



**"We hope they won't return to the press club after marching only two feet towards Central Shaheed Minar. We hope they'll take to the streets to realise their demands."**  
Mujahidul Islam Selim while talking about a movement announced by Oikya Prokriya led by Dr Kamal Hossain. (PAGE 4)

**"The growing number of motorcycles is mainly responsible for the sudden rise in the number of accidents."**  
ILIAS KANCHAN, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF NIRAPAD SARAK CHAI, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE (PAGE 3)

**"I believe that destroying something without having developed something new is extremely dangerous."**  
GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL WARNS TRUMP AGAINST DESTROYING UN (PAGE 8)

# BNP top brass sued after rally

At least 10 cases filed against senior leaders, hundreds of activists; over 300 arrested, claims party lawyer

- Fakhrul, Moudud, Moyeen Khan, Mirza Abbas, Nazrul Islam Khan, Goyeshwar among accused
- Amir Khasru, now travelling abroad, also accused of 'instigating subversive acts' through rally speech
- Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, who did not even attend the rally, also named as accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Top BNP leaders, including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, were sued early yesterday for "instigating" subversive activities, hours after the party staged a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan and asked its activists to prepare for both movement and elections.  
The case statement says some party supporters blasted crude bombs, attacked police in an attempt to kill them, vandalised vehicles and obstructed police duties in Moghbazar area around 8:15pm on Sunday.  
And the crimes were committed at the instigation of top BNP-Jamaat leaders, which police learnt interrogating those arrested during the occurrence, it added.  
Apart from BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul, the accused include  
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Wife and daughter of Mamun, one of those arrested in cases filed following a BNP rally in the capital on Sunday, break down in tears in front of the CMM's Court after the man was produced before the court yesterday. Inset, other arrestees brought to the court premises in a prison van.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## BNP'S HINT AT POLLS PARTICIPATION AL now finalising strategy

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA  
At Sunday's rally, the BNP gave a clear message to the Awami League and the international community that it would take part in the national election.  
The party placed 12 goals at the rally and its leaders said those were sort of electoral pledges.  
AL leaders said they got the BNP's signal that it would take part in the polls under any circumstances, even though it is saying it would not run with Khaleda Zia behind bars.  
Wishing anonymity, an AL central committee member told The Daily Star, "Now we will make all-out efforts to prepare for the election. We could not make many decisions and were waiting to see what the BNP would do regarding taking part in the polls. Now we can go ahead and make concrete decisions."  
Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafrullah Chowdhury, who closely observes the BNP, told The Daily Star that the BNP at the rally wanted to

**"We will firm up our formula for the electoral alliance soon."**  
AL PRESIDUM MEMBER KAZI ZAFARULLAH  
send messages to three quarters – to its own leaders and activists, to the ruling party, and to the international community.  
He said BNP leaders and activists were asked to prepare for a movement and the election. The ruling party was told that it would not have a walkover like it had in the January 5, 2014, polls. The international community was told how the BNP would run the country if voted to power.  
At the rally, the BNP also made a seven-point demand, including unconditional release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. It said the

demands would be the base for forging a greater unity among political parties.  
The party's 12 goals include establishing good governance, rule of law, checks and balances, modernising the armed forces, freeing the Anti-Corruption Commission of political influence and making it effective.  
The demands include dissolution of parliament ahead of the polls, resignation of the government, and formation of a non-party polls-time administration after talks with all political parties.  
Meanwhile, AL allies have been asking it how many parliamentary seats it would give to its partners to run for. The AL has not been responding to the requests from its "ideological" and "electoral" partners, according to AL insiders.  
Earlier, the AL had decided that if the BNP boycotted the polls, the ruling party would run under the 14-party alliance banner. And, if the BNP joined the election slated for December, it would run under the banner of grand alliance, which includes Jatiya Party of HM Ershad and the 14-party combine.  
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POLLS-TIME GOVT  
Tarikat, BNF hope to be part of it  
RASHIDUL HASAN  
Two small political parties are upbeat about having its members in the polls-time cabinet as the prime minister recently announced that an election-time government will be formed comprising political parties that have representation in parliament.  
Leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation (BTF) said they were already making preparations in this regard.  
The BNF has one MP while the BTF, a component of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance, has two.  
Making the announcement at Jatiya Sangsad on September 20, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

