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Metro to roll up to Motijheel November 5

PM to inaugurate the new section, construction of 3rd metro rail Nov 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commuters will be able to take the train from Uttara to Motijheel starting November 5, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the Agargaon-Motijheel section of the country's first elevated metro line.

To facilitate the inauguration programme regular metro rail services will remain suspended on November 4, said MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited, yesterday.

On November 5, trains will start operating between Agargaon and Motijheel every 10 minutes from 7:30am to 11:30am, while the Uttara-Agargaon route will remain open from 7:30am to 8:30pm.

Currently, trains operate on the Uttara-Agargaon section from 8:00am to 8:30pm.

Initially, three stations will be opened on the Agargaon-Motijheel route. They are located at Farmgate, the Secretariat (Jatiya Press Club), and Motijheel.

The remaining four stations will open over the next three months, and then the hours of operation will slowly be extended.

Siddique said it takes 17 minutes to travel from Uttara to Agargaon on the metro and it will take 14 minutes to get from Agargaon to Motijheel initially, meaning the full trip from Uttara to Motijheel will take around 31 minutes.

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Final touch-ups and decorations are underway at the Motijheel metro-rail station as the Agargaon-Motijheel section is to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 4. The section will be open to public from the very next day.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BUSINESS

Remittance hits four-month high

Migrant workers sent home \$1.98 billion in October, a four-month high, as banks stepped up efforts to woo more remittance buoyed by a relaxed central bank rule on incentive. The receipts last month were nearly 30 percent higher than in the same month last year when remittance brought in \$1.53 billion and up about 50 percent from a 41-month low of \$1.33 billion in September this year.

STORY ON B1

US keeping eye on polls environment

HRW urges Bangladesh's int'l partners to condemn 'targeting of opposition'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US State Department said dialogue is crucial for free and fair elections in Bangladesh and that it is closely monitoring the electoral environment.

"We do believe that dialogue is important to achieving those goals [free and fair elections]," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said at a regular press briefing in Washington yesterday.

He added the US is closely monitoring Bangladesh's environment leading up to January's election and is taking the incidents of violence very seriously.

"We are engaging and will continue to engage with the government, the opposition, the civil society, and other stakeholders to urge them to work together for the benefit of the Bangladeshi people and to ensure free and fair elections that are conducted in a peaceful manner," Miller said.

The statement comes during the opposition BNP's countrywide blockade, called after its rally in the capital. Around a dozen people have been killed and

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Israel again hits Gaza refugee camp

Dozens killed; first evacuees leave Gaza amid deepening humanitarian crisis

AGENCIES

Israel yesterday gain hit Gaza's biggest refugee camp for a second consecutive day killing dozens as the first batch of injured Palestinians and foreigners escaped the besieged territory to Egypt.

The second attack came after Tuesday's strikes on the Jabalia refugee camp demolished several apartment buildings, leaving craters in their place.

It suffered a second strike in as many days yesterday, with AFP TV images showing major damage and rescuers clawing through rubble to extract blood-stained casualties.

Dozens were killed and wounded, according to Gaza health ministry, which came a day after Israeli jets hit the camp, killing at least 47 people.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian official at the Rafah crossing said seventy-six wounded Palestinians and 335 foreigners or dual-nationals were allowed to cross from the war-torn Gaza Strip for Egypt yesterday.

It is the first crossing of civilians allowed into Egypt from Gaza since Israel placed a "total siege" on the Palestinian territory.

Whole families, struggling to carry

their worldly possessions, rushed through the heavily fortified crossing towards Egypt, which was expected to admit at least 400 foreign passport holders and 90 of the most seriously wounded and sick.

- 8,796 Palestinians, including 3,648 children, killed
- Bolivia severs ties with Israel, others recall envoys
- Iran warns of 'harsh consequences' if attacks continue
- 4 more killed in West Bank, Palestinians call general strike

"It's enough. We've endured enough humiliation," said Gaza resident Rafik al-Hilou, accompanying relatives including children aged one and four hoping to cross into Egypt.

