



PRIVATE BANKS' CREDIT SURGES

Political calm brings back businesses' loan appetite

PAGE B1

WHAT NEXT FOR SHARIF?

Lahore court orders murder charges against the Pakistan PM

PAGE 8

MISSION CHANDERPAUL

Pacer Robiul is confident he can grab the most vital West Indies wicket

PAGE 14

Khaleda 'insolvent' to clear party fee

BNP banks on undocumented donations; leaders follow suit

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has not paid a single penny in monthly fee to her party fund since 2010, according to a recent list prepared by the BNP's central office.

Surprisingly, almost all of the BNP central leaders have followed suit and refrained from paying their monthly fees, though nominal in amount, in the last four years.

Yet, the party has been spending huge amounts of money collected from undocumented sources, enjoying the pervasive culture of a lack of transparency in the political parties' funds that is widely alleged. This malpractice has long been blamed for allowing rooms for corruption.

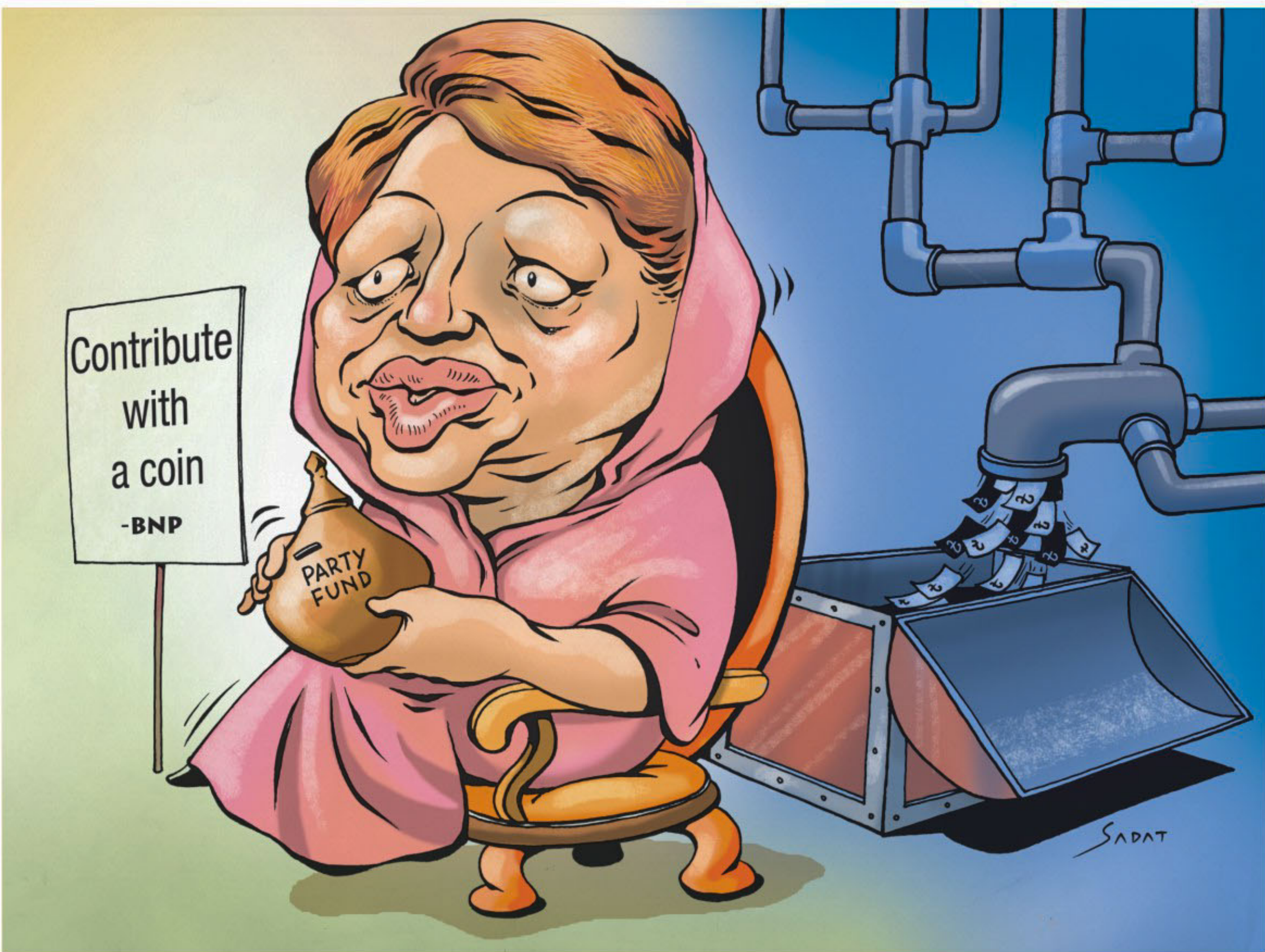
Khaleda was supposed to pay a monthly fee of Tk 1,000 during her term as an MP in the last Jatiya Sangsad. After expiry of the ninth parliament's tenure last January, she would have to pay the same amount of monthly fee as an ex-officio member of her party's national standing committee. But again she refrained from doing so.

