

# HC again denies ETV's Salam bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday refused chairman of private television channel ETV, Abdus Salam, bail in a sedition case, citing that another bench had earlier refused a similar one of his. Police filed the case with Cantonment Police Station on January 8 after ETV broadcast live on January 5 BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman's speech from London, Deputy Attorney General Bashir Ullah told The Daily Star.

The case says Salam in collusion with others of ETV broadcast Tarique's statement which created an anarchic situation as it involved the chief justice, army and law enforcers, he said.

In the speech, telecast several times on ETV, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son called upon supporters not to return home until the present government had been toppled.

Yesterday, the bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siddique and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore returned the bail petition to Salam's lawyers.

Bashir said another bench led by Justice Md Nuruzzaman recently rejected the previous bail petition, considering it was not properly placed before it.

There was no new ground in the petition moved yesterday, he said.

Salam's lawyer Rafique-Ul-Huq said he would move the petition before another bench.

Salam was arrested in front of ETV's Karwan Bazar office in connection with another case on January 6, hours after cable operators, mostly loyal to the ruling Awami League, allegedly stopped ETV's transmission.



With a shortage of food at national park and reserved forest areas of Nijhum Dwip in Noakhali, spotted deer wander into settlements in search of food. Locals use this opportunity to capture these animals. The picture was taken from Dubai Khal area on Nijhum Dwip on Friday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

# No talk with militancy backers: Tofail

BSS, Sangsad Bhaban

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday rejected outright dialogue possibilities with opposition parties, saying there could be no talks with patrons of anarchists, innocent people's killers and militant outfits.

Addressing the discussion on thanksgiving motion on the January 19 presidential address in Jatiya Sangsad, he accused BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of supporting al-Qaeda and killing children and innocents in the name of blockade and hartals.

The senior Awami League lawmaker said the political programmes were only to deter the government's ongoing development works.

All mills and factories, even those owned by BNP leaders, are running defying the programmes, he said, adding that the worst victims of the BNP-Jamaat's arson and petrol bomb attacks in the name of blockades were the general public.

Tofail said remarkable success would be achieved within 2021 in the readymade garment, information and communication technology, leather, medicine and shipbuilding sectors.

"If such development trend continues, Bangladesh would be able to achieve its target of becoming a middle income country within 2021 and a developed country by 2041."

State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnun stressed adopting stringent measures for bringing patrons of the attacks to book within the shortest possible time.

He was very critical of "so-called" civil society members "conspiring" to install an unconstitutional administration.

Some eight treasury and opposition lawmakers also took part in the discussion.

# Gains prove justice delayed, not denied

## Foreign scholars, judges and activists tell closing day of 'International Conference on Bangladesh Genocide and Justice'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There continues to be many barriers to justice over genocide and crimes against humanity committed in 1971 but the achievements till date showed that justice delayed need not be justice denied, said foreign scholars, judges and activists yesterday.

They appreciated Bangladeshis for their long struggle for the delivery of justice to the victims, for the initiative to educate younger generations and for setting lessons so that such crimes never happen again.

Seventeen of the foreigners from nine countries took part in the three-day "International Conference on Bangladesh Genocide and Justice" organised by Liberation War Museum in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

On the first session of the concluding day yesterday, Thursday's murder of blogger and writer Avijit Roy by unidentified machete-wielding assailants came up in the speech of an American scholar dealing with genocide.

Condemning the murder, Andrea Bartoli, dean, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University, said, "I am Avijit and I stand with the people of Bangladesh against violence."

Meanwhile, Liberation War Museum Trustee Mofidul Hoque gave a presentation on the United Nation's effort in the early 70s to try the 195 Pakistani war criminals and the circumstances under which Bangladesh was forced to repatriate them to Pakistan through the 1974 tripartite treaty.

Another American researching on genocide, Michal Moskow, and Volker Nerlich,

former legal officer of International Criminal Court, also spoke at the session moderated by Amy Fagin, a genocide scholar and an artist from the US.

Sharing his life's story at a session on "Victim's Voice for Justice", Asif Munier Tannoy, son of martyred intellectual Prof Munier Chowdhury, said his childhood was difficult without a father.

