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6 carjackers arrested
Stolen vehicles, spare parts recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers arrested six car lifters and recovered six vehicles and spare parts of eight more in the last two days.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Sheikh Wahid Shahid, 33, and his accomplices Al-Amin Bhuiyan, 26, Farid Bhuiyan, 24, and Shamim, 25, at Arahazur in Narayanganj while Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Mohammad Badal, 30 and Zakir Hossain, 45 at Shahidnagar in Kadamtoli.

Sheikh Wahid was arrested with a stolen car in front of Hotel Sonargaon at Karwan Bazar Friday. Based on his confessional statement, Rab yesterday recovered two more private cars from Arahazur.

Meanwhile, DB police recovered one private car, one

DMCH launches ambulance service after 30 years

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

After long 30 years, Dhaka Medical College Hospital has introduced ambulance service recently to alleviate sufferings of its patients.

Some four ambulances have been put into service within Dhaka metropolitan city to bring in the patients and take them home.

The minimum rent for a trip was fixed at Tk 300, said the hospital authorities adding two new and two old ambulances started working last Thursday. Some eight drivers will work for the service in three shifts.

Most of the patients of the hospital usually have to depend on some minibuses, which lack patient-friendly features and without oxygen support system.

Under private ownership, about 60 such minibuses are used as ambulances, which can

be hired at a high rent from the hospital premises.

The owners of those vehicles fight a battle to capture the patients. Every owner appoints at least four brokers who try to persuade patients to rent their minibuses.

Mohammad Nasiruddin, in-charge of the hospital's transport section, told The Daily Star that he had been working in the section for the last 30 years. Earlier, two ambulances used to serve the hospital but they were moved to fire service department during the rule of Ziaur Rahman.

"Now we have got a real job to do," he said adding they now take the patients to their homes but not the dead bodies.

"No directors in the past took the initiative to make the ambulance service effective,"



The parents of this baby on the rickshaw-van exploit the child's physical condition to ask people for handouts. The photo was taken near New Market in the city.

PROTECTING WATER BODY
Bapa places 7-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) leaders yesterday placed seven-point demand urging the government to immediately stop encroachments, land grabbing and earth filling in the water-bodies, rivers and canals across the country.

The demands included demarcation of boundaries of the rivers, publishing the lists of the land grabbers and encroachers, and framing environment-friendly and

MANPOWER EXPORT TO LIBYA
New deal leaves jobs of 5,000 in limbo

PORIMOL PALMA

Fate of over 5,000 Bangladeshis, who had been issued work visas for Libya, seem to be in jeopardy, as Bangladesh mission in Tripoli allegedly did not attest job-demand letters.

The complications originated during the recent visit of a Bangladesh delegation to Libya where both the countries decided that instead of the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli, Libyan Labour Department would authenticate job

demands of Libyan employers.

It was then agreed that the Libyan embassy in Dhaka would attest the employment contracts before Bangladesh government issues emigration clearance to workers to ensure that each and every position in Libya joined by the Bangladeshis is genuine and they get due salaries and other facilities.

"Prior to the new bilateral arrangement Libyan employers issued a good number of demand letters. The Libyan embassy in Dhaka also issued around

UZ chairman hurt in Khulna bomb attack
One arrested on the scene

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three persons including an upazila chairman were injured in a bomb attack in front of Police Training Centre in the city yesterday.

Sarder Alauddin Mithu, chairman of Phultala upazila parishad, is also general secretary of the upazila unit BNP.

The other injured are Shamim, driver of his car, and Jubo Dal activist Siraj Morol.

All three were admitted to Phultala Upazila Health Complex with head injuries. They were said to be in critical condition. The chairman came under the attack at around 5:00pm when he was returning to Phultala after attending a division-level conference of BNP at Zia Hall under Sonadanga.

At least six bombs were hurled and several shots fired at his car, said witnesses.

Khanjahan Ali police with the help of BNP workers caught

MRP to begin on schedule
Says Sahara

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun yesterday said the formalities for introduction of Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and Machine Readable Visa (MRV) will begin in the scheduled time.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the MRP project on March 31, she added.

She said this at a meeting at the home ministry with its Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder in the Chair.

The home ministry yesterday decided to distribute application forms for MRP



Lamps in the hands of women at a programme to mark the 100 years of Women's Day celebrations yesterday. Ubinig, Narigrantha Probortona and Odhikar arranged this symbolic event on Sir Syed Road in Dhaka.

Plaques at Zia Udyan removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public Works Department (PWD) removed two name-plates from the city's Zia Udyan late last night.

The steal-made plaques were bearing the name of late president Ziaur Rahman after

ONE-THIRD RESERVED SEATS IN PARLIAMENT
India to pass women's quota bill

AFP, New Delhi

India's government said yesterday it was determined to pass a landmark bill guaranteeing women one-third of seats in parliament to boost female participation in the world's largest democracy.

"Our government is committed to social and economic empowerment of women. We are moving towards one third-reservation for women in parliament and state legislatures," Premier Manmohan Singh told a women's leadership summit.

His statement came ahead of the planned tabling in parliament on Monday -- International Women's Day -- of the Women's Reservation Bill, one of the most contentious

measures to be put before Indian lawmakers. The proposal to reserve 33 percent of seats, first introduced in parliament more than a decade ago, would dramatically increase women's membership in the decision-making lower house where they occupy just 59 slots out of 545.

Passage of the bill would be "a game changer -- something unprecedented in terms of significance for a country like India," Zoya Hassan, a professor of political science at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, told AFP.

"It would be a very major step for women's empowerment," she said.

The legislation needs the approval of two-thirds of legislators to pass.

JUDICIAL SERVICE
Commission runs without chairman

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The post of chairman of Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission has remained vacant for more two months.

A member of the commission is discharging as the acting chairman of the body that selects candidates for the posts of lower court judges.

However, without the chairman the commission cannot make policy decisions like that on the government proposal for introducing 30 percent quota for freedom fighters' children for recruitment as assistant judges.

Sources said the law ministry sent the proposal to the BJSC in January for opinion.

The post of BJSC chairman fell vacant on December 23 last year when its then chairman and Appellate Division Judge Md Tafazzul Islam took oath as the Chief Justice of the country.

An Appellate Division judge is appointed the chairman of the 11-member commission. The president gives the appointment upon recommendations of the chief justice.

Supreme Court Registrar M Shawkat Hossain told The Daily

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SHIP-BREAKING CASE
HC may pass order today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is likely to pass an order today on the case regarding ship-breaking after the government recently informed the court that a total of 172 ships were imported for scrapping last year.

The ministry of shipping has recently informed the HC about this as per its recent order but has not mentioned details about those, advocate Iqbal Kabir, a lawyer of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said yesterday.

The HC on January 26 this year directed the government to submit a report within three weeks on the number of ships imported for scrapping after it

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OnlinePoll ✓
Do you think the government's decision to form eight committees to reduce frequent labour unrest in the country's readymade garment factories will be effective?

Yes (52.3%)
 No (45.6%)
 No Comments (2.1%)

Total votes: 967

TODAY'S POLL
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