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# City to get 2 new flyovers by this year

**HELEMUL ALAM**

The long-awaited Kuril and Mirpur-Airport Road flyovers are likely to be completed by the end of this year as their construction work is going on in full swing.

Much progress has also been made in the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover project as 45 percent of its construction has been completed ahead of schedule and the rest is expected to be completed before June 2013.

Of the three projects, the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover, also known as Mayor Mohammad Hanif flyover, is being constructed under PPP (public private partnership).

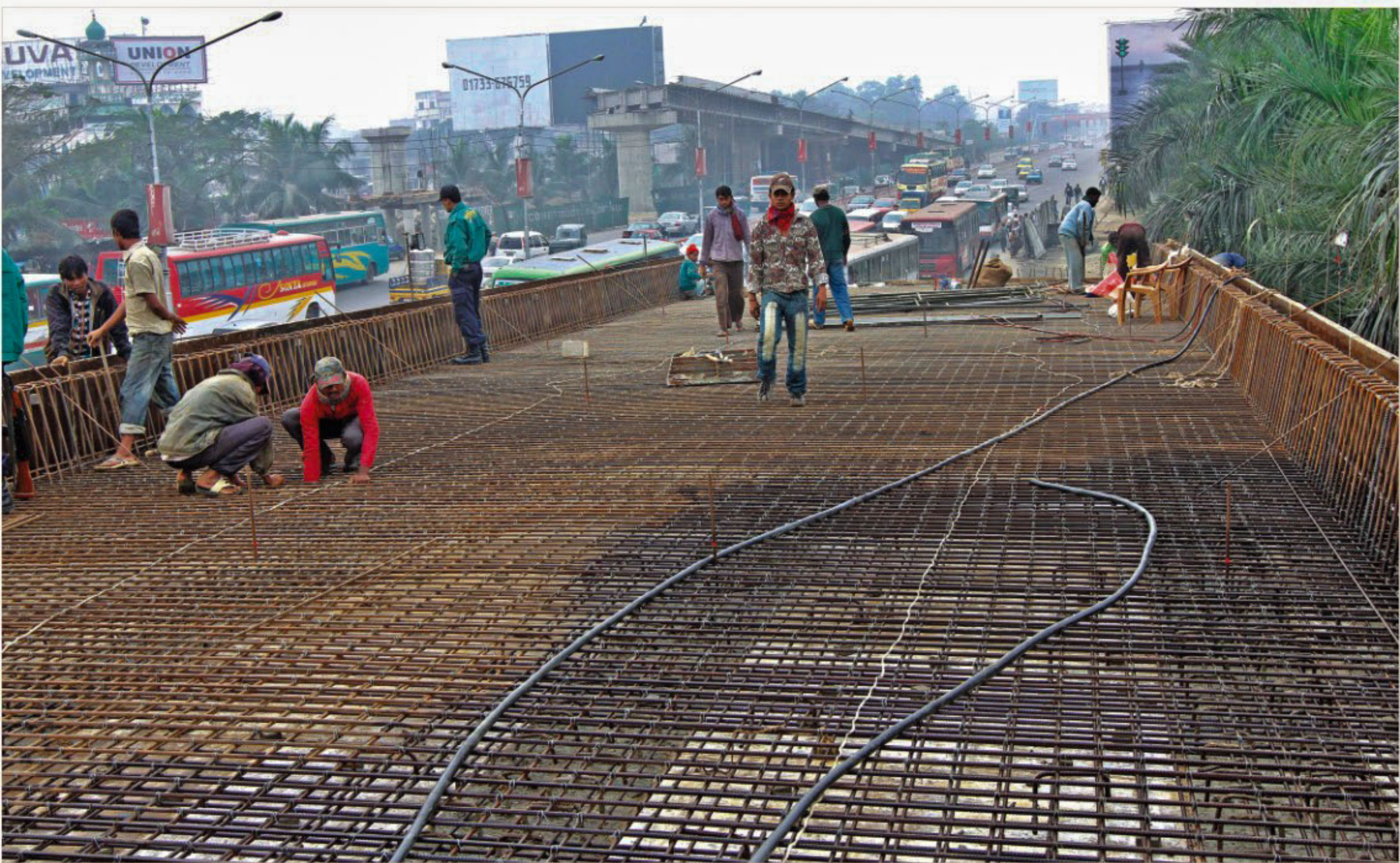
The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha is implementing the Kuril flyover project while the army the Mirpur-Airport Road flyover project.

Thirty five percent work of the 3.1 km Kuril flyover has been carried through, and the rest of the work is expected to be completed by December 12 this year, said Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda.

"We are even working round the clock to complete it within the stipulated time," he told The Daily Star.

The Rajuk chief also said that the project was delayed

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



Construction work of Mirpur-Airport Road flyover in the capital is going on in full swing. The flyover is expected to open for use this year. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Muhith irked by media comments on economy

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Irked by reports and comments on economic issues, Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday once again advised the media not to make daily comments and reports on economic issues.

He, however, said the government puts emphasis on consultation, open discussions and includes constructive suggestions for the economic development of the country.

"In Bangladesh, we are used to ad-hoc decisions, activities and comments. I have been asking for avoiding giving daily comments for the past several days," he said.

