



40 gangs active in city carjacking

Carjackers mostly work on greed of drivers, apply newer techniques, steal over 60 vehicles a month

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Over 60 carjacking incidents happen in the capital on an average month and those are used in various criminal activities including mugging, robbery and drug peddling while some are sold or disassembled and then sold in parts.

During the first eight days of May, 20 vehicles were carjacked in the capital, said sources in the car theft and carjacking prevention and recovery team of Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

According to the team, 62 cars were stolen in January, 59 in February, 63 in March and 70 in April this year.

The DB team sources said from January to April a total of 254 cars and motorbikes were stolen and the team recovered 146 cars during this time.

Chief of the DB team Mukhlesur Rahman, also an assistant commissioner (AC), told The Daily Star that around 40 organised gangs, of seven to 10 members each, are active across the city in carjacking and theft.

He said the gangs use newer techniques of car theft and carjacking.

Some of them conduct armed robbery at flat buildings to steal parts or entire cars. Another gang later sells the parts to spare-parts shops.

In such an incident on the night of May 4, criminals made away with parts of a private car from the ground floor garage of a six-storey building in West Malibagh. Ramna police said the criminals entered the garage through an air conditioning duct, tied up the security guards and left with several car parts.

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Detective police arrested a man (picture inset) in Narayanganj yesterday, with stolen car parts worth nearly Tk 40 lakh in his possession.

Stolen car parts seized in N'ganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police recovered stolen car-parts worth around Tk 40 lakh and arrested a criminal in this connection at Siddhirganj in Narayanganj Wednesday night.

The arrestee was identified as gang leader Mohammad Siddique, 45, of Shanarpar, Siddhirganj.

Acting on a tip off, a police team led by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Monirul Islam of DB (south) arrested Siddique and recovered spare parts of seven Toyota cars from his house.

Siddique informed DB that his men had watched the security measures of different garages in the capital and

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HOUSE ALLOTMENT Khaleda's 2nd notice doesn't need reply

Says state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday said the government would not reply to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's second notice over her Dhaka Cantonment residence.

"The notice has no importance as it contains some unnecessary and trivial words. So, the government feels that there is no necessity of giving any reply to the notice," he said this while speaking at a press briefing at the law ministry.

The time limit given by Khaleda Zia to the government to withdraw its second

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Move to axe ACC's arrest order power

Top bureaucrats ask for amendment to ACC law

UNB, Dhaka

A provision of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) law is likely to be reinstated to curtail its power so that the watchdog body could not issue an arrest warrant against a government official without informing his/her higher authority.

The country's top bureaucrats, mainly the secretaries of different ministries, yesterday discussed the issue and adopted a proposal to put forward to the cabinet for amending the rules of the ACC.

Cabinet Secretary Abdul Aziz presided over the meeting at cabinet division.

The immediate past caretaker government had inserted the provision in the ACC rules giving it mandate to conduct investigation and

issue arrest warrant against any civil servants without informing his/her highest authority.

"Some of the secretaries have discussed the issue and recommended amending the existing law to curtail the ACC's such power. Because they feel that in many cases, government officials take decision for the interest of their own organisations. It might not be his individual decision," Aziz told reporters while briefing about the meeting.

He noted that originally such a safeguard provision was in the defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption Rule-1977 so that it should not issue such warrant. But later the provision was dropped during the caretaker government while the ACC law was enacted.

The meeting also discussed and made a

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Tk 3CR EXTORTION PP applies to withdraw case against Hasina

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An application was filed with the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka yesterday to withdraw the Tk 3 crore extortion case filed against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by businessman Azam J Chowdhury.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu filed the petition.

Earlier on Tuesday, the

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ATROCITIES IN '71 Forget past, Pakistan urges Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan has urged Bangladesh to let bygones be bygones with regard to atrocities committed by the Pakistani army in 1971.

Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit at his weekly briefing yesterday

said Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni had asked Pakistan to apologize for the war crimes.

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Separate pay commission for teachers soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would soon form a separate pay commission for teachers from primary to university levels, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

"A process has already started to form the commission," he said after launching a five-year long project titled 'Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)' organised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) at a city hotel.

Corruption, irregularities and misappropriation in the education sector must stop, he said adding that his ministry would try its best to abolish the malpractices in the sector.

The UGC will implement the Tk 681 crore project jointly financed by the World Bank and Bangladesh government with an objective to enhance the tertiary standard education in the country.

Speaking as the chief guest, the minister said the government would try its best to increase salary, facilities and dignity of teachers as they hold greater responsibility of building the nation with devotion.

"We want higher education of global standard and it is a big challenge for us," he said adding that quality teachers are the key factor in this respect.

Nahid also said the government has taken some measures to stop drop-outs at the primary level in underprivileged regions like hill tracts, chars, tea gardens and monga affected areas.

"If necessary, we would raise stipends up to 100 percent from the current 40 percent and increase other facilities to encourage children to attend schools and reduce the drop-out rate," he added.

The minister said the government wants to introduce a uniform curriculum in the primary level across the country to bring an end to standard discriminations.

