



## BOTCHED C-SECTION Doctor failed to assess patient's condition

Govt probe finds about  
death at Central Hospital

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

The death of a newborn and her mother at the capital's Central Hospital in June occurred primarily due to the duty doctor's failure to assess the patient's condition, and the patient and her husband's insistence about normal delivery instead of a C-section, an investigation by the health ministry has found.

The hospital authorities may also have some "liabilities," said the report, prepared based on the statements taken from everyone engaged in the treatment of Mahbuba Rahman Akhi, 25.

She died on June 18 while in intensive care at another hospital, eight days after the death of her newborn following a last-moment C-section in the early hours of June 10.

"We were tasked with finding out who played what roles, and we did it. Now the ministry will decide about the punishment," Hossain Ali Khandaker, additional secretary (Legal Wing) at the health ministry, told The Daily Star.

The committee submitted the report

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**THE KING OF FISHERS ...** After a successful plunge-dive for hunting, this White-throated kingfisher was spotted shaking off water before beginning its meal at the National Botanical Garden in Dhaka. Widely distributed in Asia, this kingfisher species is a resident over much of its range, though some may make short migrations. It is one of the few wild species that saw success in adapting to urbanisation – as long as there are trees around. Unlike other kingfishers, despite the name, these birds don't feed on fish alone and are classified as omnivores. Anything it can spear with its razor-sharp bill may become food – large insects, lizards, crabs, earthworms and sometimes even small birds! And so, finding a habitat around water is not very necessary for them. In fact, their habitats can be in dry, deciduous forests, parks, gardens, wooded areas near open grass patches, while also near water bodies such as canals, rivers, or mangroves. With few predators recorded and an expanding population, White-throated kingfishers are listed in the "Least Concern" category by the IUCN.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

## Bangladesh's dev model an inspiration

World Bank executive  
director tells PM

UNB, Dhaka

World Bank Executive Director Parameswaran Iyer said other developing countries can follow the development model of Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh has witnessed a phenomenal transformation," he said while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday morning.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

Iyer praised the PM saying that the developments of Bangladesh have been achieved because of her leadership and planning.

He conveyed the greetings of the WB president to the premier.

He said the World Bank will assist Bangladesh in improving infrastructures in the next phase of its development journey.

The WB official said Bangladesh's private sector is thriving, adding that the country's sanitary system is also remarkable.

He said the WB will also help

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## Govt bans Jama'atul Ansar

So far nine militant  
outfits outlawed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has banned militant outfit Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya citing its potential threat to public safety and law and order.

The home ministry on Wednesday issued a gazette to this effect.

This development came following formal requests from the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police and the Rapid Action Battalion to the ministry to make the outfit's activities illegal.

Jama'atul Ansar is the ninth militant group to have been outlawed in the country.

The eight others are Ansarullah Bangla Team, Ansar Al Islam, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, Harkat-ul Jihad al-Islam Bangladesh, Hizb ut-Tahrir, Allahr Dal, and Shahadat E al-Hikma.

The government's notification said that the declared activities of Jama'atul Ansar are against the peace and discipline in the country.

"The activities of the organisation have already been deemed to be a threat to public security and its activities in

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## ROHINGYA REFUGEES 17 die as boat breaks up off Myanmar

Say rescuers; dozens missing

AFP, Yangon

At least 17 people drowned when a boat carrying Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar's Rakhine state broke up at sea this week, rescuers said yesterday.

Thousands of Rohingya people risk their lives each year making perilous sea journeys from camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar to try to reach Muslim-majority Malaysia and Indonesia.

Byar La, a rescuer from the Shwe Yaung Metta Foundation in the town of Sittwe, said more than 50 people were thought to be on the boat heading for Malaysia when it got into trouble in heavy seas on Sunday night.

"We found 17 dead bodies... as of yesterday," he told AFP. "We found eight men alive. Police have taken them for questioning."

Rescuers are still trying to find those unaccounted for, he said.

Rakhine in Buddhist-majority Myanmar is home to around 600,000 Rohingya people, who are considered migrants from Bangladesh and are denied citizenship and freedom of movement.

More than 3,500 Rohingyas in 39 vessels attempted crossings of the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal in

2022, up from 700 the previous year, according to the United Nations refugee agency's January data.

At least 348 Rohingyas died or went missing at sea last year, the agency said, calling for a regional response to stop further drownings.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says calls for maritime authorities in the region "to rescue and disembark people in distress have gone unheeded with many boats adrift for weeks".

Amnesty International likens the living conditions of Rohingya people in Rakhine state to "apartheid".

