Man killed over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tiles supplier of the capital was chopped to death in Chandpur last night by local goons following a land dis-

The dead, Liakat Sarkar, 42, was a resident of the capital's Sipahibagh.

The man was having a chat with acquaintances at a restaurant of his village home Enayetpur Sahebbazar in Matlab yesterday around 9:00pm, his family said. A group of 10 to 12 persons led by Moinuddin Hossain, cousin of Liakat, attacked him with sharp weapons.

Abdul Momin, 50, also suffered wounds while trying to save Liakat.

Locals took the two to a hospital where doctor declared Liakat dead.

Mishu Sarkar, a nephew of Liakat, said there was a dispute between his uncle and Moinuddin since long. They recently engaged in a new feud over taking out a lease on a piece of land from Water Development Board.

To settle the matter, he said, arbitration was scheduled to be held today.

Teesta deal

FROM PAGE 1 night, quoting an Indian high official.

Gowher Rizvi, an adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, yesterday dismissed the report and said he was still hopeful about the deal.

On Tuesday, Dipu Moni met Indian Water Resources Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal in New Delhi and discussed for more than half an hour the Teesta deal among other issues.

Bangladesh expressed hope that the agreement on Teesta would be signed soon, our New Delhi correspondent reported.

"We hope it [the treaty signing] can be done sooner rather than later," Dipu said.

The treaty was expected to be signed during Manmohan's Dhaka visit in September last year. But it was cancelled at the last moment due to opposition from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

It's hard

FROM PAGE 20

World Bank gives opinion assuming what would happen in future. So it is very tough for us to accept the proof," Muhith told BBC Bangla Service last night.

Asked about the probe by the government, he said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has been assigned to investigate the allegations. "The ACC is probing the matter. I have talked to the ACC chairman about this."

The government is discussing the construction of the bridge with several development partners, but nothing has been finalised yet, he

GOVT AWAITS FINAL PROPOSAL FROM MALAYSIA Malaysia will send a pro-

posal by the end of this month for reaching a final agreement on financing the Padma bridge project, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday, reports UNB.

The government has

Asked about the reported

and his family members.

alleged corruption.

respective sides.

The WB has suspended its

\$1.2 billion loan commitment

On April 10, Bangladesh

inked a memorandum of

understanding (MoU) with

Malaysia on cooperation in

the construction of the bridge.

Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu,

Malaysian prime minister's

Obaidul Quader and

already investigated the alleged corruption in the appointment of consultants for the project, he told newsmen at his ministry in the capital.

Md Noor Hossain involvement of Sahco in the corruption, Obaidul said the ACC is investigating the mat-Sahco is a company owned by former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain

But Abbas said the fund is for the project following the not adequate. "We get a very small fund from the committee. After paying newspaper

for buying books," he said. An official requesting anonymity said, "During load shedding, we have to sit idle in the dark, as we do not

special envoy to India and South Asia on infrastructure, generator." signed the MoU in Kuala Lumpur on behalf of their

JS BODY ON FINANCE MINISTRY Members at odds with Lotus Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry yesterday accused AHM Mostafa Kamal, chief of the body, of talking about irrelevant issues while briefing journalists on its meetings.

They also demanded that they be given the meeting minutes so they could compare Mostafa's speeches with the committee proceedings, AKM Mayeedul Islam, a member of the committee, told The Daily Star.

In the face of such allegations, Mostafa Kamal, popularly known as Lotus Kamal, assured the members of providing them with the meeting minutes before finalising those.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mostafa Kamal, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, however, denied the allegation. He said he briefed the media on what the committee members had discussed in the meetings.

But Mayeedul Islam, also a Jatiya Party MP, said, "In our last meeting, we did not discuss anything on CNG issue. But the following day we were so astonished to see media reports. The reports quoted the committee chief as saying that the committee had recommended forbidding luxury vehicles to use CNG [compressed natural

He added he had wanted to write to the committee chief and the other members on the issue but did not do so on advice of a senior AL MP as such initiative might generate criticism.

"That's why I raised the issue verbally before him [Lotus Kamal]" Mayeedul said, adding other members of the parliamentary watchdog had supported his proposal for making meeting minutes available to them.

