

Hearing on Khaleda's petitions deferred

Court Correspondent

The Supreme Court on Monday deferred again the hearing on two civil miscellaneous petitions (CMPs) filed by BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia against a High Court order that rejected her two writ petitions in the Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases.

A five-member Appellate Division bench, headed by Chief Justice M Muzammel Hossain, passed the order and fixed July 24 for hearing.

The court will now hear Khaleda's four petitions -- two in the Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases and two other criminal petitions for leave-to-appeal filed by the BNP chief against another HC order rejecting two revision appeals seeking to quash lower court indictment orders against her in the two graft cases.

Earlier on July 13, the Supreme Court fixed July 21 for hearing the two CMPs filed by Khaleda Zia.

On July 7, the BNP chief filed the four petitions with the Appellate Division against two High Court orders in connection with the two graft cases.

On May 12, Khaleda's counsel Mohammad Asaduzzaman filed the writs with the High Court on her behalf challenging the legality of the appointment of special Judge Basudev Roy who framed charges in the two graft cases.

The High Court delivered dissenting verdicts on the two writ petitions on May 25.

While the senior judge of the HC bench, Justice Farah Mahbub stayed the proceedings of the two cases for three months, junior judge Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo outright rejected the petitions.

Later, the two petitions were sent to the Chief Justice who constituted the third bench for disposal of the duo petitions of the former Prime Minister.

The third bench rejected the petitions on June 19.

On March 19, Judge Basudev Roy of the Dhaka's Special Judge Court-3 framed charges against BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and seven other people rejecting their time petitions in the Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases.

The BNP chief filed separate revision appeals with the High Court on April 13, seeking to quash the lower court indictment orders against her in the two graft cases. However, the HC on April 23 rejected the two petitions.

On August 8, 2011, the ACC filed the Zia Charitable Trust graft case with Tejgaon Police Station accusing four people, including Khaleda Zia, of abusing power in raising funds for the trust from unknown sources.

ACC deputy director Harunur Rashid, also an investigation officer of the case, pressed charges against the accused on January 16, 2012.

Besides, the ACC filed the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case on July 3, 2008 with Ramna Police Station accusing Khaleda Zia, her eldest son Tarique Rahman, now living in the UK after securing bail, and four others for misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore which came as grants from a foreign bank for orphans.

On August 5, 2010, ACC deputy director Harunur Rashid submitted a charge-sheet to the court in the case against six people, including BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.