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# Caught in Iraq turmoil

## 33 Bangladeshis in Tikrit face shortage of food, water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 33 Bangladeshis are suffering in inhuman conditions in an under-construction hospital building in the restive Tikrit city of Iraq for the last eight days amid shortage of food, water and electricity.

"We've been in this building since June 11. We can't go outside from here," said Sheikh Sahaur Rahman Belal.

"Please save our lives and arrange our repatriation at any cost. Otherwise, we may die here any time," he pleaded with The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

The Bangladeshis -- 10 from Habiganj, nine from Brahmanbaria, six from Jamalpur, four from Faridpur and four from Madaripur -- were employed in Al-Iskan Construction since March last year.

Although the expatriates are eager to move to a safer place, they cannot proceed as the Iraqi firm took away passports from all of them.

"Our company owner fled the city as it fell to insurgents recently. Another Iraqi, who had been our supervisor at the company, asked us not to leave the place. We just don't know what lies ahead of us," said a worried Belal.

Since the beginning of this month, Sunni insurgents took control of Tikrit, Mosul and some other provinces in the Middle Eastern country.

The troubled Bangladeshis said almost all Iraqis left the area as the rebels are dominating in Tikrit, some 160-km

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Stopped busses clog a ramp of the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover making the flyover rather less effective since its purpose is getting people in and out of the capital fast. The photo was taken at Gulistan recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Crisis deepens in Iraq

## US ready for 'precise' military action; Obama to send up to 300 'military advisers'

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama yesterday said he was ready to send 300 military advisors to Iraq and if necessary to take "targeted" and "precise" military action to counter radical Sunni fighters.

Obama said Washington was ready to deploy advisors to study how to

train and equip Iraqi forces and had already increased its surveillance and intelligence capabilities in the country.

The US teams could set up joint operations centres in Baghdad and near Mosul, the northern Iraqi city that fell to extremist rebels last week, the president suggested.

"Going forward, we will be pre-

pared to take targeted and precise military action if and when we determine that the situation on the ground requires it," Obama said at the White House after meeting senior members of his national security team.

Obama said it was a good investment for Washington to intervene in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Ex-BCL chief escapes bid to kill him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A central leader of the ruling Awami League was shot by unidentified gunmen at Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday.

AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem, also former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), has been undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka with two bullet wounds in his left hand.

Shameem is the founder and president of Board of Trustees of Stamford University and vice-chairman of Port City International University in Chittagong.

Shameem was going to his Stamford University office from his Dhanmondi Road 9/A residence in his car around 9:30am. He was sitting beside the driver's seat and his uncle Nasir Ahmed was in the rear.

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# HC clears way for graft trial of Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to continue trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and eight others in Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust graft cases.

Meanwhile, the lower court yesterday fixed July 9 for recording statements from the prosecution witnesses of the cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The HC also summarily rejected two separate writ petitions filed by Khaleda challenging the legality of appointment of the trial court judge, who framed charges against her and eight others in the cases.

In the petitions, the BNP chief prayed to the HC for scrapping the indictment order issued against her and the proceedings of the cases.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque passed the rejection order after hearing arguments from Khaleda's counsels AJ Mohammad Ali and Zainul Abedin, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan.

It could not be known on what grounds the bench had

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## 3 companies vie for Padma river training

UNB, Dhaka

Three companies submitted tenders for river training in the Padma bridge project as the submission deadline expired yesterday.

They are Hyundai Construction Company of South Korea, Sinohydro construction of China and Jan De Nul N.V of Belgium.

Talking to journalists at the Setu Bhaban, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said the selection of the company for the job would be made by the last week of July.

The government on Tuesday signed a deal with China Major Bridge Engineering Company Ltd to construct the main part of the bridge involving Tk 12,133 crore.

PRAYER TIMING			June 20
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-05	4-40	
Juma	12-30	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-50	6-55	
Esha	8-15	8-45	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government would be able to keep the prices of essentials at a tolerable level during the Ramadan?

Yes

11%

No

89%

TOTAL VOTES: 216

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think political criminalisation and influence of government obstruct proper development of city corporations and municipalities?

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## Unicycle with no pedals

MAIL ONLINE

One inventor hopes we will soon be riding around on a bike with no pedals.

Using the Velofeet is as easy as a walk in the park, as you simply sit back astride its single wheel and stride along.

Manuel Alvarez-Icaza, its inventor, believes the Velofeet could provide the solution to congested city centres by providing a lightweight and manoeuvrable

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

পালকি চড়ে অরুণ আলো আসে

দিনান্তে আকাশ প্রদীপ জ্বালে;

রাঙা প্রভাত ছড়িয়ে পড়ে হেসে

মা, মাটি আর মানুষ ভালবেসে।

পালকি, অরুণ আলো, আকাশ প্রদীপ ও রাঙা প্রভাত- বিমান বহরের ৪টি নতুন সুপারিসর উড়োজাহাজ। আকাশের

বিস্ময় নতুন প্রজন্মের অর্থ-ভজন বোয়িং ৭৭৭ এখন বিমান বহরের মেরুদণ্ড। এর সাথে আছে বোয়িং ৭৩৭ এবং

এয়ারবাস, জোড়ায় জোড়ায়। সব মিলিয়ে বিমান বহর এখন আধুনিক, নতুন এবং ঝকঝকে। বেড়ে চলেছে এর গন্তব্য,

ফ্লাইট শেডুল সুশৃংখল। আধুনিকতার ছোঁয়া এর সর্বঙ্গে, ঠিক যেমনটি এতদিন চেয়েছিলেন আপনি।

স্বপ্ন পূরণের দিন আসে ঐ। উড়ে যান, যেথা খুশি।

বিমান

বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইনস

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