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## UTTARA-AGARGAON METRO RAIL

# Launch now aimed at Dec 2022

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Realising their imminent failure to meet the deadline, the authorities are planning to launch the Uttara-Agargaon metro rail service by December next year.

Until recently, the plan was to launch the country's first metro rail service in December this year. But physical work was delayed by the pandemic. "It is of note that activities are underway through DMTCL [Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd] to start passenger transport in the Uttara-Agargaon section of MRT [Mass Rapid Transit] Line-6 by December 2022," Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told parliament in his budget speech on Thursday.

DMTCL, the implementing agency of the fast-track project, said the government, not the DMTCL, would fix the date to launch metro rail services.

"We believe that it's possible to achieve what the [finance] minister said [in his budget speech] unless the pandemic causes severe deterioration of the situation. We are trying our best," MAN Siddique, managing director at DMTCL, told The Daily Star yesterday.

MRT Line-6, the country's first metro rail system, is being built between the capital's Uttara and Motijheel at a cost of Tk 22,000 crore.

Once complete, the metro rail -- with 16 stations -- will be able to carry

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A child taking shrimp fries in a bowl from her father who is catching them in the Baleshwar river in Barguna's Patharghata upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Mamunul sent to jail after 18-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court sent Hefajat-e-Islam's former joint secretary general Mamunul Haque to Kashimpur Central Jail yesterday on completion of his 18-day remand in six cases filed over rape and violence.

Narayanganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Kausar Alam passed the order after the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) produced Mamunul before the court.

The district police, PBI, and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) interrogated Mamunul during his remand, said Asaduzzaman, inspector of Narayanganj Court Police.

Contacted, Zayedul Alam, superintendent of Narayanganj police, said Mamunul gave significant

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## 'Harmful' apps, games to be banned

Say law enforcers; TikTok one of them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Worried over their widespread abuse, law enforcers have moved to crack down on some online games and social media applications, including "TikTok".

Rapid Action Battalion Director General Abdullah Al Mamun yesterday said, "There has been a rise in criminal activity with the use of several digital apps, including TikTok... A high committee is reviewing how to shut down such apps."

A racket was recently found using TikTok as a means to traffic young women from Bangladesh to India.

Law enforcers came to know about the use of the application while investigating an incident of sexual abuse a girl had

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### ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Pakistan is dead: Syed Nazrul

JUNE 6, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### PRECONDITIONS FOR SETTLEMENT

Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Bangladesh, today spelt out four preconditions for a political settlement of the Bangladesh issue. In a 45-minute broadcast from the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Syed Nazrul Islam said that the conditions were: 1) unconditional release of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 2) withdrawal of the invading West Pakistani Army from the soil of Bangladesh, 3) recognition of the Sovereign Republic of Bangladesh, 4) compensation for the losses suffered by the people during the two and half months of barbarous atrocities by the West Pakistan Army.

Syed Nazrul Islam said that many countries -- big and small -- had talked about a political settlement in Bangladesh. But nobody had specifically stated their formulae. On behalf of the Bangladesh Government, he made it clear to these countries that if they had thought of a settlement within the framework of the so-called

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## 3 electrocuted as lightning strikes pole

Two of the dead are children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two children and a 65-year-old man were killed after they were electrocuted by a live wire that fell from an electric pole because of a lightning strike in the capital's Malibagh Chowdhury Para.

Sabina Pakhi, 10, daughter of Mohsin Ali, and Jhuma, 14, daughter of Javed Ali, were playing in the rain by the street, and Abul Hossain, a security guard, was near them when the live wire broke and electrocuted them around 2:00pm, said their neighbour Habibur

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## 'Third Eye' created for 'smartphone zombies'



REUTERS, Seoul

A South Korean industrial designer has come up with a satirical solution for "smartphone zombies" who can't take their eyes away from their screen long enough to stop themselves walking into a wall or other obstacle.

Paeng Min-wook, 28, has developed a robotic eyeball he has dubbed "The Third Eye", which obsessive mobile phone users can strap to their

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## SINOPHARM SHOTS 2nd shipment of 6 lakh to arrive by June 13

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China will deliver the second consignment of Covid-19 vaccines as gifts to Bangladesh by June 13, said the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka Hualong Yan, on his Facebook page, wrote, "600,000 vaccines as gifts by the Chinese government is ready for delivery by 13th of June."

Earlier Health Minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star that Chinese officials had informed Bangladesh about the arrival of the vaccines in seven to 10 days.

On May 12, Bangladesh received a gift of five lakh Sinopharm vaccine doses from China. The government has already started administering those doses to medical students on a priority basis.

The Chinese vaccine arrives in Bangladesh when it is desperately looking

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City dwellers trying to go about with their daily lives whilst trying to stay as dry as possible on streets that have been flooded by the afternoon rain yesterday. This photo was taken in West Tejpuribazar area around 4:00pm.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Delhi, Mumbai ease lockdown

Infections fall in major Indian cities after weeks of restrictions

AFP, New Delhi

Markets and shopping malls in New Delhi will be allowed to reopen from tomorrow in a further easing of the Covid-19 lockdown, the chief minister said as infections fall in major Indian cities after weeks of restrictions.

Delhi Metro will also resume services at 50 percent capacity, the city's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said yesterday.

Markets and malls will operate on alternate days, with half of them open on

any given day.

Offices can also reopen at half capacity but Kejriwal urged people to still try to work from home.

The easing comes after Delhi allowed construction sites and factories to reopen last week.

"They have been open for a week but the Covid-19 situation is still under control, and we have less than 500 fresh cases in the last 24 hours," Kejriwal said.

"It is important to bring the economy

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**PRAYER TIMING JUNE 6**

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-45 8-15

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## G7 strikes deal to tax big companies

Agrees minimum corporate tax of at least 15pc, backs making climate risk disclosure mandatory

REUTERS, London

The United States, Britain and other leading nations reached a landmark deal yesterday to pursue higher global taxation on multinational businesses such as Google, Apple and Amazon.

In a move that could raise hundreds of billions of dollars to help them cope with the aftermath of Covid-19, the Group of Seven large advanced economies agreed to back a minimum global corporate rate of at least 15 percent and for companies to pay more tax in the markets where they sell goods and services.

"G7 finance ministers have reached a historic agreement to reform the global tax system to make it fit for the global digital age," British finance minister Rishi Sunak said after chairing a two-day meeting in London.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the "significant, unprecedented commitment" would end what she called a race to the bottom on global taxation.

The deal, which was years in the making, also promises to end national digital services taxes levied by Britain and other European countries which the United States said unfairly targeted

US technology giants.

However, the measures will first need to find broader agreement at a meeting of the G20 - which includes a number of emerging economies - due to take place next month in Venice.

"It's complicated and this is a first step," Sunak said.

The ministers also agreed to move towards making companies declare their environmental impact in a more standard way so investors can decide more easily whether to fund them, a key goal for Britain.

Rich nations have struggled for

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