

"MYSTERY" OF ZIA KILLING
Khaleda, Tarique
need to be
remanded
Hasina tells news
briefing on China trip

The Gono Bhaban yesterday denied The Daily Star reporter access to cover the prime minister's press conference without giving any reason. The Daily Star, however, carries the report based on information obtained from secondary sources.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman should be remanded to unearth the mystery behind the assassination of former president Ziaur Rahman.

"They termed Ershad the killer of Ziaur Rahman but didn't sue him. Even they didn't feel ashamed of

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RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

Lengthy, complex process discouraging info seekers

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lengthy and cumbersome process needed to extract information is discouraging people from making the most of the Right to Information Act (RTI), 2009, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

Moreover, the traditional mindset of government officials about maintaining secrecy has not changed yet, they said.

"Applications are often rejected for silly mistakes like spelling errors in the name of the designated officer," said Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim.

The officers fail to consider the "intent of the petition" and reject applications on grounds of technicalities making the process difficult, she told the discussion on five years of the Information Commission, organised by the commission and the bdnews24.com at the online newspaper's office in the capital's Mohakhali.

Researchers, development activists, and an information seeker also shared their views and experiences there.

Poor and marginalised people often cannot enter government offices because of a "culture

of fear", said Tahmina Rahman, director of the Bangladesh and South Asia chapter of Article 19, a London-based international defender of freedom of expression and information.

Executive Director of Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) Meghna Guhathakurta pointed out that it took almost 75 days before a case reached the Information Commission for hearing.

"There should be arrangements for hearing at every division," she said, noting that it was difficult for the poor to come to Dhaka and attend hearing at the commission.

In fact, it took Narayanjanj resident Sheikh Ali Ahmmad eight months to obtain information about a patient from an upazila health complex. "My lengthy struggle was not a happy one. I am not sure how many people would go through so much hassle like me," he said.

Rights activist Khushi Kabir blamed the reluctance of information officers to give information for discouraging applicants, while Chief Information Commissioner Mohammed Farooq emphasised creating awareness among people about using the law through training.

Bangladesh resolute to be middle income country by 2021

Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali tells seminar in London

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has reaffirmed the government's determination to move faster towards Bangladesh's attaining middle income status by 2021.

He said this while addressing a seminar, "Bangladesh Beyond the Headlines", at Committee Room 2 at the British House of Lords in London Friday evening.

In his speech, Ali highlighted Bangladesh's globally acclaimed socio-economic achievements, sound macro-economic indicators, diversification of exports, attainment of

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PHOTO ON PAGE 4

To Know is to Prevent

Multi disciplinary trauma team support in a hospital can save life of a trauma victim

Zahid is having his dinner with his wife at home; lentil soup is his favourite, he loves the way his wife Sharmin cooks it, thick and little spicy. Sharmin, looking at relaxed and contented Zahid, was thinking, none would be able to guess what personal tragedy and storm she faced only six months back!

It was two at night. Suddenly the ring of Sharmin's mobile phone startled her out of sleep. "Zahid is supposed to come back to Dhaka tonight from Chittagong, has anything happened to him?" with this apprehension, Sharmin picked up the phone in trepidation. All her senses became blurred as the worried voice of Zahid's colleague on the other side of the phone was narrating how their Microbus was hit by a truck near Kanchpur Bridge on Dhaka Chittagong highway!

Zahid, in a pool of blood, was taken to a road side clinic at the outskirts of the city by his colleagues. That clinic was barely equipped; a call was given to an International Standard renowned hospital of the country, for their ambulance to transfer Zahid to the hospital. Thankfully, Zahid was stabilized by life care support as that ambulance had trained paramedics and all modern life saving equipments. They briefed the Emergency doctors of this hospital about the severity of his injury in his head, right flank, thigh and leg. The one hour long journey from that clinic to this renowned hospital couldn't have been longer!

