

Metro to run from 8:00am to 8:00pm from May 31

Weekly closure on Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail will run from 8:00am to 8:00pm six days a week from May 31.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, said during a briefing yesterday.

He also said that the weekly closure will be changed from Tuesday to Friday from May 31.

The 12 hours of the new schedule were split into four segments. Trains will run every 10 minutes from 8:00am to 11:00pm (peak hours), every 15 minutes from 11:01am to 3:00pm (off-peak), every 10 minutes from 3:01pm to 6:00pm (peak), and every 15 minutes from 6:01pm to 8:00pm (off-peak), he added.

Metro rail services will be closed on the day of Eid-ul-Azha, he added.

Asked about the opening of Agargaon-Motijheel section, he said they were working to open this part ahead of the schedule of December this year.

Performance test of metro trains on the section will start in July and after two months of the test, it would be possible to say when the section would be opened, he added.



Part of the reason why Dhaka faces long hours of gridlock is commuter's defiance of traffic rules. Stuck on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, a car plunges itself in front of a bus in an awkward angle, while bikers tries to squeeze through the narrow space between the bus and the car. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



UN RESOLUTION
Hasina lauds community clinics

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has been able to provide healthcare services at the door steps of the people up due to the community clinics.

The premier said this at the weekly cabinet meeting held at PMO.

The United Nations on Tuesday unanimously adopted the first-ever resolution on community-based health care. The resolution, titled "Community-based primary health care,"

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A leader with steadfast resolve
Speakers tell event marking Menon's 80th birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rashed Khan Menon is a "national leader" as his trailblazing



and mass-oriented politics in the country's leftist movement remains crucial to the national political scenario, said speakers at an event yesterday, marking his 80th birthday. "Ashi-te Janatar

Menon Uddjan Jatiya Committee", a platform created to celebrate the occasion, organised the event in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh and a lawmaker from Dhaka-8, was born on May 18, 1943, in Faridpur. His party is a component of the Awami League-led ruling alliance.

Termining Menon a "comrade" and "witty parliamentarian", Awami League leader and Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Matia Chowdhury said they got involved in student movements and started active politics around the same time at a young age with a common goal to achieve people's freedom.

Left-leaning politician Manzurul Ahsan Khan

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PRAYER TIMING
MAY 19

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-30	5-00	6-36	8-00
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

GENDER-DIVERSE POPULATION
Family awareness crucial to end discrimination

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The harassment, rights violations and gender-based violence faced by the gender diverse population will reduce if awareness could be ensured at a family level, speakers told a seminar.

The seminar was organised by Bandhu Social Welfare Society to publish the "Annual Right Violation Report-2022 of Gender Diverse Population" yesterday in the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

The report said Dhaka ranks first in terms of rights violations of the gender-diverse population in the country, with 24 percent of rights violation incidents in 2022. Khulna comes second with 23 percent and Sylhet secured the third position with 20 percent of such cases in 2022.

Among other regions, Chattogram has seen 9 percent, Barishal 12 percent, Rajshahi 6 percent, Mymensingh 4 percent and Rangpur 1 percent of rights violation incidents, as per the report.

The report also mentioned the challenges faced by the population, which included discriminatory laws, harassment, threats of physical violence, severe social stigma, lack of access to health services and difficulties in finding employment.

Tania Hoque, member of National Human Right Commission, said the crisis is not a new one and families of the members of the population have to be aware first to deal with it.

"The discrimination for the gender diverse population begins with their families rejecting them

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Dhaka ranks first in terms of rights violations of the gender-diverse population in the country, with 24 percent of rights violation incidents in 2022.



PHOTO: STAR

Primary, secondary levels vital for higher education

Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury tells UGC discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stressing the crucial role of primary and secondary education in the country's advancement towards higher education, Dhaka University Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury yesterday highlighted the lack of importance given to these levels of education.

"Throughout our history, primary and secondary education have not received the due importance they deserve. Without prioritising these foundational levels, we cannot strengthen the country's higher education," said Prof Choudhury.

He made the remarks during a special discussion programme at the UGC auditorium in the capital, commemorating the 50th anniversary of University Grants Commission.

Referring to news reports, he pointed out that approximately 8,000 primary schools were shut down, while more attention was given to establishing colleges.

According to Prof Choudhury, a major challenge in the country's education system lies in our failure to ensure uniform education based on the mother tongue, instead of having three different streams of education.

"Uniform education in our mother tongue is crucial for education to be deep, sustainable, and accurate. If we cannot achieve this goal, our education

Uniform education in our mother tongue is crucial for education to be deep, sustainable, and accurate. If we cannot achieve this goal, our education standards will not develop.

SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY
DU Emeritus Professor

More funds are necessary to promote intellectual freedom, research, academic excellence, innovation, and liberty in public universities.

AK AZAD CHOWDHURY
Former UGC chairman

standards will not develop," he said.

Prof Choudhury further observed that while the country is progressing in various aspects, these developments often lead to discrimination and alienation.

Discussing the importance of having students' unions in public universities, he mentioned, "Even during the military regime, public universities had students' unions. The absence of students' unions has now created a lack of cultural atmosphere in public universities, which has left students

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Ensure equal inheritance for women: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh is making progress in terms of women's education and empowerment, there is still a significant disparity in the correct implementation of their rights, said speakers at an event yesterday.

If women and girls have equal rights regarding inheritance and property, early marriage and violence against them may be completely eradicated, they added.

The roundtable, titled "We Want Equal Rights of Inheritance to End Discrimination Against Women" was organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) at the Jatiya Press Club.

Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS, said, "Not having equal rights in inheritance is becoming a major obstacle in the way of economic, social and political empowerment of women. Girls are subjected to child marriage due to a lack of equal rights in inheritance. Violence against women is increasing in the family, society and state. The overall development of the country is not possible leaving 50 percent of the population behind."

Banasree Mitra, director of programme at Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "Despite several changes to our constitution, women's rights are still not guaranteed. Additionally, there are severe societal norms and behaviours that oppress women; these practices and norms should be eventually eliminated."

Advocate Md Hilaluddin of the Supreme Court, said, "The state's other laws have undergone several revisions, but the legislation governing property inheritance remains mostly unchanged."

Dr Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said although the constitution of Bangladesh does not discriminate between men and women, discrimination can be seen in various laws and programmes of the state.

Although women can enjoy some state and social rights, they are deprived of personal rights, which is rooted in our patriarchal mentality, she added.

Activists demand justice for elephant killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Animal lovers in the capital formed a human chain yesterday in front of the forest department office at Agargaon for the death of an elephant calf that was hit by a train in Uttara on Wednesday.

Its mahout was using the mother elephant to extort people resulting in the calf being unattended.

Rakibul Haq Emil, founder of PAW (People for Animal Welfare) called for an end to private ownership of elephants. "Forest department must publish a list of people who own elephants and hold them accountable in case of any death resulting from negligence," he said.

Abdul Awal Sarkar, conservator of forest (admin), said, "We will publish the list of elephant owners by June 15, and will take action."

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৪০তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা
উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

Uttara Bank conducted its 40th Annual General Meeting on 18-05-2023 (Thursday). The Founder & Executive Chairman of Aftab Group and Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Azharul Islam presided over the Meeting. The Chairman & Managing Director of Aftab Group and Vice-Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Iftekharul Islam was also present. The Managing Director & CEO of Uttara Bank Mr. Mohammed Rabiul Hossain and other Directors also attended the meeting. Uttara Bank Declared 28% (14% stock and 14% cash) dividend for the year-2022 which is the highest among the scheduled Banks of the Country.