

"We don't want to engage in war with anyone ... but if there's any attack, we'll have all sorts of preparation to keep Bangladesh free from enemies."
 PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA AT BAF MATIUR RAHMAN BASE IN JASHORE (PAGE 3)



"The Digital Security Act-2018 has been enacted so that the media runs news based on facts instead of indulging in yellow journalism."
 INFORMATION MINISTER HASANUL HAQ INU IN PARLIAMENT (PAGE 3)



"A very big part of the anger we see today in our society is caused by the purposely false and inaccurate reporting of the Mainstream Media."
 PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AS PARCEL BOMB SCARE SPREADS IN THE US (PAGE 9)

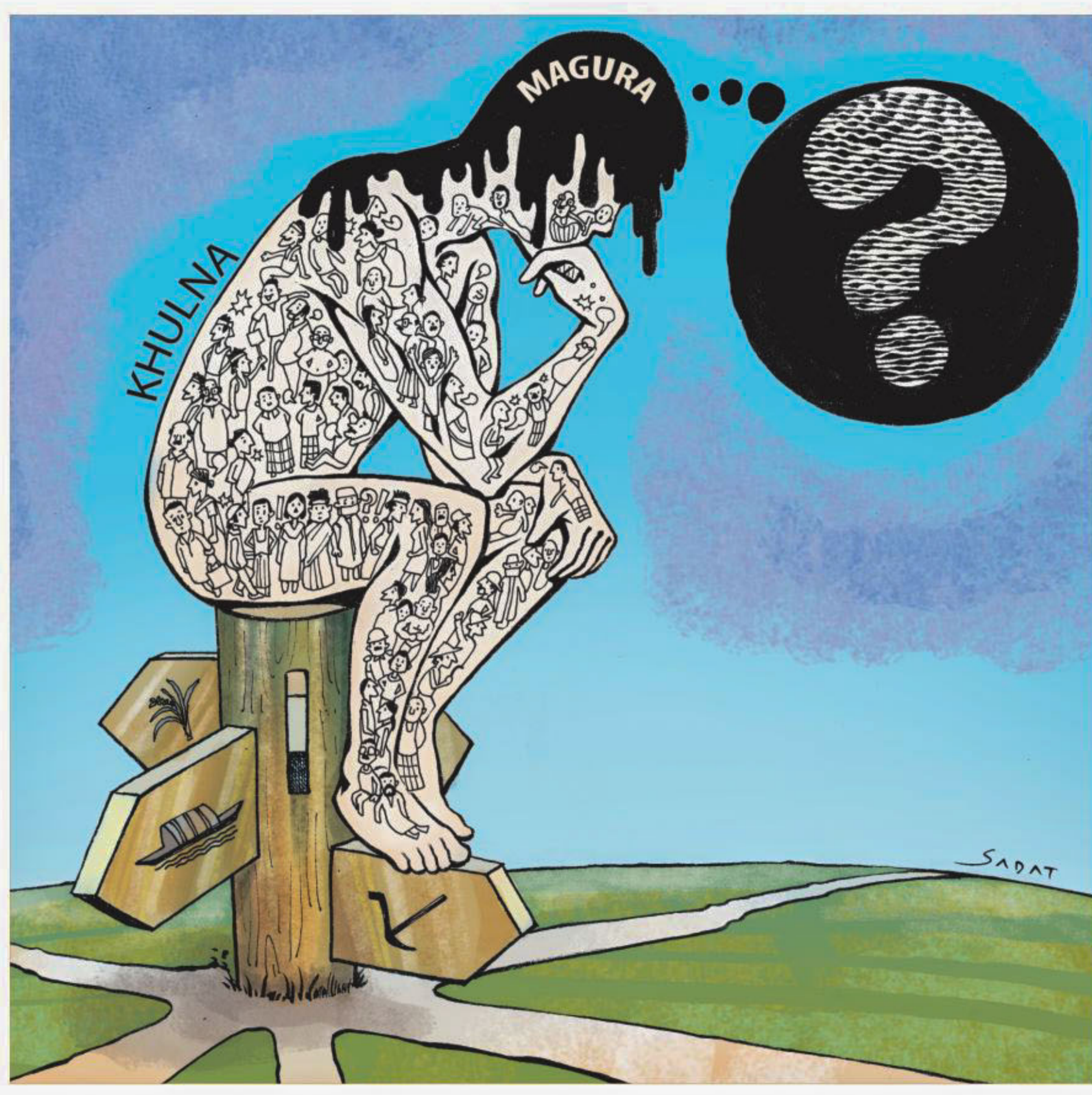


The swing division

Both AL, BNP experienced landslide, debacle in Khulna region polls

STAR REPORT
 History says it has been a swing division since 2001. The first two national polls results, since democracy was restored, show none of the two major parties enjoyed absolute supremacy here. The BNP won the first election, held in 1991, and bagged 12 out of 37 seats in Khulna division then. Even though defeated in the polls, the AL won 17 seats in the region. In the next election, the BNP retained the 12 seats but the AL gained another five seats, 22 in total, and beat the BNP. The polls that followed were dominated by political alliances. The major parties' combines either won landslides or suffered crushing defeats here. In 2001, the BNP-led four-party alliance, formed before the polls, took 31 seats, reducing AL's tally to only six in the division. The AL bounced back in 2008 when it formed a grand alliance and captured 33 out of the 36 seats on offer then. The BNP's alliance could manage two seats. In 2014, the BNP-led alliance boycotted the polls and the AL secured 29 seats alone. Among the districts in the division, Magura is in the history for a rigged-by-election held more than two decades ago and it still haunts politics today. In the Magura-2 by-polls on March 20, 1994, the then ruling BNP men resorted to unlawful means, like capturing of polling centres, ousting opponent's agents, stuffing and snatching ballot boxes, and intimidation of voters.

