



One could easily read the excitement off of commuters' faces as the Uttara South and Shewrapara stations opened to the public yesterday morning, marking the opening of all nine stations on the Uttara-Agargaon route. Many locals who had to walk a distance to get on the metro can now do so easily.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



New metro stations bring convenience

Opening of Uttara South and Shewrapara stations saves time, money for passengers

MD ABBAS

Snigdha Dutta and her son Ankit were thrilled as they boarded the metro rail at Shewrapara station for their journey to her parents' house in Uttara. For commuters in these areas of Dhaka, the daily commute to Uttara can be tiring and challenging. However, the opening of new metro rail stations is making accessibility to different parts of the city easier.

Snigdha expressed her joy, stating that the opening of the Shewrapara metro station has made a significant difference in her commute. Previously, she had to travel from Agargaon station, which was far from her home. Now, with a station adjacent to her house, she no longer has to allocate additional time and money for travel expenses.

Uttara South and Shewrapara stations opened to the public yesterday morning, marking the opening of all nine stations on the Uttara-Agargaon route. The excitement of the commuters was palpable as they now had easier access to different parts of the city.

Himadri Shekhar and his son Satyaki Rik were delighted with the new stations.

Satyaki Rik shared his happiness, stating that this was his second trip on the metro rail, and he was thrilled that the new station was closer to his home.

Ashraful Islam, who boarded the metro rail from Uttara South, expressed his gratitude, stating that he no longer had to commute to access the closest metro station. The opening of the station near his home would save both his time and money.

Yunus Hasan, a resident of Mohammadpur, shared his excitement about all stations from Uttara to Agargaon being open to the public. He added that the ability to get off at any station would provide some respite from the traffic.

The opening of the two newest stations at 8:30 am was confirmed by Mahfuzur Rahman, manager of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL). The Managing Director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, MAN Siddique, also confirmed that the performance test on the viaduct from Agargaon to Motijheel would start in July. They were optimistic about meeting their target to start operation of this section of the MRT Line 6 by December this year.

BNP, allies to observe sit-ins in cities, dists today

UNB, Dhaka

As part of the ongoing simultaneous movement, BNP, its associate bodies and like-minded parties are set to observe two-hour sit-ins in all divisional cities and district towns today, to press home their 10-point demand, including holding the next general election under a non-party caretaker government.

The programme is also meant for registering the party's protest against the rise in the prices of power, gas and essential items and the Awami League government's alleged all-pervading corruption.

As part of the programme, BNP's Dhaka north and south city units will jointly stage the sit-in from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in front of its Nayapaltan central office in the capital.

The party leaders and activists will also observe a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Canada to observe Int'l Mother Language Day

UNB, Dhaka

The Canadian House of Commons has passed Bill S-214 on International Mother Language Day (IMLD) Act.

By adopting this bill, Canada will now officially honour the day on February 21 every year.

The Bangladesh High Commission in Canada yesterday termed it a historic moment for Bangladeshi Canadians and the proponents of mother tongues globally.

On the occasion, the high commission acknowledged the contribution of the late Rafiqul Islam, Abdus Salam and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for getting the day adopted by Unesco in 1999 and later by the UN.

"We also recognise the contribution of Aminul Islam to take the initiative to get Bill S-214 passed by the Canadian

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

SUNDARGANJ UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX

A functioning operating theatre after 41 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

After nearly 41 years of its establishment, Sundarganj Upazila Health Complex in Gaibandha got a functioning operating theatre (OT) recently.

The 50-bed government hospital was established in 1982, but its operating theatre remained unusable.

On March 19, the hospital authorities conducted their first-ever surgery at the OT. On the first day, doctors conducted Caesarean section of a woman who gave birth to a baby boy.

The hospital authority, however, said although the OT has been officially launched, it is not fully functional yet due to many limitations.

Sundarganj Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Mohammad Abul Fatah said 10 out of 17 medical-officer posts are currently lying vacant at the establishment, as only seven doctors are providing services.

The hospital requires some medical equipment, including a diathermy machine, which is used to relieve pain or destroy unhealthy tissues. Moreover, it also needs consultants

and anaesthesia specialists to make the OT fully functional.

"Currently, doctors are conducting only C-section operations here," said the officer.

