



A 'no horn' sign opposite a hospital. The government has finalised a draft to control noise pollution with provisions for fines and sentences for violators of rules.

STAR FILE PHOTO

Steps this month to stop honking of horns

SOHEL ISLAM

The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) has almost finalised the draft proposal of Noise Pollution (Control) Rules and its gazette notification may be completed by the end of this month.

"Although we wanted to finalise the rules by December 2003, we are running a bit late as we had to discuss it with different stakeholders like the home ministry, public works and housing, local government, religious and information ministries, the election commission, environmental experts and others," MoEF Minister Shahjahan Siraj said.

The Department of Environment (DoE) headed by its Director General prepared the proposed Noise Pollution (Control) Rules in November last year and sent it to the MoEF for approval.

"There are some minor changes in the draft. We will now send it to the law ministry, which will take the next step," said Siraj.

"Before preparing the proposal, the DoE experts had to go through existing rules for noise pollution in neighbouring countries and also considered the realities of the cities and towns," the minister added.

The proposed rules have kept a provision for a Tk 5,000 fine for primary violators and two-month imprisonment if they fail to pay the fine or both sentences.

If the primary violators again break the law, the authorities will fine them Tk 10,000 and six months of imprisonment in case of failing to pay the amount or they have to go through both.

Under present laws, noise polluting motorised vehicles can be fined up to Tk 2,000 and six months imprisonment if fines are

not paid.

The draft has classified the areas of a city, town and other parts of the country and fixed the noise-limit accordingly. The noise level has been fixed at 45 decibel for silent, 50 for residential, 60 for mixed, 70 for commercial and 75 for industrial areas during daytime (6am to 9pm).

At night it will be 35 decibel for silent, 40 for residential, 50 for mixed, 60 for commercial and 70 for industrial areas.

The draft also observed that lack of public awareness and unplanned urbanisation was behind the ever-increasing noise level in Dhaka and other areas of the country.

The proposed rules will not be applicable to the Azan, religious and public meetings, military activities, fire services, election campaigns and aircrafts.

The DG of the DoE or his appointed person(s) will be entitled to execute the rules.

"The noise in most part of Dhaka city's traffic is above the limit prescribed by the U S Environmental Protection Agency. The prescribed level of the agency is 80 decibels (dcb) as safe average for 24 hours," sound quality & comfort researcher Shafiquzzaman Khan told the Daily Star recently

"The characteristic of a horn is impulsive and has a very harmful impact. Excessive noise producing 35 dcb onwards can be very detrimental to school going children. It can primarily increase their heartbeats and blood pressure. Other manifestations consist of nausea, dizziness, gastrointestinal problems, tiredness and behavioural troubles such aggressiveness and sleep disturbances," said Khan.

DCC plans 13 Eid cattle markets

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has floated tenders for 13 makeshift cattle markets in the city ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

Last date to drop the tender is January 13. The bids will be opened on January 14 in presence of the bidders.

But already there are allegations that ruling party high-ups and activists are trying to influence the bidding with intimidation and black money.

"The party workers of the ruling coalition are trying to get tenders at a low cost," said an official of the DCC requesting anonymity.

The cattle markets will be set up in Naya Bazar Nawab Yusuf Market, Khilkhet Tanpara, Jhikatola-Hajariabag ground, Golapbag ground, Rahmatganj playground, Dhupkhola ground, Hosseini Dalan road (from Chankharpul square to Bakshibazar traffic signal), eastern ground of the Bangladesh Bank Colony at Kamalapur, open space of Rajuk at Uttara sector 12, Meradia Bazar, space in front of Alam market at Postagola, Rayer Bazar play ground and the open space

adjacent to the Taltola bus stand.

The DCC will award the lease after the bids have been scrutinised by the tender committee and approved by the mayor.

Last year the DCC had set up 18 cattle markets in the city.

According to sources, more than hundred bidders have already bought tenders and most of them are leaders and local musclemen belonging to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

A bidder who didn't wish to be named, said: "Some influential politicians of different wards have formed a syndicate to ensure that all the bids are won by them."

The DCC can cancel any cattle market and at the same time it can also approve other markets which are not in the list. Sources in the DCC complained that some powerful bidders are trying to organise cattle markets in their own localities and may get approval for those also.

"Last year DCC decided had at first decided to lease out 13 markets but finally the number increased to 18 under pressure from interested influential quarters," said a source.

JU admission test dates and rules

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for the first year Honours courses of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held from March 13-23.

Distribution of forms for 2003-04 academic session will start from February 9 and continue till February 26.

The admission forms will be available at Tk 250 each from the Agrani Bank branch's at JU, Farmgate and National Museum.

Students from Science Group seeking admission in Arts Faculty (Ga unit) and Social Science Faculty (Kha unit) must have GPA 6 with minimum GPA 2.75 in SSC or HSC examinations.

Students from Arts and Commerce groups applying for the same faculties must have GPA 5.5 with minimum GPA 2.75 in SSC or HSC examinations.

The Science Group students seeking admission in Science Faculty (Ka unit) and Life Science Faculty (Gha unit) require GPA 6 with minimum GPA 3 in SSC or HSC examinations.

Students under traditional systems must have two second divisions in SSC and HSC examinations to apply to any department of the four faculties.

A student can apply for four subjects under one unit.

Written tests will be of 100 marks while another 100 marks will be counted from SSC and HSC total marks.

The GPA of SSC will be multiplied by eight while the GPA of HSC by 12.

Formal admission from the merit list will begin on May 2 and continue till May 13.

Classes are expected to begin from June 10.

TRADE FAIR GOES ON



SK ENAMUL HAQ

Visitors flock to the tenth Dhaka International Trade Fair -2004 (DITF) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on Friday. Seventeen countries including the host Bangladesh are participating in the month-long fair. The fair remains open to visitors from 10 am to 9 pm everyday.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036
Christy Courier- 7110177-9, 7100842-4
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975

Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222
Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751

TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattrar
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoil	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan