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 Page: 30, 31 & 32, The Star weekend magazine  
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 PAGE 10-11

**WORLD MARKETING SUMMIT**  
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 PAGE B1

# Misdeed after midnight

Money changes hands as overloaded trucks cross weighbridge at Bangabandhu Bridge with ease

**M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Bangabandhu Bridge**  
 It was just after midnight on the western edge of Bangabandhu Bridge on International Mother Language Day and loaded trucks were queuing up at the toll plaza. A lot of heavily loaded trucks; the queue stretched for over a kilometre and they kept on arriving. They were queuing up at the weighbridge set up near the toll plaza, which was commissioned so that overloaded trucks do no pass and cause dam-

age to the expensive Bangabandhu Bridge. The official limit for a six-wheel truck is 16 tonnes but that mattered little. Trucks with a lot more load were allowed to pass and some with loads more than twice the limit was given the go-ahead. Some were not even weighed. The operators of the machine did not ask even one to unload the extra tonnes or refuse one to pass. The police were there too but they were not doing anything about it. Bangladesh Bridge Authority officials  
**SEE PAGE 6 COL 4**



Having bribed the toll collectors of Bangabandhu Bridge, overloaded trucks queue up on night of February 21 before the weighbridge at the western edge of the bridge. Even though the limit is 16 tonnes for any six-wheeler, no overloaded truck that has paid the bribe is denied passage.

PHOTO: M ABUL KALAM AZAD

## MARCH 1971 DU students raise flag of Bangladesh

**SYED BADRUL AHSAN**  
 March 2, 1971 dawned in East Pakistan with the population in a mood of outright rebellion. And that despite the fact that on the preceding day, when General Yahya Khan announced the postponement of the national assembly session, governor of East Pakistan Vice Admiral S M Ahsan had been replaced by zonal martial law administrator Lt Gen Sahibzada Yaqub Khan.  
**SEE PAGE 19 COL 4**

## DCC polls at end of May

**Schedule to be announced next month**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Polls to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will be held any day in the last week of May, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Zabed Ali said yesterday. Talking to journalists after a meeting of the Election Commission (EC), he said schedule of the election will be announced in the last week of next month. It will be the first major election under the new EC headed by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, who took charge early last month. The EC headed by his predecessor ATM Shamsul Huda in April 2010 had moved to hold the long overdue polls to the DCC in May the same year. But the Awami League-led government did not agree with the EC move. In November last year, the government split the DCC into two by amending the relevant law and made it mandatory for the EC to hold the polls by the end of February this year. But the Huda-led EC refused to do so due to time  
**SEE PAGE 19 COL 1**

## BNP faces dilemma over backing candidates

**RAKIB HASNET SUMAN**  
 Although the BNP high-ups are split over backing candidates in the upcoming Dhaka City Corporations (DCC) polls, the party's mid-level leaders are largely in favour of endorsing the aspirant fellows. A group of leaders are planning to put pressure on the party policymakers for not boycotting the polls considering the "anti-government sentiment" among the people, party insiders said. The elections to the bifurcated DCC will be held in May. The main opposition has already boycotted the  
**SEE PAGE 7 COL 5**

## RPO given a dodge

**At least 6 contested JS polls despite being bill defaulters**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Ruling Awami League lawmakers ASM Feroz and Rahmat Ali were supposed to be declared disqualified as candidates in the ninth parliamentary election for defaulting on phone bills, according to the Representation of the People Order. At least four former lawmakers also contested the general election in 2008 despite being bill defaulters. They, however, were defeated in the polls. Feroz, a whip, and Rahmat Ali, chief of a parliamentary body, are still bill defaulters, according to information provided by Post and Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju in parliament yesterday.  
**SEE PAGE 19 COL 5**



## BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER Water 'nearly dries up in Arunachal'

Indian state govt suspects China might have diverted the int'l river by building dam

**STAR REPORT**  
 The river Brahmaputra that originates from Tibet in China has almost dried up at a town in northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, a state government spokesman says. People of century-old Pasighat town in East Siang district found that the water level of the river receded too much, said  
**SEE PAGE 6 COL 5**

## River-linking on priority

**Says Indian water minister**  
**OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi**  
 The Indian water resources minister yesterday said the issue of interlinking of rivers was high on the ministry's agenda but maintained it could not move ahead before taking states on board. "As far as the question of interlinking is concerned, the government is seized of the matter and it  
**SEE PAGE 6 COL 3**

## Indian HC's clarification, our reply

**The Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday sent a clarification to a news item headlined 'Issue bilateral, action unilateral' on our March 1, 2012 issue. Following is the full text of the clarification, signed by First Secretary (PP) Manoj Kumar Mohapatra:**  
 The High Commission of India in Dhaka strongly objects to the incorrect depiction of India's map in one of the most reputed  
**SEE PAGE 19 COL 1**

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