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GREETINGS
The Daily Star
Wishes its valued
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advertisers a
Happy
NEW YEAR
2020



Dhaka to Ctg in one hour!

Detailed design of high-speed train service by April; experts term the project highly ambitious

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

How long does it take to get from Dhaka to Chittagong by train? Around six hours, one would say. You could add an extra couple of hours, if a delay arises.

What if it could take a little over an hour?

Surprised? Well, that's what is likely to happen as the country is set to step into the bullet train era.

The journey from the capital to the commercial capital will be slashed to only 73 minutes once the high-speed trains begin passenger services. An uninterrupted journey between Dhaka and Chattogram will take only 55 minutes.

It will, however, set commuters back a pretty penny -- around Tk 2,000, more than three times higher than the fare of an AC seat on existing Bangladeshi inter-city trains.

The trains, which will run at a top speed of 300km/hr, can carry approximately 50,000 passengers each way daily.

The feasibility study of the first high-speed train, commissioned by Bangladesh Railway, has already been completed. The route has also been selected and work for the detailed design of the "passenger dedicated" railway project, involving around Tk 97,000 crore, is underway.

However, it is still not decided what will be the source of the fund.

The new high-speed railway route will be around 90km shorter than the existing route.

However, two prominent transport experts termed the project "highly ambitious" and questioned the capacity of Bangladesh Railway to operate the high-speed train, when it has not yet introduced

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Children to be groomed with modern edn

Says PM, inaugurates textbook distribution

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to provide modern and tech-based education to children so that they could grow up properly to cope with the new era.

"We want to provide modern and tech-based education to help them cope with the modern era. That's our aim," she said.

She said this while inaugurating free textbook distribution programme for the year 2020 and receiving the results of Primary Education Completion (PECE), Junior School Certificate (JSC) and their equivalent Ebtedayee and JDC examinations at her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

She said the government wants to

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Girls do it again

Pass rate, number of GPA-5 achievers increase in JSC exams, drop in PECE

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Girls have done better than boys in the two biggest public examinations -- Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) and Junior School Certificate (JSC) Examinations -- this year.

The indicators -- participation rate, success rate and grades achieved -- showed that girls were well ahead of their male counterparts, according to the PECE and JSC results that came out yesterday.

Compared to last year, the results also show that the pass rate and the number of GPA 5 achievers in the JSC increased, while they decreased in PECE.

Education officials blamed changes in the script evaluation process in PECE for the decreasing pass rate.

In the JSC exams, the pass rate was 87.58 percent this year, a 2.30 percent increase than last year's 85.28 percent. A total of 76,747 students achieved GPA 5 this year, a 10,639 rise from last year's 66,018.

The combined pass rate of JSC and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC)

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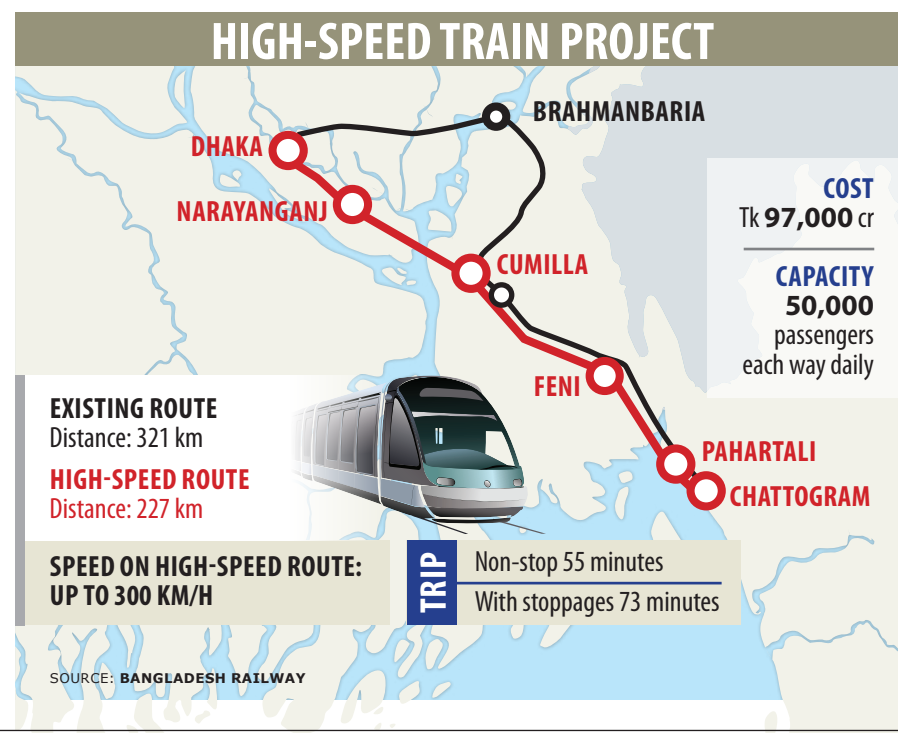


Taskin and Naim star for Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Fine bowling from Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman followed an accomplished 47-ball 55 from Mohammad Naim as Rangpur Rangers beat Rajshahi Royals by 47 runs in their Bangabandhu

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Bank Asia has been awarded 'Gold Award' by ICSB

Mr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Deputy Managing Director of Bank Asia Limited is receiving 'Gold Award' from Dr. A B Mirza Md. Azizul Islam, Former Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Planning, Post & Telecommunications, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh in the 6th ICSB National Award for Corporate Governance Excellence 2018 organized by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh (ICSB). Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil FCA, CFO of the Bank also attended the program.

‘আমার শক্তি এটাই যে আমি আমার জনগণকে ভালোবাসি। আর আমার দুর্বলতা, আমি এদের প্রাণের চেয়েও বেশি ভালোবাসি।’

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