

Revised guideline to curb noise pollution in 2 weeks

UNB, Dhaka

An inter-ministerial meeting has decided to issue a revised guideline within next two weeks to curb noise pollution across the country.

The meeting held yesterday to finalise Noise Pollution (Control) Regulation-2004, also decided to set a two-month time-frame from the

date of issuance of the guideline for the polluters to control noise pollution.

Official sources said that under the guideline, a standard sound level will be fixed for different areas and for motorised and mechanised vehicles.

The revised guideline would, however, exempt mosques, tem-

ples, churches and pagodas from any restriction on the use of microphones.

The new guideline is being prepared on the basis of written recommendations from 67 organisations and opinions from various quarters.

Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj presided.

Shahjahan Siraj said noise pollution is a silent killer and has been causing a severe health hazard for people.

The minister said after finalisation of the regulation in next two weeks, the two-month time-frame would be fixed to guide people regarding their tasks in controlling noise pollution.

Measures will also be taken to check the use of loud speakers, brick and stone crashing machines, generators, hydraulic horns and noisy vehicles.

He said the offenders would be taken to task under the law and

punishment for violating the law would include a fine of up to Tk 10,000 or six months' imprisonment or both.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Zafurul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary Syed Tanveer Hossain and DG of Environment Department Khan Ibrahim Hossain attended the meeting at the ministry.

Representatives from Local Government Department, Home, Communications, Shipping and Health and Family Welfare ministries were present at the meeting.

College student killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A college student was killed and three others were injured in a collision between a truck and an auto-rickshaw at Ispahani intersection in the city's Pahartali area on Wednesday.

Witnesses said the truck rammed into the three-wheeler at around 1.30pm, killing Tuhin Prasad Chowdhury, a student of Chittagong Commerce College, on the spot.

Two other passengers, Indrajit Chakrabarty and Manu Das, and the driver of the auto-rickshaw were also injured. They are now undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The accident took place when Tuhin, along with his two friends Indrajit and Manu were returning to his Patharghat residence from the Kobilayadham Temple in Pahartali.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to escape.

Twenty-four-year-old Tuhin was the eldest son of Tamal Chowdhury, acting news editor of the Daily Life.

Leaders of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) and Chittagong Press Club (CPC) in a joint statement expressed deep shock and condolence at the death of Tuhin.

They demanded immediate arrest of the truck driver.