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## Technical glitch halts metro rail services again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Metro rail services suffered another technical glitch yesterday, halting its services for an hour, causing suffering to the passengers.

The metro rail services remained suspended from 8:42am to 9:40am due to a “technical issue”, Iftikhar Hossain, general manager (operations) of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, told The Daily Star.

As a result, the passengers, who consider metro rail as a very punctual mode of transport, faced difficulties to attend their scheduled programmes.

With this, technical issues halted the metro rail services three times in 15 days.

On August 7, metro rail services started 40 minutes late due to a technical problem on the tracks.

Similarly, on August 9, metro services halted for two hours due to a technical glitch in the overhead electric lines.

The Daily Star tried to contact MAN Siddique, managing director of DMTCL, and Nasir Uddin Ahmed, director (operations) of DMTCL, for their comments over the frequent suspensions of services but could not reach them over phone.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina interacts with a victim of August 21, 2004 grenade attack. The PM herself narrowly escaped death during the attack 19 years ago. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the Awami League office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

PHOTO: PID

## TORTURE ON PHULPORI IU expels five students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Islamic University (IU) yesterday expelled five students for torturing Phulpori, a first-year student of the university’s finance and banking department.

The decision was taken at an emergency syndicate meeting with IU Vice-Chancellor Prof Shaikh Abdus Salam in the chair, said university’s Registrar HM Ali Hasan.

The expelled students are Shanjida Chowdhury Antora of statistics department, also a former VP of IU Chhatra League; Tabassum Islam and Maobiya Jahan of finance and banking department; Halima Khatun Umi of fine arts department; and Israt Jahan Mim of law department.

“These students were expelled following the direction of the High Court’s order and observation in this regard,” said the registrar.

This decision would be sent to the HC by August 23, he added.

Earlier on July 16, the IU administration suspended the five students from the university

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# KARWAN BAZAR KITCHEN MARKET RELOCATION RIDDLE *yet to resolve* Wholesalers agree to shift, retailers still reluctant

MD ABBAS

Around 300 wholesalers of the kitchen market in Karwan Bazar have unanimously agreed to relocate their shops to the proposed Amin Bazar and Jatrabari wholesale markets after extensive discussions with a DNCC body.

However, most businesses – including retailers selling groceries, clothes, hardware and electronics items – are reluctant to relocate from Karwan Bazar, saying it will affect their trade.

The situation arose following a series of meetings, the last of which was held on July 23 between traders and a 13-member committee of Dhaka North City Corporation.

DNCC formed the body on June 13, comprising local ward councillors, Awami League and Chhatra League leaders, Karwan

Bazar business community representatives, and DNCC officials.

Shamim Hasan, councillor of ward-26, was made the convener, and Mutakabbir Ahmed, zonal executive officer (zone-5) of DNCC, was made the member secretary.

At the meeting, wholesalers demanded construction of three roads – one from Beribandh to the newly-constructed Amin Bazar wholesale market, and two others on both sides of the newly-constructed Jatrabari wholesale market.

They also demanded a shade to be built in front of the Jatrabari wholesale market.

“All the committee members have agreed to these demands after discussing them with the wholesalers, and we are preparing a resolution to be forwarded to the city corporations’ engineering and

estate departments. We expect updates from the authorities concerned within a month,” said Mutakabbir.

Once the wholesalers of the kitchen market relocate, around 60 to 70 percent of the area will be empty, he said, adding that the remaining businesses will also be relocated gradually.

Some traders have claimed that the newly-constructed markets at Jatrabari and Amin Bazar are not wholesale-friendly.

They expressed concerns over the size of their shops in the new locations, stating that they were too small.

The wholesalers, however, said they decided to relocate as the authorities have assured them of providing the required space and necessary arrangements, said Shamsul Alam Bulbul, general secretary of Karwan Bazar

### PROPOSED SPOTS

#### AMIN BAZAR

- ➔ Total area 13 acres
- ➔ Number of shops 1,165
- ➔ Relocated shops from Karwan Bazar 814
- ➔ Temporary ones 180

#### JATRABARI

- ➔ Total area 5.21 acres
- ➔ Number of shops 912
- ➔ Relocated shops from Karwan Bazar 895

### RELOCATION EFFORTS

- ➔ DNCC working for years to relocate the market
- ➔ In 2006, Ecne approved Tk 206cr project to construct markets in Mohakhali, Amin Bazar, Jatrabari
- ➔ Project suspended until 2013 when LGED, DNCC revised budget to Tk 264cr
- ➔ Mohakhali kitchen market got transformed into Covid-19 dedicated hospital during pandemic
- ➔ 90pc work of Amin Bazar, Jatrabari markets complete

AT A GLANCE

DNCC owns  
4 markets at  
Karwan Bazar

Total land area  
**24** bighas

Permanent shops  
**1,789**

Temporary ones  
**180**



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Kachamaal Paka Arat Byabshayee Malik Bahumukhi Samabay Samity.

“The makeshift wholesalers will move to Amin Bazar market, while the permanent wholesalers will move to Jatrabari,” he said.

Meanwhile, Md Saifur Rahman Chowdhury, general secretary of a separate traders’ body representing the wholesalers’, stressed that starting anew at a different location would require three to four years, and this will damage their businesses.

He instead suggested constructing a modern, multi-storied market within the Karwan Bazar area and relocating the traders there.

The DNCC has been working for years to relocate the wholesale market from Karwan Bazar, as it is believed to cause traffic congestion in Dhaka.

In 2006, the Executive Committee of the National

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## Killers should get their dues

Demand elderly couple who lost their son in August 21 grenade attack

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

After waiting for 19 years, all Motaleb Mridha wants is to see the killers of his eldest son punished.

Mamun, then a second-year student at Dhaka’s Kabi Nazrul College, was killed on the spot on August 21, 2004, when grenades exploded on an anti-terrorism protest led by the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina on Bangabandhu Avenue.

After searching places, Motaleb found the body of his son, or whatever remained of it, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital’s

morgue, alongside other bodies.

Mamun worked part-time in his uncle Ali Hossain’s shop and gave private lessons to students to support his poor family.

“Had my son been alive, he would have worked and run our family now. With Mamun gone, I am just counting my days,” Mridha told this correspondent on Saturday.

With a heavy heart, Mridha and Mamun’s mother, Morsheda Begum, accompanied this reporter to their son’s final resting place, a somber graveyard. There, the elderly couple couldn’t contain their emotions. With

another anniversary approaching, they could only express their grief in tears.

While Mamun’s four sisters are married since the fatal day, the elderly couple have the youngest daughter, Tuli, by their side. She is the only one to take care of them.

In the aftermath of Mamun’s tragic demise, Sheikh Hasina provided the grieving family with Tk 10.25 lakh on October 16, 2014.

“The money was deposited in the Patuakhali Sonali Bank branch. We can withdraw Tk 8,600 from it per month. It is extremely helpful, but not enough to survive,” Mridha

said, adding that both he and his wife need medicine worth at least Tk 5,000 every month.

As they solely depend on the assistance, Mridha said he had to borrow money for the marriage ceremonies of his three daughters.

He said his youngest daughter Tuli, has passed her BA exam, but is unemployed.

“We could be financially secure if she had a job. I requested many people to give my daughter a chance, but to no avail,” said Mridha.

Mamun’s uncle Monir Mridha

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