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**2 LEADERS IN EXILE**  
Khaleda reacted sharply, Hasina took it lightly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

**WIKILEAKS DISCLOSURE**

# Khaleda failed by saving 'corrupt' son

*Her top aide confided to ex-US envoy*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In early January 2007, Khaleda Zia sharply reacted to the claims that some within the two major political parties approached to US and UK diplomats to advocate military intervention and forcing BNP chief and her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina into exile.

On the other hand, Awami League President Hasina largely dismissed the reports and even joked that exile in the United States would allow her to see her granddaughter.

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Kamaluddin Siddiqui, principal secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in early 2005 told Harry K Thomas, the then US ambassador to Bangladesh, that Khaleda's biggest political failure was to protect her corrupt son Tarique Rahman.

"He [Siddiqui] described PM Zia's indulgence and protection of her corrupt son as her biggest political failure," said a cable that WikiLeaks, an anti-

secrecy organisation, leaked on August 30.

During a 40-minute meeting with Siddiqui on March 13, 2005, the US ambassador told Siddiqui that Tarique's request via confidants for having meetings with senior US government officials in Washington could not be accommodated for protocol and other reasons.

Siddiqui wholeheartedly agreed and said, "Dynastic politics are not good for a nascent democracy."

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# The way US viewed Khaleda, her close ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Loyalty, closeness and family relations meant more to Khaleda Zia than titles or institutional positions in influencing the decision making process during her second term in power, according to a cable leaked by WikiLeaks.

Seventeen individuals were identified as having the highest influence and control on Khaleda, also the chairperson of BNP, which is now the main opposition. Many of these insiders had close relationship with Tarique Rahman.

"For Zia, loyalty is a two-way street," said a cable sent by the US embassy in Dhaka to Washington on May 11, 2005. The cable was disclosed by WikiLeaks on August 30 this year.

The cable divided the 17 individuals in three categories inner, middle and outer circles.

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The Daily Star

**Integral Energy Limited**  
ONLINE POLL

Do you think WikiLeaks' new revelation that US embassy in Dhaka finds Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain 'less than an honest man' will add credence to demand for his resignation?

Yes (83.5%)  
No (15.8%)  
No Comments (0.7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 417

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think Bangladesh Cricket Board's decision to sack Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal as captaincy and vice-captain following the team's failure on the Zimbabwe tour is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)



The Saarc Fountain circle on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue is decorated with the national flags of Bangladesh and India as the capital prepares to welcome Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Road crash kills banker**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A banker was killed when a minibus hit him in the city's Jatrabari area last night.

Deceased Rafiqul Islam, 48, a resident of

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# EID DAY SIT-IN PM criticises organisers

*Wants to know details on road safety demonstrators*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down heavily on those who arranged the sit-in programme at the Central Shaheed Minar on Eid day.

She was chairing a weekly cabinet meeting at the

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# POSSESSING ARMS Ex-booters Kaiser Hamid, Emeka held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former national footballer Kaiser Hamid and former Nigerian player Emeka who also played for Dhaka Mohammedan were detained for possessing firearms in the capital early today.

Lutful Kabir, deputy commissioner of police

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**PRAYER TIMING** September 6

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:30	5:05
Zohr 12:45	1:15
Asr 4:45	5:00
Maghrib 6:23	6:26
Esha 7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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