



Double trouble

Muith needs to address unemployment, non-investment while he places fatty budget today

INAM AHMED

Since his graduation in computer science from a top private university, Razen has been looking for a suitable job. He has not found any in the last one year.

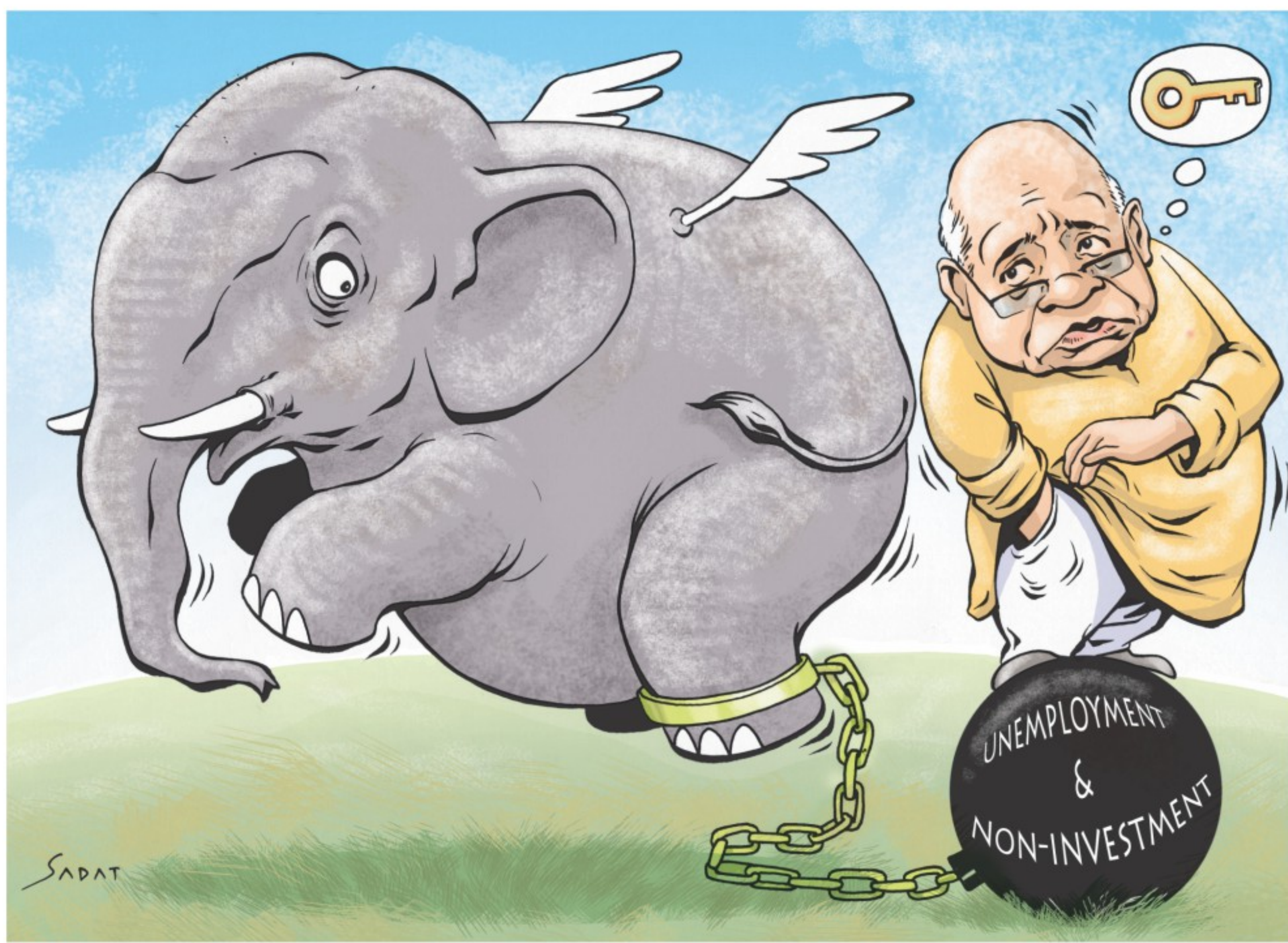
Even in a supposedly booming sector like IT, jobs are scarce these days. This is the big challenge Bangladesh is going to face next year and beyond.

