

Activists of BNP and its front and affiliated organisations clashing with police yesterday, after being obstructed from entering the premises of the makeshift Special Judge's Court-3 at Government Alia Madrasa in Bakshibazar of the capital on the heels of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, where she was scheduled to appear in connection with Zia Charitable Trust, and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases filed against her and eight others. The law enforcers claimed that they resorted to "light baton charge in order to ensure Khaleda's security", ensuing the clash that lasted almost 35 minutes, leaving at least 10 including three policemen injured, and two cars vandalised.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Govt's commitment to CEDAW questioned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's reservation about two key articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) raises questions about the state's commitment to ensure women's rights.

Of the clauses, article 2 is about enacting new policies and laws, and amending the old ones to eliminate all sorts of discrimination against women.

And the article 16-1 (C) necessitates the government to grant equal rights to both men and women while getting married and divorced.

Although 29 Muslim majority countries have already ratified CEDAW, Bangladesh's government has kept reservations giving the excuse of people's religious sentiments.

The observations came at a discussion

organised by Citizens' Initiatives on CEDAW (CIC), Bangladesh, marking International CEDAW Day at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

The discussants pointed out that the government's reservation goes against several articles of the constitution which do not allow any discrimination based on sex, religion, race, and birthplace.

The CEDAW agreement was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and is known as an international bill of rights for women. Bangladesh signed the convention in 1984.

"Bangladesh is not a Shariyah state," said noted human rights activist Dr Hamida Hossain. The excuse of Quran-Sunnah is feeble as they are not followed in other matters, she added.

The main opposition to article 2 comes

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## War criminal Ghulam Azam set to be released from CCU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam is well and is set to be released from the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University within a few days, said hospital sources.

"He [Ghulam Azam] is absolutely fine. He is taking food and talking with family members," BSMMU Director (Hospital) Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdul Majid Bhuiyan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Azam, serving a 90-year jail sentence for crimes committed during the Liberation War, was shifted to the CCU on Tuesday morning from BSMMU prison cell after he complained of respiratory complications.

The seven-member board, formed to oversee health condition of the 92-year-old convict, examined him yesterday and found nothing serious, said Majid, adding that he would be released from CCU within two to three days.

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## Govt starts sending workers to Iraq again

Decision comes after the employer assures of providing security for them, says Khandker Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After an interval of about two and a half months, the government yesterday resumed sending Bangladeshi workers to the violence-torn Iraq with 13 jobseekers to Hanwha Engineering and Construction Company in the country.

"More than 1,400 workers are expected to go to Iraq by next week. The company has assured us of ensuring the protection for them at their workplaces," Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, minister of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, told reporters in his office in the capital.

He claimed that there is no conflict in those places where Bangladeshis are working.

Earlier, the government suspended sending the Bangladeshis on June 13 to the Middle Eastern country following intense clashes between the Sunni rebels and the Iraqi government forces.

Since then, over 200 Bangladeshis, including 150 from Hanwha, a South Korean company, returned home to avoid clashes.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Baghdad Maj Gen Rezanur Rahman Khan said he had clarified the government to send people after observing the stable situation to the northern region.

Hanwha, the largest employer of Bangladeshis to Iraq, now wants to hire many, he told The Daily Star.

Some Bangladeshis working for Hanwha, however, informed that there is still a risk of insecurity in Iraq as well as at their workplace.

The company is still not allowing us to go outside the factory border, said Sohel Rana, one of the workers, on Monday.

Currently, over 20,000 Bangladeshis are working at various sectors in Iraq.

## KAMARUZZAMAN'S CASE SC continues hearing plea against death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday continued for the 13th day the hearing on the appeal filed by Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman challenging the death penalty given to him for committing crimes against humanity during the liberation war.

During the hearing, Kamaruzzaman's lawyer SM Shahjahan placed arguments before the Appellate Division of the SC to turn down the charge brought against him of leading a mass killing at Sohagpur in Sherpur in 1971 war.

According to the charge, on July 25, 1971, Kamaruzzaman, one of the key organisers of the infamous Al Badr force, advised members of Al-Badr and Razakar forces to commit a large-scale massacre in collusion with the Pakistani occupation force at Sohagpur village in Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur.

The collaborators had murdered 164 unarmed civilians, 44 of whom have been named, and raped many women. Later, Sohagpur became known as Bidhaba Palli (village of widows) as so many men were killed in the massacre.

This is one of the two charges for which the

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PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Runa Begum and Kousar Hossain Babu, parents of stolen newborn twin who was later rescued, each holding a twin in their arms speak at a programme organised in the conference hall of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

## TWIN BABY STOLEN FROM DMCH Take steps to stop such incidents

Father urges hospital authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Father of the stolen twin baby yesterday urged the Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities to take necessary steps to prevent incidents of newborn theft from the hospital.

