

British Airways refuses to fly Hasina to Dhaka

Dhaka court issues arrest warrant against her in Paltan killing case

STAR REPORT

The British Airways (BA) last night refused to fly former prime minister Sheikh Hasina from London to Bangladesh as a Dhaka court ordered her arrest in October 28 Paltankilling case.

A tearful Hasina left the airport at Bangladesh time 8:10pm after intense negotiations with the BA authorities, who told the Awami League (AL) chief that the government would not let the flight land in Dhaka if they carried her, Syed Nahas Pasha, editor of the largest circulated UK-based Bengali newsweekly Janamat, told The Daily Star over the phone.

Hasina, who had two British

MPs with her during the negotiations, was also asked by BA authorities to consider the 'safety and

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'Homecoming bar unacceptable'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting president of Awami League (AL) Zillur Rahman yesterday termed the government press note barring AL President Sheikh Hasina's return "unacceptable, baseless and disappointing" and added that Hasina has the constitutional and fundamental right to return to Bangladesh as its citizen.

Zillur in a press statement released yesterday said it is unacceptable that the government said

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Govt to back genuine politicians for reforms

Says Mainul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain yesterday said political parties have not been banned in the country and the present government is tolerant towards the politicians who are working to bring reforms in party politics.

"We are happy that genuine politicians are coming up to bring change and reforms in politics," Mainul told reporters at his secretariat office yesterday.

Asked about the BNP secretary general's recent meeting with party leaders and Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta's interview with a television channel at a time when politics is banned, he said, "They

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Why govt not be asked to produce Khaleda in court

HC asks for explanation in five days after court told Khaleda not confined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule on the government to explain within five days why the court will not direct the government to produce former prime minister Khaleda Zia before the court to prove that she is not confined to her house.

The rule came hard on the heels of the former premier's reported readiness to go into exile anytime under government pressure.

A High Court bench issued the directive that underlines growing concern over the condition of Khaleda who ruled the country for 10 years in two terms.

Additional Attorney General Salahuddin Ahmed who stood for the state informed the HC that the government did not issue any order for house arrest or confinement of Khaleda Zia to her residence. He also said that there is no restriction on her movement and she had met with her eldest son Tarique Rahman on Saturday.

"The law will take its own course if she (Khaleda) is forced out of the country," the court told the additional attorney general.

The HC bench however turned down an appeal seeking the court's injunction on forcing Khaleda out of the country and directive to allow her to move freely. The court

also rejected an appeal for producing the BNP chairperson before the court.

Khondker Babul Chowdhury, a



member of the BNP national executive committee, filed the appeal on April 19, urging the court to order the government not to send Khaleda abroad against her wish and challenging the reported confinement of Khaleda to her house.

Following the petition the court ordered the government to inform it about the present state of former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, including whether she is confined or not on April 22.

As the hearing resumed yesterday morning, Salahuddin told the court that Khaleda had not been

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Ex-Jamaat MP Nazrul sued again for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A second extortion case was filed yesterday against detained former Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam with Shyamnagar Police Station.

Two other local Jamaat leaders - Gazi Nazrul's private assistant (PA) Gausul Azam from Khanpur village and a Jamaat Rokon Mahfuzur Rahman from Nurnagar village in Shyamnagar upazila -- have also been accused in the case.

Earlier on April 16, the other extortion case was filed against two

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Drama continues Khaleda still in country, chartered plane yet to be on horizon

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The drama surrounding Khaleda Zia's going into exile continued yesterday as she could not leave for Saudi Arabia due to unavailability of an 'appropriate' flight, delay in issuance of visas, and uncertainty about how the government is going to fund her stay abroad.

Family sources said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been ready to leave Bangladesh since Friday, stayed up all night on Saturday waiting to avail a flight, and went to sleep early morning yesterday, after the expected

departure had been delayed.

Till early Saturday, when she met her elder son Tarique Rahman either at Kashimpur jail or in the cantonment situated in Dhaka or Savar, she had been trying to convince the government to let her elder son accompany her. The government however declined to entertain her request.

"At this point, there is no chance of changing her mind about leaving Bangladesh because she is concerned about her family," said a family source.

Khaleda's brother Major (ret'd)

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Court to frame charges against Harris, Mamun tomorrow

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will frame charges against Harris Chowdhury, former political secretary to former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in absentia tomorrow in connection with a graft case.

