

AWARD FOR ATIUR The BB boss named Asia's best governor PAGE B1

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Fakhrul couldn't escape arrest

Held at Jatiya Press Club where he took shelter; 17,000 sued over Jan 5 violence; Khaleda still confined, complains of breathing problem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Keeping BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia confined to her political office for the third consecutive day, police yesterday arrested her party's second-in-command Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Detectives picked up Fakhrul as he came out of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon with pro-government journalists protesting his stay there. The BNP acting secretary general had been at the press club for around 24 hours.

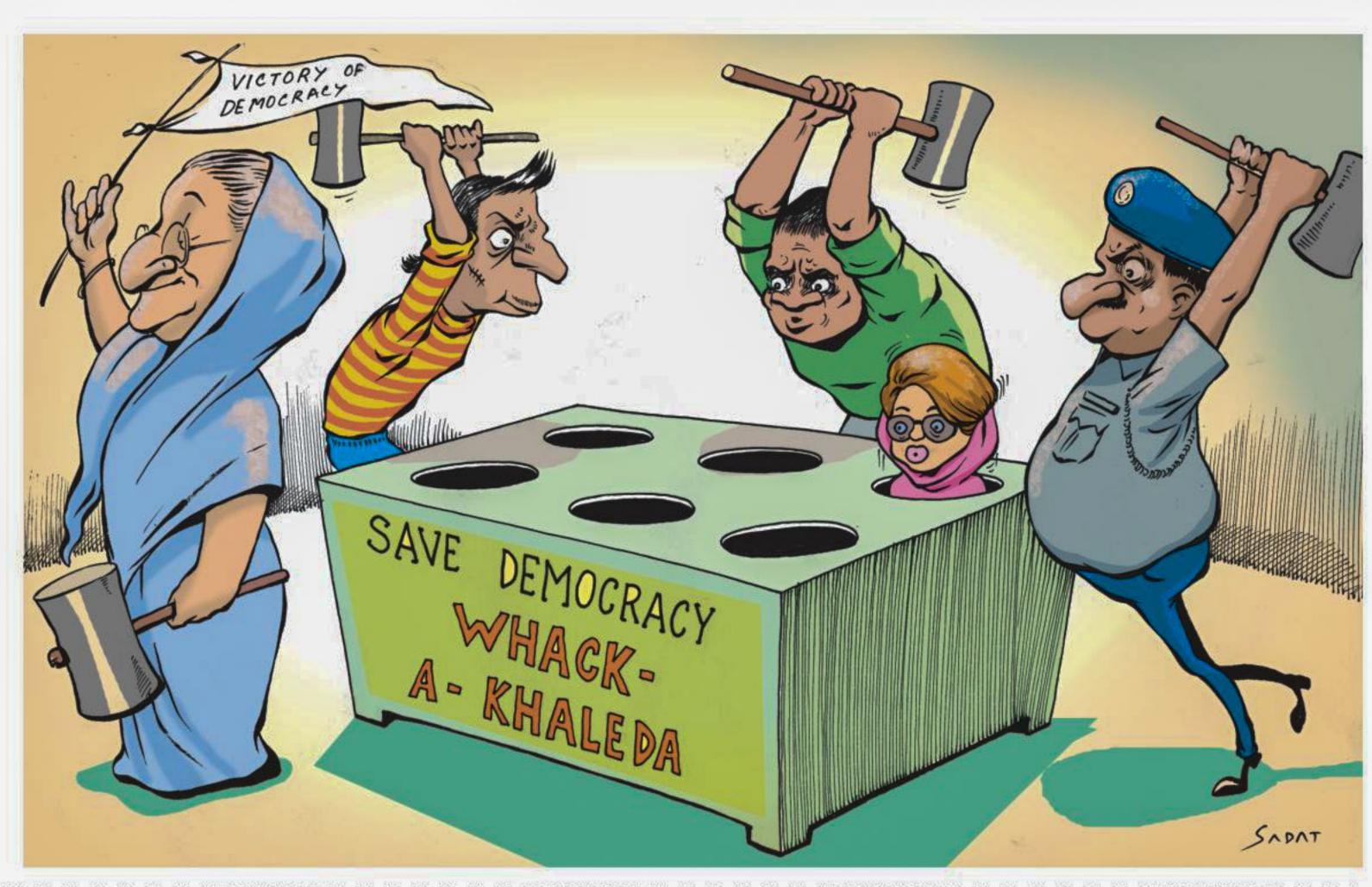
Immediately after his detention, he was shown arrested in cases filed for instigating the December 24 clash at the capital's Bakshibazar and torching a lawmaker's vehicle, and over countrywide blasts and vandalism on January 4-5, said Assistant



