





METRO RAIL PROJECT

Installation of tracks begins Jan 1

Uttara starting point; 8km of 20.10km-long viaduct now visible

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Installation of the first rail lines on elevated viaducts will begin next week, with the first one being fixed at the depot area in the capital's Uttara.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the installation of the rail lines on the first day of the new year, officials said.

More than eight kilometres of the 20.10km long viaduct is now visible and work is continuing on the remaining ones.

"We have completed all our preparations to start installing rail lines on December 20 and the minister will formally inaugurate it on January 1," MAN Siddique, managing director of DMTCL, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), a government-owned company, is implementing the metro rail projects.


Construction work of the Tk 22,000-crore Mass Rapid Transit (MRT Line)-6, which began in 2016, has made 38.35 percent progress as of November and is expected to be opened to the public on December 16, 2021, coinciding with the golden jubilee of the country's independence.

Once completed, the rail service, which has 16 stations, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A portion of the metro rail's viaduct in Shewrapara in the capital. The project authorities are set to start installing rail lines on the elevated structure on January 1. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 24
Bangladesh Chhatra Sangram Parishad in a press conference, at Shahid Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall in Dhaka University, declare they will keep fighting until the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is freed from the Pakistan army. Leaders of the group say they will surrender weapons only to Bangabandhu, who showed them the ideal path. They promise that Mujib Bahini will help the government to maintain law and order. Bangladesh Chhatra League President Nur-e Alam

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DIVISIVE CITIZENSHIP ACT

Protests rage across India

Kolkata HC directs WB govt to suspend anti-CAA, NRC media campaigns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Protests against the amended citizenship act slammed as anti-Muslim continued in Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru and West Bengal yesterday.

More than 20 people have died in the protests against the act since it was signed by President Ram Nath Kovind on December 11. Fifteen of these deaths have taken place in Uttar Pradesh, five in Assam and two in Mangaluru.

Top Congress leaders yesterday began a sit-in protest at Rajghat, the memorial of India's Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, in central Delhi.

Before joining the sit-in demonstration, Rahul had tweeted asking students and youth to show up at the event.

"It's not good enough just to feel India. At times like these, it's critical to show that you're India and won't allow India to be destroyed by hatred. Join me today at 3 PM at Raj Ghat, to protest against the hate and violence unleashed on India by Modi-Shah," he said on Twitter.

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KHASHOGGI MURDER CASE

5 get death penalty

Two top figures exonerated, says Saudi prosecutor; justice 'trampled' in trial: RSF

AFP, Riyadh

Five people have been sentenced to death over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but two top figures investigated over the killing have been exonerated, Saudi Arabia's public prosecutor said yesterday.

Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor, was murdered in October last year in what Riyadh called a "rogue" operation, tipping the kingdom into one of its worst diplomatic crises and tarnishing the reputation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The 59-year-old Saudi insider-turned-critic was strangled and his body cut into pieces by a 15-man Saudi squad inside the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, according to Turkish officials. His remains have not been found.

"We found that Khashoggi's murder was not premeditated," Saudi deputy general prosecutor Shalaan al-Shalaan told a press conference.

Saudi prosecutors had said deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri oversaw Khashoggi's killing and that he was advised by the royal court's media czar Saud al-Qahtani.

However, Qahtani was investigated but not indicted "due to insufficient evidence" and Assiri was investigated and charged but eventually acquitted on the same grounds, the prosecutor said in a statement.

Both aides were part of Prince Mohammed's tight-knit inner circle and were formally sacked over the killing, but only Assiri appeared in the court hearings, according to Western sources.

Media rights watchdog Reporters without Borders said justice was "trampled" upon with the death sentence of five Saudis for the murder last year of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The trial, which had taken place behind closed doors, did not respect SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Khashoggi

An invite, not a legal notice to president

Claims Telenor; Jabbar says it was indeed legal notice

STAR REPORT

Clarifying the issue over a "legal notice" to President Abdul Hamid, Grameenphone's parent company Telenor has claimed that it was not a legal notice but an invitation letter to him for dialogue.

"Telenor Group sent an invitation letter for dialogue, and not a legal notice," Cathrine Stang Lund, director of Group Communication Asia, Telenor Group, said in a statement on Sunday, UNB reported.

According to the treaty process, she said such letters should be sent to heads of state.

Telenor had made Bilateral Investment Treaty with the governments of Bangladesh and Singapore.

On Thursday, Posts SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

World's oldest known fossil forest found

CNN ONLINE

Evidence of the world's oldest forest, dating back some 385 million years, has been discovered in an abandoned quarry in upstate New York, according to a new study published in Current Biology.

The fossilised roots-- footprints of an ancient landscape-- belonged to trees with wood and leaves, similar to what we see today, the study says.

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We will take them back if they want

Says Quader about those who fled country during 2001 violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from religious minorities may have gone to India "due to persecution" after the BNP-led four-party alliance came to power in 2001, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"We will take them back if they want to return," Quader, also the general secretary of the ruling Awami League, said replying to a question at a press briefing on contemporary issues at his secretariat

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A church in the capital's Tejgaon is decorated with lights ahead of Christmas. Christians all over the world are set to celebrate their biggest religious festival tomorrow commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 24


Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:25	12:45	3:45	5:24	7:00
JAMAAT 6:00	1:15	4:00	5:27	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Today is the 46th Death Anniversary of
Begum Firdaus Rizvi



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul



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শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

যত্রতত্র ময়লা-আবর্জনা ফেলা হতে বিরত থাকুন
আপনার শহরকে পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সম্মানিত নগরবাসীর অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে, কিছু ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান যেখানে-সেখানে ময়লা-আবর্জনা ফেলে ঢাকা শহরের সৌন্দর্য বিনষ্ট করছে, যা মোটেও কাম্য নয়। ঢাকা শহরের কোনো রাস্তায় অথবা কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত নয় এমন কোনো স্থানে ময়লা-আবর্জনা ফেলা স্থানীয় সরকার (সিটি কর্পোরেশন) আইন, ২০০৯ অনুযায়ী শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। নগরীর সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন পরিবেশ বজায় রাখার জন্য যত্রতত্র ময়লা-আবর্জনা ফেলা বিশেষ করে পরিচ্ছন্নতা কাজ সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পর সকাল বেলা কেউ ময়লা ফেললে তার বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

এ অবস্থায়, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনকে একটি সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন শহর হিসেবে গড়ে তোলার জন্য নির্ধারিত স্থান, কন্টেইনার বক্স বা ডাস্টবিনে ময়লা-আবর্জনা ফেলার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মেয়র
জিডি-২১১৪
ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন