

# No steps to reduce noise pollution

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Sound pollution at alarming level continues to bother city dwellers in the absence of an effective enforcement of regulations against it.

The government drafted regulations for preventing noise pollution two years but is yet to approve them. Environmentalists are regularly holding various programmes demanding to make the regulations effective but the situation remains unchanged.

"We arranged a number of seminars, human chain and other demonstrations to draw the attention of the government to approve the regulations but failed. Now we are lobbying at the law ministry where the regulations remain pending for the last two years," said Sirajul Islam Mollah, a member of the Committee to Prevent Noise Pollution.

The Society for Assistance of Hearing Impaired Children (SAHIC) conducted a yearlong

survey at 21 spots in the city over the impact of the level of noise pollution on the dwellers of Dhaka and found that hearing capability of about 76.9 per cent of the surveyed people was damaged. According to the survey, children, patients, vehicle drivers and traffic police are the most vulnerable group.

"The situation of noise pollution has now become worse than it was in the survey period as no initiative has been taken to reduce such pollution in the city," said Prof MN Amin, chief of the SAHIC.

He said noise reduces patience, tolerance, hearing capability and attention of people and causes headache and other complexities.

The University of Asia Pacific and Work for Better Bangladesh, an NGO, jointly surveyed 20 spots in the city and found noise crossing the permissible limit at most places.

The Environment and Forest Conservation Act 1997 categorised the city areas into six types and set a permissible sound level for every type of area. Educational

institutions and their adjacent areas have been categorised as 'silent area' under the law.

A large number of educational institutions are located in city's Dhanmondi area. The NGO-university joint survey found sound level near most of these institutions double of the permissible limit.

In the 'silent areas' sound level should be within 45 decibels but the survey found average sound level 75 decibels near Oxford International School in Dhanmondi, 86 decibels near Birdem Hospital, and 76 decibels near Viqurunnisa Noon School and Collage.

In the residential areas noise level should be within 50 decibels but the survey found average sound level 80 decibels at Kalyanpur.

Kamrul Islam, a patient admitted at the Birdem Hospital, told Star City: "The main problem I'm facing in the hospital is noise. I could not sleep properly since I was admitted in this hospital two weeks ago due to the sound of hydraulic horns of

the vehicles." "Every patient in this hospital has the same complaint -- that is sound pollution," said a doctor at Birdem Hospital.

The government in 2004 drafted Noise Control Regulations that recommended Tk 10,000 fine and maximum 6 months' imprisonment for producing noise higher than the permissible limit.

Amit Ranjon Dey, a member of the Committee to Prevent Noise Pollution, told Star City: "The approval to the noise control regulations is essential now to keep the city livable."

Emphasising proper implementation of the regulations, he said the government has totally failed to control the use of hydraulic horns by vehicles, which is prohibited by law.

He said the general election is round the corner and the use of loud speakers will certainly rise before the election. "But there is no regulation against indiscriminate use of loud speakers."



Incessant monsoon rains caused water logging around the city including Dhaka University premises as seen in the picture above.

# Deadline to stop soaring price ignored

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Despite changing the commerce minister three times since assuming power in 2001, the government has not been able to control the price hike of essentials. The deadline given by the present minister to keep the prices within the capacity of general people ended eighteen days back without any positive impact on the market.

The abnormal rise of the price of green chili last week added new plight to the city dwellers' life. It is now being sold in the market at Tk 120 to 140 per kg.

"It is not possible to buy vegetables, rice and some other essentials within my limited budget. How would the middle class people survive?" said Kohinoor Islam, a housewife while shopping at a kitchen market in the city.

Prices of pulse, garlic, red chili, chicken, egg and most of the vegetables have seen fresh rise while price of all kinds of egg are being sold at Tk 60 per dozen.

Potato is being sold at Tk 18 to 22 per kg, onion Tk 24 to 26,

It was widely expected that the newly appointed commerce minister would be able to keep his promise of controlling the market, a pledge he had made after taking over the office in April this year. He sought two weeks time to bring the price of essentials down, which he later extended till the end of June

Potato Tk 50 to 70, soyabean oil Tk 50-53, pulse Tk 64 to 65.

