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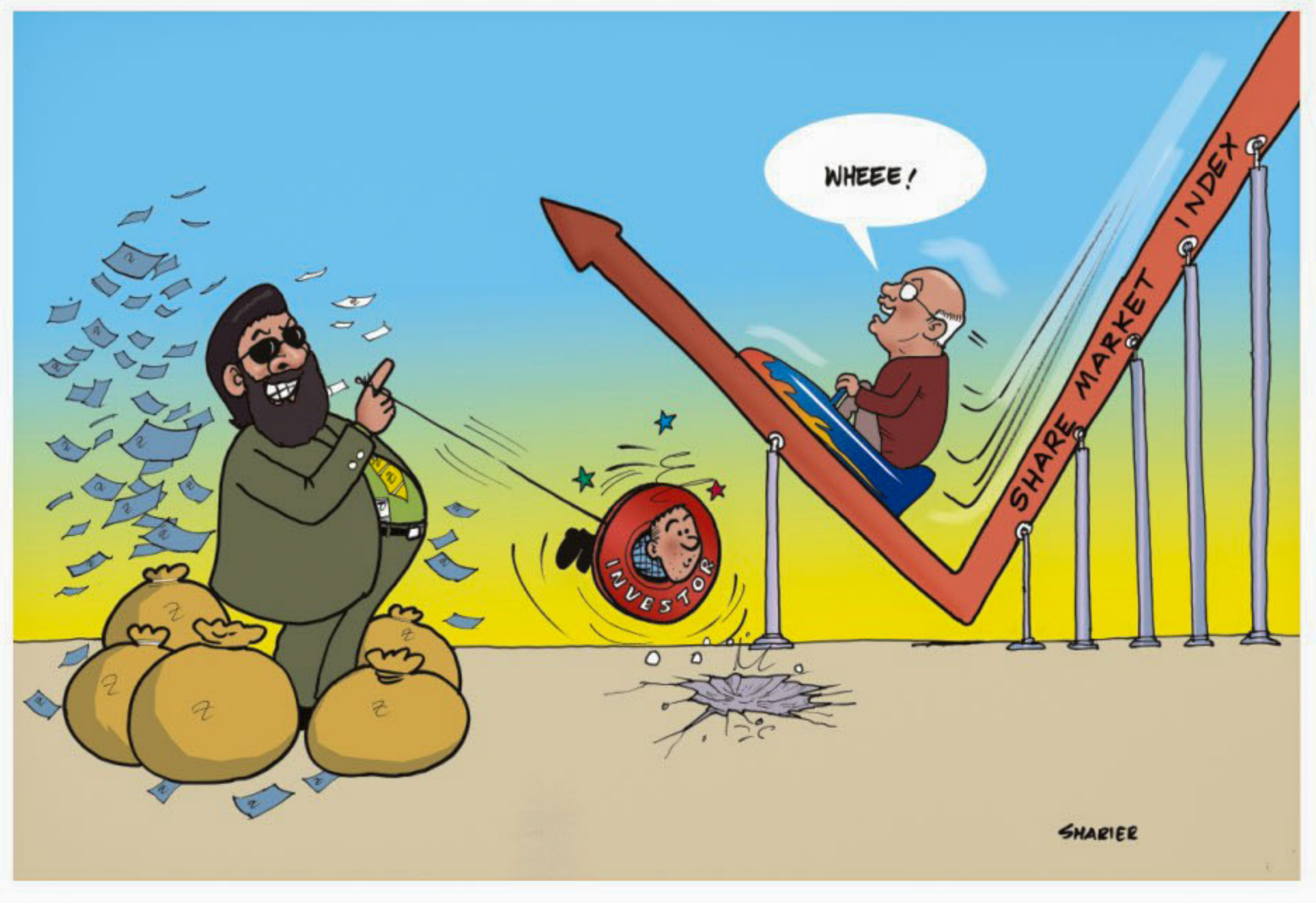
## Stocks on abnormal rebound

**SARWAR A CHOWDHURY**

Reversing the trend of the last few days, Dhaka stockmarket yesterday clocked a record 15 percent gain. The general index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) stood at 7,512 points at the close of the day's trading, recouping 1,012 of 1,235 points it lost on the previous two days.

On Monday, the country's premier bourse suffered the steepest plunge in its 55-year history, prompting the regulator to suspend trading less than an hour after the start of transactions.

Of the 243 issues traded yesterday, 195 hit the upper band in their prices and touched the circuit breaker, SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



## Magic game, once again

**INAM AHMED**

Are you salivating at the prices again? Are you? Better that your share prices are rising again? If so then take a deep breath.

Be assured that it all resembled another game of manipulation yesterday. And it was done so blatantly that it was too obvious.

A new record was set in the history of the capital market yesterday when the index rallied over 1,000 points or 15 percent, just a day after it had crashed over 600 points or 9 percent. It was strange to think how soon the shaken investors got back their nerves! How quickly confidence was restored! The quickness defies all market logic.

A possible explanation might be hidden beyond the stock market. While a fracas was going on in downtown Motijheel, many forgot that a great challenge looms ahead for the government -- the SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**ABNORMAL RISE**  
Govt likely to impose stock index breaker  
**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

The government is going to use index breaker in the share market to curb abnormal slumps and rises.

A high-level meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) discussed the matter yesterday.

Meanwhile, member of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Monsur Alam has been relieved of all responsibilities, finance ministry officials said. He is likely to lose his job as well. SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## Municipality polls kick off today

**Voting in Rajshahi, Rangpur divisions today; Khulna, Barisal tomorrow**

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**

Amid tight security, 72 municipalities of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions go to polls today kicking off elections to 243 local government bodies nationwide.