The defence lawyers of controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, close friend of BNP Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, yesterday submitted a discharge petition to the court and completed their submissions on it in connection with a graft case.

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HC to consider bail petitions

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday ruled that it has the jurisdiction to dispose of petition seeking bail by any person facing a criminal case under the Emergency Power Rules 2007.

A division bench headed by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury issued the ruling after inviting a legal debate on March 29 over revocation of the right to seek bail.

The amended Emergency Power Rules (EPR) revoked the right to bail of those being herded up during the current countrywide

operation against crime and corruption.

Before giving its ruling it had sought opinions of senior lawyers on the issue, suspending the High Court orders on bail petitions moved on behalf of bigwigs, including politicians, detained on charges of corruption and serious crimes.

On the night of March 21, the government issued a gazette notification to this effect under the Emergency Powers Ordinance 2007 with retrospective effect since February 13.

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More leaders gather under Bhuiyan umbrella

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many BNP leaders are trying to be united under the leadership of Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to face any probable conflict within the party following possible departure of Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

More leaders, including a few former ministers, met Bhuiyan at his Gulshan residence yesterday to express their solidarity with him as they think a group of party leaders are engaged in anti-party activities

to serve their own interest.

Sources said some former ministers and senior leaders have already talked to many district level leaders and asked them not to be confused over the "so-called initiative" taken by the party chairperson to bring changes in the party leadership.

A vested group in the party is trying to serve their own interest and grab the leadership using the name of the party chairperson, a BNP leader said.

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ধূমপান ও তামাকজাত দ্রব্য ব্যবহার (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) আইন ও বিধিমালা অনুসারে
তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের বিজ্ঞাপন নিষিদ্ধ



কোন প্রেক্ষাগৃহে বা সরকারী ও বেসরকারী রেডিও এবং টেলিভিশন চ্যানেলে তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচার, আলোকচিত্র প্রদর্শন বা শ্রুতিগোচর করিবে না বা করাইবে না।

তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের বিজ্ঞাপন রহিয়াছে এমন কোন ফিল্ম বা ভিডিও টেপ বা অনুরূপ অন্য কিছু বিক্রয় করিবে না বা করাইবে না।

তামাকজাত দ্রব্য বিক্রয়ে উৎসাহ প্রদান বা প্রলুব্ধকরণের উদ্দেশ্যে কোন ব্যক্তি উক্ত দ্রব্যের কোন নমুনা বিনামূল্যে জনগণকে প্রদান বা প্রদানের প্রস্তাব করিতে পারিবেন না।

বাংলাদেশে প্রকাশিত কোন বই, ম্যাগাজিন, লিফলেট, হ্যান্ডবিল, বিলবোর্ড, খবরের কাগজ বা ছাপানো কাগজে তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের বিজ্ঞাপন মুদ্রণ বা প্রকাশ করিবে না বা করাইবে না।



জনগণের নিকট এমন কোন লিফলেট, হ্যান্ডবিল বা দলিল বিতরণ বা সরবরাহ করিবে না যাহাতে তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের ব্র্যান্ডের নাম, রং, লোগো ট্রেডমার্ক, চিহ্ন, প্রতীক বা বিজ্ঞাপন রহিয়াছে*।

কোন ব্যক্তি তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের ব্যবহার উৎসাহিত করার উদ্দেশ্যে কোন দান, পুরস্কার, বৃত্তি বা স্কলারশীপ প্রদান কিংবা গ্রহণ কিংবা কোন টুর্নামেন্ট আয়োজনের জন্য অন্য কোন ব্যক্তির সহিত কোন চুক্তি বা সমঝোতা করিতে পারিবেন না।

আইন অমান্যে অনূর্ধ্ব তিনমাস বিনাশ্রম কারাদন্ড বা অনধিক এক হাজার টাকা অর্থদন্ড বা উভয় দন্ডে দন্ডনীয় হইবেন

*তামাকজাত দ্রব্য বিক্রয় করে এমন কোন দোকানদার বা ব্যবসায়ী শুধুমাত্র তামাকজাত দ্রব্য ক্রেতার কাছে লিফলেট, হ্যান্ডবিল বা দলিল বিতরণ বা সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে শর্তসমূহ প্রতিপালন ব্যতীত অন্য যে কোন ধরনের প্রত্যক্ষ ও পরোক্ষভাবে তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচারণা বা প্রদর্শন করিতে পারিবেন না।