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All set for Tarique's homecoming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman is set to return to Bangladesh tomorrow with his wife and daughter after 17 years in exile.

The family will depart from London's Heathrow Airport at 6:15pm Bangladesh time on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight. They are expected to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around noon tomorrow via Sylhet.



After landing, he will be received by BNP Standing Committee members. He will then proceed by road to a reception programme at the 300 Feet area in Purbachal. Party leaders and activists will line both sides of the road to greet him.

Following his speech from the stage, Tarique will travel by road to Evercare Hospital to visit his ailing mother, former prime minister Khaleda Zia, who has been undergoing treatment there for over a month.

After meeting his mother, he will go to Firoza in Gulshan, where he will stay.

The BNP has taken extensive preparations for Tarique's homecoming.

The party expects around 50 lakh people to gather in Dhaka on the day, according to Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP. Supporters will stand along both sides of the road from the airport to the 300 Feet area to welcome him.

Security is being seen as a major challenge, particularly in managing the crowd around Tarique's motorcade. A BNP team held a meeting last night with senior officials of various law enforcement agencies to discuss security arrangements.

The overall responsibility for Tarique's security from the airport to Gulshan has been assigned to AKM Shamsul Islam. Under his leadership, multiple teams, including the chairperson's security force, will be deployed. Members of Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal and Swechchhasebok Dal will also assist in maintaining discipline.

Meanwhile, entry to the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area will remain restricted to passengers from

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A large crowd gathered at Chhayanaut in Dhanmondi yesterday for 'Gaane Gaane Sanghati Samabesh', a show of musical solidarity in response to recent attacks on cultural spaces and growing concerns over freedom of expression.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ATTACK ON CULTURE Solidarity through music at Chhayanaut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When the gates of Chhayanaut opened yesterday afternoon, there was no usual chirping of children or the familiar strains of music drifting through its premises. Instead, a quiet resolve filled the space as a large crowd gathered for a peaceful cultural protest titled "Gaane Gaane Sanghati Samabesh", organised in response to recent attacks on cultural institutions and growing concerns over freedom of expression.

What unfolded was not a routine programme, but a collective assertion that culture, memory, and artistic expression would not be silenced by fear or violence.

Artistes of Chhayanaut, along with those gathered for the peaceful protest, raised their voices together to sing "O Amar Desher Mati", "Gramer Nawjowan Hindu Musolman", and "Amar Mukti Aloy Aloy".

Earlier in the day, near Abahani Club Field, cultural figures including

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'Way you speak isn't fit for a court'
ICT judge rebukes Tajul; tribunal frames charges against Hasina, 16 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A judge of International Crimes Tribunal-1 rebuked Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam for his courtroom conduct, saying the manner in which he addressed the tribunal was inappropriate.

"You have to have

SEE PAGE 3 COL 2

'Hadi murder being used to foil polls'
Alleges brother of slain July frontliner at Shahbagh rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharif Omar Hadi, brother of slain Inqilab Moncho spokesperson and July frontliner Sharif Osman Hadi, yesterday alleged that a vested quarter within the government orchestrated the killing to derail the upcoming national election.



Addressing the government at a "Shahidi Shopoth" (Martyr's Oath) programme organised by Inqilab Moncho in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh, Omar Hadi said, "It is you who had Osman Hadi killed, and now you are trying to foil the election by using this as an issue."

He said his brother wanted the national election to be held by February and urged the authorities not to disrupt the election environment.

"Ensure a speedy trial of the killers so the election environment is not harmed. The government has failed to show us any visible progress. If justice for Osman Hadi is not delivered, you too will be compelled to flee Bangladesh one day," he said.

Omar Hadi further claimed that his brother was killed because he did not bow to any agency or "foreign masters".

Speaking at the rally, Inqilab Moncho Member Secretary Abdullah Al Jaber reiterated the 30-working-day ultimatum given to the government to identify and arrest the killers, first announced in a press statement on Monday.

Jaber alleged that "a deep conspiracy" is underway to destroy the achievements of the July uprising and Bangladesh's sovereignty through the killing.

He claimed that international intelligence agencies and "fascist associates" operating inside

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Security personnel scuffle with Vishva Hindu Parishad activists and others as they try to stop a protest march to the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi yesterday. The march was organised to condemn the killing of a garment worker in Mymensingh's Bhaluka.

PHOTO: AFP

5 killed in clash over Hatia char

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Noakhali

At least five people were shot dead, and another was injured in a clash between two groups over the occupation of shoal land in Hatia upazila of Noakhali yesterday.

The clash occurred around 10:00am at Jaglarchar village. One of the deceased was identified as Alauddin, 35, of Char Amaullah village in the same upazila. The identities

Defence Minister Katz pledges northern outposts in the Palestinian territory

AFP, Jerusalem

Defence Minister Israel Katz yesterday vowed Israel will remain in Gaza and pledged to establish outposts in the north of the Palestinian territory, according to a video of a speech published by Israeli media.

His remarks, reported across Israeli media, come as a fragile US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas holds in Gaza.

Mediators are pressing for the

implementation of the next phases of the truce, which would involve an Israeli withdrawal from the territory.

Speaking at an event in the Israeli settlement of Beit El in the occupied West Bank, Katz said: "We are deep inside Gaza, and we will never leave Gaza - there will be no such thing."

"We are there to protect, to prevent what happened (from happening again)," he added, according to a video published by Israeli news site Ynet.

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Abducted trader found dead in Bogura
Two detained, murder case filed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police recovered the body of a businessman from a microbus in Adamdighi of Bogura early yesterday, hours after he was abducted at gunpoint from the district's Dupchanchia upazila on Monday night.

The deceased -- Pintu Akanda, 35, owner of the Lotto showroom in Dupchanchia -- was from Lohagacha village in Raninagar upazila, Naogaon.

"We primarily suspect that Pintu was strangled

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Today is the 52nd Death Anniversary of Begum Firdaus Rizvi



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul