

Bhuiyan, Tarique, Babar

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affairs adviser Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, in different criminal cases, an ACC counsel told The Daily Star.

The other accused who got bail yesterday also include former BNP minister Tariqul Islam, former state minister Aman Ullah Aman, former lawmakers Nasiruddin Ahmed, Pinu Salauddin Ahmed, Ali Asgar Lobi, Nazimuddin Alam and Alamgir Farid, former Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, former Rajshahi City Corporation mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Mayor Badaruddin Ahmed Kamran.

CASES AGAINST TARIQUE, BABAR

Tarique, also the eldest son of Khaleda, was granted six months' ad interim bail in five cases—three extortion cases, a corruption case for amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information from the ACC, and a tax evasion case filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

On his separate petitions, the HC also stayed proceedings against him in the extortion cases for six months.

The HC bench stayed the proceedings against Tarique in the Tk 21 crore bribery case involving the murder of Bashundhara Group Director Humayun Kabir Sabir.

The bench also granted ad interim bail to Babar in this case and stayed its proceedings against him until October 22. It also granted ad interim bail for one year to Bashundhara Group Director Abu Sufian and stayed proceedings against him for the same period.

On October 4 last year, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kasem filed the case with Raima Police Station, accusing six persons including Babar for receiving and giving the bribe to ensure that Shafiqat

Sobhan Sanvir, son of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, did not face charges for killing Sabir. Sabir's body was found outside a building in Bashundhara residential area on July 5, 2006.

Tarique's counsel barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon yesterday told The Daily Star that Tarique is arrested in 13 cases and he has been granted bail in 12. Proceedings against him in all the cases have been stayed.

Tarique Rahman will now have to secure bail only in the Tk 21 crore bribery case to get released from jail. A petition for bail in this case is pending with the Appellate Division, he said, adding that they would move the petition at the Appellate Division today.

CASE AGAINST KAMRAN

The HC bench granted six months' ad interim bail to Kamran in two cases—a corruption case for amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information from the ACC and another case for violating Energy Power Rules (EPR).

The SCC mayor was arrested on June 29 last year at the Gulshan Hotel in Sylhet. A detention order had been issued against him on June 4.

Kamran's lawyer advocate AM Amin Uddin said police earlier filed a case against Kamran on charges of corruption.

The HC granted two months' bail each to Kamal Ahmed in a tax evasion case filed by the NBR and to Lobi in a case filed by the ACC. The court stayed proceedings against them for the same period.

The HC stayed for two months the proceedings against former BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali in two cases—a corruption case filed by the ACC and an extortion case. Earlier, Ilias was granted bail in these cases from the HC.

mayor on April 5 last year after a court issued a warrant for his arrest in connection with the case.

CASES AGAINST OTHERS

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who was already released on bail, yesterday obtained anticipatory bail for four months in the Barapukuria coal mine scam case filed by the ACC. He appeared before the HC bench yesterday for bail in the case.

Salauddin Quader got ad interim bail in five cases including three for extortion.

The bail of former BNP information minister M Shamsul Islam was extended for six months yesterday. He recently secured one month's HC bail in connection with the Gatoe corruption case.

Aman Ullah Aman was granted ad interim bail for six months in two cases filed by the ACC and the NBR.

The court also stayed proceedings against him in these cases for six months.

The HC bench granted two months' ad interim bail to Tariqul in a case filed by the ACC for amassing illegal wealth and stayed proceedings against him for two months.

Pintu and Minu each got six months' bail in cases filed by the ACC for accumulating illegal wealth. The court also stayed the proceedings against them for the same period.

The HC granted two months' bail each to Kamal Ahmed in a tax evasion case filed by the NBR and to Lobi in a case filed by the ACC. The court stayed proceedings against them in the cases for the same period.

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50 militants

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The military operation in Bajaur has left more than 500 people dead and 260,000 displaced.

US and Afghan officials say the rebels have sanctuaries in the rugged tribal border regions of Pakistan that they use to train, regroup and launch attacks on international troops in Afghanistan.

Separately, Pakistani helicopter gunships pounded militant hideouts yesterday in the troubled Bajaur tribal region near the Afghan border, killing eight rebels.

Pakistani forces moved into Bajaur, a hub of Al-Qaeda and Taliban militants, earlier this month.

Second PRSP

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15 percent and enhancement of revenue mobilisation efforts for reducing dependence on import taxes.

To enhance private investment, the government will take measures to make unused land available for creating industrial or economic zones, provide incentives for private industrial estates, and will acquire land to handover to potential investors through the Board of Investment for setting up new industrial or special economic zones, or for industrial parks.

The government in the second draft PRSP has also disclosed a plan for instituting new policies and regulatory frameworks for enabling private investments in economic zones, and for improving land zoning for industrial purposes.

To attract foreign direct investment (FDI), the government will also introduce equity protection laws, and simplify procedures for opening up branches or liaison offices of foreign companies in Bangladesh.

Measures will also be taken to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides along with phasing out of persistent organic pollutants.

The first PRSP had been introduced for the period of 2005–2007, the tenure of which was extended up to the last fiscal.

The PRSP has been prepared mainly with advice from International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. But, so far the government has not assessed the failures and successes of the first PRSP.

Asked about the evaluation, a high official of the planning ministry said they have incorporated the evaluation in the second PRSP. The draft of second PRSP, however, does not show any such specific evaluation.

