

British Airways

FROM PAGE 1 security' of the passengers on the flight, who would be facing an uncertain fate with Hasina on board.

As an emotional Hasina was leaving the airport, she told reporters, "I am the daughter of the father of the nation. I will return to the country, for sure."

"Today an arrest warrant has been issued against me. Before that they imposed a ban on my return. I am ready to accept any consequences in the country. I want to be back with my people on my own soil. Whatever be my fate, I will return to Bangladesh," she said.

Asked whether she would stay in London or return to her son and daughter in the United States, Hasina said she will remain in London for now but null her future soon.

The AL chief entered London's Heathrow airport at 7:15pm and was accompanied by British Labour Party MP Emily Thornberry, who later said that there must be some miscommunication that resulted in Hasina being barred from returning home.

Thornberry, who also engaged in negotiations with the BA authorities, told reporters that she would raise the issue with British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett and also in British parliament.

Pasha also told The Daily Star that Hasina was accompanied by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana, other family members, and a number of UK-unitAL leaders and activists.

ARREST WARRANT AGAINST HASINA

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against Awami League (AL) chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two others after accepting the charge sheet in connection with the Paltan killings on October 28 last year.

The same court accepted the charge sheet submitted against Jamaat-e-Islami chief Matiur Rahman Nizami and nine others for killing a Workers Party activist.

Two others who were issued arrest warrants yesterday are former home minister Mohammad Nasim and another AL activist Kiron alias Abdul Malek. They have been shown absconding in the charge sheet, even though Nasim is now in jail custody.

The investigation officer (IO) prayed to the court for issuance of arrest warrants against the accused 'fugitives' and confiscating their properties.

After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents of the case, Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza passed the order on the IO's plea for issuance of arrest warrants against them.

But the court did not pass any order on the IO's plea for confiscating their movable properties.

The court directed the authorities concerned to send the copies of arrest warrant to the respective addresses of fugitives Hasina, Naism and Kiron.

Following the order, general recording office (GRO) sent a copy of arrest warrant issued against Hasina to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station yesterday.

Earlier on April 11, police pressed charges against Hasina, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samantanjitrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu and 42 others for killing five Jamaat-e-Islami activists and injuring several others.

The IO directed names of Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and 14 others from the charge sheet, as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Of them, Roymohon Shil, Omar Faruq and Sumon are now in jail custody.

Forty others including Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Dr HBM Iqbal and Jahangir Kabir Nanak were earlier granted bail from the High Court.

Two sub-inspectors of detective branch (DB) had submitted the charge sheets in both cases to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka showing 91 people as prosecution witnesses.

Prior to the takeover of power by the caretaker government on October 28, seven people were killed in a fierce clash between activists of AL-led 14-party coalition and Jamaat-e-Islami in Paltan area. A day later Workers Party and Jamaat filed separate cases in connection with the same incident with Paltan Police Station.

In the case filed by Jamaat, complainant ATM Sirajul Islam, amir of the Paltan unit of the Islamist party, men-

Adviser stresses

FROM PAGE 16 the first half of 2006, but the government is yet to approve the plan.

Communications experts Prof Zamilur Reza Chowdhury, Dr Rahmatullah and high officials of the ministry of communications were present at the presentation, made by Dr Salahuddin of DTCB.

Briefing the journalists on the presentation, Prof Zamilur said that three important recommendations were made in the STP, which are -- widening of the existing city roads, introducing an express bus service with dedicated roads and setting up metro rail system. The metro rail should run both underground and on the surface as per the suitability of the city areas concerned, he added.

Dr Rahmatullah noted that the government should put emphasis on public transport system, as the land in the capital is very limited. He suggested introducing franchise bus system in the city for bringing discipline into the existing road transport system.

Dr Salahuddin told the meeting that the DTCB prepared detailed report on the transport system of the capital keeping in mind the necessity and demand of the people till the year 2024.

He urged the government to approve the plan immediately and start implementing the recommendations.

tioned that on directives from AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, the other accused killed five Jamaat activists and injured several others.