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Suu Kyi faces trial, sent to prison

AP, AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was charged yesterday with violating the terms of her house arrest after an American man swam across a lake to sneak into her home, her lawyer said.

Suu Kyi, whose detention was set to end May 27, could face a prison term of up to five

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Prayer Timing		
May 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: COURTESY

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina praying at the Qulkhani of her husband, Dr Wazed Miah, at her official residence Jamuna yesterday.

Lanka presses ahead with war

UNSC voices concern over humanitarian crisis

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka pressed ahead with its battle to destroy the Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday despite international appeals for the two sides to end their civil war and let thousands of civilians trapped in the war zone escape to safety.

The government has vowed to end the 25-year-old civil war here and has cornered the separatist rebels in a tiny strip of coastal land. Recent fighting in the area has killed hundreds of civilians.

Media Minister Lakshman Abeywardena said the military was continuing its offensive. "There is no change in the government stance, despite pressure coming from several countries," he said.

With the death toll from the fighting mounting, President Barack Obama on Wednesday demanded the rebels lay down their arms and release the estimated 50,000 civilians they have

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Exit polls show no clear majority

Indian parties busy finding partners to forge coalition

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

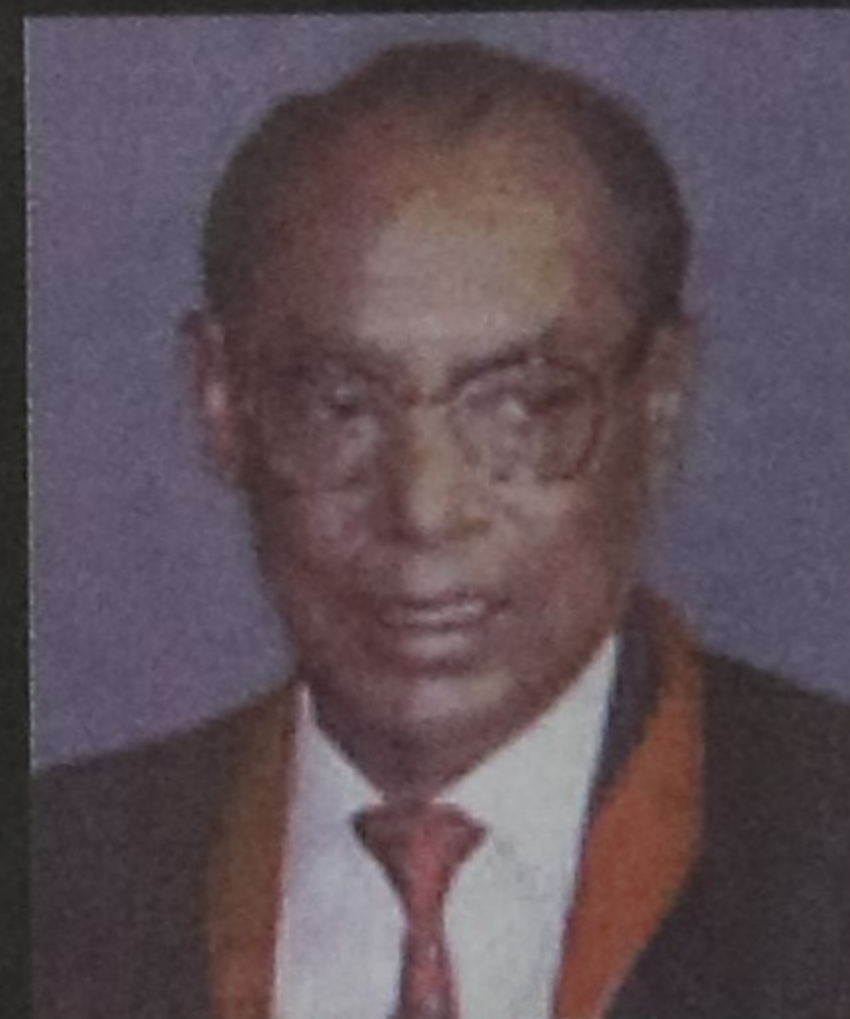
India's ruling Congress and main opposition BJP were busy yesterday crafting their strategies to cobble a coalition to rule the country after exit polls by television news channels projected a highly fragmented mandate in parliamentary elections giving neither of the two parties clear majority.

Even as the channels were flashing exit poll results ahead of actual counting of votes tomorrow, Congress President Sonia Gandhi held a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and other senior leaders of the party including, Pranab Mukherjee and A K Antony, late on Wednesday night to firm up a strategy for government-formation.

On the other hand, BJP's prime ministerial candidate I K Advani held talks with party colleague and Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi yesterday morning to explore possible new allies.

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আমরা শোকাহত



বিশিষ্ট পরমাণুবিজ্ঞানী

ড. ওয়াজেদ মিয়া'র মৃত্যুতে

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত।

আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।



বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রোগনীকারক সমিতি (বিজিএমইএ)

২৩/১, পাস্থপথ লিংক রোড, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা।

ফোন : ৮১১৫৭৫১, ৮১১৫৫৯৭