

ARRESTED BNP LEADERS Selima, Mintoo get bail

Stay on Mahbub's remand
extended for two months
CITY DESK

BNP vice-chairperson
Selima Rahman and BNP
chairperson's adviser Abdul
Awal Mintoo were granted
bail yesterday in connec-
tion with two cases filed
against them for attempt-
ing to murder policemen in
the capital.

Meanwhile, the High
Court extended for two
months its earlier order to
stay a lower court order
that granted remand of
BNP chairperson's adviser
Khandker Mahbub Hossain
also in a case for attempt-
ing to murder a cop.

Selima Rahman got bail
in the case filed for attempt-
ing to murder the deputy
commissioner of Ramna
division, reports our court
correspondent.

According to the com-
plaint, activists of the BNP-
led 18-party alliance hurled
at least 10 crude bombs at
the office of Ramna deputy
commissioner on January 4.

Selima was released
yesterday as there are no
other cases against her.

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Tuku set new record of vote rigging

Claims defeated candidate
in Pabna-1 Prof Abu Sayeed
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League
leader Prof Abu Sayeed
yesterday raised allegations
of "unprecedented vote
rigging" during the January
5 elections in Pabna-1
constituency, from which
he contested independently
and lost to former state
minister for home Shamsul
Haque Tuku.

"There were many
records of vote rigging in
the previous elections in
the country, but the one by
former state minister for
home Shamsul Haque
Tuku and his supporters

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BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, who was in hiding since November 8, yesterday leaves after a 15-minute stay inside the BNP central office in the capital's Naya Paltan which had been cordoned off by police since November 30 following the arrest of BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed on the premises.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

BNP men enter central office freely after 47 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders and activists finally entered the party's
Nayapaltan central office in the capital yesterday, 47 days
after the office was shut down following arrest of a top
BNP leader there.

Law enforcers did not bar BNP Assistant Office Secretary
Abdul Latif Jony who unlocked the main entrance at
11:25am yesterday and entered the office with other
leaders and activists.

The development took place a day after BNP chief
Khaleda Zia called upon the government to free its party
office and allowed them to carry out their political activi-
ties in order to create an atmosphere for dialogue to
resolve the ongoing political stalemate.

In an unprecedented pre-dawn raid, police on November
30 arrested BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, who
had been staying inside the office for one and a half
months.

Since then, police had not allowed any BNP men to enter
the office. Police forced some staff of the office to keep it
shut except for their urgent works outside office.

Although both detectives and other policemen were seen
near the BNP office yesterday, they did not bar any BNP
men from entering it.

Around 1:30pm, BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza
Fakhru Islam Alamgir, who had been hiding since
November 8, visited the office, talked to party men and
media, and left after 15 minutes.

Talking to reporters, he asked the government to release
the party's leaders and withdrew "fake" cases against
them. He also urged the government to hold a dialogue
and organise a fresh credible election. He termed the
government and its cabinet "illegal" and demanded their

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Bangladeshis protest near UK parliament

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH

A UK-based united front of Bangladeshi Hindus,
Buddhists and Christians living in Europe demonstrated
outside the British parliament on Wednesday, protesting
the atrocities unleashed on Hindus in Bangladesh follow-
ing the 10th general election.

The protesters of the Campaign for the Protection of
Religious Minorities in Bangladesh also marched to the
British prime minister's office on 10 Downing Street to
submit a petition to Prime Minister David Cameron to
condemn the attacks. Another petition was sent to the
Bangladesh High Commissioner in London to be for-
warded to the Bangladesh prime minister.

Pushpita Gupta, one of the organisers, said, "We need
to protest and protest loudly against such cowardly
acts."

Former minister Jim Fitzpatrick MP and Lib Dem
Deputy Leader at the House of Lords Lord Dholakia
joined the demo briefly in solidarity with the protesters.

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ATTACKS ON HINDUS

Lack of protection, impunity for culprits blamed

*Special tribunal, judicial inquiry and minority
commission demanded in various programmes*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's failure to give adequate
protection to Hindus and punish the perpe-
trators of the previous atrocities is the main
reason of the recurrence of violence against
the religious minority, speakers observed at
a discussion yesterday.

They demanded a special tribunal to put
the attackers, regardless of their political
identities, to trial immediately.

Against the backdrop of arsons, vandal-
ism, and sexual assault on Hindus across the
country following the January 5 polls,
Jagannath Hall Alumni Association of Dhaka
University organised the programme in the

capital's Cirdap auditorium urging the state
and citizenry to "stand against terrorism and
violence against religious minorities".

The first and foremost duty of the govern-
ment and law enforcement agencies is to
protect the life of every citizen irrespective of
their religion, said Vice Chancellor of
Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique.
"Action has to be taken against the culprits,
no matter who they are or even if they are
from the administration," he added.

Communalism cannot exist in
Bangladesh, as the people fought and gained
independence in 1971 vowing to eliminate
this vice, said rights activist Sultana Kamal.

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OBITUARY



Dr. Gulay Afruz Banu, W/o. late Dr. Tofayel Ahmed
passed away at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15,
2014 due to old age complications. She was buried at
Banani Garveyard the same evening. Qul Khwani of
the deceased will be held on Friday, January 17, 2014
after Asr prayers at Baridhara Mosque.

Tahmid Ahmed & family
Cell No. 01714081466

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