

HURLING STONES AT METRO 9-month probe fails to identify culprits

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

During a nine-month investigation, police were unable to identify any one responsible for damaging a window on a metro train in Dhaka.

On April 30 last year, unidentified persons threw stones at a moving train near Kazipara station around 11:05am when it was heading to Uttara from Agargaon, causing damages that later cost Tk 10 lakh in repairs.

Samiul Kadir, assistant manager (line operations) of Metro Rail Line-6, filed a case the next day with Kafrul Police Station under the Metro Rail Act and the Penal Code, accusing some unknown persons in this connection.

There is provision for five years of jail or a fine of Tk 50 lakh, or both, for the offence, according to sections 35 and 43 of the Metro Rail Act.

On March 5 this year, investigation officer Md A Baten, also an inspector of the police station, submitted the final report in the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The report said that prolonging the investigation will not yield benefits unless the metro rail authorities can provide information with which the accused can be identified.

"The case will be revived if any specific information is obtained to identify or arrest any accused involved in the incident," it added.

Confirming the matter, Baten said the final report was submitted after discussing it with the senior officials, as no clue was found during the investigation. The probe results have been informed to the complainant of the case, he added.

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To avoid tolls, long-route buses bypassed the Mayor Hanif Flyover, causing a tailback beneath it in Jatrabari area yesterday. Inset, Eid holidaymakers boarded vehicles that were delayed for around two hours due to such a situation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Govt stands firm against armed violence in CHT: Quader

UNB, Dhaka



The government is taking a strict stance on armed violence in Chattogram Hill Tracts, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"A joint operation is underway there. The situation will soon calm down," said Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister.

Quader was speaking at the Eid gift distribution programme of the Matshjeeby League at Manik Mia Avenue in the capital in the morning.

"A small group has started some armed activities in Chattogram Hill Tracts. This small group is not present in Rangamati or Khagrachhari. It is only in Bandarban. Some young people from this small group are providing arms

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RMG workers continue protests demanding arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Ready-made garments workers yesterday brought out a "flag procession" and labour assembly in Savar's Hemayetpur area in Dhaka, demanding payment of their outstanding salaries and Eid bonuses equal to one month's salary.

Around 100 workers from several factories participated in the demonstration under the banner of Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation around 4:00pm.

The procession started in front of the regional office of the organisation in Hemayetpur area and ended in Hemayetpur bus stand area on Dhaka-Aricha highway, followed by a short assembly.

The programme was presided over by Amirul Haque Amin, president of the organisation.

The speakers at the programme demanded that the RMG factory owners clear all outstanding salaries and arrears of workers and pay them Eid bonuses equal to one month's salary and allowances before the festival.

The labour leaders warned of tougher movement if their demands are not met.

HIGH-RISK BUILDINGS

Demolition notice issued to 42 edu institutions

DSHE asks them to comply within seven working days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) has ordered the demolition and sealing of the buildings of 42 educational institutions in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj within seven working days.

On April 3, following Rajdhan Unnayan Kartipakkha's (Rajuk) recommendation to demolish and seal off the 42 high-risk educational institutions, DSHE published the names of the institutions in a notification signed by Md Abdul Khalek, assistant director at DSHE.

Under the project titled "Urban Resilience Project: Rajuk Part," financed by the government and the World Bank, Rajuk recommended demolishing the high-risk buildings of various government, semi-government, and autonomous institutions in Dhaka.

There are 42 educational institutions under DSHE on this list.

Dhaka Collegiate School, Government Bangla College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Tejgaon Model High School, Agrani School and College in Azimpur, and Alatunnessa Higher Secondary School and College in Badda are among the 42 educational institutions.

On March 12, 2023, following an explosion at the capital's Siddikbazar on March 7 that claimed 24 lives, Rajuk identified

42 high risk educational institutions and recommended demolishing them.

These buildings were identified during a survey of 3,252 structures conducted as part of Rajuk's Urban Resilience Project's "Vulnerability Assessment and Prioritized Investment Plan for Critical Assets in Dhaka."

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Later, Rajuk asked DSHE to demolish high-risk educational institutions for the safety of the teachers and students.

Finally, on Wednesday, DSHE asked the authorities of the 42 educational institutions to demolish the buildings within seven working days.

Contacted, Prof Nehal Ahmed, director general of DSHE, told The Daily Star that they had to comply

with the order issued by Rajuk.

"We have asked the authorities of the 42 high-risk educational institutions to demolish those within seven working days for the sake of the safety of the teachers and students," he said.

