

Restriction on Hasina

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not notify the AL chief about it officially, he said.

Intelligence sources said they have government directives to bar everyone from meeting Hasina, except her close relatives. Talking to The Daily Star members of different intelligence agencies said the AL president is going to meet the fate of the BNP chairperson.

Hasina's hitherto bitter political rival BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been virtually confined in her cantonment residence for almost four months now. The High Court on Sunday asked the caretaker government to explain the restriction on Khaleda within four weeks.

Similarly only the close relatives of Hasina, whom the government will give permission, will be allowed to visit Sudha Sadan, according to the intelligence sources who added that within a couple of days, Hasina, who widely criticised the present government on various issues, will be put in virtual confinement or house arrest.

Another source said Hasina will be needing clearances from security officials to come out of her residence.

As part of the restrictions, police yesterday evening barred AL Joint General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, and two other AL leaders -- BM Mozammel Haque and former lawmaker Motahar Hossain -- from going into Sudha Sadan.

The law enforcers last night even kept AL's senior presidium members Zillur Rahman and Suranjit Sengupta, General Secretary Abdul Jalil, and AL Advisory Council Member Maj Gen (retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan waiting for about 10 minutes before letting them inside Sudha Sadan.

Police also barred AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury and former education minister and AL Advisory Council Member ASHK Sadique from going into Sudha Sadan last night after having them wait at the security post 200 yards off the residence for about half an hour.

Earlier in the morning police did not let AL Organising Secretary Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, and some other mid-level AL leaders go into Sudha Sadan.

As the AL chief went to pay her last respects to AL leader Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan who had died in the early

Govt committed

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submitted a draft law prepared on the basis of a working paper prepared by the Law Commission in 2002.

Before preparing the draft, the core group held discussions in the divisional headquarters with different civil society groups, experts, lawmakers, human rights activists and media professionals.

The M a n u s h e r J o n n o Foundation (MJF) is facilitating and coordinating with the civil society members to raise awareness regarding formulation of the act.

The delegation member include Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government, Atiur Rahman, chairman of Unnayan Shamunnay, Shaheen Anam, executive director of the MJF, barrister T a n j i b u l A l a m a n d Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

They felt that enactment of the law would bring positive changes in the lives of people and pave the way for a democratic state.

Quickest polls

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national election will be held before the declared time frame.

"We are examining different options for preparing the voter list and the time required for them," Huda told reporters after an EC meeting yesterday. He did not specify any of the options but said they are examining if the voter list can be prepared early within the time frame.

Sources in the EC said the commission, which is searching for a methodology for preparing the voter list with photographs in the shortest time, wants to start the task at the field level as soon as possible.

The Election Commission asked the consultants who are preparing the project proposal for the voter list to find such methodology, a source close to the EC said.

The idea of inserting fingerprints in the voter list may be dropped to make the methodology easier while simultaneous preparation of the national identity cards is not being discussed with importance, sources said.

Talking to reporters, the CEC yesterday said next Sunday the consultants will submit a progress report of their task for preparing the project proposal.

The local chief of UNDP, which is assisting the EC in preparing the project, at a meeting with the EC yesterday discussed the progress of the ongoing task.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday postponed today's meeting with constitution experts as some experts invited to the talks expressed their inability to attend the meeting because of personal businesses.

The CEC said the EC will hold talks with editors and senior journalists of different national dailies

hours of yesterday in Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital in the capital, a few hundred people including the hospital staff rushed to have a glimpse of the leader who had been away for 52 days in the US and UK. That was her first public appearance since her return from London on Monday.

Bhuian, a former commissioner of ward No 48 of Dhaka City Corporation, suffered a heart attack on Monday and was taken to the hospital.

Hasina stayed there for half an hour from 11:00am. Senior leaders of the party Abdur Razzak, Suranjit Sengupta, Totail Ahmed, Abdul Mannan and Dr Hassan Mahmud were also present.

CA says

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eliminate corruption.

"It is driven by greed, and therefore its complete elimination is not possible in human societies, not even in developed countries."

"But we believe we can certainly make corruption costly enough so that its impact is reduced significantly and the anti-corruption measures that we have started really are measures in that direction," he said.

Our correspondent says that Dr Ahmed is an unlikely figure to be leading Bangladesh through its current crisis.

A former World Bank bureaucrat, he was appointed to head the emergency government following the collapse of January's general elections amid widespread political violence.

He set about the task of overhauling the fraud-ridden electoral system and tackling rampant corruption with a sense of urgency, but he has remained a somewhat elusive figure.

Dozens of high-profile politicians and civil servants have been rounded up, imprisoned and are awaiting trial since he came to power.

But he took over largely as a result of actions by the military, who intervened to pull the country back from disorder and chaos over claims that the election was being rigged.

While some observers in Dhaka are concerned that the army's role in politics could result in the return of a military-led government, correspondents say that few in Dhaka feel it is interested in taking power in the same way it did in the 1970s and 1980s.

ACC files

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109 of the Penal Code and Section 15 (Gha) (5) of the Emergency Power Rules 2007.

In the FIR filed by the ACC against Hafiz Ibrahim and his wife Mafruza Sultana, he mentioned that Hafiz in collusion with his wife used their influence and acquired over Tk 18.40 crore worth movable and immovable properties illegally.

