

GLOBAL NEWS



CHINESE ANSWER TO TAXI TOILET PROBLEM?

A recent news item on the Chinese international TV channel CCTV could prove to be an answer to the ongoing problems of taxi drivers suddenly needing to empty their bladders!

According to CCTV, at a Beijing exhibition of modified vehicles, a “magic seat” vehicle exhibited by Chang Lianying attracted many visitors. The vehicle on show had a co-driver’s seat that had been converted into a toilet and which could be controlled by buttons. Chang claimed he had heard of taxi drivers complaining how inconvenient it was to go to toilet. So he came up with the idea of inventing one mounted in a vehicle after seeing a children’s toilet in a farm product market vehicle. His idea was to combine the toilet device and a vehicle seat into one.



(pic courtesy CCTV)

It consists of a movable cover on the surface of the car seat and when the cover opens, the basin hidden in the seat appears. After using it, the system flushes, purifies itself and then automatically drains. Chang said that at present, in countries such as Germany, Japan and the UK, vehicle-mounted toilets have already emerged. The difference between his invention and the others is that as a standard configuration of the vehicle, the toilet he designed does not occupy extra space and the purification system embedded in it is good for environment protection. The Chinese system has not yet been introduced to the market but looked to be popular at the Beijing show.

BRAZILIAN CAB DRIVER KILLED IN ROAD RAGE ATTACK

A Brazilian man has been convicted of stomping to death a cabdriver in a road rage attack and sentenced to life imprisonment. Lenos Domingues was convicted of the murder of the cab driver who he had beaten up and stuffed into the boot of his own cab. Domingues said nothing at his trial. Three of Domingues accomplices were sentenced to between 10 and 12 years each. A family friend of Domingues read a letter from his mother in which she asked the judge to lessen her son’s sentence to resemble those of others accused in the horrific death. The application was refused.

The beating occurred when the cabby accidentally backed his taxi into the car of one of the accused and an argument ensued, followed by the horrific attack. The prosecution claimed that Domingues was responsible for the most vicious part of the attack. The case prosecutor told the press after the case: “This whole episode from beginning to end was just totally senseless from the loss of Mr Domingues life to these young men spending years or their entire lives in prison, it is just so senseless. A simple ‘I’m sorry’

followed by an exchange of insurance details was all that was needed. Now we have a dead cab driver and several young kids whose lives are ruined. And all for what...?”

GOOD SAMARITAN THAI CABBY IS A FAKE!

For a short while, the taxi driver from Thailand was a hero, his good Samaritan gesture was reported in all the newspapers, his virtuous action held up as a lesson to the entire nation. Then the bubble burst when his good deed turned out to be a hoax.

The Thai media, which had turned Sompoon Luedtahan into a symbol of honesty and then vilified him after uncovering a history of alleged lies and bigamy, swarmed the police station when he turned himself in. Luedtahan rose to fame as a good samaritan after he was reported to have returned £300,000 worth of cash and cheques to a French passenger who left them in his taxi after being dropped off at Bangkok’s international airport. The story was first recounted publicly when an airport guard phoned a radio show. In a country deep in the throes of political and economic crisis stemming partly from widespread corruption, the story hit the right spot.

Cabby Luedtahan was suddenly inundated with honours and rewards. But the myth fell apart when airport police started looking for the security guard to confirm the story, but couldn’t track him down despite offering a £9,000 reward. Airport video surveillance tapes showed no trace of Luedtahan or the distraught Frenchman - who the cabby claimed had counted out the returned money in front of him and given him a £20 reward.

Meanwhile, those claiming to know Luedtahan said he had a history of inventing stories as a moneymaking scheme. They said he once claimed that his daughter had died in order to obtain handouts and had also pretended to be a police officer giving tickets to taxi drivers for alleged traffic offences. One Thai newspaper, sniffing blood, then uncovered a trail of bigamy and found a woman whom Luedtahan had married even though he already had a family. The woman alleged that Luedtahan had purported to be a wealthy shrimp farmer and proceeded to cheat her out of all her money. But the crowning blow in the investigation occurred when police compared tapes of Luedtahan’s voice with recorded tapes of the caller to the radio show and concluded that they were the same man.

Seeing that he had been caught out, the hapless cabby confessed that he had pulled the hoax “for fun” and said he had been inspired by the story of a girl who had received rewards after returning a large sum of lost money.

Luedtahan has now lost his licence as a taxi driver. His legal wife, meanwhile, appeared at the police station and said she had forgiven him for the sake of their two children. Police are deciding whether an offence has been committed...

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