



**Kohinoor Eye Hospital in Savar's Jorpol area. The hospital started its operation in 2003 at a rented house in Savar's Hemayetpur. But due to money crisis, it had to be moved to a parcel of roads and highways department land at Jorpol in 2011.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Eye hospital for poor

FROM PAGE 1  
doors at a rented house in Savar's Hemayetpur on the outskirts of the capital. In 2011 because of financial difficulties Kohinoor had to move the facility to a parcel of roads and highways department land at Jorpol beside the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

"We used to have an eye physician visiting the hospital regularly," says Kohinoor. "They no longer visit due to our lack of proper equipment and electricity. Nowadays we only give primary assistance to patients."

"The hospital does not have suitable instruments," says sub-assistant community medical officer Ariful Islam, "but at Kohinoor's request I visit the hospital every Friday to offer primary treatment to poor people. They pay Tk 30 per consultation, with the money used for developing the hospital."

Kohinoor's younger sister Hanufa Akter Salina who lives locally, says she always tries to assist. "None of us are rich but my sister is a leader in the community, someone who is trying to

help others despite being economically poor and fully blind."

"Kohinoor is different to other blind and visually impaired people," says Savar upazila's woman affairs officer Khaleda Akter Jahan. "She tries to help poor people and we try to support her. If she had proper economic support for her dream it must find success."

In the hope of better days Kohinoor waits. "I will not eat rice until I have three good doctors in my hospital," she says.

## 5,000 militant

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On March 6, suspected militants hurled several crude bombs at a convoy of four prison vans in Tongi, one of which was carrying condemned Hujji chief Mufti Hannan. Police suspect the attack was carried out to snatch away Hannan.

AIG Moniruzzaman said police had support from local people in Comilla and Tongi in arresting the militants who tried to flee.

Police were conducting the special drive with support from local people and police stations to make sure that no militant can set up a den in any remote area, he added.

According to him, police's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC) unit was mainly looking into the militancy issue. As it is yet to have offices across the country, a police official in each district has been working as a counter-terrorism official.

Speaking at a recent programme, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said the special anti-militancy drive already "weakened the militants".

Militants try to relocate due to the continuous drive, but they will be rooted out, he said.

## Rehman Sobhan

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became well known for his writings on the economic disparity between the eastern and western parts of Pakistan in 1961.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, who was also a student of Prof Sobhan, said they were highly inspired by him.

Wahiduddin Mahmud, former professor of economics at Dhaka University, said Prof Sobhan was a not a traditional economist, but rather he was a political, social and pro-people economist.

In his speech, Prof Sobhan said structural injustices created poverty. Prevailing structural injustices, such as unequal access to assets, unequal participation in the market, unequal access to human development and unjust governance, do not empower the poor politically and economically, he said.

Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, former minister Moudud Ahmed, BIDS Director General KAS Murshid and Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud, also spoke among others, at the programme.

Prof Sobhan was educated at Cambridge University and began his career at the Department of Economics, Dhaka University in 1957 and retired as professor in 1977.

He served as member of Bangladesh Planning Commission, member of the Advisory Council of the President of Bangladesh in 1991, and was in charge of the Ministry of Planning and the Economic Relations Division.

He is the founder and chairman of the think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Prof Sobhan has published 27 books, 15 research monographs, and 140 articles in professional journals.

## EU calls for UN probe

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The calls came as Reuters reported arbitrary detention of Rohingyas in a special report.

Children as young as 10 years old are among hundreds of Rohingya Muslims detained on charges of consorting with insurgents, according to a police document seen by Reuters that sheds new light on Myanmar's security campaign in the country's northwest.

Thirteen juveniles are among more than 400 people arrested since Oct 9, when insurgents attacked three police border posts in northern Rakhine State near the frontier with Bangladesh, the March 7 dated document shows.

Police said some of the children had confessed to working with insurgents and that they were being detained away from adult suspects.

A government spokesman confirmed children were detained in the operation, but said authorities had followed the law. He said he knew of only five juveniles currently being held.

The government has released few details about the hundreds detained in the Rakhine operation or the charges they face.

