



Despite an indefinite ban on rallies and procession in the capital, pro-AL Swetchhasebak League brings out a procession, *top left*, near Matsya Bhaban intersection yesterday while police use pepper spray, *right*, on BNP leaders and activists confined to BNP chairperson's Gulshan office. AL leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya with his party colleagues in front of the AL's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue, *centre*, and vehicles parked by law enforcers to block the road to Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office, *inset*. A policeman, with his helmet partly damaged in a homemade bomb attack in Motijheel, being taken to hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

## Confined Khaleda announces nonstop blockade

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Ambulances, press vans, vehicles of fire brigade and utility services, and restaurants, hotels and drug stores will remain out of the purview of the blockade, party sources said.

Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League and its various front organisations defied an indefinite police ban on political activities in the capital. They brought out processions and held rallies and human chains in many parts of the city to celebrate the day as the "Victory Day for Democracy".

But the government took every measure to thwart the BNP's bid to hold any rally in the capital.

On the way to the BNP chairperson's office, 12 trucks, some of them loaded with sand and bricks, were placed at Sunday midnight. Three police trucks, three armoured personnel carriers and a water cannon were also positioned on nearby streets to "beef up" security.

In a similar fashion, Khaleda was confined to her Gulshan residence on December 29, 2013. She was not allowed to join the "March for Democracy" aimed at resisting the January 5 polls.

On Saturday night, cops picked up BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi

Ahmed from the party's Nayapalton office and forcibly admitted him to a hospital. The law enforcers also drove out all other leaders and activists of the opposition party and its office staff and locked the main entrance from outside.

All roads to Khaleda's Gulshan office and the party's Nayapalton office were blocked and guarded by a large number of law enforcers, preventing the BNP men from gathering there.

The government action to foil the BNP's planned rally also caused immense public sufferings in the capital and elsewhere. The government used the administration to cut off the capital from the rest of the country since Sunday, by snapping major roads and waterways communication. Inter-district communications were also disrupted.

Outside the capital, BNP men brought out processions in several districts and clashed with AL men and police. Four people were killed in such clashes.

But the city streets were under the control of the ruling party activists, who took to the streets in their hundreds to observe the first anniversary of the January 5 polls.

Police, instead of enforcing the ban,

helped the ruling party men to stage showdowns in different areas and gather in front of unit offices and important city points. Thus aided, the AL men sat on chairs in the middle of various roads and had fun. Riding on bikes and pickups, they drove through different areas for hours to "prevent violence" by opposition men.

The Daily Star reporters saw almost identical pictures in Mirpur 10, Pallabi, Gabtoli, Mohammadpur, Hazaribagh, Lalbagh, Sayadabad, Jatrabari, Motijheel, Shyampur, Shanirakhra, Dhupkhola, Kataban, Khilgaon and Farmgate areas.

In some areas, they arranged musical programmes where artists sang and danced, attracting passers-by and police alike.

Besides, patriotic songs and the March 7 historic speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were also played.

Sticks-wielding ruling party men were seen guarding at least three places on the Beribandh road stretching between Gabtoli and Kamrangirchar.

They stopped vehicles, particularly CNG-run auto-rickshaws, and interrogated passengers about their destinations and where they are coming from.

They were also seen threatening drivers not to ply vehicles.

Hundreds of Awami Swetchhasebak League men took position in front of Matsya Bhaban with banners to greet Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina on her way to and from the secretariat.

They also staged a showdown in the area.

Khairul Islam Jewel, an organising secretary of Swetchhasebak League, said they did not hold any procession or rally to respect the police ban on political activities.

"We just remained alert in the streets as conscious citizens of the country to safeguard democracy," he said.

But another leader of the organisation said they were asked to gather there by the party high-ups.

"We had no option but to come, though I know it violates the law," said the leader, seeking anonymity.

Several hundred Chhatra League men staged motorcycle showdowns in Shahbagh and Press Club areas.

Party central and city unit leaders took position before the party headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue.

City AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, also disas-

ter management minister, and Qamrul Islam, food minister, were present there.

Asked if their gathering defied the DMP ban, Maya said the AL was not holding rallies and processions. "We have taken to the streets so that no one can create anarchy."

Around 10:30am, Maya went to the Jatiya Press Club where around 100 activists of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Projonmo League took position since morning.

The picture was quite the opposite near the BNP office.

From early morning, law enforcers cordoned off its headquarters and put up barricades on all the roads leading to it. Several hundred members of different law enforcement agencies took position at different points around the office.

Police set up barbed-wire fences at the Kakrail intersection, one of the entry points to the BNP office. Similar fences were at Fakirapool intersection.

No one was allowed to cross the barricades expect for the journalists, who had to show their identity cards. But there was no restriction to enter the AL office area.

## O, A-LEVEL EXAMS AMID BLOCKADE Fresh anxiety grips students, guardians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

O-level and A-level students are likely to bear the brunt of political unrest as their January session exams begin today amid the BNP's countrywide nonstop blockade.

The BNP called the blockade yesterday. Two O-level and an A-level examinations are scheduled for today. But the British Council in Bangladesh, which administers the exams, has not yet made any change in the examination schedule.

"If the situation turns violent, we will inform the students whether the exams will be held," said a British Council official who looks after school

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## 4 killed as violence erupts in districts

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Supreme Court and Jatiya Press Club premises.

NATORE  
Natore witnessed the worst of the clashes across the country. Two students were shot dead and 15 others were injured as activists of the ruling Awami League and the BNP traded bullets.

The deceased were Rakib Hossain, 20, and Raihan Ali Rana, 20, both students of Natore NS Govt College. Rakib's father claimed that both of them were pro-BNP Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal activists but the claim could not be verified.

Activists of both sides brought out processions in Tebaria area of the town around 10:30am. Indiscriminate firing from the processions caused injuries, sources said.

Rakib and Raihan were declared dead after they were taken to Natore Sadar Hospital, police said.

Witnesses said the clash erupted in front of police who were just spectators. However, Superintendent of Police Basudev Banik of Natore said there were no police during the clash.

Rakib's brother Anjurul Munshi filed a murder case with Natore Sadar police station.

RAJSHAHI  
A BNP leader was shot dead and some 25 people were injured when BNP activists clashed with law enforcers at Banesar Bazar of Puthia upazila.

Mojiruddin, 45, was the BNP ward

unit vice-president of Maria union in Charghat upazila. He died on the spot around 4:30pm after being shot in the head, said Alamgir Kabir, superintendent of police of Rajshahi.

Witnesses and police said the clash erupted around 3:00pm when law enforcers intercepted a BNP procession at Banesar Bazar.

The BNP men armed with sticks hurled brick chunks and crude bombs at police. The police fired over 100 rubber bullets, teargas shells and sound grenades.

The district police chief claimed that the BNP men's attack on police was planned. "The police was forced to open fire in self defence when BNP men shot at them and hurled over 50 homemade bombs."

Sources claimed that local AL activists joined the police and left only after Rab and BCG personnel reached the spot.

In the morning, around 10 BNP men were injured when police fired about 40 rubber bullets and teargas shells after BNP men attacked them with crude bombs at Dori Khorbona in Rajshahi city.

The BNP men also torched northern regional Awami League office and Ward-30 AL office at Binodpur. They also set fire to a straw-laden truck in Charghat.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ  
A BNP activist was killed and 10 people, including two law enforcers, were injured during a clash between police and Jamaat-BNP men at Kansat-

Gopalnagar intersection in Shibganj upazila.

Deceased Jamshed Ali, 40, was the son of Momtaj Ali of Shibnaryanpur. Shahjahan Mia, president of district unit BNP, claimed that Jamshed was a BNP activist.

Moinul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, said police opened fire around 3:00pm when Jamaat-BNP men hurled crude bombs and brick chunks at police, violating the section-144 imposed there.

