



The engine of the Parabat Express went up in flames after derailment at Noapara Railway Station in Habiganj yesterday. Train communications between Sylhet and Dhaka and Chittagong remained snapped for over nine hours from 10:00am after the Dhaka-bound train from Sylhet ran off the tracks. PHOTO: STAR

Train derails in Habiganj

Its engine catches fire; Sylhet's rail links with Dhaka, Ctg remained snapped for over nine hours till 7:30pm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sylhet's rail communications with Dhaka and Chittagong remained snapped for over nine hours from 10:00am yesterday after a Dhaka-bound train derailed in Habiganj, causing sufferings to hundreds of passengers.

Train services resumed around 7:30pm after the railway authorities cleared the railway line and rescued the derailed train around 6:00pm, said Harunur Rashid, chief mechanical engineer of Bangladesh Railway (east zone).

Dhaka-bound Parabat Express from Sylhet derailed at Noapara Railway Station in Madhabpur upazila around 10:00am. The train engine caught fire as the fuel tank leaked after the derailment, rail officials said.

On information, firefighters rushed

to the spot and doused the fire. Senior railway officials visited the spot and formed a probe body, headed by deputy railway manager of Dhaka, to investigate the incident, Rashid told The Daily Star.

Moazzem Haque, master of Noapara railway station, said some passengers suffered minor injuries while getting down from the train hurriedly after the accident.

The injured were given first aid at Madhabpur Upazila Health Complex. The accident left some trains stranded at different stations, Moazzem added.

Sumona Bosak, a passenger of the train, said she was scheduled to sit for an exam for a private job in Dhaka yesterday evening. "Due to the accident, I won't be able to sit for the exam," she said, expressing frustration.

Clarification

The Ministry of Power Energy & Mineral Resources has sent an explanation of the report published in The Daily Star on September 29 titled "Rampal Power Plant: Fly ash a big threat to environment".

The explanation, sent by the public relations officer of the ministry, said the plant was likely to produce less than half a million ton of ash which would be collected and transported in dry form and would be sold to cement industries, brick manufacturers. This will be cheaper than the current practice of importing coal ash and also save the Forex.

The explanation also mentions that a very small area (25 acres) will be developed as a contingency arrangement to handle unlikely situations like disruption in sale of ash for a limited period.

The area shall be developed with high bearing capacity as per international practices. Initially a high dyke of six metre will be constructed which would be later raised up to 12 metre all around the contingency ash dump area, to prevent any breach or mixing of ash with river water. Modern proven technical measures have been adopted to create impervious layers at the bottom, to ensure no-leaching.

This will prevent any contamination of ground water.

The explanation says the Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) contract very clearly state all those design and condition of construction. Hence the conclusion drawn in the article is technically incorrect.

However, The Daily Star report clearly stated that the report was based on an analysis of tender document B9 civil works specification of the project. The analysis was conducted by Charles S Norris, a Denver-based geoscientist and hydrologist.

2 'robbers'

FROM PAGE 1
Kabar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kamalnagar Police Station, as saying.

Hearing the screams of Siraj and his family members, locals went to the spot and caught one of the robbers Abul Hossain, 35, of Noakhali. The others managed to flee, the police official said.

Later, locals beat up Abul indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.

He was taken to Kamalnagar Upazila Health Complex. He was then shifted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital where he died later.

Siraj is undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

UNB adds: another suspected robber was beaten to death by a mob in Bil Shonautha village of Jhalakathi's Kathalia upazila early yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

About 15 to 16 robbers swooped on the house of one Forkan Khan and looted valuables after keeping Forkan's family members hostage at gunpoint around 2:30am, said Jashim, sub-inspector of Kathalia Police Station.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and chased the robbers. At one stage, they caught one of the criminals, while the others managed to flee the scene.

He was beaten to death by the mob on the spot, Jashim said.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Rab-cop tension reaches its peak

FROM PAGE 1

The force is comprised of officials and employees of seven security and law enforcement agencies -- armed forces, Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansar and Coast Guard.

