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Your Right to Know

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INVESTING ABROAD

BB has not allowed any Bangladeshi firm to invest fresh capital abroad

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EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Is Bangladesh ready to face one like the Great Assam Earthquake of 1897? Not at all

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SHOOTING IN FLORIDA

Singer Christina Grimmie, who competed on the US TV programme The Voice, dies after being shot

PAGE 8

PUZZLING MATHS

Remuneration Tk 3,575 a month yet Tk 20-50 lakh spent by many chairman aspirants in the recent UP elections

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

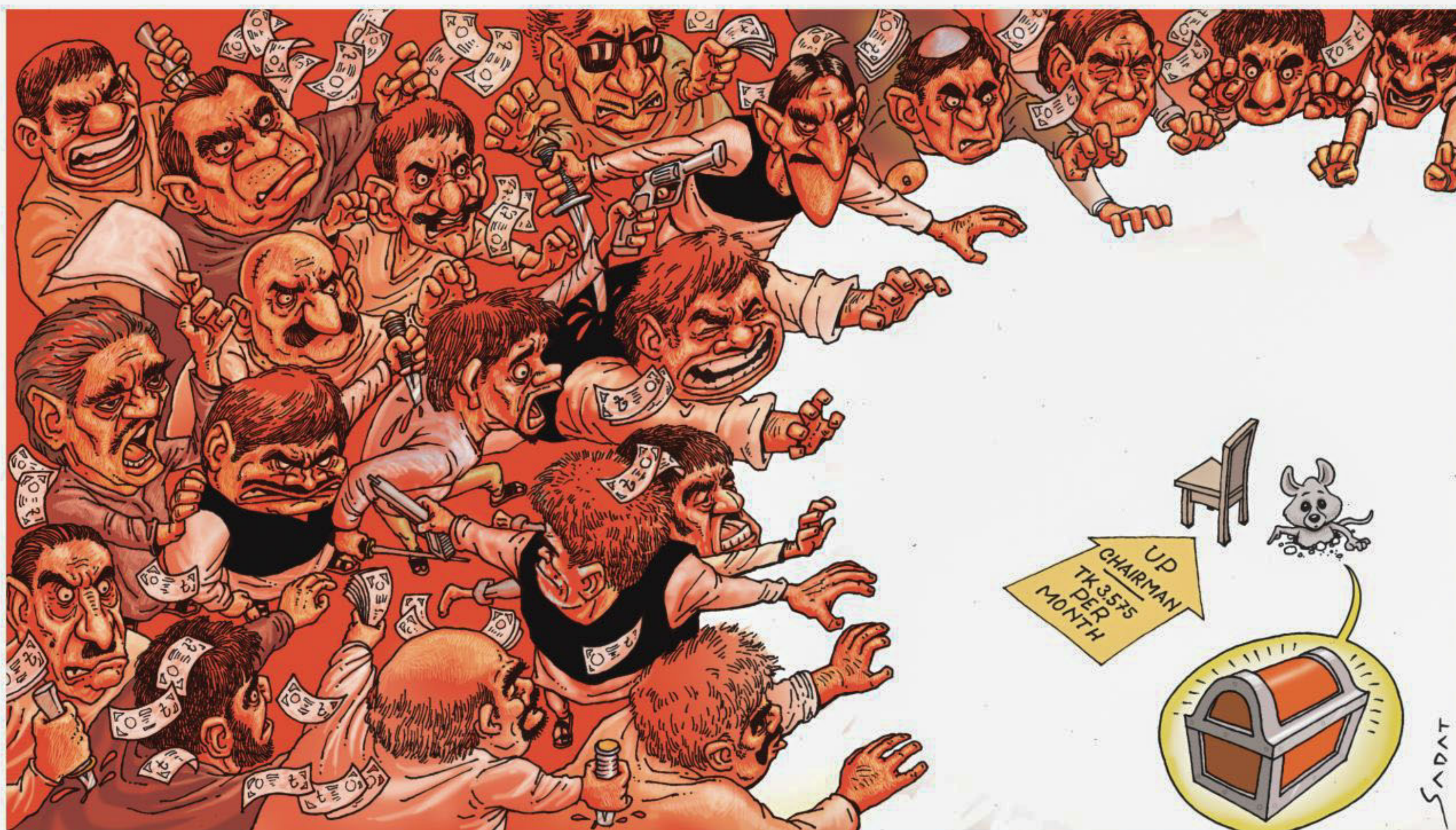
Every month, a union parishad chairman gets only Tk 1,575 as honorarium from the government. He gets another Tk 2,000 from his UP. During his five-year-tenure, he would receive around Tk 2.14 lakh.

