



NATIONAL DAY OF SWITZERLAND

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

August 1, 2009

MESSAGE

ON the occasion of the National Day of Switzerland, I would like to extend the warm greetings and best wishes of the Government of Switzerland to the Government and the people of Bangladesh. I also extend my heartfelt greetings and good wishes to the Swiss residents here in Bangladesh.

The Swiss National Day commemorates an event that took place over 700 years ago. The day was chosen because August 1st 1291 was the date on which three Alpine cantons swore the oath of confederation, an act which later came to be regarded as the foundation of Switzerland.

This auspicious occasion affords me the opportunity to highlight the expansion and deepening of Swiss-Bangladesh relations. Our bilateral relations both at the government level and people level have increasingly developed with sincere understanding and mutual trust, reflecting the longstanding spirit of close and friendly relations. Over the last years, there has been substantial development of relations between the two countries in many aspects, including trade and investment, culture, development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is actively engaged in different sectors for the economic development and poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. The trade and economic relations between Switzerland and Bangladesh has become increasingly important in our bilateral relations. In 2008, the two-way trade between Bangladesh and Switzerland was around 257 million Swiss francs, an increase of around 20% over 2007. The Swiss investments in Bangladesh are also showing positive trends.

Switzerland and Bangladesh always had excellent relations based on mutual understanding and trust. I am confident that the relations will grow stronger in the years ahead.

Juerg Siegenthaler
Charge d'affaires a.i. of Switzerland to
Bangladesh

Switzerland's world heritage sites

SWITZERLAND currently has seven cultural sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In addition three natural regions have been listed as World Heritage Sites.

The six cultural sites on the World Heritage List are:

1. **Old City of Bern:** Goethe said that Bern was the most beautiful town he had ever seen. This praise is justified. Built on a hilled peninsula surrounded by the river Aar, the federal capital is an outstanding Baroque ensemble. It is also a positive example of how the structure of a medieval town can be preserved while meeting the increasingly complex requirements of a modern city. With its imposing rows of houses and its impressive roofscape, best seen from the top of the Gothic cathedral, its arcades, cellars, towers and numerous fountains, it invites visitors to take a stroll through the centuries.

2. **Convent St John in Müstair:** For more than 30



The city of Bern.

years archaeologists have been researching the secrets of this 1200-year-old monastery, probably founded by Charlemagne. Of outstanding value are the large early medieval cycle of wall paintings, from the 9th century, and the Romanesque imagery from the 12th/13th century. The Planta-Tower is said to be the oldest secular building still standing in the Alps. Important political, economical and religious outpost for the Carolingian empire and witness to the blooming of Christian culture, the convent is now a place of monastic life, cultural continuity, research and restoration.

3. **Convent of St Gall:** This convent is a perfect example of a great Carolingian monastery. From its foundation in the 8th century, on the tomb of the Irish monk Gallus, to its secularisation in 1805, it was one of the most important in Europe. Its library is one of the richest and oldest in the world and contains precious manuscripts such as the earliest-known architectural plan drawn on parchment. From 1755 to 1768, the conventual area was rebuilt in Baroque style. The cathedral and the library are the main features of this remarkable architectural complex, reflecting 12 centuries of continuous activity.

4. **Three Castles of Bellinzona:** This site is an outstanding example of a late medieval defensive structure guarding a key strategic Alpine pass. It consists of fortifications grouped around the castle of Castelgrande, which stands on a rocky peak looking out over the entire Ticino valley. Running from the castle, a series of fortified walls protect the ancient town and block the passage through the valley. A second castle, Montebello, forms an integral part of the fortifications, while a third one, Sasso Corbaro, stands alone on an isolated rocky

promontory. Together, they formed the southern bastion of the Alpine valleys.

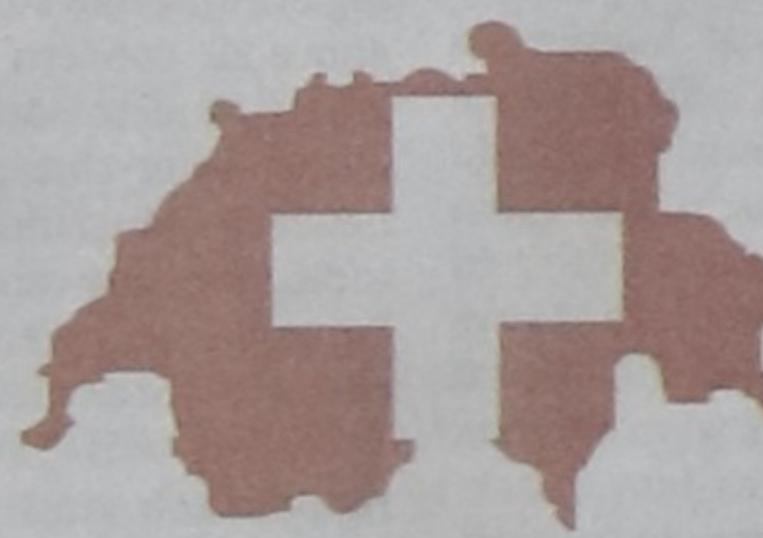
5. **Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces:** In the 11th century, monks were growing grapes on the slopes above Lake Geneva. Since then, generations of winegrowers applied and developed longstanding cultural traditions. Today, this still thriving cultural landscape covers 40 km along the lake shore and includes 14 villages and small towns.

