



PHOTO: STAR

Cars and motorcycles, seized in connection with various cases, are kept indefinitely on the premises of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka. The photo was taken yesterday.

DUMPED FOR YEARS UNDER OPEN SKY

Evidential materials worth crores of taka decaying

PORIMOL PALMA and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Evidential materials worth crores of taka seized by police in connection with various cases and kept under supervision of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka, are getting damaged causing huge losses to the government as well as their owners.

One can always find around 60 motorbikes along with some cars on one side and a number of other vehicles on another side of the

premises of the CMM's Court in old part of the capital.

Dumped there for years under the open sky, many of these vehicles including CNG-run autorickshaws, taxicabs, pick-ups, rickshaw vans and rickshaws not only got rusted but also became dysfunctional and lost their worth. Many more vehicles are gathering dust at an underground space there.

Moreover, thousands of other things stockpiled there include television, computer, radio and

cassette player, and even lethal weapons, wine, phensidyl etc.

And all these are evidential materials of cases accumulated over the years. Damage to those might also result in release of the accused, sources in the CMM's Court said.

"As per the law, we cannot remove seized materials unless cases are disposed of," said a policeman taking care of the things.

Disposal of many cases takes

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Brown vows to learn from Iraq mistakes

Blair endorses Brown as his successor

AP, London

Gordon Brown launched his campaign to become Britain's next prime minister yesterday, pledging to learn from the mistakes of the Iraq war while honouring "our obligations to the Iraqi people."

Brown, who faces no serious opposition after waiting more than a decade for his chance to lead the country, said there needed to be a stronger emphasis on political reconciliation and economic development in Iraq.

"And obviously we've got to more to win the battle of hearts and minds against al-Qaeda terrorism."

Prime Minister Tony Blair, who announced he would resign June 27, officially endorsed Brown on Friday. As Treasury chief, Brown is credited with much of Britain's recent economic boom.

"I want to lead a government humble enough to know its place," Brown said, pledging to win back voters disenchanted after a decade

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BHABADHA WATERLOGGING

Locals must actively help resolve problem

Seminar in city told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Active and effective participation of the locals of Bhabadaha area in Jessore is must for the implementation of any project to solve the area's persistent water-logging problem, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

They also urged the government to formulate a comprehensive plan after consulting with the locals and experts for a permanent solution to

the problem.

They suggested repairing of the existing embankments and sluice gates and digging more water bodies and ensuring free flow of water in the rivers of the area.

The seminar styled "Salinity in the southwestern regions including Bhabadaha and permanent solution to water-logging" was organised by Bhabadaha Pani Nishkashan Sangram Committee,

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Prayer Timing		
May 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

AL demands election schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday demanded that the caretaker government hold election as early as possible to hand over power to an elected government.

"Reform work on the Election

Commission and preparation of voters' list will have to be completed swiftly for holding an early election and handing over power to an elected government," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters while entering Sudha

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