

Car thieves active in city

3 cars stolen in as many days

BSS, Dhaka

Some organised gangs are now active in stealing private cars from crowded areas of the city, now gripped in Eid-shopping spree.

At least three private cars were stolen during the last three days, car owners said.

Police said one white-coloured private car (Dhaka-Metro-Ga-115294) was stolen from Dhanmondi area yesterday when the owner of the vehicle was attending Juma prayers after some shopping.

Selim Ahmed, the owner of the car, has filed a case with the local thana.

Another maroon-coloured private car (Dhaka-Metro-Kha-1113919) was

stolen at yesterday noon from the premises of Rapa Plaza, a busy shopping mall in the city where a number of law-enforcers were active.

On Thursday, another private car was stolen from the city's Mohammadpur area.

Organised gangs are involved in such incidents and they are very careful and clever," said one police officer on duty.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ashraf Huda told BSS that they had taken adequate measures to maintain law and order in the city during the holy month of Ramadan and Eid-shopping.

Side by side with the law-enforcers, the people should also be more careful while parking their vehicles, he added.

Huda said the owners of shops and markets should also step up their own security to check incidents of stealing.

The government strengthened the security measures in the capital since the beginning of the Ramadan by deploying 7,000 law-enforcers including 450 members of the armed police battalion, 440 personnel of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and 100 members of Ansar.

They are now operating in 479 crime-prone areas in the capital to combat crimes and maintain law and order.

Forty-one teams of strike forces, each comprising 10 BDR personnel and four policemen, are operating in different areas to check crimes while 10 to 20 policemen are deployed at each market for the security of traders and customers.

Alamgir, Shibly elected DRU president, gen secy

UNB, Dhaka

Alamgir Hossain of the Daily Ittefaq and Saleh Shibly of UNB news agency have been elected president and general secretary of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) for one-year term.

The elections were held at the Jatiya Press Club Auditorium yesterday. Some 476 voters, out of 533, cast their votes through electronic polling system developed by the Business Information and Advisory Services Limited (BIASL).

Alamgir Hossain bagged 275 votes to defeat Mahfuzur Rahman who secured 194 votes. Polling the highest 331 votes, Shibly defeated Shakhawat Hossain Badsha who got 137 votes.

Other elected office-bearers are Ziaur Rahman Modhu -- vice-president; Pathik Saha -- joint secretary; Abu Kawser -- treasurer; Mahmudur Rahman Khokon -- organising secretary; Sheikh Mamunur Rashid -- publicity and publication secretary; Tarun Sarkar -- training and research secretary; Hasan Mahmud -- cultural secretary; Moshirur Rahman -- office secretary; and Badrul Alam Khokon -- sports secretary.

The executive members are Nashrat Chowdhury, Muzib Masud, Moniruzzaman Uzzal, Madhusudan Mondol, Md Asaduzzaman, Aminul Haque Bhuiyan, Enamul Haque Enam, Ahmed Sabbir Romeo, Humayun Kabir Khokon and Sohel Sunny.

For last several years, the DRU has been using the BIASL-developed software for the electronic polling.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League Leader Mohammad Nasim MP speaks at a press conference at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday. The AL organised the press conference to protest submission of a chargesheet in Pabna Pourasabha chairman Shahidullah Bachhu killing case against Nasim.

Annual conference of Christian Association Communal harmony a must for nat'l progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To bring about an integrated progress of the nation, no section of the society should be branded with communal identity, said the speakers at a conference yesterday.

They said the communal thought and activities do not bring welfare for anyone.

The annual conference of Bangladesh Christian Association was held at Tegaon Church Community Centre in the city with Advocate Promode Mankin MP, president of the association, in the chair.

The slogan of the conference was 'National Development and Christian Community.'

"Though the Christian community contributes immensely to the country's development, particularly to education, health, and cooperative sectors, they don't have their proportionate representation in the decision making process of the government," said Nirmal Rogerio, general secretary of the association.

He also mentioned about the association's 5-point demand, already placed to the government, including declaration of Easter Sunday a public holiday and four ministers for religious affairs.

"The subject matter of this year's conference has been chosen against the backdrop of a huge deprivation," said Basudev Dhar, joint general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha and Christian Oikya Parishad.

"The unity of Christian community is not designed to stand against others," said Father Benjamin Costa, principal of Notre Dame College and advisor of the association.

BCS Edn Assoc office opens

UNB, Dhaka

The central office of Bangladesh Civil Service Education Association (BCSEA) was inaugurated in the city.

Director General of Secondary and Higher Education Department Prof Mohammad Zunaid inaugurated the office at 321 Elephant Road on Thursday.

The DG of National Academy of Education Management, director of Secondary and Higher Education Department, and principals of various colleges were present.

Obituary



Hafiz Uddin Shah, former executive engineer of WAPDA, died at his residence in the city on Thursday at the age of 82, says a press release.

A former general secretary of Aligarh Association, he was the proprietor of Shah River Craft at Narayanganj.

He is survived by his wife, one son, two daughters, and a number of grandchildren.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at 40 Segun Bagicha at 4.00pm tomorrow.

Md Shahidullah



Md Shahidullah, managing director of Shahidullah Group of Company, died at his residence in the city on Wednesday at the age of 58, says

a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and one son.

Safia Khatun

Safia Khatun, mother of Dr ABM Zafar Ullah and ATM Enayetullah, directors of Padma Life Insurance Co. Ltd., died on Wednesday, says a press release.

The board of directors, officers and employees of the company expressed condolence at her death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Create awareness about obstructive pulmonary disease

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a seminar called for creating mass awareness about Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) that progressively robs a person of the ability to breathe.

The Bangladesh Asthma Association organised the seminar at the auditorium of the National Chest Disease Institute and Hospital in the city on Wednesday to mark the World COPD Day.

The theme of the day was 'Breathing for life'.

Speakers at the seminar said as many as half of the COPD patients go undiagnosed unaware that they have the disease.

"This is why we are taking measures

to make patients aware that they are at great risk," said an expert.

The lung experts also discussed the new approach to tackle the low rates of diagnosis in COPD.

It is estimated that up to 50 percent of people with the disease worldwide go undiagnosed.

Hundreds of millions of people struggle with the effects of COPD on a daily basis but it remains among the most under-diagnosed and under treated of the world's major killers, said the experts.

The COPD is a devastating lung disease and according to a WHO estimate the disease kills about 2.75 million people each year.

It ranks worldwide as the fourth leading cause of death alongside HIV/AIDS.



No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins of northern and central part of the country in the early morning.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 13.6 degree at Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:19am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature In Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 28.7 | 17.5 | 56 | 54 |
| Chittagong | 31.4 | 17.6 | 65 | 55 |
| Rajshahi | 28.5 | 15.6 | 50 | 71 |
| Khulna | 29.5 | 20.5 | 69 | 69 |
| Barisal | 29.5 | 18.6 | 87 | 91 |
| Sylhet | 28.5 | 18.0 | 84 | 69 |
| Cox's Bazar | 31.0 | 17.4 | 71 | 68 |