



Kuwaiti firefighters at the scene of the fatal blaze.

PHOTO: KUNA

Fire kills five

FROM PAGE 1
help was too late to get to them, it said. Contacted over the phone early today, Mohamad Ibrahim, head of international news department of Al Rai daily newspaper, told The Daily Star the victims were Bangladeshis. But further details of the victims could not be known immediately. A case was filed in connection with the incident.

Building collapse kills six in India

AFP, Bangalore
At least six people were killed yesterday when an apartment block collapsed in southern India following a gas tank explosion, police said. The two-storey building in a crowded neighbourhood in Bangalore city was reduced to rubble after the cooking gas tank triggered a devastating blast. "The victims were buried in the debris of the building," a police official told AFP, adding the explosion occurred in the kitchen of a ground floor flat. "A search is underway to find survivors, if any, at the site of the incident." Rescue workers managed to pull a three-year-old alive from the ruins and were frantically searching for others believed trapped beneath tonnes of concrete. A government inquiry has been ordered into the accident.

Building disasters are common in Indian cities where millions are forced to live in cramped, dilapidated properties because of spiralling real estate prices and a lack of housing for the poor. Activists say housing societies, private owners and builders often cut corners to save on costs.

Defence lawyers for S Korea's Park quit over alleged bias

AFP, Seoul
Former South Korean president Park Geun-Hye's defence lawyers resigned en masse yesterday in protest at what they called a biased corruption trial, as the ex-leader described the proceedings as "political revenge". Park faces multiple charges including bribery, coercion and abuse of power for offering governmental favours to tycoons, and is being held in custody.

She was impeached by parliament after months of mass protests against her over a sprawling graft scandal, and the constitutional court upheld the decision in March, dismissing her from office. She went on criminal trial in May. The warrant for Park's detention was extended for six months last week, with the court citing the risk that she could destroy evidence if released. At yesterday's hearing all seven of her lawyers submitted their resignations, a court spokesman said. The lawyers protested at the extension of the warrant, saying that the principle of the presumption of innocence was "collapsing", according to Yonhap news agency. "As we've reached a conclusion that any defence argument for the defendant is meaningless, all of us decided to resign," one of them, Yoo Yeong-Ha, told the court.

The court asked them to reconsider since the proceedings cannot continue without defence lawyers. State attorneys will be appointed to defend Park if her own lawyers insist on withdrawing, but the replacement will take time as new representatives would have to review more than 100,000 pages of evidence.

Ireland closes schools as major storm approaches

AFP, Dublin

Schools were closed yesterday as Ireland braced for an "unprecedented storm", with authorities warning that violent winds, rain and storm surges could pose a risk to life. Ophelia, the largest hurricane ever recorded so far east in the Atlantic Ocean, was downgraded to a storm before it hit the Irish coast but the Met Eireann national weather service warned people to remain indoors. "Ex-hurricane Ophelia is forecast to track directly over Ireland during daytime today. Violent and destructive gusts are forecast with all areas at risk," the service said early yesterday.

It warned of "heavy rain and storm surges along some coasts will result in flooding. There is a potential risk to lives". The education ministry said "all schools, colleges and other education institutions" would be closed yesterday, after official advice on what it called an "unprecedented storm". Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on Sunday that defence forces would be deployed to areas due to be hit by the storm.

Cork airport in the southwest cancelled a number of flights. Speed restrictions were placed on trains, and some lines in the south were cancelled. Government offices were also closed across the country. Met Eireann issued a nationwide "status red" alert, while a less serious amber wind warning has been issued for Northern Ireland during the afternoon.

"By the time Ophelia reaches our latitudes, she will be weakening and will be an ex-hurricane," said Steve Ramsdale, chief forecaster at Britain's Met Office national weather service. "However, Ex-Ophelia will be bringing some significant impacts to Northern Ireland and western and northern Britain on Monday and Tuesday." Scotland, Wales and parts of England were under yellow warnings issued by the Met Office, which forecast "very strong winds" and heavy rain in some areas.

