



"The objective was to destroy Hamas. Gaza is destroyed, but Hamas is not... something fundamentally wrong with the way this is conducted."

Guterres on Israel's conduct of war in Gaza

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Khaleda may fly to London today

Zubaida arriving in Dhaka to accompany her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is likely to fly to London for advanced medical treatment today.

Her medical board made the decision after a team of foreign and local doctors, including Dr Richard Beale from the United Kingdom and four specialists from China, reviewed her condition and deemed her fit for the journey.

The 80-year-old former prime minister has been undergoing treatment in the Coronary Care Unit of Evercare Hospital since November 23.

An air ambulance provided by the Emir of Qatar will take her to London.

"If everything goes well, we will leave with Begum Khaleda Zia for London on a Qatari air ambulance by Friday morning," her personal physician, AZM Zahid Hossain, told reporters outside Evercare yesterday afternoon.

However, the BNP Media Cell last night reported that the air ambulance was running behind schedule due to some technical issues.

Khaleda's daughter-in-law, Dr Zubaida Rahman, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka from London this morning and travel with the BNP chief.



Party sources said Zubaida, who is also a member of the medical board, will head directly to Evercare.

Once the final health check is complete, Khaleda is expected to board the air ambulance from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The flight will make a stopover in Qatar before reaching Heathrow airport, London.

Khaleda's son and BNP acting chairman, Tarique Rahman, who has been living in the UK with his family since 2008, will receive his mother at Heathrow.

The BNP chairperson is supposed to be taken directly to London Bridge Hospital.

Earlier this year, Khaleda spent four months in London for treatment. She returned home on May 6.

She was admitted to Evercare on November 23 with infections in her heart and lungs. She has long been battling multiple health complications, including liver cirrhosis. She has a pacemaker and has previously undergone stent implantation in her heart.

A 12-member medical board comprising foreign and local specialists is overseeing the former prime minister's treatment.

The party and Khaleda's family selected 14 members to accompany her on her trip.

Her daughter-in-law Syeda Sharmila Rahman; her adviser Anamul Haq Chowdhury; Tarique's assistant Md Abdul Hai Mollick and his personal secretary Mohammad Masudur Rahman; two Special Security Force (SSF) officers Hasan Shahriar Iqbal and Syed Samin Mahfuz; and two caregivers Fatema Begum and Rupa Sikder, will be travelling with her.

AZM Zahid Hossain, also a BNP Standing Committee member, said several local specialists and two foreign physicians will also accompany Khaleda.

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Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains are left to the elements near a shed at the Kamalapur Railway Station. The government had bought 20 sets of these in 2013 spending over Tk 600 crore. Over the years, the trains appeared problematic for Bangladesh Railway and were taken off service one by one. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Police commission okayed, but minus independence

Provisions on recommending recruitment, posting and shielding the force from interference omitted

MUNTAKIM SAAD

The government yesterday approved the Police Commission Ordinance 2025, but the commission will not have the authority to recommend the recruitment, promotion, or posting of officers, including the inspector general.

The commission's power to recommend measures for ensuring skilled officers in the force, free of external influence, was also removed from the ordinance, while the word "independent" was omitted from the title.

Officials with knowledge of the approval process, however, told The Daily Star that all these provisions were in the primary draft of the ordinance.

A former police official, preferring anonymity, said the approval means these specific powers will remain with the home ministry, potentially allowing political influence within the force to continue.

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan detailed the objectives and functions of the five-member Police Commission while announcing the ordinance's approval at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam and Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad

Majumder also attended the briefing, which followed a meeting of the advisory council chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

.. The control of the commission will come from the government and political parties. The influence will continue.

M Akbar Ali, president of the Retired Police Officers' Welfare Association

The commission, which will be set up through the ordinance, will comprise a retired Supreme Court judge as its chief, a retired government officer who served as district magistrate not below Grade 1, a retired police officer with the rank of additional inspector general not below Grade 1, a university professor either retired

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and a retired police officer with the rank of additional inspector general not below Grade 1, a university professor either retired

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