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Police ride on public vehicles

Owners get no compensation for usage or damage

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Lacking adequate number of vehicles, police stations of Dhaka Metropolitan Police mostly use requisitioned vehicles that torment vehicle owners as the authorities do not pay any compensation.

DMP sources said the police stations need over 500 vehicles a day for smooth operation but they only have 132 vehicles of their own and the rest 368 vehicles are collected through either one-day requisitions or regular requisitions.

DMP sources said most of the vehicles of police stations are very old and are broken down most of the times. They said 37 vehicles out of the 132 are reserved for the officers-in-charge of police stations.

On August 18, 265 vehicles were requisitioned for DMP alone and excluding these, two to three vehicles were requisitioned by each of

the 37 police stations in the capital.

The police stations maintain around 225 patrol teams and over 100 check posts across the city by mobilising every day around 7,000 police personnel from the barracks, public order management (POM) in Mirpur and the police stations.

Vehicle owners alleged that the DMP authorities do not pay compensation for requisitioning vehicles and using them or for any damage done to the vehicle when it was being used by the state.

They do not even pay for the drivers' and their helpers' food, they alleged.

An office bearer of a pick-up van association told The Daily Star that since 2002 they have been letting two police stations use four of their pick-up vans as requisitioned vehicles so that they leave their other vehicles running on four routes in the capital.

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Law enforcers can requisition vehicles from whoever or where ever they wish. This photo taken at Purana Paltan in the capital shows policemen on duty in a private pick-up van requisitioned from its owner for an indefinite time.

PHOTO: STAR

Other side of vehicle requisition

Some cops turn it into a good business

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Mohammad Rafiq was pleading to the traffic sergeant not to requisition his microbus just two days after it was requisitioned.

Rafiq's microbus was taken to a place behind the Passport Office in Agargaon where around 100 other buses, microbuses and pick-up vans were already parked.

Five hours had gone by since the microbus was stopped around 8:00pm near Pongu Hospital and Rafiq was still looking for a way to get his vehicle released. "I know what I will have to go through if my vehicle is requisitioned," Rafiq said.

Finally Rafiq found a way.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Top outlaw 'killed' in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushita

General Secretary of outlawed Gono Bahini, Azibor Rahman alias Azibor Chairman was killed by his rivals in India Tuesday night, his family and

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EMBROILED CTG BNP

Factions to accept Khaleda's decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top leaders of different factions of Chittagong BNP yesterday pledged to accept party chairperson's decision regarding the city unit committee unconditionally.

Dejected by the fact that the Chittagong council of the party on Monday was foiled because of intra-party clashes, they urged the party high command to form the new committee "with all dedicated leaders".

During a closed-door meeting with party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, top leaders of Chittagong BNP Abdullah Al Noman and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury

blamed each other for the clashes.

A faction leader held city unit leadership responsible for the foiled council while another alleged that a few party men aided by outsiders were behind the incident.

Towards the end of the four-hour-long meeting, Delwar asked the Chittagong leaders if they would accept the decision of Chairperson Khaleda Zia regarding the city committee. As all the leaders agreed, Delwar collected signatures from them.

After the Chittagong council had been postponed following clashes, Khaleda formed an investigation committee led by Delwar to

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Shakib signs for Worcestershire

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan, world's number one all-rounder in ODIs, has just had another feather added to his already glittering career by becoming

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Interference of MPs, officials must end

Upazila parishad representatives demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elected representatives from different upazila parishads at a roundtable yesterday demanded that the lawmakers and bureaucrats refrain from interfering in the parishad affairs.

Terming the upazila parishad paralysed, they said 10 months have passed since they took oath but they are yet to participate in the parishad activities. They urged the government to specify their scope of work.

A strong local government is the prerequisite for good governance and balanced economic development, they said, demanding financial empowerment of the UPs to

strengthen the local government.

Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan) organised the roundtable styled "Local government -- Where are we?" in the city's Jatiya Press Club with participation of a number of chairmen and vice chairmen from different upazila parishads.

The chairmen and vice chairmen alleged that the lawmakers are distributing the government allocated food and fertiliser through their party activists, sidelining the elected representatives.

Though the duty of a parliament member is enacting laws, the lawmakers are meddling in

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CONDOLENCE



Engr. Nurul Haque Sikder, Founder Chairman of Palmal Group of Industries, a veteran philanthropist, Ex Vice President, BGMEA; Ex Chairman, Prime Bank Ltd.; Ex Vice President, Abahoni Krira Chakra; Ex Sponsor Director, Export Association of Bangladesh; Founder of Shahid Siraj Sikder College expired yesterday (18.11.09) at 9:00 a.m. (BD time) at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore (Inna.....Rajeun).

He left behind his wife, one son, two daughters, relatives and uncountable well-wishers. We mourn this sad loss with deepest sorrow & express our heartiest concern to the bereaved family members of our beloved Chairman. May Allah give them courage and fortitude to bear the irrecoverable loss of his departure.

We pray to the Almighty Allah from the very core of our hearts for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

All the Employees of
Palmal Group of Industries.

PM pledges food for education for 2m children

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Rome

The government will launch a food for education programme this year targeting two million children in the most food-insecure areas to prevent school dropouts there, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said.

Hasina disclosed this at a meeting with World Food Programme Executive Director Josette Sheeran on the sidelines of the World Summit on Food Security, Rome 2009 at the headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organization on Tuesday evening.

She also sought WFP's support to address nutrition problems and create a social safety net in Bangladesh, prime minister's Press Secretary Abdul Kalam Azad told journalists after the meeting.

Hasina told the WFP executive director that Bangladesh has been facing adverse impacts of climate change.

The premier appreciated WFP's focus on the ultra poor, the main victims of climate change, which is congruent with the key

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Online Poll

Do you think the postponement of BNP's Chittagong city unit council following the intra-party clash will affect its national council slated for Dec 8?

Yes (52.4%) No (43.0%)

No Comments (4.6%)

Total votes: 781

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the annual corruption perception index released by the Transparency International truly reflects the picture of lesser corruption in the country?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net



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