Since its formation, Rab has been playing important roles in curbing militancy, arrest of armed criminals, recovery of narcotics and even in maintaining law and order.

From different Rab camps across the country, a large number of its operational, intelligence and other teams -- uniformed or plainclothes, with or without arms -- move on government vehicles to carry out operations or government duties, the letter says.

"Recently, while carrying out operations/government activities, the operational and intelligence team members of Rab faced indecent verbal abuse, insulting comments about different forces and even physical assaults by some police members. In some incidents, they [policemen] struck Rab members with sticks and rifles making them to bleed," the letter reads.

"Reviewing the mentioned incidents, it has been found that most of the time police members swooped on Rab members despite getting their [Rab men's] identities."

The letters says, "In almost all cases, it was possible to avoid major untoward incidents as Rab members showing utmost patience, professionalism and skills refrained from reacting and tried to calm down the situation."

"Now the Rab members are under impression that no action has been taken against the police personnel responsible because despite repeated correspondence either no administrative action was taken against the police personnel responsible or if any action was taken, it was not communicated to the Rab."

It is demoralising the elite force members and hampering their operational activities. So, if such incidents happen further, there might be a mas-

sive untoward incident which will harm the image of police and even the government.

Contacted on Wednesday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal refused to make any comment on this, terming it an internal issue of police and Rab.

A top home ministry official, wishing anonymity, however, said they took the issue seriously, and were trying to resolve the problems.

Since Rab's formation in 2004, there have been tensions between police and members of the elite force, according to officials. The issue, however, rarely made headlines.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of police officials played down the alleged rivalry between the two law enforcement units.

They think behavioural problems of some individuals might have led to such incidents and there is no need for taking those seriously.

They claimed that police, too, have reports of abuse by Rab members.

Wishing anonymity, a top official said that as Rab is a wing under the police, the Rab chief should have informed the matter to the inspector general of police instead of writing to the senior home secretary.

In the list attached with the letter, the Rab DG mentioned an incident that took place on September 26.

That day, two of its members from the communication wing of the Rab headquarters went to Sirajganj. When they were returning on a microbus after working on "Rab prison inmate database", they found huge traffic jams in Korotia area of Tangail due to a road accident.

As they were advancing overtaking stranded vehicles, a police man stopped the microbus. Even though the driver identified him to be a Rab member, the policeman dragged him out and struck him with a stick, leaving him injured.

The cop also seized the microbus saying why it did not carry Rab monogram. Later, a team from Tangail camp of Rab rescued them.

In another incident on August 3, two Rab-4 members on a motorcycle were on an assignment to gather intelligence. When they reached in front of Delta Hospital at Tolarbagh, a traffic sergeant stopped them and asked for the motorcycle's papers.

The Rab men showed their identity cards and said the papers are at the battalion. The sergeant seized the motorcycle but went somewhere leaving the bike there.

Later, a senior ASP from Rab-4 went to the spot and contacted the sergeant and asked him to meet there. As the sergeant did not show up, the senior ASP returned to the battalion with the Rab men and the motorcycle.

"Later, the police headquarters wrote to Rab asking for an explanation of the incident, which is unfortunate," the Rab DG wrote.

On April 13, the Rab-3 company commander, who is a major, was on duty relating to Pahela Baishakh security at Ramna Batamul. A Rab constable informed him that a police official had asked them to move all Rab vehicles from the parking lot in front of Ramna restaurant.

The major then asked the constable to keep the Rab vehicles with the cars of other law enforcement agencies.

Around two to three minutes into the conversation, the constable phoned the major again and informed him that a deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police was hurling abuse. "You son of a b****! Son of a p**! Take the vehicles away."

The DC then asked the major's driver whose car it was. As the driver said it was the major's, the DC said, "Rab's major, lieutenant colonels -- all are thieves."

As major approached the DC, he heard that the police official was calling the driver of Rab ambulance "son of a b****."

When the major told the DC that he would take away the vehicles, the police official said, "I am not talking to you."