Noting government borrowing from banks, he

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Phani skips Police Week programmes

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Police Affairs Coordinator of the Home Ministry Phani Bhoushan Choudhury refrained from attending any programme of the ongoing Police Week yesterday, a day after he was inappropriately challenged by his junior colleague Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed at a meeting.

But Benazir was seen at

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

# Cautious policy on rental power

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

As 16 fuel based rental power projects are putting heavy pressure on the economy through huge petroleum imports, the government is now discouraging further rental power plants, a power division official said.

The cabinet committee on purchase last month sent back two proposals to the power division for installation of quick rental power plants at Satkhira and Bhairab, said the power division high official, wishing anonymity.

The committee asked the division to place the proposals again with statistics on existing plants based on a detailed study.

It also told the division to mention the sources of funding and energy for the proposed plants. The committee said the plants should not be dependent on a single source of energy for generating power, as it may prove problematic in the future.

It said there should be arrangements for producing power from liquefied

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## SAVAR TANNERY ETP work to begin after HC verdict

**STAR CORRESPONDENT**

The government will begin the construction of a central effluent treatment plant in Savar Leather Industrial Park on the city's outskirts soon after the High Court gives its verdict on a case, said Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday.

Briefing journalists on the achievement of his ministry after the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

# ADB to provide \$300m for energy infrastructure

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh yesterday signed a \$300 million energy infrastructure loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help the country address critical power shortage, which is undermining the economy and hindering poverty reduction efforts.

Iqbal Mahmud, secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Thevakumar Kandiah, country director of ADB, signed the deal at ERD in the capital.

The loan for the six-year Power System Efficiency Improvement Project will help meet Bangladesh's urgent need for more

energy-efficient generating plants and greater use of renewable power sources, said the Manila-based ADB in a statement.

According to Power Development Board sources, aging thermal plants, inadequate natural gas supplies and lack of diverse power sources left the country with a gap of estimated over 1,200 megawatts in 2011 between electricity supply and demand.

Still only 50 percent of people in Bangladesh have access to electricity, PDB sources added.

ADB said frequent power shortage and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



On the occasion of Bangladesh Chhatra League's 64th founding anniversary the ruling Awami League-backed student organisation brings out a celebratory procession in the capital yesterday, causing a traffic jam on a major thoroughfare of the city near Ramna Park.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY BCL factions clash in 2 dists 70 injured

**STAR REPORT**

Around 50 people were injured yesterday as two rival factions of BCL clashed over a stolen mobile phone at the 64th founding anniversary programme of the pro-Awami League student body in Charghat of Rajshahi district.

Golam Kibria, organising secretary of the district unit BCL led one faction while upazila BCL president Ekramul Haque the other.

Police said the clash started around noon when a BCL activist accused another activist of his rival faction of stealing his mobile phone during the celebration procession.

The altercation soon turned into chase and counter chase and the factions started to hurl brickbats at their rivals. At one stage they swooped on each other with rods.

The BCL activists then vandalised a bus. Many passengers were injured by the shards of broken glass.

Around 25 people including the bus driver were admitted to Charghat Health Complex for first aid, said hospital sources.

The activists also vandalised several shops and barricaded the Rajshahi-Charghat road for three hours. They also set tyres on fire in front of Sardaha Degree College.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## JU teacher jailed for contempt of court

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday ordered six months' jail of a Jahangirnagar University teacher for disregarding a court summons and contempt of court rule in connection with a "derogatory comment" about the prime minister on Facebook.

Muhammad Ruhul Amin Khandaker, a lecturer of the university's Institute of Information

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

## Riya was murdered Says autopsy report

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The two-and-half-year-old girl found dead at the Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound centre of Dhaka Medical College on Tuesday was murdered.

A post-mortem report revealed yesterday that she died of suffocation.

The autopsy found fingerprints on the girl's mouth indicating

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Settle graft issues first for funds Japanese envoy asks govt on Padma Bridge

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Japan is ready to provide fund as per its commitment for the construction of Padma bridge, but before that the government must have to complete the bidding process and settle the graft charges with the World Bank.

"Don't worry, money is there. We are committed to funding \$400 million for the construction of the Padma bridge," Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima said yesterday adding that "the pledge itself is a guarantee".

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

## PRESIDENT'S TALKS Demand for caretaker govt raised again

**BSS, Dhaka**

Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday urged President Zillur Rahman to take measures to restore the caretaker government system before the formation of a new Election

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

# MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES HR commission decides to probe

**TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY**

Against the backdrop of recent cases of secret killings and mysterious disappearances, National Human Rights Commission yesterday decided to engage itself in investigating such cases.

At a regular meeting at the commission office in the capital yesterday, the rights organisation decided to send a "fact find-

ing mission" to probe into one or two specific cases of enforced disappearance or secret killing, NHRC Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He, however, said the commission was yet to form the probe body.

Replying to a query, Mizanur said the investigation would begin as soon as possible. "The mission [probe body] will

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think Bangladesh Chhatra League will take action to control its activist to stop violence in the universities?

Yes

No

No Comments

7.7%

91.8%

0.5%

TOTAL VOTES: 558

TODAY'S POLL

How would you categorise MP Kamal Majumder's behaviour with RTV journalist Aparna Singha?

Acceptable

Outrageous

No Comments

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January 5

Fajr

5:30

6:05

Zohr

12:45

1:15

Asr

4:00

4:15

Maghrib

5:30

5:35

Esha

7:00

7:30

Islamic Foundation