The storm came 30 years to the day of the Great Storm, which ravaged southern England in the early hours of October 16, 1987, leaving 18 people dead. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

Cambodian MPs to take over seats if opposition dissolved

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia's ruling party yesterday voted to redistribute parliamentary seats held by the embattled main opposition if -- as expected -- it is dissolved by a court in coming weeks. Prime Minister Hun Sen has hacked away at the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) in recent months, chasing most of its 55 MPs into self-exile, as he flexes his muscles before an election in 2018 that could have tested his 32-year grip on power. Earlier this month his government asked the top court to dissolve the CNRP, whose existence is hanging by a thread after its leader was arrested on treason charges. The supreme court has not given a date for its ruling but it is expected this year. Yesterday, all 67 ruling party MPs, including Hun Sen, voted to amend the law to allow the election authority to redistribute seats or local posts held by a dissolved party to other parties represented in elections. None of the CNRP's MPs attended yesterday's vote. Cheam Yeap, a lawmaker for the ruling Cambodia People's Party (CPP), said the change was needed to take account of the "shifting political situation". Analysts predict the main beneficiary will be the royalist Funcinpec Party, headed by Prince Norodom Norodom Ranariddh, half-brother to the current king.

tion, said Zia never restored multi-party democracy and demanded CEC withdraw his remark. Meanwhile, Abdul Kader Siddique, president of Krishak Sramik Janata League yesterday demanded the CEC's resignation. "CEC cannot say that Ziaur Rahman restored multi-party democracy in the country. If Zia had restored democracy then someone had killed multi-party democracy," he told reporters after a meeting at EC office with the CEC in the chair. Kader led a delegation and placed an 18-point proposal at the meeting. Following the two-and-a-half hour meeting with the election commissioners yesterday, Kader claimed that he had boycotted it protesting the CEC's remark. "The CEC was alone in saying this and did not discuss it with the other election commissioners and we do not agree with his comments. That is why we boycotted the dialogue. We demand his resignation." Kader also said the CEC told him that he got the information of the good work the BNP has done from the internet. His 18-point proposal included dissolution of parliament, formation of a poll-time non-partisan and neutral government and deployment of army at least 15 days ahead of the election.

AL 'sees it as CEC's strategy'

FROM PAGE 16

"The BNP is in a cheerful mood now. I expect it will remain unchanged till the elections," Quader said, responding to a question at Krishibid Institute. "We don't want pity from the Election Commission, we rather expect impartiality." Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said they will ask about CEC's remark during AL's talks with the Election Commission (EC) on October 18. CEC's remark, during the EC's talks with the BNP on Sunday, that Ziaur Rahman restored multi-party democracy in the country has been widely discussed in political circles and social media platforms. When Nurul was appointed as the CEC, BNP and its allies called him a controversial government official and said they were deeply frustrated and aggrieved. Talking to The Daily Star about Nurul's remark, AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak, said, "CEC has made a personal opinion. Bangabandhu's Baksal was a different system of governance. I do not believe that military autocrat Ziaur Rahman restored multi-party democracy. "I think multi-party democracy in the real sense started in 1991."

At a rally at AL headquarter on Bangabandhu Avenue, Fazlul Haque Mantu, executive president of Jatiya Shramik League, a pro-AL organisation, said Zia never restored multi-party democracy and demanded CEC withdraw his remark. Meanwhile, Abdul Kader Siddique, president of Krishak Sramik Janata League yesterday demanded the CEC's resignation. "CEC cannot say that Ziaur Rahman restored multi-party democracy in the country. If Zia had restored democracy then someone had killed multi-party democracy," he told reporters after a meeting at EC office with the CEC in the chair. Kader led a delegation and placed an 18-point proposal at the meeting. Following the two-and-a-half hour meeting with the election commissioners yesterday, Kader claimed that he had boycotted it protesting the CEC's remark. "The CEC was alone in saying this and did not discuss it with the other election commissioners and we do not agree with his comments. That is why we boycotted the dialogue. We demand his resignation." Kader also said the CEC told him that he got the information of the good work the BNP has done from the internet. His 18-point proposal included dissolution of parliament, formation of a poll-time non-partisan and neutral government and deployment of army at least 15 days ahead of the election.

'Gunfight' with Rab 'Robber' killed in Sundarbans

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members in Sharankhola range of the Sundarbans in Bagerhat early yesterday. Deceased Md Moktar Mollah was the second-in-command of Sundarban-based robber gang which calls itself "Liton Bahini", Rab sources said. The dead body was sent to Sharankhola Police Station of the district, commanding officer of Rab-8 Lt Col Akhtaruzzaman said. Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the gang members opened fire on them around 8:15am, forcing the elite force to retaliate which triggered a gunfight. Several gunshots were traded between the criminals and Rab team during the 35-minute fight, according to a press release of Rab-8. The law enforcers found the bullet-hit body of Moktar on the spot while other gang members managed to flee the scene, the press release said. It said 21 local and foreign-made firearms, 37 bullets and other daily essentials were found at the spot.

Deceased Md Moktar Mollah was the second-in-command of Sundarban-based robber gang which calls itself "Liton Bahini", Rab sources said. The dead body was sent to Sharankhola Police Station of the district, commanding officer of Rab-8 Lt Col Akhtaruzzaman said. Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the gang members opened fire on them around 8:15am, forcing the elite force to retaliate which triggered a gunfight. Several gunshots were traded between the criminals and Rab team during the 35-minute fight, according to a press release of Rab-8. The law enforcers found the bullet-hit body of Moktar on the spot while other gang members managed to flee the scene, the press release said. It said 21 local and foreign-made firearms, 37 bullets and other daily essentials were found at the spot.

Deceased Md Moktar Mollah was the second-in-command of Sundarban-based robber gang which calls itself "Liton Bahini", Rab sources said. The dead body was sent to Sharankhola Police Station of the district, commanding officer of Rab-8 Lt Col Akhtaruzzaman said. Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the gang members opened fire on them around 8:15am, forcing the elite force to retaliate which triggered a gunfight. Several gunshots were traded between the criminals and Rab team during the 35-minute fight, according to a press release of Rab-8. The law enforcers found the bullet-hit body of Moktar on the spot while other gang members managed to flee the scene, the press release said. It said 21 local and foreign-made firearms, 37 bullets and other daily essentials were found at the spot.

Gold rush

FROM PAGE 16

heavy elements like platinum and uranium, scientists say. And now the explosion has kick-started a "new chapter in astrophysics", and confirmed theories about the origin of the mysterious neutron stars. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

heavy elements like platinum and uranium, scientists say. And now the explosion has kick-started a "new chapter in astrophysics", and confirmed theories about the origin of the mysterious neutron stars. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

heavy elements like platinum and uranium, scientists say. And now the explosion has kick-started a "new chapter in astrophysics", and confirmed theories about the origin of the mysterious neutron stars. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

heavy elements like platinum and uranium, scientists say. And now the explosion has kick-started a "new chapter in astrophysics", and confirmed theories about the origin of the mysterious neutron stars. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

heavy elements like platinum and uranium, scientists say. And now the explosion has kick-started a "new chapter in astrophysics", and confirmed theories about the origin of the mysterious neutron stars. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

heavy elements like platinum and uranium, scientists say. And now the explosion has kick-started a "new chapter in astrophysics", and confirmed theories about the origin of the mysterious neutron stars. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

heavy elements like platinum and uranium, scientists say. And now the explosion has kick-started a "new chapter in astrophysics", and confirmed theories about the origin of the mysterious neutron stars. The huge explosion rocked the fabric of the universe, distorting the fabric of the universe. That is a major discovery in itself, marking only the fifth time that gravitational waves have been spotted on Earth. Scientists not only "heard" the phenomenon by measuring vibrations in space-time, they also used satellite and ground-based telescopes to see light and radiation pouring out of the stellar fireball, dubbed a "kilonova". Excited astronomers talked of opening a "new chapter in astrophysics" and unlocking a "treasure trove" of new science. Every other gravitational wave detection has been traced to black holes crashing together in remote regions of the universe more than a billion light years away. The new event - though still very distant - was much closer and completely different in nature. It was caused by colliding neutron stars - burned out remnants of giant stars so dense that a teaspoon of their material on Earth would weigh a billion tons. The two objects, each about 12 miles in diameter, stretched and distorted space-time as they spiralled towards each other and finally collided. Like ripples from a stone thrown in a pond, the gravitational waves fanned out across the universe at the speed of light. They were picked up on Earth by two incredibly sensitive detectors in Washington and Louisiana in the US, operated by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (Ligo).

