

RANCON launches Proton X90 in Bangladesh

Plans to start production of Proton cars by end of 2024

STAR REPORT

RANCON Cars Ltd has launched two variants of Proton X90, the mid-sized sports utility vehicles in Bangladesh's market, said a press release.

RANCON, as the exclusive distributor and manufacturer for Proton vehicles in Bangladesh, will initially import and retail the car.

Later, the company will invest in a manufacturing line to locally assemble Proton vehicles in Bangladesh, said the release after RANCON officially unveiled the Proton X90 at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel.

Haznah Md Hashim, high commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh; Dr Li Chunrong, chief executive officer of PROTON; and Romo Rouf Chowdhury, group managing director of RANCON Holdings Limited, were present at the event.

"PROTON is confident that RANCON Holdings is the perfect partner for us to be successful," said PROTON CEO Dr Li Chunrong.

Founded on May 7, 1983 to spearhead Malaysia's economic development and lay the foundations for the local automotive industry, PROTON, in 2017, began to place its cars globally in its aim to become a global automotive brand.

RANCON said the Proton X90 boasts a 48V mild hybrid system, which includes a 1.5L turbocharged

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RANCON Cars Ltd has launched two variants of Proton X90, the mid-sized sports utility vehicles in Bangladesh's market. RANCON officially unveiled the Proton X90 at a city hotel recently. Haznah Md Hashim, high commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh; Dr Li Chunrong, chief executive officer of PROTON; and Romo Rouf Chowdhury, group managing director of RANCON Holdings Limited, were present at the event.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Fire at under-construction cold storage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire broke out in an under-construction cold storage building in Chattogram yesterday.

The fire started around 11:00am in the building of Taaza Multipurpose Cold Storage Ltd on Bakoliya New Road in the port city.

Seven units from three fire stations brought the fire under control in two hours.

No casualties have been reported so far as there were no workers inside the building, said Divisional Fire Service Station Assistant Director Abdul Malek.

While visiting the building, this correspondent found a lot of wood, cork sheet, and paper. The third and fourth floors of the four-storied building were badly damaged compared to the first and second floors.

This cold storage is being constructed for the last two years.

Government incompetency to blame

Fakhrul on fire incidents

UNB, Dhaka

BNP has expressed deep shock and sorrow over the fire incident at a six-storey commercial building on Bailey Road in Dhaka that claimed 46 lives and injured many.

In a statement issued yesterday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed his condolences.

At least 45 [46 people] people died in the Baily Road building blaze on Thursday night. And for those who are fighting for life in hospital beds, their tears and sorrow are very heartbreaking and touching, he said.

Fakhrul said the relevant doctors and officials informed them that the death toll may increase.

"I am deeply saddened and bereaved, along with the family and friends of the deceased and injured. I pray to almighty Allah to give strength and patience to the family members who lost their loved ones."

He also wished for the early recovery of the injured in the blaze.

Voicing concern about frequent fire incidents, the BNP leader said the lack of rule of law in the country

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AMTALI MU GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

6 academic buildings in dire need of repair

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The academic buildings of the lone educational institution for girls in Barguna's Amtali upazila are in a dilapidated state, leaving its 420 students compelled to attend classes amid risks.

Established in 1965 by local educationist Mofiz Uddin on Bangabandhu Road in the upazila, Amtali MU Girls Pilot Secondary School has six academic buildings constructed between 1966 and 2002.

Over the years, lack of repairs and maintenance eventually led to their present sorry state.

Visiting the school recently, this correspondent observed cracks on the buildings' walls and ceilings, while plasters were falling off. The computer lab was seen covered with polythene to save it from water that enters the structures through the aforementioned cracks during the monsoon.

Waterlogging is also a common problem during rains.

Meanwhile, cows and goats were seen roaming on the playground due to an absence of boundary walls, making it difficult for

Established in 1965 by local educationist Mofiz Uddin on Bangabandhu Road in the upazila, Amtali MU Girls Pilot Secondary School has six academic buildings constructed between 1966 and 2002.