Private investment has dipped. The violent politics that the country experienced last year paralysed business. Scared entrepreneurs put on hold investment plans.

That fear factor is still working even after the election. Businessmen are not sure how long the fragile peace will last. They are not sure if another violent agitation will start.

As they sit on the fence, investment dips, and so do jobs.

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Ronaldo not in good shape

AFP, Florham Park

Portugal were gearing up for the World Cup on Tuesday in New Jersey, fretting over the fitness of superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

With the World Cup looming, the FIFA Ballon d'Or winner as best footballer of last year, had some bad news about his recent aches and pains.

Ronaldo has a "muscle injury on the back of his left thigh as well as left-leg patellar tendinitis," the Portuguese Football Association said in a report on his medical issues and those of stars Raul Meireles, Pepe and Beto.

Amid some heavy downpours, the four spent their time at the New York Jets' training centre grinding it out on different exercises meant to get them

An apology to Shamim Osman?

MAHFUZ ANAM

Many years ago, towards the end of Sheikh Hasina's first term as prime minister we, in the media, failed to recognise the true value of a politician like Jainal Hazari. We kept on revealing his criminal activities and the then PM kept on telling us that it was all part of a conspiracy to malign this veteran Awami Leaguer.

When Hazari nearly killed a local journalist and left him on the roadside

COMMENTARY

to bleed to death, and when the media got together to raise funds for his treatment, including sending him abroad, it was seen as part of a conspiracy to malign the government itself, and a few media houses, including ours, were never forgiven for this temerity.

After nearly a decade we made another mistake. The media totally

failed to understand the true value of Abul Hossain, the former communications minister, the man the PM termed as a "true patriot" but who the World Bank held responsible for an alleged corruption conspiracy involving the Padma bridge project. So what if the nation lost nearly \$2.35 billion loan at an average interest rate of 0.75 percent, with 10 years grace period and repayment period of 40 years, making for a total loan period of 50 years? So what if such terms of loans are extremely

TORTURED TO DEATH Cops asked to register case against Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Brahmanbaria court yesterday directed the police to register a case against nine Rab men over the allegation of custodial torture on a businessman who later died in a hospital.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Nazmun Nahar ordered the OC of Nabinagar Police Station to file a first information report (FIR) against the Rab men, said advocate Khairul Anam.

Khairul and several other lawyers moved the case on behalf of the family of the victim, Shahnur Alam, 43, on Sunday. The court then fixed yesterday for further hearing on the case.

The accused Rab men include Maj AZM Shakib Siddiqui, commander of crime prevention company

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Goodbye to city's flood flow zones

Govt revises DAP; housing projects of army, retired admin officers, Bashundhara to benefit

TAWFIQUE ALI

A cabinet committee yesterday Okayed alterations to Detailed Area Plan (DAP) to allow some private housing schemes on conservable flood flow zones of the capital.

This would pave the way for legalising Jolshiri Abashan housing scheme of the Army in Rupganj, Prottyasha of retired government officials (admin) on the Turag in Tongi, and portions of Bashundhara housing project in Baridhara.

The Prottyasha project and the portion of Bashundhara project had been declared illegal by the High Court in June 2011 along with 75 other real-estate projects

and the government was asked to scrap the projects and remove all illegal developments done there.

The other projects to benefit from the approval are American International University Bangladesh in Joar-Shahara of the capital and University of Information Technology and Sciences in Badda.

These would be built in DAP earmarked residential areas which have been altered to include institutions.

The cabinet committees move is being seen as a win for influential real-estate companies and a loss for conservationists, environmentalists and town planners.

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Pran, again!

EU detains consignment after rodent excreta found in food products; raises worldwide alert

SOHEL PARVEZ

The European Union has detained an export shipment of local food processor Pran after rodent excrement, a hazardous element, was found in the consignment.

The border control of Italy on May 21 refused entry to the shipment containing

Pran-branded noodles, rice, olive pickle, vinegar, potato crackers, sweet toast, mango chutney, puffed rice, among others, on grounds that it had become contaminated by rat droppings.

The authorities immediately sent out a warning via the Rapid Alert System for

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