

## Dhaka hands protest note

**Pakistan envoy summoned after Bangladesh mission staffer in Islamabad 'harassed' by plainclothesmen**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amid escalating diplomatic tension between Dhaka and Islamabad, the Bangladesh foreign ministry summoned the Pakistan envoy here to lodge a strong protest yesterday, a day after a staffer of Bangladesh mission in Islamabad remained missing for nearly seven hours.

Handing the "strongly-worded" protest note to Pakistan High Commissioner Shuja Alam, Dhaka called on Islamabad to refrain from repeating such uncalled for activities, sources said.

Serving and retired diplomats in Dhaka described Pakistan's recent activities as a "violation of diplomatic norms".

They said Pakistan went beyond any "decency," as it continued to interfere into the domestic affairs of Bangladesh and harass Bangladeshi diplomats for no reasons.

Rear Admiral (ret) Khurshed Alam, acting foreign secretary and also secretary to maritime affairs unit, summoned the Pakistan envoy at 1:00pm and expressed grave concern over Monday's incident. He also wanted to know from the diplomat the circumstances of the Bangladesh mission official's going missing and his subsequent return.

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Record-breaking Bangladesh skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz was the toast of his teammates after the Young Tigers beat Namibia by eight wickets to seal a place in the quarterfinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday. Story on page 14

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Civil bureaucracy plagued by in-situ

**Around 1,000 officials promoted but doing old jobs**

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government move to promote around 300 officials would see a further rise in the number of in-situ officials in the civil administration.

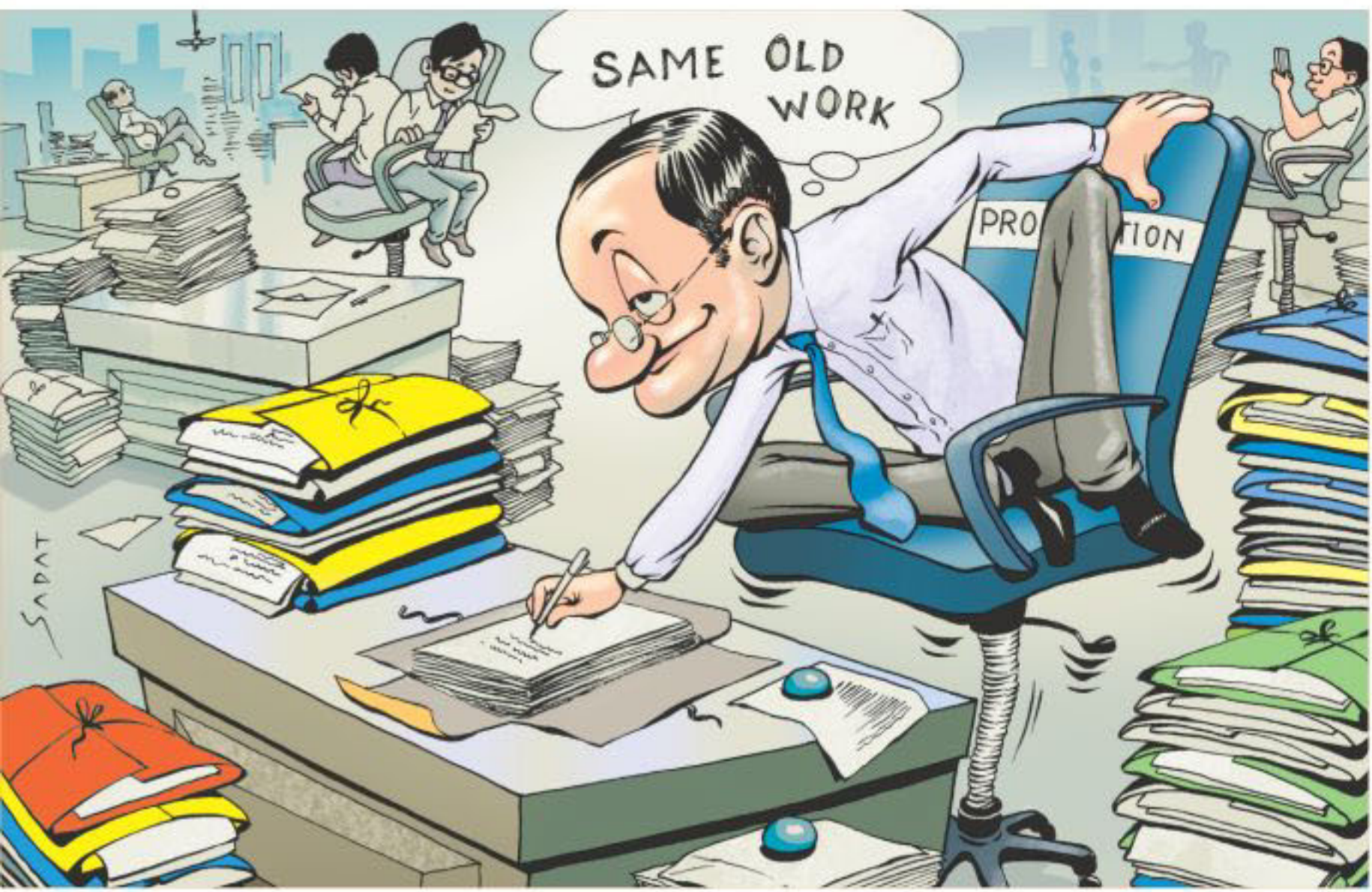
This time, promotions would be given to the ranks of additional, joint and deputy secretaries apparently to ease commotion among the "deprived" officials, who were denied promotions several times, said Secretariat sources.

