

## Tunnel under Karnafuli River Opened

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the country's maiden underwater transport tunnel named "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel" through Karnaphuli river in the port city of Chattagram which includes amongst the comprehensive development schemes considering all aspects of overall development of Bangladesh. Opened on Saturday 28 October, 2023, at 11:40am in presence of a huge crowd at the KEPZ field in Anwara, will connect city's Patenga with Anwara upazila. The Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh, Yao Wen read out the good will message sent by Chinese President, Xi Jinping at the grand inaugural ceremony.



The tunnel measuring 9.39 km including approach road built at a cost of Tk 10,374.42 crore will open to traffic from 6:00am following Sunday, 29/10/2023. The tunnel's 2 tubes are spaced approximately 12 meter apart. Both tubes feature 2 lanes for traffic and a 5.35 km connecting road is situated at each end of the tunnel. Vehicles can move at a maximum speed of 60km through the tunnel. The tunnel will reduce the distance with Cox's Bazar and would also connect the Asian Highway. Construction of the tunnel has reached a milestone as it is a tunnel first of its kind in South-East Asia, strengthening connectivity between Bangladesh and neighboring countries including opening up significant economic opportunities for the people of the region.

## Train Service through Padma Bridge



The railway link between Dhaka and Bhanga was a dream of the local people of the region which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. The stretch from Dhaka to Bhanga(82km) is a part of the Padma railway project covering a distance of 172km up to Jessore. This part of the project will be completed by June, 2024. The PM with her family members and 50 other people from different professions boarded the 14-carriage special train from Mawa station and waved the green flag and blew whistle on the platform at 12:59pm. At 1:55pm the train arrived at the Bhanga Railway Station. Large number of rural people showed enthusiasm and greeted the premier by waving their hands on both side of the rail line. The 82 km line via the Padma Bridge is expected to significantly boost rail connectivity with the south-east.

## Metro Connects Uttara with Motijheel



Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Agargaon-Motijheel section on Saturday, November 4, 2023 around ten months after launching of metro service between Uttara and Agargaon. The trains will be operated for the public from next day. The 8 km section

of Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 would let people reach Motijheel from Uttara, a 20.10km route in half an hour, a commute that now takes 2 to 3 hours due to heavy traffic congestion. She opened the inauguration by flagging off a train at the Agargaon station at 2:30pm. The PM also unveiled the inauguration plaque of the construction of MRT-5 (northern route), kicking off the physical work of the county's third metro rail, a 20km line from Hemayetpur to Bhatara via Gabtali, Mirpur-10 and Gulshan will be implemented at a cost of Tk 42,239 crore with a deadline set for 2028.

## New Era in Connectivity in Port City



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the port city's first elevated expressway on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 which is expected to usher in a new era in connectivity and trade. The 16.50 km expressway will ease traffic congestion from the airport to Lalkhan Bazar area and cut travel time significantly while earlier it took 2 hours between the two points. Though inaugurated, the expressway will be opened to traffic as soon as the completion of all the facilities to support vehicular movement in December, 2023. The expressway has been named after ABM Mohiuddin Choudhury, former Mayor of the Chattagram City Corporation, stands as a remarkable enhancement to the connectivity of the port city with Southern part of Chattagram, effectively alleviating traffic congestion and optimizing the efficacy of the communication network. The updated cost of the project stands to Tk 4298.75 crore and fully funded by the government.

## Cox's Bazar Joins Railway Network

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated much anticipated Chattagram-Cox's Bazar dual gauge single line rail line at a program at the magnificent oyster shaped railway station near Cox's Bazar town at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 11, 2023. The railway line from Chattgram's Dohazari to Cox's Bazar, covering 102km and there are 9 stations have been built on the route. It was a desired dream of the people of Cox's Bazar area of post and pre independent era since for more than 50 years.

The iconic six storied railway station building stands on a plot of 29 acres at a cost of Tk 215 crore is provided with all kind of modern facilities for the tourists and passengers that includes – shopping mal, restaurant, children corner, mosque, 500 no. locker for keeping language for the tourists/passengers, ATM Booth, post office, tourist information booth and accommodation facility for 3-star standard hotel and etc. Built at a cost of 18,034.47 crore and financed by ADB is a part of the Trans-Asian Railway network.