"Nowadays when I go shopping, I am sure the prices would be higher than the ones of last week. But I cannot increase my buying capacity which is standing at the dead end," said Sahadat Hossain, a high school teacher.

The prices of fish remained sky high even in the rainy season. The alternative source for protein, meat, has gone out of general people's reach long time ago.

Beef is being sold at Tk 150 to 160 per kg, mutton Tk 180 to 190. Price of local chicken has also gone up in last one week.

"I forgot when I last entered the fish market. It's tough to survive with rice, pulses and vegetables, let alone buying fish and meat," said Abu Sayeed, a teashop owner.

"I could afford only one Hilsha fish during this entire season. Prices of other kinds of fish is so high that I enter the fish market only once in a fortnight," said Serajul Haque, a private service

holder. Although Commerce Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed told the media recently that the buying capacity of people has gone up proving that the price hike is nothing abnormal, city dwellers are being faced with new difficulties while balancing their need and capacity.

"Yes my purchasing capacity has increased so much that I had to reduce drinking tea, my most favourite drink," said Nazmul Islam, a medical representative in a sarcastic tone.

"I have already deducted a number of items from my list of essentials. Deleting one more item is simply impossible," said Rabeya Khatun, another housewife in the city.

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Since nothing has happened, people now feel that changing the commerce minister is not the solution, it is more of a ploy to fool the common people.

"We feel helpless. No matter who takes the charge, our fate will remain unchanged. The rich will get richer, poor will become poorer and the middle class like us will feel crunch even more, but will not be able to say anything with the fear of losing honour," said Aminul Islam, a private service holder.

# DCC drive against

FROM PAGE 21 The authorities recently pulled down the unauthorised billboards in front of Hotel Sheraton under the DCC's road-widening project.

"But we are apprehensive that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University that owns the land, would again rent it to erect billboards once the road is constructed," said the DCC chief estate officer. "However, our demolition drive will go on," he added.

The Good Governance and Development Committee of the Prime Minister's Office had entrusted the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) to carry out a survey on unauthorised billboards in the city a couple of

months ago. The CUS submitted a Tk 5.35 lakh budget to the DCC in March for the study but the corporation did not respond.

"It seems that the DCC is not committed to implementing the decision of the powerful good governance committee of the Prime Minister's Office," said Prof. Nazrul Islam, the honorary president of CUS, who is also a teacher of geography and environment science at Dhaka University.

"The proposal has been forwarded to planning division and it is under consideration," said Abu Taleb.

Mushrooming of outdoor advertisements have marred the

look of the capital over the years with hardly any effective check on the phenomenon.

The DCC is supposed to approve mounting of billboards only after a company obtains clearance from the traffic department and the DCC's beautification department.

Executive engineers of the DCC's different zones are designated to oversee the installation of billboards to ensure safety.

The DCC guidelines on outdoor advertisements allow no overhead billboards or hoardings in front of hospitals, government offices, educational institutions, mosques, temples, churches, museums, and historical sites.

# Quadruplets exposed

FROM PAGE 21 "We know it's tough to look after four babies at a time, but we are happy to see them," said Nurul Islam, uncle of the babies.

The mother is however in fear about possible complications. "I'm in tension whether I'll be able to overcome this risky situation," said the 34-year-old mother Nilufer Begum. "I want everyone to help control the crowd as my babies are in danger due to their premature birth," she said.

On Saturday, Dr Sultana Jahan, head of Gynaecology Department at the BSMMU,

performed the delivery through an emergency caesarean.

"The babies are now stable, but we can't say before 72 hours that they are totally safe," said Dr Sultana. "If proper care is not provided, the babies' condition may deteriorate."

Nilufer, who hails from Debidwar upazila of Comilla, had an ultrasonogram performed on her at a local hospital six months into her pregnancy. The ultrasonogram report revealed of her being pregnant with quadruplets.

The doctor asked her to have

the delivery in Dhaka to be better prepared for complications that may arise before, during and after delivery.

