

Two-stroke autorickshaws still ply Ctg city streets

70 owned by CCC

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

A good number of two-stroke autorickshaws ply the streets of port city escaping eyes of the authorities concerned till date.

Some 70 of them are owned by none other than Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), one of the government agencies responsible for taking care of the environment in the city.

The CCC runs two-stroke autorickshaws disregarding the restriction on their movement inside the metropolitan area to carry its officials.

The government has stopped registration of such petrol-run autorickshaws to restrict their movement within the metropolitan areas as they caused massive air pollution.

The CCC-owned two-stroke autorickshaws also do not have any fitness certificate or route permit as well.

Painted in blue, these three-wheelers ply with certificate that reads "These vehicles run under special arrangements having all necessary documents preserved with the concerned department of the CCC."

The certificate bears the signature of Abdul Hasnat, former executive engineer (Mechanical) of the CCC.

"Beside causing air pollution, these are also raising our fuel cost and hampering our movement," said the concerned CCC officials who use the three-wheelers with two-stroke engine.

"Our movement is restricted due

to these vehicles for which we are allocated fixed and little quantity of petrol on daily basis," said a CCC engineer on condition of anonymity, adding, "Whereas a single cylinder of CNG could have enabled us to travel as much as required."

He, however, feared that a sudden withdrawal of these autorickshaws without procuring CNG-run ones would only increase the transportation problem.

There is allegation that the CCC did not take any initiative so far to replace the two-stroke autorickshaws which provide scope for piffing fuel by a section of dishonest officials and staffs of the CCC.

No senior officials including the chief executive officer, chief engineer or secretary could be contacted for comments in this regard.

CCC Public Relations Officer Saifuddin Ahmed said, "Most of the CCC vehicles are CNG-run excepting some 40 petrol-run autorickshaws."

"As these autorickshaws could neither be sold nor left unused, the CCC is using them only during the office hours," he added.

"The CCC has been trying to replace them, but could not do so due to fund constraint," he claimed.

According to sources concerned, the CCC has five jeeps, 12 private cars, three microbuses, 70 petrol-run autorickshaws and 13 CNG-run autorickshaws providing transport service to its officials as per ranks.

But different CCC officials have given different information regarding the number of these autorickshaws

and the quantity of fuel used for these vehicles.

Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Abdul Malek, in-charge of CCC vehicles, said they have 69 three-wheelers including 23 petrol-run ones, each having an allocation of three to four litres of petrol a day.

Assistant Engineer (Mechanical) Fazlul Quader, who is also an officer of the transport pool, put the number of the three-wheelers at 87.

He said around half of these three-wheelers are CNG-run while the rest are petrol-run with an allocation of 180 litres petrol a day.

Meanwhile, officials of Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA), Traffic Department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and Department of Environment (DoE) here have expressed their ignorance on the matter.

They also could not say anything about the number of petrol-run autorickshaws plying the city streets at present.

When asked, BRTA Assistant Director Sheikh Attaullah Chowdhury said as far as he knew, local BRTA office did not receive any official order imposing ban on the plying of petrol-run autorickshaws in the port city.

"But they automatically went off the road in a race with the CNG-run ones," he observed.

"We have not been giving registration for such vehicles for plying in the city since 2001," said Attaullah, adding that no two-stroke autorickshaws came to them for renewal of route permits in the last six

years, and if comes they won't renew the permit.

Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) Md Ali Miah of CMP said they could not detect any petrol-run autorickshaw plying the city streets since long and the traffic department was sure to take strict measures like seizure and legal suit against them if there was any.

As attention was drawn to CCC-owned ones, the DC referred this correspondent to Traffic Inspector Abhijit who also expressed his ignorance on the existence of the two-stroke three-wheelers here.

"It is also beyond my knowledge if the ban was applicable for the vehicles owned by a government organisation like the CCC," he added.

In this regard, Director Nazmul Haq said the environment department also could take measures like conducting mobile court and filing case against such vehicles that defied ban.

He, however, could not say whether his department had taken any measure in this regard or had any record of petrol-run autorickshaws that might ply the city streets as he took the office just on last Sunday, the day he talked to The Daily Star.

"Students could not develop human qualities even after passing SSC examinations with good results because the existing teaching method has failed to impart real education to them," said Prof M Enamul Haq.

Educationists said this at a reception ceremony for meritorious students who achieved GPA-5 in the SSC examinations this year.

They also said the teaching method should be updated and modernised and the teachers should be trained on modern teaching method so that they can help students become creative.

Rajshahi Committee of Bangladesh Teachers' Association (BTA) organised the reception at

Rajshahi on Wednesday, with Prof M Enamul Haq, chairman of Rajshahi Secondary and Higher Secondary Board, as the chief guest.

A total of 147 GPA-5 achievers were given crests and English dictationaries at the reception.

"Students could not develop

human qualities even after passing

SSC examinations with good results

because the existing teaching

method has failed to impart real

education to them," said Prof M Enamul Haq.

Prof Selim Bhuiyan, secretary general of central BTA, said the traditional teaching method has slowed the

mental growth of students.

"The teachers of non-government

high schools should be trained on modern teaching method first because 98 percent of students of secondary level come from non-government high schools," he said.

He also urged the teachers to

come forward to help the caretaker

government in its fight against corruption.

Mostafizur Rahman, school

inspector of Rajshahi Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board,

Rajshahi District Education Officer Dr Sadhan Kumar Biswas, Bangladesh

Madrasa Teachers Association Chairman M Abdul Latif and BTA

Assistant Secretary General Zakir

Hossain also spoke.

