoli every day, his slipper shod feet submerged in bloodied gauze, syringes, and dirtied latex gloves. On a recent afternoon he cleaned out the tube of a blood bag, blowing into it with his mouth to force the blood out the other side. For his labour he earns 80 or 90 taka per day, selling the plastic items and syringes to wholesalers in Dhaka.

This thriving trade in reused medical waste, evident at dustbins throughout the city, symbolises the negative side effects of the city's waste disposal policy, which lacks provisions for separating and properly disposing of medical waste. Figures on the amount of medical waste produced in Dhaka City are difficult to come by, but some sources roughly estimate that city hospitals produce

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A man, left, collects used blood bags and syringes dumped in front of Suhrawardi Hospital; A pile of medical waste, right, on the premises of Pangu Hospital (National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation) in Dhaka.



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

# Food joints shut for second day

## People suffer; hygiene drive goes undaunted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The suffering of the public, including office goers, students and others who take their meals outside, peaked yesterday, the second and last day of the strike called by the food producers.

In the second day of the two-day long strike, the Bangladesh Khadya Babsayi Parishad (BKBPP) a combine of food producers, yesterday

demanding that the government suspend the ongoing drive until a benchmark of safety and hygienic standards is set.

They also urged the government to give the authority to a single body for checking the adulterated food in the market with a view to ending the unnecessary harassment to the food traders.

Amid the strike the mobile courts

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# Clemency to Jhintu ignites her pain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The presidential clemency to Mohiuddin Jhintu has again ignited the unbearable pain Nilufar Yasmin has been bearing for the last 23 years after Jhintu and his thugs killed her husband Firoz Al Mamun in 1982.

In a recent interview to a Bangla daily at her Lal Mohon Shah Street house Nilufar expressed her resentment, saying, "The president and the prime minister have granted mercy to Jhintu as he is a BNP leader, but Firoz too was a BNP leader—what have they done for him? Where is my consolation?" the Daily Prothom Alo reported.

Working at an orphanage Nilufar had earned the living for herself and her two children—Shoma and Sumon—for the last 20 years. "I have no gains in my life, only losses," she said.

Nilufar, who retired from the orphanage two years back due to ill health, said she got married at the age of 13 and lost her husband after five years.

On January 25, 1982 Firoz and another trader Abdul Khaleq Rana were killed in Demra. Sweden expatriate BNP leader Jhintu was one of the prime accused in the double murder.

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