



After a long hiatus, the local BNP of Sunamganj yesterday resumed their demonstrations for the safe return of missing Ilias Ali, through a road march from Chhatak-Doara of Sunamganj to Lamakazi in Sylhet, the constituency of the BNP leader. Several hundred leaders and activists walked the 6km path voicing their demands. The BNP ex-lawmaker disappeared from the capital along with his driver, Ansar, on April 17, 2012.

PHOTO: STAR

WATER CRISIS AT KHANDOKAR GOLI IN CAPITAL

## Residents living a nightmare

HELEMI ALAM

With little or no water being supplied by Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for the last 15 days, several thousand residents of Khondokar Goli off the capital's Shiddheshwari Road are struggling to go about their daily businesses.

The water crisis has been prevalent for the last six months but turned acute recently, resident Faruk Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

"I have already purchased three small tanks of water from Wasa spending around Tk 1,000 as we did not get a drop," he said.

A security guard, Mohammad Nizam Uddin Khan Hiru, said four tankers of water being purchased daily at the 40-flat building he works at did not suffice for he had to fetch another 25 drums from Shiddheshwari Boys School Water Pump, some 500 metres away.

Each small tank costs Tk 300 while tankers cost Tk 600. Hiru, however, said they were paying Tk 1,200 for each tanker.

"I often go to my relative's home at

Rampura to get some relief," said resident Soniya Akhtar, adding that the water there was not clean, for it was giving her two-and-a-half-year old skin rashes.

Md Abdur Rahman, muezzin in the area's Baitus Suzud Jam-e-Mosque, said the mosque was requiring five drums daily for ablution purposes.

"I even bring a gallon everyday for myself from my house near Khondokar Goli," he said.

Md Selim Sardar, operator of the Shiddheshwari pump which supplies Khondokar Goli, said production had fallen to 1,700 litres per minute while initially in 1994 it was 4,000.

This had happened once before, in 2005, but they had solved it by digging a deeper pipe just next to the old one. Now, there is no space for another pipe, he said, adding that an initiative was underway to get supplies from Sayedabad water treatment plant.

One deputy managing director of Dhaka Wasa, SDM Kamrul Alam Chowdhury, said they hoped to improve the situation within the next few days.

## Performance of Akram Khan's DESH shifted to Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The date of the performance of Akram Khan's "DESH" at the capital's Shilpakala Academy has been shifted from today to Saturday at 7:00pm, due to unavoidable circumstances, organisers said yesterday.

The invitation cards meant for today's show would remain valid for Saturday.

However, the programme scheduled for tomorrow will remain unchanged.

Bengal Foundation and British Council are jointly hosting the performance. An English artist of Bangladeshi descent, Akram Khan is one of Britain's most feted dancer-choreographers.

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## To Know is to Prevent

Cochlear Implant surgery is available in an Internationally Accredited hospital in the Country

Why live in a world of silence?

Can you imagine a world of silence? Birds singing but you can't hear the song? Or trying to explain something to your parents, but can't hear what they are saying? Entering a world of unfamiliar sounds and noises at a young age may seem frightening and scary for most, but not for the brave and courageous Cochlear Implant recipient, Antora Rahman Tisha.

Cochlear Implant is a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing by providing stimulation directly to the auditory (hearing) nerve, bypassing damaged hair cells in the cochlea that prevent sound from reaching the nerve.

A prime candidate for Cochlear Implant is described as:

- having severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears
- having a functioning auditory nerve
- having lived at least a short amount of time without hearing (approximately 70+ decibel hearing loss, on average)
- having good speech, language and communication skills, or in the case of infants and young children, having a family willing to work toward speech and language skills with therapy
- not benefiting enough from other kinds of hearing aids

"I would play with my dolls, but I couldn't hear my parents," says Tisha. The frustrated child learned different ways to communicate to her family. Tisha was diagnosed with a hearing impairment at the age of two. She had nerve damage caused by a severe case of mumps and high fever when she was one year old. She was completely deaf in her right ear with approximately 40% loss in her left ear. Tisha's mother took her to an ENT Consultant in this International Standard hospital in Dhaka. Tisha was given hearing aids that helped just ever so slightly. When Tisha was four, the ENT Consultant told Tisha's mother, that she was a candidate for Cochlear Implant; Tisha had the surgery thereafter.

The surgery lasted nearly six hours and after the procedure, they had to wait approximately six weeks for recovery before turning the implant on. After the procedure, Tisha then underwent six to eight months of intense speech therapy; she learned how to associate different sounds with objects such as drums, bells, and other instruments.

\* 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](mailto:2know2prevent@apollodhaka.com)

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Congenitally deaf children who receive cochlear implants at a young age (less than 2 years) have better success with them than congenitally deaf children who first receive the implants at a later age. There is a time window during which children can get a Cochlear Implant and learn to speak. From the ages of two to four, that ability diminishes a little bit. And by age nine, there is zero chance that they will learn to speak properly. So it's really important that they get recognized and evaluated early. Young children (under five years) who have lost hearing because of ear infections like otitis media, meningitis, encephalitis, chicken pox, mumps, measles, or as a reaction to drugs, often make excellent progress after Cochlear Implantation because they have learned how to form sounds, and only need to learn how to interpret the new information in their brains.

Today Tisha is as normal as any other child of her age. Hearing is something we all take for granted, but many severely hearing impaired individuals do not get to enjoy this. Cochlear Implant redefines the meaning of deafness; a hospital in your city can give it to you!



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## Doa Mahfil



Suraiya (Daisy) Morshed, wife of former Foreign Secretary Barrister Ali Kaiser Hasan Morshed and daughter of Late Mr. Sayeedur Rahman of Jalpaiguri and Late Ms. Salma Rahman, passed away on Sunday,

September 14, 2014. She was a former Director of Studies at Scholastica School.

A Doa Mahfil will be held at 4:30 pm on Friday, 19 September at her residence at House 9, Road 66 (Concord "The Glen"), North Gulshan.

Her children Waleed, Lamiya and Fazeela request family, friends and well-wishers to join the prayer.

## Brickfield worker 'gang raped'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A female worker of a brickfield in Noyachor of Dhamrai, on the outskirts of the capital, was allegedly gang raped in her workplace on Tuesday night.

Her co-workers alleged that a group of about five people visited the brickfield in the evening and ordered the male workers there to bring their female colleague out. The gang then had an altercation with the workers when they refused to hand over the woman, and left the brickfield.

However, around 9:00pm, the gang comprising about 15 men armed with sharp weapons returned to the brickfield. Some members of the gang held the male workers hostage, while the rest took the victim out and repeatedly raped her,

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