

## Khaleda Zia's legal woes end

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minister, and seven others in the case lodged by the Anti Corruption Commission in 2007.

The 79-year-old BNP chief -- currently in London for treatment -- was represented by her lawyer Mohammad Ziauddin Zia at the court.

Khaleda and other accused had no malafide intention during the time of agreement between the government and Niko, a Canadian oil and gas exploration company, the judge observed in the verdict.

The case was dragged onto politically harass

Begum Khaleda Zia and the other accused. Khaleda Zia did not commit any corruption. She did not even misuse her power," the court also said.

"Two cases were filed

against former prime

ministers -- Sheikh Hasina

and Khaleda Zia -- on the

same day in December

2007. However, the case

against Sheikh Hasina was

quashed after she assumed

power in 2009, while the

case against Khaleda Zia

continued throughout

the entire Awami

League regime," said the

judgement.

"During the investigation, the former

Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan, an accused in the case, gave a confessional statement before a magistrate. He was forced to make the statement..." it said.

"Selim was tortured during remand and admitted to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital for treatment," the verdict mentioned.

The court observed, "His confessional statement was not voluntary; it was done to implicate Khaleda Zia and others in the case."

The seven other accused are Giasuddin Al Mamun, BNP acting chairman

Tarique Rahman's

close friend; Khondaker Shahidul Islam, former acting secretary for energy ministry; CM Yusuf Hussain, ex senior assistant secretary; Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, former principal secretary; Mir Moynul Haque, ex general manager of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX);

Kashem Sharif, former president of Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd, and Selim

of them, Kamal, Moynul, and Kashem have been

abscinding since the case

was filed.

On March 19, 2023, the court framed charges

against Khaleda and the seven.

The ACC filed the case in December 2007, accusing Khaleda and several others of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Niko when she was the prime minister between 2001 and 2006.

The names of former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf

Hossain and ex-BAPEX

secretary Shafiqur Rahman

were dropped from the charges of case as they died.

After the acquittal order

in the Niko graft case, Khaleda's lawyer Masud

Ahmed Talukder told reporters that they finally got justice from the court.

"The case was filed against the BNP chairperson just to harass her politically," he said.

A day after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 last year amid a mass uprising, the president pardoned Khaleda in cases she had been punished during the AL rule.

She was acquitted in five defamation cases filed during the AL rule over derogatory remarks about the Liberation War, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and

Hasina on September 3 last year, and relieved of the charges in the Gato graft case.

The BNP chief landed in jail after she was sentenced to five years in a corruption case on October 24.

On October 30, the High Court scrapped 11 criminal cases, including one for

sedition.

The HC on November 27 acquitted the BNP chief in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in which she was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a lower court.

In the same day, she was relieved in the Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

On January 15 this year, the Supreme Court acquitted Khaleda, Tarique, and four others of

corruption charges in the Zia Orphanage Trust case.

The BNP chief landed in jail after she was sentenced to five years in a corruption case on February 8, 2018.

In April 2019, her health deteriorated. She was released from prison after 776 days on March 26, 2020, amid the Covid 19 pandemic.

The AL government temporarily released her with an executive order, suspending her sentence on the condition that she remains at her Gulshan home and does not leave the country. The term of her release had been extended several times.

## Kuet suspends exams, classes amid protests

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DAL activists on Tuesday.

Protesters marched across the campus and padlocked the main gates of several academic buildings as the authorities did not meet all their demands, which included action against those involved in politics and the clashes.

The atmosphere in Kuet remained tense. Law enforcers stood guard in front of the main gate. Army personnel patrolled the areas adjacent to the campus. Some students left at the dormitories.

Tension prevailed on different campuses in Dhaka and other parts of the country, as both sides continued blaming each

other for the clashes.

Pro-BNP student organisation JCD's Kuet unit alleged that Islami Chhatra Shibir activists and anti-discrimination students using the banner of "general students" attacked its activists first before the clashes broke out on Tuesday. The violence left at least 40 people injured.

Besides suspending classes and keeping the ban on student politics effective, Kuet's syndicate at a virtual meeting yesterday afternoon recommended the suspension of students involved in the clashes. It also decided that the university administration would file a case against outsiders over the violence.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Masud said the syndicate also decided to bar teachers and employees from participating in political activities. It recommended stern action, including dismissal, in case of violation of the ban by teachers and employees. Students will face expulsion if they are found involved in politics.