He does not get any other pay and perks.

However, during the recent UP polls, held along party lines for the first time, a large number of UP chairman candidates, especially from the ruling Awami League, allegedly spent Tk 20 lakh to Tk 50 lakh for "buying" party nominations and for electioneering.

So the question arises: What did actually drive them to shell out such huge sums?

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Hasina vows to stop secret killings

Culprits to be tracked down, she warns

UNB, Dhaka

Renewing her allegation that the BNP-Jamaat clique is behind the recent killings in Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would do whatever needed to stop the killings and that it was just a matter of time.

"We'll do whatever is needed to stop the secret killings...if the government can rein in the broad daylight killings by BNP-Jamaat during the first part of the last year, we can face these killings as well Inshallah...it's just a matter of time," she said.

She said this in her introductory speech at a meeting

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Goodbye, The Greatest

Muhammad Ali laid to rest; his life celebrated in a fitting interfaith memorial service

AFP, Louisville

Thousands of people from the worlds of sports, entertainment, politics and Muhammad Ali's native Louisville bid farewell yesterday to the boxing legend eulogised by Bill Clinton as a "universal soldier for our common humanity."

A poignant memorial service, which

began with a Koranic chant, capped two days of tributes honoring the three-time heavyweight world champion known as "The Greatest," who died last week at 74 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Early yesterday, thousands lined the streets of Louisville -- the largest city in the southern state of Kentucky where Ali was

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People touch the hearse carrying the body of boxing champion Muhammad Ali during his funeral procession through Louisville Kentucky on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

SPECIAL CRACKDOWN 37 militant suspects among 3,192 held

STAR REPORT

As part of a weeklong special crackdown, police in the first 24 hours arrested as many as 3,192 persons, including 37 suspected militants, from different parts of the country.

Although the nationwide operation beginning early Friday was to deal with militants and other criminals, a handful of BNP-Jamaat activists were among the arrestees, according to police sources in different districts and the parties.

In the wake of a string of targeted killings, especially the gruesome murder of SP Babul Akter's wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu, the police headquarters at a meeting chaired by Inspector General AKM Shahidul Hoque on Thursday decided to launch the hunt.

Top police officials said suspected militants were behind her murder as Babul Akter led several successful anti-militancy drives that might have enraged terror outfits. Links of Islamist extremists are suspected also in other targeted killings.

In connection with Mitu's murder, Chittagong Metropolitan Police nabbed a person yesterday.

BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed claimed law enforcers have arrested over 1,200 people since the special drive began and most of them are leaders and activists of BNP and other opposition parties.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, he alleged that police have indulged in a widespread "arrest trade". He also said cops are mainly nabbing common people and opposition men to extort money ahead of the Eid.

A statement of Jamaat-e-Islami says at least 37 leaders and activists of the party were arrested on Friday night alone.

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THE GREAT ASSAM BENGAL EARTHQUAKE: JUNE 12, 1897

It is known to be the most powerful earthquake to have ever hit the Indian sub-continent and it can happen again, any time.

"EARTHQUAKES DON'T KILL PEOPLE. BUILDINGS DO." Susan Hough and Lucile Jones, U.S. Geological Survey.

The Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) 2015 and the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 2014 recommend vital structures in earthquake prone areas should be designed and built on Special Moment Resisting Frames (SMRF).

Both the BNBC and ACI further specify steel reinforcement conforming only to ASTM 706 Grade 60 for the design and construction of Special Moment Resisting Frames (SMRF).

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