

PROTEST AT METRO RAIL THRU' DU PM castigates students, teachers

United News of Bangladesh
Dhaka

PRIME minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday sharply criticised the students and teachers who came up with a sudden demand for changing the route of metro rail saying that it was done just to block development activities.

'This is just to foil development activities,' she said.

Sheikh Hasina, also the chief of Awami League, made the remarks in her introductory speech at the Central Working Committee meeting of the ruling party at her official residence Gashabhaban.

On Thursday, some students and teachers of Dhaka University formed a human chain in front of Raju Bhaskarja protesting the proposed metro rail route through the university campus.

They claimed that the metro rail will greatly hamper the academic atmosphere inside the campus with sound pollution, and urged the government to find out an alternative route.

The prime minister also expressed her firm determination no one will be able to obstruct the ongoing pace of development initiated by the Awami League government.

She said the alignment of the metro rail has been done after a long process, even there was a discussion with the Dhaka University authorities. 'We've included Dhaka University for the quick transportation of its

students, teachers and employees,' she said.

But, she said, suddenly some students and teachers took to the streets saying that this route will cause harm to their academic activities.

Hasina said such activity will only hamper implementation of the project. 'The funding agency might stop disbursing the fund.... then there'll be no development.'

The Awami League chief also criticised the government employees who are in agitation after the announcement of the eight pay scale for public servants.

'We've increased the salaries by 123 percent... if anyone is hungry that person is satisfied with a little amount of food. When there is a huge supply, many things like prestige, luxury, dignity, and posting take the centre stage,' she said.

Hasina mentioned that the government has increased the salaries significantly. 'Had there been little, there would be no issue. We have given so many things, but some quarters are not happy yet...this is not comprehensible to me.'

Hasina said when anyone joins a job that person does that after taking into account everything about that job. 'There should be discipline everywhere... there's no scope for comparing to others.'

The prime minister came up with the remarks at a time when the teachers of different public universities are in agitations over the new pay scale.