The meeting formed a four-member committee, led by Prof MMA Hashem of computer science and engineering department, to investigate the clashes and identify the perpetrators. The committee was asked to submit its report in three working days.

The syndicate also

decided that the university would bear all medical expenses for the injured students.

It recommended measures with guidance from Khulna divisional commissioner to ensure students' security on the campus and adjacent areas.

Hours after the clashes, the Kuet students protesting against JCD attacks made a five-point demand on Tuesday night, giving the authorities until 1:00pm yesterday to meet those.

Besides expulsion of those involved in politics on campus, they demanded legal and disciplinary action, including expulsion, against those involved in Tuesday's violence; deployment of military personnel around the campus until February 28 to ensure security; and payment of treatment costs of injured students.

They also demanded that the VC, the pro-VC, and the director of student welfare resign by acknowledging their failure to ensure students' security.

At 9:00am yesterday, they started a sit-in outside the university's medical centre, where the VC was receiving treatment. He was reportedly assaulted on Tuesday.

The protesters vowed to stay in the dormitories and boycott classes under the current administration. As their all demands were not met by the deadline, they padlocked the administrative buildings.

Asked about the demand for his resignation, VC Prof Masud evaded any specific answer, saying that four of the students' demands had been met. He also revealed the syndicate decisions and recommendations at that time.

Meanwhile, Obaidullah, former senior joint convener of Students Against Discrimination in Kuet, said that the students of the university were not taking part in the protest as members of the organisation.

[Our correspondents in Khulna, Jahangirnagar University, and Jagannath University also contributed to this report.]

the same day it was formed on January 7 since student politics on the campus was banned, he said.

JCD General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir at a press conference at Dhaka University, however, alleged that Omar Faruk, former convener of Students Against Discrimination's Kuet unit, led the brutal attacks on the general students.

He also pointed the finger at Hasnat Abdulla, the convener of Students Against Discrimination's central committee, alleging that Hasnat had monitored the attacks from Dhaka.

At Jahangirnagar University in Savar, a group of leftist students formed a human chain. Addressing the gathering, Jahidul Islam Imon, general secretary of the JU unit of a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, demanded a fair investigation into the clashes at Kuet, the maximum punishment for the people involved in the violence, and effective measures to ensure student safety on the campus.

JCD's Jagannath University unit brought out a silent procession and staged a sit-in protesting against the alleged attack on JCD activists at Kuet. Mehdia Hasan Himel, convener of the unit, said they want all student organisations to co-exist on every campus.

Students Forum and Human Rights Society, two organisations of Jagannath University students, held separate protest programmes against the attacks on Kuet students.

Emphasising the "peaceful nature" of Kuet students' protest, they described the attacks as "barbaric" and "clearly a terrorist act". They also demanded justice and the restoration of a democratic environment in educational institutions.

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emphasised the need for finding a permanent solution to this issue.

"As I did not elaborate... my statement may not have been conveyed clearly. Some media outlets have also presented my statement differently. Here [in the statement], it was not said to allow Awami League to participate in elections. That question is irrelevant before a trial," he said.

The adviser also

he also said many who had some connection or other with AL ask why they should apologise if they have done nothing wrong. "Of course, they must apologise for their involvement with Awami League as a fascist enabler or a beneficiary" in any given form. This process must be completed transparently and in phases."

## AL must be eradicated, not just banned

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yesterday on allowing AL men to participate in polls.

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Date: 19-02-2025

### Re-Tender Notice

A Re-Tender has been invited in the national e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following (works/supply).

SI.	eTender ID	Package No. & Description	Tender Method	Location of the works	Tender Documents Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	1078126	CUM/OM/OTM/2024-25/W-63 Interior work of Chief Engineer office, Superintending Engineer office room and Chief Engineer, Resident at Shaktola BWDB colony under Cumilla WD Division, BWDB, Cumilla during the year 2024-25	OTM	Sadar South Upazilla	02-Mar-2025 16:00	03-Mar-2025 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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GD-473

Wali 15-02-25  
(Khan Mohammad Walluzzaman)  
Executive Engineer  
Cumilla Water Development Division  
BWDB, Cumilla.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Principal's Office

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Memo no: 57.03.5600.501.07.001.23- 143

Date: 18/02/2025

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods details bellows in the table :

SI	Tender ID	Name of goods Item	Tender Documents last Selling/Downloading date and time	Tender closing date and time	Opening date and time
1	1075748	Supply of Raw Materials and Spare Parts	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-202