

Fatal rest in a container

FROM PAGE 1
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 Bangladesh 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, yesterday to investigate the incident, reported our Chittagong correspondent.

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

FROM PAGE 1
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 Mubaraks 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

FROM PAGE 1
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 Kashmira 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.

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

Change of face value of the company's share to 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 a 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.

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 Khaleda 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

the talks. We will 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.

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 leaders said.

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.

Acbar 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 parliamentary session in the middle of May to amend the constitution.

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