



Teknaf to Tentulia economic corridor on the horizon

ADB pitches \$79 billion plan over 20-year period to decongest Dhaka, Ctg

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed a 20-year development plan involving about \$79 billion to build a major economic corridor from Teknaf to Tentulia with the view to decongesting Dhaka and Chattogram, in line with the BNP's election manifesto.

The plan, titled North-West Dhaka South-East Economic Corridor, envisages investments of \$20 billion in the first three years, \$45 billion over the following seven years and the remainder over the final decade, The Daily Star has learnt from officials with direct knowledge of the matter.

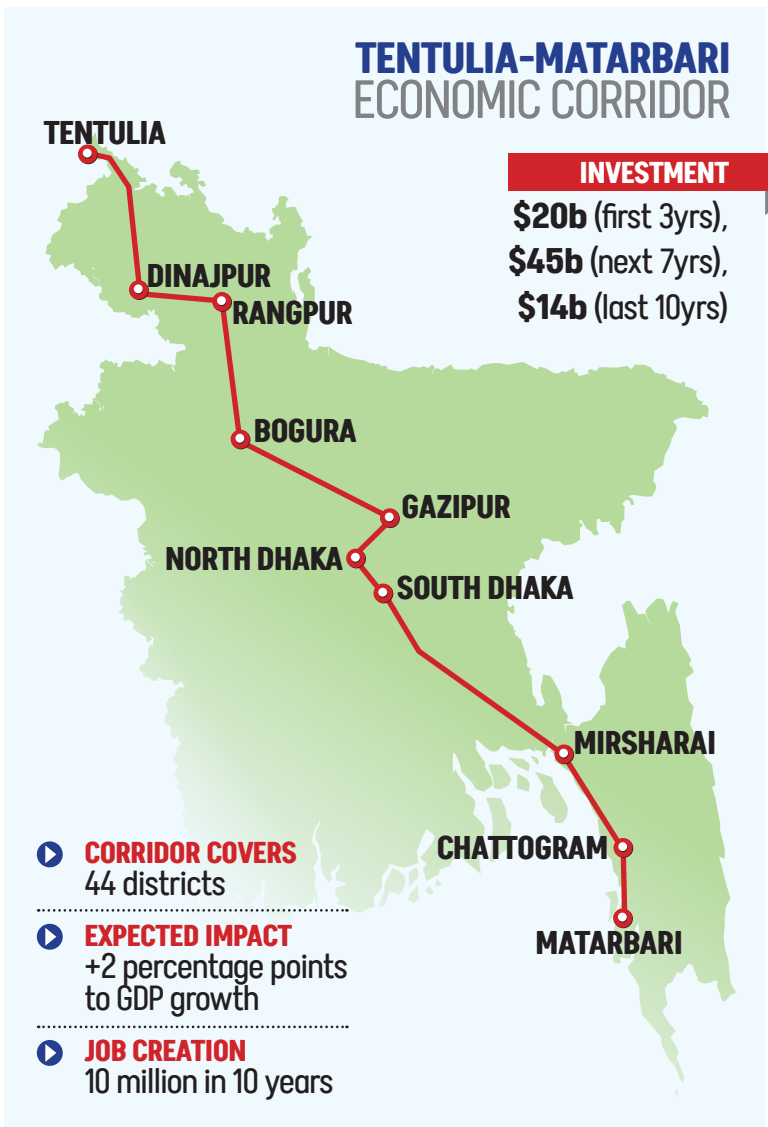
The proposed corridor would connect Matarbari, Chattogram, Mirsharai, Dhaka North and South, Gazipur, Bogura, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Tentulia. Development activities would span a 100-kilometre belt -- 50 kilometres on each side of the route -- covering 44 surrounding districts.

Special focus would be given to building suitable health, education, power and energy infrastructure so that people would be compelled to shift from Dhaka and Chattogram.

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Under a sky heavy with clouds, farmers in Matian Haor of Tahirpur race against the clock to bring home their golden paddy before the impending rains. For them, the harvest is more than grain -- it's the lifeline that sustains the family. In Sunamganj's haor belt, uncertainty hangs as the looming flash flood forecast threatens to wash it all away. PHOTO: COLLECTED



Nuclear fuel loading starts at Rooppur power plant

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant officially began fuel loading into one of its two units yesterday afternoon, marking a historic moment in the nation's energy sector.

At least 300 megawatts of electricity are expected to be supplied to the national grid within the next three months.

Located on the banks of Padma in Pabna's Ishwardi, the \$12.65 billion RNPP was built with Russian technology. The first concrete was poured on November 30, 2017, when the Awami League government was in power. Delays due to unavoidable circumstances like Covid-19 pandemic and Ukraine-Russia war, the country's debut nuclear plant has finally entered its operational phase.

