

Dhaka Day by Day

Those Mindless Air Polluters

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

An integral part of living in this city is constantly being plagued by illness due to air pollution. Apart from those masochists who blacken their lungs on their own volition through paper sticks of poison, there are those innocent ones who are forced to gulp noxious emissions every day.

It is not just cigarette smoke we are talking of here, although that in itself constitutes a large part of the non-smokers' misery. For most smokers, and this city has plenty, are happily oblivious or at least pretend to be, of the suffering, irritation, not to mention physical harm they cause to the helpless passive smoker. But let us spare these poor misguided souls for the moment and concentrate on the real adulterers of the air — the trucks, buses, cars, tempos, and other monsters of the Industrial Revolution, that emit the most obnoxious of gases playing havoc with our health.

Everyday, going to work, Kamal, a 35-year-old bank officer comes from Uttara to Motijheel in a baby taxi, and experiences his involuntary carbon monoxide 'high'. Kamal religiously takes a clean handkerchief with him to cover his nose and mouth and save himself for a few minutes from the evil smoke. "But

But what about the cost to the environment, to human life? Medical studies have long ago proved that black smoke or carbon monoxide and other toxic gas emissions from vehicles are directly related to heart and lung diseases. Surely that in itself is enough reason to spend even a large amount of money on fixing a defective engine. If a survey could be taken of city dwellers who have to travel in one mode of transport or the other and so are exposed to at least an hour of this black smoke, chances are that ninety per cent of the people will have experienced some kind of physical discomfort such as cough, breathing problems or asthma. It is unlikely that anyone in his right mind would say that he does not really mind being sprayed with the dark gas, not even the most apathetic cigarette smoker!

Since the problem is only getting worse the city dweller may decide to try out solutions of his own. A few victims of this man-made menace have given some suggestions on how to battle with it. First of all, never wear a white shirt to the office, it will only turn black by the end of your journey; dark grey, brown or black are suitable colours even though they may not make fashion statements with your girl friend



this is not enough to protect myself, the smoke from the buses in front is so thick and strong that it seeps through the cloth and turns it totally black," he laments. Kamal, who has developed a chronic cough, that just does not seem to leave him, is so frustrated with vehicle smoke that he is even thinking of moving somewhere nearer to his office to reduce the time of travelling and hence inhaling the foul stuff.

Buses, trucks and private cars are the worst offenders. While the passengers of these monstrosities complacently ride along, little are they aware of what their vehicles leave behind. A cloud of foul smelling blackness engulfs the persons in the rickshaw or scooter behind. The black smoke is usually caused by the weakening compression in an old engine or a defective pump that allows too much petrol to come into it. In addition, adulterated petrol, diesel and mobile also contribute to this problem. The reason why these defects are not rectified, explains Md Delwar, a microbus driver, is that the cost of replacing a defective engine is quite high ranging from 30,000 taka to 60,000 taka depending on the type of vehicle. "So it is better to keep on using the old engine as long as possible since even the extra cost involved in using more mobile is less than fixing the engine," he says.

and may be a trifle uncomfortable at 32°C. Secondly, if you are rich enough, install an air-conditioner in your car and keep it on whenever you are inside. Thirdly, always cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief even though people may mistake you for a surgeon or worse, a hijacker. For the future, think of investing in something more smoke-proof like a gas mask. Fourthly, don't wear too much make up, especially the streaking kind, since your face will be treated, free of cost, to a unique face pack of carbon monoxide, sweat and atmospheric grime, a process that will turn your complexion a dull greyish colour. Lastly, if you are the owner of a car, fix your engine, don't use gasoline mixed with soyabean oil or try installing one of those new air purifiers in your vehicle that promise to turn the blackness into snow white.

A tiny voice inside you may suggest that the government should do something in the direction of imposing tougher sanctions on air polluting vehicles. It is at this time that one may remind you of a curious fact: some of the blackest and foulest of smoke is emitted from police jeeps and trucks. No wonder, the so called 'Traffic Weeks' declared every now and then have not been able to stop the artificial black clouds of smoke that darken Dhaka's skies more ominously than any 'Kul Boishakh'.



The Bangabandhu Sangskritik Parishad organised a drawing competition for children at the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Wakil for inclusion of debating in curriculum

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Wakil Ahmed yesterday hoped that debating would be included in the academic curriculum in future.