Judges informed

FROM PAGE 2

front of his official residence at Kakrail and handed them a signed statement, typed in Bangla, saying that he was not sick. He also said he was a "bit worried about the independence of the judiciary". "Because citing the senior most judge [of the Supreme Court] who is now acting as the chief justice, the law minister yesterday [on Thursday] said that the judge acting as the chief justice will bring changes to the Supreme Court administration soon. "There is no precedence of interference in the administration of the chief justice by the judge acting as the chief justice or the government. He [the judge acting as the CJ] will only discharge daily work as per the routine. It has always been like this. "If any interference is made in the chief justice's administration, it can be easily assumed that the government is interfering in the higher court and this will further deteriorate the relationship between the judiciary and the government. It would not bring any good to the state," he added. The following day, the SC issued the statement after a meeting of the five judges of the Appellate Division led by Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah. In the statement, the SC said it was issued as Justice Sinha's statement was "misleading" and had drawn the court's attention. According to the SC statement, on September 30, the president invited the five judges, other than Justice Sinha, to the Bangabhaban. The four other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider. At one stage of a long discussion, the president handed them over documentary evidence over 11 specific allegations against the chief justice. The allegations include "money laundering, financial irregularities, corruption, moral turpitude and some other specific serious allegations", added the statement.

front of his official residence at Kakrail and handed them a signed statement, typed in Bangla, saying that he was not sick. He also said he was a "bit worried about the independence of the judiciary". "Because citing the senior most judge [of the Supreme Court] who is now acting as the chief justice, the law minister yesterday [on Thursday] said that the judge acting as the chief justice will bring changes to the Supreme Court administration soon. "There is no precedence of interference in the administration of the chief justice by the judge acting as the chief justice or the government. He [the judge acting as the CJ] will only discharge daily work as per the routine. It has always been like this. "If any interference is made in the chief justice's administration, it can be easily assumed that the government is interfering in the higher court and this will further deteriorate the relationship between the judiciary and the government. It would not bring any good to the state," he added. The following day, the SC issued the statement after a meeting of the five judges of the Appellate Division led by Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah. In the statement, the SC said it was issued as Justice Sinha's statement was "misleading" and had drawn the court's attention. According to the SC statement, on September 30, the president invited the five judges, other than Justice Sinha, to the Bangabhaban. The four other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider. At one stage of a long discussion, the president handed them over documentary evidence over 11 specific allegations against the chief justice. The allegations include "money laundering, financial irregularities, corruption, moral turpitude and some other specific serious allegations", added the statement.

front of his official residence at Kakrail and handed them a signed statement, typed in Bangla, saying that he was not sick. He also said he was a "bit worried about the independence of the judiciary". "Because citing the senior most judge [of the Supreme Court] who is now acting as the chief justice, the law minister yesterday [on Thursday] said that the judge acting as the chief justice will bring changes to the Supreme Court administration soon. "There is no precedence of interference in the administration of the chief justice by the judge acting as the chief justice or the government. He [the judge acting as the CJ] will only discharge daily work as per the routine. It has always been like this. "If any interference is made in the chief justice's administration, it can be easily assumed that the government is interfering in the higher court and this will further deteriorate the relationship between the judiciary and the government. It would not bring any good to the state," he added. The following day, the SC issued the statement after a meeting of the five judges of the Appellate Division led by Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah. In the statement, the SC said it was issued as Justice Sinha's statement was "misleading" and had drawn the court's attention. According to the SC statement, on September 30, the president invited the five judges, other than Justice Sinha, to the Bangabhaban. The four other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider. At one stage of a long discussion, the president handed them over documentary evidence over 11 specific allegations against the chief justice. The allegations include "money laundering, financial irregularities, corruption, moral turpitude and some other specific serious allegations", added the statement.