Butterfingers Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

To 265 for four at the end of 40 overs. It was a brilliant stand; almost heroic.

Imrul, who had fought his way back into the side, scored a much-needed century. When in his 80s, Imrul cramped up and was limping on the field, but reached the three-figure mark after limping for nearly six overs.

He reached the mark in the oddest of ways. He defended the first ball of the 37th over straight back to Willey. Spotting the batsman slightly out of the crease, Willey attempted to run him out. The ball did hit the stumps, but Imrul was comfortably in, and the ball went on to go all the way over the boundary.

Imrul did not celebrate much, simply raising his bat and getting back to duty.

Shakib, who had supported Imrul throughout his cramps by denying the doubles when required, unleashed himself after Imrul reached his century. He smacked Moen Ali for a six and a four in the following over and then punished Chris Woakes with three fours in over number 39. He reached his half-century in the process, but barely anyone noticed because he did not celebrate, keeping in mind the bigger task in hand.

By the end of 40th over,

Bangladesh needed just 54 with six wickets in hand. The win was seemingly in the bag. However, that is when drama struck.

Despite the equation, debutant Jake Bell and leg-spinner Adil Rashid were determined and they put in a superb effort towards the end to turn things around.

Willey removed Shakib for 79 with a bouncer off the third ball of the 42nd over. He then came back with a brilliant inswinging delivery to bowl the young Mosaddek Hossain.

And just like that, Bangladesh had their backs against the wall.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was caught behind in the next over and suddenly the hosts needed 31 runs from 36 balls with just three wickets in hand.

Rashid put the final nail in the coffin when he got Imrul stumped with the first ball off the fifth over. He bowled a flighted wide delivery and made a cramped Imrul come down the track and had him stumped off a wide.

Regardless of the result, it was an end to a brilliant innings. An innings that included eleven fours and two sixes, Imrul had taken the attack to the English when his colleagues at the top struggled.

The best part was the way he cautiously handled himself after reach-

ing the century. Unlike a number of other Bangladeshi batsmen, he ensured that he would remain at the crease and not merely go for boundaries. He recognised that his team had a long way to go.

Ball came in and removed Mosharraf and Taskin Ahmed towards the end and claimed a well-deserved five-wicket haul on debut to finish the game.

Earlier, England recovered from a nervous 63 for three thanks to a 153-run stand between Stokes and Ben Duckett. The duo smacked Bangladesh's spinners, who put in their most expensive performance in a bilateral series since 2015, all over the park. Stokes, who scored 101 off 100 balls, seemed to master the art of playing the reverse sweep, as he regularly employed the stroke to good use. He was dropped twice, once on 69 and again on 72, and made full use of the opportunities given to him by hitting eight fours and four sixes.

Buttler came in towards the end and hit a 38-ball 63 to take England past 300.

Except for Shakib, who took two wickets, Bangladesh's spinners were disappointing. Mashrafe and Shafiq Islam took two wickets each and were the most effective bowlers for the hosts.

Colombian president

FROM PAGE 1

signed with the rebels.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said Santos had brought one of the longest civil wars in modern history significantly closer to a peaceful solution, but there was still a danger the peace process could collapse.

The award excluded FARC guerrilla leader Rodrigo Londono, better known by his nom de guerre Timochenko, who signed the peace accord with Santos in Cartagena on Sept 26.

Santos has promised to revive the plan even though Colombians narrowly rejected it in a referendum on Sunday. Many voters believed it was too lenient on the Farc guerrillas.

"There is a real danger that the peace process will come to a halt and that civil war will flare up again. This makes it even more important that the parties ... continue to respect the ceasefire," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said.

"The fact that a majority of the voters said 'No' to the peace accord does not necessarily mean that the peace process is dead."

More than 220,000 people have died on the battlefield or in massacres during the conflict between leftist guerrillas, government troops and right-wing paramilitaries.

Millions have been displaced and many beg on the streets of the capital, while economic potential has been held up in the mostly rural nation.

