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SHAH CEMENT

Charred body found in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered the charred remains of a woman from inside a trolley bag in Faridpur Sadar upazila's Bilnalia Gazirchak area yesterday.

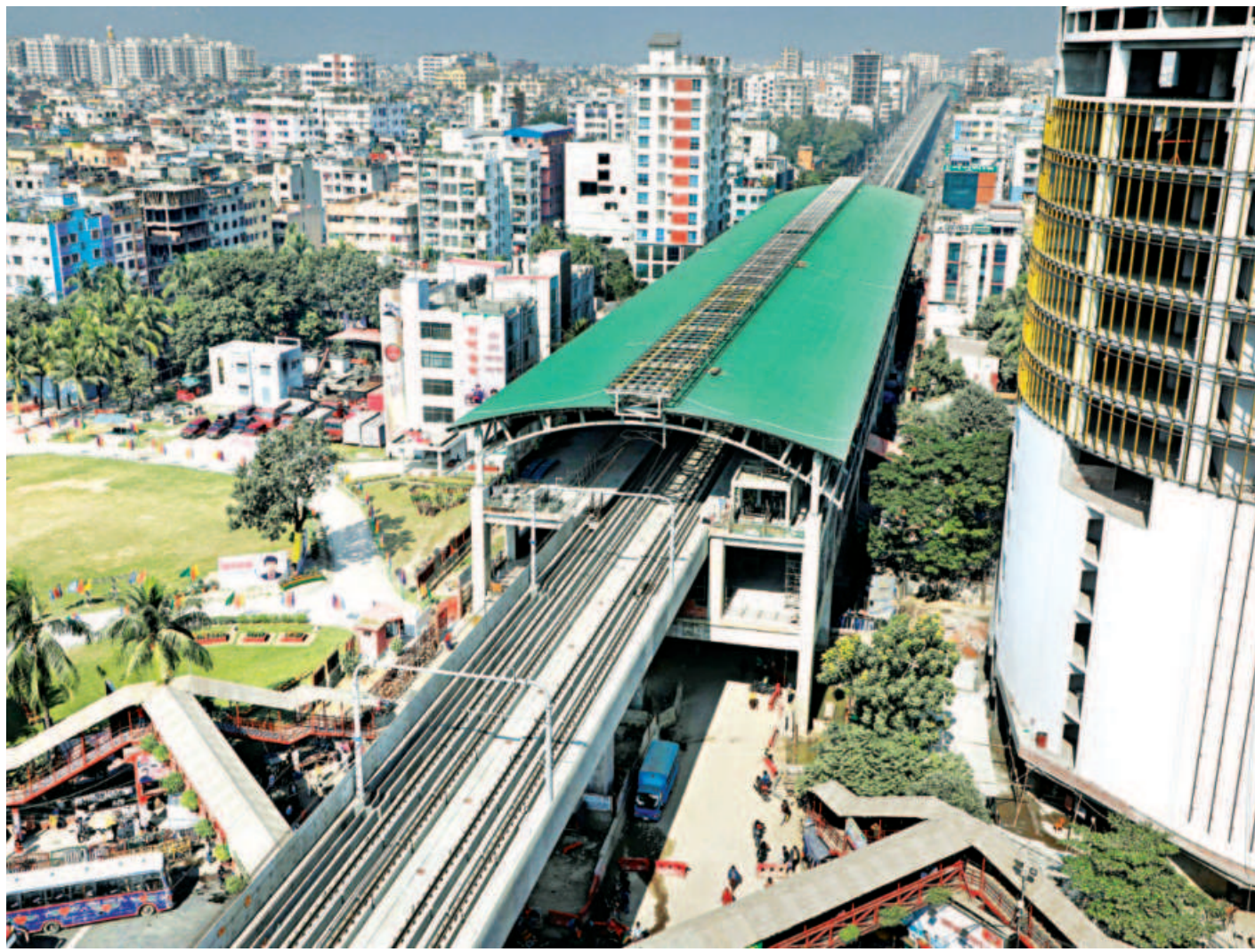
Locals said some farmers were working on a paddy field around 9:00am, when one of them suddenly noticed the trolley bag with the body inside and informed police.

Contacted, Suman Ranjan Sarkar, Faridpur additional superintendent of police (Sadar circle), said the victim's age is assumed to be between 13 and 25.

He added the body was cut into pieces and kept in the bag, which was then set on fire with flammable substances to remove evidence.

"We assume that the woman was killed somewhere else. Her body was later stuffed in the bag and dumped here early today [yesterday]," the ASP said.

The body has been sent
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The construction work of the entire 20.1-kilometre viaduct of the country's first metro rail project is about to be finished soon. The photo was taken near Mirpur-10 intersection recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

We appointed PR firm, not lobbyists

Says foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the Awami League government had appointed a PR (public relations) firm, not lobbyist, to promote good governance and a positive image of Bangladesh.

He said when they [BNP-Jamaat] appointed lobbyists to halt the trials of war criminals, the government appointed the PR firm to change the wrong perception.

"We call it a PR firm, not a lobbyist," said the Foreign Minister after attending a function in the city while responding to questions from reporters.

He said there was nothing wrong in engaging lobbyists but the objectives of engaging them matter when its aim is to harm the country and its interests.

Referring to appointment of lobbyists by BNP, the foreign minister said the key objective of that was to harm the country and its interests.

