



“... The strategic goal of the United States and its Nato allies is to defeat Russia on the battlefield as a mechanism for significantly weakening or even destroying our country.”

Russia's FM Sergei Lavrov



## THE METRORAIL (UTTARA - AGARGAON SEGMENT) HAS BEEN INAUGURATED THE LION'S SHARE OF RODS HAS BEEN SUPPLIED BY BSRM



# METRO MOMENT is finally here

### PM to flag off train service at 11:00am today

#### METRO RAIL CHRONICLE

- DECEMBER 2012**  
Ecneec approves MRT Line-6 project
- FEBRUARY 2013**  
Loan agreement signed with Jica for MRT Line-6
- JUNE 2013**  
Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) formed
- OCTOBER 2013**  
PM Hasina lays foundation stone

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The metro station in the capital's Agargaon is all ready for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's arrival after she inaugurates metro service today.

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

Bangladesh enters a new era in communication today with the launch of its first metro rail, promising fast, reliable, and safe commute in a traffic-choked Dhaka.

The new mode of public transport comes at a time when buses, autorickshaws, rickshaws, and taxis failed to meet the service quality desired by more than 20 million in the city.

Dhaka, which grew exponentially over the years, earned notoriety for its unbridled traffic congestion caused by poorly managed rickety public vehicles and inefficient traffic management.

The metro rail, albeit a heavy investment project, is expected to help ease the perennial problems of congestion and pollution.

Metro rail is finally ready to serve the city dwellers, overcoming myriad challenges, including frequent changes in the design right from the beginning. Besides, the Holey Artisan cafe attack in 2016 and the pandemic also caused major setbacks to the project.

Hundreds of experts, engineers and workers toiled to make the project and the grand opening a success.

The city dwellers, who endured immense sufferings due to the construction work, are excited and curious to see the roll-out of the highly technical transport system.

Bangladesh is the third country in South Asia to have metro rail after India and Pakistan. India introduced its first 3.4km underground metro rail in Kolkata in 1984 while Pakistan launched its mostly elevated metro line in Lahore in October 2020.

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#### BY-POLLS TO 6 SEATS

### AL likely to give JP 'walkover'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and RASHIDUL HASAN

With the BNP out of the equation, the competition was supposed to be between the ruling Awami League and main opposition Jatiya Party.

But it seems the AL wants to gain some political mileage by not participating in the by-elections to six of the constituencies that fell vacant with the resignation of the BNP MPs.

The AL may not nominate anyone to run for any of the seats, but it also won't stop any of its leaders from running as independents, insiders said, referring to decisions made by the AL high command.

AL President Sheikh Hasina hinted that this would be the party's stance in Monday night's presidium meeting, sources said.

"By-polls to the six constituencies will be free and fair. In doing so, we want to show that free, fair and credible polls are possible under the current government," said an AL leader, wishing anonymity.

Besides, the ruling party wants to demonstrate that it doesn't want to grab the parliament seats left vacant by the BNP leaders.

Above all, the leadership believes that letting the Jatiya Party have those seats will enable the AL to keep JP in its fold.

The JP, now the main opposition in parliament, was in an electoral alliance with the AL before the 2018 national election.

But things appeared to have soured since several JP leaders started continuously criticising what they say are government misrule a few months ago.

Top JP top leaders said the party was no longer a

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#### RANGPUR MAYORAL ELECTION

### JP's Mostafa wins, AL polls only 8pc

KONGKON KARMAKER, QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, and S DILIP ROY

Jatiya Party's Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa was reelected Rangpur mayor while the ruling Awami League candidate, in the fourth position, managed to bag only 8 percent of the vote in the city corporation polls yesterday.

This will be Mostafizar's second win in the Rangpur City Corporation election.

AL candidate Hosne Ara Lutfa Dalia got fewer votes than a local AL leader who ran as an independent.

Mostafizar, running with JP's symbol of "plough", got 146,798 votes and his closest rival, Bangladesh Islami Andolon nominee Amiruzzaman Pial, got 49,892, said Returning Officer Abdul Baten early today.

Local AL leader Latifur Rahman Milan got 33,833 votes, considerably more than Dalia's 22,306, according to information provided by Baten at Rangpur Shilpakala Academy.

Five others ran for mayor in the city. There are 426,470 voters in the city, and the turnout was 65.91 percent, Baten said while reading out the results from the 229

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### Mariam to operate the first metro train



UNB, Dhaka

As the nation's much-awaited first metro rail is scheduled to start operation partially in the capital (Uttara-Agargaon portion) today, Mariam Afiza will emerge as the first metro train operator of the Mass Rapid Transit line-6.

Six women have been appointed as metro rail operators among others, and Dhaka Mass Transit

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**BSRM has supplied the lion's share of rods in the construction of the Metrorail (Uttara - Agargaon segment)**

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