front of his official residence at Kakrail and handed them a signed statement, typed in Bangla, saying that he was not sick. He also said he was a "bit worried about the independence of the judiciary". "Because citing the senior most judge [of the Supreme Court] who is now acting as the chief justice, the law minister yesterday [on Thursday] said that the judge acting as the chief justice will bring changes to the Supreme Court administration soon. "There is no precedence of interference in the administration of the chief justice by the judge acting as the chief justice or the government. He [the judge acting as the CJ] will only discharge daily work as per the routine. It has always been like this. "If any interference is made in the chief justice's administration, it can be easily assumed that the government is interfering in the higher court and this will further deteriorate the relationship between the judiciary and the government. It would not bring any good to the state," he added. The following day, the SC issued the statement after a meeting of the five judges of the Appellate Division led by Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah. In the statement, the SC said it was issued as Justice Sinha's statement was "misleading" and had drawn the court's attention. According to the SC statement, on September 30, the president invited the five judges, other than Justice Sinha, to the Bangabhaban. The four other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider. At one stage of a long discussion, the president handed them over documentary evidence over 11 specific allegations against the chief justice. The allegations include "money laundering, financial irregularities, corruption, moral turpitude and some other specific serious allegations", added the statement.

front of his official residence at Kakrail and handed them a signed statement, typed in Bangla, saying that he was not sick. He also said he was a "bit worried about the independence of the judiciary". "Because citing the senior most judge [of the Supreme Court] who is now acting as the chief justice, the law minister yesterday [on Thursday] said that the judge acting as the chief justice will bring changes to the Supreme Court administration soon. "There is no precedence of interference in the administration of the chief justice by the judge acting as the chief justice or the government. He [the judge acting as the CJ] will only discharge daily work as per the routine. It has always been like this. "If any interference is made in the chief justice's administration, it can be easily assumed that the government is interfering in the higher court and this will further deteriorate the relationship between the judiciary and the government. It would not bring any good to the state," he added. The following day, the SC issued the statement after a meeting of the five judges of the Appellate Division led by Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah. In the statement, the SC said it was issued as Justice Sinha's statement was "misleading" and had drawn the court's attention. According to the SC statement, on September 30, the president invited the five judges, other than Justice Sinha, to the Bangabhaban. The four other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider. At one stage of a long discussion, the president handed them over documentary evidence over 11 specific allegations against the chief justice. The allegations include "money laundering, financial irregularities, corruption, moral turpitude and some other specific serious allegations", added the statement.

front of his official residence at Kakrail and handed them a signed statement, typed in Bangla, saying that he was not sick. He also said he was a "bit worried about the independence of the judiciary". "Because citing the senior most judge [of the Supreme Court] who is now acting as the chief justice, the law minister yesterday [on Thursday] said that the judge acting as the chief justice will bring changes to the Supreme Court administration soon. "There is no precedence of interference in the administration of the chief justice by the judge acting as the chief justice or the government. He [the judge acting as the CJ] will only discharge daily work as per the routine. It has always been like this. "If any interference is made in the chief justice's administration, it can be easily assumed that the government is interfering in the higher court and this will further deteriorate the relationship between the judiciary and the government. It would not bring any good to the state," he added. The following day, the SC issued the statement after a meeting of the five judges of the Appellate Division led by Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah. In the statement, the SC said it was issued as Justice Sinha's statement was "misleading" and had drawn the court's attention. According to the SC statement, on September 30, the president invited the five judges, other than Justice Sinha, to the Bangabhaban. The four other judges are Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider. At one stage of a long discussion, the president handed them over documentary evidence over 11 specific allegations against the chief justice. The allegations include "money laundering, financial irregularities, corruption, moral turpitude and some other specific serious allegations", added the statement.