Commissioner Shibli Noman of DMP (Ramna zone).

Fakhrul was taken straight to the Detective Branch headquarters. Now facing more than 70 cases, he had earlier been arrested thrice.

Protesting the arrest, the BNP is enforcing SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Press Club over Fakhrul's stay

RASHIDUL HASAN

An almost 24-hour drama ended with his

In the face of daylong protests by progovernment journalists against his taking shelter in the Jatiya Press Club, BNP acting secretary general Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was about to leave the premises yesterday afternoon.

Flanked by pro-BNP-Jamaat leaders of SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Daylong drama at Shibir Men in Action as Blockade Begins

Policemen attacked, vehicles torched

People suffer as long-route buses off the road

· STAR REPORT

Three law enforcers were brutally assaulted, an innocent man was killed, and at least 17 vehicles were torched and many more vandalised across the country on the first day of the nonstop blockade by the BNP-led alliance.

With road communication snapped on

medical needs, had to go through immense : sufferings.

Though trains and launches to and from Dhaka were operating normally, no longroute bus left the capital. Inter-district road communications across the country were

COMMENTARY

Making a mockery of democracy

long routes, people, especially those in This cannot be good for Bangladesh

MAHFUZ ANAM

There is nothing much in Khaleda Zia's politics that we find worthy of support. Her alliance with Jamaat : - a party that publicly and actively opposed our SEE PAGE 10 COL 4 : Liberation War, and many of whose leaders have

been found guilty of crimes against humanity continues to alienate her and her party from freedom fighters, their families, and the rest of the citizenry who are proud to live in independent Bangladesh. Her dalliance with extremist forces SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Govt reopens Shela route

Vessels allowed to move in daytime amid workers' pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defying the recommendations of the UN experts and environmentalists, the government yesterday decided to allow vessels to ply through the Shela river in the Sundarbans from today, apparently in the face of pressure from river transport work-

The decision came from an interministerial meeting at the shipping ministry yesterday with Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan in the chair.

The meeting said vessels can ply the Shela river route in a "controlled way" during the daytime only until the completion of dredging work on the Mongla-Ghashiakhali channel. No vessel can run through the route at night as well as during foggy and bad weather.

Besides, oil tanker and coastal ships will be barred from using the route.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Ekushey TV chairman lands in jail

Shown arrested in case filed under pornography act STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Television (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam landed in jail after he was arrested in front of the TV station's Karwan Bazar office early yesterday in connection with a case filed under Pornography Control Act last year.

Salam was picked up around 3:30am, several hours after cable operators, mostly loyal to the ruling Awami League, allegedly stopped transmission of ETV that had broadcast live BNP leader Tarique Rahman's speech from London early Monday.

In the speech telecast several times on ETV, the SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



home is where the heart is

এবার গড়ে উঠুক স্বপ্নের আবাস

নেপচুন ল্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিমিটেড-এর ইউনাইটেড সিটিতে প্লট রেজিস্ট্রেশন শুরু হয়েছে। তাই দেরী না করে আপনাদের প্লটের রেজিস্ট্রেশন নিয়ে নিন আর গড়ে তুলুন স্বপ্নের আবাস।

ইতিমধ্যে যোগাযোগকৃত প্লট মালিকগণ-এর সমস্যাসমূহ শীঘ্রই নিরসনের ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্ছে।

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