THE CAPITAL  
Pro-BNP lawyer Saidur Rahman Jatan and police constable Mustafizur Rahman were injured during a scuffle between pro-BNP lawyers and the police in Supreme Court area after chases and counter charges took place between pro-AL and pro-BNP lawyers in the afternoon.

At least 10 people were injured when police fired rubber bullets on a procession led by BNP leader Mirza Abbas in Shahjahanpur.

Police recovered 20 abandoned petrol bombs from BNP's youth wing leader Mohammad Saleh's house in Gendaria in the morning.

An AL office at Naya Bazar and two BNP offices at Bangshal and Shuritala were set ablaze. BNP men allegedly set fire to a police motorbike, two buses and the office of the Dhaka division rickshaw-van workers' association.

At least three people including a woman were injured in crude bomb

blasts in Lalbagh in the evening.

Criminals also exploded homemade bombs in Segunbagicha, Fakirapool, Purana Paltan and near Shikha Bhaban.

They also vandalised Ibne Sina Hospital near Shankar in Dhanmondi. At least five people were injured in the incident.

CHITTAGONG  
At least 20 people, including three policemen and a shop employee, were injured during a clash between police and activists of the BNP and Jamaat-Islami. Police attempts to foil a 20-party alliance rally near Nasiman Bhaban in the afternoon triggered the clash.

Police detained over 250 people raiding the city BNP office and its adjacent areas and recovered 15 petrol bombs. The raids were going on as of filing of this report yesterday evening.

The arrestees include Aslam Chowdhury, president of Chittagong BNP (north district), and its Vice-President Enamul Haque. Protesting the arrests, BNP has called for the dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong today.

NARAYANGANJ  
At least 50 people were injured in three separate clashes between police and BNP and Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal activists.

Jamil Hossain Ullah, cameraman for a TV station, received bullet injuries while covering a clash in Bandar upazila in the morning.

KHAGRACHHARI  
At least 40 people were injured during

a clash between the BNP and the Awami League activists in the town. District BNP has called for a dawn-to-dusk blockade for today.

SUNAMGANJ  
At least 35 people including Sunamganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mokbul Hossain Mollah were injured in a clash between the AL and BNP men in the town yesterday afternoon. Police fired 30 teargas shells and rubber bullets to control the situation.

MOULVIBAZAR  
At least 20 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between cops and BNP activists in Kushumbagh area.

BHOLA  
At least 22 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between BNP activists and police near Dargah Road area of Bhola municipality yesterday.

CHANDPUR  
At least 20 people were injured in a three-way clash between the AL and BNP men and police in Faridganj upazila. The clash erupted when processions of the BNP and the AL got close in the town around 11:00am. Police opened fire and charged truncheons to control the situation.

JHENIDAH  
Two police constables and 10 JCD activists were injured during a clash at Sheikhpura Bazar in Shailakupa upazila when the law enforcers inter-

cepted a procession.

BANDARBAN  
At least 12 people, including two policemen, were injured in Sadar upazila around noon after AL men attacked BNP men preparing for a protest rally.

SIRAJGANJ  
At least 10 BNP men were injured in a clash with police in Sirajganj. The BNP men from their procession hurled brick chunks at police triggering the clash, said Habibul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station.

PABNA  
At least 10 people were injured as AL men chased Pabna district BNP men who had brought out a procession from their party office. Police fired shots in the air to control the situation, said Officer-in-Charge Ahsanul Haque of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

PIROJPUR  
Pro-AL Bangladesh Chhatra League men vandalised the BNP's district unit office. Newsmen Ziaul Haq of Somoy TV and Hasan Mamun of the daily Alokito Bangladesh were injured while covering the incident.

Meanwhile, police also detained Jamaat and BNP leaders and activists in Rangpur, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Rajshahi, Chandpur, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Dinajpur, Bogra, Feni, Gaibandha, Mymensingh and Noakhali in connection with violence, arson and criminal activities.

## People hostage to hostility

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measure should be avoided to allow people to manage their own life peacefully and without fear."

