

UK disappointed over article by Bangladesh diplomat

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK government has expressed disappointment over an article by the press minister of Bangladesh High Commission in London published in a Dhaka daily.

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office summoned High Commissioner Nazmul Quaumi and expressed the British government's displeasure on Tuesday, said a diplomatic source.

The article titled "A labour win on the cards?" on the British elections by Nadeem Qadir was published by Dhaka Tribune on Monday. The newspaper withdrew the article later.

Foreign ministry officials, however, did not comment on the issue.

The UK elections will be held on Thursday.

Nadeem, a journalist, was appointed as the press minister there in 2014 for two years. His job was later extended.

Victim support

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police to escort her back home as it had become very late at night but they refused.

Accused by the CID, the same four youths on the following day [Mar 4] allegedly raped the woman at an abandoned house in Korail bosti (slum).

Officer-in-Charge of Banani Police Station Farman Ali, on March 12, drove away the rape survivor, from the police station when she begged him to file a case, she added.

Finally, she had to go to a court to record her case at the Banani Police Station, the victim claimed. Banani police then recorded the case on May 2 following the court order.

On Monday, the CID took shelter at a police station in case of the accused which led the support centre officials to arrest the miscreants who were roaming openly in the area.

"The support centre is currently handling the investigation," said the deputy commissioner, adding that another accused Natil Ali is absconding.

Take legal

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read a statement issued by them.

They also called for a united effort to resist the communal force rising in Bangladesh.

"This group is misleading the general public through misinterpretations of the religion one after another and engaging in conspiracies to destabilise Bangladesh," it added.

"It will not be possible to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, if [we] do not stand firm against one after another crimes and oppression by such fundamentalists groups that misuse the religion," the statement said.

Signatories of the statement included Rasheda K Chowdhury, Md. Mosharraf Hossain, Sefin Ahsan, Mdofidul Haque, Md. Shahid Zafar Iqbal, Farzana Durr, Khanab Khan, Sabir, Salman and Sana Hossain.

From a rally in front of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the capital on Friday, Hejafai leaders issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the government to arrest Sultanah within or else send her into exile.

Rights activists said the threat was in violation of her constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Hejafai's threat came after a recent television talk show, now available on YouTube.

Sultana Kamal, Hejafai leader Mufti Shakhabd Hossain,

Cononjorogon Mancha Spokesperson Imran H Sarker and former Awami League lawmaker Apu Ulkil took part in the programme hosted by Dhaka University teacher Robsher Ferdous.

In the show, Shakhabd, referring to the statue of Lady Justice on the Supreme Court premises, said there should no religious structures on court premises. Sultana told The Daily Star on Friday.

"I said, yes, I agree with you. There should be no religious structures inside court premises. Not even mosques," she said.

Man killed

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Mohammad Mohiuddin told The Daily Star that the group fired shots at a police team in a bid to free an arrestee and police fired 18 shots in self-defence.

The police team was returning to Kathalbari on Friday morning after bringing Bishnu's wife Benu and son to the morgue for an autopsy.

There was a gaping wound on the deceased's chest.

3 Bangladeshi-origin women

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one as Friends Party nominee and 4 as independent contenders.

But unlike others, the 'three daughters' – Tulip, Sheikh Rehana's daughter and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's niece, Roshanara and Rupa – are in an advantageous position since they are elected members of British parliament.

The elections gave them an edge as they are competing from the constituencies which elected them to parliament only two years ago.

At the recent general election – Marina Almudena and Banchan Ara – both candidates of Labour Party which also nominated Bangladesh-British Anwar Babbu Mirah, Foyosol Chowdhury



Tulip

Roshanara

Rupa

and Abdullab Rumel Khan in the polls. Sajid Miah is standing as a Liberal Democrats candidate, while Afzal Chowdhury is competing from the Friends Party.

Jafar Masroor, Oliur Rahman, Abu Nowshad and Mirza Zillur are contesting as independent candidates.

Tulip is fighting to retain her seat in crucial Hampstead and Kilburn constituency in London, having liberal Conservative Kings Allian, Conservative Claire Louise Leyland, Green Party's John Mansook and independent candidates Hugh Easterbrook and Ruarne George Weiss as her rivals.

Roshanara is contesting from Bangladeshi-dominated Bethnal Green

and Bow constituency. Other candidates fighting for the seat are Charlotte Chirico (Conservative), William Dyer (Liberal Democrat), Alastair Polson (Green Party), Ian de Wulverin (UKIP) and Ajmal Masroor (independent).

Rupa is vying to retain her Ealing Central and Acton seat, one of the most hotly contested seats in today's polls. Two other candidates fighting for the seat are Joy Morrissey (Conservative) and John Ball (Liberal Democrat).

The UK last went to polls on May 7, 2015, when the conservatives came to power by winning the majority of 331 seats out of the 650 available in the parliament.

the top of the most 10 contested seats in London, on Labour Party ticket.

After the election, Tulip was inducted into the shadow cabinet of Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and joined Shadow Minister of Education Angela Rayner's team of four as the Shadow Minister of Early Years education.

She, however, resigned as the shadow minister following Jeremy Corbyn's decision to impose a three-line whip on Labour MPs to vote in favour of triggering Article 50.

Born in Mitcham, London in 1982, Tulip completed two Master's degrees – one in English literature and another in Politics, Policy and Government from King's College London. She was a former member of the Regent's Park and Cabinet Member for Culture and Communities in Camden Council.

Tulip, who became the first Bengali woman councillor in Camden Council in May 2010, first contested the parliamentary polls in 2015.

