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## Tarique on his way home

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman steps onto Bangladeshi soil today after more than 17 long years in exile in London, marking the most significant political homecoming in recent history.

For the BNP, his long awaited return symbolises renewal -- a turning point that could reenergise the party's political base and reshape its future trajectory.

Many people view this as a crucial step in uniting the people amid the current volatile situation and steering the nation towards a credible election, said Mahdi Amin, adviser to the BNP acting chairman, in a Facebook post.

"That is why Tarique Rahman's return is not just a personal homecoming -- it has become a symbol of the people's deep hopes and expectations for Bangladesh's freedom, sovereignty and democracy," he added.

Tarique's daughter, Zaima Zarnaz Rahman, will accompany him. His wife, Zubaida Rahman, who returned to London on December 20 after a two-week stay in Dhaka with her ailing mother-in-law, will also travel. The family's pet cat, Zeebu, will also travel with them, along with their two close aides, Abdur Rahman Suny and Kamal Uddin.

They departed London from Heathrow Airport at 6:30pm British time on Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight number BG 202. The flight will land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka via Sylhet at 11:45am.

After landing, Tarique will be received by members of the BNP standing committee.

He will then travel in one of the two bulletproof vehicles imported for him to a reception in the 300 Feet area of Purbachal, chosen over Suhrawardy Udyan and Manik Mia Avenue to minimise inconvenience for Dhaka residents. Party leaders and activists will line both sides of the road to greet him.

"It will be a brief programme. There, he will express gratitude to the people of the country and offer prayers of thanksgiving to Almighty Allah," said BNP Standing Committee member Salauddin Ahmed.

BNP standing committee members, leaders of political parties that joined the simultaneous movement and prominent figures will be present on stage, but only Tarique will address the crowd.

Following his address, Tarique will go to Evercare Hospital to visit his ailing mother, former prime minister Khaleda Zia, who has been undergoing treatment there for over a month now.

After meeting his mother, he will go to Firoza, the Zia family's residence at Gulshan-2, via Airport Road and Kakoli Mor.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, his wife Zubaida Rahman, and daughter Zaima Rahman share a moment at Heathrow Airport before departing from London yesterday evening.

## BNP gives 10 more seats to its allies

Two allied leaders join party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has reached an electoral understanding in 10 constituencies with several allied parties that took part in the simultaneous movement against the previous regime.

Of these, two leaders of allied parties formally joined BNP yesterday, while another is expected to, and will contest the upcoming parliamentary election using the BNP's electoral symbol, the paddy sheaf.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the list at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.

He said his party would not field candidates in constituencies covered by the seat-sharing arrangement and confirmed that

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Seat-sharing strains new alliance

NCP, AB party seek deals with BNP, Jamaat

SHAMIMA RITA

A disagreement over seat-sharing has emerged among the newly formed alliance comprising the National Citizen Party, Amar Bangladesh Party and Bangladesh Rastro Songskar Andolan.

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Islamist bloc wrangling over seat-sharing

Jamaat says candidate list almost ready, refutes claims of rift

MAMUNUR RASHID

The eight-party bloc, which includes Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Andolan Bangladesh, has yet to agree on seat-sharing for the general election, with the deadline for nomination papers set for December 29.

However, its leaders refuted speculations of rift over the deal and said the candidate list will be announced soon.

The bloc plans to contest the polls under what it calls a "one-box policy", fielding a single candidate in each

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Crude bomb from flyover kills man

Why do bombs fall on people: father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed yesterday when a crude bomb, reportedly hurled from the Moghbazar Mouchak flyover, struck him on the head on New Eskaton Road in Dhaka.

The victim, who died on the spot, was identified as Siam Majumder, 21, a worker at a local motor parts shop. The incident occurred around 7:00pm, according

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## INDIA-BANGLADESH TENSIONS Crisis Group calls for restraint in rhetoric

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Dhaka-New Delhi relations lurch towards a crisis, India should avoid "provocative" statements that could be perceived in Bangladesh as "meddling" in its upcoming polls, the International Crisis Group has said.

Bangladeshi political parties, meanwhile, should refrain from taking "rhetorical shots at New Delhi in order to score nationalist points with voters", the Brussels-based think tank said in its latest report on Bangladesh.

Published on Tuesday, the report examines the increasingly acrimonious ties between the two South Asian neighbours and offers recommendations to defuse rising tensions.

It said India's "initial unwillingness" to engage with the interim government, its decision to provide refuge to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and negative coverage of developments in Bangladesh by Indian media had "raised hackles across the border".

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গণভোট ও অয়োদশ জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচন ২০২৬

"আপনি কি জুলাই জাতীয় সনদ (সংবিধান সংস্কার) বাস্তবায়ন আদেশ, ২০২৫  
এবং জুলাই জাতীয় সনদে লিপিবদ্ধ সংবিধান সংস্কার সম্পর্কিত  
নিম্নলিখিত প্রশ্নাবস্মুহের প্রতি আপনার সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করিতেছেন?"; (হাঁ/না)

(ক) নির্বাচনকালীন তত্ত্বাবধায়ক সরকার, নির্বাচন কমিশন এবং অন্যান্য সাংবিধানিক প্রতিষ্ঠান জুলাই সনদে বর্ণিত প্রক্রিয়ার আলোকে গঠন করা হচ্ছে।

(খ) আগামী জাতীয় সংসদ হইবে দুই কক্ষ বিশিষ্ট ও জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে দলগুলোর প্রাপ্ত তোকের অনুপাতে ১০০ সদস্য বিশিষ্ট একটি উচ্চকক্ষ গঠিত হইবে এবং সংবিধান সংশোধন করিতে হইলে উচ্চকক্ষের সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ সদস্যের অনুমোদন দরকার হচ্ছে।

(গ) সংসদে নারীর প্রতিনিধি বৃক্ষি, বিরোধী দল হইতে ডেপুটি শ্রীকার ও সংসদীয় কমিটির সভাপতি নির্বাচন, মৌলিক অধিকার, নির্বাচন বিভাগের শারীনতা, শ্বাসনমজ্জির মেয়াদ, রাষ্ট্রপতির ক্ষমতাসহ তফসিলে বর্ণিত যে ৩০টি বিষয়ে জুলাই জাতীয় সনদে ঐকমত্য হইয়াছে- সেগুলো বাস্তবায়নে আগামী সংসদ নির্বাচনে বিজয়ী রাজনৈতিক দলগুলো বাধ্য থাকিবে।

(ঘ) জুলাই জাতীয় সনদে বর্ণিত অপরাধের সংক্ষার রাজনৈতিক দলগুলোর প্রতিশুতি অনুসারে বাস্তবায়ন করা হচ্ছে।

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| হ্যাঁ | ✓ |
| না    | ✗ |

ভোকে প্রদানের জন্য হ্যাঁ অথবা না যেকোনো একটি ঘরে সিল দিন

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You remain our guiding star



Fazlur Rahman

(1947-2023)

Founder Chairman & Managing Director

Our deepest gratitude in remembrance  
on his second death anniversary

citygroup

