



What PM said, what it actually was

While Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina claimed Khaleda Zia was free to go out, the situation at the BNP chief's Gulshan office was quite the opposite. Khaleda has virtually been confined to her office since Saturday night. Law enforcers yesterday locked up the main gate and barred her from leaving for a planned rally marking the "Democracy Killing Day".

How Khaleda spent 2 days at her office

As usual, the BNP chairperson entered her Gulshan office around 8:30pm on Saturday to have talks with party leaders. Khaleda Zia had no idea that it would end up in confinement. The BNP chief apparently realised this when she wanted to leave for the party's Nayapalton office to visit ailing BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed around 11:30pm. As she came down from the first floor of the office to

Confined Khaleda announces nonstop BLOCKADE

Police continue siege of BNP chief's Gulshan office, stop her from coming out, fire pepper spray to disperse party activists at office gate; ruling party men defy DMP ban to hold rallies, bring out processions; clashes in different districts

BNP chief Khaleda Zia yesterday called a countrywide blockade for an indefinite period from today to protest the government's not allowing her party and allies to hold rallies in the capital and elsewhere. Having been confined to her Gulshan office since Saturday midnight, Khaleda made several efforts to come out yesterday afternoon, but law enforcers locked the main gate from outside and stood guard in several layers. Cops also used pepper spray to disperse the party leaders and activists waiting inside the gate. Several BNP leaders and journalists were injured in the police action. BNP leaders said Khaleda wanted to go to the party's central office at Nayapalton, where leaders and activists were asked to gather for holding a rally to denounce the January 5 one-sided parliamentary election. The opposition party, which boycotted the polls last year, dubs the day as the "Democracy Killing Day". After the police action, the former prime minister announced the blockade of roads, railways and waterways



Confined to her Gulshan office since Saturday night, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks to her party men and the press yesterday from inside the office premises, cordoned off by law enforcers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

across the country. The blockade was called also to protest the BNP chairperson's confinement in her Gulshan office for the last

two days and to demand a fresh general election under a nonparty administration. "The blockade will continue until

our demand is met," said a seemingly annoyed Khaleda, while talking to journalists at her office.

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ONE YEAR OF AL GOVT

Shun path of anarchy PM asks Khaleda in address to nation



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged her political archrival and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to shun politics of anarchy and take the path of peace. "We want to stay away from the path of unhealthy politics and establish such a political culture which is good for the country and its people," she observed. Hasina said this while addressing the nation marking one year of the January 5, 2014, parliamentary elections, boycotted by major political parties, and held ignoring international pressure. Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, said it was a wrong decision of the BNP to boycott the last elections. She questioned as to why people should suffer

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Fakhrul takes shelter at Press Club

A standoff between pro- and anti-government journalists at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday resulted in BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir taking cover inside the club. Since yesterday afternoon, the BNP leader had been there as of 2:15am today. The trouble began when Fakhrul came out of a programme in the club and the pro-government journalists chased him back inside. The situation had calmed down a little with



Activists of the 20-party combine run for cover during a clash with police at the venue of a "Democracy Killing Day" rally on Nur Ahmed Road in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

4 killed as violence erupts in districts

Over 300 injured; 650 BNP, Jamaat men held

STAR REPORT

Violent clashes across the country have left at least four people dead and over 300 injured with growing tension over the first anniversary of the controversial January-5 parliamentary polls. The BNP-led 20-party alliance called for dawn-to-dusk hartals in Natore, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Chittagong today protesting the killings. Law enforcers detained some 650 BNP-Jamaat men in connection with vandalism, violence, arson attacks and planning for criminal activities. Dhaka too saw clashes between the activists of BNP-Jamaat and the ruling Awami League, and police. Pro-Awami League and BNP lawyers and journalists in the capital got involved in chases and counter chases on the

Arson, clashes in 29 districts
Several AL, BNP offices vandalised, burnt
Over a dozen vehicles torched, many smashed
Hartal called in Natore, Chapainawabganj,

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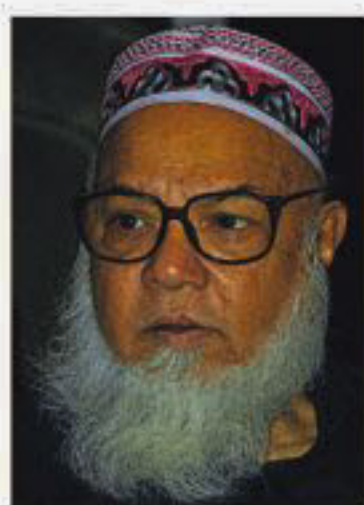
People suffer as Dhaka de-linked

Country panics amid 'govt-sponsored blockade'

It was no hartal day. Nor was there any blockade or strike of any sort. It was rather a weekday, meaning the city streets would be teeming with vehicles packed with office-goers trying to keep up with a busy schedule, should everything be ok. However, yesterday was nothing like a normal workday. The entire capital city wore a deserted look with an eerie calm and apprehension of violence prevailing all around, thanks to the antithetical programmes scheduled by the ruling Awami League and its archrival BNP marking the first

Justice Mustafa Kamal no more

Eminent jurist and former chief justice Mustafa Kamal is no more. He breathed his last at the age of 81 at his Gulshan residence around 3:00am yesterday. He left behind his three daughters Nashid Kamal, Naeela Kamal and Nazeefa Kamal, brother Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and sister Ferdousi Rahman and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Eldest son of legendary singer Abbasuddin Ahmed, he



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