The document seen by Reuters lists 423 people held under the colonial-era Unlawful Associations Act. All appear from their names to be male. Their average age is 34, but the youngest is 10 and the oldest 75. One has been crossed out and marked "dead".

Rights groups such as Amnesty

## BCL activists

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Several students said BCL leader BM Lipi Akter along with their activists around 9:30pm on Thursday night tried to force five students out of their room in the extension building.

Immediately, the resident students along with other students complained to the resident teachers about the matter. They also held demonstrations after midnight.

They alleged that the BCL leaders and activists have illegally occupied six rooms in the main building and two others in the extension building of the dormitory.

However, Lipi has denied the allegations. "We neither grabbed any room nor hurt anyone. Those who are demonstrating are not general students. They are leftists."

Contacted, Hall Provost Nazma Shaheen said, "Several students have told us that they feel insecure and don't get the environment for study if there are Chhatra League activists in their rooms."

"We have recovered and locked a room which was occupied by the BCL activists," she said, adding that she would meet the resident teachers this morning to resolve the problem.

In a similar incident around midnight of March 14, Chhatra League leaders and activists at the university's Bijoy Ekattor Hall tried to force residents to accommodate their men who had been living in a common room.

They also vandalised the room of the hall provost. Later, BCL suspended five of its activists from the organisation for their involvement in the vandalism.

International say the Unlawful Associations Act has long been used to arbitrarily arrest and detain ethnic and religious minorities in Myanmar.

In a statement to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Myanmar said 526 people were "under interrogation" relating to the conflict. Eight detainees had died in custody, the government said.

The government has set up two "special courts" in Buthidaung, said Rakhine's senior state judicial official, advocate general Kyaw Hla Tun. The government would not block the accused from accessing lawyers, he added.

Yanghee Lee visited Buthidaung prison, where most detainees are being held, in January. Most did not have lawyers, were not informed of the charges against them and had not been able to contact their families, she said.

Reuters also spoke to people who had been released from detention and later fled across the border to Bangladesh, a journey made by about 75,000 refugees since the conflict began.

Di Dar, 22, said he spent 10 days in a military camp after his village was burned in mid-November. The 300 or so people detained with him were constantly handcuffed and beaten during interrogations, and he witnessed two men killed, he said.

Reuters was unable to corroborate his account, or similar accounts from three other former detainees.

## PM's India trip

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four-day event began on Wednesday.

Dhaka University's Energy Institute and Bangladesh Solar Energy Society are jointly organising expo titled "Long Term Planning for Renewable Energy in Bangladesh 2017-2050" at the university's central playground.

Hamid also said the government had already held discussions with Bhutan and Nepal about importing power from the countries.

"India has agreed to allow Bangladesh to use its land to import electricity from Bhutan and Nepal," he mentioned.

Although the government has initiated efforts to discover hydrocarbon resources in the Bay of Bengal, it would take five to six years to get the results, the state minister added.

Bangladesh is increasingly looking outside to meet its growing demand for electricity.

Though the country more than doubled its power generation in the last eight years, one-third of the population still does not have access to electricity, while the government plans to bring all households under the electricity coverage by 2021.

At the discussion yesterday, Prof Mohammad Tamim, head of petroleum and mineral resources engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), however, said there is a need to look into whether the country is going to be totally dependent on India for power and energy.

Institute of Energy Director Prof Saiful Huque chaired the programme, while lawmaker Nahim Razaq, among others, also spoke.

## Woman dies from 'wrong treatment'

### Doctor sued in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A doctor has been sued in connection with the death of a patient following his "wrong treatment" in Sirajganj town.

The victim, Dulali Khatun, 35, daughter of Kinu Sheikh of Rupshar Char village in Sirajganj Sadar, was admitted to Centre Pathology on Islamia College Road for an operation of her nasal polyps on Thursday noon.

Helal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, said Anisur Rahman, a retired ENT specialist, of the clinic took the patient to his chamber for the operation. However, the doctor's chamber does not even have an operating theater.

After the surgery, condition of Dulali became critical and then she was shifted to Sirajganj General Hospital where she died on Thursday afternoon, he said.

