

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2025

BNP confident it'll win, form govt alone

Tarique tells FT and BBC that he'll return to Bangladesh soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, in his first interview in nearly two decades, said he would return to the country soon to contest the upcoming election.

In an interview with the Financial Times yesterday, he said, "We're confident we will win... We strongly believe that we're in the position to form the government alone. I think the time is very close for my return to Bangladesh."

The BNP leader spoke to two media outlets - London-based newspaper the Financial Times and BBC News Bangla -- in separate interviews, both published yesterday.

Tarique, 59, has been living in London for almost 18 years since the last BNP government lost power in 2006. Party leaders have long said he is expected to emerge as the party's prime ministerial candidate after the election scheduled for February 2026.

Speaking to the Financial Times, Tarique said his party was prepared to form a government with other parties,



"During the past fascist government, a court order stopped my right to speak. If I wanted to say something to the media, maybe the media wanted to publish it, but they could not."

TARIQUE RAHMAN, BNP acting chairperson



Construction of the Tekarghat bridge in Jessor's Abhaynagar has been halted for a long time, affecting the people of Abhaynagar and Manirampur upazilas. The work over the Teka river began in 2021 and was scheduled to finish by 2023. Locals now have to cross the river using a wooden bridge, top left.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

India calls
Hasina's stay
there a legal
matter
Urges bilateral
engagement

UNB, New Delhi

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's presence in India is part of a "judicial legal process" that requires "engagement and consultations" between the two governments.

He said, "We are examining these issues. We look forward to working together with Bangladesh authorities on these issues."

Beyond that, the Indian foreign secretary said, he does not think it would be constructive to say anything further at this point.

He was speaking during an interaction with members of Diplomatic Correspondents

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Most fertiliser plants starved of gas

Petrobangla pushing for gas price hike for fertiliser plants

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Most of the fertiliser factories are facing production losses every year due to gas shortages, forcing the government to import fertiliser from abroad at high prices.

year.

All the fertiliser factories are running below capacity except the newly-built Ghorashal Palash Fertiliser, which started production in March last year.

For instance, Jamalpur's Jamuna

for 147 days due to gas scarcity.

The government had not only imported 16.44 lakh tonnes of urea from abroad that fiscal year but also needed to bear the cost of maintaining an idle workforce throughout the year for those

FACTORIES SHUTDOWN OVER LAST 3YRS	I DAYS IN FY25	I DAYS IN FY24	I DAYS IN FY23
Shahjalal Fertiliser Company LTD	147	117	17
Chittogram Urea Fertiliser LTD	81	106	62
Jamuna Fertiliser Company LTD	351	250	210
Ashuganj Fertiliser and Chemical Company LTD	259	278	15
Ghorashal Palash Fertiliser PLC	0		

*Started operation in March 2024

Currently, the government needs to import as much as 50 percent of the country's annual urea demand of 30-32 lakh tonnes to maintain stable agricultural production.

In contrast, about 60 percent of local urea production capacity remained unused in the last fiscal

Fertiliser Company remained idle for 351 days in the last fiscal year. It produced about 4,000 tonnes of urea against the annual production capacity of 5.6 lakh tonnes.

Shahjalal Fertiliser Company in Sylhet, which is one of the modern factories in the country, was shut

plants, according to data from Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

BCIC submitted the data to a public hearing yesterday, organised by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC),

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