These promotees will add to the number of around 1,000 in-situ officials -- from deputy secretaries to additional secretaries -- in 39 ministries and 20 divisions of the government.

Though the term "in-situ" was very uncommon in Bangladesh's civil administration before 2001, it has now become an integral part of the country's civil bureaucracy.

According to Cabinet Secretary

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## DANDY DYEING CASE Trial of Khaleda, Tarique begins on March 1

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and 13 others in the Dandy Dyeing loan default case will begin on March 1.

After framing the charges, Judge Fatema Ferdous of the Artha Rin Adalat-1 yesterday fixed the date to start the suit filed over default on a Tk 45.49-crore loan.

The 13 other defendants are: late Arafat Rahman Koko's wife Sharmila Rahman, their two daughters Jahiya Rahman and Jafiya Rahman, Giasuddin Al Mamun and his wife Shahina Yasmine, Nasrin Iskander, wife of late Sayeed Iskander, their sons Shams Iskander, Shafin Iskander, daughter Sumaiya Iskander, Mozaffar Ahmed and Kazi Galib Abdus Sattar, Shamsun Nahar and Masud Hassan.

Earlier, the court made Khaleda, Koko's wife, his daughters as defendants, as Koko died on January 24 last year.

Later, Khaleda submitted

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## 30 lakh martyrs a settled history

**Observes war crimes tribunal in judgment**

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

It is an "undisputed" and "settled" fact that 30 lakh people laid down their lives during the Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971, says the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

"The undisputed history says that the Bengali nation and the freedom fighters fought for nine months to get their homeland Bangladesh free from the capture of Pakistani armed forces," the Tribunal said yesterday while delivering a verdict in a war crimes case.

Apart from the three million dead, hundreds of thousands of women sacrificed "their supreme honour for the cause of freeing their dear motherland Bangladesh, about ten million people took refuge in India and millions of others were internally displaced, said the special court formed in 2010 to try those accused of committing war crimes about four decades ago.

"This settled history is now indisputably mingled with the nation's holy emotion

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## SABOTAGE IN 2013 15 Jamaat, BNP men get life term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi tribunal yesterday awarded life-term imprisonments to 15 leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the BNP in a case filed in connection with sabotage in Sirajganj during the BNP-Jamaat blockade of 2013.

Only one of the 15 accused, Shibir activist

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## Ransom could not save child

**Body of 11-yr-old found in plastic barrel 4 days after abduction**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of an 11-year-old boy from a house in Keraniganj of Dhaka, four days after he was kidnapped by relatives.

The body of Abdullah, son of Badal Hossain, an expatriate living in Kuwait, and Rina Begum was found inside a plastic barrel on the first floor of a two-storey building around 1:00pm, said police.

The building, owned by Rina's maternal uncle Motahar, is located within 50 feet of the boy's house at Mugarchar area under Keraniganj Model Police Station.

Police claimed that Motahar was the mastermind behind the abduction and murder of the boy. Motahar and his wife went into hiding after police had found the body.

The incident happened barely four days after bodies of three children were recovered from Tangail and Rangpur. Their families claimed that the children had been abducted.

Abdullah's paternal uncle Kabil Hossain said the child's family paid Tk 2 lakh as ransom against a Tk 5.5 lakh demanded by the captors.

His hands and legs were tied with ropes and he was found in a sitting position, he added.

Law enforcers on Saturday evening arrested three people, including Motahar's son Mehedi, 18, in connection with the incident.

During primary interrogation, Mehedi confessed that he along with his father was involved in the abduction and

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Abdullah

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