

# Fatal rest in a container

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banging in the container.

The container was carried from Chittagong Port to Singapore by cargo ship Hansa Caledo. The ship sailed from Chittagong on April 2.

The two men had completed their cleaning chores at Chittagong Port when they popped into the empty container to take a nap, Din Islam told Singapore police, reported The Straits Times on Tuesday.

Din Islam said they shouted and banged on the walls of the container to attract attention before it was being shipped. But no help came.

"Then we just slept and we didn't know that the container had been picked up and transported onto the ship. By the time we woke up, we were probably already on the ship," Din told the New Paper, according to AFP.

He said his colleague, estimated to be 40 years old, collapsed and died after a few days in the container.

"I really didn't know what to do. I was very scared... I cried and I prayed to god for a miracle to happen. I prayed for my life," he added.

The Hansa Caledo made a five-day journey from Chittagong to Singapore.

After arrival in Singapore, the container was moved to the port's yard.

At 8:20pm on April 10, Din mustered up his strength in a last bid for rescue. As the container was being moved to a trailer so it could be reloaded onto another ship, the Helvetia, bound for Vietnam, dock workers heard banging sounds coming from inside.

When they opened the door, they found Din Islam with the decomposing corpse of his co-worker with no travel document.

Overwhelmed by the stench from the decomposing corpse of the dead, the dock workers tried to get away.

The corpse of Alamgir was taken to Singapore General Hospital, while following treatment from Alexandra Hospital, police yesterday handed over Din Islam to Transient Workers Count Too (TWC), a charity for migrants in Singapore.

He will be under TWC's care until he is fully fit to return home, said Bangladeshi AKM Mohsin, who is the editor of Banglar Kantha, a Bangla newspaper published from Singapore.

After talking to the survivor, Singapore police said they do not believe that foul play was involved. However, some think the men could have got into the container with an intent to go abroad.

Earlier, fortune-seekers took risky journeys from Cox's Bazar to Malaysia, and



Din Islam who managed to stay alive trapped inside a cargo container for nine days without food or water.

PHOTO COURTESY: AKM MOHSIN, BANGLAR KANTHA

many died on the way.

"Details of the two men could not be known yet," Bangladesh High Commission First Secretary Zahid Hossain in Singapore told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Saiful Islam, senior manager of the Hansa Caledo's shipping agent Sea Com in Chittagong, told The Daily Star that empty containers, if any, are not checked so well before ships sail.

He confirmed the container having the two men was carried by the Hansa Caledo that sailed from Chittagong Port to Klang Port in Malaysia via Singapore on April 2.

It is beyond their knowledge how the two men got into the container, he said adding, "They could be port

or truck workers trying to go abroad. We don't have any worker in the port."

People familiar with the workings of ports said it is uncommon for someone to be accidentally locked inside a container, reported The Straits Times.

A manager at a company specialising in container security in Singapore said the men's shouting might have been missed if a crane was used to stack containers on top of the one that the men were in.

Meanwhile, a four-member committee, headed by Deputy Conservator of Chittagong Port Authority Capt Nazmul Alam, was formed in Chittagong yesterday to investigate the incident, reported our Chittagong correspondent.

## Hillary heads to Nato amid Libya friction

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton headed yesterday to Nato talks in Berlin amid friction within the Western alliance over sharing the burden of the Libya military campaign.

Clinton left Andrews Air Force Base near Washington en route to the German capital, the start of a round-the-world tour that will also take her to earthquake-hit Japan and South Korea.

Britain and France, which had led global calls for action to stop Libyan leader Gaddafi's attacks on his own people, have pressed Nato allies to deploy more combat jets.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has said he would raise his concerns during the Nato talks in Berlin, which will take place Thursday and Friday.

US President Barack Obama's administration, which has stepped up the war in Afghanistan and proclaimed an end to combat operations in Iraq, has been keen for Western allies to bear the brunt of the Libya operations.

## Mubarak

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rule and is in an "unstable condition" in hospital, the official news agency MENA said.

The agency, quoting a source in a Sharm el-Sheikh hospital where Mubarak has begun his detention after suffering a heart attack, also denied reports that a helicopter had landed to transfer the 82-year-old to another hospital.

"His health condition is unstable," the agency quoted the source as saying.

The former president and his two sons were ordered detained for 15 days on suspicion of involvement in the deaths of an estimated 800 people during protests that ousted him on February 11.

He reportedly suffered a heart attack on Tuesday during questioning by interrogators.

He is also being questioned on suspicion of corruption. His two sons, Alaa and Gamal, are under similar suspicions and were transferred to a Cairo prison yesterday morning.