Asif regretted that many Bangladeshis were yet to know the facts of the Liberation War while anti-liberation elements have been spreading propaganda over the last four decades saying there was no genocide in 1971.

"We, the victimised family member, know it was genocide," he added.

In the afternoon session, Ashis Nandy, senior fellow, Centre for the Study of

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To listen to Andrea Bartoli's reaction about blogger and writer Avijit Roy murder allegedly by religious militants, threats of extremism and responsibility of the society, scan the QR code.



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The garbage of a dustbin is seen scattered narrowing the adjacent road and contributing to environmental pollution at Chittagong city's Pahartali Bazar around 12:30pm yesterday, although the city corporation was supposed to clean those in the morning.

PHOTO: STAR

# Police for removal

FROM PAGE 3 official said investigation in the cases was being hampered as Bulbul was still enjoying the mayoral post.

The mayor could not be contacted over the phone despite repeated attempts. He was also not available at his residence as, according to party sources, he was trying to evade arrest.

The government on January 7 temporarily removed BNP-backed Sylhet City Corporation mayor Ariful Huq Chowdhury, as he had been charged with the murder of former finance minister SAMS Kibria.

# Lord Avebury of UK

FROM PAGE 3 for new elections.

The government and the BNP must together chart the way back towards democracy and a united front against terrorism, he added.

Meanwhile, Ted Jeory, deputy editor of the Bureau of Investigative Journalism in London, in a separate statement, said, "Can you imagine being hacked to death just because someone didn't like what you'd written? These fascists are like Nazis. They want to suppress ideas and deter debate, but I hope the horrific murder of Avijit Roy inspires more people to follow in his footsteps. Long live Avijit Roy, long live the freedom to write, blog and long live a secular Bangladesh."

The author of Trial by Jeory blog which tries to hold politicians and to some extent Islamists to account in East London, Ted is the first blogger to be shortlisted for the Paul Foot Award for investigative journalism in 2013.

# CEC hopes for improved law

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The commission's logistic preparation for holding the polls may be completed by March 10, he said adding that then the EC would fix a voting date after a discussion with the education ministry as the commission wanted to avoid holding the polls during the SSC and HSC examinations and the month of Ramadan.

The last election to the undivided DCC was held on April 2002, and its tenure expired in May 2007. But the election could not be held due to the then state of emergency and, later, a complexity over boundary demarcation.

The LGRD ministry on February 23 sent a letter to the EC informing that the complexity has been removed and requesting to take necessary steps for holding the elections.

# Hartal bogs down Ctg court

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Contacted, Kafil Uddin, head of pro-BNP-Jamaat association Ainjibi Oikya Parishad, said he was not present at the scene but he heard about the incident.

During the autocratic rule of Ershad in

1989, Chittagong court lawyers decided not to participate in court activities during hartals. The custom is being followed till now.

No hearing was held in courts in the month of February due to hartals and this has led to backlog of cases, said court sources.

# Demolish illegal

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understanding, signed between Bera municipality and Water Development Board for "development work" on WDB land beside the river, said Manzill.

Following the petition, the HC on January 8, 2013 ordered the government to stop further earth filling and encroachment on the river at Bera and also issued a show cause notice on the government.

The petition was filed on January 7, 2013 following a report published in The Daily Star on December 21, 2012 with the headline "Wetland leased from WDB being filled up to set up market, park".

According to the report, the Bera municipality authorities were conducting development work on a vast tract of cultivable land beside the flood protection embankment.

# Avijit's murder product

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religion to serve their own purpose. "We should hail his courage as he came here ignoring many threats," he opined. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Adviser Shahjahan Omar said the murder would not have taken place if similar crimes committed in the past had not gone unpunished.

Asked if the ongoing political stalemate will come to an end anytime soon, Dr Moshir said BNP's demands resembled that of a rebel party.

"It appears that their main goal is to dismantle the state...The criminals involved in violence should be eliminated," he added.

Amena concluded that dialogue between the warring political camps would not be enough to restore peace. "The general public like us should also sit for dialogues and discuss what kind of state we want."

The event was moderated by Akbar Hossain.

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