National Human Rights Commissioner Prof Mizanur Rahman said: "The kind of situation we are in is unexpected. Who would take responsibility for the sufferings common people and day labourers had to go through due to the political parties' face-off? Would the government take responsibility or the political parties who claim they do politics to mitigate the sufferings of people?"

Terming the BNP-led alliance's boycott of the January 5 polls a "wrong decision", he said: "BNP did not take part in the election because they did not have faith in the people. They resorted to violence instead."

Referring to the country's electoral law which allows a candidate to win even when unopposed, he said the election could not be termed "illegal".

"Instead of holding common people hostage, BNP leaders could have gathered in front of the Central Shaheed Minar and threatened the government with immolation if their demands were not met. But they did not do so. BNP leaders did not die in violence but common people who support the political party did," he said.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik, said: "We gained independence to have democracy in this country. We deserve to have a democratic system, where people have the right to vote, to move, to assemble and to express their thoughts. All of these are under serious threat now."

About the government's claim of providing security to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia by deploying law enforcers around her Gulshan office, Majumdar said: "Everybody knows that this is a total nonsense. There is no basis for such

a claim. This is basically to prevent her from going out and holding demonstrations or whatever she wants to do. This is an excuse. It defies all logic. This is not democracy."

Regarding the indefinite country-wide blockade announced by the BNP Chairperson, he said: "This is creating an instable situation, pushing us towards an uncertain future. I hope political parties will try to resolve their disputes through dialogue rather than all of these senseless acts that are going on right now."

Eminent jurist and rights activist Shahdheen Malik said: "Events of the last 48 hours certainly do not augur well for the democratic rights of citizens. In fact, political right -- that is the right to free movement, to freedom of speech, to freedom of assembly and association -- is under serious threat. The government is apprehensive that the opposition parties will resort to violence. However, such apprehension does not

in any manner justify a complete ban and prohibition on all political activities by the opposition parties."

As for the restriction imposed on BNP's Gulshan office, he said: "The statement and utterances made by the spokesman of police, by ministers, Awami League leaders and even by the honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seems to be as far from the truth as possible. The claim that hundreds of law enforcement agency personnel were deployed for the protection of Begum Khaleda Zia would perhaps go down as the most blatant lie of the decade. It is most unfortunate that our politics has now degenerated into lies."

"These events also indicate the total helplessness of the citizens, their insecurity and inability to lead a normal life. In these circumstances, one can only hope and pray that normalcy in our lives will return soon," he added.

## Justice Mustafa Kamal

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was born in Rangpur in 1933 and was named Mustafa Kamal by national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, said a press release issued by his daughter Nashid Kamal.

He had an illustrious academic career -- standing first class first in BA (Hons) and MA in Political Science from Dhaka University in 1953 and 1954. In 1958, he obtained MSc (Economics) in Political Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science and joined the Lincoln's Inn in 1959.

After completing his studies, Mustafa Kamal practised law in the Dhaka court, and was appointed as a High Court judge in 1979. He was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1989. He served as the Chief Justice of Bangladesh from June 1 to December 31 in 1999.

Mustafa Kamal has imparted wisdom, creativity and progressiveness to the judiciary for 20 years, the press release states.

His judgements remain as exemplary documents to his successors, standing out both in style and content. In 2003, he was appointed as a consul-

tant for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) by the then government and had taught modules on the ADR in 64 districts of the country.

He may be called the "father of ADR" in Bangladesh. He also served briefly as the chairman of the Law Commission.

He wrote two books "Bangladesh Constitution, Trends and Issues" in English and a Bangla book "Amar Kichhu Bola".

News of Mustafa Kamal's death cast a pall of gloom over the SC, with judges and lawyers suspending their normal judicial activities.

Supreme Court Bar Association and the Bangladesh Bar Council, expressed their condolences over the death of the eminent judge.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Azad mosque in Gulshan followed by the second janaza on the SC premises.

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, judges of the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC, former chief justices attended the janaza, among others, on the SC premises.

He was buried in Azimpur graveyard in the same grave of his father.