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**Charges framed against Mamun for failure to submit wealth report**  
**Tarique shown held in extortion case**  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Giasuddin Al Mamun, a close friend of BNP leader Tarique Rahman, in a case filed against him for not submitting his wealth statement to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Tarique was shown arrested in connection with extortion of Tk 4.89 crore from a construction firm owner while the police pressed charges against Jatiya Party (Manju) leader Anwar Hossain Manju in a criminal case.

Another Dhaka court will decide today whether charges will be framed against former minister Nazmul Huda in an arms case.

**CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST MAMUN**

ACC Assistant Director SMM Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan filed the

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## Another drama over Khaleda's trip abroad

She hurried to fly to Singapore for treatment, abruptly postponed journey over 'poor health'

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

In a last minute drama former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia postponed her suddenly scheduled departure to Singapore for a later date although preparations had been underway to board her on a flight last night.

After a reported long cold fight between Zia family and the military backed interim government, Khaleda suddenly had taken the decision on Sunday to go to Singapore for treatment but her 'ailment' became too egregious to board a flight last night, leading to the postponement despite having

her name on the passenger list of a Singapore Airlines flight.

The government on April 25 however issued a press note saying,



"The government never pressured and is not pressuring Khaleda Zia for taking overseas trips or for leaving the country."

BNP's Assistant Office Secretary Emran Saleh Prince told The Daily Star last night that the former premier postponed her trip because her health condition was not suitable for boarding a flight but she will go to Singapore as soon as she recovers enough to travel abroad for better treatment.

Sources however said Khaleda's decision to leave the country springs from her efforts to save her younger son Arafat Rahman Coco from any harassment, and because Coco himself influenced his

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**ORION GROUP COMPANIES**  
**Banks asked to provide info of all accounts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anti-corruption taskforce yesterday asked different banks to provide statements of all accounts of 30 companies under the Orion Group, its chief Obaidul Karim and his family.

"The banks have been asked to submit the statements within two days," a source said.

The taskforce has sent letters to the banks seeking information on the group's all deposit and loan accounts as well as the accounts that were closed.

Apart from Obaidul Karim, the taskforce asked for bank statements of his brothers Rezaul Karim and Ebadul Karim, wife Arzuda Karim, Shirin Karim (wife of Rezaul Karim), Nurunnahar Karim (wife of Ebadul Karim), Mehedi Hasan (Obaidul Karim's son-in-law and Managing Director Star Associates), Salman Obaidul Karim

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## Hannan Shah, son held on extortion charge

Placed on five-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP minister Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, who came to the limelight for being most vocal against the caretaker government's move to send former prime minister Khaleda Zia into exile, was arrested along with his elder son yesterday.

Shortly after the arrest, police produced Hannan and his son Shah Rezaul Hannan before a Gazipur court that placed them on five-day remand in connection with an extortion case.

Police went to Hannan Shah's New DOHS residence at Mohakhali in the capital at around 1:00pm and left the place after an hour with the immediate past prime minister's adviser and his son at 2:00pm.

This is the first ever arrest of an

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PHOTO: STAR

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah being taken into custody yesterday.

## Cyclone Akash spawns tidal surge in coasts

Prompts Danger Signal 7 in Ctg; fishing boats called; flights cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a tropical cyclone yesterday and Danger Signal-7 at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and

Danger Signal-5 at Mongla Port in Khulna were hoisted to warn people of the area about the storm.

The tropical cyclone may make landfall in Bangladesh-Myanmar coastal region early today. Met

office sources said.

All activities at the Chittagong Port were halted since 3:00am yesterday and all commercial flights to and from Chittagong

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Fishing boats anchor at Fisheryghat in Chittagong yesterday after Danger Signal 7 was hoisted there due to a cyclone over the Bay of Bengal.

## 40 AL men held from gathering in Sylhet

Arrestees include five expatriate leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least 40 Awami League men, including five leaders of the party's UK and Canada units, were picked up from a gathering at a house in Bateswar area in Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

The arrestees include, Sylhet city AL General Secretary Advocate Misbah Uddin Siraj, Joint Secretary of AL UK unit Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, City Corporation's Ward Commissioner and Joint secretary of district Juba League Abdul Khaliq, district Chhatra League President Jaglu Chowdhury, former president of district Chhatra League Shafiqul Alam Nadel, former general secretary of district Chhatra League Nasir Uddin Khan, City Juba League President-Advocate Syed Shamim Ahmed, city Chhatra League Convenor Habibur Rahman Selim, Juba League leader Asaduzzaman Asad, AL leader Prince Sadruzzaman, Canada AL chief

Sarwar Hossain, UK AL leaders Syed Sazedur Rahman Faruque, Sultan Sharif, Mojahid Ali Sohel and Professor Abul Quasem.

The joint forces picked up the AL men from a house belonging to Shiplu Chowdhury, a nephew of Awami League UK unit Joint Secretary Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury.

The arrestees were handed over to the Kotwali police last night.

Police said the AL men were arrested for holding a meeting, defying ban on political activities under Emergency Power Rules.

When contacted, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station said the arrestees will be charged with violating the emergency rules.

However, some of the arrestees said it was not a political gathering. They claimed that they attended a milad mahfil at the house and had lunch with the AL leaders, who came from UK with AL President Sheikh Hasina.

## 12,000 teams to do voter listing at camps

No door-to-door visits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday decided to partly start the task of simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards from August by setting up camps instead of visiting door to door.

People will have to visit the camps to be registered as voters in accordance with the EC's new methodology, which is completely different from the previous procedure for preparing the electoral rolls by sending staffs to visit door to door.

The task for preparing the voter list however will not begin across the country at a time. Only 12,000 units, each comprising four officials, will do the massive task staying at the camps in phases. Initially, the task will be done in some metropolitan cities.

"We will not visit door to door as it is not possible to do so carrying the equipment. If we visit door to

door, the equipment will have to be kept on switching on and off that will cost time," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda told reporters yesterday.

"We will provide the voters with national identity cards as incentive," he said.

In a bid to have people visit the camps to be listed as voters, the provisions for showing the national identity cards will be mandatory to have all sorts of government facilities that include getting VGF and relief cards, opening bank account and making passport.

"We believe people will respond to the new method and they will come to the camps to be listed as voters," he said.

Huda disclosed the EC's decisions regarding the preparation of the voter list and national identity cards in the afternoon after returning from a meeting with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office.

Earlier in the morning, the EC at a meeting discussed the preparation of the voter list and listened from its officials about the experiences regarding the preparation of the voter list in the past, sources said.

Asked about the time required to complete the task, the CEC said, "We did not calculate the time required to complete the task. But we are determined to complete the task within the 18-month timeframe," said Huda who on April 5 said it would require 12 months to complete the field level task.

Keeping consistency with the CEC's timeframe, the chief adviser on April 12 in an address to the nation announced that the ninth parliamentary election would be held before the end of 2008.

The CEC yesterday said they are determined to complete the task within the timeframe.

"Have you [journalists] watched

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