



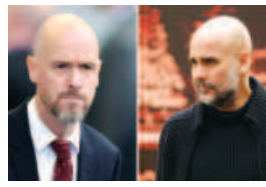
Development work begins at Shishu Park

P3



A heritage campus worth preserving

P9



Ten Hag faces judgement day in FA Cup final

P11



Is it a forest? Is it a garden? No, it's a factory!

WR1

2 MRT lines may miss deadline

Feasibility studies for MRT-2 and 4 yet to start

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The metro rail authorities are likely to miss the 2030 deadline for completing two of the six planned metro lines in Dhaka as they have not yet started carrying out feasibility studies for the two lines.

With the consultants already hired, the authorities are set to start conducting the feasibility study for Mass Rapid Transit Line-4. But the progress of the MRT Line-2 project is disappointing as the financier for the feasibility study has not yet been found, let alone hiring a consultant for the work, officials concerned said.

Once the feasibility studies are done and financiers are found, the

authorities will have to go through a long process – preparing a project proposal, having it approved, acquiring land, preparing a detailed design, and floating tenders to hire contractors, they said.

All these preparatory works usually take three to four years, which is why the authorities may not be able to meet the deadline for these projects, officials feared.

However, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the metro rail projects, remains hopeful the deadline will be met.

The route for MRT Line-2 will be from Gabtoli to Narayanganj via Gulistan while the route for MRT Line-4 will be Dhaka to Narayanganj's

Madanpur via Signboard.

Speaking at a seminar on Dhaka Metro Rail on May 19, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and DMTCL Managing Director MAN Siddique said six metro rail lines will be completed by 2030.

Asked whether they will be able to complete MRT Lines-2 and 4 within the stipulated time, Siddique on Tuesday said, "Let us start the work first, and then we will figure out if we can meet the deadline."

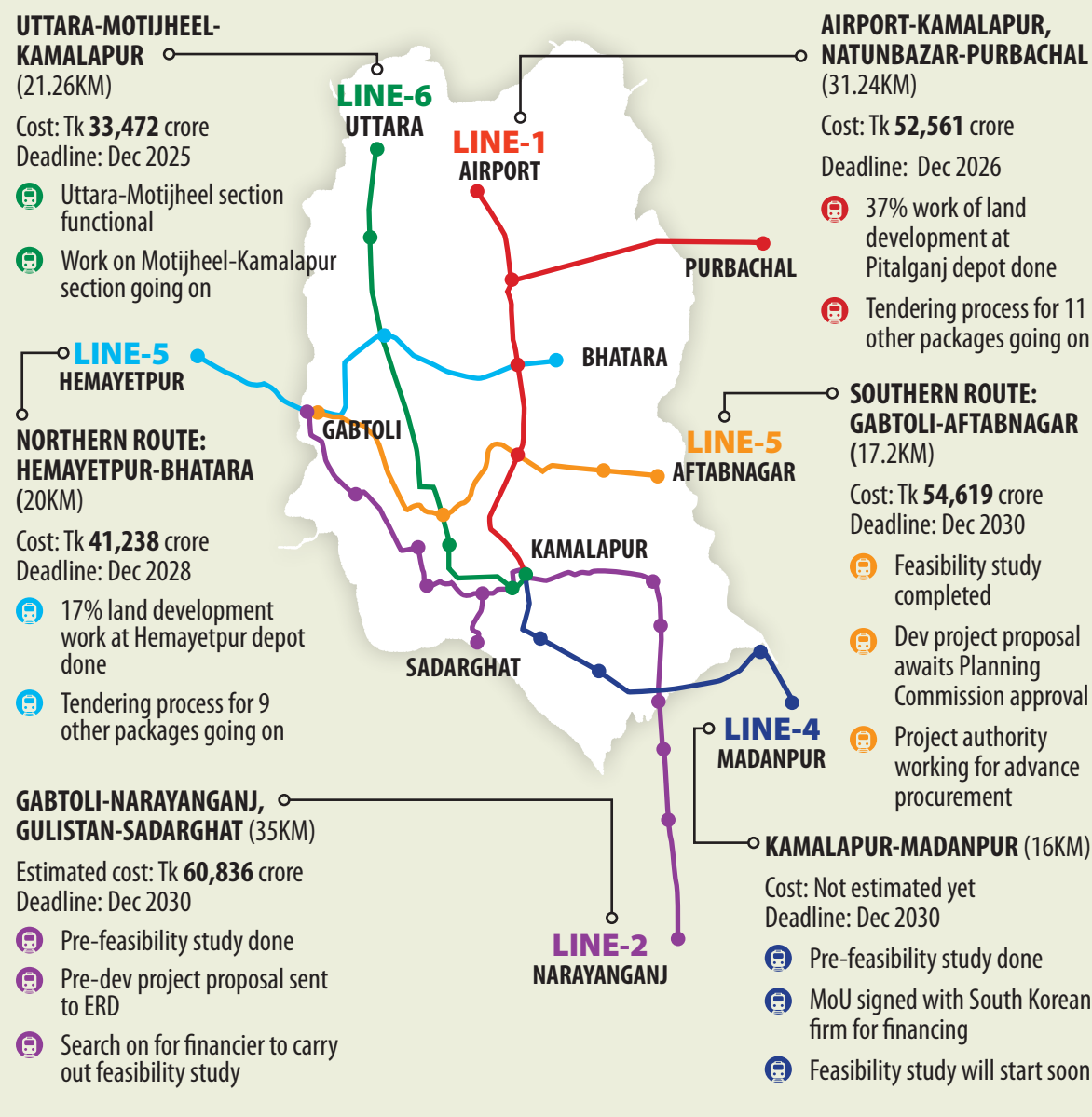
In July 2013, the government formed state-run company DMTCL to build and operate metro rail. The company adopted a time-bound action plan to build a 140-

