

Dhaka Day by Day

Heading for a Sonic Boom?

by Fayza Haq

There has yet to be a greater measure of industrialisation and urbanisation before Dhaka may be labelled as a danger zone as regards sound pollution. Yet there is enough clatter and din to distract a man from less than mere meditation or serious preoccupation. Sitting in shops, offices and residential flats, one invaded by is the sound of constantly honking cars. Along with the restless cars are the chugging, puffing and panting vans, buses, lorries and rows of rickshaws. It is bad enough that there is pressing and pushing for space on the road but when the overloaded and steaming buses trundle along for room, the din of the daily pandemonium on the roads become a series of ear-splitting noises.

Along with the baffling and overwhelming noise of the traffic on the roads and lanes, there are the sounds emanating from the customers on the roadside who throng the marketplaces with their wives and children. Chatting and buying or window shopping at a frenzied pace these buyers naturally lend to the ensuring din and bustle among the stalls in the emporiums and market places. Calculating prices, evaluating the worth of the commodities, the people with their various bargaining power add to the engulfing din.

It is perhaps noise more than anything else that puts aside the white and blue clouds and soft, green grass in Dhaka and brings to notice the condition of the lichen-covered shopping places and workshops. Compared to other cosmopolitan cities, Dhaka is a small one with some areas of billowy velvet green. However, looking at the gloomy faces of the bus drivers, watching the sullen faces of the rickshaw pullers, and judging from the sad and confused fronts of many sniffling beggars on the waysides, near traffic lights, and places like the entries to New Market and Gousia, one would conclude that here is no idyll.



SHARIF '96

Domestic peace is shattered by high-decibel Hindi and rock music played at cassette players and indiscreet use of loud-speakers and mikes in every neighbourhood.

Added to this is the noise attached to every house, with the 'lady of the manor' giving instructions for dusting, cleaning, washing, cooking. The handful of maid servants, boy servants and children in these households contribute to the accumulation of sounds. The pet dog barking, the *muri-walla* crying out his wares at the gate add to the commotion.

Dhaka has yet to develop in many directions as a city. One wonders what the ensuing noise pollution will be like, in say, another ten years.

Photo show on King Bhumibol

press release.

The 50th anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne by holding a rare photographic show of the King's activities today at Hotel Sonargaon, reports UNB.

The photography exhibition of his 50th accession to the throne will begin at 9 am. A reception will be hosted by the Thai Ambassador at the same venue in the evening, said a

Biswas greets Bhumibol

BSS adds: President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated King Bhumibol on the occasion.

In a message President Biswas expressed his firm belief that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries would be further developed and strengthened to the mutual benefit in the years to come.

Congratulations to the members of The European Union on the auspicious occasion of Europe Day

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Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina receiving Zafar Ahmed, a Jatiya Party leader from Noakhali, upon his joining the AL at a simple ceremony in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Weather

Rain at few places likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or strong wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days Met Office predicted little change. Giving extended outlook for another five days weathermen forecast rise in day temperature.

Meantime, Rangamati experienced the highest 98 mm rain in the last 36 hours till 6 pm today. Khepupara had 60 mm rain, Chittagong 49, Sitakund 45, Cox's Bazar 41, Teknaf 33, Bhol 28 and Feni 22 mm shower during the period.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 21.3 degrees at Khepupara.

The sun sets today at 6:31 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	
		max	min
Dhaka	34.4	25.5	66
Chittagong	30.8	23.8	93
Rajshahi	37.0	24.6	66
Khulna	35.5	22.8	68
Barisal	33.0	23.5	80
Sylhet	32.5	26.4	85
Cox's Bazar	31.4	24.5	92

Orchid show

An orchid show will be held at the premises of NWK-9, Road No-50, Gulshan from 9 am to 6 pm tomorrow under the auspices of the Orchid Society of Bangladesh, says a press release.

Three AL men join JP

Three thana Awami League leaders of Chilmari in Kurigram and of Srimangal in Moulvibazar joined the Jatiya Party yesterday expressing their solidarity with its objectives and programmes, reports UNB.

Chilmari thana Awami League leader Mohammad Anwar Hossain, and Srimangal thana AL leaders M A Aziz and Nazrul Islam Chowdhury met with JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at his residence and formally joined the party, a JP press release said.

17 held, 17 arms recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered 17 illegal arms and arrested 17 persons in separate raids in different parts of the city yesterday.

Of the arrested police rounded up three terrorists along with their leader.

They were reportedly belonged to 'Joseph group' in Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi areas. Police also recovered three pistols and huge ammunitions from them.

A police squad from Dhanmondi thana, raided a house at sector 3 Uttara early morning and arrested the gang leader. Tofael Ahmed alias Joseph and Nizam, Shariful Iskam Sumon and Munna.

BDRCS holds peace march

On the second day of the two-day programme in connection with the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the Bangladeshi Red Crescent Society yesterday held a peace march in the city, reports BSS.

The peace march began at the premises of the Institution of Engineers and ended at the Jatiya Press Club. The members of the Youth Red Crescent from various schools of the city participated in the march with festoons and banners.

In the morning national flag and that of the society were hoisted in front of the Nursing School auditorium of the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital. M A Jinnah, acting chairman of the BDRCS hoisted the national flag. MA Samad, member, managing board and Bjorn Otto Eders, head of delegation of the IFRC in Bangladesh hoisted the flags of the society and the federation.

The society also held a function to distribute prizes among the winners of various competitions.

The national dailies brought out special issues on the occasion. The Chief Adviser and the President issued messages encouraging the movement.

Death anniversary

The 30th death anniversary of Sufi Raquib Shah (R.) of Sylhet will be observed May 11, says a press release.

Qurankhwan, milad mahfil and discussions on the life of the deceased will be held at his shrine at Kaztila, Sylhet.

Radio Bangladesh Sylhet will broadcast a special programme of the spiritual songs of composed by Raquib Shah (R.) at 5:40 pm on the day.

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