"I want the director to take initiatives so that no mother loses her baby from the hospital," said Kousar Hossain Babu at a programme in the hospital's conference hall.

One of Babu's twins was stolen from DMCH on August 20 and rescued a week later in Gazipur by members of Rapid Action Battalion. The baby has been named Ekhlash Hossain, and his 10-minute older brother Yasin Hossain.

The hospital authorities handed over Tk 15,000 and some toys to the parents for the babies.

At the programme, mother of the twins, Runa Begum, said, "I felt like a dead woman when my son was stolen. I got my son back with help from journalists, lawmen, and others."

"We are very poor, but we will try our best to make one of our sons a journalist and the other a Rab official," she said, and sought help from the government to fulfil their dream.

The couple thanked the media for publishing stories on the theft, and Rab and the hospital authorities for their roles in the rescue of their son.

DMCH Director Brig Gen Mustafizur Rahman said they are going to set up six more CCTV cameras in the ward where babies are kept so that no point remains out of focus of the cameras.

He further said they have introduced identification stickers for a newborn baby and its mother bearing the same registration and serial number.

"The guards will only allow valid guardians bearing the stickers to leave the hospital with babies," he added.

The hospital also let go all ayahs who are not hospital

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### In Memorium

"Every soul shall have A taste of death: And We taste you By evil and by good By way of trial. To Us must ye return." Surah Ambia: 35

Tinni Anwar died on 4th September, 2005

A flame has gone out, But the light shines on, in our memories 9 years on. And deeply missed.

Tinni Anwar  
Tinni Anwar Memorial Trust

## To Know is to Prevent

### Who doesn't have a friend or family member whose life has been affected by Stroke?

In stroke, Time is Brain. Every hour the brain suffering a stroke loses 200-million nerve cells and ages nearly four years

As salatu khairum minan naom (prayer is better than sleep)..... the sounds of Fajr Azaan emanating through morning calm, woke up Abdur Rab. He thanked Allah the merciful, for giving him yet another day to live. He went back to the morning six months back when he suddenly felt dizzy with his left arm and leg going numb; he failed to climb out his bed; he could only make some slurred sounds when he tried to call his son Sazzad in the next room. Sazzad found Mr. Rab unconscious on the bed around half an hour later. He immediately called for ambulance support of this renowned hospital of Dhaka which is Internationally Accredited. Within next 20 minutes they were in the Emergency Room of the hospital.

Mr. Abdur Rab, a widower at 82, lives with his son and daughter-in-law at his own house in Uttara, Dhaka. With his daily walks, prayers and playful times with his two young grand-daughters, he is contented with his own life. That early morning, at around Fajr prayer time, he had a Stroke.

A Stroke—a decrease in blood flow to the brain due to a clot or bleeding—is a medical emergency. And doctors often say "time is brain," meaning the quicker you get treatment, the less likely it is that your brain tissue will be permanently damaged. About 80 percent of strokes are due to a clot (ischemic strokes) and the rest are due to bleeding in the brain (hemorrhagic stroke).

The signs and symptoms of a stroke vary from person to person but usually begin suddenly. As different parts of your brain control different parts of body, so symptoms will depend upon the part of brain affected and the extent of the damage.

The main stroke symptoms can be remembered with the word FAST: Face-Arms-Speech-Time.

- Face – the face may have drooped on one side, the person may not be able to smile or their mouth or eye may have drooped
- Arms – the person with suspected stroke may not be able to lift one or both arms and keep them there because of arm weakness or numbness
- Speech – their speech may be slurred or garbled, or the person may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake
- Time – it is time to dial hospital emergency hotline immediately if any of these signs or symptoms are seen

\* 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



Thankfully Sazzad could bring his father to this International Standard hospital which is maintaining Stroke Protocol with specific time-bound steps in place to assess, monitor and manage stroke patients. "There are treatments available for stroke that needs to be provided within the first 3-4 hours, such as clot-busting medications. That is why urgent attention is critical," said the Consultant of Neurology of the hospital to Sazzad.

Other than a small limp on left side, Mr. Abdur Rab is now quite okay. Of course the loving care that the doctors, nurses and the physiotherapists in the Stroke Ward of this hospital gave to him during his 2weeks stay, made him feel like a family. But he realizes only time has saved him as he was brought in this hospital within 2-3hours of the stroke.

So don't waste time wondering if you should go to the hospital. If you or someone you know shows the Stroke symptoms, call for a hospital ambulance at the soonest.



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## MONDAY & THURSDAY

# YANGON

Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed twice-a-week flight to Yangon from 09 December 2013. Yangon (Rangoon) came under the wings of Biman in 1976 and the operation was suspended in 2006, the year the capital of Myanmar was moved to Nay Pyi Taw.

Monday : BG 060 - Dep Dhaka 18:30  
Thursday : BG 060 - Dep Dhaka 16:30

BG 061 - Dep Yangon 21:45  
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