



METRO DREAM rolls into reality

PM flags off first metro train in the capital's Uttara



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, WASIM BIN HABIB and RASHIDUL HASAN

At precisely 1:38pm came the glorious moment. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waved the green flag and the country's first-ever metro began to roll, marking a major leap in the Bangladesh's transport sector.

With the launch of a section of over 21km Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 yesterday, Bangladesh embarked on a new era of commuting with electricity-powered metro rail that aims to bring significant changes to how people travel in one of the most congested cities in the world.

"Today we have added another feather in the cap of Bangladeshi people," said Hasina after unveiling a plaque at Uttara Sector-15. The MRT Line-6 now connects the capital's Agargaon to Uttara North.

People will be able to avail the service for four hours from 8:00am today. For now, there will be a train every 10 minutes.

After the formal inauguration, the premier bought a ticket from counter-1 of Uttara North Station. Her younger sister Sheikh Rehana bought the second ticket. They swiped the tickets and crossed the gate to ride the metro.

After flagging off the service of the train, Hasina and her sister along with around 200 other passengers boarded the second train which left from Uttara North Station for Agargaon at 1:53pm.

Speaker of the House, different ministers, government officials, diplomats, freedom fighters, journalists, school and madrasa students, farmers, garment workers, imams, and priests were among those who joined the PM.

Hasina, also the president of Awami League, travelled in the first car of the train operated by Mariam Afiza. The PM later visited five of the six cars and exchanged greetings with the people. It took around 17 minutes to reach Agargaon.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, with her sister Sheikh Rehana by her side, flags off the first metro train at Uttara North Station yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

'It's another feather in the country's cap' PM about metro rail

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said through the opening of the metro rail, the Awami League government has put another feather in Bangladesh's cap.

"We have put another feather in the cap of development of Bangladesh," she said while addressing

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Work on 2 more lines to start next year

The projects to cost Tk 94,000cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authorities are going to start the construction work for two more lines next year.

The work for the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-1, the country's first-ever underground rail line, will begin next month, while civil work of MRT Line-5 (northern route), the first east-west metro rail corridor, is slated for July.

The two projects would cost around Tk

94,000 crore.

ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division, and MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the project, revealed this yesterday, the day country's first metro rail was launched.

They were speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the MRT Line-6 at Uttara in the

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RANGPUR CITY POLLS Intra-party feud, 'wrong pick' to blame for AL's rout

KONGKON KARMAKER

Intra-party feud and selection of "wrong candidate" caused the ruling Awami League to suffer a humiliating defeat in Tuesday's mayoral polls in Rangpur city, said local politicians and civil society members.

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