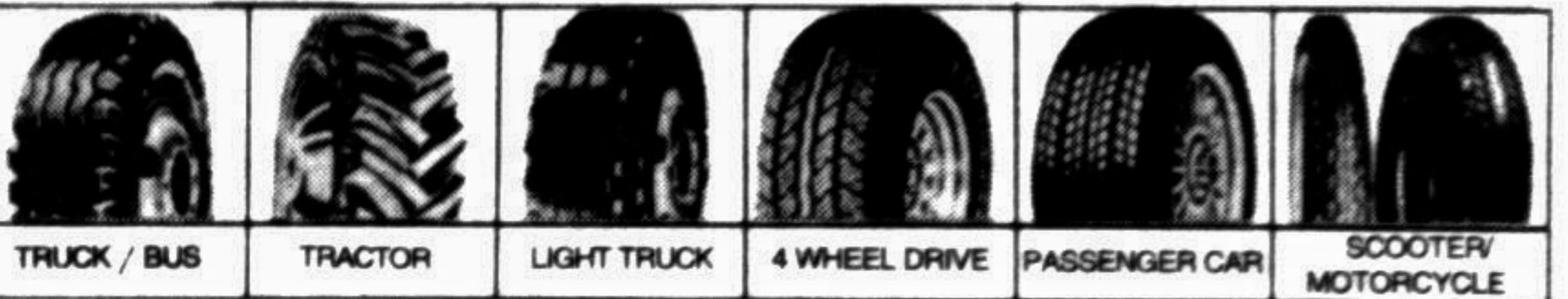


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DOWN TO EARTH

City's Environmental Perils

By A S M Nurunnabi

A fast growing city is generally plagued with many woes. If that city happens to be in the Third World, redress of the woes gets all the more difficult. Dhaka city presents a typical example of such a case. The concerned authorities do not seem to be committed to ensuring proper urban milieu and environmental care in a steady and effective manner.

The city is subject to a variety of factors causing environmental degradation. First, the problem of smoke pollution from the source of city's motor transportation system is a cause of great concern because a vast number of motor vehicles in many cases operate without fitness certificate regarding poisonous exhausts. With the steady growth of motor traffic on the city roads, the threat of pollution from such poisonous exhausts keeps on increasing at an alarming rate. The prime need of the hour is constant vigilance and commitment of the concerned authorities to tackle smoke pollution for the betterment of environment and the preservation of public health.

The danger of environmental degradation from noise pollution is no less serious. Among the factors responsible for it are: Lack of proper planning in urban growth, existence of noise creating industries and enterprises in areas mostly residential and recreational in character within city limits and absence of awareness among city dwellers of the consequences of constant exposure to noisy environment. In a large city, noise, of course, is a characteristic feature. What is deplorable is the lack of effective enforcement of such measures as are available under the existing law to control or decrease the level of urban noise.

The burgeoning process of urbanisation has claimed, among its victims, the cruel denudation of trees in many areas of the city. This is inevitably leading to environmental degradation. There is, therefore, necessity for intensifying drive for greening city areas as a means of achieving environmental upgradation.

The existing system of garbage disposal in the city contributes substantially to the pollution of city environment.

The following are the main causes of environmental degradation in the city:

1. Lack of proper planning in urban growth.

2. Constant exposure to noisy environment.

3. Denudation of trees in many areas of the city.

4. Inadequate disposal of garbage.

5. Poor environmental awareness among city dwellers.

6. Lack of effective enforcement of environmental laws.

7. Constant pollution from motor vehicles.

8. Inadequate disposal of industrial wastes.

9. Constant noise pollution from industries.

10. Inadequate disposal of domestic wastes.

11. Constant pollution from construction sites.

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