

DHAKA METRO RAIL

Two more lines to cost Tk 93,800cr

Project proposals for Airport-Kamalapur, Hemayetpur-Bhatara lines up for Ecneec nod today; physical work to start soon

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Construction work on two more metro rail lines will begin soon as the government aims to reduce traffic congestion and pollution in the capital. Since there are no questions over the funds, the work will begin after the projects get the Ecneec nod, said a planning ministry official familiar with the developments.

Proposals for the two projects with an estimated cost of Tk 93,800 crore are scheduled to be placed before today's Ecneec meeting, a ministry official said.

The first proposal is on building Mass Rapid Transit-1 from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Kamalapur Railway Station at a cost of Tk 52,561.43 crore.

This will be the country's first underground metro rail system. The 31.24km route will have an elevated section from Notun Bazar to Purbachal. Officials expect the project to be completed by 2026.

The second proposal is on building MRT-5 (northern route) from Hemayetpur of Savar to Bhatara via Gabtoli, Mirpur and Gulshan at an estimated cost of Tk 41,238.55 crore. The 20km line will consist of underground and elevated sections. The project commits to a 2028 deadline.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency will provide the lion's share of the costs in soft loans, officials said, adding that the loans, with an interest rate of 0.9 percent, is to be repaid in 30 years with a grace period of 10 years. This is the lowest rate Bangladesh gets from any multi-lateral and bilateral partners.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hugs and consoles Rokeya Khatun, mother of slain Buet student Abrar Fahad, at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

WHY this brutality?

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The image would shake anyone to the core. The description is so horrifying that reading it is not suitable for children or the faint-hearted.

Feet several inches above the ground. Both ears cut off, throat slit, genital cut off and two knives pierced deep inside the abdomen.

Tuhin Miah was only five. His body was found yesterday hanging from a tree some 200 yards away from his home at Kejaura of Sunamganj's Derai upazila.

As the news spread in mainstream and on social media, everybody asked why anyone would unleash such unspeakable brutality on a child.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, at least 1,644 children faced violence and 182 of them were murdered from January to September this year.

Prof Mahjabeen Haque, chairperson of Dhaka University's educational and counselling psychology department, said children were targeted as criminals

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ABRAR KILLING Robein started the beating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mehedi Hasan Robein, just-expelled organising secretary of Buet Chhatra League, in his confessional statement said he first hit Abrar Fahad and then others joined in, leading to the murder on October 7.

Robein told a magistrate yesterday that he left room No 2011 of Sher-E-Bangla Hall after slapping second-year student Abrar, who was then clubbed by others, according to court and police sources.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain recorded his statement and sent him to jail.

With Robein, a batch-15 student of the university's chemical engineering department, five leaders of Buet Chhatra League have given confessional statements in the Abrar killing case.

Earlier, arrested Buet BCL leaders Anik Sarker, Ifi Mosharrar Shakal, Meftahul

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Hasina for quick disposal of case

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she has directed the law minister to look for a way to dispose of the Abrar Fahad murder case quickly. She said this to Abrar's family members when they met her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said Abrar's parents expressed their deep gratitude to the premier for dealing with the matter as a mother.

Abrar's father Barkat Ullah and mother Rokeya Khatun also expressed their gratitude to the administration, police, and the country's people for their all-out support and cooperation.

Hasina said after the incident, they did not see who belonged to which party. "I don't want to see who belongs to which party. To me, killers are just killers, criminals are criminals."

She said she does not have words to console the bereaved family. "Look at me, I have lost everything in just one night. I can feel the pain of losing close relatives."

The PM said the killers are not human beings. "How could they kill a person with whom they were sitting and studying [every day]?"

After the incident, police were directed to collect the CCTV footage, she said. "But it's not clear to me why some Buet students created obstacles to the collection of the footage."

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Abhijit Duflo Kremer NOBEL ECONOMICS PRIZE

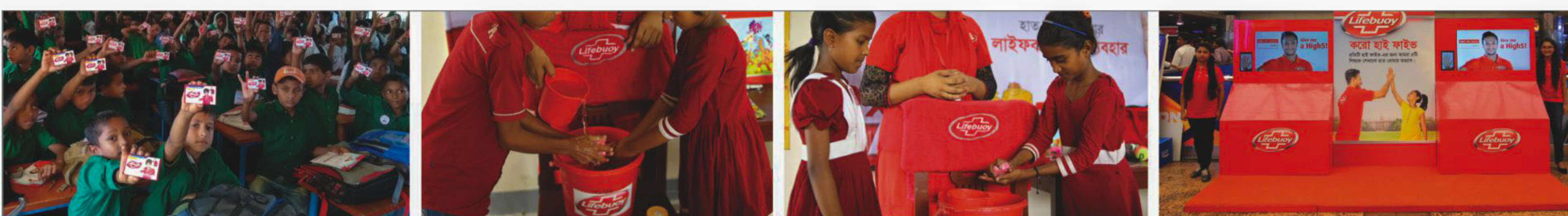
Trio awarded for work on poverty alleviation

AFP, Stockholm

A trio of Americans won the Nobel Economics Prize for their work in the fight against poverty, including Esther Duflo, the youngest-ever economics laureate and only the second woman to win the prize.

Duflo -- a 46-year-old French-American professor who has served as an advisor to ex-US president Barack Obama -- shared the Nobel with Indian-born Abhijit Banerjee of the US, and American Michael Kremer "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said yesterday.

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বাংলাদেশের ১ কোটি ১০ লাখ শিশুকে

বিশ্বের সর্ববৃহৎ স্কুল প্রোগ্রামের মাধ্যমে জীবাণু থেকে সুরক্ষিত থাকতে শিখিয়েছে

