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NBR SERVER BREACH Probe leaves puzzles

Found irregularities, yet held no
customs officials responsible

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

A probe report on the breach of NBR server that saw the release of 11 import consignments last year has raised more questions than it answered.

Despite finding irregularities in every step, from import to unloading, it gave clean chit to the customs officials who had their signatures on release and assessment documents of the consignments.

The 48-page report also did not recommend legal action against any of the importers although it observed that four of them "can't avoid their liabilities".

Between June and October last year, cybercriminals broke into the highly sensitive server of National Board of Revenue, using the login IDs and passwords belonging to two customs officials.

In the process, nine of the consignments were released and the fraudsters made away with at least 153 tonnes of goods worth crores of taka from the Chattogram port, also submitting fake documents.

Customs authorities, however, managed to seize two other consignments at the last moment.

The nine consignments were released evading a large sum of duty – the amount could not be estimated. As per the declaration, they contained yarn, woven and polyester fabrics, the duty of which is around 89 percent.

The Daily Star published a report headlined "NBR server breached, again" on November 15 and the Chattogram Custom House later formed a probe committee, which submitted its report on January 16 this year.

The probe report did not provide any information about the IP addresses

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Experts fear the main culprits will go unpunished if some pertinent questions are not answered. They also termed the probe report incomplete and an apparent attempt to protect the culprits.



Nine-year-old Ohi holds her father and repeatedly asks for her mother, at the DMCH emergency yesterday after she, her mother and younger sister were in a road accident on the way to her school. The little girl was still unaware of her mother's passing.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

GRAFT AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES Political affiliations of VCs to blame Say opposition MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition lawmakers yesterday slammed the government for failing to control corruption and irregularities at public universities.

Vice chancellors appointed for their political affiliations is a reason why there are widespread irregularities at the universities, they said while

discussing a bill for a university in Pirojpur.

The issue was discussed in parliament at a time when several public university vice-chancellors are under investigation by the University Grants Commission.

The allegations are mostly of nepotism, corruption and negligence of duty.

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School run turns tragic

Mother killed as bus hits rickshaw with her and daughters on board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine year-old Humayara Yeasmin Ohi could hardly care about the wounds on her knees and elbows -- the wounds from an accident that turned her world upside down.

Instead, she grew restless, aching to see if her mother was okay.

Around 3:00pm yesterday, she was seen refusing medicine for her pain and holding her father, Rafiqul Islam, tight.

With tears streaming down, she kept asking, "Where is Ma? Call her. Where did you keep her? Take me to Ma. Which room is she in?"

Little did she know that her mother was never to return.

Ohi, a fourth grader, was on her way to Navy School with her mother Sabina Yeasmin, 31, and sister Rafia Yeasmin Mim, 6, on a battery-run auto-rickshaw.

She had an exam to sit for and Mim had tagged along with her and their mother as she had no one to look after her at home, locals said.

They were in front of Navy Market in Mirpur 14 around noon when a passenger bus of Trust Paribahan rammed the rickshaw from behind, making all three of its passengers fall to the ground.

The two little girls survived with

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