

Khaleda Zia to be taken abroad once medical board gives green light : Dr Zahid

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Online Desk : BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be moved abroad for advanced treatment as soon as her medical board approves the decision, her personal physician Prof Dr AZM Zahid Hossain said on Friday night. Speaking at a briefing on her latest condition, Dr Zahid said Khaleda Zia's health remains unchanged. He added that teams of local and international doctors are jointly overseeing her treatment, with medical experts from the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, China and the United States providing regular input. Dr Zubaida Rahman is coordinating the work of all local and foreign specialists. "She is able to receive the treatment that doctors are providing," he said. Urging supporters not to gather unnecessarily outside the hospital, Dr Zahid asked the nation to pray for Khaleda Zia's recovery.

Earlier on Friday afternoon, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the former prime minister is not yet physically fit to fly, despite preparations being made to take her abroad. "She is not in a condition to travel right now. Arrangements are in place, but a decision will be taken only if she becomes fit to fly," he told reporters, adding that the medical board met on Thursday and advised on the next course of treatment. He said foreign treatment may be required. In a separate Facebook post, Mahdi Amin, adviser to BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, wrote that Khaleda Zia's family plans to take her to London once her condition improves. He said preparations are underway to arrange a specially equipped air ambulance.

Khaleda Zia, 80, has long suffered from multiple health complications, including heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, liver cirrhosis and kidney problems. She was rushed to Evercare Hospital on 23 November after experiencing respiratory distress and is currently receiving treatment in the Critical Care Unit.