

# National Day's first boy and girl

BY LOW MINMIN

**I**T WAS the best birthday present Madam Tan Bee Geok could receive, even if it arrived a day late.

Madam Tan, who turned 39 on Monday, became the mother of a bouncing baby boy yesterday. Baby Augustine was born just seconds after midnight at Mount Alvernia Hospital.

A check with hospitals here showed that he was also the first baby boy to be born on National Day.

His father, Mr Toh Ho Beng, 41, told *my paper* in the hospital's maternity ward: "Our son chose National Day to be born and, now, we don't have to apply for leave from work every year to celebrate his birthday, because it will be a **public holiday**."

Augustine was born after his mother spent four hours in labour, and he weighed 3.38kg.

The couple, who met at work, got married last month after a four-year courtship. They own a stall selling *nasi lemak* at a food centre in Yishun. They used to run the stall together, but have since left most of the daily operations to hired hands.

The couple, who are both divorcees, live with their fathers



**MUMMYS GIFT:** Madam Tan Bee Geok and Mr Toh Ho Beng with their baby boy, Augustine. (PHOTO: LOW MINMIN)

in a one-room rental flat in Teck Whye. Madam Tan's three other sons from her previous marriage also live with them. Augustine is her first child with Mr Toh.

They hope to own a bigger flat of their own soon but, for now, their focus is on their **newborn** baby.

"I am just happy that the baby is healthy," said Madam Tan.

The first baby girl born on National Day was Naila Irdina. She was delivered at midnight at Raffles Hospital, weighing

3.82kg, after her mother spent 23 hours in **labour**.

Her father, Mr Ahmad Mahmood, 28, is an engineer, while her mother, Madam Nur Irdina, 27, is a teacher.

Naila is their first child and the couple hope to have three or four children eventually.

The couple met at a tuition centre eight years ago and got married in June last year.

Mr Ahmad said: "Naila is a blessed child because not only is she born in August, which is the Muslim fasting month of Ram-



**FIRST KID:** Naila Irdina with Mr Ahmad Mahmood and wife. (PHOTO: LIANHE WANBAO)

adan, but (her birth) also falls on a **historic** day - National Day."

lowmin@sph.com.sg

## HELPDESK 我的字典

**Public holiday:**  
公共假期 gōng gòng jià qī

**Newborn:**  
初生婴儿 chū shēng yīng er

**Labour:** 分娩 fēn miǎn

**Historic:** 历史性的 lì shǐ xìng de