

## PM inaugurates country's first metro rail

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Dhaka : Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated the country's first metro rail on December 28.

She opened a section of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 by unveiling a plaque at the playground of Uttara sector-15 at 11:04 am. The section of MRT Line-6 connects the capital's Agargaon to Uttara North.

Apart from PM, Sheikh Rehana; Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Rawshan Ara Mannan, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on road transport and bridges ministry; local AL MP Mohammad Habib Hasan, Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, DMTCL Managing Director MAN Siddique; MRT Line-6 Project Director Aftab Uddin Talukder; new Japanese Ambassador to Dhaka Iwama Kiminori and JICA Chief

Representative in Bangladesh Ichiguchi Tomohide took seats on the stage.

DMTCL is the implementing agency of the metro rail project.

When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took the stage, she highlighted the four milestones in the country's development that the inauguration of metro rail has brought about.

The PM said that there is a metro rail in Bangladesh is in itself an achievement.

Another milestone is that the trains will be run by electricity, making the project an environment friendly one.

The trains can be run remotely, and that is a milestone in the path towards a Smart Bangladesh.

It will also mark the advent of high-speed trains in Bangladesh, she said, adding that the trains can reach a speed of 110 kilometres per hour.

She said the first phase of the metro rail has been inaugurated, and the rest will be inaugurated soon.

Initially, a 12km section, from Uttara to Agargaon, of the 21.26km MRT Line-6 has been opened. The line up to Motijheel will be inaugurated a year from now.