Harry Potter festival held

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Harry Potter festival was held at Public Library in the city yesterday as part of an ongoing book fair.

Anni, an event management firm, is organising the fair, in participation of three publication houses Ankur Prakashani, Pragati Publishers and Onnesha Prakashan.

A good number of Harry Potter fans participated in the competition on JK Rowling's famous Harry Potter series, said the organisers.

Rubaiyat Row of Vigarunisa Noon School and College won the first prize, while Mahfuz Pollin of Rifles School and Mim of Kamrunisa Girls' High School won the second and third prizes respectively.

They were awarded with books and crests. Besides, 10 other participants received consolation prizes.

Ankur Prakashani owns the copyright to translate the Harry Potter series.

It has published five books of the series since 2001.

Bullet-hit criminal arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested an alleged criminal after he was shot and injured during a raid at Pallabi in the city early yesterday.

The arrestee, identified as Billal Khandaker, is accused in 12 criminal cases including robbery, said police.

Four teams of Pallabi police cordoned off 12 houses at Lalmati at around 2:15am on information that a group of criminals took shelter in one of the houses.

Sub-Inspector Mizanur Rahman said sensing police presence three of the criminals climbed on the roof of the tin-shed house and managed to escape the arrest.

"Failing to escape, Billal climbed on the rooftop of a nearby three-storied under-construction building where a constable took position earlier. The constable shot Billal in the waist and arrested him wounded," Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The victim is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police custody.

Police said Billal is an active member of a gang of robbers. He had been arrested two months back from Mirpur Section 11 with looted goods and came out of jail on bail.

However, Billal claimed he is innocent and he looks after a dental clinic of his father in Mirpur area.

He said as police knocked his door in the night, he got scared and tried to hide on the rooftop of a building. Though marks of shot gun pellets were evident in his waist, Billal said that he suffers injuries when he was coming down from the rooftop.

Obituary

Prof AM Khan Mojish, an ENT specialist, passed away yesterday morning at the age of 85, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

All have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Fazal Mahmud Babul, a businessman, will be held at his Mughabazar residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Fazal Mahmud, only son of late MA Muqit, founder director of the Pioneer Printing Press Ltd, passed away on June 28 at the National Heart Foundation Hospital in Mirpur at the age of 54.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Toakirun Nessa

Qulkhwani of Toakirun Nessa will be held at her residence at 40 Purana Paltan in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Toakirun Nessa, wife of late Golam Mobarak, retired labour commissioner and labour consultant, passed away due to prolonged old age ailments at her residence on Thursday at the age of 90.

She left behind her seven daughters and three sons to mourn her death.



Winners of a quiz competition on Harry Potter pose for photograph with the guests at Public Library in the city yesterday.

'Modernise teaching method to develop talents of students'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The teaching method of the country should be changed in order to develop the inner skills and talents of students.

Educationists said this at a reception ceremony for meritorious students who achieved GPA-5 in the SSC examinations this year.

They also said the teaching method should be updated and modernised and the teachers should be trained on modern teaching method so that they can help students become creative.

Rajshahi Committee of Bangladesh Teachers' Association (BTA) organised the reception at

Rajshahi on Wednesday, with Prof M Enamul Haq, chairman of Rajshahi Secondary and Higher Secondary Board, as the chief guest.

A total of 147 GPA-5 achievers were given crests and English dictationaries at the reception.

"Students could not develop

human qualities even after passing

SSC examinations with good results

because the existing teaching

method has failed to impart real

education to them," said Prof M Enamul Haq.

Prof Selim Bhuiyan, secretary general of central BTA, said the traditional teaching method has slowed the

mental growth of students.

"The teachers of non-government

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Two housewives suffer burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two housewives sustained severe burns as they fell victim to domestic violence in separate incidents in Dhaka and Mymensingh in the early hours of yesterday.

Of them, Rina Begum, 25, was injured severely when her husband allegedly poured boiled water on her in her sleep at South Badra in Dhaka at around 2:00am.

The other victim is Shahnaz Begum, 20, of Mymensingh Sadar upazila. She was injured seriously when her mother-in-law allegedly set fire to her after pouring kerosene on her shortly after midnight on

Thursday.

Both the victims are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Rina, a garments worker, told The Daily Star that her husband Jahangir Alam, a rickshaw-wallah puller, poured boiled water on her when she was sleeping at their residence.

Earlier in the evening, they were locked in an altercation as Jahangir suspected that she has an affair with one of her colleagues at the garment factory at Tejgaon.

In the other incident, Shahnaz Begum sustained severe burns in Mymensingh.

Rafiqul Islam, brother of

Youth stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified youth aged around 25 was stabbed to death at Uttara in the city last night.

Patrol police recovered the body of the youth at Road # 10 at Uttara Sector # 4 at around 11:00pm. The body bore stab injuries in the abdomen.

Police suspected that the attackers killed the youth somewhere else and dumped the body at Uttara.

Handover of KNM properties to BSCIC postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Movable and immovable properties of Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) could not be handed over to Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) yesterday due to objection from the managing director of the mills.

As the official concerned asked the passenger why he provided the money, he (passenger) replied that it is his tips.

"Soon our officer informed the matter to top officials, prompting them to detain Akhter," Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Immigration police at the ZIA told The Daily Star.

Akhter was handed over to Airport Police Station.