

**WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE
SC begins
further hearing
on govt appeal**
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday started further hearing on an appeal filed by the government in a case related to the Warrant of Precedence of the state.

Although the apex court passed a short order on the appeal two days back, it started further hearing to clarify that reports published by the media on this issue, based on a lawyer's remarks, were not correct, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC also fixed January 11 to resume the hearing.

The SC in its short order on January 6 said, "The appeal is disposed of with expunction, modification, observation and findings." The order was published on the SC's website.

In 2011, the cabinet secretary, on behalf of the government, filed the appeal with the SC against a HC verdict that declared the present Warrant of Precedence, which was formulated in 1986 and revised in 2008, illegal.

Responding to a writ petition, the HC in 2010 had also directed the government to issue a new Warrant of Precedence for the republic's officers giving district judges and equivalent judicial officers precedence over the chiefs of armed forces and government secretaries.

The Warrant of Precedence is used for all government purposes including ceremonial occasions.

During proceedings yesterday, the SC rebuked the lawyer, M

Asaduzzaman, for explaining the court's observations in his own way as the SC did not disclose contents of its observations in the short order on January 6.

"How could you know details of the observations? Have you got a copy of the verdict?" the court questioned.

At this stage, M

Asaduzzaman, the petitioner's lawyer, apologised to the court saying he made a mistake. The cabinet secretary's lawyer, Abdur Rab Chaudhury, who placed arguments before the SC yesterday, told The Daily Star that the SC did not say whether its January 6 short order has been withdrawn or not.



Gananatrik Bam Morcha rallies before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding withdrawal of an indefinite ban imposed by Dhaka Metropolitan Police on rallies in the city since 5:00pm on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Govt turning autocratic
by banning rallies**

Says Gananatrik Bam Morcha; holds one of its own; slams AL, BNP for restricting people's freedom of movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police's indefinite ban on rallies in the capital since 5:00pm on Sunday nullifies every democratic achievement of Bangladesh's people while the government exposed its autocratic nature by blatantly depriving people of their constitutional rights, leaders told a Gananatrik Bam Morcha (GBM) rally yesterday.

"Law enforcers clamping down on political opponents will only make matters worse by paving the rise of militancy," Zonayed Saki, convener of the seven leftist parties' alliance, told the rally before the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The ban came against the backdrop of rallies both Awami League and BNP were preparing for marking the January 5, 2014 national polls.

The rising trend of the state's

repression on political opponents mirrors a fascist ruler's characteristics, he said, adding that the voterless and one-sided election created a political crisis, which should be solved through political means.

Saiful Haque said the ruling party, by "celebrating its one year in power", confined people and restricted their free movement. "BNP's violence and blockade (being enforced since Tuesday demanding a fresh election under a non-party administration) continue to make the public suffer by confining them," he said.

Moshrefa Mishu said autocratic rulers have never been able to indefinitely hold on to power. "The democratic norm is to defend the rights of those we oppose," she added.

Shubhrangshu Chakrabarty, Mosharraf Hossain Nannu and Hamidul Haque also spoke.

**Muggers beat up
journo in Savar**

Victim terms it a bid to kill him
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Unidentified muggers beat a journalist of The Independent in a bid, what the victim said, to kill him in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, early yesterday.

With injuries to both the eyes, Faruque Hosen, 33, a staff reporter of the national daily, was taken to Enam Medical College Hospital by a security guard.

The culprits in the guise of passengers attacked the people, including Faruque, aboard a bus while he was returning his Savar residence from the newspaper's Tejgaon office following his late night duty, the reporter said.

The incident happened when the Paturia-bound bus carrying around 26 passengers from Gabtoli terminal reached Salehpur bridge at Aminbazar, he said. They robbed all passengers, including him, he added.

The gang started assaulting the journalist indiscriminately after tying up his hands and legs with ropes as he showed his professional ID card, the victim said. When he fell unconscious, the muggers threw him at a deserted place in Zirani around 2:30am.

Dr Anower Kader Nazim, director of the hospital, told The Daily Star that his right eye was badly injured.

No case was filed till 10:19pm yesterday. Earlier he was robbed on December 31.

