

A glimpse of what's to come

Metro rail exhibition, info centre to open in January



Once the exhibition centre opens, visitors will be able to see interiors of the train and get an overview of how the metro rail would operate after it partially opens in December next year.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to inform and educate people about the metro rail, a new mode of public transport in Bangladesh, authorities will open a metro rail exhibition and information centre in January next year.

People will be able to view the metro train's interiors first-hand and know about ticket-buying and other necessary processes after visiting the centre.

The exhibition centre, established inside the metro rail depot at the capital's Diabari, will start inviting visitors within two months, as authorities have planned to start operation of the country's first-ever metro rail partially from December next year.

To achieve the December target, metro rail authorities are expected to complete all

necessary tests and trial runs without passengers within September next year.

Officials of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the metro rail project, revealed the information, as the Japanese embassy in Dhaka went on a press tour at the project site yesterday.

Ito Naoki, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh; Hayakawa Yoho, chief representative of JICA's Bangladesh office; MAN Siddique, managing director of DMTCL; and a group of journalists witnessed test operation of a metro train at Uttara Centre Station.

At that time, the metro train was operated on the viaduct at a speed of 100 kilometres per hour, the highest operational speed.

They along with two former and one current member of Bangladesh national cricket team -- Habibul Bashar, Abdur Razzak and Mehidy

Hasan Miraz -- also visited the exhibition centre and took part in a brief programme there.

The Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 or MRT-6, the country's first metro rail service, is being built from Uttara Third Phase to Motijheel at a cost of Tk 21,985 crore.

The lion's share of the project cost is being funded by Japan as a soft loan.

On August 29, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, said service between Uttara and Agargaon, a distance of 11.73 km, will be operational by the end of 2022.

INSIDE THE EXHIBITION CENTRE

Once a person enters the exhibition centre, they will see the process of buying tickets or refilling the balance of the card they would use to board the train, at the entrance of the centre's building.

After that, visitors would go through electronic

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

88pc cybercrime victims don't file complaints

Says report of police cyber support for women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An overwhelming majority of female victims of cyber harassment did not show any interest to file legal complaints with police after identification of the accused, found an analysis of police cyber support for women (PCSW).

Since the inception of PCSW on November 16 last year, around 12,641 woman communicated with the all-women special wing of the Police Headquarters (PHQ) until yesterday.

Only 12 percent of the victims

proceeded to file a general diary (GD) or case, according to the PCSW database.

The rest wanted ID of the accused to block them and/or remove the content from the internet.

Addressing the issue, Benazir Ahmed, inspector general of police, said cyber victims -- who are mainly young women between the ages of 18 to 24 -- do not want to file legal complaints for fear of social stigma.

"It becomes difficult to proceed when the victim backs down after identifying the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

NOVEMBER 16, 2020 - NOVEMBER 16, 2021

| Type of Complaints | Victim Age Group | | Complaint Area | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-----|
| Message from fake ID | 5,475 | Below 18 | 16% | Dhaka | 64% |
| ID hack | 1,321 | 18 to 24 | 58% | Ctg | 17% |
| Phone harassment | 1,451 | 25 to 30 | 20% | Khulna | 4% |
| Objectionable video/ message | 992 | Above 30 | 6% | Rajshahi | 4% |
| Others | 1,518 | | | Sylhet | 4% |
| TOTAL COMPLAINTS | Cyber harassment | 12,641 | | Barishal | 3% |
| | Legal, tech support | 8,221 | | Rangpur | 2% |
| | | | | M'sing | 2% |
| | | | | | |

SOURCE: PHQ

OF HAY AND HOPE

Dhaka celebrates Nabanna



The Nabanna festival (celebration of harvest season's arrival) was celebrated in the capital's Shilpakala Academy yesterday with song, dance and poetry performances from a range of artists.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The smell of new paddy has engulfed every house in rural Bengal, delivering the message of Nabanna's arrival. Yesterday, the season's greetings reached the concrete jungle, going beyond the winded meadows of the countryside.

With the theme "Let's all meet at the Nabanna (Hay) festival", the event was organised on the open stage of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. As per tradition, the festival was organised by the National Nabannautsab Celebration Board.

The festival started at dawn yesterday, to the tune of Gazi Abdul Hakim's flute. Afterwards, the harvest celebration was welcomed through songs, dance and poetry, along with a greeting session.

In addition to cultural performances, "Nabanna Kathan" was organised.

KM Khalid, state minister for cultural affairs, was the chief guest at the programme. "This festival of rural Bengal has gradually become an integral part of our urban culture. As one of the biggest non-communal festivals of Bengalis, this festival has now taken the form of a universal festival, irrespective of religion and caste," said the state minister.

Nayeem Hasan Shuja, general secretary of the National Nabannautsab Celebration Board, delivered the introductory speech at the function, presided over by Mahmud Selim, vice-president of the board.

The board's vice-president Manjar Chowdhury Sweet read out a congratulatory speech written by Laila Hasan, president of the board, as she was out of the country for medical treatment. In the statement, she said, "With the cultural arsenal in their hands, the next generation, inspired by spirit of the Liberation War along with good sense and free-thinking, must take up the mantle of uprooting fundamentalism."