She was admitted to Ad-Din Hospital in Moghbazar in the capital on July 12. Ad-Din Hospital, taking extra precaution, referred her to BSMMU.

Doctors said the birth of quadruplets is indeed a very rare incident and there are less than one hundred quadruplets in the world. The last known quadruplets in Bangladesh were born at Ad-Din Hospital in Dhaka in August 2004.

# healthouting, taxicab & train timing

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| <p><b>HEALTH</b></p> <p><b>Hospitals</b></p> <p>Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660</p> <p>BARDEM 8616641-50</p> <p>Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60</p> <p>CMH (Dhaka) 9870011</p> <p>Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6</p> <p>Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5</p> <p>Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156</p> <p>Lion Eye Hospital 9129127</p> <p>Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4</p> <p>Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444</p> <p>Mitford Hospital 7319002-6</p> <p>National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399</p> <p>Orthopedic Hospital 9112150</p> <p>Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital 7319002-6</p> <p>Samorita Hospital 9131901</p> <p>Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800</p> <p>Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119</p> <p><b>Clinics</b></p> <p>Akad Clinic 8015855, 8022581</p> <p>Aroggaya Niketan 9333730</p> <p>BAVS Maternity 8016413-4</p> <p>Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050</p> <p>Gulshan Mother &amp; Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992</p> <p>Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513</p> <p>Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929</p> <p>Judi Maternity 9113322</p> <p>Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385</p> <p>Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566</p> <p>Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625</p> <p><b>The Eye Clinic</b> 9332328</p> <p><b>Blood Bank</b></p> <p>Red Crescent Centre- 9116563</p> <p>Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040</p> <p>Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022</p> <p>Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9</p> <p><b>Eye Bank</b></p> <p>Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040</p> <p><b>Ambulances For Dead Body</b></p> <p>Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,</p> <p>Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,</p> <p>Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday</p> <p>Elephant Road-Friday</p> <p>Bishal Center-Friday</p> <p>Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday</p> <p>Polwell Market-Friday</p> <p>BCS Computer City-Friday</p> <p>Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.</p> <p>Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday</p> <p>Stadium Market-Friday</p> <p>Bangabazar Market-Friday</p> <p>National Museum-Thursdays</p> <p>Ahsan Manzil-Thursdays.</p> <p>New Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Gausia Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Mouchak Market-Sunday</p> <p>Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Eastern Plaza-Sunday</p> <p>Farmview Super Market-Sunday</p> <p>Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday</p> <p>Dhaka Zoo-Sunday</p> <p>Shishu Jadughar-Sunday</p> | <p><b>MARKET CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>TAXI CAB</b></p> <p>624741</p> <p>Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 9347277, 9347277, 01711-155144</p> <p>Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4</p> <p>RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536</p> <p>Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740</p> <p>Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257</p> <p>Telex Cab Ltd. 7202201</p> <p>Aliif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948</p> <p>Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178</p> <p>United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-</p> <p>348474</p> <p>Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554</p> <p>Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644</p> <p>Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585</p> <p>Cab line Ltd. 8321162</p> <p>Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9</p> <p>Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415</p> <p>Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4</p> <p>Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111</p> <p>Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm</p> <p>Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm</p> <p>Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm</p> <p>Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am</p> <p>Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm</p> <p>Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm</p> <p>Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am</p> <p>Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm</p> <p>Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15</p> <p>Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am</p> <p>Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm</p> | <p><b>LIBRARY &amp; INFO</b></p> <p><b>Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers</b></p> <p>Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128</p> <p>Shilpakala Academy- 8614673</p> <p>Bangla Academy- 8619550</p> <p>Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407</p> <p>Nazrul Institute- 9114602</p> <p>Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604</p> <p>Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6</p> <p>Indian Information Centre &amp; Cultural Library- 8850141-2</p> <p>The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314</p> <p>Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412</p> <p>Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4</p> <p><b>TRAIN TIMING</b></p> <p>Subarna Express</p> <p>Mahanagar Prabhathi</p> <p>Mahanagar Godhuli</p> <p>Turna</p> <p>Parabat Express</p> <p>Joyantika Express</p> <p>Upaban Express</p> <p>Tista Express</p> <p>Ekata Express</p> <p>Upaku Express</p> <p>Agniabeena Express</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm</p> |
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