He was addressing the third session of the three-day National Debate Festival '94 at the TSC auditorium in the city yesterday morning.

The publication ceremony of the first book on debating in the country titled 'Theory of debate and its practice' was also held on the occasion.

Dr Shakhwat Ali Khan, Dr Ali Asgar, Professor Naren Biswas and Shah Alam took part in the discussions on the book. Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury was in the chair.

Professor Wakil said the drama festival had proved that a silent cultural revolution was going on in the country.

Professor SI Chowdhury in his speech said debating would help build a democratic culture in society.

After the publication ceremony, a parliamentary debate in English between the school and college students was held.

In the mock debate, the government side, comprising three students, moved a bill seeking a ban on tobacco advertisements on television.

The third session ended following the debate on 'Faulty judgement is the main obstacle to debating'.

Later in the afternoon, the fourth session began with a 'court model' debate which was coordinated by the Law Debating Society.

The second programme of the session included a debate on 'Inclusion of debating in the academic curriculum is not necessary'.

The most interesting debate on the second day of the festival yesterday, was the 'United Nations model' debate on 'Let the GATT be suspended'.

In this debate, the teachers and students represented Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, India, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the USA in a General Assembly session of the UN.

After the UN model debate, a 'three dimensional' debate in memory of Nafila Gazi was held.

Nafila, who was a bright debater and a student of the Dhaka University, died in a road accident near the Mauchak Market in the city on March 29 in 1991.

The second day of the debate festival was rounded off with a cultural function in the evening.

4 schools to be set up for slum children

Dhaka City Corporation will establish four satellite schools in different parts of the city for the slum children, reports BSS.

The schools will be run by the corporation under financial grants from the UNICEF and by the technical assistance of the Engineering Department of the Local Government.

This was disclosed by Syed Alamgir Faruq Chowdhury, Secretary, Local Government Ministry, while inaugurating a school at Ganoktuli cleaners' colony here yesterday, says a city corporation press release.

These schools would be set up at city palls of Jatrabari, slum of IG Gate and Khilgaon Bagicha.

Seminar on IMF, WB

A day-long seminar on "Fifty Years of the World Bank-IMF: In Retrospect" will be held at the Development and Planning Academy at Nilkhet tomorrow, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Centre for Policy Research and Response, a Dhaka-based group of young research activists, has organised the seminar to be spread over three business sessions from 10 am to 6 pm.

Each session will concentrate on a separate theme: The Politics of the WB-IMF, Economics of the WB-IMF and the WB-IMF in Bangladesh.

A considerable number of resource persons from various professions and disciplines will take part in the seminar to look back in analysis at the strengths and weaknesses, objectives and obsessions of the Twins — the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, said a press release.

Pak army chief calls on navy, air chiefs

The visiting Pakistan Army Chief of Staff General Abdul Waheed, called on Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam at the Naval Headquarters yesterday, reports BSS.

General Waheed then went to the Air Force Headquarters and called on Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury.

Later, he visited the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur.

He was briefed on the activity of the college and was taken round different syndicates and the library.

General Waheed and members of his entourage later went to the Savar cantonment and witnessed a military demonstration there.

JS team off to Bangkok

A five-member parliamentary delegation headed by LK Siddiqui, MP, (BNP) left here for Bangkok yesterday afternoon on a six-day visit to Thailand and Republic of Korea (South Korea), reports BSS.

During their stay, the members of the delegation would study the functioning of the parliamentary committees.

NAJA NAJA SALE!

Dt: 5th & 6th August.
Opening time: 10:00am

Venue: 'Lemon Grass'
House 58/C
Road 131
S-405 Gulshan-1.

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NOS.

OLD NOS.	NEW NOS.
230242	869786
235220	868745

PREMIER CONSULTANTS LTD.
SILTRADE INTERNATIONAL LTD.
Husain & Khan Center, 6th Flr.
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Fax: 880-2-833517, Tlx: 632117 SIL BJ.

BANGLADESH MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, BMSRI

HOUSE NO-35, ROAD NO-1/A (NEW), DHANMONDI R/A, DHAKA

NOTICE

INTERVIEW for recruitment of Group -A i. e. Teaching Staff of BMC will be held on 16th August at 10 A.M. instead of 15th August '94 as it was reported earlier.

