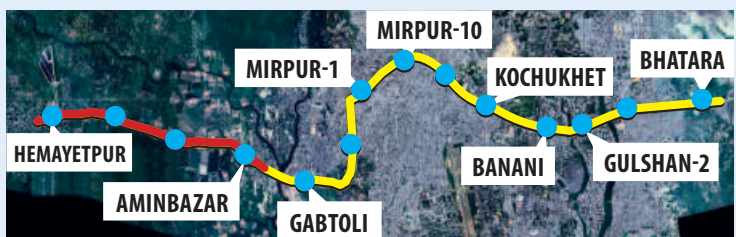




METRO LINE ON DHAKA-ARICHA ROUTE

RHD fears it'll create chaos on highway

MRT authorities ignore RHD warning, go ahead with its plan



MRT LINE-5 (NORTHERN ROUTE)

- From Hemayetpur (Savar) to Bhatara in Dhaka city
- Total length 20km (14 stations)
- 5.6km Hemayetpur to Aminbazar section in dispute

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Dhaka-Aricha Highway may face long tailbacks and see a rise in road crashes if a metro rail line is built on the highway as proposed by the metro rail authorities, according to engineers of the Roads and Highways Department.

Construction of the metro rail line, known as Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-5 (Northern Route), will scupper an expansion plan of the highway conceived by the RHD, they said. It may also make one of the country's most important highways "a death-trap", they added.

Although serious reservations have been raised about the proposed metro rail route between Hemayetpur and Aminbazar long ago, the metro rail authorities did not pay any heed to the concerns and prepared a detailed design instead, they said.

The MRT Line-5 project, which is expected to start later this month or early next month, is being implemented by Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL). Both the RHD and the DMTCL are under the same division (Road Transport and Highways Division) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges.

Rejecting the fears expressed by the RHD engineers, the metro

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Bangladesh Railway is laying three new dual-gauge lines from the capital's Kamalapur to Gendaria under the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project. The lines will be used for the Dhaka-Narayanganj and Dhaka-Jashore rail operations. With the work for laying one of the lines already completed, rail services on Dhaka-Narayanganj route are expected to resume soon. The photo was taken in the capital's Titipara area recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

European countries to be closer for Biman flyers

Carrier to ink codeshare deal with Gulf Air; agreement with JAL to make hops to US easier

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman is going for codeshare and interline agreements with Gulf Air and Japan Airlines and this will allow its passengers to go to destinations the two carriers serve.

This is the first time Biman is going for such agreements, said MD and CEO Shafiul Azim, adding that through the codeshare agreement with Gulf Air, the national flag carrier of Bahrain, Biman plans to expand

its reach into Europe where Gulf Air has extensive access.

The interline agreement with Japan Airlines will allow Biman passengers to travel to the US via Tokyo, sources in Biman said.

Biman is scheduled to start direct flights to Narita (Tokyo) on September 1.

Biman expects both deals will be signed before September.

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“This is a unique moment for the aviation sector in Bangladesh as this is the first time any carrier of Bangladesh is signing a codeshare agreement with a foreign carrier.”

Aviation expert ATM Nazrul Islam

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Three women of a family move from their home in Dabor area of Sunamganj's Shantiganj upazila to a relative's house yesterday as a huge chunk of their village has gone under water due to heavy rain.

India retain SAFF title

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India retained the title of the SAFF Championship with a 5-4 win over Kuwait in tiebreaker after regulation and extra time yielded a 1-1 draw at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru yesterday.

India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu saved the decisive fifth spot-kick from Khaled Ibrahim Hajiah to send more than 25,000 spectators into wild celebration as the hosts hoisted a record-extending ninth title of the regional competition.

Earlier, Shabaib Al Khaldi had broken the deadlock in the 15th minute of the game, only for Lallianzuala Chhangte to equalise for the hosts in the 38th minute.



NORTHERN DISTRICTS Major rivers seeing rise in water level

Heavy rains may cause Teesta, Dharla, Dudhkumar to swell; Surma, Someshwari flowing above danger mark

STAR REPORT

As flood waters recede in the northeast districts, major rivers are swelling in the northern districts.

Levels of the water in the Teesta, the Dharla and the Dudhkumar rivers will rise rapidly if it rains upstream, said a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday.

"The Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Ganges-Padma rivers are in a rising trend, which may continue in the next 48 hours," said the bulletin released at 9:00am.

As water levels in major rivers fall in the north-eastern region, flood waters are receding in Sunamganj and Netrokona districts, it added.

In Lalmonirhat, the Teesta inundated the low-lying areas yesterday morning

and continued to flood new areas.

People were seen commuting on boats as roads went under water.

"My village has been inundated. My Aman seedbeds are now under water," said Nazar Ali, 60, a farmer of Khuniyagach area of Lalmonirhat.

However, the levels of water in the Teesta and the Dharla are still within safe limits and a long-term flood seems unlikely, said Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board.

In Bogura, the Jamuna has been swelling rapidly since Monday, and if it keeps this rate, some areas may get inundated, said BWDB Executive Engineer Nazmul Haque, adding that a major flood in the next 15 days was unlikely.

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On this momentous occasion of our 28th Anniversary, we reiterate our sincere appreciation for your unwavering support, which has paved the path to our resounding success!

As we embark on the next phase of our journey together, we will continue to accomplish great milestones to reinforce our everlasting bonds.



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