6. **Rhaetian Railway:** This historic railway crosses the Swiss Alps through two passes and links Thusis, in canton

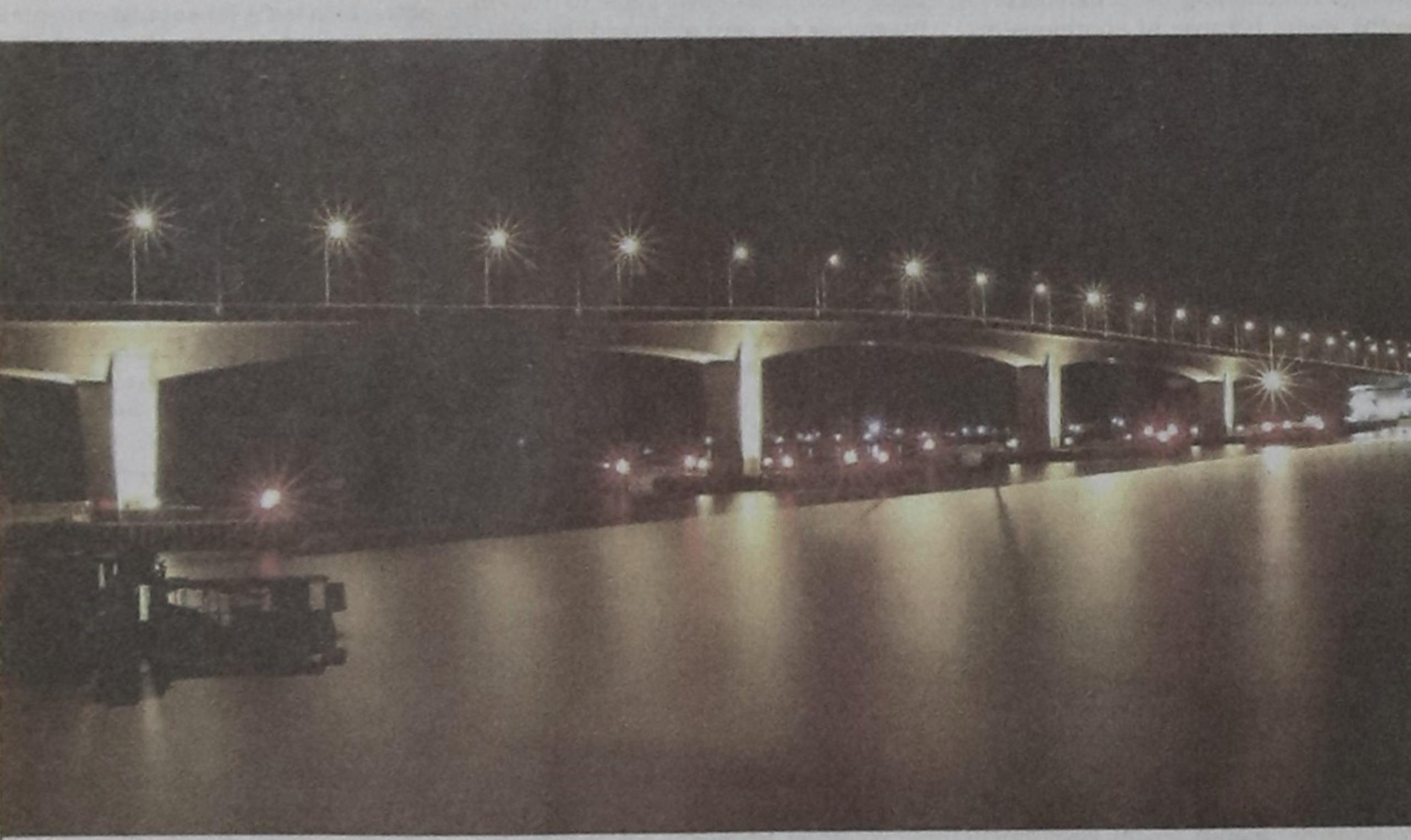
Graubünden, and Tirano, in Italy. Along its 128 km, it features an impressive set of structures including 55 tunnels and covered galleries and 196 viaducts and bridges. Its construction, in the early 20th century, strongly influenced the economic, social and cultural development in the Alpine region. The site is an outstanding technical, architectural and environmental ensemble and embodies architectural

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Swiss National Day



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Our commitment to Bangladesh helps us to serve the nation and its people.

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**Heartiest Felicitation and Best Wishes
on the Occasion of Swiss National Day**



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• Kusters CPB
• Knit / Woven



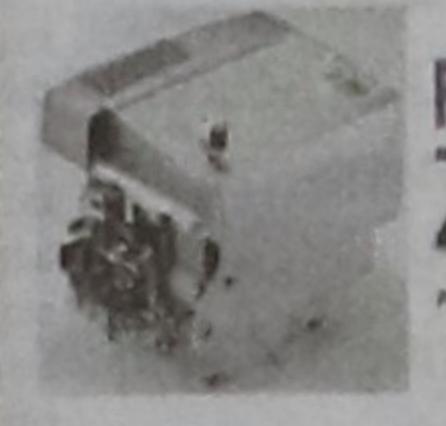
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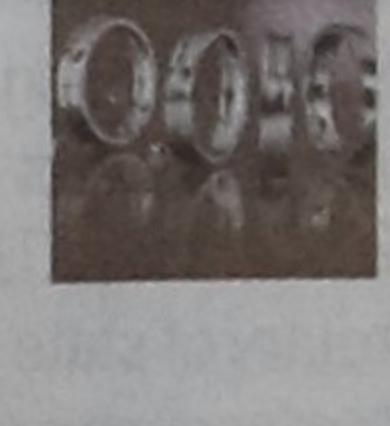
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