In the first information report the complainant had not named Hasina as an accused but the charge sheet had the AL chiefs as accused.

The IO put Hasina's name at number 31 on the list of 46 accused as he claimed that the AL chief had been found to be involved in the incident.

CASE AGAINST JAMAAT

The same court yesterday accepted the charge sheet submitted against Matiur Rahman Nizami and nine others in connection with the killing of Workers Party activist on October 28 last year.

The court also sent it to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court for taking next steps, as the case was ready for trial.

The IO of the case, AKM Idris Hossain, sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police, pressed charges against 10 leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir for the killing of a Workers Party activist Rasel Ahmed Khan.

Nine others are former minister and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Senior Secretary General of Jamaat Quamaruzzaman, Central Nayebe-e-Amir Mokbul Ahmed, Assistant Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam, Dhaka City Unit Amir of Jamaat Rafikul Islam, Paltan Unit Amir ATM Sirajul Islam, Islami Chhatra Shibir President Shafikul Islam Masud and its General Secretary Zahid Hossain, and President of Dhaka University Unit of Chhatra Shibir Shishir Monir.

On October 28 last year, activists of Jamaat and its student front Chhatra Shibir gathered in front of the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque and launched an attack on the AL-led 14-party coalition activists when they were passing through the area, the prosecution said.

The attack sparked a fierce battle between the rival political activists. During the battle, Shibir activists were found shooting with firearms.

Their rivals also reportedly launched a counter attack with oars and sticks.

39 killed in Nigeria poll violence

AFP, Abuja

At least 39 people have been killed in election violence in two rounds of successive weekend elections in Nigeria, officials said.

In the latest recorded electoral violence, police said Sunday that four people were killed and 12 injured Saturday in the northern Nigerian state of Katsina.

Federal police spokesman Haz Iwendit told AFP that Sunday's casualties occurred in three separate clashes with police over delayed polls or missing ballot papers.

Two prominent presidential candidates come from Katsina, the ruling People's Democratic Party's Umaru Yar'Adua and one of his strongest challengers, Muhammad Buhari, of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP).

Iwendit said police were still compiling nationwide casualty figures at midday Sunday.

On Friday, eve of this weekend's presidential and legislative polls, seven police officers being deployed for election duty were killed in an ambush in the state of Nassarawa in central Nigeria.

Another seven officers were shot dead by unknown assailants on 14 April -- when governorship elections were held -- who attacked two police stations in Port Harcourt in oil-rich southern Nigeria.

Police said that at least another 21 people were also killed during the 14 April polls.

In violence apparently unrelated to the elections, 38 people died following an attack by Islamists against a police station in the northern state of Kano last Tuesday. Of those killed, 12 were policemen, one civilian and 25 Islamist suspects shot dead by soldiers the next day.

Homecoming

FROM PAGE 1 it was compelled to declare a state of emergency due to the continuous agitation and movement led by the AL, as it undermined "public order and threatened people's security".

"The reasons why the state of emergency was declared were clearly outlined by the president's address to the nation in January," Zillur said.

He said Hasina led the democratic forces in the country to protect the people's right to vote and save the country from a farcical election that was to be held with a faulty voter list.

Zillur also said it is "extremely disappointing" that Hasina is being prevented from returning home, adding, "All citizens of this country have a right to live here. This is her birthright, constitutional and fundamental right."

He said cases were filed against Hasina while she was overseas and she was made the main accused in the charge sheet when she was not even named in the original case.

"The people expect this government to be proactive in establishing the rule of law," Zillur said, adding, "These sorts of political harassment cases may subsume all the current government's good initiatives."

The acting chief said, "Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Awami League are resolute in establishing the rule of law in Bangladesh. That is why Hasina has said that she will prove her innocence through legal avenues."

"We (AL) hope that the government will let Sheikh Hasina return to the country and let the law take its own course," stated Zillur.

UK to up aid

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Besides, he received assurances of British cooperation in development of human resources in information and communication technology, expansion of learning the English language, non-formal and primary education, women empowerment and socioeconomic development.

The adviser said the British authorities also assured assistance for supplying election materials.