In primary investigation, police came to know that the patient died as "she did not get proper anesthesia during the surgery", the police official said.

Police picked up Shaheb Ali, a pathologist of the Centre Pathology, for interrogation in connection with the treatment on Thursday night. He was freed later.

Anisur went into hiding soon after the incident. Police were trying to arrest the doctor, OC Helal added.

Victim's brother Johurul Islam lodged the case with Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, accusing Anisur for "wrong treatment" of her sister.

## Nobel laureate

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His longtime companion, Sigrid Nama, was with him at the time of his death, Seroy said.

"My deepest sympathies go out to Derek's family (and) his children," St Lucia's Prime Minister Allen Chastanet said, calling the poet, painter and playwright "a Caribbean patriot." He said the country's flag would be flown at half mast in Walcott's honour until Tuesday.

Walcott, who was born on the volcanic island in 1930, came to the attention of the public in 1962 with a collection of poems called, "In a Green Night," which celebrated the Caribbean.

In "Omeros" (1990), an epic poem considered his most ambitious and accomplished work, he invoked Caribbean voices through Greek myth, drawing on Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey".

Two years later, he was awarded the Nobel Prize, and in its citation, the Swedish Academy said, "He has both African and European blood in his veins. In him, West Indian culture has found its great poet."

Britain's former poet laureate Andrew Motion described Walcott as a member of the great Nobel-winning poetic generation.

"He did as much or more than anyone to win the global respect for Caribbean writing that it deserves and now enjoys," Motion said in an emailed statement.

Walcott's children, Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw and Anna Walcott-Hardy, said his funeral would be held on the island.

## PM for united

FROM PAGE 1  
and terrorist activities or drug abuse.

The life and works of Bangabandhu could be a great lesson for children to avoid taking the wrong path, she added.

The premier said her government made the religious education compulsory at school level aimed at making children pious, not zealots.

"We have to remember that every religion preaches the messages of peace, brotherhood and harmony. So everybody has to obey it."

Later, the PM distributed prizes among the children who participated in literary and cultural competitions.

The women and children affairs ministry and the Gopalganj district administration jointly organised the rally.

## Four in court over murder of top Myanmar lawyer

AFP, Yangon

Four men accused of plotting the murder of a prominent Myanmar lawyer and adviser to de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi appeared in a Yangon court yesterday.

Ko Ni was shot in the back of the head in late January in broad daylight outside Yangon's airport while waiting for a taxi with his infant grandson in his arms.

He was a vocal critic of the army's lingering grip on power under Myanmar's new elected government and Suu Kyi's party has branded his killing a "terrorist act" designed to thwart their policies.

## Suicide blast at Rab barrack

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Police chief AKM Shahidul Hoque and Rab chief Benazir Ahmed visited the scene in the evening, but they did not speak with reporters while leaving the compound.

It comes a day after a police raid in a "militant den" in Chittagong's Sitakunda. Police claimed that four suicide bombers, including a woman, were killed as they attempted to swoop on SWAT members.

Since 2005, there have been at least seven suicide bombings at mosques, cultural events and courts or during raids by law enforcers. But no establishments of any law enforcers have ever come under such attacks.

Yesterday's blast was so powerful that it ripped apart the suspect's torso and sent pieces of him flying in all directions for about 15-20 metres, Rab and police sources said.

The rear windshield of an SUV of Rab headquarters parked near the scene was shattered from what Rab said was the impact of the explosion.

Pictures of the scene released by law enforcement agencies showed the body of the badly mutilated suspect, who was wearing black pants and a white striped shirt. He appeared to be in his late 20s.

The attacker blew himself up when two Rab members challenged him after he entered the premises climbing the boundary wall.

Rab officials later found an unexploded bomb near the body and defused it safely, said Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of the force's Legal and Media Wing.

He said the suspect was thought to be a militant but it was not clear which group he belonged to.

Briefing reporters at the barrack, Mufti said the two wounded Rab men -- constable Arif and lance corporal Mizan -- were taken to the Combined Military Hospital with minor splinter injuries.