When the winners and their supporters at the two divisions will be busy celebrating victory tomorrow, voters of 49 municipalities in Khulna and Barisal divisions will decide the fate of councillor and mayor aspirants at their municipalities.

Candidates in 122 municipalities of Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions will have to wait until their electorates cast votes on Monday and Tuesday.

A large number of grassroots leaders of ruling and opposition parties are active in the campaign arena backing candidates of these non-partisan elections and SEE PAGE 19 COL 6 MORE ON PAGE 2, 3, 9

TODAY'S VOTING		
Division	Municipalities	Candidates
Rajshahi:	49	3,052
Rangpur:	23	1,553

**Govt forms body to look into Grameen Bank issues**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government has formed a five-member committee to look into Grameen Bank issues.

A circular on formation of the committee headed by Prof AK Monowar Uddin Ahmed of economics department at Dhaka University was issued late yesterday.

Finance ministry officials said Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank Nazrul Huda has been made member-secretary of the committee. Names of its other SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## SC moves to reduce backlog of cases

**Special measures taken for speedy disposal of 1 lakh cases at HC**

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and ASHUTOSH SARKAR**

The Supreme Court has taken special measures for quick disposal of over one lakh cases pending with the High Court, which is now bogged down with more than three lakh cases.

Sources say Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, since assuming the office in September last year, has taken steps to scrutinise the nature of all pending cases and find out the reasons behind the backlog with an aim to reduce it.

Following his initiative, the number of pending cases came down from 3.53 lakh to 3.13 lakh between October and December last year. Besides, a close monitoring system has been introduced to improve case management and quick disposal, the sources add.

During scrutiny, SC officials found that of the 3.1 lakh pending cases, over 1.8 lakh are criminal cases, 77,000 civil cases and over 50,000 writ and original cases.

Of the 1.8 lakh pending criminal cases, over one lakh were filed under Section-498 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for obtaining bail and the rest under 561(A) of the CrPC for quashing criminal charges and these piled up every year since 1996.

After the winter vacation when the SC resumed on January 2, the chief justice has taken some measures to dispose of the pending cases, especially the one lakh criminal cases regarding quashing and bail.

CJ Khairul has assigned two HC benches for quick disposal of the cases of 2010 for quashing the criminal charges.

Over 2,200 criminal cases of 2010, for anticipatory bail, are still pending with the HC. Similar pending criminal cases of earlier years up to 1997 will be sent to seven other HC criminal benches for quick disposal.

Similarly, a huge number of pending criminal cases for obtaining bail would be sent to eight other HC benches which SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

CASES PENDING WITH HC	
Nature of cases	Pending till Dec 31, 2010
Civil	77,859
Criminal	181,926
Writ	49,159
Original case	4,791



**JANUARY CHILL**

The cold wave sweeping through the country causes people to suffer, especially those less fortunate. The photo was taken in front of Curzon Hall of Dhaka University yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Student killed

**Police claim he was 'robber,' family denies**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Police shot dead a college student at Pallabi in the capital on Monday night and claimed yesterday he was a member of a gang of robbers.

But family members of the victim, Imtiaz Hossain Abir, 19, rejected the claim and said there was not even a general diary filed against him.

Abir was a first-year student of Northern College at Mohammadpur in the city. His father Md Golam Faruk is the deputy general manager of Titas Gas.

Abir's uncle Kazi Abu Zafar termed the incident a "murder" of an innocent boy.

Sources at Dhaka Medical College Morgue said he was shot in the right leg from a "close range".

The bullet made a big hole in his leg, and he died from SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## Bhutan to help in hydropower sector

**Hasina urges Thimphu to use Ctg, Mongla ports**  
**UNB, Dhaka**

Bhutan yesterday assured Bangladesh of extending cooperation in the hydropower sector, in which the Himalayan country has huge potential.

Visiting Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley gave the assurance during the official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.

Hasina requested her Bhutanese counterpart to consider Bangladesh in its future hydropower projects either as an investment partner on equity sharing or a direct purchaser of power.

Thinley also assured that as an upstream country Bhutan will protect the interests of downstream Bangladesh regarding free flow of common rivers.

Hasina also invited Bhutan to extensively use Chittagong and Mongla seaports for mutual benefits.

After the talks, Bangladesh and Bhutan signed an agreement on cultural exchange and a memorandum of SEE PAGE 7 COL 1 PHOTO ON PAGE 2, 3

## JAIL KILLING 2 accused asked to surrender

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday directed Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha, now absconding, to immediately surrender before the trial court in connection with the jail killing case.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque ordered the law enforcers to arrest them if they do not surrender to Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court in Dhaka as per its order.

The apex court also asked the government to submit a concise statement on this case to it within 30 days for hearing the regular appeal against a High Court (HC) verdict.

The HC in its verdict on August 28, 2008 had SEE PAGE 7 COL 3



**In memory of 8th death Anniversary**

Today is 12th January, on this day we deeply remember our dearest founder Chairman of Shamsul Alamin Group Late Al-haj A.K. Shamsul Alamin, a renowned personality, a famous Industrialist, a social worker, charitable man and a former member of parliament. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace for the departed soul of Late Al-haj A.K. Shamsul Alamin.

**Humbly, we remain, All family members and Officers, Staffs and Workers**

**Shamsul Alamin Group**  
Alamin Centre, 25/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000