"I infinitely appreciate from all of my heart this honorable distinction, not in my name, but the name of all Colombians, and especially the millions of victims that have been left by the conflict we have suffered for more than 50 years," Santos, 65, said in a brief statement.

"Thank God peace is close. Peace is possible."

Asked why Londono was left out, committee leader Kaci Kullmann Five said Santos had been central to the process.

"President Santos has been taking the very first and historic initiative. There have been other tries, but this time he went all-in as leader of the government with a strong will to reach a result. That's why we have put the emphasis on president."

She declined to elaborate on Londono's role. Londono via Twitter congratulated Santos, and thanked countries including Cuba and Venezuela for supporting the process.

"The only prize to which we aspire is that of peace with social justice for a Colombia without paramilitarism, without retaliation nor lies," he wrote on his personal Twitter account after the award went only to Santos.

Santos is the first Latin American to receive the peace prize since indigenous rights campaigner Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala won in 1992, and is the second Colombian laureate after writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who won the literature prize in 1982.

The scion of one of Colombia's most prosperous families, Santos was not thought likely to spearhead a peace process with Farc, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

But though he had served as defense minister under headline ex-president Alvaro Uribe, when the Farc were weakened by a US-backed offensive, Santos has used his two terms in office to open negotiations with rebel leaders in four years of talks.

His family once owned leading Colombian newspaper El Tiempo, where he worked as an editor before turning to politics. He also trained as an economist at the London School of Economics.

Santos was finance minister in the 1990s, helping to steer the Andean nation through one of its worst fiscal crises.

The peace talks made bitter enemies of Santos and Uribe, who accused his former protege of betraying Farc victims. Uribe founded a new right-wing political party, won a Senate seat and led the "No" camp in the referendum.

But Uribe commented on the award from his Twitter account.

"I congratulate President Santos for the Nobel and hope it helps move towards changes to accord which is so damaging to democracy."

The news may anger those Colombians who see Santos' bid for peace with the Farc as selling out the nation as he negotiated terms that they see as an embarrassment.

But the fact that his rebel foe did not receive the prize alongside him may be a relief to Santos, given political tensions following the referendum. It may also give Santos a moral boost in talks with Uribe.

"This gives me hope that the prize will bring peace with the Farc, though it cannot come above the will of the people," said Adriana Perez, a 26-year old teacher in Bogota.

Another, 35-year-old Juan Tomas Gomez said he was "sure it would help bring an end to the war" as he unloaded food from a truck.

A joint win could have set back sensitive talks with the opposition as Santos tries to negotiate new terms with the "No" camp and possibly persuade the Farc to accept changes to the original accord.

The Farc on Friday agreed to listen to proposals for adjustments to the accord.

The "No" vote was a disaster for Santos, who had hoped to turn his focus quickly to other matters including possible talks with the smaller ELN rebel group, tax reform and other economic measures to compensate for a drop in oil income.

Some Nobel watchers had taken Colombia off their lists of favorites after Santos' referendum defeat.

The United Nations human rights office, which does not usually comment on Nobel Peace Prizes, said the award was a recognition of the importance of the conflict in Colombia.

The one-sided prize echoes previous awards, such as to South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in 2000 for his work for reconciliation with North Korea. West German Chancellor Willy Brandt won in 1971 for his policies of reaching out to the communist East.

But often the awards go to both sides in peace negotiations, such as to Israelis and Palestinians in 1994 or to Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin in 1978.

The Nobel Peace Prize, worth 8 million Swedish crowns (\$930,000), will be presented in Oslo on Dec 10.

The White Helmets react to missing out on peace prize

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

"It is not the Nobel we long for most, but peace itself", members of the Syria Civil Defence service, also known as the White Helmets, have said in reaction to the news that this year's Nobel Peace Prize has gone to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for ending the country's 52-year-long civil war.

Pictures from the White Helmets headquarters after the announcement in Oslo yesterday showed around half a dozen people sitting around computer screens, a couple of them smiling despite their obvious disappointment.

"Congratulations to the people and President of Colombia," a statement in English said. "We sincerely wish them peace."