

CASE AGAINST KOKO

Police asked to place probe report by June 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed Gulshan police to submit by June 17 the probe report of the extortion case filed against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrunnahr passed the order after the First Information Report (FIR) of the case, sent by Gulshan police, was placed before the court.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station Obaidul Haque himself took the responsibility of investigating into the matter, court sources said.

Abu Ahmed Jayed An Rabbi on

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DGFI chief transferred

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday transferred some top-level officials, including the DGFI chief.

Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) Major General Sadique Hasan Rumi has been made Director General (DG) of Ansar and VDP, said an official announcement.

Export Promotion Bureau DG Mohammad Abdul Qayyum has been made chairman of National Housing Authority while Acting Member of the Privatisation Commission Shah Mohammad Mansurul Haque made chief controller of import and export.

OSD (joint secretary) under the establishment ministry Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain Munshi has been made joint chief of Health Economics unit under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Agrani Bank gets licence to operate as PLC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agrani Bank, a nationalised commercial bank, yesterday received a licence from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSCF) to operate as a public limited company.

However, the bank still requires approval from the central bank to run as a public limited company, sources said.

The sources said the bank along with two other nationalised commercial banks--Sonali Bank and Janata Bank--applied for registration with the RJSCF and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) early last month to operate as public limited company.

The government had asked the

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UN to assess Dhaka's anti-terror progress

High-profile team arrives next month

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

An 11-member high-powered UN delegation on counter-terrorism will visit Bangladesh between June 3 and 10 to follow up on Bangladesh's progress in implementing a series of counter-terror policies.

The high-profile delegation from the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), headed by its Executive Director Javier Ruperez, will meet a raft of high-government

officials to check on Bangladesh's promise to draw up an Anti-Terrorism Act and further update the Money-laundering Act to tighten terrorist funding.

The home and foreign ministries have already held preparatory meetings for the UN-visit, say sources.

The country had previously pledged to write up a counter-terrorism law that until now has not been implemented.

However, a draft of the Anti-

Terrorism Ordinance, 2007 has been shelved at the law ministry since March. It defines terrorists, terrorist acts, terrorist organisations and prescribes punishments including death sentence and life imprisonment.

The law ministry is also vetting an amendment to the Money-Laundering Act, 2002, which has already been approved, in principle, by the council of advisers. Meanwhile, the newly-created

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Injured Shahabul with family members after interns at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Rapid Action Battalion personnel allegedly assaulted him as he blamed negligence of doctors for the death of his wife on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

4 JMB men held with jihad books

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Detective Branch (DB) police of Rangpur arrested four members of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from a remote char of the Teesta under Pirgachha upazila in the district early hours yesterday.

The law enforcers also recovered 38 books on Islamic revolution, a record player, a number of cassettes and two cell phones from their possession.

The arrestees are Abdul Quddus Khan Salafi, 45, of Char Protap Joysen under Pirgachha upazila, Anisur Rahman, 35, of Borodargah Fokirapara under Pirgachha upazila, Rubel Hosen, 18, of Posura

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Mohiuddin gets 3-month bail on health ground

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail for three months to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury on health grounds.

A division bench comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice M Ashfaque Islam passed the order on a petition.

The joint forces arrested Mohiuddin Chowdhury at his residence in the port city on March 7 on charge of corruption.

The CCC mayor was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital from Bandarban jail following a heart attack on May 14. Later, he was shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital as his condition deteriorated.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for the petitioner.

Kamal Siddiqui sued for extortion, looting

Separate cases filed against Khandaker Mosharraf, Rahim Uddin Varosha

STAR REPORT

Kamal Siddiqui, principal secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, has been sued for extortion, plundering and looting.

Shafiqul Islam, an official of the health and family welfare ministry, filed the case with a court in Chandpur yesterday against Kamal Siddiqui and his 11 associates, according to UNB.

Sources said Shafiqul Islam, son of late Gafur Patwary of Chhoto Bhabanipur in Kachua upazila, and

Kamal Siddiqui, son of the late Najir Ullah of the same village, are cousins.

In the case, Shafiq alleged that Kamal Siddiqui and his men demanded Tk 1 lakh from him in toll.

"As I refused to pay the toll, Siddiqui along with his cohorts ransacked my house on August 18 last year and looted valuables worth about Tk 2.39 crore," the complainant stated.

"Moreover, by abusing power,

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Charges pressed against Huda in theft case

Charge-framing against Nasim on June 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda and two others showing 17 people as prosecution witnesses.

The two others, Monir Hossain and Haider Ali, have been absconding since the incidents. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against them.

The charge sheet will be placed on May 28 for hearing on acceptance of it.

The charge sheet said the charges brought against Huda and others are primarily proved and they should be brought to justice.

On March 6, Mohammad Salahuddin of Nurpur of Dohar upazila in Dhaka district accused

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officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to a first class magistrate's court, Dhaka against Huda and two others showing 17 people as prosecution witnesses.

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EC to place recommendations to strengthen its secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will soon submit a set of recommendations to the caretaker government to strengthen its secretariat, EC Secretary Humayun Kabir said yesterday.

The commission will also consult with legal experts to examine if it is possible to free the EC Secretariat from the control of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) without amending the constitution.

"The commission wants a long term solution regarding its secretariat although the commission is

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Shahriar Kabir, 6 others relieved of sedition charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday submitted probe report discharging writer-columnist Shahriar Kabir, two journalists of British Channel 4 television and four others from sedition charges filed against them five years back.

CID Inspector Masud Karim, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the final report (FRT) to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday afternoon.

The other six accused in the case are foreign journalists Zaiba Naz Malik (Britain), Leopoldo Bruno Sorrentino (Italy), NGO activist Pricilla Raj, freelance journalist Saleem Samad, Tofael Ahmed and advocate Rana Das Gupta.

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Banks asked to provide account details of 8 more graft suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank yesterday asked all commercial banks for account details of eight more corruption suspects, including former BNP state minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood and ex-MP Naser Rahman, the son of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has directed the banks to provide details of the bank transactions made by the eight in the last ten years by Sunday 11:00am.

The other six are -- former BNP MP and currently detained Manzurul Ahsan Munshi, former AL MP Mostafa Rashidi Suja, for-

mer AL MP Musharraf Hossain, former MP and Khelafat Majlish leader Mufti Shahidul Islam, AL leader Mohiuddin Ahmed and former National Board of Revenue (NBR) Member Zahurul Haque.

Sources said the National Coordination Committee on Combating Corruption and Crime has sought the information from the central bank.

As per the directive, the banks will have to submit detailed information on transactions made through personal accounts, joint accounts, current accounts, foreign currency accounts, savings accounts, credit accounts and credit cards.

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Wolfowitz seeks deal for WB exit

AFP, Washington

Embattled World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz sought a resignation deal ahead of a new bank meeting yesterday to discuss the scandal over his girlfriend's pay package.

The longtime ally of US President George W Bush was reported to be willing to resign as long as the bank took some of the blame for its advice on the controversial pay raise he negotiated for his companion.

European countries have pushed hard for the former deputy defence secretary's departure from the 185-country bank and even White House support has waned in recent days as the controversy deepened.

At issue is Wolfowitz's role in arranging a generous promotion and pay package for his companion and fellow bank employee, Shaha Riza, after he took the helm in 2005.

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Prayer Timing		
May 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		