

Loud horns creating noise pollution

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The level of noise pollution in the city has increased due to use of loud hydraulic horns and double horns despite the fact that there are laws against the use of such horns.

Mamun, a resident of increases during the rush hour roads. The impatient drivers using double horns make the

The Environment Conservation Rules 1997 ensures the standard limit of sound in residential and commercial areas. It is 50 decibel in residential areas at daytime and 40 decibel at night. The standard unit in case of mixed Lalmatia, said: "The noise area, meaning mainly residential but also used for comwhen traffic increases on the mercial and industrial purposes, is 60 and 50 decibel.



Signboards like this on many street corners are often ignored by the drivers.

in traffic jam even worse."

The vehicles are using these horns in the residential areas and even near schools and hospitals making the environment intolerable and annoying. Ameena Islam, a patient at a

privately owned hospital on the busy Outer Circular Road, said: "The loud noise that comes from the street is irritating. But the patients get used to it." "Loud noise can create

deafness, palpitation, cardiac and neurological problems. Such problems are increasing in the city," said Mahbub Khan, a doctor at the hospital. Bahreen Khan, a senior

lawyer of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) said there are specific laws to avoid and reduce noise pollution.

The Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 says, "No motor vehicle shall be fitted with any multi-tuned horn giving a succession of different notes or with any other sound producing device giving an unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise."

The Environment Conservation Rules 1997 ensures the standard limit of sound in residential and commercial areas. The standard is 50 decibel in residential areas at daytime and 40 decibel at night. The standard unit in case of mixed area, meaning mainly residential but also used for commercial and industrial purposes, is 60 and 50 decibel. Bahreen said the actual

level of noise pollution is far

condition of the people stuck higher than the limit.

"The awareness programmes conducted by NGOs and the media as well as the formulation of new laws have created some awareness among people but noise pollution has not come down to a satisfactory level," she said.

Most of the people are some way or other reluctant to follow the rules. The banned horns creating harmful loud noise are still on use. "The problem is most of them don't realise that they are breaking the law," said Bahreen.

Different new mechanisms have been introduced to create a loud horn. In private cars the owners install double horns with an option of

switching them off.

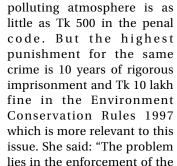
horn.

The owner of such a car on pollution and there will be an amendment in the Motor condition of anonymity said: Vehicle Ordinance 1983 soon. "I know it is illegal. I usually The basic problem that makes use the louder one in daytime the law ineffective is the soft and on the highways. The punishment. The amount of advantage of using these horns is that heavy trucks and fine is too little for the buses give side to my small lawbreakers." car when I honk the loud Bahreen Khan, however,

said that the punishment for "But at night I switch the louder one off and turns on the usual one," he added. Mamun, a mechanic who

works at a motor parts shop, said: "The sale of these horns are increasing. Car owners buy these horns because these horns suit any type of cars."

MA Momen, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport lies in the enforcement of the Authority (BRTA), said: "There laws."



are laws related to the noise

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