

# CENTRALISED DECISION-MAKING

## Bank services slow down

JEBUN NESA ALO

Faruk Hussain was waiting for about an hour at the branch office of a private bank in the capital's Karwan Bazar to encash his boss' savings scheme.

It was a simple task.

His boss, a secretary at an important ministry, had opened a savings scheme that would double in amount in five years. The secretary signed all the papers.

It should not have taken more than 15 minutes to complete the task. Yet the minute hand of the clock ticked 60 times and Faruk was still waiting.

Faruk then prodded the branch manager, wanting to know how much longer he would have to wait.

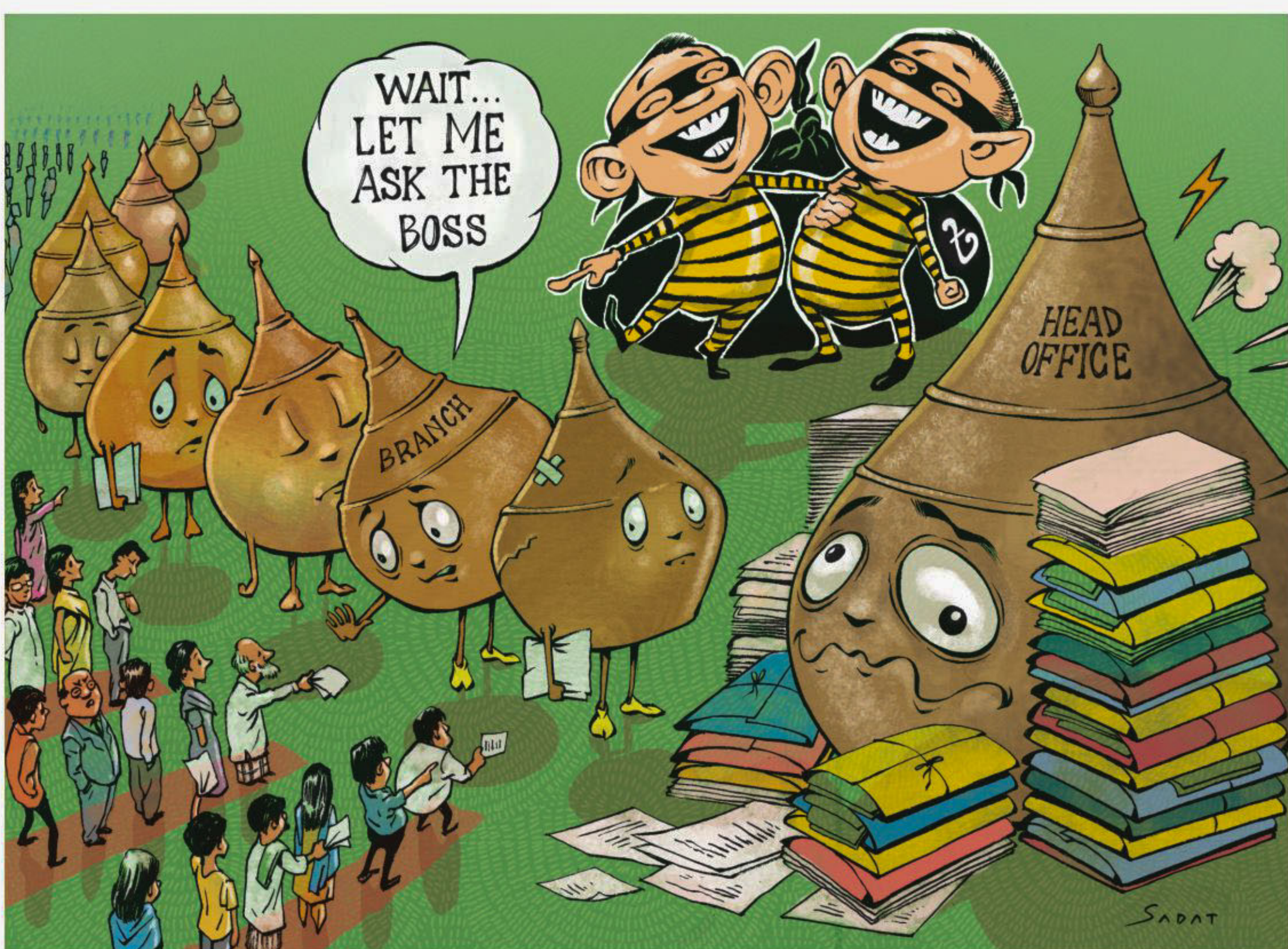
"Please take another cup of tea. I am calling the head office right away to get updates," said the manager as he picked up the phone.