"We lack the most basic human needs.

No internet, no phones, no means of communication, not even water. For the past four days, we haven't been able to feed this child a piece of bread. What are you waiting for?" he added.

The United Nations yesterday decried strikes on Gaza's largest refugee camp.

"This is just the latest atrocity to befall the people of Gaza where the fighting has entered an even more terrifying phase, with increasingly dreadful humanitarian consequences," said Martin Griffiths, UN humanitarian chief.

Israel said Tuesday's raid was a successful hit on top Hamas commander Ibrahim Biari, but the large death toll drew a chorus of international condemnation in the region and as far afield as Bolivia, which severed diplomatic ties in protest.

Jordan recalled its ambassador to Israel "to condemn the Israeli war that is killing innocent people in Gaza".

Hamas said seven hostages, including three foreign passport holders, had died in Tuesday's bombing, a claim impossible to verify.

The group's leader Ismail Haniyeh accused Israel of committing "barbaric massacres against unarmed civilians",

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Mysterious mouse mummies found on Andes mountain peaks

CNN ONLINE

A team of scientists from Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, and the United States are looking to answer how a species of leaf-eared mouse made the barren land of Andes mountain summits their home after discovering 13 mummified mice at elevations above 6,000 metres (19,685 feet) in the Atacama Plateau of Chile and Argentina.



Additionally, the environment there has been described to be Mars-like.

Their discovery further proves the species is the world's highest dwelling mammal, according to the study recently published in Current Biology.

The mice, called Phyllotis

vaccarum, are commonly found living in the Andes mountains at lower elevations, all the way down to sea level. In 2020, a living mouse was recorded at the summit of Llullaillaco, a volcano with an elevation of 6,739 meters (about 22,110 feet) on the border of Chile. It currently holds the world record for highest living mammal, said Jay Storz, co-study author for the new and 2020 studies.

The discovery of the living mouse spurred Storz to conduct expeditions at 21 different volcanoes. The 13 mummified mice were found on the Salín, Púlar, and Copiapó volcanoes.

Saima elected WHO regional director for Southeast Asia



UNB, Dhaka

Saima Wazed has been elected as World Health Organization's regional director for South East Asia (SEARO) for the next five years. She won the election by 8 2 vote.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam confirmed the development yesterday.

Of the candidates, Saima Wazed was nominated by Bangladesh and Dr Shambhu Prasad Acharya was nominated by Nepal.

The Regional Committee of WHO South-East Asia voted to nominate the next regional director in a

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Israeli armoured vehicles are seen during their ground operations at a location in Gaza. This undated handout image was released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

118 Ukrainian settlements hit within 24 hours

Claims Kyiv as Russia steps up shelling

AFP, Kyiv

Russia has shelled more than 100 settlements over the last 24 hours -- more than in any single day so far this year, Ukraine said yesterday.

Moscow has fired millions of shells on cities, towns and villages since it invaded in February 2022, reducing several to rubble across the eastern part of the country.

"Over the last 24 hours, the enemy shelled 118 settlements in 10 regions," Ukrainian Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said on social media.

"This is the highest number of cities and villages that have come under attack since the start of the year," he added.

Kyiv also reported a Russian attack on an oil refinery in Kremenchuk, a central industrial city.

There were no casualties but it took almost 100 firefighters several hours to put out the resulting blaze, Klymenko said.

Kyiv and the West fear Russia will escalate its attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of the cold winter -- as it did last year.

The overnight shelling in the northeastern Kharkiv region killed one person, and another was killed in the southern Kherson region, local officials said.

During the day, Ukraine said a Russian drone attack on the southern city of Nikopol killed a 59-year-old woman and injured four others. A rocket strike on a village in the Zaporizhzhia region killed a 52-year-old man.