Asked where the educational institutions will be shifted and how the educational activities will be conducted after the demolition of the buildings, Prof Nehal said some of these educational institutions have alternative buildings.

"And regarding the institutions, we will discuss with them how their academic activities will be carried out," he said.

Asked if any of the institutions denied demolishing the buildings or had any objections to the Rajuk report, Prof Nehal said they could go to Rajuk to let it know about their objections, and we would support them.

Meanwhile, in addition to the Rajuk report, the Fire Service and Civil Defence marked 720 educational institutions in Dhaka district as at risk of fire in its latest inspection report released last year.

After inspecting 801 educational institutions in Dhaka for five years, from 2017 to 2022, the fire service found 64 to be "highly risky."

Across the country, the fire service inspected 1,527 schools, colleges, and universities, including Dhaka's, in that period and found 336 to be "highly risky" and 1,072 "risky."

Buet Alumni demands stop to 'ill-politics' on campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Alumni of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday demanded an end to "ill-politics" on the campus.

They termed the recent incident "untoward" and stated that what is currently occurring in the name of student politics is a manifestation of ill-politics.

The alumni issued a statement, signed by its President Prof Ainun Nishat and Secretary General Engineer Mahtab Uddin, following a meeting held on April 3.

"The Buet Alumni feels that the vice chancellor and the Syndicate are entitled to the entire responsibility for running the university as per existing laws. The role of Buet Alumni in protecting the quality of education is undeniable; for this purpose, we are always committed to performing our duties simultaneously with the authorities," said the statement.

"In the last five years, the educational programme of Buet has been conducted in an uninterrupted and orderly manner... Buet has made significant

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Show genuine political will on Rohingya issue

Bangladesh calls upon Myanmar at UN

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's Ambassador to the United Nations, Muhammad A Muhith, has called upon Myanmar to show genuine political will and cooperate with Bangladesh to ensure the implementation of bilateral agreements for Rohingya repatriation, signed in 2017 and 2018.

He highlighted that the recent escalation in Rakhine has affected the pace of the repatriation process, which is the ultimate solution to the Rohingya crisis.

"While the 2017 crisis still remains unresolved, Rohingyas in Rakhine are faced with renewed risks, as the armed conflict between Myanmar military and Arakan Army resumes," the ambassador said before the Security Council in New York on Thursday.

He was speaking at the open briefing on Myanmar convened by the Maltese Presidency to discuss the recent escalation in the Rakhine State and its implications on civilians, especially the Rohingya minorities.

Ambassador Muhith expressed hope that the process could commence again as soon as the conditions improve, according to a message received here on Friday from New York.

"We also solicit meaningful and effective engagements of the international community, especially the regional organisations and regional

We also solicit meaningful and effective engagements of the international community in restoring peace and stability in Rakhine and supporting the reintegration of future returnees.

MUHAMMAD A MUHITH
Bangladesh's ambassador to UN

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Demanding a stop to genocide in Gaza, members of Lalon Charcha Kendra, a musical organisation, formed a human chain at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Nezam risked his life to save bank's money'

Says Rab on abducted Sonali Bank manager after handing him over to family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Nezam Uddin, the manager of Sonali Bank in Ruma upazila, who was abducted by Kuki-Chin terrorists, risked his life to prevent looting of the bank's vault, said Rab.

Khandaker Al Moin, director of RAB's legal and media department, said this yesterday after Nezam was officially handed over to his family members.

On April 2 night, a group of armed men robbed Sonali Bank and abducted Nezam, after they broke into the Ruma Upazila Parishad office to snatch firearms of security personnel.

Nezam was freed in Ruma town on Thursday evening after what Rab said were two days of negotiations.

During a press conference in Bandarban, the Rab official said Nezam was freed unharmed due to "various pressures applied to the terrorists" by the law enforcers. He said several Rab teams started working on rescuing the bank official after the April 2 incident.

In a press release sent to the media, Rab said the rescued bank manager provided important information about the attack by the militants and what happened to

him after the attack.

According to Rab, after being caught by the militants, Nezam identified himself as an agriculture department official to save the bank vault from being looted.

However, the armed militants, who were dressed in some kind of military uniform, took the bank official and three others hostage.



At one stage, they asked the bank manager for the key to the bank's vault. After Nezam refused, they tried to break the vault but failed, said the Rab press release.

Later, the bank manager was blindfolded and taken out of the bank to a remote area. According to Rab, the militants constantly

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