Thus, the BNP supremo herself has repeatedly ignored the decision taken at her party's national council in December 2009 that made it mandatory for the lawmakers and the central leaders of the organisation to pay their monthly fees regularly.

Asked, Khaleda's tax counsel Ahmed Aazam Khan told The Daily Star that the BNP chief couldn't pay the fees due to her financial crisis as she currently faces restrictions in drawing money from her bank accounts.

During the regime of the military-backed caretaker government, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in 2007

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Cabinet may okay judge impeachment bill today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet may consider approving a constitutional amendment proposal seeking to restore parliament's authority to impeach Supreme Court judges for misconduct or incapacity.

The proposal may be placed today before the cabinet, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Law Minister Anisul Huq declined to make any comment over the issue.

According to the existing constitutional provision, the Supreme Judicial Council comprising the chief justice and two other senior most judges of the Appellate Division investigates allegations of misconduct against any SC judge and makes necessary recommendations to the president.

The president then takes steps as per the suggestions. He can also impeach a judge for having physical and mental incapacity to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

ENRICHED WITH ZINC

Another rice variety ready for release

REAZ AHMAD

A year after releasing the world's first zinc-enriched rice variety, Bangladeshi breeders have come up with another rice variety with higher zinc content and greater yield potentials.

High-zinc rice -- Bri dhan-62 -- released late last year contains around 19 to 20 parts per million (ppm) zinc against 14 to 16 ppm in other high-yielding rice varieties. However, the ready-for-release rice breed contains zinc as high as 25 ppm.

Zinc, iron and vitamin-A are the three most vital micronutrients, deficiency of which hampers children's natural growth and decrease their disease prevention capacity. In Bangladesh, over 40 percent children under five are stunted while an estimated 44 percent children of the same age group are at risk of zinc deficiency.

Scientists involved in the breeding process confirmed that the latest rice variety is more productive than the high-zinc rice already released. Average yield of



SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

AUG 15 MUTINY

Trial possible; no initiative taken

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Around 14 years ago, the then chief of staff and the judge advocate general of the army expressed the opinion that army personnel involved in the August 15 gruesome killings could also be tried on the charge of mutiny under army law.

They gave the opinion on December 4, 2000 at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry in the seventh parliament [1996-2001], according to the meeting's proceedings.

Members of the parliamentary body at the meeting were discussing holding trial for the mutiny staged on that fateful day by a few hundred disgruntled junior army officers and soldiers through violating army rules and discipline.

They brutally assassinated President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members, overthrew his government and installed Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed as the president.

Setting the discussion into motion, Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, a member of the committee, proposed: "The defence ministry could be asked to take measures for holding the trial of those army personnel who staged the mutiny and committed the killings."

Supporting Shawkat, another member, Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan, said a trial related to mutiny was held after the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman in 1981 by some army officers.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Armed forces taken for a ride

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The army as an institution was in no way involved in the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the overthrow of his government on August 15.

But the killers of August 15 abused the name of the entire armed forces to defend their heinous actions by launching pre-planned propaganda through state-run media.

Immediately after the gruesome murder, it was major Dalim who announced through state-run radio that Sheikh Mujib had been killed and his government overthrown. He described it as an act of the army as a whole.

As per their plan, the killers took at gun-point the chiefs of the three services -- army, air force and navy -- to the radio station and forced them to extend their support to the changeover at around 11am on the fateful day.

The radio announcement by the chiefs of the three services boosted the morale of the killers -- a band of majors and their aides. The announcement also created confusion in the army, which by then had gone through a breakdown in the chain of command.

Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed, commerce minister in Bangabandhu's government, was in the afternoon sworn in as the new president per courtesy of the killers.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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