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There's nothing like having an independent country!

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Metro's 2nd pad fall rings alarm

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

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A pedestrian was killed and two others injured yesterday when a bearing pad from the metro rail pillar fell 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



BEARING PAD

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

SHAEHEN 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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