He was in Sharm el-Sheikh hospital yesterday but it was not immediately clear where his 15-day detention would take place.

On Sunday, public prosecutor Abdel Magid Mahmud ordered the inquiry, as part of a sweeping probe into corruption and abuse.

The Mubarak were to be asked about allegations that they were "connected to the crimes of assault against protesters, leading to deaths and injuries", the official MENA news agency said.

The prosecutor's summons came after the broadcast of an audio tape in which Mubarak defended his reputation and after weeks of mounting protests calling for him to be put on trial.

In the audio message aired on the pan-Arab television network Al-Arabiya, Mubarak complained he was the victim of a smear campaign.

## 4 kg gold

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crore and arrested a man for his alleged involvement in the smuggling.

The arrestee Golam Rabbani, 35, hails from Muradnagar upazila in Comilla and is a resident of Khilgaon in the capital.

Customs sources said Rabbani arrived at the airport from Singapore by a Singapore Airlines flight at about 10:30pm.

While scanning his luggage, the authorities found the gold. They also seized his passport.

During primary interrogation, Rabbani admitted that he was smuggling the gold chains from Singapore, said Samsuddin Saleh, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station.

Rabbani used to smuggle mobile phone sets, the OC said, adding that he smuggled the gold for the first time.

A case has been filed in this connection, the OC added.

# Share value 16 times inflated

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In the first quarter of 2010, the share value skyrocketed to Tk 1,600 -- sixteen times the face value.

Thanks to the overheated share prices, company's directors made huge money.

Of them, Company Chairman AHM Mustafa Kamal, an Awami League lawmaker, sold shares of Tk 3.05 crore and Ms Kashmiri Kamal of Tk 2.32 crore, Nafisa Kamal of Tk 13.66 crore, Kashfi Kamal of Tk 99.5 lakh, and Golam Sarwar of Tk 59.8 lakh -- all company directors and family members of Kamal.

Even though the probe committee has evidence that Mustafa Kamal did sell shares in the overheated market, Kamal said: "I didn't sell shares when the price went up."

"There is no allegation against me and my company in the probe report," said Kamal, also chief of the

parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry.

Kamal said SABINCO, a joint venture of Bangladesh and Saudi Arab governments, has 20 percent share in the company while he has 40 percent share.

But, the website of Lotus-Kamal Group yesterday showed: "50 percent share of the company is owned by the general public and different financial institutions and 50 percent by Mr Kamal and his family members."

Of the 20 percent share owned by SABINCO -- Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Limited -- the Bangladesh government owns 15 percent share.

The probe committee held the following responsible for the overheated price of CMCKamal's share:

Declaration of 10 percent stock dividend;

Declaration of Tk 70 lakh net profit in the first quarter of 2010;

Change of face value of the company's share to Tk 10 from Tk 100;

Upgrading the company's status to category A from Z following the declaration of 10 percent dividend;

The company offered right shares at the ratio of 2:1 of Tk 17.5 each including premium of Tk 7.5 to increase its paid-up capital;

The company proposed to increase paid-up capital to Tk 200 crore from Tk 50 crore;

On September 20, 2010, it revalued its land and factory building. After the revaluation, its land value stood at Tk 33 crore, up from Tk 1.55 crore, and the building value stood at Tk 20 crore, up from Tk 6.13 crore; and

In the same year, the company declared Tk 3.1 crore net profit after tax.

# Abducted businessman

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Police Station.

The law enforcers recovered Tk 19.48 lakh from Sarwar which he got from the victim's family as ransom. They also found the victim's cellphone and a knife and a chopper used to reduce the body into pieces.

Sarwar, a plastic shop owner, and his employee Abdul Hakim were arrested in this connection.

Police traced Sarwar by tracking Aminul's cellphone. They also picked up Ali Ahmed and another businessman from Sagorpara screening Sarwar's call list in cellphone.

In the afternoon, Sarwar and Hakim were placed before a Rajshahi court with seven days' remand prayer for each. As they agreed to confess before the court, Metropolitan Magistrate Mamunur Rashid finished recording their statements under section 164 around 8:00pm.

The arrestees also confessed to killing Aminul in the primary interrogation, said Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner M Obaidullah, adding that

as per the confession, the killing took place over purchasing a piece of land.

Aminul was last seen on Sunday around 12:30pm when he left his car near Shaheb Bazar Boro Masjid. His brother-in-law Mahmudur Rahman lodged a general diary with Boalia Police Station late that night stating Aminul was missing.

The RMP commissioner said according to the primary confession, Sarwar sold a piece of land near RDA market to Aminul Haque ten years ago. Of the bargain, Aminul still owed Sarwar Tk 4 lakh, which motivated Sarwar to the killing.