According to sources at Sundarganj Upazila Parishad, about two lakh people out of eight lakh residents of Sundarganj upazila live in char areas.

Jahurul Islam, a resident of Fulchhari upazila headquarters, said,

"The Sundarganj Upazila Health Complex was established over four decades ago, but people are being deprived of emergency medical services as there has been no functional operating theatre since the beginning of its journey."

Home maker Nadira Akter of Char Vatikapasia village, said in case of emergency operation, residents of the char area have to go to a hospital in the district headquarters or Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

"Both hospitals are nearly 50 kilometres away from my village. Due to the lack of emergency medical services, patients often die on the way to the hospital," Nadira added.

Nilufa Khatun, who lives near the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



10 hurt in clash between police and devotees

STAR REPORT

At least 10 persons including two police officers were injured in a clash between police and devotees at the capital's Baitul Mukarram National Mosque area after Jumma prayer.

A group of people under the banner of "Islamic Law Implementation Committee" brought out a procession, demanding the release of, what they said, those arrested during Isha and Tarabeeh prayers in Shahjadpur area on Monday.

As police barred them, the demonstrators threw bricks chips at the law enforcers. Police then dispersed them by charging batons, said Salah Uddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station.

Two officers were injured, he said.

PRAYER TIMING



APRIL 1					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:40	12:45	4:45	6:21	7:45	
JAMAAT 5:15	1:15	5:00	6:24	8:15	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
9	01	6:18	6:18
10	02	4:28	6:19
11	03	4:27	6:19

'Halt Rohingya repatriation plan' Human Rights Watch urges Bangladesh

AFP, Dhaka

Human Rights Watch yesterday urged Bangladesh to suspend its plans to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, warning that the conditions there would not be safe for the persecuted and stateless minority.

Bangladesh is home to around a million Rohingya people, most of whom fled a 2017 military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar, which is now subject to a UN genocide investigation.

A delegation from Myanmar's military regime travelled to Bangladesh this month to interview

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Two arrested after clash that injured seven

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Police arrested two youths with sharp weapons yesterday afternoon, after a clash erupted in Barishal's Oxford Mission Road. The arrestees -- Rafi and Dolan -- are well-known Chhatra League (BCL) activists of the area.

At least seven BCL activists were injured in the clash. Among them, Rishad Mahmud and Abdullah Al Maruf, have been referred to Dhaka with severe injuries.

The other five -- Sohan, Anik, Khalid, Avril and Emon -- took treatment at Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and Barishal General Hospital.

Among the injured, Rishad is a student of Govt Syed Hatim Ali College and the others are students of University of Global Village.

The clash ensued around 10:00pm on Thursday

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

How a UNO's initiative is empowering a generation

ANANTA YUSUF

Narsingdi's Palash upazila is making a major impact on the education and future aspirations of its young citizens.

At least 113 language clubs have been established in local schools, providing students with the opportunity to learn new languages, read books and magazines, and receive motivation and guidance on various educational and career-related topics.

And this has been made possible through the efforts of Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Robiul Alam, said locals.

When Robiul first joined the Narsingdi UNO office last December, he observed that many schools did not have such clubs or development courses for children.

As part of his job, he regularly visits schools and assesses their operations. "I realised that I could turn my visits into something meaningful for the students," Robiul told The Daily Star recently.

Robiul's solution was a multi-faceted approach that included visiting schools every day, motivating students with gifts

during assembly sessions and launching a language club where young students could explore various languages, literature and literary figures.

He named this initiative "Know Your Potential".

In December, Robiul approached parents, teachers, and headteachers to gauge their interest in the project, and was met with positive response.

With 113 language clubs now established in 64 primary schools, 36 secondary schools and nine madrasas, 2,445 students in Palash upazila now have access to these clubs and their resources.

A teacher from every school is assigned to run the language club. Students read newspapers, magazines, and different books. The assigned teacher helps them with writing and encourages them to speak in English and write book reviews regularly.

Dilruba Yeasmin, upazila primary education officer of Palash, said every Thursday, around 15 to 20 students from grades four and five in 64 primary schools

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A man living on the bank of Buriganga has created this makeshift house with whatever scraps and bamboo he could find, ensuring a place to rest and call home. For people who earn a living near the bank, life is hard, busy, and devoid of good income, but still, life must go on. This photo was taken in Kamrangirchar area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN