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MIRPUR-10, KAZIPARA METRO STATIONS

Mindless destruction
leaves them in ruins

At least a year needed to fix them, say officials;
metro service suspended indefinitely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From vending machines to ticket counters, from offices to police control rooms, from computers to television screens and close circuit cameras – everything inside the Mirpur-10 metro station was smashed to bits.

On Friday evening, miscreants carried out mindless destruction inside the Mirpur-10 and Kazipara stations amid the ongoing unrest.

The scale of destruction was such that it would take at least a year to repair and replace the equipment and structures, authorities said.

The extent of destruction has also put a question mark on the resumption of metro service.

The metro rail authority suspended its operation for indefinite period from yesterday, amid the ongoing unrest. Before the suspension, more than 3 lakh people used the metro services every day.

“There is nothing left... They damaged and looted everything needed for the

operations...,” said MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, while visiting the Mirpur-10 station yesterday afternoon, along with other DMTCL officials.

While they were visiting the Mirpur-10 station, miscreants attacked the Kazipara station once again, another official said.

Asked when services at the stations can be resumed, MAN Siddique couldn’t provide any timeframe.

“The people with technical knowledge, who visited the station [Mirpur-10] with me, said it would take at least a year to make the two stations operational,” he said.

Asked whether the destruction will affect the resumption of overall metro rail operations, he said, “It’s not possible to comment on the matter now. We will check all the aspects once the situation returns to normal.”

Another official, who visited the Mirpur-10 station, said miscreants broke down the (north-west end) entrance gate.

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Vandals damaged a ticket vending machine and furniture in a room of the Mirpur-10 metro rail station on Friday afternoon. The attack caused extensive damage to the station and it will take at least one year to make the station operational again, said DMTCL.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DMTCL

Restore
internet
now

Editors’ Council
urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors’ Council has demanded that the authorities concerned immediately resume the internet service across the country.

In a statement, the council’s President Mahfuz Anam and its General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud said the internet service has been suspended across the country since Thursday night, due to which quick exchange of news and scrutiny of information are being hampered.

The council thinks the suspension of internet service in such a manner creates apprehension of information blackout, which can lead to the spread of rumors, and false and baseless information.

In this situation, the

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GOVERNMENT JOBS
SC hears today
pleas against
HC verdict that
reinstated quota

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All eyes are on the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that is set today to hear two leave to appeal petitions that challenged the High Court judgment of reinstating quotas in government jobs.

The government and two Dhaka University students filed the petitions with the SC on July 16 and 18 seeking the scrapping of the HC verdict.

The full bench of the Appellate Division, led by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, will sit after 10:00am for hearing the petitions as the curfew will be in force till that time, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told The Daily Star yesterday.

Usually, the Appellate Division sits at 9:00am on every working day.

The government and two Dhaka University students filed the petitions with the SC on July 16 and 18 seeking the scrapping of the HC verdict.

In the petitions, they said it is a policy decision of the government whether to

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DMCH morgue never
been thicker with grief

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, DIPAN NANDY and MD ABBAS

The air at Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue was never this thick with grief before yesterday.

Kamrul Islam could not look more shattered – his younger son Nayeem Hawlader had just died from bullet wounds. Next to him was one Suraiya Akhter, who was weeping inconsolably over the death of her father from bullet wounds too.

Near them were distraught friends and relatives of Tahir Zaman Priyo, who arrived at the morgue of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on hearing news of his death.

When the correspondents visited the DMCH morgue at 4:30pm, the place was overcrowded with shell-shocked relatives of the deceased. For the next hour, the correspondents saw at least 12 dead bodies entering the morgue.

One of the dead bodies was of Kamrul’s son Nayeem, a second year HSC student of Raoshan Ara Degree College in Jatrabari. On Friday, he joined the student protests with his friends and sustained bullet wounds that took his life.

Although his father Kamrul is beside himself with grief, his elder brother Noman is proud as his brother died a hero.

“I am feeling extremely proud as my brother did not lose his life in any political party’s programme. He was active in the movement going on against the discriminatory quota system – he sacrificed his life for a just movement,” Noman said.

Suraiya Akhter’s father happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, just like

Arif from Bhola’s Lalmohon area.

“We live just opposite the BNP party office. When the clash took place with police and BNP men, my father went there to witness the situation. Suddenly, bullets hit my father in the back,” she said.

Her father, a rickshaw puller, died on his way to hospital.

Like Suraiya’s father, Arif was an innocent bystander.

Just a month ago, Arif started working at a hotel in Jatrabari, a site of fierce clashes between the police and the protesters.

“My brother was not involved in any politics or clashes. He suffered a bullet wound in his head on Friday in Kajla-Boubazar area. His body bore no other injury mark,” Rashed said.

Relatives and friends of freelance photojournalist Tahir Zaman Priyo, were seen sitting in front of the morgue as autopsy was performed on his body.

Priyo was killed during a clash between police and protesters on Friday in Science Lab area while on duty.

He was hit by a bullet in the head and was pronounced dead at 10:00pm on Friday when he was brought to DMCH, according to his grandfather Shafiul Alam.

Like Priyo, Tourist Police’s Assistant Sub-Inspector Mukhtadir was killed while on duty.

“My brother was walking towards his Banasree office from Rayerbagh house. At that time, some miscreants swooped on him, beat him up indiscriminately and smashed his face,” his brother Kuddus Ali said.

Mukhtadir was taken to the DMCH where the doctor declared him dead.

‘Stop using
excessive force
on protesters’
44 jurists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-four noted law practitioners, including jurists, legal researchers, and professionals, yesterday condemned the use of “excessive and disproportionate” force on students demonstrating for quota reforms.

“We demand that the excessive use of force must be stopped immediately, and justice along with adequate reparations must be provided to the victims and their grieving families,” they said in a statement sent to media via text messages.

They demanded that the perpetrators of the atrocities be held accountable for their actions.

They said they are also concerned by the composition and mandate of the inquiry commission. They questioned if the standards applicable to domestic investigations under the international human rights law were being maintained, particularly regarding

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BNP leader Amir
Khasru arrested
Rizvi, Nazrul placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police arrested BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury from his Banani residence yesterday.

Confirming the incident to The Daily Star, Shamsuddin Didar, a senior member of the BNP chairperson’s press wing, said Amir was picked up from his home around 10:00pm.

Earlier in the day, a Dhaka court placed BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan and the party’s Senior-Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on one-day remands each in a violence case filed with Paltan Police Station.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mosharrar Hossain passed the order after they were produced before the court. Kabir Hossain Howlader, a DB inspector and the case investigating officer, sought two-day remands for each, said a court source.

DB arrested Nazrul from his Banani residence early yesterday, while police arrested Rizvi from in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Friday afternoon.

On the other hand, Nurul Haque Nur, convener of the Gono Odhikar Parishad, was allegedly picked up by law enforcers from his Uttara home early yesterday.

Speaking to journalists, Nur’s wife Maria Nur, alleged that law enforcers broke the front door and entered their house.

“I looked for my husband at the DB office. But they denied arresting him. I clearly saw that those who picked up my husband were wearing Rab, DB, and police uniforms,” she said, demanding to know the whereabouts of her husband and his unconditional release.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir demanded the immediate release of the arrestees.



Khaleda’s
condition
stable
Says her physician

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid widespread rumours that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia’s health has deteriorated, her personal physician yesterday said the former prime minister’s condition was stable.

“She’s being treated at the Evercare Hospital at the advise of the medical board,” Dr AZM Zahid Hossain said.

She gave samples for several blood tests yesterday, Shamsuddin Didar, a senior member of BNP chairperson’s Press Wing, told The Daily Star last night.

On June 21, Khaleda was admitted to the coronary care unit at Evercare Hospital following breathing complications.

On June 23, a pacemaker was implanted in her chest. She was discharged from the hospital on July 2.

She was admitted to the hospital again on July 8 as her health condition deteriorated.



Palestinians inspect the damage as the collapsed minaret of Abdullah Azzam mosque leans against a house after the mosque was hit by an Israeli strike in Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: AFP

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
Israel’s occupation
violates int’l law

Rules UN top court; death toll
in Gaza rises to 38,919

AGENCIES

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has said Israel’s continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territories is “illegal and should come to end as rapidly as possible.”

In a non-binding opinion on Friday evening, the UN top court in The Hague said Israel must pay reparations to Palestinians as they lost lands and property due to its occupation.

The lands in its ownership have been under dispute since 1967 after the six-day war when Israel almost tripled the size of the territory under its control.

Before the hearings, Israel said it did not recognise the legitimacy of the proceedings at the world court. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the ICJ opinion a “decision of lies.”

The ICJ judgement does carry a moral and political weight to have the world court determine that Israel’s occupation violates international law and must end as soon as possible, reports CNN.

The Palestinian authority welcomed the ruling, and said the international communities should respect the ruling and force Israel to end the occupation.

Palestinian group Hamas called for immediate implementation of the judgement.

On the ground, Palestinians mourned relatives killed in overnight Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip, where Israel’s prime minister has vowed to intensify the pressure on

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