Aminul was also engaged in the business of purchasing and selling disputed lands and Sarwar recently helped Aminul buy a plot near Shaheb Bazar Zero Point.

Becoming close again, Sarwar convinced Aminul to visit his home. When Aminul reached there on Sunday, Sarwar and his accomplice Hakim took him hostage and demanded Tk 20 lakh as ransom.

Aminul then called his friend Mominul Haque, owner of a filling station at

Nawdapara, over the phone and asked him to give his [Aminul's] wife the money keeping the abduction affair within him and the family.

Aminul's wife Salma Sultana handed over the money to Hakim near Utsab cinema hall, a place close to Sarwar's house, around 3:30pm Sunday.

The family informed police about the abduction the next day as Aminul was still kept a hostage.

According to Sarwar's confessional statement to police, they drugged Aminul with sedatives and slit his throat. They feared backlash from Aminul once the influential businessman is freed.

Sarwar's plan was to stuff a sack with pieces of Aminul and throw it in the Padma river near his house.

He moved in the house three months ago with his wife and 13-year-old daughter. The wife and the daughter were present during the murder and, as Sarwar said, got very nervous and furious with him over the killing.

Sarwar sent them to his village in Kishoreganj Monday morning with Tk 52,000 of the ransom.

# Prospect not bright for consensus talks

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receipt of invitation from the special committee for the talks.

Meanwhile, the special committee at a meeting with the premier yesterday decided to hold the talks on April 24, 25 and 26, two members of the committee told The Daily Star after the meeting.

They said the committee will allocate one day only for BNP-led opposition parties. Opposition Leader Khaleida Zia will be invited to join the talks along with three or four of her alliance's leaders.

The talks will kick off with a discussion with constitutional experts and eminent jurists on April 24. The committee will allocate one day to sit with senior leaders of other political parties representing the current parliament, the committee members said.

"BNP has strong reservation about the way the government wants to amend the constitution. The government will have to ensure that the process is acceptable to all in order to ensure BNP's participation in it," BNP National Standing Committee Member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman said.

BNP's Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan, however, said "We don't know anything about such a move to hold dialogue. We will decide the next course of action after

knowing the matter."

BNP did not nominate any of its MPs to the special committee when it was formed in July last year, questioning its legality.

Senior leaders of the party have been blasting the government for what they claimed was misleading the people in the name of amending the constitution.

The decision for holding the dialogue was taken on Tuesday when the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendments met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the first time.

Eminent citizens, however, appreciated the special committee's decision for holding the talks.

Welcoming the talks, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said, "First we have to see who will be invited and which experts, what will be the terms of reference, what time will be given and what will be discussed."

He suggested holding view-exchanging meetings with all stakeholders at district levels across the country, and listening to the people's voice.

Since it is a national dialogue, it has to be held in a transparent way with participation of all, he said.

When his attention was drawn to BNP's position, he said everybody should join to make the dialogue meaningful.

"The dialogue should be

held in several sessions instead of one particular session," former adviser to a caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan said welcoming the talks.

He said the special committee should not only hold discussions before finalising its recommendations, it should also publish the final recommendations allowing the people to give opinions again, if any. The dialogue should also be arranged outside the capital, he added.

Welcoming the initiative, eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik said all the political parties should be invited to this dialogue.

He, however, observed that the dialogue will be more meaningful only if the committee prepares a draft of the proposed amendments first and circulates it for comments.

Akbar Ali Khan said the committee will have to show utmost sincerity about the dialogue so that it does not become just a ritual.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday a special committee member said the committee members at the Tuesday's meeting with the premier proposed to convene a parliament session in the middle of May to amend the constitution.

Asked how a political consensus is possible if the main opposition BNP does not join the talks, the committee member said people will

judge the opposition's role in this regard, and they will lose out.

On condition of anonymity, a BNP standing committee member told The Daily Star that they discussed on several occasions the prospect of an understanding with the government if the latter comes with a proposal in this regard.

"If the ruling party wants our cooperation to amend the constitution, the BNP will demand that the government constitutionally recognises Ziaur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence," the leader said.

But, he said, the ruling Awami League will never accept such a proposal and therefore possibility of a consensus is very slim. BNP may join the talks if it is given an assurance that some of its demands will be met, he added.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party, two other components of BNP-led alliance, will follow BNP in this regard as they did in the past regarding any parliamentary affairs.

Jamaat's Acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam said the special committee was not formed in accordance with the law. So they will not join the dialogue.

Joining such a dialogue is out of the question since it is a one-party committee with no participation of other parties, he added.