Hony Secretary, BMSRI

CHANGE OF PABX TELEPHONE NUMBERS

OLD NUMBERS	NEW NUMBERS
506446	869336
508440	869337
509078	869338



UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Camellia House
22 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1000

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Engineer

Construction and Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

House No. 80, Road No. 11, Bloc-E

Banani, Dhaka

No. MOHFW/CMMU/BCPS/94/2549

August 02, 1994

Addendum Notice

1. The Tender Notice issued vide this office Memo. No MOHFW/CMMU/BCPS/94/1439 dated 12-07-1994 for the work "Renovation/Modification and Furnishing work of the existing Auditorium of Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons at Mohakhali, Dhaka" is amended due to unavoidable circumstances as under:

- Extended date of submitting application : 13-08-1994
- Extended date of selling tender documents : 15-08-1994 to 16-08-1994
- Extended date and time of receiving tenders : 18-08-1994 up to 1300 hours

- Extended date & time of opening tenders : 18-08-1994 at 1330 hours

2. Tender Documents shall be available from the office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka Division, CMMU, 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and also from the office of the Consultants, M/s. Sthpati Sangshad Ltd. at House No. 4, Road No. 9, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205.

3. Other bonafide contractors not prequalified under CMMU may participate in the tender provided that they have similar work experience. In such case their application for purchasing the tender documents should accompany the following documents for scrutiny and approval by the Consultant.

- Year of experience of the firm in construction field (minimum 5 years).
- Registration No. and Certificate of Incorporation/Partnership Deed/Affidavit.
- Copy of GIR No. and Tax Clearance Certificate
- Copy of VAT Registration Certificate.
- Uptodate Copy of Trade Licence.
- Copies of work order and completion certificate of similar work executed.
- List of Key Personnel with CVs & Academic Certificates.
- Financial Statements (a) Latest Audited Balance Sheet of the Firm (b) Credit Facilities enjoyed by the firm and (c) Bank Statement for 1 (one) year upto July 31, 1994.

4. Contractors who have already purchased tender documents must collect fresh copy of tender documents from consultant's office free of cost.

5. All other terms and conditions of the Notice Inviting Tenders will remain unchanged.

6. The Addendum Notice will also form a part of the Tender Documents and will be binding upon the tenderers.

M Majibur Rahman psc.

Colonel

Chief Engineer, CMMU.

Bhutanese FM leaves

The Bhutanese Foreign Minister said here yesterday that the just-concluded 14th meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers would help the association to carry forward its activities to its cherished goal, reports UNB.

Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, who represented his country to the meeting in Dhaka on July 30-31, was talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport, prior to his departure for home yesterday.

"It's an important, very good and successful meeting," Tsering said.

He was seen off at the airport by his Bangladesh counterpart ASM Mostafizur Rahman.

Bangladesh ambassador to Bhutan Julmat Ali Khan, Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh T Tobgyel and Additional Foreign Secretary Mo-hiuddin Ahmed were also present.

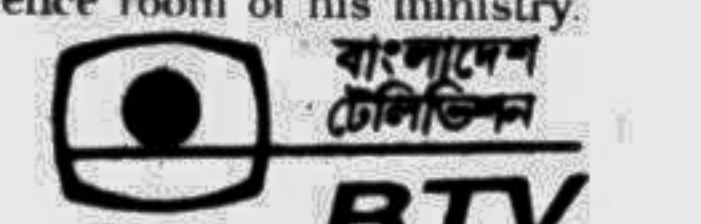
Referring to the planned visit by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Bhutan in near future, Tsering said, "we attach much importance to the trip viewing that she is not only the SAARC chairperson but also the head of the government of Bangladesh who is coming to the Himalayan Kingdom."

"The Bhutanese people and the government are looking forward to accord warm reception to her," he added.

Indian business team meets Zahir

A delegation of Indian industrialists and businessmen called on Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan yesterday and discussed the possibilities of undertaking joint-venture projects in leather and pulp and paper sectors, reports UNB.

The 14-member delegation, led by PD Patodia, Chairman of the India-Bangladesh Joint Business Council, met with the minister in the conference room of his ministry.