He said the committee members had felt embarrassed due to the committee chief's speeches to the media. "It seems that he briefs

the media on what he feels like," said the JP lawmaker. Asked, Mostafa Kamal said Mayeedul Islam and

other members of the committee would be provided with the recording of the last meeting's proceedings to check whether the CNG issue had been discussed or "May be he [Mayeedul

Islam] went to the washroom at that time of discussion," Kamal added.

Talking to The Daily Star earlier on some occasions, a number of economist, who were invited to the parliamentary committee's meetings, disagreed with Mostafa Kamal's statement before the media about the decision or recommendations of the committee.

Ctg public library

"In 2009, we got 2 lakh taka. Since then we haven't got any money for repairing the building," he added. Masudul however said although the condition of the building is bad, it is not unusable, and the government is yet to take any step.

Every year they send letters to the government for allocating budget for repairing the building, Masudul added saying, "But we did not get any money as the ministry concerned did not allocate any fund for repairing."

"In September and October 2011 we sent letters to the government for allocating fund, but we haven't got any response yet," he said.

There are about 82,500 books on different subjects in the four-storied library. It regularly subscribes to 28 Bangla newspapers, 9 English newspapers and 53 magazines.

Everyday nearly 2,500 readers come to the library, said an official

Users said although the library has a vast collection of books, still many books, especially related to science and the local culture and heritage, are not available.

"We also don't get many university course related books," said Ashraful Anwar, a student of mass communication and journalism at the University of Chittagong.

Abbas said every year they send a list of books including those in demand to the Dhaka based central committee of public libraries that decides the number and

kinds of books to be sent. "Some books are selected from the list and sent to us,' he said adding that it is very difficult to fulfil the demand of all users.

Talukder, director (joint secretary) of the Central Public Library in Dhaka, said "We select some books from the list. Some books are also selected by the central committee. We provide funds for the most of the books readers demand."

bills, no money is usually left

have any alternate power

Some people get inside the building masquerading as readers, and steal books

taking the chance of power outage, he said adding that the library had a 15-volume collection of documents on the country's Liberation War, 13 volumes of which went missing.

After the incident the authorities of the library said they would take actions against the personnel who are supposed to look after the library's collection, for negligence in duty, but no action has been taken yet, he said.

Four employees of the library are also now on deputation in Dhaka. They however take salaries from the Chittagong Public Library. As a result, the library is largely understaffed now with 10 class III and class IV posts remaining vacant.

"We face many problems due to a shortage of employees," said Abbas.

The library also has only one photocopy machine, which is currently out of order. As a result, readers cannot photocopy books The authorities also do not allow any user to take any book outside the library.

Destiny group

FROM PAGE 1 In a bid to smoothen the investigation, the NBR yesterday directed banks to freeze five more accounts of persons related to Destiny

Group. 5 MORE BANK ACCOUNTS

BLOCKED The NBR yesterday sent letters to all banks asking them to suspend any type of transactions, including withdrawal and transfer of money from the accounts of Mohammad Hossain Didarul Alam, Jamshed Ara Chowdhury, Mainuddin Ahmed and Farid Akhter,

said an official of the NBR. "These persons are not simply general shareholders of Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd., they are also beneficiaries of Destiny," said the official, seeking to remain unnamed

They helped Destiny in opening sister concerns, managed high-ranking positions there and also received commissions and salaries, the official added.

This was the fourth time the tax authority directed banks to block bank accounts of people related to Destiny Group to investigate whether it has complied with the related tax laws or dodged tax.

Earlier, the NBR froze over 10 bank accounts including that of Destiny Group's Chairman Mohammad Rafigul Amin.

Fakhrul among 45 charged

FROM PAGE 1

Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday around 10:45am.

The court will decide on May 13 whether it will take into cognisance the charges brought against the accused. BNP, however, termed the cases and the charge sheet

vated" and asked the government to withdraw both without any delay. On April 29, two cases had been filed with Tejgaon and Ramna police stations against leaders and activists of 18-party alliance in con-

nection with torching a bus

in front of the PMO and a

blast at the secretariat on

that day. "The government has filed the cases and submitted the charge sheet only to divert public attention from the ongoing antigovernment movement, but they won't succeed," said BNP standing committee

addressing a human chain in

front of Jativa Press Club.

