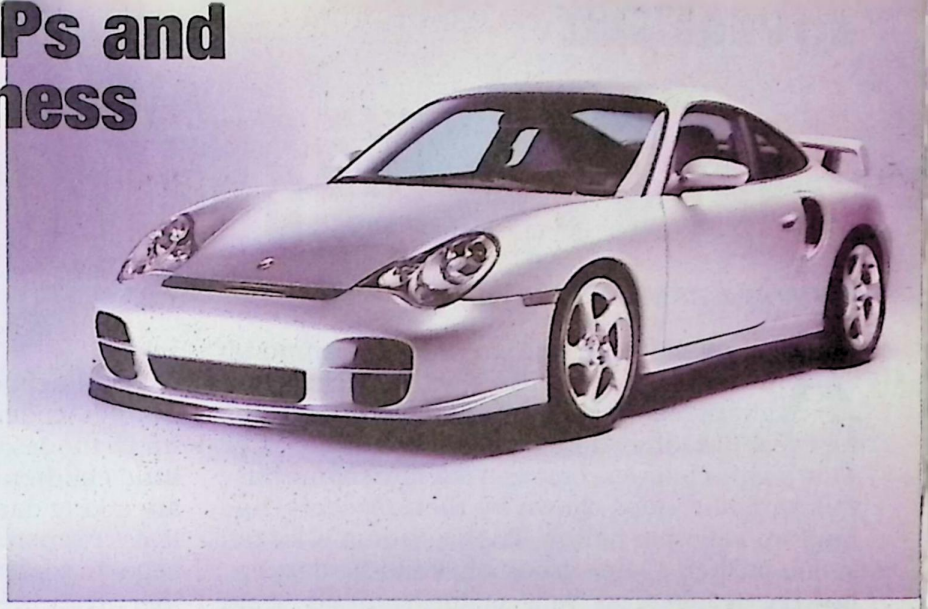
Honourable MPs and their car business



THE honourable Members of Parliament in general have never been held in high esteem. This is because the common people know very little about. A recent newspaper report has certainly dealt a heavy blow to their already diminished honour. It was found out that all the 300 MPs except eight have brought expensive, in fact unbelievably expensive cars, from abroad and then sold them to others. MPs do not have to pay duty if he imports a car for his personal use. So each of them has imported the latest version of the most expensive brand cars like Mercedes, Lexus, BMW, Hamar, Porte, Cadillac, Land Rover Range and then sold them to different businessmen, in exchange of a hefty amount. Each of the MPs has made 10 to 25 lakh from this lucrative car business. In the process the government has been deprived of revenue of about Tk 280 crore.

The laudable exceptions are PM Khaleda Zia, who along with three other MPs have not imported any car, while Sheikh Hasina, the opposition leader, Saifur Rahman, finance minister, Zamiruddin Sarker, the speaker and Anwar Hossain Manju, the leader of a fraction of Jatiya Party have imported and are using them.

A total of 275 cars have been imported duty-free by the MPs. 55 of them are BMW Jeep and car. The highest price of this brand is Tk 84 lakh, without duty of course. 40 Mercedes Benz jeep and car were brought. The highest price of this brand's jeep is Tk 73 lakh and car Tk 1 crore and 18 lakh. Then 10 Porsche were also brought. Porsche is at present among the most expensive cars, each costing around Tk 3 crore, without duty of course.

Speaker Zamiruddin Sarker has record of importing the least expensive car. He imported a 1500 cc Toyota Corolla priced Tk 10 lakh. When asked about his colleagues' car business, he said he does not want to believe them. In fact nobody wants to believe that people's representatives who have taken oath to serve the people and the country can commit such shameless act. Unfortunately that's exactly what the honourable MPs have done.

Indigenous community suffers from insecurity

INDIGENOUS people in Khagrachhari have announced that they will not observe Boishabi festival this year due to lack of security in the hill districts. This festival takes place from April 12 to 14 and marks the beginning of the Bangla new year. Processions were brought out to protest recent attacks on them, mainly by a segment of ruling BNP leaders. Other points of protest were security concerns, withdrawal of Bangalees and Army from the hilly areas, and punishment for those responsible for the clashes in Gamaritili, Komolchhari, Maichchhari and Mohalchhari. A memorandum was also submitted to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner. The decision to not observe Boishabi came about because the life and properties of indigenous people are not safe anymore. According to them, at least 60 people had been injured in the recent clashes and two women were raped.

