

## RECKLESS DRIVING

# Govt mulls speed monitoring device

Finds controlling device difficult to install in vehicles within June 30 deadline of HC

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The government is finally moving to install speed monitoring devices in all motor vehicles in the country, instead of speed governor seals, with the High Court's permission.

The HC on June 25 last year directed the government to install speed governor seals in all motor vehicles by June 30 this year, and directed Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) not to renew fitness certificates or registrations if vehicles are not fitted with the device by the deadline.

Speed governor seal is a device that auto-

matically brings a motor vehicle's speed down when it is running over a pre-set speed limit.

But a problem arose when BRTA found out that CNG, petrol, and octane run vehicles do not have any built-in mechanism for accepting speed control devices. Only diesel run vehicles have the mechanism.

So BRTA returned to the court and explained the situation, and the court told the agency to set up a speed monitoring control room, and install speed monitoring devices in all motor vehicles instead, said Advocate Manzill Murshid, on whose writ petition the HC had

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An official counsels Sima Akhtar, traumatised by the death of her husband in Nimtoli fire, at a medical camp yesterday. The army set the temporary camp in the area to provide mental healthcare to the survivors of the blaze. Left, Sima's three-year-old son Sabbir and her brother.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Landmark feat for local doctors

Country's maiden liver transplantation performed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Bangladeshi surgeons led by Prof Mohammad Ali has conducted the first successful liver transplantation in the country at Birdem Hospital Thursday.

Prof Ali is the department head of Hepato Biliary and Pancreatic Surgery of Birdem Hospital. A group of Indian surgeons also assisted the team during the procedure.

"It is a great achievement for the country's health sector as a significant number of patients will not have to go abroad for liver transplantation. Furthermore, it will be less expensive here," said Prof AK Azad, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB), at a press conference in Birdem auditorium yesterday.

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## Mahmudur on 8-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the recently closed daily Amar Desh, was placed on eight days' remand yesterday in two more cases filed on sedition and terrorism charges.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ismail Hossain passed the order after Mahmudur Rahman was produced before it with a prayer for 20-day remand for him in connection with the two cases.

Earlier, he was shown arrested in the cases and prayers for his remand were placed before the court.

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## 13 die as boat sinks in haor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least 13 people were killed and four others reported missing as a boat capsized in Shoilchapra haor in Dharmapasha upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Hashi, 14, Nupur, 13, Nobija Khatun, 35, wife of Fazal Haque and her five-month-old son Babu, Tajul Islam, 1, son of Nurul Islam, Akilama, 1, daughter of Deen Islam, her brother Rahul, 4, Swapna, 12, daughter of Abdur Rab Miah, Poshaker ma, 55, Rokeya Begum, 35, Jharna Begum, 14, Hazera, 65, and Monimala, 15.

Local and official sources said around 9:30am the small engine boat capsized with over 50 passengers presumably due to overloading and strong current in the haor.

All the passengers were from Balijuri heading towards Shelborosh of the upazila, said Upazila Chairman of Dharmapasha Awal Talukder, adding that the upazila parishad

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## Owners shut Bangladesh Observer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Observer, the oldest English daily of the country, shut down yesterday.

Squabbling owners decided to close the long-suffering daily as journalists and employees, who were running the broadsheet since 1991, left.

The staff of the 60-year-old newspaper came out of the office

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## Living with remains of the tragedy

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

It's very difficult for witnesses to hold back tears when five-year-old Reema, daughter of grocer Abdur Rahim who was burned alive in June 3 Nimtoli inferno, often habitually rushes to the gutted shop.

Reema was told that her father died. But she does not realise the aftermath of the catastrophic fire that claimed 119 lives and still looks for the shop and her father.

Asked about her father, she just said "he died" and ran through a narrow alley with a smile on her face.

It seems there was no difference between Rahim's daughter and his octogenarian father Abul Hossain, who also often comes to the ruins looking for his son.

Neighbours and locals say Abul Hossain often loses his memories and roams around the area alone and looks for something here and there.

They add everything has suddenly turned uncertain at the declining years of the octogenarian's life, as his son was the only breadwinner of the family.

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