A Myanmar military crackdown in 2017 forced some 750,000 Rohingyas to flee Rakhine for Bangladesh following widespread accounts of murder, arson and rape.

Myanmar is facing genocide accusations at the United Nation's top court following the mass exodus.

Bangladesh and Myanmar have discussed efforts to begin repatriating Rohingya refugees to their homeland.

A top US rights envoy in Bangladesh said in July conditions remain unsafe for the return of ethnic Rohingya refugees to Myanmar.

## Dhaka to welcome US move to seize laundered money

Momen says govt may  
not sign defence deals  
with US before polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will be happy if Washington helps it root out corruption, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

"We will be happy if they [US] confiscate the ill-gotten money that is laundered from our country. We will welcome it," he told journalists after a meeting with former diplomats, academics and civil society members at the capital's Foreign Service Academy.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller on Tuesday said they have tools such as sanctions and freezing assets of the corrupt people.

Asked if the government would sign defence agreements -- Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and General Security of Military Information Agreement -- with the US, Momen said he does not think Dhaka will sign any such deal before the next general election.

He said food security and housing are the government's top priorities.

Enquired about suggestions from his

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## Length of day on Mars shrinking

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Data from Nasa's InSight Mars lander suggests the Red Planet's rotation is strangely accelerating every year, leading to a fractional shortening of the length of the Martian day.

The research, published recently in the journal Nature, found Mars' rotation on its axis is accelerating by about

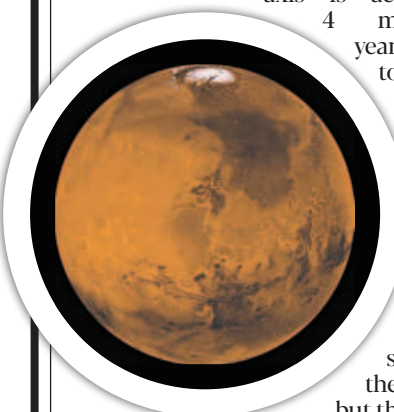
4 milliarcseconds each year -- corresponding to a shortening of the Martian day by a fraction of a millisecond per year.

Scientists, including those from Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, are unsure what is causing this subtle speeding up of the Red Planet's rotation, but they have some ideas.

"I've been involved in efforts to get a geophysical station like InSight onto Mars for a long time, and results like this make all those decades of work worth it," study co-author Bruce Banerdt said.

In the research, scientists made the most precise measurements ever of Mars's rotation as well as detecting how the planet wobbles due to the "sloshing" of its molten metal core.

The study suspects factors such as ice accumulating on Mars' polar caps or post-glacial rebound where landmasses rise after being buried by ice could be behind this acceleration of the planet's spin.



## Pak parliament dissolved

Outgoing PM Sharif starts talks  
to pick caretaker premier

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's parliament was dissolved by the president on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice late Wednesday night, the president's office said, setting the stage for a national election amid political and economic crises.

The advice came three days ahead of the parliament's five-year term, which expires on August 12. It will be followed with a caretaker administration to be picked by Sharif and an opposition leader in the outgoing parliament to hold new elections in 90 days.

Sharif met outgoing opposition leader Raja Riaz yesterday in what was their first meeting to reach a consensus on selecting a name for the caretaker premier.

Confirming the much-anticipated meeting, Riaz said: "With a consensus, we have decided that there will be another meeting tomorrow (Friday)."

Under the constitution, the two have three days to reach agreement on a caretaker. If they can't, the decision will go to a parliamentary committee, and if it can't, then the Election Commission of Pakistan will decide.

The vote, however, could be delayed several months with the election commission set to start redrawing hundreds of constituencies based on a fresh census.

Analysts have said any delay in the election could fuel public anger and add to uncertainty in the nuclear-armed nation.

The last general election in July 2018 was won by the party of cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, who was sworn in days later as prime minister for the first time.



Bikers drive their vehicles on the footpath to beat traffic congestion, leaving little space for pedestrians to walk. The photo was taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital's Banglamotor area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Delhi hopes to see free, fair polls in Bangladesh Says Razzaque upon AL team's return from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India hopes the next national election in Bangladesh will be held in line with the constitution and it will be free and fair, Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzaque, who led the five-member AL delegation that recently visited India, said yesterday.

"The Election Commission will hold the polls; the government will assist them. What will India do about it? India has nothing to do with the polls here," he said in response to a query on what would be India's role regarding the election in Bangladesh.

He was speaking at a press briefing at the party president's political office in Dhanmondi.

The ruling AL held the briefing to inform

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