One killed in Sylhet

FROM PAGE 16

district unit BCL, pro-Awami League student body, confirmed that Omar was a BCL activist. Witnesses said some BCL activists, led by Tofayel Ahmed, stabbed Omar and his men Nasim Ahmed, 21, and Tarik Ahmed, 22, after stopping their CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm. The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Omar died. Tarik was released from the hospital after primary treatment. Omar was a former of Hiron Mahmud Nipu, former president of Sylhet district unit BCL, while Tofayel is a follower of Rayhan, said BCL insiders. Rayhan said Omar and Tofayel, a student of Government MC College in Sylhet, were locked in an altercation over establishing supremacy on MC College campus three days ago. Later, their seniors helped them solve the matter. He added that yesterday's incident might have taken place following previous enmity. Followers of Omar blocked a road in Tilagarh area around 6:30pm, protesting the killing. Jedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said they were trying to detain the killer. The Daily Star could not contact Tofayel for his comments. BCL INFIGHTING The six BCL activists, who were wounded in yesterday's factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

district unit BCL, pro-Awami League student body, confirmed that Omar was a BCL activist. Witnesses said some BCL activists, led by Tofayel Ahmed, stabbed Omar and his men Nasim Ahmed, 21, and Tarik Ahmed, 22, after stopping their CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm. The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Omar died. Tarik was released from the hospital after primary treatment. Omar was a former of Hiron Mahmud Nipu, former president of Sylhet district unit BCL, while Tofayel is a follower of Rayhan, said BCL insiders. Rayhan said Omar and Tofayel, a student of Government MC College in Sylhet, were locked in an altercation over establishing supremacy on MC College campus three days ago. Later, their seniors helped them solve the matter. He added that yesterday's incident might have taken place following previous enmity. Followers of Omar blocked a road in Tilagarh area around 6:30pm, protesting the killing. Jedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said they were trying to detain the killer. The Daily Star could not contact Tofayel for his comments. BCL INFIGHTING The six BCL activists, who were wounded in yesterday's factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

district unit BCL, pro-Awami League student body, confirmed that Omar was a BCL activist. Witnesses said some BCL activists, led by Tofayel Ahmed, stabbed Omar and his men Nasim Ahmed, 21, and Tarik Ahmed, 22, after stopping their CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm. The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Omar died. Tarik was released from the hospital after primary treatment. Omar was a former of Hiron Mahmud Nipu, former president of Sylhet district unit BCL, while Tofayel is a follower of Rayhan, said BCL insiders. Rayhan said Omar and Tofayel, a student of Government MC College in Sylhet, were locked in an altercation over establishing supremacy on MC College campus three days ago. Later, their seniors helped them solve the matter. He added that yesterday's incident might have taken place following previous enmity. Followers of Omar blocked a road in Tilagarh area around 6:30pm, protesting the killing. Jedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said they were trying to detain the killer. The Daily Star could not contact Tofayel for his comments. BCL INFIGHTING The six BCL activists, who were wounded in yesterday's factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

district unit BCL, pro-Awami League student body, confirmed that Omar was a BCL activist. Witnesses said some BCL activists, led by Tofayel Ahmed, stabbed Omar and his men Nasim Ahmed, 21, and Tarik Ahmed, 22, after stopping their CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm. The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Omar died. Tarik was released from the hospital after primary treatment. Omar was a former of Hiron Mahmud Nipu, former president of Sylhet district unit BCL, while Tofayel is a follower of Rayhan, said BCL insiders. Rayhan said Omar and Tofayel, a student of Government MC College in Sylhet, were locked in an altercation over establishing supremacy on MC College campus three days ago. Later, their seniors helped them solve the matter. He added that yesterday's incident might have taken place following previous enmity. Followers of Omar blocked a road in Tilagarh area around 6:30pm, protesting the killing. Jedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said they were trying to detain the killer. The Daily Star could not contact Tofayel for his comments. BCL INFIGHTING The six BCL activists, who were wounded in yesterday's factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

