

DU students, teachers oppose metro route through campus

DU Correspondent

HUNDREDS of students of University of Dhaka on Thursday formed a human chain demanding a change in the route of the proposed metro rail to be passing through the campus.

The demand was raised for protecting appropriate academic atmosphere at the university-- the oldest one in the country-- because noises of trains and rush of people would affect the campus's tranquil environment, speakers at the human chain, argued.

The human chain was held at the altar of Razu memorial sculpture, where teachers and students alleged that such routing would also humiliate the honour rendered to Moin Hossain Razu, who was killed in an anti-terrorism

campaign in 1992. The other historically and culturally important establishments are mausoleums of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and three great leaders and a century old Dhaka Gate.

A student of economics department, Shanjibon Chakroborty, said: 'We are not opposing metro rail project...we see it as a development of the country. But the lines should not penetrate through the DU campus.'

Professor Samina Luthifa, an assistant professor of sociology department, poses a question: 'If the metro route could bypass the Cantonment area, then why could not it avert the DU campus?'

'The sounds to be generated by the movements of trains and its riders would also create sound pollution on the campus and affect studying environment badly,' she said.

The metro trains will begin its journey at Uttara and pass through Pallabi, Farmgate on its way to Motijheel. Two stations will be built on the campus, one at Shahbagh and the other at Doyel square.

The faculty members and students are against building Doyel square station near science library and Curzon Hall academic building.

Tanjim Uddin Khan, a professor of international relations department sees the proposed the metro rail route as a conspiracy against higher education.

He said this 'conspiracy' is being brewed against DU and education sector itself.

The students brought out a rally after the hour long human chain which paraded through the different streets of the varsity.