**ZUBAIR MURDER AT JU
Students demand
speedy trial**

Hand over memorandum to VC for initiatives to prevent such killings in future

JU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday handed over a memorandum to the vice-chancellor to take proper "initiatives to set an example so that the incidents like Zubair murder will not occur on the campus".

Under the banner of "Santraser Biruddhey Jahangirnagar", a platform demanding justice over the killing, the students also sought speedy trial of the murder case, marking the third anniversary into the killing.

Zubair Ahmed, an honours final year student of English, was tortured and stabbed allegedly by some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League on January 8, 2012.

He succumbed to his injuries in a Dhaka hospital the next day.

Since the killing, the students have been observing the day as "Santrash Birodhi Dibosh" on the campus.

On January 30, 2012, the university authorities expelled seven BCL activists and suspended six others for two years.

Vice-chancellor Prof Farzana Islam said they were looking into the matter.

Meanwhile, despite being suspended from BCL, three of the 13 accused are still staying on the campus. One of the three is even employed at the university administration, said the protesters.



Defying an indefinite blockade called by the BNP-led 20-party alliance on Tuesday, a large number of vehicles ply the streets in the capital yesterday. The photo was taken in Bangla Motor area.

ETV boss sent

FROM PAGE 3 and assistance, the private TV channel had broadcast obscene footage in a programme, "Ekusher Chokh", on November 6, 2014.

On November 17, 2014 the case was filed with a Dhaka court by a woman (name withheld) accusing four persons -- her ex-husband Mohammad Shahjalal and his brother-in-law Zakir Hossain, her "godbrother" Zahirul Haque Imran and ETV Senior Reporter Elias Hossain.

Following a court directive, cantonment police recorded the case on November 26.

The plaintiff accused Imran, Shahjalal and Zakir of doctoring and circulating on the internet and through cellphones photos and footages secretly taken of her and of spreading gossip to socially demean her after she got divorced.

Elias had those obscene clips aired in Ekusher Chokh on November 6, 2014, says the case statement.

Salam's bail prayer stated that his name was not in the first information report and it was a conspiracy to harass him.

Salam was arrested 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.

On Wednesday, the High Court banned publicising Tarique's statements in the print, electronic and social media since he was a fugitive with several warrants issued for his arrest.

SCBA, pro-BNP BFUJ

FROM PAGE 3 an unprecedented restriction, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, in another statement, said such steps curtail freedom of expression which has been guaranteed by the constitution.

"Where the court is the last place to safeguard the constitutional right of expression of different opinions, this order deeply concerns and worries us," said presidents Shawkat

Mahmud and Abdul Hye and secretaries general MA Aziz and Jahangir Alam Proddhan of BFUJ and DUJ respectively.

They hoped that the HC would uphold the right to express differing opinions.

Pointing at ETV Chairman Abdus Salam's arrest on Wednesday and alleged stopping of transmission of ETV's broadcast by cable operators, mostly loyal to the ruling Awami League, after it broadcast live Tarique's

speech from London early Monday, SCBA expressed concern at the "government interference to control the media".

SCBA President Khandker Mahub Hossain and Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon said Salam was not in the list of accused when the case was filed with a Dhaka court on November 17, 2014.

The government has imposed an unwritten restriction on live broad-

cast of programmes about BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia by private television channels, they said, adding that a popular Bangla Vision talkshow has been stopped while restrictions have been imposed on discussants of others.

They strongly condemned and protested such steps, saying that no past government survived by gagging the media and neither would the present unelected government.

Bengal Foundation presents
International Architecture Conference
engageDhaka
A dedication to Sthapatyacharya Muzharul Islam 2015
Place Presence

SPEAKERS
Fumihiko Maki . Bashirul Haq . Kenneth Frampton
William J.R. Curtis . Ken Yeang . Shamsul Wares . Saif Ul Haque
Kazi Khaleed Ashraf . Kongjian Yu . Rahul Mehrotra . Farooq Ameen
Han Tumertekin . Anupama Kundoo
Palinda Kannangara . Hector Fernandez Elorza . John Lin

JANUARY 15 16 17
Army Museum, Bijoy Sharani
Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

REGISTER NOW log on to
www.bengalfoundation.org
Helpline : 0161611888

Courtesy of Bengal Communications Limited
Strategic partner: প্রথম আলো
Radio partner: abc
Strategic partner: The Daily Star
Media partner: ICE TODAY
Event management: BLUES