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There's nothing
like having an
independent
country!

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Bangladesh-
Windies T20I
series starts
today

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Metro's 2nd pad fall rings alarm

Kills one, sparks service halt,
Dhaka-wide traffic chaos;
experts raise safety concerns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pedestrian was killed and two others injured yesterday when a bearing pad fell from the metro rail pillar and struck them in the capital's Farmgate area.

The incident occurred just 13 months after another bearing pad fell from the metro line near the same location, raising concerns about the safety of this highly technical mode of transport.

Metro rail authorities suspended operations around 12:20pm following the incident, citing safety concerns and causing significant sufferings for thousands of commuters. The incident also triggered severe traffic congestion across several parts of Dhaka.

Although services resumed on the Uttara-Agargaon section by 3:00pm, the Agargaon-Motijheel route remained suspended till the filing of this report around 9:00pm. Operations on the Motijheel-Shahbagh section resumed at 7:15pm. But the direct line between Motijheel and Uttara remained suspended.

Contacted by this newspaper around 10:15pm, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) Managing Director



Commuters jostle to get onto an already packed bus on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at the end of office hours yesterday afternoon. There was a huge rush on the road as metro rail services were suspended for hours, following a tragic incident in which a bearing pad fell from a pillar near the Farmgate metro station, killing a pedestrian around noon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



What will this Tk 5 lakh do?

Asks wife of the deceased,
demands accountability

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, and
JAHID HASAN from Shariatpur



Azad

Wife of Abul Kalam Azad, who was killed after a bearing pad of a metro rail pillar fell on him, said her husband was killed due to negligence of the authorities concerned.

"This was no accident. This was murder! And it happened due to the negligence of the metro rail authorities," said Irene Akhter, her voice trembling with fury and grief.

Azad, 35, was killed on the spot near Farmgate station.

Speaking to this newspaper from Tejgaon Police Station, Irene demanded justice, saying, "Compensation or a job will not be enough. I want accountability. I want a proper investigation. And I want those responsible to be punished."

Irene's voice broke as she spoke of her two young children now left fatherless. "My son is four. My daughter is three. They have just lost their father. Tell me, how do you compensate for that?"

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Faruk Ahmed said work on the pier will continue overnight, after which a trial run will be conducted today. "If all goes well, we will announce when operations will resume."

The deceased was identified as Abul Kalam Azad, 35, from Naria upazila in Shariatpur. Azad worked at a travel agency and commuted regularly from Chashara in Narayanganj to his office in Uttara, according to his relatives.

One of the injured was identified as Amir, a shopkeeper, while the identity of the other injured person could not be confirmed.

Meanwhile, a senior metro rail official said two bearing pads fell, but only one could be traced.

On elevated structures such as bridges and metro rail lines, bearing pads are placed between the viaduct and the pier. In this case, four bearing pads were installed on each pier. Experts said these pads transmit loads from the superstructure to the piers and absorb vibrations caused by the movement of metro trains.

On September 18 last year, one of the four bearing pads fell from pier no-430, disrupting metro rail services on the Agargaon-Motijheel section for around 11 hours. However, no casualties were reported.

Yesterday, the bearing pad fell from pier no-433 -- just two piers away from the previous incident and adjacent to Farmgate Metro Station.

Champa Akhter, a nearby shopkeeper and eyewitness, said she first heard a loud noise. "I then saw the object

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JULY CHARTER IMPLEMENTATION

Commission may ask govt to issue order

Likely to submit recommendations today

The National Consensus Commission is set to submit its much-discussed recommendations to the interim government today, outlining possible strategies for implementing the July charter.

According to sources at the commission, it will urge the government to first issue a July Charter Implementation (Constitutional Reform) Order to formally initiate the process of implementation.

This would then be followed by an ordinance to hold a national referendum seeking public endorsement for the charter.

Under the proposed framework, the next parliament would serve a dual role for its first 270 days, functioning both as a legislature and as a Constitution Reform Council tasked with debating and approving the charter's constitutional reform proposals.

The commission will leave it to the interim government to decide whether the implementation order will be issued by the president or the chief adviser, and whether the referendum will be held on the day of the national election in February or earlier.

Commission sources said the referendum question is expected to be: "Do you approve

the July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order, and do you support the implementation of the constitutional reform proposals of the July charter?"

Referendum not to include
question on notes of dissent

Timing of referendum left for
govt to decide

No questions will be included regarding any notes of dissent attached to those recommendations, commission sources said yesterday.

One of them said, "Since notes of dissent will not be included, if the 'Yes' vote wins, the reform proposals will be implemented exactly as drafted by the commission, and dissenting views will carry no weight."

Prof Ali Riaz, the commission's vice-president, told journalists yesterday evening, "We have nearly finalised the

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'It's up to
the army'

ICT prosecution
on 15 accused
officers' job status

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) could not clearly state the current service status of the 15 "serving" army officers against whom formal charges have been pressed in two cases over enforced disappearances and another over killings during the July uprising.

Asked yesterday about their status under the amended ICT Act -- which stipulates that once formal charges are pressed, the accused's service automatically ends -- ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said, "What the law states is the legal interpretation. It is now up to Army Headquarters to decide when to apply the law. Until it is applied, they can be considered serving officers."

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A battery-powered van crammed with schoolchildren makes its way down a rural road. Too far to walk and too remote for formal transport options, students, parents and teachers rely on these unregistered vehicles for both the morning commute and the journey home. The photo was taken in the Kakonhat area of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi recently.

PHOTO: AZAHR UDDIN



বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীতে অফিসার ক্যাডেট ইন্ডোর মেল্ল দিন

৯৪ বিএএফএ কোর্স
(94 BAFA COURSE)

যোগদানের সময়সীমা: ২৩ জুন ২০২৬

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