

## 4-year-old girl found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a four-year-old girl from her home in the capital's Badda last night.

On information, a police team recovered the body of Tanha from the toilet of the rented house in Adarshnagar area around 8:30pm, MA Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Police suspected that someone killed the baby after molesting or raping her.

The body would be sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Other details of the incident could not be known immediately. No case was filed till filing of this report last night.



People cross airport road near Kuril flyover amid traffic. There is a signboard urging pedestrians to refrain from jaywalking and use the nearby footbridge. But they seem to be oblivious of possible danger. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## No whereabouts of 523 militants freed on bail

*Crime conference told*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers do not have any information about the whereabouts of over 500 militants, who got bail from jail in the last few years.

Disclosing the figure, Md Moniruzzaman, assistant inspector general (intelligence and special affairs) of Police Headquarters, yesterday told a quarterly crime conference to find out the absconding militants and take action against them immediately.

A source present in the conference quoted Moniruzzaman as saying that they are not getting any whereabouts of 523 militants who obtained bail at different times.

"Although the overall militancy situation is currently under control, there is no scope to remain complacent," the source quoted the AIG as saying.

Moniruzzaman added that militants might reorganise anytime soon,

particularly during the upcoming general elections when police will remain busy in election duty.

Contacted, Moniruzzaman told The Daily Star last night that many of the militants who got bail were not residing in their permanent addresses.

"We asked to find out their present whereabouts as we do not know what they are doing now, what their future plans are and whether the JMB militants are joining New JMB," he added.

AKM Shahidul Hoque, inspector general of police, chaired the conference, attended by high officials of police headquarters, special branch chiefs, Criminal Investigation Department, Rapid Action Battalion, range DIGs and police superintendents.

Meeting sources said Javed Patwari, chief of special branch, stressed the need for instructing field level officials to collect information relating to upcoming general elections from the

field judiciously.

The meeting decided that all members of police force will provide one day salary for the rehabilitation and treatment of drug addicts in a bid to establish a drug free society. Presently, the force has nearly 1.96 lakh manpower.

Addressing the conference, the police chief asked the force to create awareness among the people about the negative impact of drug.

He also asked the officials to investigate the woman and child repression related cases with priority. He later instructed all the SPs to supervise those cases personally.

The police chief asked field level officials to increase their vigilance to stop robbery in passenger buses and increase searches in toll plazas and ferry terminals. He also asked the highway and district police to take effective steps to prevent road accidents.



To press home their six-point demand, students of Jahangirnagar University bring out a torch procession on the campus yesterday. Their demands include immediate withdrawal of the case filed against their fellows over vandalising the vice-chancellor's house following a road accident and reformation of the probe body formed to investigate the incident. Meanwhile, the university authorities yesterday asked the students to abstain from all activities that may hamper its administrative work and overall security, said a press release.

PHOTO: STAR

Allow Khaleda's counsel to cross-examine four prosecution witnesses

HC asks trial court  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the trial court to allow BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's lawyers to cross examine four prosecution witnesses in Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

The prosecution witnesses are: Sheikh Mokbul Ahmed, deputy manager of Janata Bank; Md Aminul Islam, public relations officer of Standard Chartered Bank; Alok Kanti Chakrabarty, customer service manager of Standard Chartered Bank; and Chowdhury MN Alam, deputy director of the Anti Corruption Commission.

The HC bench of Justice Md Shakhat Hossain and Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder came up with the order following a petition filed by Khaleda Zia.

On June 21, the BNP chief sought a High Court order upon the trial court allowing her lawyers to cross-examine four prosecution witnesses of the case.

She also made the prayer by filing a revision petition with the HC. In the petition, she sought a stay on the trial proceedings against her in the corruption case.

Citing the petition, Advocate Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan, a lawyer for Khaleda, told The Daily Star that the defence lawyers could not cross-examine four prosecution witnesses during the trial of the graft case.

The four prosecution witnesses need to be cross examined for fair trial of the case, he said, adding that a Dhaka court on June 8 rejected a petition seeking permission for cross examining the four prosecution witnesses.

The revision petition was

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## Hoping for the best

Conjoined Gaibandha twins to undergo surgery at DMCH tomorrow



Tofa and Tahura on their father's lap at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SHADMA MALIK

Watching a baby crawl across the floor is probably the best sight to behold for parents. But Shahida and Raju Mia, a couple from Gaibandha, are deprived of it, as Shahida last year gave birth to conjoined twins, who could hardly move as per their wish let alone crawl on the floor.

With an expectation that the babies -- Tofa and Tahura -- would get a normal life like other kids, the parents got the duo admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on July 15. Finally, there is a ray of hope for the couple as the babies -- joined back-to-back at the pelvis and lower spine, each with separate hearts, heads and limbs -- will undergo a surgery tomorrow.

But it was a tough call to make for the parents to give consent to the surgery. They want their daughters to be separated; on the other hand, they are a bit anxious if anything terrible happens. Shahida said their daughters, who would turn one soon, would not learn to walk if they are not separated now.

"It was hard to give consent to the surgery; but my daughters will toddle around soon -- an imagination gives us the much-needed mental strength," said the infants' mother. The couple also have a five-year-old son.

During a visit to DMCH on Saturday, these correspondents found that Tofa was sleeping and Tahura was fiddling with a cell phone.

