



## ECONOMICS OF WEDDING

People are on a shopping spree for weddings and parties

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## 2G SCAM

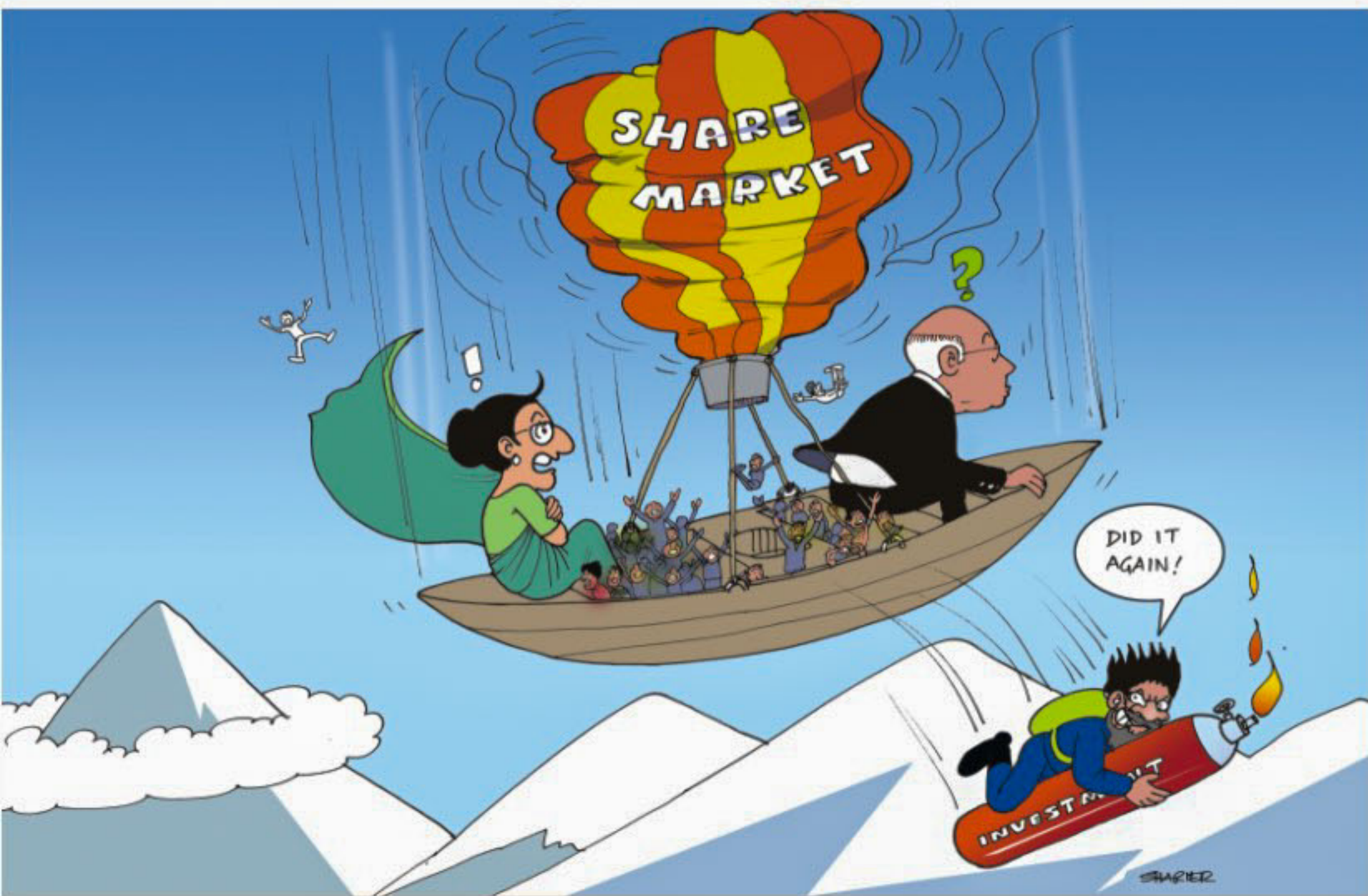
India's SC issues notice on govt seeking explanation

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## RONALDO ON SONG

Portuguese star scores hat-trick in Real's comeback win

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## Black Monday tricks

INAM AHMED

When a balloon is leaking, you patch it up. When somebody is inflating it too fast and too much, you stop him. But if you yourself are blowing in the air knowing very well the balloon is becoming way too large, what would you call it? A hara-kiri?

Sadly for the stock market, that is exactly what happened. The market watchdog, the Securities and Exchange Commission, itself is in the dock today for inflating the market out of proportion.

SEC shut down the market within about 50 minutes of the start of day's trading yesterday, because the index

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## Bhutan PM arrives on 4-day visit

Summit talks today

UNB, Dhaka

Bhutanese Prime Minister and Saarc Chairman Jigmi Y Thinley arrived here yesterday on a four-day official visit with economic and political cooperation on top of his agenda.

A Druk Airlines flight carrying the Bhutanese premier and his entourage landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport

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## Dhaka, Delhi agree on 15-yr Teesta deal

Agreement on Teesta, Feni rivers likely during Manmohan's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India yesterday agreed on a framework of a 15-year treaty for sharing the Teesta and the Feni rivers' water in dry season.

The treaty will be signed sometime either during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Bangladesh

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# Markets shut as stocks collapse

Rowdy protests flare up; bourses resume today

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Thousands of angry investors vandalised cars, blocked roads around the country's main bourse and fought a violent battle with police following the collapse of the stockmarket

yesterday.

Share trading stopped only 50 minutes into the opening of transactions, when prices went into free fall.

The regulator instructed the exchanges to suspend the trading after General Index of Dhaka

Stock Exchange slumped by 660 points and Selective Categories Index of Chittagong Stock Exchange by 914 points.

It was the steepest singleday fall in the bourses' history.

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MORE STORIES IN STAR BUSINESS

## SEC relaxes rules to restore confidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday relaxed or reversed some decisions in a desperate effort to bring back confidence among investors after the market collapsed within the first hour of trading.

Merchant banks and institutional stockbrokers will be allowed to give loans at 1:2 ratio from today. It means a

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greets her Bhutanese counterpart and Saarc Chairman Jigmi Y Thinley at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday on his arrival in the city on a four-day visit.



Investors outraged at the collapse of share market demonstrate by burning materials in the city's Paltan area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hasina seeks constructive criticism from Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia to make constructive criticism so that the government can right its wrongs.

The premier's call came in response to Khaleda's press conference on Sunday where the BNP chairperson accused Awami League of establishing "one-person rule" and creating "reign of terror" in the country.

Hasina was addressing a discussion at Bangabandhu Conference Centre in the capital marking Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

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## COX'S BAZAR SEA BEACH

# HC orders removal of all structures

Asks govt to stop building any new ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to immediately remove all permanent and temporary structures from Cox's Bazar sea beach to keep it intact and save its natural beauty.

It ordered the deputy commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police (SP) of Cox's Bazar to submit a report to it within seven days on compliance of its order.

The HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to stop construction of permanent and temporary structures on the beach to protect it from land grabbers.

An HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik

and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain gave the order and issued the rule in response to a writ petition.

The court directed the DC to form a special committee to demarcate the world's largest sea beach within three months.

And it ordered the SP and officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station to take steps for police vigilance on the sea beach to prevent land grabbing and construction of structures there.

Secretaries to the ministries of planning, environment and forest, finance, LGRD, and water resources, director general of environment department, the DC and SP of Cox's Bazar and the OC

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