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## 'Parasites' feast on ruling AL

Over 100 organisations making big money using Bangabandhu's name, Liberation War

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

They are parasites, as Obaidul Quader calls them. And true to their names, they are growing on others without any problem.

Over the past five years, scores of these "parasite" organisations have sprouted like mushrooms in the capital, with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his family members and the Liberation War tagged with their names.

Behind these name-only organisations are some little-known ruling party men who have set an example of how to best abuse the Father of the Nation and the country's Liberation War to make a mint.

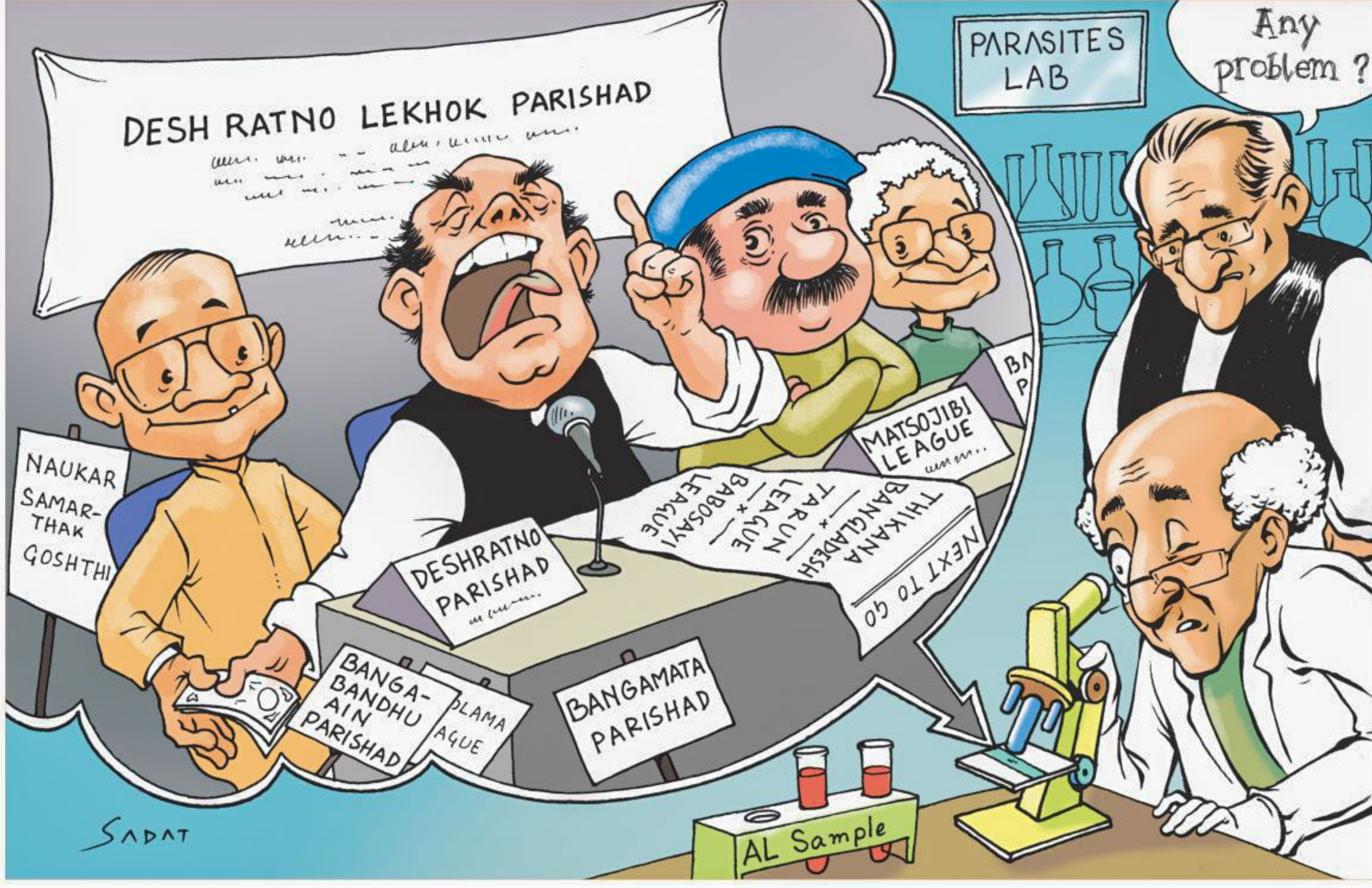
Under the law, floating any organisation using the name Liberation War requires permission from the Jatiya Muktijoddha Council. But most of these organisations