Talking to The Daily Star, defence counsel Masud Ahmed Talukder said the court would not be able to give any order on the charge sheet on May 13, as the third bench of the High Court was yet to pass any order on the dissenting orders of the division bench regarding bail of the 30 accused in the

two cases. Of the accused, Mohammad Sohel alias Sohan Miah, conductor of the bus torched; Mohammad Jasim Uddin and Manik Ratan, helpers of the vehicle; Mohammad Kamruzzaman Ratan, former student leader; Mohammad Ismail Khan Shahin, president of Titumir College unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD);

Mohammad Mannan Hossain Shahin, Swechchhasebak Dal president of Mohammadpur Police Station area; and BNP joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed were earlier arrested and sent to jail.

Another accused in the "false and politically motiarson case Mahbub Uddin Khokon got bail on May 9 on his surrender before a Dhaka metropolitan magistrate's court till May 20.

The IO yesterday showed

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 36 others as fugitives since he [the IO] did not receive the copies of their bail order. The IO also sought issuance of arrest warrant against them and an order to attach their moveable property. Meanwhile, the IO

dropped the name of Chhatra Shibir General Secretary Abdur Jabbar as his full address was not member Khandaker found during investigation. Mosharraf Hossain while He showed 18 people, including the owner and the driver of the vehicle torched as prosecution witnesses.

If the charges are proved, the minimum punishment for arson will be two years' rigorous imprisonment while the maximum five years' rigorous imprisonment.

BACKGROUND

Tejgaon police filed a case against a number of leaders and workers of 18-party alliance, including Mirza Fakhrul, Mirza Abbas and Oli Ahmed, hours after a vehicle was set ablaze near the PMO during hartal hours on April 29. The same day, Ramna

police filed another case against top leaders of the alliance for exploding a bomb at the Bangladesh Secretariat that day.

After the cases were filed,

the top BNP leaders accused went into hiding and turned up at the High Court on May 7 to seek bail.

That day, the HC delivered dissenting orders on the bail petitions filed by 30 leaders accused in the two Justice Moyeenul Islam

Chowdhury, senor judge of the bench, granted anticipatory bail to the accused until police submits their reports on the cases. He issued seven separate rules upon the government to explain in four weeks as to why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail. Justice Md Nazrul Islam

Talukder, the other judge, however, directed the politicians accused to surrender before the magistrate's court concerned within seven days and ordered law enforcers not to harass or arrest them during the period. Additional Attorney General MK Rahman said

the two judges would now send Chief Justice Muzammel Hossain the bail petitions along with their orders. The chief justice will then forward the petitions to a third HC bench for disposal, he added. THE CHARGE-SHEETED

ACCUSED

BNP leaders Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, MK Anwar, Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Mirza Abbas, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Amanullah Aman, Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, AKM Fazlul Haque Milon, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne, Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Lutfor Rahman and Nabi Solaiman; JCD President Sultan Salauddin Tuku; Liberal Democratic Party President Col (retd) Oli

Ahmed; Jamaat-e-Islami acting Ameer Maqbul Ahmad; BJP President Andalib Rahman Partha; Swechchhasebak Dal President Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel; Jagpa President Shafiul Alam Pradhan and

Pragatishil Ganotantrik

Shakti Chairman Sheikh

city

Shawkat Hossain Nilu. Mohammad Sohel alias Sohan Miah, conductor of the bus torched; Mohammad Jasim Uddin and Manik Ratan, helpers of the vehicle.

The other charge-sheeted

accused are, BNP leader

Nazimuddin Alam; Swechchhasebak Dal General Secretary Mir Sharafat Ali Safu; JCD General Secretary Amirul Islam Khan Alim; JCD Organising Secretary Anisur Rahman Khokon; Dhaka South Juba Dal President SM Jahangir Hossain Sarder; its General Secretary Rafiqul Islam alias Mojnu; Swechchhasebak Dal Convenor Yeasin Ali; its general Secretary Saiful Islam Nirob; DU unit JCD Convenor Abdul Matin; its Joint Convenor Obaidul Haque Nasir; Dhaka South JCD general Secretary Habibur Rashid; Dhaka North JCD General Secretary Kamal Anwar Ahmed; former Dhaka City Corporation ward councillors Kazi Abul Bashar, Yunus Mridha and Anwaruzzaman alias Anwar; former student leader Mohammad Kamruzzaman Ratan; president of Titumir College unit JCD Mohammad Ismail Khan Shahin; Swechchhasebak Dal president of Mohammadpur Police Station area Mohammad Mannan Hossain Shahin and Chhatra Shibir leaders Nurul Islam Bulbul and

Ashraf

Nobel Prize in economics," Ashraful said launching a blistering attack on Prof Yunus, known as the "banker for the poor".