"There might be a quarrel between you and me. But it's very unfortunate if the country's interests are sacrificed for that," he added.

Earlier, Momen inaugurated a month-long exhibition at the Liberation War Museum as the chief guest while State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman, MP, attended it as a special guest.

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Know your deshi 'superfoods' RAW TURMERIC

STAR HEALTH DESK

Raw turmeric is the ground root of the turmeric plant. The roots have been used in various forms for centuries in the subcontinent. Many of its health benefits have also been proven by science.

It is anti-inflammatory. As a result, it might reduce symptoms of arthritis. Turmeric intake can also relieve pain.

Its antioxidant abilities may improve liver function and treat fatty liver.

It is antibacterial, which is why it may help in urinary tract infection.

Turmeric may aid in digesting food. This is one of the reasons it is used in curries.

Turmeric may lower risk of heart disease.

It has antiseptic properties and can help in healing wounds faster.

Turmeric can also play a positive role in controlling diabetes.

Application of raw turmeric paste can help in a range of dermatological conditions including psoriasis. It can also reduce

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METRO RAIL MILESTONE

Entire 20.10km viaduct to be completed this month

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In a major breakthrough for the country's first metro rail project, the construction of the entire 20.1-kilometre viaduct will be completed by the end of this month.

Only the installation of box girders between two piers near the capital's Jatiya Press Club remains incomplete and the work is expected to be done within a few days, project officials said yesterday.

The exact date of completion will be known today, they said.

"As per our prior announcement, construction of the entire viaduct would be completed within this month," MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the project, told The Daily Star.

A meeting with consultants and officials will be held today, here they will know the exact date of completion, he said.

"This will definitely be a milestone for the project."

Formally known as the Mass Rapid

Transit Line 6 or MRT Line-6, the elevated rail line is being constructed between Uttara Sector-3 and Motijheel.

Commercial operation in the Uttara-Agargaon section will start on December 16 -- the country's Victory Day -- this year. The full section will be operational by December 2023, as per the DMTCL announcement.

Once operational, the metro rail will be able to transport 60,000 people per hour and reduce travel time from Uttara to Motijheel from about two hours to only 40 minutes.

The original cost of the project is Tk 21,985 crore but project authorities last year sought a further Tk 11,487 crore for additional work, including extension of the line up to Kamalapur and building spacious footpaths outside the stations for convenient entry and exit of passengers.

If the proposal for additional funds is approved, the cost of the fast-track project would be Tk 33,472 crore and deadline would be December 2025, one and a half

years longer than the original one.

While visiting the project at the High Court and Jatiya Press Club areas yesterday, this correspondent saw that installation of box girders between two piers beside the Secretariat station near the press club was incomplete.

However, the installation of box girders between two piers near the High Court was

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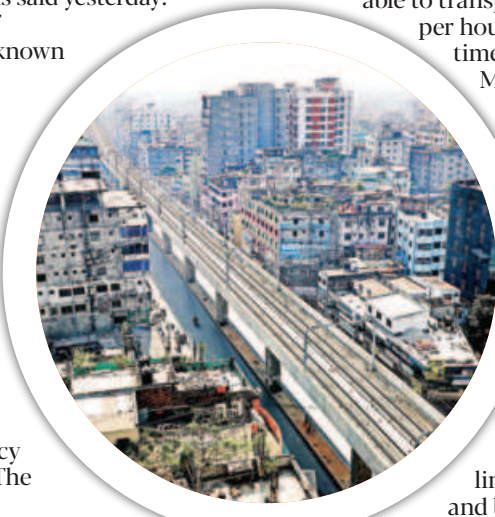
completed two days ago.

"We are expecting to complete the rest of the work within two or three days," a DMTCL official told this correspondent yesterday.

The overall progress of the fast-track project was 74.04 percent till December last year.

The first phase, between Uttara and Agargaon, saw 90.08 percent progress and the second phase -- from Agargaon to Motijheel -- 73.08 percent.

The installation of tracks and other equipment, and procurement of cars saw 70.91 percent progress till last month, according to the project's monthly report.



'Should be sent straight to jail'

HC blasts officials involved in purchase of substandard fog lights for ferries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted the government officials who purchased substandard fog lights for ferries plying Mawa and Paturia routes and embezzled the money allocated for buying suitable fog lights.

"They [officials] went to the USA to import high-power fog lights and stayed in costly hotels there at the cost of public money. But they bought substandard lights depriving the country's people from service," said the court.

"This is serious corruption which cannot be tolerated in any manner. If corruption is committed in such a manner, how will the country develop? The corrupt officials should be sent straight to jail," said the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman.

The bench made the observation while hearing a petition filed by Capt (retd) Shawkat Sardar, former general manager (marine) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), seeking anticipatory bail in a case filed over misappropriating Tk 6.65 crore in buying the lights.

The HC summarily rejected the petition and ordered him, who appeared before the court, to surrender to the Senior Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka within two weeks to face trial.

Lawyer JK Paul argued for the bail petitioner, while Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Shaheen Ahmed opposed it.

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People jostling as they try to get into a vaccine centre in the capital's Dayaganj yesterday. With the number of new Covid-19 cases rising sharply every day, such disregard for health safety guidelines makes them vulnerable to the very infection they hope to be inoculated against.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS