



INDO-BANGLA TIES
Time for India to play its part
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'SHAMELESS' VIDYA
If she finds a role, she doesn't think about anything else
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AMAL CLOONEY VS EGYPT
The lawyer was "threatened with arrest" for exposing the country's judicial flaws
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TENSIONS OVER FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF JAN 5 POLLS

Khaleda at office, police outside

BNP chief 'barred from coming out'; police lock BNP office; detectives pick up Rizvi, take him to hospital

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

On the first anniversary of the January 5 polls tomorrow, the BNP-led 20-party alliance gears up for a massive gathering at Nayapaltn while the ruling Awami League prepares to hold rallies at 16 points in the capital, raising fears of a face-off on the streets.

The BNP plans to bring as many leaders and activists as possible to its Nayapaltn central office if it is denied permission to hold a rally in the city to mark January 5 as "Democracy Killing Day".

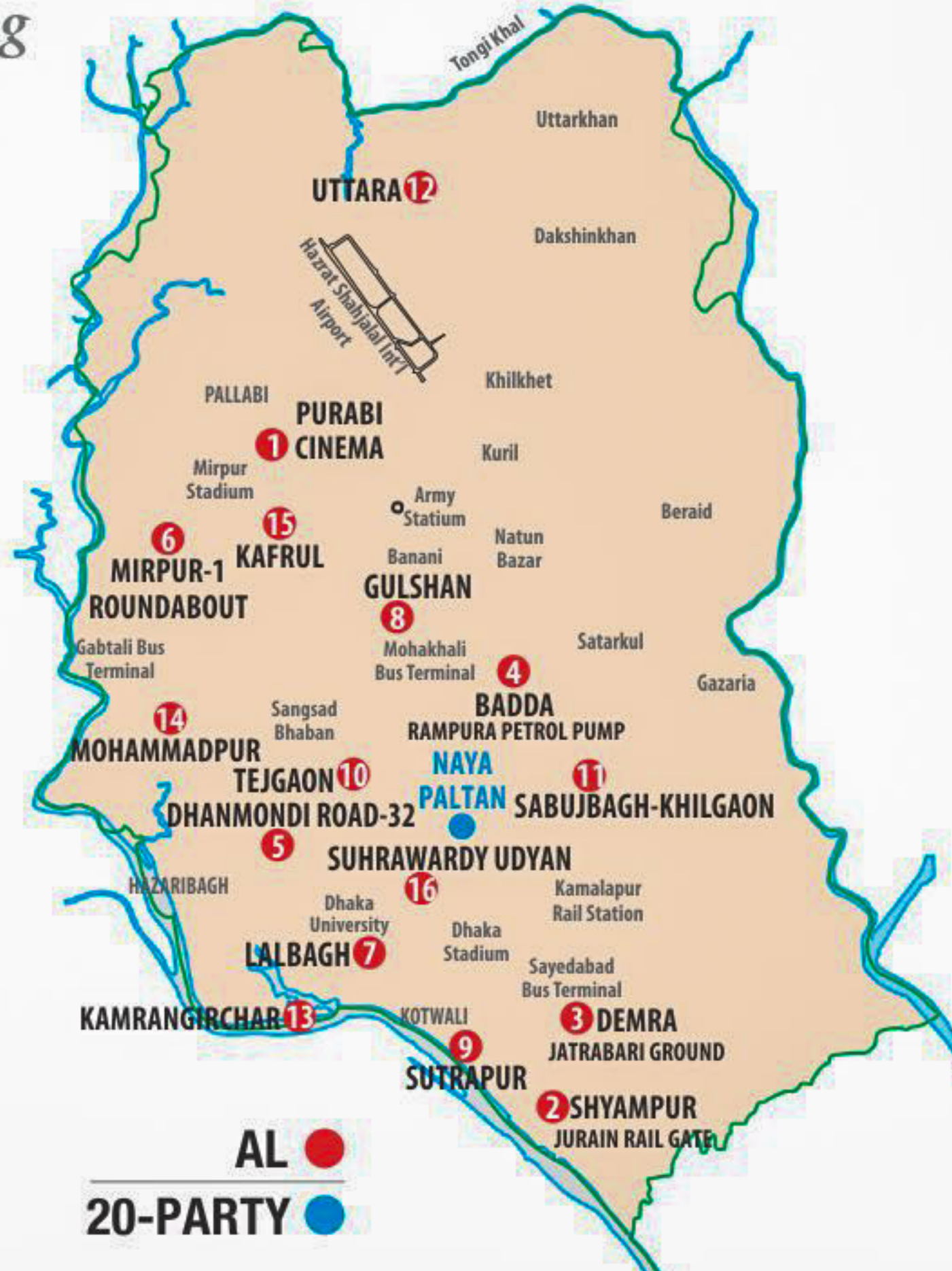
The government, however, seems determined not to allow the opposition to go ahead with its plan.

