



PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM

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SHAH CEMENT

USE OF CTG, MONGLA PORTS India set to start trial run next month

REJAUl KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

India is set to start in January the trial run for transporting goods between its North Eastern states and other parts using Bangladesh's Chattogram and Mongla ports.

The details of the charges and other fees, to be received by Bangladesh, would be finalised before the first trial run, officials said yesterday after a shipping ministry secretary-level talks in the capital.

During the trial run, goods from Kolkata would be transported to the Chattogram port through the sea route. Later, those would be carried to the Indian state of Tripura by road via Akhaura land port in Bangladesh, said the officials who attended the two-day meeting.

"The first trial run will take place in January," Indian Shipping Secretary Gopal Krishna told reporters, adding, "Then we will see what kind of glitches come in and [we will] fix it. After that, we will have the second trial run and then we will ask the traders to take over and move goods".

About the charges and fees, he said, "There are no disagreements on charges... We will have to sit and finalise details of the proposals."

Bangladesh Shipping Secretary Abdus Samad said, "Fees and charges [for carrying Indian goods] will be applied as per the tariff schedule of the Chattogram and Mongla ports. We will charge fees according to the regulations."

He said both Bangladesh and India are signatories of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). According to the GATT principal, no custom duties will be applicable

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WINTER FRIEND

A flock of migratory birds takes flight above Laksar Dighi in Chattogram's Kadalpur village in Raozan upazila. The birds are regular winter visitors and have endeared themselves with the locals so much, that some of them actually guard the birds' seasonal habitat against disturbances. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 6

India acknowledges Bangladesh as a free and sovereign state. Indian PM Indira Gandhi declares it in the parliament. Following the declaration, Pakistan unties all diplomatic relations with India. Pakistan Election Commission suspends the by-polls in 'East Pakistan' due to the Indo-Pak war. The election was meant to be held on December 7.

Muktibahini take firm position at Laksham, Akhaura, Choudhagram and

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Metro line-6 to link Kamalapur

Survey finds 31 permanent structures on planned 1.16km route

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is going to extend the Metro Rail Line-6 -- now under construction from Uttara to Motijheel -- up to Kamalapur Railway Station so that people can avail the rail service directly from the country's largest railway station.

Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), a government-owned company implementing the project, has completed a topography survey and selected an alignment for 1.16km line under the same project.

"There is a problem here as we will not be able to build the rail lines over the street... Apart from some makeshift structures on the alignment, there are 31 permanent structures [buildings], land of them we have to acquire," said MAN Siddique, managing director of DMTCL.

"We are now talking to them [the building owners] under social survey programme," he said at his office yesterday.

Contacted, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon said both the railways and metro rail are for the people.

"We have a plan to turn the Kamalapur Railway Station into a multi-modal hub, and the extension work [of MRT-6] has to be done in coordination with our plan," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The construction work of MRT-6, the country's first metro rail project, has made 38.35 percent progress as of November, and the lines are expected to open on December 16, 2021, when the country will be celebrating the golden jubilee of independence.

Once completed, the 20.10km metro rail service with 16 stations will be capable of carrying 60,000 passengers an hour, reducing travel time from Uttara to Motijheel from at least two hours to less than an hour. After the extension work, the total length of the rail route would be 21.26km

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Buet suspends eight more over ragging

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Buet authorities have suspended eight more students from the university for their involvement in ragging students in Titumir Hall.

Buet's Board of Residence and Discipline made the decision after a report was submitted by a committee formed to investigate the recent ragging at the dormitory, said a university press release yesterday.

The authorities said the suspensions were for different periods but did not mention those. They also expelled the students from the hall, said the release.

The students are: Tanvir Hasnain, Mirza Mohammad Galib, Zahidul Islam, Muntasir Moin, Asif Mahmud, Muntasir Ahmed Khan, Mohibullah Hoque Mugdho, and Anfalur Rahman.

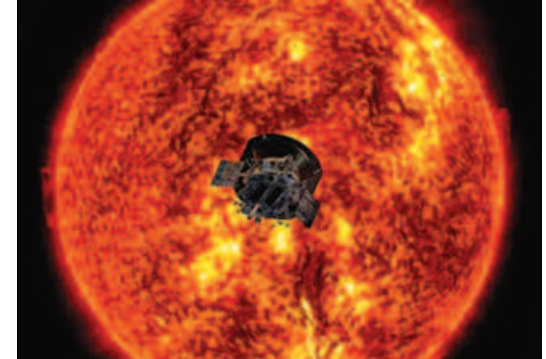
Besides, six other students were suspended from the hall for different periods on the same grounds.

The authorities also warned seven students, including the six, so that such incidents do not repeat in future.

On November 28, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) authorities suspended nine students from the university for their involvement

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Sun yields its secrets to Parker Solar Probe



AFP, Paris

Nasa's Parker Solar Probe, having survived its closest encounter so far with the Sun, has sent back a "spectacular trove" of data on its corona, the super-hot outer edge of its atmosphere, scientists said Wednesday.

The car-sized probe, launched in August last year, will come within some four million miles (six million kilometres) of the sun's surface during a series of fly-bys at other distances and trajectories over seven years.

It is hoped it will allow a better understanding of the solar wind and electromagnetic storms which can cause chaos on Earth by knocking out the power grid.

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Doctor, cop sent to jail in dowry cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Courts in Joypurhat have sent a doctor and a police officer to jail in separate dowry cases filed by their wives.

Judge Iqbal Bahar of Chief Judicial Magistrate's court yesterday rejected the bail petition of Bibhas Kumar Sharma, 33, medical officer of Narail Sadar Hospital.

Lawyer Nripendranath Mondal said Bibhas used to torture his wife Dr Choiti Roy as her family refused to pay Tk 10 lakh as dowry.

As he forced her out of

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 6

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-30 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Father sent to jail for raping daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A court in Moulvibazar yesterday sent a man to jail for allegedly raping his 12-year-old daughter on Wednesday.

Arifur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kamalganj Police Station, said the 35-year-old accused used to live with his three teenage daughters. His wife works in Saudi Arabia.

According to the case-statement, hearing the girl crying on Wednesday, neighbours went to the house and found her bleeding. Then they informed police.

The girl's paternal grandfather filed the case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with the police station later that day.

The OC Arifur said during primary interrogation, the accused confessed to raping his daughter in the early hours of the day.

The girl is undergoing treatment at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.



A van crosses a partially-collapsed bridge in Paschim Jaflong Chotkhel area in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila yesterday. Locals said part of the bridge caved in six months ago, after which the LGRD did some makeshift repairs using bamboos. These too were flooded away by recent rains.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Draft articles of impeachment against Trump

House Speaker Pelosi instructs Congress panel; White House says Democrats should be 'ashamed'

REUTERS, Washington

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi yesterday said she has directed a House committee to draft articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump over his effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate a political rival, a historic step that sets up a fight over whether to oust him from office.

"The president abused his power for his own personal political benefit at the expense of our national security by withholding military aid and (a) crucial Oval Office meeting in exchange for an announcement of an investigation into his political rival," Pelosi said in a televised statement.

The impeachment fight undertaken by House Democrats is unfolding even as the Republican president is running for re-election in 2020.

"Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our Founders and our hearts full of love for America, today I am asking our chairman to proceed with articles of impeachment," she added, referring to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler.

Pelosi made the remarks a day after the Judiciary Committee held a hearing in which three constitutional law experts called by Democratic lawmakers said Trump had engaged in conduct that represents impeachable offenses under the Constitution. A fourth expert called

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