## Stay alert to conspiracies

Hasina tells AL leaders, activists  
UNB, Dhaka  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Awami League leaders and activists to remain alert to all conspiracies keeping in mind that the party was moving forward fighting many odds and obstacles.  
She was addressing a reception accorded to her by AL leaders at the Gono Bhaban for the successful completion of her US visit to attend the 73rd United Nations General Assembly.  
The PM said some lawmaker aspirants were seen slandering local AL leaders to create positions for themselves in their respective areas. "This is a wrong way of doing politics... all will have to pay dearly for this."  
In this connection, Hasina mentioned about the party's defeat in the 1991 and 2001 national elections. She said there was a deep-rooted conspiracy in 2001, while the conspiracy in 1991 was from within and outside the party.  
She said AL leaders and activists always have to keep in mind that there are strong opponents who are the defeated forces of 1971 and the killers of 1975.  
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## 2 DEFAMATION CASES SC upholds Khaleda's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court orders that granted bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in two separate defamation cases filed in Dhaka and Narail.  
A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed two separate petitions filed by the government seeking stay on the HC bail orders.  
However, Khaleda cannot walk out of jail now as she has been shown arrested in a few other cases.  
Attorney General Mahbubey Alam appeared for the government, while AJ Mohammad Ali represented Khaleda.  
On December 21, 2015, Khaleda at a discussion at Institution of Engineers Bangladesh raised questions  
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## AFTER MONTH-LONG TRAFFIC CAMPAIGN Dhaka streets still mired in chaos

RAFIUL ISLAM  
Most pedestrians were jaywalking at Shahbagh. Only a handful used the zebra crossings and footbridges. Buses were picking up and dropping off passengers in the middle of streets as rickshaws waited for passengers blocking part of the busy intersection.  
This was the situation around noon yesterday, the first day after the month-long traffic safety awareness campaign ended. The picture was similar at many other busy intersections in the capital.  
Members of Rover Scouts, Girl Guides, Red Crescent and other organisations had forced pedestrians and transport workers to obey traffic rules during the campaign.  
But the utter lack of discipline came back after they left.  
At Shahbagh intersection around noon yesterday, four traffic constables struggled to bring order to the chaos. Motorcycles and cars kept speeding when they were asked to stop.  
"It is not possible to bring change unless people are aware. Is it possible to make people aware and maintain traffic at the same time?" said Mohammad Yeasin, one of the constables.  
As soon as he said this, several vehicles, including a police pickup, stopped at the southern end of the intersection, occupying the zebra crossing and forcing pedestrians to walk on the road.  
Minutes later, a motorcyclist coming from Shishu Park attempted to speed away towards Farmgate, ignoring the police asking him to stop.  
This correspondent found the biker in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and asked him why he did that. The man nonchalantly said the road was free and he did nothing wrong.  
Meanwhile, a motorcyclist with his female pillion passenger rode through the wrong side of the road in front of the BSMMU and went towards Shishu Park.  
At Shahbagh and several other major intersections, such blatant traffic violations were rarely seen during the campaign.  
Asked, traffic policemen working at Karwan Bazar and Bangla Motor intersections and higher officers of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said curbing traffic violations would require more personnel on the roads.  
At Bangla Motor, Karwan Bazar, Mirpur-10, Farmgate, Nilkhet and many other intersections, most people jaywalked while only a few used footbridges.  
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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A CNG-run auto-rickshaw drives against traffic on a U-loop in the capital's Badda yesterday. A month-long traffic awareness campaign ended on Sunday but there have hardly been any changes in the city's traffic situation.