Home adviser

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medical care according to the jail code.

Meantime, backtracking from the statement he made Tuesday, Inspector General (Prisons) Zaki Hassan yesterday said Tarique was getting treatment under the custody of the jail authorities.

The Tac team also informed the commission that the commission had received 183 applications until Tuesday.

According to the provision of the ordinance, the period of case disposal is confined to only 22 days with extension of seven days. The team said it will be difficult to dispose of the cases within this time.

The president gave a patient hearing to the chairman and members of the commission and assured them of possible cooperation.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Major General Muhammad Ruhul Amin and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awan Howlader were present.

Justice Khan said the hearings of the cases will begin on September 1.

About those who already deposited their ill-gotten money with the IGP, the Tac chairman said if

Rail tracks

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living in a slum next to the lines at Munshi Bari Signal in Gandaria for the last 28 years said the area remains waterlogged for 2-3 days after heavy rains.

"I have seen postponement of many scheduled trains due to waterlogging in the area," he said.

The waterlogging situation between Munshibari Signal and Gandaria Bazar is very bad, he said.

Mohammad Musa, a resident of the area, said the only way for rainwater in Gandaria Bazar to recede is under the railway bridge built many years ago and it is inadequate. Another exit route for water needed, he said.

Mohammad Salam a shopkeeper at DIT plot Pushkunipar said waterlogging has worsened a lot since the construction of Jurain Road in 2004 filling up a large water body.

Water bodies near the eastern part of the road have also been filled up and those played an important role in draining out rainwater from the area, he said.

Nazrul Islam, another resident of the area, said illegal structures have been erected on both sides of the road filling low-lying areas with water.

The bridge was over five feet high from the ground 20 years ago but now it is on the same level with the ground, he said.

Around 20 years ago there was a long water body on the western side of the lines from Gandaria Station to Jurain graveyard, it is not there anymore, said Nazrul.

"We have no plan as yet to set up rainwater drainage lines in the area but we will take the initiative in future," he said.

Mokbul Hossain, divisional engineer-1 of Bangladesh Railway, said since the water bodies, which retained most of the rainwater, have been filled up, this has become the main reason for waterlogging on the train lines.

The extension of Jurain graveyard, Gandaria Bazar and many structures constructed on the filled-up land is another reason for

waterlogging, he claimed. A number of structures beside the rail lines in Gandaria Railway Station were demolished on January 24, 2007 but lack of monitoring has led to illegal occupiers returning to the scene. Besides these, a large number of structures had been constructed illegally on both sides of the rail lines which is also a reason for waterlogging in the area, said stationmaster Hafizur.

Police said locals at Romsibari village caught Siraj and handed him over to Rab members on Tuesday evening.

Later, Rab handed him over to Bagmara police.

Acting on Siraj's confession, police took him to Goalkandi village of Bagmara upazila to recover illegal arms and ammunition at about 4:00am. When the law enforcers reached the village, Siraj's cohorts fired on the policemen prompting them to retaliate.

Siraj sustained bullet injuries during the shootout while his cohorts managed to escape.

He was rushed to the local health complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Police said a shutter gun, five rounds of bullet and four empty cartridges from the scene.

Siraj was accused in six cases on different charges including murder and extortion, police added.

The STP movement has claimed public responsibility, but the director of Kufra airport said the hijackers belong to a faction of the Sudanese Liberation Army, whose exiled leader Abdel Wahid Mohammed Nuri lives in Paris.

The pilot said "the hijackers claim to have coordinated with him (Nuri) to join him in Paris," Kufra airport director Khaled Saseya told JANA, adding that they had demanded a flight plan to Paris and fuel.

Nur, whose group was one of two

area including the capital and five nearby districts -- Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Narisingdi, Gazipur and Manikganj.

Mass transport system in the capital will get special attention in the TSP implementation. Setting up of three Bus Rapid Transits (BRT), repair and rebuilding of 300 km roads and construction of 60 km underground rail tracks have been included in the plan.

The STP aims at coordinated operations of road, railway and water transport systems.

It also seeks to address the issue of air and environment pollution. When implemented, people of the city will have a safe, environment-friendly and coordinated transport system.

The handout mentioned that Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) under the communications ministry is now implementing various projects to resolve the problem of traffic congestion. It is also the implementing agency for the downpour.

From the rally, JCD leaders alleged that a conspiracy is on against Tarique to create a vacuum in BNP leadership through 'killing him without treatment'. They vowed to the engineering institute.

Police broke up the human chain in most places across the country, as the law enforcement department had issued an order Tuesday night urging the protesting alliance to refrain from demonstrating, saying 'the action would violate the emergency powers rule'.

In some places including Khulna and Kishoreganj the alliance activists clashed with the law enforcement forces.

In the capital the protesters marched to form the chains on a limited scale at 12 points between Jatrabari and Gabtoli.

Police charged batons on a human chain of Juba Dal (South) in front of the stock exchange building in Motijheel.

Khandaker Delwar Hossain, who is the de facto executive chief of the Khaleda faction of BNP and the detained chairperson appointed secretary general, announced countrywide protest rallies scheduled for September 2 from a small gathering at National Press Club premises in the city amid a heavy downpour in the afternoon.

Jamaat Secretary General Ali Hossain Muhammad Mujahed and Jatiya Party leader Andalib Rahman Partha were also present.

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