The Daily Star

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DHAKA CIRCULAR RAIL

Belated but bold

Feasibility study on the mega project says it may take 6 years; likely to make commute from surrounding dists easier

Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary

Bangladesh Railway recently carried out a feasibility study to build a circular rail network in Dhaka -- a mega project that is expected to ease traffic congestion on city roads.

The project, which the railway study says will take six years to complete and is estimated to cost $8.37 billion, is likely to provide a more efficient commute both for people in the capital and those from surrounding districts coming into the city.

The circular rail along the existing inner ring road of the capital and part of Narayanganj district will be 80.89km long.

The proposed route is Bishwa Ijtema ground-Uttara-Dhaka Zoo-Gabtoli-Mohammadpur-Sadarghat-Postagola-Fatullah-Chashara-Adamjee-Demra-Trimohini-Purbachal-Tongi.

The rail network will have 24 stations-- 11 of which will have interchange facilities with the metro rail, dedicated bus services, and Sadarghat launch terminal, said the study report.

Around 10km of the rail track will be underground, while the rest will be elevated; three of the stations will be underground, and the remaining 21 elevated. The network will have two depots -- at Demra and Termukh.

A China-Bangladesh joint venture firm conducted the feasibility study

> "Success of circular rail will depend on integrated services."
>
> PROF SHAMSUL HOQUE
> TRANSPORT EXPERT

LENGTH
81km (approx)

COST
$8.37 billion
(estimated)

Number of
stations **24**

DHOUR TONGI
DHAKA
MIRPUR TERMUKH
PURBACHAL ROAD
GABTOLI BERAID
TRIMOHONI
BABUBAZAR
SHYAMPUR
CHASHARA

Long queues of people waiting to cast their vote in the municipality election at Harang High School Chandina, Cumilla. Many said they found interest in going out to vote because electronic voting machines were being used there.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Councillor-elect killed while celebrating victory

Polls to municipalities marred by scattered violence, rules violations, boycott

Star Report

Yesterday's municipal polls were marred by the killing of a councillor-elect and stray incidents of violence, irregularities and violation of electoral code.

BNP candidates boycotted the polls at a few places bringing allegation of irregularities against ruling Awami League men.

Visiting different polling stations,

Tarikul Islam

Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukder said the election could not be termed "participatory".

"I visited 18 booths of 3 polling stations in Savar. I found BNP agents only at three booths. Besides, I found no posters in the electoral area. It cannot be said that the election was participatory," he told journalists at his office yesterday.

'Please save us'

Stuck in Bosnia amid rough winter, Bangladeshi migrant pleads for help

Agencies

Temperatures have plummeted way below zero in Bosnia, making life even more miserable for hundreds of migrants and refugees — including entire families with small children — sleeping rough while trying to reach Western Europe.
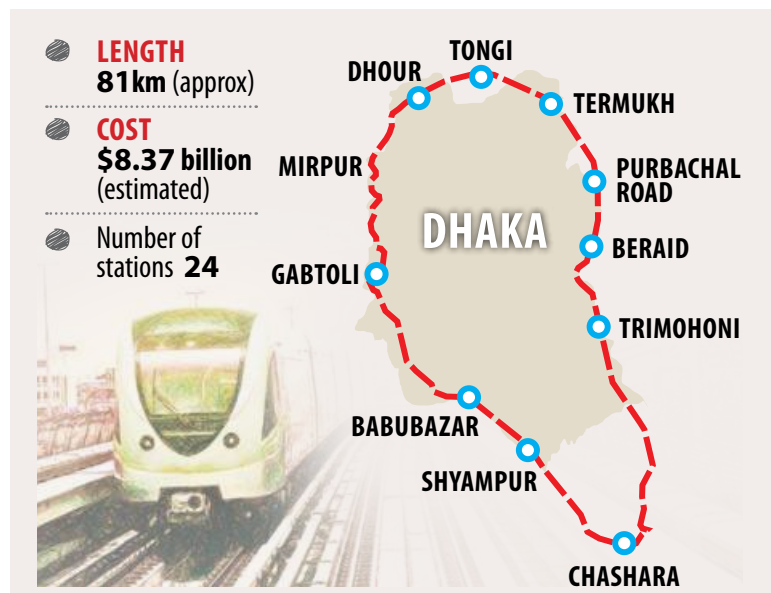
After days of snow earlier this month, a spell of extreme cold that hit the region this week has brought freezing days and nights for the people stranded in northwest Bosnia, near the border with European Union member Croatia.

Meteorologists in Bosnia and Croatia have warned their citizens not to stay out long during the cold spell, predicting that temperatures could drop to minus 15 degrees Celsius (5 Fahrenheit).

While Bosnian authorities, under international pressure, have improved conditions for several hundred people stuck in a burned-out camp, hundreds more are in makeshift tent camps and abandoned houses without heating or any facilities.

"Last night was very cold. We are suffering very much," said Shahin, a mechanic from Bangladesh, who is staying in a small tent

India starts massive vaccination drive

Aims to inoculate 300m by July; safety concerns loom over homegrown vaccine; Indian envoy assures Bangladesh of vaccine delivery

Star Report

India kicked off one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives yesterday as the pandemic spread at a record pace and global Covid-19 deaths surged past two million.

The World Health Organization has called for accelerating vaccine rollouts worldwide as well as ramping up efforts to study the sequencing of the virus, which has infected more than 93 million people globally since it was first detected in China in late 2019.

India, home to 1.3 billion people, has the world's second-largest caseload. The government has given approvals to two vaccines -- though one is