"Please madam, can you hurry things up a bit more because the client is a secretary. We have to take special care of the big clients ... you know," the manager pleaded over the phone.

This is not an isolated incident, rather a general picture of how client service has slowed down at some banks, which have switched over to centralised decision-making in the last several years, taking back power from their branches.

But why did the banks walk in the backward direction? The answer lies in the huge non-performing loans and scams that have plagued the banks in the last one decade.

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## Hasina warns against graft at field-level administration

UNB, Dhaka

Reaffirming her government's tough stance against corruption, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the public administration ministry to issue a strong warning against graft by field-level administrations.

"Your specific directives must reach the administrations at the grassroots level that tough action will be taken if anyone resorts to corruption," she said while visiting the ministry in the morning.

The PM wondered why there would be corruption

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## Vitamin A+ campaign postponed

Capsules found glued to one another



PHOTO: BSS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Institute of Public Health Nutrition has postponed vitamin A plus campaign slated for tomorrow as it received reports of the capsules being attached to one another in the packets.

"There have been some reports from the field that the red capsules are glued to one another in the packets. We then discussed the matter with the higher authorities and decided to postpone the campaign," said Dr Gazi Ahmed Hasan, deputy programme manager at the IPHN, last night.

The campaign, which was set to cover some 2.2 crore children, will be conducted in a later date, he told The Daily Star.

Nothing harmful has been detected in the capsules, but as it is a huge programme and children are involved in it. There

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## Crescent curse on Janata

The group launders crores with help from unscrupulous bank officials, probe finds

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN, JEBUN NESA ALO and SOHEL PARVEZ

The Customs Intelligence claimed to have detected that Crescent Group, in collusion with some officials of Janata Bank's Imamganj branch in Dhaka, laundered Tk 1,297.65 crore abroad against 657 fake export bills.

The Anti-Corruption Commission also found proof of embezzlement of Tk 1,303.69 crore by the Group from the bank branch, according to the findings of an ongoing ACC inquiry initiated in October last year.

The developments came after a Bangladesh Bank report revealed last year that the business entity "skimmed" at least Tk 765 crore in the name of exports from the JB and the Bangladesh Bank (BB) between January 2017 and February 2018.

The total amount of loans taken by the Crescent Group from the JB stood at Tk 3,443 crore in October last year, and the borrower defaulted on the loan pushing the state-owned bank to call for an auction to recover the money.

The Customs Intelligence said it found involvement of 15 officials from the JB and the Crescent Group while the ACC learnt about the links of 17 officials from the bank and the Group in the scam, according to the findings of the authorities.

Of the 15, 13 are bank officials, shows a 208-page probe report prepared by the Customs Intelligence.

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PROBE REPORTS SAY

- Customs found Tk 1297.65 crore was laundered
- ACC got proof of Tk 1,303.69 crore embezzlement
- Customs found officials of Janata and Crescent Group involved
- ACC report accuses 11 Janata officials who were following orders
- ACC, Customs did not name bank MD found involved in BB probe

## HC rejects petition on oath taking of MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition that had challenged the legality of oath taking of the lawmakers elected in the December 30 polls.

A HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraful Kamal passed the order considering that petition was not filed properly.

