



The Daily Star

Plus 8-page Rising Stars



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVII NO. 120

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 17, 2007

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

JAISTHA 3, 1414 BS

RABIES SANI 29, 1428 HHRI

20 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

Khaleda cancels trip as Koko sued for extortion

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

An extortion case was filed yesterday against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, prompting his mother to postpone her scheduled trip to Singapore once again.

Abu Ahmed Jayed An Rabbi filed the case with Gulshan police station against Koko and his two brothers-in-law Mustaqin Reza and Muktaqin Reza, accusing them of extorting a total of Tk 1.20 crore from him at different times.

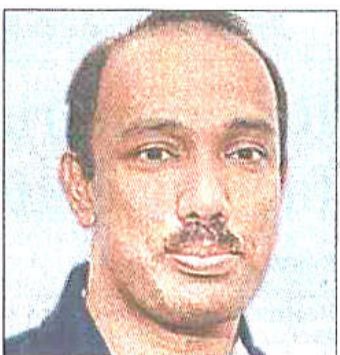
In the case statement Rabbi, proprietor of the advertising firm Add Media Ltd mentioned that Koko along with his two brothers-

in-law came to his office at Gulshan-1 on April 27 in 2004.

On arrival Koko asked Jayed to appoint his two brothers-in-law as directors of Rabbi's company. As



Rabbi declined to appoint them as directors. Koko threatened him of dire consequences. A frightened Jayed sought three days to deliberate on the matter, the complainant



said in the first information report (FIR).

He also alleged that three days later Mustaqin Reza and Muktaqin Reza were appointed as directors of the firm without any investment and since then they withdrew Tk 50 thousand each as their monthly salaries. Besides, Koko also received Tk 1 lakh each month from the firm. The complainant accused Koko, Mustaqin and Muktaqin of extorting him.

The complainant also mentioned in the case that there was a clear indication that if he would not comply with Koko's proposal his life would be in danger.

In the FIR Jayed also mentioned

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Abduction case filed against ex-deputy minister Dulu, 8 BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An abduction case was filed against 9 BNP leaders including former deputy minister for food and disaster Asadul Habib Dulu in a magistrate court in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Borobari union unit of Awami League Secretary Rafiqul Islam Bakul lodged the case before the court of Abu Saleh Mohammad Mohiuddin.

According to the complainant, the former deputy minister and other BNP leaders abducted him at 9:00am on January 01, 2003 and kept him hostage until 5:00am on the next day.

The other accused BNP leaders are Yasin Ali Mollah, Monayemul Islam, Nurul Islam, Ziaul Hoque

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Voter list, nat'l ID card possible in 5-6 months

Assert army experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is possible to simultaneously prepare the voter list with photographs and national identity cards in five-six months, an experts team of Bangladesh Army told journalists yesterday, demonstrating their methodology for doing the task.

In a bid to get closer to the people, the Election Commission (EC) is planning to set up voters' registration centres in each neighbourhood (para/mahalla) besides those at the existing polling stations used for local government elections.

Earlier on April 5, the chief election commissioner (CEC) announced an 18-month time frame for preparing the voter list

with photographs that includes 12 months for the field level task. But the EC recently decided to increase the number of voters' registration teams from 8,000 to 12,000 to do the task within the shortest time possible, even in eight months if possible.

Both the CEC and the experts team of army said it is possible to visit door-to-door for preparing the voter list, but the procedure will require much more time than is required if the task is done by setting up centres.

"We have decided to do the task by setting up voters' registration centres to save time. We do not want to extend the 18-month time frame and if it is possible, we want

to complete the task even earlier," CEC ATM Shamsul Huda told reporters yesterday at the EC Secretariat.

On political parties' opposition to the EC procedure, Huda said the political leaders expressed their doubt whether people will visit the centres to be listed as voters. Their opinion and apprehension is positive and it has alerted the EC, he said.

"We are also worried about bringing prospective voters to the centres. It is a challenge and our main aim is to overcome this," he said, seeking cooperation from all-irrespective of affiliation to political parties--in preparing the voter list.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Give roadmap for polls in 2 months

15 US senators ask CA for prompt withdrawal of emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen influential US senators have urged the caretaker government to announce within the next two months a roadmap towards free and fair elections as soon as possible.

They also urged prompt withdrawal of the state of emergency and restoration of full civic and political rights to all citizens of Bangladesh.

"There is a need for a public roadmap outlining reforms, including correcting the voter list, to ensure that the election is free, fair, transparent and credible," the senators said in a letter to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed on May 14.

They stressed input of the political parties and civil society leaders in the roadmap for restoration of a democratically elected government. "We understand that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

RPCL faces Tk 200cr claim from LIPPS

SHARIER KHAN

Because of a damaging contract signed by its then management in 2004, the Rural Power Company Ltd (RPCL) is faced with an arbitrary international penalty of Tk 200 crore payable to a controversial company Lahmayer International Pally Power Services (LIPPS) that is accused of sabotaging Mymensingh power plant.

At home, the RPCL lost a case in a Mymensingh court in October last year for failing to prove that the LIPPS along with its Managing Director (MD) AZ Rezaul Haq had

sabotaged the Mymensingh plant in August 2005. Sources said this happened because the police report submitted to the court suspiciously sided with the LIPPS and lacked versions of the RPCL.

These defeats of the RPCL and the government have now allowed controversial LIPPS chief AZ Rezaul Haq to return to Bangladesh from Singapore, where he had fled in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Mymensingh 140 MW plant Operation and maintenance annual cost comparison (2006)			
Cost under LIPPS contract		Cost for same job by RPCL	
Annual service fee:	Tk 11.58 crore	Salary & allowance:	Tk 3.8 crore
Mobilisation fee:	Tk 0.5 crore	Security costs:	Tk 0.28 crore
Misc expenses:	Tk 10.71 crore	Misc expenses:	Tk 0.34 crore
Retainer:	Tk 4.48 crore	Spare parts & repairs:	Tk 1.45 crore
Total:	Tk 27.64 crore	Total:	Tk 5.73 crore



Khelafat leader Habibur held for militant 'link'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The joint forces detained Moulana Habibur Rahman, nayeb-e-ameer of a faction of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, from his father-in-law's house at the city's Jherjheri para

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Butenis for lifting ban on political activities

Meets Hasina, talks political party reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia A Butenis has stressed the need for lifting the ban on political activities in the country so that the political parties can move towards reforms.

She expressed her views during a meeting with Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina at the latter's Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

"We talked about the need to allow political activities as soon as possible," Butenis told reporters after the nearly one and a half

hours long meeting. "We talked about political party reforms and how important that is, the need for parties to meet and discuss reforms so that they can have meaningful contribution to that debate to work with the Election Commission on these issues," she added.

Terming the meeting as her 'farewell call' on the AL chief, the outgoing US envoy said that there was just a general review on the overall situation. "She (Sheikh Hasina) had come back from the States. Normally, I talk to her when

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Now 24 hours

25 PAISA

Warid to Warid per 15 seconds

5 FnF to any mobile operator 15 Sec pulse in Prepaid connection

TK. 1.85 per minute from Warid to any other mobile operator Free Incoming from BTB Free TK. 150 balance in Prepaid connection

be heard

www.waridtel.com.bd | Helpline: 786 | +88 016 78600786

WARID TELECOM

co-partner
Sony Ericsson

strategic-partner
radio-foorti
98.4 FM

djuice

THE HUNT BEGINS...

thursdays & tuesdays
7:50 pm
only on

the hunt for a rock band

to know more call 121 or visit www.djuice.com.bd