

Court Correspondent The High Court on Wednesday imposed a ban on media coverage of BNP senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, an accused in different cases, living in London since September, 2008. An HC division bench comprising Justice Quazi Raza-UI Hoque and Justice ATM Saifur Rahman passed the interim order after preliminary hearing on a writ petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer. Passing the order, the HC also issued a rule asking the government to explain as to why direction should not be given not to publish, broadcast and air the statements of Tarique Rahman. The ban will remain in force until the rule is disposed of. The Ministry of Information and all media houses have been made respondents to the rule returnable within four weeks. Earlier, on Tuesday, Nasrin Siddiq Leena, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed a writ petition in the form of public interest litigation (PIL) on the ground that since Tarique, a fugitive accused in the eye of law, cannot enjoy freedom of expression. The petitioner in her plea said the statement of a person who remains absconding is not eligible for media coverage.