have not taken permission. IT'S ALL SO EASY

Their business is simple: They organise programmes or seminars marking various special days. Some top AL leaders who are sidelined in the party and want to draw the attention of the party high-ups provide the money. In return, they are made chief or special guests at the programmes, said sources with first-hand knowledge.

A certain group of people make the audience in exchange for money. The media coverage is also stage-managed. Some reporters and photographers, who are not involved in the mainstream media, arrange the coverage.

Some pro-AL businessmen also stand ready to attend the programmes for publicity and for drawing the attention of Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina,



## HC questions JS power to impeach SC judges

Asks govt to explain in 2 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the 16th constitutional amendment that empowers parliament to impeach the Supreme Court judges for incapacity or misconduct.

The HC also issued a rule upon the government seeking an explanation in two weeks why the amendment should not be declared unconstitutional and annulled.

The cabinet secretary, prime minister's office secretary, president's office secretary, parliament secretary, and law secretary have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraful Kamal came up with the order after hearing a writ filed by nine SC

## Cops foil BNP demos

Clashes in several dists; 30 hurt in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday foiled the BNP's demonstrations in different districts, including Gazipur where they opened fire injuring around 30 people during a clash with the party activists.

A schoolboy, two pedestrians and a female councillor of Gazipur City Corporation are among the injured.

The BNP on Saturday announced the demonstrations at all cities and district

headquarters for yesterday to protest the government's "autocratic decision not to allow" a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan to mark "the national revolution and solidarity day."

BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed told the press at the party's Nayapaltan central office yesterday evening that the government's "autocratic attitude" was reflected in the action of police who did not allow them to hold



Police chase away BNP activists, who attempted to bring out a procession, from in front of the party office in Barisal city yesterday.

## BURDWAN BLAST Key accused Sajid taken on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A court in Kolkata yesterday remanded Sajid, the main accused in the Burdwan blast case, in the custody of India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) till November 20.

"Sajid, the mastermind in the Burdwan blast, admitted before the court that he had served several years in Bangladesh jails and fled to India earlier in the year. Investigations have revealed he used to teach in madarasas and impart jihadi ideology," NIA prosecutor S K Ghosh told reporters in Kolkata.

Sajid, stated to be a Bangladeshi national and also chief of the Burdwan module of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), was arrested on Saturday near the Kolkata airport by West Bengal police. He was later handed over to NIA which is

## DIGITAL BANGLADESH BY 2021 Govt boasts of ICT success

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The country has made major strides in achieving its vision of Digital Bangladesh and there is a likelihood that it could make the vision a reality before the 2021 deadline.

The government has done more than half the job of Digital Bangladesh by 2021, one of the election pledges of the ruling Awami League, said Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for post, telecommunications and information technology.

Digital centres in 4,547 union parishads, 321 municipalities, and 407 wards in 11 city corporations have already been set up, according to data of Access to Information Programme of the Prime Minister's Office.

Kabir Bin Anwar, project director of the Access to Information Programme and director general of the PMO, came up with the information at a PMO press briefing on Tuesday's Digital Centre Entrepreneurs Conference.

FOUR YEARS of DIGITAL CENTRES	
4,547	Union Digital Centres
321	Municipality Digital Centres
407	Ward Digital Centres in 11 City Corporations
5 crore	services delivered
7 crore	online birth registrations

The conference at the National Parade Ground would mark the fourth anniversary of the union digital centres. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her IT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy would be there.

Kabir said at the conference Bangladesh would celebrate getting the World Summit on Information Society Award and World Information Technology and Service Alliance Award.

The data of the Access to Information Programme shows that the digital centres provide 60 kinds of public and private services, including computer trainings, land registrations, public exam results, government form downloads, birth and death registrations, online university admissions, employment information, and mobile banking.

The centres have already served people 12 crore times with services like registration of seven crore births, and more than 20 lakh


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