He was addressing a programme for farmers of cooperative society, organised by the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Ashraful said, "He [Prof Yunus] got Nobel Prize for Peace. But which war has he stopped with his activities and in which continent has he established peace through his microcredit programme?

"These days many of us know how one gets Nobel Prize. There are some countries in the world and a person's popularity increases once one has chips, sandwiches and white wine in those countries.

can be achieved with time," he said.

Ashraful said, "Two women of Ireland formed a peace organisation titled 'Motherland Peace' and within two months they got Nobel Peace Prize. But the two ladies engaged in a fight over the prize money and in the third month the matter went to the court and peace did not prevail anymore."

Continuing his swipe at the country's lone Nobel laureate, the Awami League spokesperson also relaunched his sharp criticism on Prof Yunus' microcredit programme appreciated worldwide. He said it would take more than 1,000 years to develop Bangladesh through microcredit activities.

the next one thousand years through NGOs and microcredit activities," he

ADDA CRITICISED

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's programme with youths titled "Adda with Bangladesh" during her

He said, "This was the Town Hall type programme. She [Hillary] held talks with some so-called youths of the Detective Branch of police country, and a private TV last night that they were

"But during her [Hillary] trying to locate the mobile. He said somebody might have found the SIM abandoned and used it on Major Sabbir Ahmed

manding officer of Rab-7 in programme," he said.

In the Kolkata programme, there were no questions regarding the

Munni Saha] fixed the people who would ask questions

an attempt to undermine Bangladesh in that programme, which is very shameful.

Switzerland lifts Myanmar

AFP, Geneva

Switzerland on Wednesday became the latest country to rule last year.

with the exception of an embargo on arms and other goods liable to be used in repression, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) said. "The Federal Council

(government) welcomes the positive developments witnessed in recent months in Myanmar and intends to support the reform efforts with the partial lifting of sanctions," SECO said in a

Speaker crossed Ilias' mobile

the Speaker said Sohel Taj, now in the US, did not write the letter in his own hand but rather had it typed. Moreover, he did not submit it in person and the letter did not contain the phrase "willing to resign," which is obligatory under Article 67 of the constitu-

Sohel Taj's resignation letter, in Hamid's view, was not written in line with constitutional provisions and the Rules of Procedure of the House. "Therefore, I did not accept his resignation letter," he told report-

ers on Wednesday. Former attorney general Mahmudul Islam in his book, "Constitutional Law of Bangladesh", writes that Article 67 (2) of the constitution provides an MP with the unilateral right to resign from his seat. The effectiveness of such resignation does not depend on its acceptance by any authority, Mahmudul writes, citing court orders in Bangladesh

and India. According to a 1995 High Court judgment, the constitution does not have any provision authorising the Speaker to accept or reject

an MP's resignation letter. On submitting the letter in person, the HC noted, "the letter need not be written by the lawmaker concerned; it is sufficient if it is

signed by him or her." The HC gave the judgment in response to a writ petition filed after 147 opposition lawmakers resigned en masse from the Fifth Parliament on December 28, 1994.

The then Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali had declined to accept those and told the House that the en masse not in accordance with Article 67 (2) of the country's charter. Speaker Abdul Hamid

himself was one of the 147 Talking to journalists at

his JS office on Wednesday, Hamid cited his predecessor's decision. But he might have forgotten to cite the HC judgment on the issue.

Sections 177 and 178 of the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad empower the Speaker to verify the the office.

authenticity of the resignation letter and ascertain the intention of the resigning parliamentarian.

The 1995 HC verdict says the Speaker can easily determine the genuineness of the signature by comparing it with the signature of the MP in the Roll of Members in the Parliament Secretariat.

It further observes that in case of allegations of fraud or coercion applied on the MP in obtaining his signature, the Speaker is also to examine the voluntariness of the signature in the letter of resignation to ascertain the intention of the MP in

quitting. Abdul Hamid did ascertain the intent of Sohel -- he talked to him over the phone lately. The Speaker himself said Sohel wanted to know when his resignation would come into effect. He did not have any confusion about the authenticity of Sohel's signature on the

Theoretically, the Speaker should not have had any doubt as to why Sohel had resigned from the

JS. Yet he said he had. The Speaker's delayed rejection has already led to the public perception that his office might have acted in conformity with the prime minister's stance on Sohel's resignation from the

council of ministers. A few days after Sohel resigned from the JS on April 23, some newspapers, citing government sources, ran reports to the effect that his resignation as MP might be kept hanging as was his resignation from the home ministry.