In late night developments, law enforcers cordoned off BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office and barred her from coming out.

BNP Assistant Secretary Shamimur Rahman Shamim told The Daily Star that more than a hundred police personnel surrounded the party chief's office at about 12:05am.

"When she got into her car to go out of the office, police put up a barrier at the main gate, parking a vehicle there. She waited for around 10 minutes inside the car and then returned to the

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REVISITING POLITICAL TURMOIL A YEAR AGO



A relative giving water to Abu Talha at the DMCH burn unit in November 2013. Talha was one of the passengers of a bus that was torched in Dhaka. PHOTO: FILE

Loss that can never be compensated

Families of arson victims still struggling

WASIM BIN HABIB and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Ramjan Ali does not drive a covered van anymore, or any vehicle for that matter. He does not dare. Because driving, his very occupation, reminds him of the charred body of his innocent son who had died an agonising death more than a year ago.

Those horrifying memories of his 14-year-old son, Monir, writhing in

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Polls managed systematically

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Awami League had a clear and well laid out strategy to retain the state power by "managing" the 10th parliamentary election. The strategy had two major features

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Miladunnabi today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the birth and death anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), will be observed across the country today with due religious fervour and solemnity.

On this day in 570, the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was born in Makkah in Saudi Arabia with divine blessings and messages of peace for mankind. He also passed away on the same day in 632 AD.

The day is a public holiday.

The government as well as religious and socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out various programmes, including discussions and milad mahfil to mark the day.

Different Islamic organisations will take out peaceful processions carrying

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HOLIDAY

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.



In the wee hours of today, some policemen are seen in and around their van at the intersection of Gulshan Avenue and the street in front of BNP chief Khaleda Zia's residence. Inset, a police truck is parked on Gulshan Avenue blocking the street. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Private investment remains stagnant

CPD economic review says relatively calm political situation after last election could not ensure investors' confidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private investment has yet to pick up steam after the last national polls, as the relative political calm failed to remove investors' uncertainty, said Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday.

"We expected that private investment would rise after the parliamentary election. However, investment has not increased despite political calm, economic stability and lower commodity prices in the global market," said Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of CPD.

"On one hand, investment remains sluggish and on the other, a large amount of capital is siphoned off, mainly through over-invoicing. The latest amount of capital flight is higher than the net foreign aid," he added.

The private think-tank shared these views as

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CU-bound shuttle trains couldn't ply

Brakes disconnected hrs before BCL blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours before a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League enforced a blockade on Chittagong University campus, miscreants cut 12 high air pressure pipes for the shuttle trains' brake, disrupting the communication and putting students in trouble.

The suspension of the shuttle train service, the prime mode of transport for non-resident students, and the blockade had led to a low presence of students on the campus and hampered academic activities.

The BCL faction, however, postponed the blockade around yesterday noon for January 4 and 5 on the occasion of Eid-e-

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GOOD SIGNS

- Falling petroleum prices
- Rising remittance, reserves
- Stable exchange rate

CHALLENGES

- Revenue collection shortfall
- Sluggish export growth
- Rising default loans

YOUR VISION WILL NEVER FADE

In Loving Memory of
Samson H Chowdhury
Who returned to the Lord on January 5, 2012

Dearly missed and fondly remembered by
Anita Chowdhury and loving family members