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## UNDERSEA OIL PIPELINE to save Tk 800cr a yr

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Chattogram

A 110km pipeline to transport crude oil and diesel from a deep-sea mooring, 16km off the Maheshkhali coast, to Eastern Refinery Ltd in Chattogram's Patenga is all set to be commissioned tomorrow.

Once the first-ever undersea pipeline in Bangladesh is in service, lighter vessels will no longer be required to unload petroleum products from large tankers and carry those to the refinery. This will save time and about Tk 800 crore a year, according to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

Under the Single Point Mooring (SPM) project, two parallel pipelines have been installed -- one for crude oil and the other for diesel. There is a floating mooring point in the deep sea and a storage tank terminal in Maheshkhali.

As part of a trial run, crude oil will be unloaded at the floating mooring from an oil tanker and then pumped to the storage terminal through a 16km pipeline, said BPC officials.

If the test is successful, crude will then be pumped to the Eastern Refinery depot through the 94km section of the pipeline, they said.

Khaled Ahmed, BPC director (operations and planning), said an oil tanker carrying 90,000 tonnes of crude from the Middle East would be the first to offload oil at the mooring point.

"This pipeline is going to open a new horizon in transportation of fuel in the country," he told The Daily Star.

"It takes 10-11 days to unload 1 lakh tonnes of oil from the deep sea using small lighter vessels. Once the pipelines are ready, it will take only two to three days," Khaled said.

BPC officials said all imported crude and around 96 percent of diesel would go through this pipeline when it is operational.

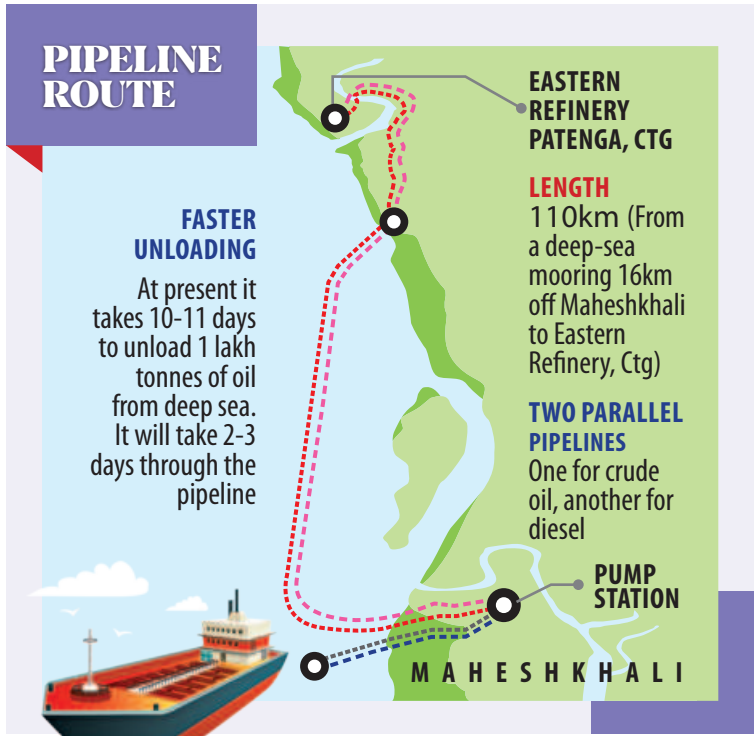
Between 10 lakh and 14 lakh tonnes of crude and around 50 lakh tonnes of diesel were imported in this fiscal year, said a BPC official.

BPC, with the funding of Exim Bank of China, is implementing the project at a cost of Tk 7,124 crore. The project's initial cost was Tk 4,935 crore and the completion deadline was December 2018.

Project Director Engineer Sharif Hasnat told this newspaper that 97 percent of the work is done and that the current deadline is on June 30.