He was made a minister of state without portfolio after his resignation on May resignation in his view was 31, 2009 as the PM did not "accept" his resignation. Media reports were then

Sujan Vice-president M proved right when the Hafizuddin Khan, another Speaker on Wednesday former adviser to the caremade known his decision taker government, said, vis-a-vis declining to "ac-"One of the two major politicept" Sohel's resignation. cal parties will be destroyed, In the process, Hamid's if such confrontation conconfusion has dragged the tinues." Speaker's office into con-The activities of the polittroversy. This will in no way

ical parties are dragging the uphold the dignity of the country into violence, said office of the Speaker. Rather Zafrullah Chowdhury, one of the hullabaloo may end up damaging the sanctity of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

the trustees of Referring to the huge spoke.

on. A woman answered one such call but put it down after saying "hello". Immediately afterwards

Mahbubur Rahman

deputy commissioner at

(north), told The Daily Star

his/her own cell phone.

Siddiqui, acting com-

Sylhet, said they repeatedly

tried to reach the number

and locate its user but

the Jubo Dal and Chhatra

they had been trying to find

the mobile phone since the

BNP leader's disappear-

Dal leaders baseless.

He termed the claims of

The Rab official also said

police officials.

Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

he phoned the number at switched off again. 5:25pm. Askir also said they It rang several times but informed the matter to the Rapid Action Battalion and

nobody received. Shamsuddin dialled the number after he had heard that Abdul Latif, a joint convener of Biswanath upazila unit Jubo Dal, got a missed call around 4:45pm. Latif could not pick it up as he was talking over the

Biswanath upazila unit of

the pro-BNP student

organisation, told our

Sylhet correspondent that

FROM PAGE 1

phone. The missed call was from the phone Ilias used the day he went missing, his son Labib Sharar told

The Daily Star. The 51-year-old BNP leader, also a former lawmaker, along with his driver has been out of trace since early April 18. His car was found abandoned in the capital's Banani.

Ilias' brother Askir Ali said their relatives and BNP members staying in London have also found the mobile phone switched

political parties to resolve

conflicts and uphold

cern over the deterioration

come out of the cycle of two

major political parties as

long as the "majoritarian"

system continues, said

former election commis-

sioner M Shakhawat

adviser to the caretaker

government, said the elec-

torate should take corrective

measures to deal with the

faults and wrongdoings in

Chairing the function,

the political arena.

ASM Shahjahan, former

He also expressed con-

People will not be able to

FROM PAGE 20

democracy.

Hussain.

of law and order.

Raise voice amount of money being deposited in the account of former state minister for home Tanjim Ahmad Sohel

> he said it was nothing but money laundering. Academician Prof Ajoy Roy said a third political force is needed to end the

Former Jahangirnagai

ongoing political crisis.

Taj without his knowledge

University Prof Dilara Chowdhury urged the civil society members not to serve the purpose of any political party. Sujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said politi-

the citizens became more responsive. Mahmudur Rahman Manna, former organising secretary of Awami League, said people should raise their voices to draw attention of the politicians to what they say.

Dhaka University Law Prof Asif Nazrul, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder, and former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury also

FROM PAGE 1

"Even Nobel Peace Prize

"There's no instance that any country in the world has developed through NGOs and microcredit activities... we too won't be able to achieve progress in

said.

Ashraful also criticised US the phone was found May 5-6 visit to Dhaka.

channel aired it.

visit to Kolkata, she also held a similar programme and it was aired by a TV channel and ads of this programme were being aired three days ahead," Ashraful added.

"But in our country we didn't know about it even prior to the day of the

internal matters of India. "They talked about international politics and Iran issue," he said. "But here the moderator [head of news, ATN News,

prior to the programme and rehearsals also took place," he claimed. He alleged that there was

sanctions

ease sanctions against Myanmar in a show of support for sweeping reforms cians would be compelled to since the end of direct army change their behaviours, if Bern will lift all sanctions

statement.