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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, confirmed 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 Urmī 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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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 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 outcomes came 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 committee 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 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 sought 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

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

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

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 business.

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 in Karwan Bazar, as it is believed to contribute significantly to traffic congestion in Dhaka.

In 2006, the Executive Committee of the National

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Killers should get their dues

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

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

All Motaleb Mridha wants is to see the killers of his eldest son Mamun Mridha punished.

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

After searching different 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 financially support his poor family.

"Had my son been alive, he would have worked and run our family now. But now, there is no hope," Mridha told this correspondent on Saturday.

With heavy hearts, Mridha and Mamun's mother, Morsheda Begum, accompanied this reporter to their son's final resting place, a somber graveyard. There, their grief overflowed, finding expression in tears that spoke of a

profound and enduring pain.

While Mamun's four sisters have already tied knots, it's the youngest daughter, Tuli, who is the only one left by their ailing parents' side.

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 as I can't do any work now," Mridha said, adding that both he and his wife need medicine worth at least Tk 5,000 every month.

He also said he had to borrow money during 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 even 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 said that every August 21, Awami League leaders come and place flowers on his tomb, but no one

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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