Thursday	
4:30	Opening announcement
4:45	Al-Quran Programme summary
5:10	Children's programme: Esho Gan Shikhi
5:25	News in Bangla
6:30	National TV School Debate
7:00	Esho Para Shikhi: Mass Education
7:25	Jiboner Alo: Islam in daily life
8:00	Nazrul songs
8:30	News in Bangla
9:00	Drama of the week: Obosheha
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mini series: Melba
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme
11:45	Closing

Weather

No change in temperature

Moderately heavy falls are likely at places over Chittagong division and the regions of Barisal and Patuakhali during the 24 hours ending 6pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at may places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Meantime, Teknaf experienced the highest 30 mm rain yesterday. Barisal had 18 mm shower. Bhola 15, Cox's Bazar 14 and Kutubdia 12 mm during the period.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 23.0 degrees at Khulna, yesterday.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:40 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:29 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity in some cities and towns recorded yesterday were as follows:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	32.5	26.0
Chittagong	32.4	25.0
Rajshahi	32.4	26.6
Khulna	31.6	23.0
Barisal	30.1	25.0
	9 am	6 pm
	73	88
	80	80
	85	76
	83	89

Dhaka City Corporation Tender Notice

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন।

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 from bonafide enlisted contractors of Dhaka City Corporation for the undermentioned works and will be received by the all zone offices of Dhaka City Corporation up to 12-00 hrs. on 11-8-1994 and will be opened by the respective officer on the same day at 12-30 hrs. in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend. Earnest money shown against the works shall have to be furnished along with tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation. The contractors should submit a copy of Value Added Tax (VAT) registration certificate along with documents during tender submission as a pre-requisite condition to participate in the tender.

Tender document may be obtained from the office of the zone office of Dhaka City Corporation and Cashier of Accounts Section on payment of requisite amount (Non-refundable) mentioned against each work. Detailed information may be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-6 during the office hours.

The rate should be quoted both in words and in figures on the basis of percentage above or below the estimated amount of the schedule of items of works otherwise the tender will be treated as cancelled. Analysis will be submitted along with the tender by the tenderer those who submitted their tender 5% (Five per cent) above or below the estimated rate. Double earnest money should be furnished if the quoted rate is below 5% (Five per cent).

No tender paper will be sold on the date of opening of the tenders. The authority reserves the full right to accept or to reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason thereof.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Amount	Earnest Money	Time of Completion
1.	Extension of Minor Drain at Road No. 1 of Mohammadpur Housing and Pisciculture Co-operative Society Block Kha.	Tk. 2,25,938/-	Tk. 6,778/-	45 days
2.	Extension of Minor Drain at Road No. 4 of Mohammadpur Housing and Pisciculture Co-operative Society Block Kha.	Tk. 2,91,664/-	Tk. 8,750/-	
3.	Extension of Minor Drain at Road No. 5 of Mohammadpur Housing and Pisciculture Co-operative Society Block Kha.	Tk. 3,98,193/-	Tk. 11,946/-	
4.	Extension of Minor Drain at Road No. 6 of Mohammadpur Housing and Pisciculture Co-operative Society Block Kha.	Tk. 4,56,871/-	Tk. 13,707/-	
5.	Extension of Minor Drain of Road No. 7 of Mohammadpur Housing and Pisciculture Co-operative Society Block Kha.	Tk. 3,52,313/-	Tk. 10,570/-	
6.	Extension of Minor Drain at Road No. 8 of Mohammadpur Housing and Pisciculture Co-operative Society Block Kha.	Tk. 3,84,339/-	Tk. 11,531/-	
7.	Extension of Minor Drain at Road No. 11 of Mohammadpur Housing and Pisciculture Co-operative Society Block Kha.	Tk. 3,52,313/-	Tk. 10,570/-	
8.	Extension of Minor Drain at Mohammadpur 'C' Block H/No. 28/8/12 to Tajmahal Road.	Tk. 2,44,620/-	Tk. 7,339/-	35days
9.	Rehabilitation of Surface Drain from Mohammadpur 'P' Block H/No. 10/E/3 to H/No. 10/A/1.	Tk. 1,82,340/-	Tk. 5,471/-	

DCC/PRD/43/94-95
D-790

Executive Engineer
Zone-6
Dhaka City Corporation.