He said the pipes between the mooring point and Maheshkhali are

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Three children take a boat ride to their home after attending Arabic lessons at a mosque in Borni area of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. The area went under water about 10 days ago due to rain and onrush of water from upstream.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

### INDIAN TRAIN OPERATIONS ON BANGLADESH TRACK

## India wants trial, BR seeks clear proposal

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In response to India's proposal for movement of its trains through Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Railway, in a letter, has requested the neighbouring country to give a clearer outline.

The Indian Railways placed a proposal to the Bangladesh Railway for carrying out trial runs of a freight train from West Bengal's Gede to Haldibari via Bangladesh.

As per a decision taken at an inter-ministerial meeting last month, the Bangladesh Railway has sent a letter to its Indian counterpart seeking a comprehensive proposal with clarification on whether transit facilities are being sought, according to BR officials.

"It is not clear to us whether India wants transit or transshipment facility. It is also not clear to us whether they

want the facility for passenger or freight trains. That's why we sought the clarification," Bangladesh Railway Director General Quamrul Ahsan told The Daily Star on June 22.

**This appears to be a proposal for transit and that's why opinions from the other ministries should be sought, according to the meeting minutes.**

The route the proposal mentions is Gede (India)-Darshana-Ishwardi-Abdulpur-Parbatipur-Chilahati-Haldibari (India).

India's proposal is not clear, reads the minutes from the meeting held on May 17. But "the movement of IR trains on BR tracks" appears as a

proposal for transit and that's why opinions from other ministries should be sought, according to the minutes.

The commerce ministry was asked to give its opinion about whether there is any opportunity to transport goods by train to Nepal and Bhutan via India, says the minutes.

Officials from the foreign, home and commerce ministries have said that several other issues should be resolved before accepting the Indian proposal, BR officials said.

Currently, Indian trains carry goods or passengers up to the India-Bangladesh border. From there Bangladesh Railway locomotives carry the coaches inside Bangladesh and drop the passengers off or unload goods before sending the coaches back to the border.

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## BNP, Jamaat to destroy country if they return to power

Says PM on AL's founding anniv

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned that the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami would destroy the country if they returned to power.

"Bangladesh must be established as a developing nation. That is possible only if the Awami League stays in power. But those who had grabbed power illegally and the terrorist parties like the BNP and Jamaat who don't believe in the spirit of the Liberation War will destroy the country," she said.

Hasina made the remarks after paying homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of the AL's 74th founding anniversary.

The PM, also the AL president, placed a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital's Dhanmondi. She stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu.

The premier highlighted the country's development success achieved under her successive governments.

Hasina said the AL will develop a smart Bangladesh and a smart economy by 2041.

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### 2024 LOK SABHA POLLS

## Opposition parties unite to oust BJP

The 17-party-alliance, including Congress, TMC, AAP, DMK, sits for 1st time

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Top leaders of India's 17 opposition parties, setting aside their differences, today decided to put up a joint fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party in the general elections due early next year.

Addressing a joint press conference after an almost four-hour meeting held in Patna, the capital city of Bihar state, during which leaders of the 17 parties expressed their views, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, the pivot of the anti-BJP alliance, said the leaders will meet in the next few days to give a final shape to their plan.

"We had a good meeting and several leaders expressed their views during the meeting. 17 parties have decided to work together and contest the Lok Sabha elections unitedly," he told reporters.

The meeting was hosted by Nitish Kumar of Janata Dal (United) and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav of Rashtriya Janata Dal. As the host, Kumar presided over the meeting flanked

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### Jamuna Bank Remembers Its Sponsor Director on his 48<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Anindya Majumder (Bappu)**

24 June 1975 | 16 January 2007

On his 48<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary, we honour and cherish the memory of **Anindya Majumder (Bappu)**, a loving son, a doting brother, a devoted friend and a dedicated professional.

He had been a founding director of **Jamuna Bank Ltd.** and a director at **New Generation Construction Co. Ltd.**

We miss him dearly everyday,  
**Family, Friends And Colleagues**