

Fresh probe ordered into extortion case against Harris

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A cognizance magistrate's court in Sylhet yesterday ordered a fresh investigation into an extortion case filed against former prime minister Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris Chowdhury and five others.

Azir Uddin of village Kandola under Kanaighat upazila had filed the extortion case against Harris and five others -- Harris's cousin Ashique Chowdhury, UP Chairman Ahmed Soleman, Ahmed Mostafa and Altaf Uddin of village Bajekhel,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Nagorik Committee wants Valerie's reinstatement as CRP coordinator

DU CORRESPONDENT

Nagorik Committee, a citizens' committee, yesterday demanded dissolution of trustee board of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and reinstatement of its founder Valerie A Taylor to her post as coordinator.

The board of trustees of the CRP at Savar recently removed Valerie Taylor from her position of coordinator. Taylor has been with the institution since its founding.

The Committee made the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Since distrust among the members of the trustee board has surfaced, all the members of the board should resign immediately, the Committee observed.

Nagorik Committee urged government intervention at CRP and vowed to continue its efforts to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Russia could target Europe

Putin warns

AP, Rome

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that US plans to build a missile defence system in Eastern Europe would force Moscow to target its weapons against Europe.

The threat, in an interview published yesterday in Italy's *Corriere della Sera* and other foreign media, marked one of Putin's most strident statements to date against the US plans and came just days before he is to join President Bush and other leaders at a Group of Eight summit in Germany.

In the interview, Putin was asked whether the proposed missile defense shield would compel Moscow to direct its own missiles at locations and U.S. military sites in Europe, as during the Cold War.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

US authorities foil plot to blow up NY airport

4 extremists charged

AFP, New York

US authorities said Saturday they foiled a terrorist plot to bomb fuel tanks and pipelines at John F Kennedy airport, averting an explosion they said would have also devastated large portions of the nearby Queens neighbourhood.

Four suspected Islamic extremists -- including Abdul Kadir, a former member of Guyana's parliament -- have been charged over the

alleged plot, which officials said had links to international terrorist cells in the Caribbean and South America but was thwarted well before it could be carried out.

"Had the plot been carried out, it could have resulted in unfathomable damage, deaths, and destruction," US Attorney Roslyn Mauskopf said, telling reporters in New York the plan was "one of the most chilling plots imaginable."

The devastation such a blast

would have caused "is just unthinkable," she stressed.

The plot allegedly tapped into Jamaat Al Muslimeen, described by justice officials as an international network of Muslim extremists from the United States, Guyana, and Trinidad.

US anti-terrorist forces arrested one of the defendants, Russell Defreitas, a former employee at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Fighting continues in Lebanon refugee camp

AP, Tripoli, Lebanon

Heavy gunfire rang out from inside a bombed out Palestinian refugee camp yesterday as the Lebanese army pounded Islamic militants holed up inside during the third day of a military offensive aimed at crushing the al-Qaeda-inspired group.

Plumes of white and gray smoke rose from the Nahr el-Bared camp as the army bombarded Fatah Islam militants with heavy artillery shelling. The militants appeared to be retreating deeper inside the camp, but one of their leaders vowed the group would not surrender.

Tanks and artillery pounded Fatah Islam positions on the northern edge of Nahr el-Bared, located on the outskirts of this northern Lebanese port city, in a wide area concentrated around 10 buildings.

According to an Associated Press photographer near the camp, a Fatah Islam sniper could be seen moving from one destroyed building to another, as Lebanese troops bombarded the damaged structures from where he was shooting.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Quick start of voter listing urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) should make door-to-door visit for preparing the voter list rather than setting up voter camps for the task, civil society leaders told a roundtable discussion in the capital yesterday.

They also urged the EC to start

the task of preparing the voter roll without wasting time and added that the election should not be delayed for preparing national ID cards.

Shushashoner Janney Nagark (Shujan) arranged the roundtable discussion at the Jatiya Press Club titled, "Preparing of voter list: Evaluation of proposed system."

"Voter list is the portal of democ-

racy, that's why it is necessary to prepare a voter roll without flaws," Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, president of Shujan, said.

Stressing the need for door-to-door visits, he said "it would be wrong if the voter list is prepared without going to the voters' houses."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

7 US troops, 15 Iraqis killed in attacks

AFP, Baghdad

Suspected Sunni insurgents killed 15 Iraqis in attacks north of Baghdad yesterday as their Shia militia counterparts clashed with US and Iraqi forces south of the war-torn capital.

Seven more US soldiers were killed in separate attacks around Iraq on Saturday, the military said, as American casualties remained high after two of the mission's bloodiest months since the war began.

By recent Iraqi standards the bloodshed was not extreme, but the diverse motivations of the combatants underlined the complexity of the overlapping conflicts ravaging Iraq and undermining the US mission.

The latest fighting erupted after a former commander of American forces in Iraq, retired army Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, said the United States could no longer win the war and must find a way to stave off defeat.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing

June 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation