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# Relief, after three months' tension

*Khaleda leaves office, appears in court, secures bail before returning home*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Archivals Awami League and BNP both breathed sighs of relief as Khaleda Zia finally returned to her residence yesterday, after staying at her Gulshan office for three months.

Two hours before entering her Gulshan house around 12:40pm, Khaleda surrendered before a Dhaka court and obtained bails in two corruption cases in which the court had ordered her arrest 39 days ago.

Upon her appearance, the court withdrew the arrest warrants in Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust graft cases. The warrants had been issued after the BNP chief dodged court proceedings for four consecutive dates.

The latest developments are seen as a breakthrough in the prevailing political stalemate.

Talking to The Daily Star, some BNP leaders yesterday lauded Khaleda's latest decisions and hoped this would help the party wage its anti-government movement afresh and with people's engagement.

The party should now focus on the April

28 city corporation elections, by calling off the movement for the time being, they said.

Some leaders who met Khaleda in the last few days requested her to call off the nationwide blockade and to instruct party men to step up organisational activities.

"I got several phone calls today from grassroots leaders in Dinajpur, my home district. They appreciated the chairperson's latest decisions," said Lt Gen (ret) Mahbubur Rahman, a BNP standing committee member.

He described the chairperson's decisions as a step forward to overcome the ongoing political deadlock.

"Now both sides [AL and BNP] should come forward. They need to engage positively," he told this correspondent.

Contacted, several BNP grassroots leaders also welcomed Khaleda's decisions to appear before the court and return to her house.

However, the ruling AL believes the BNP will not be able to wage a fresh agitation

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KHALEDA FACES 13 CASES - PAGE 2



Granted bail in two graft cases, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia leaves a court at Bakshibazar in the capital to head for her Gulshan residence yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## From office to court, then finally home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office was buzzing with activity on Saturday evening.

Party leaders and staffs, who had been staying at the office for the last three months, started packing their bags around 11:00pm.

They felt relieved that the BNP chairperson would return to her Gulshan residence after appearing before a Dhaka court.

"It was a great relief from the tensions we had been through for the last three months," Sayrul Kabir Khan, staff of BNP chief's Press Wing, told The Daily Star.

Khaleda, who was staying at the Gulshan office since January 3, opened the door of her room on the first floor around 8:00am yesterday.

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**TOP!**  
QUOTE  
"The traffic is clogged because Madam [Khaleda] will go through here now. I don't understand why she remained in her office for so long and why she is returning home today."

A CNG-RUN AUTO-RICKSHAW DRIVER DURING YESTERDAY MORNING'S TAILBACK AT KARWAN BAZAR

### BLOCKADE VIOLENCE, 2015

(JAN 5-APRIL 5)

**DEAD 95**  
(78 were general people)

**INJURED 1,430** (at least)

**TOTAL KILLED IN ARSON ATTACK 64**

**VEHICLES TORCHED & VANDALISED 695** (at least)

### COST TO THE ECONOMY

Per day cost of shutdown (DCCI)  
**Tk 2,277 cr**

Estimated cost of **91 days** of shutdown (Jan 6 - April 6)  
**2, 07,207 cr**

SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR REPORTS; DATA COMPILED BY STAR RESEARCH

## Political unrest hurts investment, growth

*Causes a loss of around Tk 4,900cr in two-and-a-half months, says CPD analysis*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political unrest and illiberal democratic environment in the country have dented private sector investment in recent months, said Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday.

The think-tank said sluggish reform activities, especially the institutional ones, have also hurt the confidence of the investors.

"A kind of discomforting environment is prevailing in the country," Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of CPD, told a news briefing at BRAC Centre Inn in the capital.

Debapriya said such an environment impacts the economy as investors fear they would not be able to

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### SECTOR-WISE LOSS DURING JAN-MID MARCH POLITICAL UNREST

In crore taka

Agriculture	Poultry	Shrimp & frozen food
<b>398</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>741.4</b>
Apparel	Banking & insurance	Transport
<b>1,318</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>85.44</b>
Tourism	Plastic	Wholesale & retail
<b>825</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>448</b>



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