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## 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 Coco and his two brothers-in-law Mustaqin Reza and Muktajin 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 Muktajin 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 Muktajin of extorting him.

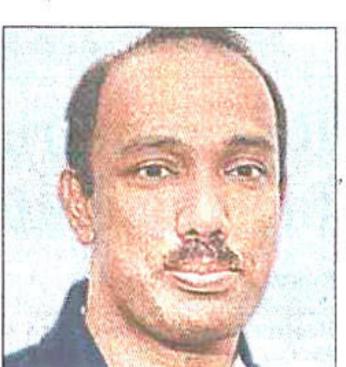
The complainant also mentioned in the case that there was a clear indication that if he would not comply with Koko's proposal his life would be in danger.

In the FIR Jayed also mentioned

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and in the FIR Jayed also mentioned

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## 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.

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## 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 Lahmeyer 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.

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### 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	Spares & repairs: Tk 1.45 crore
Total: Tk 27.64 crore	Total: Tk 5.73 crore

Source: 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

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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 Majlis, from his father-in-law's house at the city's Jherheri para

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## Butenis for lifting ban on political activities

Meets Hasina, talks political party reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"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.

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.

Terminating 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

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