The barrack is also the proposed site for the Rab Headquarters. Currently, it is mostly an empty space fenced by brick walls. Inside, a large barrack is situated where a couple of hundred Rab officials live in tin shacks.

"A stranger trespassed into the premises around 1:00pm, right before the noon prayers, climbing over the boundary wall on our right side. There's a space near the boundary, where our admin officials wash clothes and take shower," he said.

"They [officials] challenged the man and asked where he was going and why he was there. The man turned away and tried to escape and there was an explosion. The bomb he was carrying exploded and he died on the spot," said the Rab spokesman.

Talking to The Daily Star, a junior Rab official said he was taking a shower when he saw a man with a bag walking into the premises. He also heard two of his colleagues accosting him.

"Soon, I heard a loud bang. When I looked in that direction I saw a mutilated body and my colleagues writhing in pain," said the official, asking not to be named.

Rubel Hasan, a fish seller who was at the Hajj Camp Mosque adjacent to the barrack, said he felt the explosion shook the entire area.

The barrack is about a hundred metres from the Airport intersection. There are several tin shacks of the barracks near the boundary wall adjacent to the Hajj Camp.

The space where the officials take shower is between two tin shacks. Rab officials said they suspected that the man entered the premises by climbing the wall adjacent to the Hajj Camp.

Some worshippers who were at the Hajj Camp Mosque to say their prayers told The Daily Star that they were startled by the explosion. Later, several people came to the mosque and told them what happened inside the barrack. Some of them attempted to get out of the mosque to see what was happening, but the imam asked them to calm down.

Earlier on December 24, a female militant suspect blew herself up detonating a suicide vest as police were raiding a militant hideout, about 300 yards from the same Rab barrack. The suspect's four-year-old daughter, who was with her, survived with serious injuries.

## 31 killed in airstrike

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of deaths may be more than 31.

"We just got information of a helicopter assault on a boat leaving Yemen, we believe for Sudan, full of Somalis," Joel Millman said.

He added that they were aware of 80 survivors brought to hospitals in Hodeidah.

Hodeidah on the Red Sea is controlled by Iran-allied Houthi fighters who in 2014 overran Yemen's capital Sanaa and forced the Saudi-backed

government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to flee into exile.

A Saudi-led coalition was formed in 2015 to fight the Houthis and troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh who have fired missiles into neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

The Bab al-Mandeb is a strategic waterway at the foot of the Red Sea through which nearly 4 million barrels of oil are shipped daily to Europe, the United States and Asia.



## G20 FMs meet as America First casts pall

AFP, Baden-baden

Finance ministers from the world's top nations gathered in Germany yesterday, with fears of a looming trade war over US President Donald Trump's America First policy yet to be dispelled.

Trump has already torn up a trans-Pacific free trade pact, threatened punitive tariffs against multinationals with factories outside the United States and attacked "currency manipulation" by export giant China.

And his stated aim of keeping jobs at home by making it costly for American companies to outsource is likely to dominate talks at the G20 gathering of finance ministers and central bankers in the western German spa town of Baden-Baden.

Trump's emissary, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, faces scrutiny from Washington's key trading partners for clues on whether the world's biggest economy fully intends to abandon its long-standing support of open markets and free trade.

A source close to the talks told AFP that sticking points remained on trade and climate change funding as the gathering got underway on Friday.

The US delegation refused to

include any language rejecting protectionism in a final statement to be signed by ministers Saturday, the source said.

Countries like France, Italy, China and Brazil argued -- against US resistance -- for keeping a reference to "rules-based" trade in the final communique, while Germany pushed for a compromise solution referring only to "fairness".

On the eve of the meeting, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a rare joint pledge, saying they would "together fight for free trade and open markets".

Germany's Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries ratcheted up the tone, warning that Berlin could take Washington to an international trade court if it insists on imposing punitive tariffs on German goods.

Friday's G20 session also coincides with Merkel's first meeting with Trump in Washington, when the chancellor is expected to make a strong push for open markets.

But Trump was elected on the back of voter anger over deindustrialisation in vast areas of the United States.

He declared in his inauguration speech that "we will follow two simple rules: buy American and hire American."