## Foundation Stone laid for a Deep Sea Port

In March, 2020 Government has taken up the project to build the first deep-sea port in Matarbari aiming to enhance its port logistics capacity to boost export and import. Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Roads and Highways(RHD) is jointly implementing the Tk 17,777.20 crore project. The CPA is building the port while RHD is constructing the road to connect the port with the national highway and Japan is providing a loan for the project.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of the port's first terminal at the port site at 2:30 pm on Saturday, 11 November, 2023 which is likely to be opened by 2026. Although the construction of the terminal is yet to start, a 14.3 km artificial navigation channel, stretching from the terminal to the sea, has been built. According to the Shipping Ministry, the deep sea port will be a

game changer for Bangladesh economy as it would be able to handle container ships with a capacity of 8000 TEU.



## Matarbari Power Plant awaits Inauguration

As the part of Govt's long term development plan, the 2-units Coal-Fired Power Plant at Matarbari in Maheshkhali upazila under Cox's Bazar district awaits inauguration. It will go for its commercial production of electricity in December 2023. Of the total 1200MW capacity plant, first unit (600MW) has already been tested for experimental production successfully which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina on November-11, 2023. The plant is located on a plot measuring 1608 acre of land will be inaugurated in December, 2023 and will be built at a cost of Tk 16587 crore of which JAICA will contribute 80%. Under this project, a number of activities will be accomplished namely – i) Jetty for load-unloading of imported coal, ii) Electricity production plant, iii) Construction of township, iv) Electricity supply in the local area, v) Installation of electricity line and vi) Construction of connecting roads within the electricity plants and etc. Once it is commissioned, it will not only minimize the shortage of electricity but also assist in creating efficient manpower and job opportunity. A modern township will also be built centering the Matarbari power plant in near future.



## ESCB Training Courses

**1108. Electrical Services Design for Building and Industries(45th Batch):** Duration: Oct 06 to Oct 07 2023; Time: Everyday 10:00am to 5:00pm :, 12 hours , 02 classes; Registration Fee: Tk 4000/- per participant; Last Date of Receiving Nomination: 02 Oct, 2023; Venue: ESCB City Campus, IEB Headquarters. **1109. Fire Fighting System (FFS), Fire Detection System (FDS) & Fire System Assessment**

**(FSA) (35th Batch):** Duration: 7 to 12 Oct, 2023; Time: Everyday: 06pm - 09 pm, 12 hours, 4 Classes; Registration Fee: Tk4000/-per participant; Last Date of Receiving Nomination: 03 Oct, 2023; Venue: Training Lab, ESCB City Campus, IEB Headquarters.

**1110. Managing Projects Using PRIMAVERA P6(V-22.12 Latest Version) (26th Batch):** Duration: 09 to 25 Oct, 2023; Time: On Every Saturday, Monday & Wednesday: 06pm - 09 pm, 24 hours, 8 Classes; Registration Fee: Tk 8000/-per participant, Tk 7500/- for IEB Members, Tk 7000/- for fresh graduate engineers Last Date of Receiving Nomination: 03 July, 2023; Venue: Training Lab, ESCB City Campus, IEB Headquarters.

## IEB Celebrated Victory Day



Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) observed the 53<sup>rd</sup> Victory Day on December 16, 2023, Saturday most joyous day when the nation emerged victorious after a nine month liberation war in 1971 at the cost of the supreme sacrifice of three million martyrs and the honour of nearly half a million mothers and sisters. To commemorate the day, a large number of engineers including office bearers of IEB gathered in front of newly built Mukti Joddah Sriti Stambha within the IEB headquarters campus at 7:00 am. After the hoisting ceremony, they proceeded towards Savar National Memorial to pay homage to the martyred heroes of the soil for their supreme sacrifice in the liberation war of 1971 of our freedom struggle and thereafter to the house at Road No. 32, Dhanmandi R/A, placed flower wreaths to pay profound respect to the portrait of Bangabandhu Shiekh Mujibur Rahman, father of our nation.

## EDITORS' NOTE:

The issue contains brief news on the programs and updates of the progress of various development projects being executed under different departments/ organizations relating to civil engineering works in particular. It includes the progress of works namely – Tunnel under Karnafuli River, Train Service through Padma Bridge, Metro connecting Uttara to Motijheel, Joining Cox's Bazar to Railway Network, Laying foundation Stone of a Deep Sea Port including observance of Victory Day by IEB and programs of ESCB Training Courses.

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