district unit BCL, pro-Awami League student body, confirmed that Omar was a BCL activist. Witnesses said some BCL activists, led by Tofayel Ahmed, stabbed Omar and his men Nasim Ahmed, 21, and Tarik Ahmed, 22, after stopping their CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm. The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Omar died. Tarik was released from the hospital after primary treatment. Omar was a former of Hiron Mahmud Nipu, former president of Sylhet district unit BCL, while Tofayel is a follower of Rayhan, said BCL insiders. Rayhan said Omar and Tofayel, a student of Government MC College in Sylhet, were locked in an altercation over establishing supremacy on MC College campus three days ago. Later, their seniors helped them solve the matter. He added that yesterday's incident might have taken place following previous enmity. Followers of Omar blocked a road in Tilagarh area around 6:30pm, protesting the killing. Jedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said they were trying to detain the killer. The Daily Star could not contact Tofayel for his comments. BCL INFIGHTING The six BCL activists, who were wounded in yesterday's factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

district unit BCL, pro-Awami League student body, confirmed that Omar was a BCL activist. Witnesses said some BCL activists, led by Tofayel Ahmed, stabbed Omar and his men Nasim Ahmed, 21, and Tarik Ahmed, 22, after stopping their CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm. The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Omar died. Tarik was released from the hospital after primary treatment. Omar was a former of Hiron Mahmud Nipu, former president of Sylhet district unit BCL, while Tofayel is a follower of Rayhan, said BCL insiders. Rayhan said Omar and Tofayel, a student of Government MC College in Sylhet, were locked in an altercation over establishing supremacy on MC College campus three days ago. Later, their seniors helped them solve the matter. He added that yesterday's incident might have taken place following previous enmity. Followers of Omar blocked a road in Tilagarh area around 6:30pm, protesting the killing. Jedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said they were trying to detain the killer. The Daily Star could not contact Tofayel for his comments. BCL INFIGHTING The six BCL activists, who were wounded in yesterday's factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

HC asks govt to block links

FROM PAGE 16

operators from offering special night-time internet packages with discounts, saying such offers encourage the public to search and eventually play such games. A rule was issued as well, asking the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to block the links and gateways of deadly online games and to restrain the mobile phone operators from offering the special packages, petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallob told The Daily Star. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and mobile phone operators -- Grameenphone, Robi, Airtel, Banglalink, Teletalk and Citycell -- are among the respondents. The HC also asked the government authorities to form a monitoring committee with experts to identify the victims affected by the games and to provide them with counselling if necessary. A bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan

operators from offering special night-time internet packages with discounts, saying such offers encourage the public to search and eventually play such games. A rule was issued as well, asking the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to block the links and gateways of deadly online games and to restrain the mobile phone operators from offering the special packages, petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallob told The Daily Star. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and mobile phone operators -- Grameenphone, Robi, Airtel, Banglalink, Teletalk and Citycell -- are among the respondents. The HC also asked the government authorities to form a monitoring committee with experts to identify the victims affected by the games and to provide them with counselling if necessary. A bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan

operators from offering special night-time internet packages with discounts, saying such offers encourage the public to search and eventually play such games. A rule was issued as well, asking the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to block the links and gateways of deadly online games and to restrain the mobile phone operators from offering the special packages, petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallob told The Daily Star. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and mobile phone operators -- Grameenphone, Robi, Airtel, Banglalink, Teletalk and Citycell -- are among the respondents. The HC also asked the government authorities to form a monitoring committee with experts to identify the victims affected by the games and to provide them with counselling if necessary. A bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan

operators from offering special night-time internet packages with discounts, saying such offers encourage the public to search and eventually play such games. A rule was issued as well, asking the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to block the links and gateways of deadly online games and to restrain the mobile phone operators from offering the special packages, petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallob told The Daily Star. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and mobile phone operators -- Grameenphone, Robi, Airtel, Banglalink, Teletalk and Citycell -- are among the respondents. The HC also asked the government authorities to form a monitoring committee with experts to identify the victims affected by the games and to provide them with counselling if necessary. A bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan

operators from offering special night-time internet packages with discounts, saying such offers encourage the public to search and eventually play such games. A rule was issued as well, asking the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to block the links and gateways of deadly online games and to restrain the mobile phone operators from offering the special packages,