After the order, lawmakers elected in the 11th parliamentary polls have no bar to perform their duties, said Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

On January 14, advocate Taherul Islam Tawhid filed the petition praying for a rule on the Election

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## Dhaka promises good governance

Seeks global cooperation at first diplomatic briefing after Dec polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Seeking the international community's cooperation to meet challenges ahead of the new government, Dhaka has promised to ensure good governance in Bangladesh by maintaining a strong "zero tolerance policy" for "corruption and terrorism".

Attending the first diplomatic briefing after the 11th parliamentary polls, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said, "We need active collaboration and partnership amongst all to achieve the core goals of the government."

The people's expectations are now high as they got a taste of massive socio-economic development in the last 10 years, he added.

The Prime Minister has given a roadmap to take the country to a new height of development by meeting major targets like becoming a middle income country by 2024 and a developed one by 2041, he said.

The foreign minister's maiden diplomatic briefing was attended by 55 members of the diplomatic community, the foreign ministry officials said.

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## RMG UNREST No 'innocent' to be sacked

BGMEA says as 1,411 workers suspended

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

No "innocent" garment worker would be suspended, but those who got involved in criminal activities during the weeklong labour unrest would be punished, the BGMEA president said yesterday.

His comment came amid claims by labour leaders in Ashulia and Savar that as many as 1,411 workers have been laid off from 16 factories since the protests began in the apparel hub last week over disparity in wages.

Siddiqui Rahman, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said, "In our tripartite core

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FOUR INTERNATIONAL BRANDS

ZARA

HISPANITAS

LA GARROCHA

Lois

LEND



18<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY

GULSHAN SHOP | JAMUNA SHOP

NAFI TOWER LEVEL - 02 | LEVEL - 01, BLOCK - D

53, GULSHAN AVENUE | SHOP NO - 32, 33, 34

JAMUNA FUTURE PARK


SALE

-30%

আমরা শোকাহত

নাছির-উর-রহমান সিন্হা


"তোমার কীর্তির চেয়ে তুমি যে মহান..."



অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সাথে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, দি একমি ল্যাবরেটরিজ লিমিটেডের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম হামিদুর রহমান সিন্হা এর জ্যেষ্ঠ পুত্র, দি একমি ল্যাবরেটরিজ লিমিটেডের সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান এবং স্যালভেশন ফর দি ডিজার্ভিং (এস.এফ.ডি) এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান জনাব নাছির-উর-রহমান সিন্হা গত ১৭ জানুয়ারি ২০১৯ ইং বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১১.৪৫ মিনিটে ঢাকাস্থ নিজ বাস ভবনে শেষ নিশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন (ইল্লা লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইল্লা ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল প্রায় ৮২ বছর। তিনি স্ত্রী, চার পুত্র, দুই ভাই, নাতি-নাতনী, আত্মীয়-স্বজনসহ অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

মরহুমের এই প্রয়াণে একমি পরিবার গভীরভাবে মর্মান্বিত ও শোকাহত। মহান আল্লাহ্ তায়ালা তাঁকে বেহেশত নসিব করুন এবং শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারকে এই শোক কাটিয়ে ওঠার ধৈর্য ও তৌফিক দান করুন।

এ উপলক্ষে অদ্য ১৮ জানুয়ারি রোজ শুক্রবার মুঙ্গিগঞ্জ জেলার লৌহজং থানার কলমা ইউনিয়নস্থ মরহুমের পৈতৃক নিবাসে; আগামী ২০ জানুয়ারি রোজ রবিবার কোম্পানির কল্যানপুরস্থ কর্পোরেট অফিসে ও সকল বিজয়কেন্দ্রসমূহে এবং ২১ জানুয়ারি রোজ সোমবার ধামরাইস্থ কারখানায় বাদ যোহর কুলখানি ও দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত কুলখানি ও দোয়া মাহফিলে যোগদান করে মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগ্ফিরাত কামনার জন্য সকল শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষী ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদেরকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

 একমি

একমি পরিবারের সদস্যবৃন্দ