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A firefighter sprays water at a blaze that burnt down at least 230 shanties at a Rohingya refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, yesterday. At least 10 people were reported injured while trying to flee from the crammed dwellings. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Azim made some 'powerful enemies'

Investigators say the slain MP tried to take full control of illegal gold trade in Jhenaidah

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

Several influential people might have played a part in the killing of Anwarul Azim Anar, who had started taking control of gold smuggling in Jhenaidah after becoming a lawmaker in 2014, say investigators.

Over the last few years, a couple of influential businessmen in Jhenaidah, and a political leader of Jashore, who are also involved in gold smuggling, got upset with Azim for his attempt to take full control of illegal gold trade.

"They might have been involved in the murder plot," one of the investigators told this correspondent on the condition of anonymity.

In a report submitted to a Dhaka court yesterday, the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said Aktaruzzaman, Azim's partner in gold smuggling, was the mastermind behind the murder of the Jhenaidah-4 MP.

Officers said once he is arrested, the names of others involved in the murder will be known. Aktaruzzaman, known

as Shaheen Mia in his hometown Jhenaidah, asked Azim to go to Kolkata to meet him and made arrangements to kill the MP there.

The accused, a Bangladesh born US citizen, went to Kolkata on April 30 and rented a flat in the New Town area, says the report on the progress made by the investigators so far.

Aktaruzzaman asked his aide Amanullah, who was staying Kolkata at that time, to execute the plot to kill Azim at any cost.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed suspects Amanullah, Celesty Rahman and Tamvir Bhuiyan on an eight-day remand.

Contacted, Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner of the DB (Wari Division), said, "We will try to identify the other suspects by interrogating the arrestees. We have some clues that we will verify with the arrestees."

Azim went to Kolkata on May 12 and stayed the night at his friend Gopal Biswas's house. He left the next day, saying he had a doctor's appointment.

Gopal later received a couple of

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The Maldives suspends work visas for Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Maldives has stopped issuing new work visas for Bangladeshi workers, just months after reopening the labour market following a four-year-long ban.

Although the Bangladesh High Commission in Malé stated that the closure was in line with Maldives' position on allocating specific quotas for a source country, a Maldivian media report suggests that the decision was made in response to allegations of illegal recruitment practices.

Speaking to this newspaper, an official from the Bangladesh mission also mentioned that in recent times there have been unethical recruitment practices involving Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Maldives.

The official, preferring to remain unnamed, said that although it is required for a migrant worker to work for the company that hired them, there have been cases where Bangladeshi

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UN warns of rise in violence in Rakhine

US, EU, UK voice alarm

REUTERS, Geneva

The United Nations human rights office yesterday warned there was a risk of a serious rise in violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where it received "frightening and disturbing reports" of the killing of Rohingya people and the burning of their property.

The United States, the European Union, Britain, and other nations expressed alarm at the escalating conflict in a separate statement, highlighting the increasing harm to civilians.

A powerful armed ethnic group in Myanmar known as the Arakan Army said last week it had won control over a town in the western state of Rakhine after weeks of fighting.

It has denied accusations that it targeted members of the Muslim-minority Rohingya during the offensive.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said that tens of thousands of civilians had been displaced by the fighting in the townships of Buthidaung and Maungdaw, with an estimated 45,000 Rohingya fleeing near the border with Bangladesh to seek protection.

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A part of the walkway along the Buriganga has caved in at Kadamtali in Narayanganj's Pagla due to a lack of maintenance. Berthing of cargo vessels for unloading sand and bricks in the area also causes damage to the walkway. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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