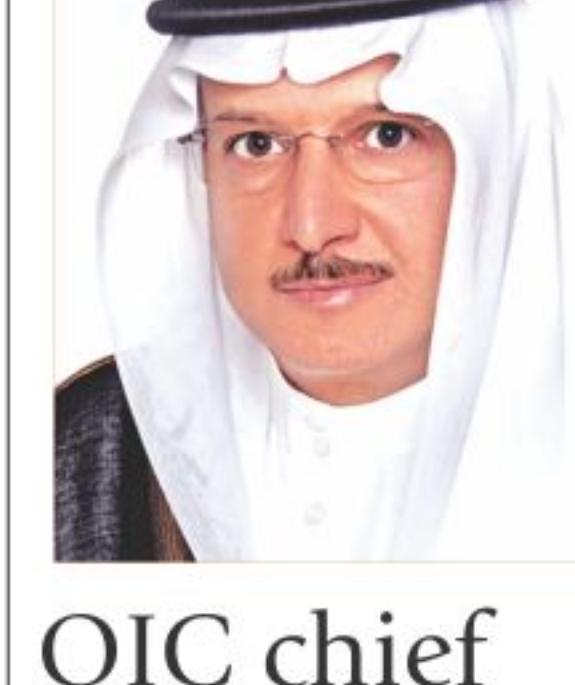
Prof Shahnoor Islam, associate professor of paediatrics surgery at DMCH, who is supervising the treatment of the infants, termed the conjoined state Pygopagus.

Although conjoined surgeries took place in the past, but this is the first time Pygopagus surgery will be done in Bangladesh, she said.

"We are hopeful of conducting a successful operation. However, complications might arise during operation or afterwards," said Shahnoor.

"In the worst case scenario, the conjoined twins might not be able to move their legs," said the doctor.

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OIC chief arrives  
Wednesday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Secretary General of OIC Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen will arrive in Dhaka on Wednesday on a four-day "working tour".

He will lead a five-member delegation on his first trip to Bangladesh since assuming office in November 2016.

The OIC chief is expected to visit Rohingya refugees in Kutupalong Camp and surroundings in Cox's Bazar to see their plight and express OIC sympathy and solidarity with them, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

Othaimeen will call on President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday.

He will also hold meeting with Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, who will host a dinner in Othaimeen's honour in the evening.

Othaimeen is expected to exchange views on the situation of Muslim world and programmes, initiatives and decisions taken so far by the OIC.

As Bangladesh is going to host the 45th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers next year, this visit will allow discussion on Bangladesh-OIC Secretariat cooperation apart from various other areas of bilateral cooperation.

## Good news for heart patients

United Hospital carries out first-ever non-surgical aortic valve implant in country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elderly heart patients, especially the ones suffering from aortic valve stenosis but could not go through an operation due to risk, will be able to replace their valves without a surgery now.

United Hospital revealed this at a press conference at its Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

Introduced for the first time in Bangladesh, patients will be able to replace their affected valves through a non-surgical minimally invasive procedure called Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implant (TAVI), said Dr Momenuzzaman, chief consultant of cardiology at the hospital. TAVI is a procedure that repairs the valve without removing the old or damaged one. Instead, it wedges a replacement valve into the aortic valve's place.

The hospital on July 25 successfully carried out its maiden operation while implanting the aortic valve of Dr Sayeedur Rahman, a dental surgeon of Barisal, who has been suffering from aortic stenosis for several years.

Aortic stenosis is one of the most common

and most serious valve disease problems. Aortic stenosis is a narrowing of the aortic valve opening, which restricts the blood flow from the left ventricle to the aorta and may also affect the pressure in the left atrium.

The 85-year-old dental surgeon told The Daily Star yesterday that he felt quite well after the operation. The operation cost him Tk 35 lakh, he said.

When asked, the doctors at the hospital said the cost will reduce if more people keep their trust in it and go through the procedure.

"I had a bypass surgery in 2012 at the United Hospital. But I started having chest pain and a shortage of breath from 2015 onwards. I was diagnosed with aortic stenosis at the hospital," said Dr Sayeedur.

Dr Momenuzzaman said, "After analysing his [Dr Sayeedur] condition, we suggested an aortic heart valve replacement without an open heart surgery, and he agreed."

The doctor said it took only 50 to 55 minutes to complete the non-surgical procedure done with local anaesthesia. "The patient is doing well now and ready to go home."

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Dr Jahangir Kabir, chief cardiac surgeon at United Hospital, speaks at a press conference at the hospital yesterday. The hospital carried out the first-ever non-surgical aortic valve implant on a patient in the country on July 25. On his left are Dr Momenuzzaman, chief consultant of cardiology at the hospital, and the patient Dr Sayeedur Rahman, a dental surgeon of Barisal. On his right is Dr Shagufta Anwar, public relations and business development officer at the hospital.

## Immoral teachers involved in question paper leak: Nahid

CU CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the question paper leak could not be prevented due to involvement of some immoral teachers.

He said they prepared the question papers with utmost caution and kept those under surveillance. "As soon as the papers reached some of the teachers' hand the next day, they were leaked."

He made the remarks at an award giving ceremony of Chancellor's Gold Medal essay writing competition in Chittagong University's business faculty auditorium. Nahid attended the event as the chief guest.

He alleged that some of the teachers also provide answers in the exam hall in exchange for money.

"We have controlled the question leak... but due to those dishonest and immoral teachers, we are not succeeding in preventing it completely," he said. "We are continuing our efforts in this regard."

Regarding curbing militancy, Nahid said the government has conducted several awareness campaigns in education institutions. "Teachers and guardians can play a vital role in this regard."

Nahid distributed gold medals among 33 students who became first and second in the essay writing competition from 2009 to 2016.

Education Secretary Sohrab Hossain, CU Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury and Pro-VC Prof Shireen Akhter also spoke. Later, the education minister inaugurated a project for physically challenged students.

PHOTO: STAR