He also mentioned that the properties were not mentioned in their asset statements placed to the ACC earlier.

The case was filed under Section 26 (1), 26 (2), 27 (1) of the ACC Act 2004, Sections 109 of the Penal Code, sections 15 (Ka), 15 (Kha), 15 (Gha) of the Emergency Power Rules 2007 and section 5(2) of the No 2 Anti-Corruption Act of 1947.

Bank details

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central bank directive and the BB has sent the banking information to the coordination committee, sources said.

According to the banks, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina each have about Tk 3 crore in their personal bank accounts.

On the same day, the National Board of Revenue handed over a list of 83 former politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen and their relatives to all banks and asked them to submit their bank account information.

The Japanese firm, appointed in August last year for conducting a techno-economic feasibility study for setting up a deep-sea port in the country, will get Tk 14 crore for completing the study within a year.

The company conducted survey on nine places in the coastal belt of Bangladesh.

Of those, the names Patenga, Kutubdia point and Middle Island were dropped after preliminary examination and detailed survey was conducted at six places -- Kutubdia Channel, Sonadia Island, Mosheshkhali Channel, Elephant point, Saint Martin Island, and Akram point in Khulna.

In the first phase, the company submitted four other reports of the study for the port -- inception report, port plan report, port administration model report, and marketing and business administration report.

The NBR asked for the information of these people to resolve tax cases against them as it thinks that though all of them have different sources of income they did not show it in their tax returns.

Iftekhar to go to Pakistan for ICFM meet

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury is likely to leave for Pakistan on May 14 to attend a three-day Islamic Conference of the Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Islamabad.

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alamgir Bashar Khan Babar met the adviser yesterday and discussed his upcoming visit to Pakistan.

The EC has repeatedly said it will not finalise the electoral reform proposals without consulting with the political parties, who are its main clients.

The EC held talks with eminent citizens on April 26 and will hold discussions with editors of different national dailies on April 17. But it is not sure when it can hold talks with the political parties and because of this uncertainty, the task for electoral reforms is unlikely to be completed by the commission's July deadline.

Talking to reporters at his Mercantile Bank office, the AL general secretary said the EC informed them that it will not take any final decision without discussing with the political parties.

"But we cannot give our views to the Election Commission before discussing the issue in our own party forum," Jalil said, adding that the restriction on indoor politics must go to allow the parties to sit with the EC.

Police sources said they have started collecting video footage to identify those who brought out processions and chanted slogans at the airport. By examining the video footage, the police are hoping to collect names and addresses of those who took part in the procession. Those identified would be arrested.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad told reporters that under the state of emergency, processions, rallies and such gatherings cannot be held. "Everyone has to abide by the law," he said.

In connection with the failure to prevent the gathering, the police administration on Tuesday removed three top Uttara cops from their posts.

Deputy Commissioner Tanveer Haider, Additional Deputy Commissioner Iqbal Hossain and Assistant Commissioner MM Salahuddin were transferred to police headquarters while Uttara Zone Patrol Inspector Kamruzzaman was suspended for 'neglect of duty'.

Govt officials

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corruption, and stronger safety net programme for the rural poor.

"Social safety net programmes such as Food for Work should be expanded to support the worst affected parties due to this price spiral," the report said.

IN FY07, 1,057,000 MT food grains including 849,000 MT rice and 208,000 MT wheat was proposed to be distributed under the non-monetised food distribution programmes. The CPD has suggested that these programmes should be increased significantly in the next budget.

Sonadia

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After getting final approval from the government, the same firm will be asked to make a second phase survey before beginning the physical construction work of the port. In the second phase, the company will present its details about all the requirements for the port.

Shipping Adviser MA Matin, high officials of the ministry, Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumder, ERD Secretary M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, Planning Secretary Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Shipping Secretary Sheikh Enayetullah and Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission Faruq Ahmed Siddiqui were present during yesterday's presentation by the Enam Commission, which then government had formed as a part of its efforts to improve the manpower situation in all government offices.

In 1982 the number of passports issued, renewed or given attachments to yearly was 1.7 lakh only. The demand for new passports, renewals or attachments increased 19 folds since then, but the number of staff in DIP remains the same as 1982.

The officials in Dhaka office who have updated information for up to March said in that month a total of 1,35,217 passports were issued and 1,50,893 passports were renewed or given attachments to across the country.

Some former and present top DIP officials said due to the absence of a national database of citizens, currently the authenticity of Bangladeshi citizenship necessarily has to be ascertained through police verification.

Reportedly the bulk of the passport related corruption centre around the police verification.

Waheedul Haque said manpower should have been increased by 10 times considering the increase in the demand for passports.

AL, BNP press

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BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan also said at least the restriction on indoor politics should be lifted so that the political parties can hold discussion on electoral reforms within the parties and with the EC.

"The Election Commission has taken initiatives to implement legal and political reforms but we have nothing to do at this moment since all sorts of political activities are banned," Nazrul told The Daily Star.

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The case was filed with Gazipur District and Sessions Judge's Court, as Crown Wares Ltd, situated in BSCIC industrial area at East Konabari in Gazipur, did not pay outstanding gas bill amounting to Tk 21,33,558 to Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company.

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