About his meeting with leaders of the Bangladeshi community, he said the expatriate Bangladeshis are willing to invest back at home and they discussed setting up special economic zones in the country.

Ex-Jamaat MP

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local Jamaat leaders including the former Jamaat lawmaker with the same police station for their alleged involvement in extorting Tk 50,000 from SM Abdur Rashid of Chakbara village in Shyamnagar upazila.

Gazi Nazrul Islam has already been detained by joint forces. His name was included in the second list of graft suspects published by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on March 9.

Khaja Nazim Uddin, a shrimp cultivator from Gumantali village of the same upazila, lodged the extortion case accusing the three of demanding Tk 3 lakh from him in return for the possession of his shrimp enclosure that had been forcefully occupied by Mahfuzur Rahman and his Jamaat loyalist thugs.

In his case statement, Khaja alleged that on April 22, 2006, a gang of criminals led by Mahfuzur Rahman raided and assaulted the staff members of his shrimp farm at Nidaya village in Shyamnagar upazila. The assailants drove everyone out and took over the farm.

The next day, on April 23, then Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam through his PA Gausul Azam demanded Tk 3 lakh from him if he wanted the shrimp farm back.

On April 24, 2006, being desperate to recover his farm, Khaja Nazim went to the former lawmaker's house at Islampur in Shyamnagar upazila and paid him Tk 2 lakh, Khaja said in the statement.

Officer in Charge Nawsher Ali of Shyamnagar Police Station confirmed the incident.

Gazi Nazrul Islam, central Majlis-h-e-Shura member of Jamaat-e-Islami, was elected member of parliament from Sathkira 5 (Shyamnagar) in 2001 with BNP-led 4-party alliance ticket.

HC to consider

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According to the amended law, an accused in such a case has been stripped of right to file bail petition during the investigation or trial of the case.

Additionally, they cannot seek redress from 'any higher courts against any order given by any court or tribunal before or during the trial--until the delivery of the final verdict'.

Harris, Mamun

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Earlier on April 16, the same court asked Harris to surrender before the court within three days. The court said it would start the trial of the case in his absence if he failed to surrender. Harris is still absconding.

In yesterday's order, Judge Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court said he would begin trial of the case against Harris in his absence as he failed to surrender before the court.

CASE AGAINST MAMUN

Mamun's lawyers yesterday submitted a discharge petition and made submissions on the issue for clearing their client from the charges brought against him in the case.

However, the prosecution sought time for adjournment of the hearing saying they were yet to receive some necessary documents in support of the framing of charges against the accused.

After hearing both the sides, the court fixed April 28 for hearing on framing of charges against Mamun from the prosecution.

On April 5, Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Abu Sayeed filed the case against Harris and the commission's Assistant Director SMM Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan lodged the case against Mamun for not submitting their wealth statements to the commission within the stipulated time.

Following the cases, the Sessions Judge's Court issued arrest warrants against them and directed the authorities concerned to send a copy of the arrest warrants to the police stations concerned.

The ACC on February 18 directed Harris and Mamun to submit their wealth statements within 72 hours, but neither they nor any representatives on their behalf submitted the statements. The anti-graft body at a meeting on March 29 gave approval for filing of the cases, sources said.

Drama continues

FROM PAGE 1

Saeed Iskandar, who has been unofficially negotiating the terms of her exile, was present at her residence in Dhaka cantonment all through Saturday night. Although Iskandar officially denies being a part of the negotiation, sources said he played the key role in convincing her to leave Bangladesh.

Khaleda's residence was also visited by a number of her relatives on Saturday night, who came to bid her farewell, the sources said.

Immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia could not fly to an exile on Saturday due to some glitches in logistics including an uncertainty about which aircraft would carry her and her entourage, a delay in issuing visas for them, and a number of other issues regarding their accommodations in Saudi Arabia. Due to a lack of clear information from the authorities Khaleda and her family could not foresee the problems.

The authorities wanted Khaleda to leave on a special chartered plane, while she wanted to fly on board a standard passenger aircraft. Amid the disagreement, Saeed Iskandar reportedly opined that a chartered aircraft was good enough. The authorities accordingly arranged such a plane from Dubai on Saturday, which however was yet to reach Dhaka till last night.

Sources said payment to the company providing the chartered aircraft was not made on Saturday which had demanded an advance payment. An aviation sector source however confirmed yesterday that the payment was made and the aircraft was expected to land early last night.

The status of the visas also remained uncertain till yesterday afternoon, said a source. The number of people in Khaleda's entourage kept rising in the last few days, necessitating a larger number of visas at the last moment. Besides, there was confusion over the type of visas to be issued for Khaleda and her entourage whether those would be meant for umrah or permanent residence.

Another source however confirmed that the visas were issued without any problem. "It does not matter if they have visas for a short term, because they can always extend the visas while in Saudi Arabia," said a defence forces source.

Khaleda's family is also unclear

about how their long term stay in Saudi Arabia will be funded. The Daily Star also could not gather any information regarding the matter.

"Another unsettled issue is the education of the three grandchildren of Khaleda Zia, who will accompany her. We do not know about the schools there and about how they will get admissions there," said a family source.

Khaleda will be accompanied by her younger son Arafat Rahman, his wife Samila Rahman, their children Zafira Rahman (7) and Zahia Rahman (3), Tarique's wife Dr Zubaida Khan Rahman and their daughter Zaima Rahman (10), Zubaida's mother Iqbal Mand Banu, Khaleda's nephew Saiful Islam Duke, and three female and a male domestic helps.

Arafat's children are students of Scholastica while Tarique's daughter is a student of the International School of Dhaka.

Duke was declared a persona non grata in Dhaka cantonment by the authorities a few months ago, which bars him from visiting his aunt living there. The bar on him raises the question whether he will be allowed to accompany his aunt into exile.

The court then told him that the petitioner alleged that Khaleda was not allowed to receive visitors and her telephone connections were cut off. She was not allowed to visit the national mausoleum on March 26 and participate in the kulkhwat of BNP standing committee member Obaidur Rahman.

The court has the jurisdiction to examine if such allegations are brought to its notice, the court said. At that time the court wanted to know the government's statement on the matter from the additional attorney general.

The court also asked Salahuddin whether he could say taking an oath that the former prime minister is allowed to move freely and no pressure is being created on her to leave the country. In reply, Salahuddin said he would inform the court of the matter after inquiring into it.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately. Police seized the bus but failed to capture the driver.

In another accident in Jatrabari, an unidentified man of about 55 died on the spot when a bus ran over him at Kolapotti at about 12:15am, while a speeding truck crushed an unidentified man of about 35 to death near the Banani over-bridge at around 5:00am.

Besides, Prokash Moira, 38, a day labourer, died as he fell from a speeding truck in front of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital on Mirpur Road at around 4:30 in the morning.

The bodies were sent to the morgues of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) and Sir Salimullah Medical College for autopsy.

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have done well and the government would support them."

On political reforms, the adviser said one should not become prime minister or party chief repeatedly.

"There should be democracy inside a party too...A family member of a party chief may be competent but s/he should come through the political process," he said.

Criticising the political parties' past practices, Mainul said genuine politicians had been deprived and cornered in the parties.

He noted that since the recent changeover, the government has been speaking in favour of bringing changes in party politics, which was marked by "family dynasty and loyalty to the individual".

The political parties were run by the individual's whims, he said, adding, "If a political leader fails, s/he should leave the leadership."

Mainul said, "Party politics was the biggest problem for us but with the recent changes, honest and dedicated persons started re-thinking about politics."

"The blind can do politics but the dumb cannot as they cannot speak. In the recent past, politics in our country was 'without dialogue'," he added.

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Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

put under house arrest, but the court did not accept his verbal explanation and asked him to turn in a written explanation at 2:00pm.

He also told the court that the petitioner is an unexpected stranger and he has no right to file the petition.

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Titas Gas leakage

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recommendations during his meeting with high officials of Petrobangla, Bangladesh Gas Field Company Limited (BGFCL) and Bapex.