The academic buildings of Amtali MU Girls Pilot Secondary School, the lone educational institution for girls in Barguna's Amtali upazila, lies in a dilapidated state due to lack of repairs and maintenance. All 420 of its students have no choice but to attend classes amid risks. PHOTO: STAR

students to use it.

According to locals, the school transforms into a drug den after sunset, as there is nothing barring unscrupulous people from entering.

"We are attending classes amid fear of the buildings collapsing at any time," said Naushin Akhtar, a 10th-grader at the school.

"During monsoon, rainwater leaks through the roof, making it uncomfortable for everyone to attend classes," mentioned Tashlima Alam, an 8th-grader.

Shah Alam Kabir, head teacher of the

school, said, "All six buildings of the school have become unsuitable for academic activities. We requested higher authorities several times for steps in this regard, but to no avail."

Muhammad Ashraf Alam, UNO of Amtali upazila, said, "Considering the safety of students, initiatives are being taken to renovate the academic buildings of the school."

Contacted, Jasim Uddin, secondary education officer in Barguna district, said, "Recommendations for the construction of new school buildings have been sent to the higher authorities."

Assaulted by stalkers, she stops going to school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A girl has stopped going to school for the last three days after a group of stalkers assaulted her in Chauhali, Sirajganj recently.

Meanwhile, one of the alleged stalkers was accorded floral reception by the ruling Awami League men after he was released on bail in a case filed over the stalking.

The family of the ninth-grader said some local youths used to stalk her on the way to and from school. "The stalkers assaulted my daughter on February 27 while she was returning from school," said her father.

"On information, I rushed to the spot for rescue. But the stalkers also assaulted me," he added.

Afterwards, the father filed a case accusing seven people.

On the same day, police arrested four of the accused — including Rashed Uddin Bhuiyan, 42, a local private college teacher and office secretary of Enayetpur Thana unit of AL.

A day later, Rashed was released on bail from a court. When he was freed, local AL men accorded a warm reception to Rashed at the local AL office.

Some photos of the reception programme went viral on social media.

The girl's father said, "My daughter stopped going to school since the incident. Rashed is the leader of the group. We have been threatened after Rashed was arrested. Now, we are more worried as Rashed has been released... We are passing days amid insecurity."

Contacted, Rashed denied the allegation of his involvement in any such incident of harassment.

"I have become a victim of conspiracy. I placed all necessary proofs before the court defending myself... As the court was convinced, I got bail," Rashed told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Enayetpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Abdur Razzak said police have nothing to do if a court grants bail to any accused.

However, police will ensure security of the girl and her family, the OC said.

An alleged stalker was accorded reception by the AL men after he was released on bail.



After a two-month ban on crab netting during the breeding season, fishermen were permitted to resume catching the crustaceans from yesterday. For many fishermen, this is their primary livelihood. The photos were taken in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

SUNDARBANS

Crab fishing season begins

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

After a two-month hiatus during the breeding season of crabs, fishermen set sail once more in various rivers and canals of the Sundarbans to resume their crab catching activities.

They set forth after receiving permission from the Forest Department.

The ban, which lasted from January 1 to the end of February, aimed to protect the crab population and ensure sustainable harvesting practices.

Nirmal Kumar Mondal, officer of Kashiabad Forest Station in West Sundarbans, said that crab fishing is prohibited throughout the year in 30 designated canals, declared as sanctuaries, and less than 25 feet wide canals in the Sundarbans.

However, in other rivers and canals, approximately 15,000 fishermen — armed with valid pass-permits — earn a living by catching crabs.

Since the implementation of the crab export policy in 1998, crab fishing pass-permits have been suspended for two months every year.

With the ban lifted yesterday, fishermen are now allowed to resume their activities.

Nirapada Munda, of Koyra-6, has been catching crabs for over 30 years. During the ban, he was forced to sit idly by. Like him, over 70 families of Munda communities of Koyra struggled to make ends meet during this ban.

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