# I'm not involved

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and order situation" in the wake of violence on the DU campus on August 21-22, 2007.

He made the claim in response to a March 29 letter from the parliamentary sub-committee probing the campus violence, asking him to appear before it and testify on April 18 at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

In a letter tagged with his written reply, the retired general, now staying in the USA for about a year, said it will not be possible for him to appear before the House probe body since he is suffering from kidney and heart diseases, committee sources told The Daily Star yesterday.

The House body also sent a letter to former chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed on the same day asking him to appear before it and testify on April 18 at the Sangsad Bhaban. He is yet to respond to it.

Asked about Moeen's written reply, chief of the probe body Rashid Khan Menon said they will discuss his reply and then go for the next course of action.

"If we are convinced by his

reply, we may exempt the former army chief from appearing before the sub-committee to give testimony," Menon said.

Moeen sent his reply to Menon's parliament office through his brother Salahuddin Ahmed. He also e-mailed his reply to the probe body chief.

The parliamentary body on the education ministry formed the sub-committee last year to probe the law enforcement agencies' actions against teachers and students during the August 21-22 student unrest on the DU campus.

In his reply, Moeen mentioned that on January 10, 2007, the then president Iajuddin Ahmed asked the Armed Forces to assist the law enforcement agencies to improve law and order situation and to help the civil administration hold the national election on January 22, 2007.

"Army deployed earlier was now empowered by the government to arrest trouble creators without any warrant," he said.

Deterioration of the country's law and order prompted

the January 11 situation, and keeping army personnel in different parts of the country, he said.

"As part of improving law and order situation", Moeen said, "Army personnel from 46 Independent Infantry Brigade were deployed at several points of Dhaka city. A camp was also set up at the Dhaka University playground."

During a football match at the university playground, a student and a soldier exchanged harsh words centring a petty matter. In no time the quarrel spread in spite of efforts to defuse the matter, he said.

"After being informed, I sent the then chief of general staff Sinha Ibne Jamali to the spot to resolve the matter in an amicable way. But the situation deteriorated on August 21 morning when teachers and students of Dhaka University brought out procession," Moeen went on.

"The then president called an emergency meeting where chiefs of different intelligent agencies, law enforcement agencies and other persons concerned were present. In the meeting, I proposed to withdraw the army camp

from the university campus though my decision might affect troops' moral courage," he said.

After a thorough discussion, order was given for withdrawing and closing the army camp by dawn on August 22. But instead of cooling down, the situation deteriorated further on August 22 and violence spread to other educational institutions in Dhaka city, Moeen said in his reply.

Looters took advantage of the situation as law and order situation worsened further. At this stage, law and order situation went out of control of the law enforcement agencies, said the retired general.

At an emergency meeting on August 22, the council of advisers in presence of the chiefs of law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies decided that all universities will be closed down and students' dormitories vacated, and curfew will be imposed in the country.

Moeen suggested that the House probe body take help from the findings of the judicial enquiry committee on the DU violence formed by the then caretaker government.

# Bashundhara

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M o h a m m a d Kamruzzaman declared the punishment and directed the officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station to issue a conviction warrant.

Earlier, the accused submitted a written statement to the court's show-cause notice, but he was absent during the hearing on the notice.

On April 6, the same court issued a show-cause notice asking Shamsuddin Ahmed to explain within seven days why he had filed a false case against Jamuna Group Chairman Nurul Islam Babul, his son Shamim Islam and son-in-law SM Wadud.

Shamsuddin filed the case against the three with Badda Police Station on August 16, 2006 alleging

them of abducting Zahid Hossain, a security guard of Bashundhara Group, on August 15, 2006.

Shamsuddin said two locals, Shamsul Haque and Salauddin, saw Zahid while he was being abducted from Pragati Sarani adjacent to Bishwa Road.

They abducted Zahid with an intention to kill him as he was the sole witness of a case filed against them, Shamsuddin alleged.

However, the investigator later found that Zahid was out of the capital during filing of the case and returned to Dhaka on August 27, 2006, the court observed.

Sub-Inspector Sohrab Hossain pressed charges against Babul and two others on July 15, 2007.

# Over 800 killed in south Sudan since January: UN

AFP, Juba

More than 800 people have died in south Sudan violence since January and almost 94,000 people fled their homes, posing a major challenge for the fledgling state, the top UN aid official for the region warned yesterday.

The nation in waiting has seen an upsurge in bloody clashes since January's largely peaceful referendum, in which southerners voted almost unanimously to split with the north.

The number of people displaced by violence has doubled in the past month to 93,780 people, according to figures released by Lise Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Sudan.