An agreement between Petrobangla and the consultant was also signed during the meeting. Under the agreement, Grace would take necessary measures to fix the third well of the gas field, a high-ranking official at BCFCL said.

The blowout expert is expected to fly to Canada shortly and send necessary equipment to the gas field in Brahmanbaria for the repair work.

The repair work at the third well would start soon after Grace returns to Bangladesh.

According to BGFCL sources, gas pressure in the well is gradually dropping and it might be brought to normal within the next three to four days, the sources added.

Shamim Osman

FROM PAGE 16

the Anti-Corruption Commission to comply with in person within 72 hours of serving the notice.

Deputy Director of District ACC filed the case, trial of which begins today in absentia.

JMB men

FROM PAGE 16

came to his house as a labour and the seized materials belong to Jakir. He said he was not aware of the materials being there. Jakir claimed that he is a student of a madrasa and he is not a labour. He said a youth left the materials at the house.

Kurigram police around yesterday noon arrested an alleged JMB militant Ujjal, 17, son of Khalilur Rahman of Natan Para of Raumari Bazar, a correspondent from Kurigram reports.

Meanwhile, the 13 JMB militants, who were arrested from different places of Kurigram on Saturday, were placed on a four-day remand yesterday. Police sources said they are interrogating them.

Police yesterday arrested a suspected JMB militant from Bagmara upazila in Rajshahi, our staff correspondent in Rajshahi reports.

The arrestee was identified as Abdul Jalil, 36, son of Jamsed Ali of the village Hamirkutsa.

He is accused in several criminal cases including murder, torture, extortion and cases filed in connection with assault on policemen, police sources claimed.

Lara

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world record Test innings of 375 and then 400 and winning the 2004 ICC Champions Trophy in England were his proudest moments.

"My daughter is called Sydney because of that first Test century and she is here today (Saturday)," said Lara.

"Things didn't work out as planned today (Saturday). It was still a very good cricket game, 600 runs scored in the day and a fitting way to end my career -- runs galore.

"Unfortunately I didn't play much of a part with a bat, but I'm really proud of the effort shown by the team but unfortunately we didn't get home, but it's good to see the spirit is still there."

England captain Michael Vaughan, who made 79, his best score of the tournament, paid tribute to Lara for whom him and his team had formed a guard of honour when he came out to bat.

"He's a genius. There are not many geniuses in the game and we're losing one today (Saturday), so we all wish him well," said Vaughan.

"I'd love to say we're glad to see the back of him. He's scored a lot of runs against us and it will be nice to play against the West Indies without him. He's had a great career and we wish him well."

Vaughan added that man-of-the-match Kevin Pietersen, who made a century Saturday, could go on to emulate Lara's achievements.

"He has a huge amount of talent and a lot of skill to go with that, his 100 today (Saturday) was a great effort," he said.

"He has plenty more runs in the locker and he could end up being similar to Lara if he carries on working hard."

BSMMU

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years. Normally, such a promotion for a medical officer should take at least seven years, he said.

Many teachers of the departments of urology, radiology, radiotherapy, surgery, ENT, gynaecology and ophthalmology have been given such undue promotions between 2001 and 2006 and this has affected the quality of education and service of the university and its hospital, sources said.

A person having no teaching experience in related subjects has been made associate professor in the Department of Anaesthesiology although relevant teaching experience is a mandatory criterion for the post, said a source.

While recruiting manpower mindlessly, the university authorities did not expand its activities or the number of beds for patients.

Thirty new doctors have been recruited in the Department of Ophthalmology whereas there are only 29 seats.

The situation is similar in other departments as quality was not considered during recruitment.

Whereas highly qualified persons are supposed to serve the university, recruitment of low quality doctors and inept teachers hampers the treatment and academic affairs of the institution, several senior teachers said.

They suggested national level investigation for cancellation of the political recruitments and promotions during the last five years and massive change in the administrative and academic posts of the university.

Talking to this correspondent, acting Vice Chancellor Prof Tahir, who was pro vice chancellor during the period of the immediate past government, said politicisation started since the establishment of the university in 1998.