

**PARADINE PRODUCTIONS**

**"AL JAZEERA"**

**INTERVIEW WITH SHEIK HASINA WAZED**

**JOB ID: 13117**

Cover Page

Transcripts provided by



*Tel 0800 0854418*

[www.take1scripts.com](http://www.take1scripts.com)

---

## Dialogue

### MUSICAL INTRO

#### **Sir David Frost**

Hello and welcome to Frost Over The World. Later in the programme I'll be talking to soul singer Beverley Knight, discussing the French elections and exploring the phenomenon of honour killings. But first of all dramatic news this week from Bangladesh. Er the story so far just for a moment. Back in 1991, the military government was toppled through a people's uprising, led jointly by Khaleda Zia and Sheik Hasina. In the subsequent years both women served as Prime Minister. Last year an interim administration took charge to prepare for fresh elections. But in January the military stepped in to run that administration and the elections were postponed. Sheik Hasina is now facing charges that relate to murder and corruption. Last week she was blocked from boarding a flight home from London after the military-backed government barred her from returning. But now there's amazing news this week about that and we're delighted to be joined by the Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheik Hasina. Welcome. It's so good to have you with us. Um now the dramatic news this week was that the government having stopped you going back to your own country has changed, has changed their mind and now, as of Wednesday, you're free to go back?

#### **Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Well, well, yes. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. It's wonderful to meet you here. And er you're very correct that er first they put cases against me. They issued warrant against me. Then I think it is a tremendous pressure from people of Bangladesh, home and abroad, the world leaders and especially the world media.

#### **Sheik Hasina Wazed**

And that's why they would draw the ban. Now I can go back to my country and I am going back very soon. S... e... Soon as possible I am going back.

#### **Sir David Frost**

And, and you will th... then, you will have the opportunity to, in person to fight these charges that have been made. You'll be able to...

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Well, yes. Yes, of course I want to fight it! Rule of law will take its own course. And it is very interesting that in one hand the same ministry er file case against me issued warrant and other hand they banned me, er put ban on me so that I cannot go back. So when I raise this issue perhaps then, and of course when I will go I will er face the case because I know very well that all these charges and case totally false. Is absolutely false and I mean er, er those cases they have.

**Sir David Frost**

So you want, you wanna go back and say that loud and clear?

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Of course, yeah.

**Sir David Frost**

Yeah.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

You know, my people are with me. So I will you know fight this back with the ... in one hand politically other hand er um, um through judicial. So I want to place before.

**Sir David Frost**

Do you want to be Pr... I'm sure you do. Do you want to be Prime Minister of Bangladesh again?

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Well it's er depend on our people. If our people want me then ... No, it's the people to decide. How can I say [LAUGHING] that?

**Sir David Frost**

Mmm.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Of course I want to serve my people. I want to work for my people. And you know I dedicated my-self for my people because our people are very poor, there were sufferer. At this moment they don't have any political right, they don't have right to speaks or they are suffering from economy problems. So er I want to assist them because you know my father had a dream; he wanted to build up Bangladesh as poverty-free country. So I, I, I also you know have the same [ideology] and I want to follow my father's [ideology] and build up Bangladesh as poverty-free, illiteracy-free for, for us Bangladesh. Because Bangladesh people fought for that cause. Fought for their democratic right, their pol... political right and economy right and fundamental rights.

**Sir David Frost**

And you mention your father. I have very fond memories of interviewing him right at the beginning of 1972, when he just returned as the father of the new country really.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Yes.

**Sir David Frost**

Released by West Pakistan wasn't it? And er...

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Yes.

**Sir David Frost**

...and s..., and started on that, that mission. What do you think you could do if, if, if you are re-elected? The thing people always talk about the, the problem being um basically too much corruption in Bangladesh. Is it possible to, is it possible to wipe that out or get rid of it?

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Actually what happen you know, 1975, when father of the nation was assassinated and military government took over power illegally, so they corrupted a whole nation. When you are not an elected government, when there is no democracy, then you cannot have, you cannot get the transparency or accountability. And when there is no accountability, transparency, obviously what happen the corruption, nepotism, terrorist activities, all those things take place. So, corruption is there but during my time when ou... you know our government, our Bangladesh Awami League was in power from '96 to 2001.

**Sir David Frost**

Yeah.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Beside this corrupt administra... corrupt system but, we made tremendous progress. Our country we had four million met... metric [note] food deficit [we double up]. And er we increased the production and country become self-sufficient in food. Our literacy rate was only 45 percent. We increased up to 66 percent. Like our [poverty nation] was 16 hundred [INAUDIBLE]. ...

So poverty is our main enemy and main cause...

**Sir David Frost**

Yeah.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

...of course. That's what we [devoted that]. So I am very much confident with the help of people, and our friends home and abroad, definitely we can double up our country and we can curb the corruption.

But now I think that they should hold election as soon as possible. Otherwise, without transparency, without elected government, you know, the country cannot run for long time and er poverty, I mean er the corruption you cannot stop. Then again the same cycle will start, what happened after '75. So we don't want that. We want true democracy and democratic right of our people.

**Sir David Frost**

And will um will the, the famous battle that people talk about er you and er Kaleda Zia, will, will you be the rival leaders again? Will that battle go on?

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Look, in a multi-party system there are many political parties...

**Sir David Frost**

Mmm hmm.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

...who have different [ideology], different way of doing things. So that difference will remain, otherwise why we are different political party? It is not that the rival, no. It is you know political [ideology], and how you run government, how you deal with people, how you work for people. Our policy and our aim is to help people, to develop people and work for people. Awami League always serve Bangladesh, er people of Bangladesh. So you cannot back er these two party at the same level, because you have [INAUDIBLE]. When Awami League was in power what they have done for the people, what our people achieved during Awami League period, you must see that. That, that is main ... that is important.

**Sir David Frost**

That is, that is the vital...

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

That's true. It is important that...

**Sir David Frost**

...process.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

What our people can get.

**Sir David Frost**

W... Well it's a, it's a very er very great joy to have you with us. You're going to go back, back home to face all these issues in a week or two, yes?

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

That's true. I, I am planning to go back er ... first week of next month, because I have some prog... programme already set up. Actually you know, the moment they stop me then I'm really very fortunate that all our friends abroad and er the Member of Parliament and Member of House of Lord and Common and Secretary General, they all give me time. So I want to meet er ... with them because you know it is er necessary I feel. And then er, but I, of course very eagerly I am waiting to go back to my people, because I couldn't accept when there was a bar then I couldn't accept it. That is my country. I am the citizen of the country. And as you know that under the leadership of our father of the nation this er, er people of country, the leader of the movement for the liberation for that democracy, so how can they stop me?! I'm the daughter of the father of the nation. I was a Prime Minister. And I, I was Member of Parliament four times. Then h... and I struggle for democracy for fundamental right of my people and I devoted myself for my people. I spend most of the time with my people. So how can they stop me? I, I, I couldn't you know accept it.

**Sir David Frost**

Well, they're not s... they're not stopping you anymore and er we wish you a, a very safe journey.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Thank you very much. Thank you.

**Sir David Frost**

Thank you.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

Thank you. I think I'll, I ... oh no, express my gratitude to all our people from Bangladesh abroad and also the world leader and also er mainly the world media that played a very important role. The pressure our government you know get it is...

**Sir David Frost**

Mmm.

**Sheik Hasina Wazed**

...because of the media. So I thank you everybody.

**Sir David Frost**

Thank you. Thank you. And there the message from Bangladesh. In a moment I'll be talking to South Africa's Minister for Security. That's after this short break.

MUSIC

CUT