"It will take 30 to 40 days to complete the fuel loading," said Md Zahedul Hasan, managing director

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'I couldn't bring a single grain home'

Relentless rain, embankment breaches, labour crisis push haor farmers to brink

STAR REPORT

Across the haor districts of northeastern Bangladesh, thousands of farmers are losing their only annual harvest to a combination of record pre-monsoon rainfall, breached embankments, and an acute shortage of harvesters and labourers.

"My golden paddy fields were destroyed. I couldn't even bring a single grain home. How can I sustain my family?" Ratan Mia, a farmer from Kalimpur village in Kishoreganj's Austagram upazila, said while sitting on the bank of a submerged haor that swallowed his 10 acres of paddy.

Forecasters warn that the worst is still ahead, citing a possibility of flash floods on the horizon.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday issued a 72-hour alert warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall across the entire northeastern haor basin.

"Water levels of all rivers in the region are rising fast, and the low-lying areas in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Netrokona districts will be flooded in the next 72 hours," said the alert.

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Top gangster shot dead in New Market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A top-listed criminal was shot dead in front of Dhaka University's Shaheed Shahnewaz Hall in the New Market area around 8:00pm last night.

Khandokar Noyeem Ahmed Titon, 59, was released on bail in August 2024 after serving a long prison term. His name appeared second on the government's list of 23 top criminals in 2001. Investigators believe he was killed by his rivals in the underworld.



Titon

He was the brother-in-law of another notorious gangster, Sanjidul Islam Emon. Law enforcement sources said Emon himself is suspected of involvement. Emon was also suspected of orchestrating the daylight shooting of Tariq Saif Mamun, another top criminal, in Old Dhaka on November 10 last year.

Police said Titon was long involved in extortion and tender manipulation, among other criminal activities in

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JS heats up over Jamaat's role in '71 war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami MPs erupted in protest in parliament yesterday after ruling party lawmaker Fazlur Rahman said that it was a "double crime" for members of 1971 martyrs' families or freedom fighters to engage in Jamaat politics.

Freedom fighter Fazlur Rahman, speaking during the motion of thanks to the president's address, asserted that the Liberation War was unparalleled and could not be compared with any other movement.

His remarks sparked an uproar that raged for more than ten minutes, forcing Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad to rise to his feet and urge opposition members to restore order.

At one stage, treasury bench MPs also stood in protest, further escalating the chaos. Frustrated by the disorder, the Speaker remarked that the way lawmakers were behaving "would make children ashamed".

Fazlur said that the opposition leader stated that he himself comes from a freedom fighter's family and a martyrs' family and yet is involved in Jamaat politics.

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Eskayef begins making modern Novo Nordisk insulin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For millions of people living with diabetes in Bangladesh, insulin could soon become more affordable and easier to access, as Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd has begun producing modern penfill cartridges in partnership with Danish company Novo Nordisk.

To that end, Eskayef has entered a technology transfer arrangement with Novo Nordisk, which supplies roughly 40 percent of Bangladesh's insulin demand, marking a shift from reliance on imports.



Today's event is a step forward It is a new start for our country. It demonstrated that 'we can'.

SARDAR MD SAKHAWAT HUSAIN, health minister

The price of the locally manufactured products, expected to hit the market from next month, will be 18 percent lower than imported ones, while maintaining the same quality standards, officials said.

"Today's event is a step forward It is a new start for our country," Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain said at the launching event of the initiative at a city hotel yesterday.

"It demonstrated that 'we can'," the minister said, hailing the collaboration between the two companies.

The world's largest producer of insulin, Novo Nordisk has been supplying Bangladesh with NovoMix and

NovoRapid insulin products for more than two decades through shipments from its global manufacturing sites.

The penfill cartridges of NovoMix and NovoRapid are small pre-filled insulin containers used in injection pens, allowing patients to take more precise and convenient doses compared to traditional vial and syringe methods.

Under the new arrangement, these cartridges will be produced locally by Eskayef using Novo Nordisk's technology and manufacturing processes, aligned with international standards. Each batch will also be verified in Denmark to

ensure compliance with the company's global quality requirements.

Currently, more than 14 million patients in the country are living with diabetes and the burden continues to increase, creating an urgent need for local capacity, officials said.

Simcen Rahman, group CEO of Eskayef owner Transcom Limited, described the initiative as marking "a proud milestone".

"This achievement is the result of years of commitment, precision and collaboration," she said, adding that Eskayef has invested over \$30 million (around Tk 370 crore) in this project.

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Bottled soybean oil becomes scarce

B1



Dual demands of Shamim's No. 6 role

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আন্তর্জাতিক শব্দসচেতনতা দিবস ২০২৬

আর নয় শব্দদূষণ চাই মুক্ত জীবন

শব্দদূষণ শব্দশক্তি নষ্ট করে, মেধা বিকাশ বাধাগ্রস্ত করে ও জীববৈচিত্র্য ধ্বংস করে। আসুন শব্দদূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণে সচেষ্ট হই।

শব্দদূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণে সমন্বিত ও অংশীদারিত্বমূলক প্রকল্প পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়