



PHOTO: STAR

The two cars and three minibuses recovered from carjacking by the Detective Branch of Police of Bogra between December 8 and 13.

Bogra DB recovers 5 hijacked automobiles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Detective Branch (DB) of police has recovered five hijacked vehicles--three minibuses and two private cars--and rounded up four men of the gang, raiding different places in Pabna and Bogra between December 8 and December 13.

The gang had hijacked the vehicles either disguising as clients of car renters or as law enforcers, said Officer-in-Charge of DB (Bogra) Mizanur Rahman.

He said the arrested snatchers told detectives that they rented car or microbus first and hijacked those in far away and lonely places by forcing the drivers, sometimes using torture, and doping them.

A victim, Nayeb Ali, 36, owner of Bismillah Rent-a-Car in Bogra, said some unidentified people rented his microbus and took it to Natore on November 21. They fed the driver drug-laced food en route and fled with the microbus, he added.

It has not been recovered yet.

The DB official said sometimes the gang members impersonated police personnel posing with walkie-talkies. They used to signal to stop vehicles and told the drivers to come to a nearby police station with their papers, he said. When they came, the carjacking fled with the vehicle, he added.

The carjacking ring has more than a hundred members and is operating all over the country.

Police said the snatchers changed the number plates and registration documents, bribing some corrupt officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

An arrestee told the DB how they managed to have a new number plate and new registration number bribing BRTA officials for one of the three seized minibuses they had hijacked in Bogra in May 2010.

OC Mizanur Rahman said they were trying to crack the carjacking ring soon and hoped that police could recover more snatched vehicles.

Police are applying new technology to track down the gang of snatchers, said Superintendent of Police (SP) of Bogra Mozzammel Haque.

DENTAL CARE Phasing out of mercury use demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded a ban on the use of mercury in dental amalgam in the country.

They called for mass awareness and formulation of an integrated national policy to check the use of this toxic compound in dental and health care.

Environment and Social Development Organisation held the discussion in the capital's Jatiya Press Club on Thursday, said a press release.

Mercury is emerging as a major threat to human health and environment, and exposure to it weakens the body's immune system and causes damage to brain, kidney and skin, said speakers.

World Alliance for Mercury-free Dentistry President Charlie Brown and Bangladesh Dental Society President Md Ashraf Hussain also addressed the programme.

INDO-BANGLA LAND BOUNDARY DEAL

New Delhi talking to parties for consensus on ratification

BSS, Dhaka

New Delhi is engaged in negotiations with political parties to reach a consensus for parliamentary ratification of the crucial Land Boundary Agreement signed with Bangladesh, visiting Indian law Minister Ashwani Kumar said yesterday.

"The external affairs minister (Salman Khurshid) is in extensive discussion with the political parties to reach an agreement for the ratification," he told the news agency on the sidelines of a ceremony to honour the foreign friends of the Liberation War.

"We are very hopeful that the issue will be resolved very soon," he said as asked if the current session of Indian parliament

could ratify the treaty, a long outstanding issue of bilateral ties.

The Indian minister was in Dhaka to receive an honour on behalf of his father late Shree Prabodh Chandra for his support to Bangladesh in the 1971 war.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh signed the LBA in Dhaka in September 2011 formalising a 1974 treaty for exchange of enclaves and land in adverse possession.

Indian Cabinet Committee on National Security this July cleared the treaty, while it is now awaiting ratification in the lower house, Lok Sabha.

Indian government leaders earlier hinted that the ratification could be done by the end of this year.

Bangladesh will ensure democracy, equity, justice

PM tells foreign friends

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her steadfast resolve to live up to the expectation of the international community by upholding the principles and values of equity, democracy, social justice, inclusive development and rule of law for which Bangladesh was born 41 years ago.

The world acknowledges Bangladesh as a country where moderation and tolerance are practiced, she said.

"We are steadfast in our endeavour to live up to your expectations and turn Bangladesh into a country that you had envisioned while extending your support in 1971," she added.

The prime minister was addressing a gala ceremony of conferring the 'Bangladesh Liberation War Honour' and 'Friends of Liberation War Honour' to foreign friends and institutions for their outstanding contribution to the country's liberation war.

A total of 60 individuals and two institutions were given the honour at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in this phase under a plan taken by the government in 2011 to honour more than 500 foreign friends and institutions.

The prime minister availed the occasion as an opportunity to extend the country's Victory Day greetings to the foreign friends.

"Bangladesh will celebrate the

41st anniversary of its Victory Day tomorrow, which marks the victory for foreign friends as well," she said yesterday.

"On this occasion, we are offering you, the nation's deepest sense of gratitude for what you have done towards attainment of statehood by Bangladesh."

"Our tribute epitomises the sentiment of an indebted nation, love of its people and it's the manifestation of how deeply we value our friendship," she said.

Hasina said this grand congregation exemplifies the strength and beauty of family.

"This is also a rare opportunity for our people particularly the young generation to know and learn about their foreign friends and unsung heroes, many of whom worked behind the scene for our independence," she said.

The support of the foreign friends came at a critical juncture when the country's freedom-loving innocent people were trying to ward off the wrath of a ruthless modern occupation army, Hasina said.

"Our fault, we stood up against discrimination and fought for a just cause, self-determination," she said.

It was immensely emboldening to find the majority of the world community on our side in our trying time, Sheikh Hasina said.

"We knew that we were not alone, our foreign friends were out to helping us. It was such a source of inspira-

tion," she said.

"In fact, it was our foreign friends who inspired people all over the globe and played the lead role in mobilising the world opinion in our favour," she added.

The prime minister said, "The just struggle for our emancipation received significant boost from their invaluable contribution and their intervention helped change the approach of many countries which were initially not so sympathetic to our aspiration but later paid heed to our saga of sorrow and humiliation."

"We are proving that we are worthy of the trust and confidence you had reposed on us, and we believe that our foreign friends are the equal partners of our accomplishments," she said.

The contribution of foreign friends is immeasurable and it cannot be repaid, Hasina said adding that it was purely a selfless act which would serve as glaring examples for the humanity and the posterity.

"It would not have mattered anything to many of you had Bangladesh not become independent. Still you stepped forward, provided us moral, spiritual and material support. You simply listened to your heart, rose in protest against the atrocities perpetrated by the occupation army," she maintained.

Ambassador Jagdish C Sharma, on behalf of the recipients, also spoke on the occasion.

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Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, former principal of Jagannath University College and a teacher of economics, passed away at Chittagong Metropolitan Hospital yesterday at the age of 72.

He was admitted to the hospital following a cardiac arrest a few days ago, said family sources.

He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters, three grandchildren and a host of relatives, students and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Prof Fazlul Quader joined as a teacher at Jagannath University College in 1997, retiring from there in 2000.

He is the author of the book "Economic Development of Bangladesh".

He was recently teaching at the economics department of University of Information Technology and Sciences.

১৬-৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১২
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