

# BNP calls for fair probe into Avijit's killing

Accuses govt of failing to safeguard people's lives; warns 'partisan' law enforcers about consequences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday strongly condemned the killing of secular writer Avijit Roy and demanded prosecution of the murderers through a fair investigation.

"The killing of Avijit Roy, despite foolproof security measures by police in Bangla Academy and TSC areas, proved that the government has failed to give security to people's lives and properties," BNP Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed said in a press statement.

Alleged religious fanatics hacked Avijit to death and severely wounded his wife near TSC at Dhaka University Thursday night, triggering strong protests among his fellow writers and publishers at home and abroad, who are disappointed at the growing intolerance in Bangladesh.

Avijit, the founder of Mukto-Mona (free thinker) blog site, had faced death threats for his writings.

The BNP spokesperson, Salahuddin, said the anti-government movement would continue until the party's demand for a fresh election under a non-party administration was met.

Citing the death of a BNP leader's son who was hit by bullets while clashing with police in Dinajpur on Friday, the party claimed that the people were organising in their localities across the country to fight "state terrorism".

"This illegal government will be forced to quit very soon in the face of the people's spontaneous movement," the statement read. "It will not take much time to uproot the Awami League government with the huge participation of

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Condemnations against the killing of Avijit Roy and demands for justice before stalls in the Suhrawardy Udayan portion of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Impunity breeding such savagery

Say protesters about Avijit's murder; announce days of demonstrations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A host of socio-cultural and political organisations yesterday strongly denounced the murder of secular writer Avijit Roy at the hands of alleged religious fanatics and blamed "impunity" to the previous attackers for the repeat of such savagery.

They also announced several protests in the next few days, to press for immediate arrest of the killers and build mass resistance against fundamentalism and militancy in the country.

In a condemnatory statement, Sector Commanders Forum said that had the attackers of Prof Humayun Azad and the killers of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar been punished, another secular writer would have been saved.

Avijit was hacked dead near TSC of Dhaka University on Thursday night, and the killing has triggered strong condemnations at home and abroad.

Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, which

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# Karnaphuli river trans-boundary

Says IUCN study, adding there are more such rivers still to be officially enlisted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the Karnaphuli River, the lifeline of Chittagong, is not enlisted as a trans-boundary river, a new research publication identifies it as a cross-border river and claims that there are a few more common rivers which are thought to have originated in one country.

"Rivers beyond Borders: India-Bangladesh Trans-boundary River Atlas", the publication, was unwrapped at Drik Gallery in the capital yesterday.

It states that another river, the Nayagang, coming from India into Netrakona, was not enlisted as the trans-boundary river in the list of Bangladesh India Joint Rivers Commission (JRC).

As per the official record of JRC, Bangladesh and India are sharing 54 rivers, in which neither the Karnaphuli nor the Nayagang are included. Officially there are 57 trans-boundary rivers in Bangladesh, of which three comes from Myanmar and the rest from India.

The "trans-boundary river atlas" published by the International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) says the Nayagang originates in Khasi hills and enters Bangladesh through Netrakona.

It adds that the Karnaphuli rises in the Lusai or Mizo hills in Mizoram, India and flows into Bangladesh.

"We have some publications on some big rivers like the Ganges, Jamuna or even Brahmaputra. But I have not seen documentation on cross-border rivers like the Kulik or Dahuk," said noted hydrologist Prof Ainun Nishat, who spoke as chief guest.

Dr Bushra Nishat, one of the authors of the research, said they used narratives, maps, recent photographs of those rivers in both Bangladesh and Indian parts, and infographics of the 54 rivers crossing the border between Bangladesh and India.

Researchers from the two countries contributed to the book, she added.

Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad, the country representative of the IUCN, and Sazzadur Rahman, former professor of geography at Dhaka University, also spoke at the programme.

The book was published under "Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh India Initiative", a regional project implemented by IUCN.

# Family visits war crimes convict Kamaruzzaman in jail

STAR REPORT

Condemned war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, senior assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, is mentally and physically well, one of his counsels said yesterday, after the convict's family visited him in Dhaka Central Jail.

Kamaruzzaman's wife Nurunnahar and seven other members including his daughter, daughter-in-law, three nieces, a nephew, and a brother-in-law spent about 40 minutes with him, starting from 10:40am, the lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

They discussed family matters, he said.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2, which sentenced Kamaruzzaman to death for war crimes on May 9, 2013, issued the death warrant for him on

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