"We want a filth-free, untainted, non-sectarian, friendly, fraternal spirited golden Bengal that upholds equal rights," she added.

The programme was conducted by Sangeeta Imam, vice-president of the board. During the ceremony, a minute's silence was observed to pay homage to the late cultural figures.

'A suicidal decision'

36 eminent citizens urge govt to move away from plan to form board to hold PECE exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday expressed concern over the government's initiative to form an education board to hold Primary Education Completion Exams (PECE), urging them to move away from the plan.

In a joint statement, they highlighted that the government has drafted the "Primary Education Board Law 2021" bypassing the National Education Policy 2010 and outline of the new curriculum, neither of which recommended public exams for students after class V.

"The move is in contradiction with the outline of the new curriculum as well as the education policy. We don't understand the why this decision was taken," said the statement signed by Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE).

The step will eventually increase the

burden on students. It will also increase guardians' expenditure on guidebooks and coaching for students, it stated.

"We urge the government to move away from its suicidal decision," the statement said.

The citizens noted that the trend of using guidebooks among students has decreased as a result of provision of free textbooks to all, with an emphasis on school-centred education.

Similarly, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at different times has given instructions to reduce the burden of exams and books on students, they added.

They also said special attention be given to co-curricular activities for the mental and physical development of students.

Among others, Dhaka University Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury; economist and co-chairman of National

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Hearing on review petition to start soon

Says law minister on 16th amendment verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday told parliament that hearing of the review petition against the verdict of High Court on 16th amendment of the constitution will start very soon.

He said this while speaking on the issue of a proposal to send the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Remuneration and Privileges) Bill, 2021 to scrutiny committee.

He said the case is now pending in the appellate division as the government sought the review on the ground of "error apparent on the face of the record".

"There is enough merit for reviewing this case," he said.

The minister said the government has already requested the appellate division to review the case. "Appellate Division informed us they will hear the case very soon," he said.

The JS lost the power to remove Supreme Court judges on grounds of incapacity or misconduct as the HC in 2016

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Hasan Azizul Huq laid to rest

ANWAR ALI and ARAFAZ RAHAMAN, Rajshahi

Eminent writer Hasan Azizul Huq was laid to rest on the premises of Rajshahi University Central Library at 3pm yesterday.

Huq was buried beside the grave of Liberation War martyr Sukhoranjan Samaddar near the entrance of the library.

Before the burial, Huq's body was taken to the philosophy department of the university at 11:30am and then to RU Central Shaheed Minar premises around noon.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at RU Central Jame Mosque after the Zohr prayers.

Hundreds of people -- including poets, reciters, academicians, students, singers, filmmakers, actors,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



People from all walks of life gathered on RU Central Shaheed Minar premises to pay their last respects to eminent writer Hasan Azizul Huq, who breathed his last on Monday, at the age of 82.

PHOTO: STAR

JATRABARI EXPLOSION

Two more injured die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more people injured in Saturday's explosion in Jatrabari died yesterday at a Dhaka hospital.

Ripon Mia (45) breathed his last around 6am and Abul Kalam (58) around 1:30pm while they were undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said Aiyub Hossain, resident surgeon.

Ripon was a rickshaw-van puller while Kalam a worker at a shop.

With them, three persons have so far died from the explosion. Two injured are still in critical state.

Six persons were burnt after a cylinder exploded on Saturday at a shop at Awal Amirul Motor Parts Market in Janapad intersection area.



Eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi and Transcom Group CEO Simeen Rahman presenting award to a youth at an art competition organised by Prothom Alo at National Museum in Dhaka yesterday, where noted artist Abul Barak Alvi was also present. The competition was part of the celebrations marking the 23rd anniversary of the Bangla daily. Over 2,000 youngsters (aged between three and 16) participated in the contest under two categories. Of them, 20 children and teens were awarded.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Genome of Halda brood fish, dolphin decoded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Researchers in Bangladesh have successfully decoded the genome of brood fish and riverine dolphin -- opening a new horizon for carp-like fish and the endangered cetacean in Halda river, a unique waterbody where spawning occurs naturally.

The announcement came yesterday from a virtual press conference organised by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), which financed the genome decoding project.

Prof Manzurool Kibria, eminent Halda researcher, and AMAM Zonaed Siddiki, professor of Chattogram Veterinary Animal Science University, jointly led the brainwork of the research.

The decoding of the genome will help identify the unique wild variety of the brood fish, its food variety and reasons behind its diseases, said researchers.

Prof Kibria told The Daily Star that they took two years to decode the genome. The research will help identify four species of carp-like fish in Halda river.

"This decoding will help identify the Halda carp, which could be commercially

This decoding will help identify the Halda carp, which could be commercially farmed across the country.

PROF MANZUROOL KIBRIA
Halda Researcher

farmed across the country. Now Halda contributes Tk 800 crore to the national economy. This contribution could be taken to more than a thousand crore through this research," he said.

PKSF and Integrated Development Foundation have been working for better conservation of the river since 2016.

Dr Nomita Halder, managing director of PKSE, said PKSF will continue supporting research and conservation of the Halda.