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80 aspirants from AL, 45 from BNP

Both parties may have to deal with rebels in Khulna division

STAR REPORT
 With multiple MP hopefuls in each constituency of Khulna division, the Awami League may have to deal with a serious problem of possible rebel candidates, while the BNP is in a better position with fewer MP hopefuls. At least 80 aspirants are competing for AL nominations in the districts. Meanwhile, with only 45 hopefuls, the BNP is almost invisible in the field as its party men are busy fighting lawsuits. In Khulna district, five out of six constituencies are AL strongholds. Khulna-6 is Jamaat dominated, according to locals. Among the heavyweight AL aspirants, former state minister Begum Monnujan Sufian, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Narayan Chandra Chanda and Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Moshir Rahman are likely to run in Khulna-3, Khulna-5 and Khulna-6 respectively. But they are likely to face rivals as other AL leaders are also eyeing nominations.

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An acid test for global community
President on Rohingya crisis

BSS, Geneva, Switzerland
 President Abdul Hamid yesterday called for mounting pressure on Myanmar from across the world to take back the forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh. He was addressing a global security summit on the sidelines of the World

Genocide against Rohingya 'ongoing'

Say UN investigators before presenting Myanmar report to UNSC, call on council to refer the issue to int'l tribunal

AFP, United Nations
 A genocide against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims is still continuing, UN investigators said Wednesday as they presented a report to the Security Council, calling for the issue to be referred to an international tribunal. Marzuki Darusman, chairman of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, said that beyond mass killings, the conflict included the ostracization of the population, prevention of births, and widespread displacement in camps. "It is an ongoing genocide," he told a press conference ahead of the



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Term over, not 'punishment'

No rehabilitation programmes for former prisoners; compensation for wrongfully accused not 'guaranteed'

BISHAKHA DEVNATH
 There were three Ripons in the same friend circle. That's why one of them was given the nickname Sipon. That name, affectionately tossed out, cost the man 16 years of his life, following a murder in the Old Dhaka area where he used to reside with his family. The suspected murderer was someone else named Sipon, said Shakila, Sipon's younger sister. Her brother was found not guilty by a lower court in a quick wrap-up of the trial after the High Court had issued an order to dispose of the case in two months. The verdict, however, came 16 years later and by then, the Sipon his family once knew had changed. Since his release from Kashimpur Central Jail one and a half years ago, the man, now in his mid-forties, talks little to his sisters and mother, with whom he shares a room on the fifth floor of a building at Demra in the capital. Most of his time is spent sitting at the entrance of an alley and watching vehicles go by, Shakila told The Daily Star during a visit on May 5. The family does not know what the future will have in store for Sipon. "We are giving him food and shelter. But the

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Serving time even after amnesty

MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY and ZYMA ISLAM

An elderly man has been rotting in prison for nine years even after getting presidential general amnesty.



Ajmat Ali
 It all began three decades ago for Ajmat Ali, now 70. On June 7, 1987, he was made an accused in a murder case, along with several others from his Pakhimara village in Jamalpur's Sharishabari upazila. With no other income earner in the hard-pressed family, Ajmat, then a schoolteacher, could not afford a lawyer. So, while almost all other accused walked out on bail one by one, Ajmat remained in jail. Subsequently, a Jamalpur court

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Grand alliance or 14-party?

AL may fix today from which combine it will contest polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 With around two months left for the 11th national polls, the ruling Awami League is yet to finalise decisions on many key issues, including whether it will join the election under the 14-party or the grand alliance. The AL is also yet to decide on the size of the polls-time cabinet and begin talks on seat sharing with its partners in the 14-party combine, which the party considers its "ideological" alliance. Against this backdrop, AL President Sheikh Hasina has convened a joint meeting of the party's central working committee, advisory council and the AL Parliamentary Party to be held at the Gono Bhaban today. The central working committee is the highest-decision making body while the advisory council is the think-tank of the party. The key decisions are likely to be made at the meeting starting from 6:00pm, said party leaders. On Tuesday, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said his party would make the final decision on the election-time cabinet at the joint meeting. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif said, "As the election is nearing, the

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A police official taking video footage of an illegally parked car, including its number plate, in the capital's Malibagh area yesterday. He said the DMP's traffic department will fine the car owner after getting details of the vehicle with the BRTA's help. The move is more efficient as sometimes the drivers are not found near their vehicles and on-the-spot fine causes hassles for others.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Reformists' are back

BNP takes in 12 leaders who became inactive after 1/11 changeover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The BNP has brought back its 12 "reformist" leaders, who became politically inactive after the 1/11 changeover, to strengthen its activities ahead of the 11th parliamentary election. The formal reintegration of the 12 "reformist" leaders came following a meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office yesterday afternoon, sources said. They are former minister Alamgir Kabir, former whip Abu Yousuf Md Khalilur Rahman, leaders Abu Hena, GM Siraj, Sarder Sakhawat Hossain Bakul, Najir Hossain, Ziaul Haque, Ataur Rahman Angur, Elen Bhutto, Shafiqul Islam Talukdar, Shahidul Islam Talukdar and Zahiruddin Swapan. More "reformists" will be reinstated in the party, the sources added. "We are in the party, we were before, and we will also stay in future. We have got directives from our party's acting chairman to be more active in the party than ever before. We will work in line with party directives," Sarder Sakhawat Hossain Bakul told reporters.

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