Rushanara retained her seat in 2015 from East London's Bethnal Green and Bow constituency with a majority of 24,317 votes. She secured 32,837 votes, while her nearest rival Conservative candidate Mathew Smith bagged 8,070 votes.

Hailing from Biswanath in Sylhet, Rushanara was appointed UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Bangladesh after the 2015 elections.

Rupa was elected in the last UK general elections from Ealing Central and Acton constituency by bagging 22,002 votes. Her nearest rival Conservative Parkberwick Angle Bray obtained 21,728 votes.

British Prime Minister Theresa May on April 18 called for an early election in less than two months, clearly anxious that her thin majority in parliament would weaken her hand in complicated negotiations on the British exit from the European Union.

Rajuk evicts Moudud

FROM PAGE 1

parties outside the residence. Two trucks were also there to carry furniture from the house.

Pursuant to the highest court's verdict, we are evicting the house and taking control of it," said Walid Rahman, zonal director of Rajuk.

The eviction drive came three days after the apex court dismissed three petitions seeking review of its verdict that scrapped a High Court judgment ordering the authorities to do mutation of the Gulshan land and residence in the name of Moudud's brother Monzur Ahmed.

Police assisted Rajuk officials in the drive, said Sufi Mustaque Ahmed, departmental director of Gulshan (Gulshan Division) Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

In the afternoon, labourers loaded the trucks with goods. No family member of Moudud, BNP's standing committee member, was seen there at the time.

When the drive began, Moudud was in court. He reached the house at 3:00pm.

Infiltrated, Moudud told Rajuk officials, "It's a sign that there is no rule of law in the country."

Terming the drive "unlawful and unethical", Moudud told The Daily Star that Rajuk conducted the drive without any notice.

This is a government property. Still, the government is desperate to evict me from the house," he said.

"It is an example of vengeance. The court did not say anything about eviction and Rajuk also did not serve any notice to me to leave the house. Since I do politics from the opposition, I was evicted.... If I were a ruling party man, situation would have been different."

Asked where he would live now, the BNP leader said he had no other option but to stay on the street.

However, Moudud's associate barrister Ehsanur Rahman said the family was moved to Moudud's flat at Gulshan-2 and some items would be taken to a house belonging to one of his relatives.

Asked why no notice was served to leave the house, Rajuk official Muzaffar Hossain told journalists, "This is our property. The court gave the verdict. So

why should we serve a notice."

Around 4:00pm, BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain went to the residence. He told journalists, "We don't know about the legal aspects. We know that he is here and he was evicted from there."

Attorney General Mabbahayen Alam said a title suit (property related case) was filed by Moudud's brother Monzur Ahmed with a Dhaka court in 1993 seeking mutation of the property in his name. The court in 2001 dismissed the suit and delivered a verdict against Monzur who claimed the ownership of the house.

Monzur then filed an appeal with the High Court against the lower court verdict. In 2005, the HC ordered the government to register the property in Monzur's name.

The government then appealed to the Supreme Court against the HC verdict. In the meantime, the property was enlisted as abandoned property. Monzur filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the government's decision.

The HC in response to the writ petition passed another order in favour of Monzur. Rajuk then filed an appeal with the SC against the HC verdict.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission in December 2013 lodged a case with Gulshan Police Station against Moudud and his brother Monzur for various cases of grabbing the "abandoned public land".

According to the case statement, Moudud and his brother grabbed the land between 1978 and 2006.

The land was enlisted as abandoned land in 1972 after its owners – Pakistani couple Mohammad Ehsan and Inge Maria Flatz – left the country, according to the ACC.

Ehsan received the possession of the land in 1961 from now-defunct DIT (now Rajuk). The land was transferred to Flatz in 1965.

Moudud falsely showed that Flatz issued a power of attorney in favour of him on August 1973, said the anti-grabby committee in its case statement.

Moudud also claimed the land and its establishment, and started living there identifying him as a tenant of Flatz. But an ACC investigation found no record

of Flatz visiting Bangladesh after the independence.

The SC on August 2 last year gave a judgment that Monzur had kept the possession of the land and residence. We know that he is here and he was evicted from there," he said.

Monzur filed the review petition with the apex court and the court on Sunday dismissed them, clearing the way for eviction.

Meanwhile, Moudud claiming himself a tenant of the original owner filed a suit with a Dhaka court seeking an injunction so that the government could not evict him from the residence. But Judge Utpal Bhattacharjee of the First Joint District Judge's Court did not pass any order on the matter.

Moudud is facing five corruption cases and one money laundering case against him and ACC lawyer Khurshed Alam Khan.

KHALEDA MEETS MOUDUD

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia went to see Moudud after he was evicted.

Khaleda reached the place after iftar. Moudud briefed her on the whole eviction process.

Condemning the eviction drive, Khaleda said the government was abusing people from their houses.

"But they [Awami League] are grabbing people's houses but are not ousted," she said while addressing an iftar party organised by the Association of Friends of Bangladesh at a convention centre in the capital.

Moudud Ahmed was living in that house for 30 years but he was ousted. I was living in my house for 40 years; I was ousted too.... People are watching that they [ruling party men] are grabbing houses. They will also be ousted," he said.

While visiting the house, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "Eviction of Moudud from his house is tantamount to a militant behavior. Without any notice, an organiser of the Liberation War, language movement hero and a senior lawyer was evicted from his house. I have no word to condemn such behaviour."

Asked whether Rajuk's action was a violation of human rights, he added.

He said, "We are not violating any human rights."

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