

## Khaleda cancels trip

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that apart from the amount taken from his firm as salaries, Koko took Tk 2 lakh on May 1, 2003, Tk 6 lakh on August 10, 2004, Tk 3 lakh on October 31, 2005, and Tk 2 lakh on January 9, 2006 from him.

"We will take actions after proper investigation," Obaidul Haque, the officer-in-charge of Gulshan police told reporters last night.

Mahbub Morshed, the second officer of the police station told The Daily Star, "Abu Jayed An Rabbi filed an extortion case against Coco."

Although former prime minister Khaleda Zia was scheduled to leave the country for Singapore for treatment along with six members of her family and house staff, she once again abruptly cancelled her trip last night after hearing about the case being filed against her younger son.

Meanwhile, Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sikar met the former premier in her cantonment residence last night while the military police check-post at the entrance of the cantonment barred relatives of Khaleda from entering the area.

Sources said, earlier the joint forces released Coco on April 16 following his arrest on conditions that he would not receive any phone call and would not try to contact anybody outside the cantonment residence, promises that prompted the government authorities to slap a ban on any foreign trip by Coco.

According to the sources, Khaleda Zia was supposed to leave the country last night along with Coco, his wife Sharmila Rahman, their daughters Zafira and Zahia and a domestic help at 10:30pm last night on a Singapore Airlines flight.

But, BNP leader Emran Saleh Prince told The Daily Star at 8:18pm yesterday, "We don't know anything yet."

Sources said Khaleda was interested to go to Singapore not only for treatment but also to ensure a safe passage for her son Coco out of the country, as many allegations are being raised against him.

The government now has some reservations about letting Coco leave the country while Khaleda Zia do not want to leave the country without him as she fears he will also meet the fate of his brother Tarique Rahman, if he continues to stay in the country.

Although BNP leaders officially said Khaleda will return to the country soon along with her family members, surprisingly Coco's daughters received transfer certificates from their school, the sources said adding that both the kids has been absent from the school since last month.

Tight security was visible at Zia International Airport last night again in anticipation of the former premier's arrival there to board a flight to Singapore. The authorities assembled a huge number of RAB, police, BDR, and armed police personnel. The law enforcers were restricting the entrance of people on the approach road to the airport.

According to the sources, Khaleda and Coco did not contact

**Khelafat leader**

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early yesterday.

Habibur was arrested on charge of having links with the militant groups and he was shown arrested under the emergency power rules, a police official said.

After his arrest at 1:10am, the law enforcers took him to the Sylhet Kotwali Police Station where officials quizzed him.

At about 1:00pm yesterday, Kotwali police produced Habibur before the Sylhet Sadar cognizance magistrate's court, wherefrom he was sent to the jail-lock-up.

In 1994, "Sahab Sainik Parishad" run by Habibur announced Tk 50,000 bounty on the head of writer Taslima Nasrin.

On October 13 that year, the man with several hundred people put blockade in front of the deputy commissioner's office to press for hanging Taslima.

Habibur once told about his experience of joining training programmes in Afghanistan.

However, after the emergence of militant groups like JMB, he started denying his links with and support for Afghan wars.

Moulana Habibur Rahman, who is also the principal of Jameya Madania Islamia at Kazirbazar, used his students against Afzal Uddin, a lessee of the adjacent Kazirbazar cattle market, to 'extend' the madrasa in 2005.

Habibur also grabbed some valuable lands of the LGED at the city's Bagbari in 1992 for setting up a Nurani Madrasa. However, the district administration freed the government lands shortly afterwards.

Habibur, who was an ally of the BNP-led alliance government, later shifted his political line and managed nomination of the Awami League-led combine for Sylhet-6 constituency (Golapganj and Beantibazar upazilas) ahead of the election scheduled for January (later cancelled).

The matter fuelled agitation among the rank and file in the AL-led combine.

## RPCL faces Tk 200cr claim

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any doctor in Singapore yet, they did not even seek any appointment with any doctor although BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan on Tuesday said both of them would go to Singapore for treatment.

BNP sources said only party

leaders got the permission to see the party chief off and some of Coco's in-laws also tried to get the same permission.

BNP leaders said Khaleda Zia had always been determined not to leave the country but she changed her mind after her youngest son Arafat Rahman had been picked up by the joint forces during an early morning raid on April 16.

Sources said according to Khaleda Zia's travel plan she and her family would stay in a hotel in Singapore for the first few days and later she would move to a former BNP minister's house there. If not, she would stay in former finance minister Saifur Rahman's youngest son Babu's house. Babu is a close friend of Coco and also a son-in-law of former minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

Khaleda's brother Shameem Iskandar's brother-in-law Shahed has a house there and the former premier could also stay there if she wanted, the sources said.

In absence of Khaleda Zia house-keeper Yunus had the permission to stay there although BNP had already urged the government to ensure security for the former premier's cantonment residence as her elder daughter-in-law Dr Zobaida Rahman and her daughter Zaima would stay there.

Although the party sources said Zobaida Rahman would move to her mother's Dhamondi residence soon as she had been asked by the authorities not to stay in the cantonment residence in absence of Khaleda, although Zobaida reportedly wants to stay in her mother-in-law's residence.

The house was allotted to late president Ziaur Rahman when he was the deputy chief of army staff soon after the independence. He continued to live there as the army chief, and also as the chief martial law administrator, and then as the prime minister.

After his assassination in 1981, the erstwhile Justice Sattar government gave the house to late Ziaur Rahman's family at a nominal price.

Since then, Khaleda and her family have been living there. Khaleda Zia became the prime minister thrice but never moved from the house.

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The party at the same day also notified the government officially of the matter through a letter, seeking permission for the presence of its 15 leaders at the airport to see off the former premier who is also their party chairperson, and urging to ensure security for her cantonment residence during her stay abroad.

The Daily Star had been reporting on a nexus involving Captain Reza for many years but failed to draw the government's attention till 2005. The Asian Development Bank and German KfW had been major financiers of RPCL's works, and they have categorically identified Captain Reza as the source of irregularities.

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