After they reached the hospital, Emergency doctors and nurses were on war footing as they were putting on all these tubes on Zahid, cleaning him, doing all these tests, giving him blood and preparing him for surgery and also communicating to Sharmin what's happening from time to time. Zahid's family and friends never could imagine that Consultants will come to the hospital in the middle of the night to operate on Zahid. To their surprise, all Consultants were ready and available with their team in next fifteen minutes! A team of Neurosurgeons, General Surgeons and Orthopaedic Surgeons operated on Zahid that night. After that night, with week long post operative care in Intensive Care Unit, Zahid was discharged in a stable condition with follow-up

* Name disguised to protect identity

** This information is for public awareness only; it is NOT a medical advice

For further queries or feedback
call Dr. Nafiz Ahmed at 01713240314 (everyday 9am to 5pm)
or write back to us at 2know2prevent@apollodhaka.com

advice of physiotherapy and antibiotics. The skilled and experienced Consultants of the hospital with their team effort pulled Zahid through this crisis!



Zahid poked Sharmin on dinner table and broke her reverie, asking, "Are you thinking how come I am still alive? It is only because of blessings of Almighty and the care of the doctors and nurses of that International Standard Multi-disciplinary hospital." A sigh of gratitude came out of Sharmin, "hope all unfortunates facing such trauma and accident get to avail the services of such International Standard hospital", she told to herself.

So many of our near and dear ones suffer death or disability due to road traffic accident or any other trauma! Do take them to a renowned hospital which has multidisciplinary trauma team and which has infection control practices in place.



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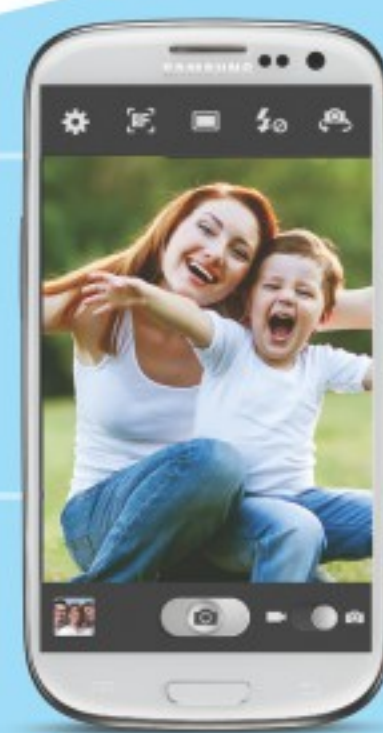
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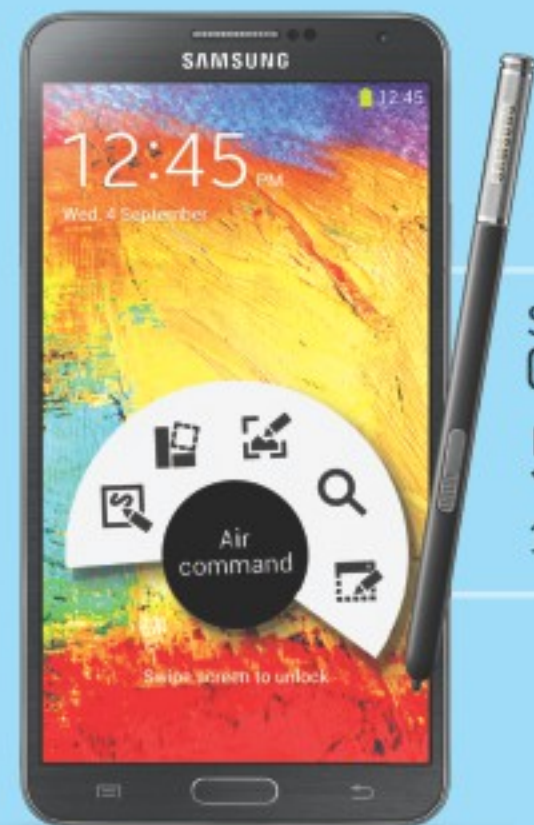


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