

# 6,600 Uttara flats construction begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday inaugurated the construction work of 6,600 apartments in the city's Uttara Sector-18 under Uttara Model Town (Third Phase) Project.

The construction of the 1250 square feet flats (A type) is expected to complete by next two and a half years, officials said.

Any Bangladeshi citizen can apply for the apartments by submitting Tk 3 lakh deposit money. Winning applicants will receive the flats in due time.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) has already invited applications for the apartments. The closing date for application is April 30.

Rajuk and Public Works Department are jointly implementing the project—building 6,600 apartments in 79 sixteen-storey buildings.

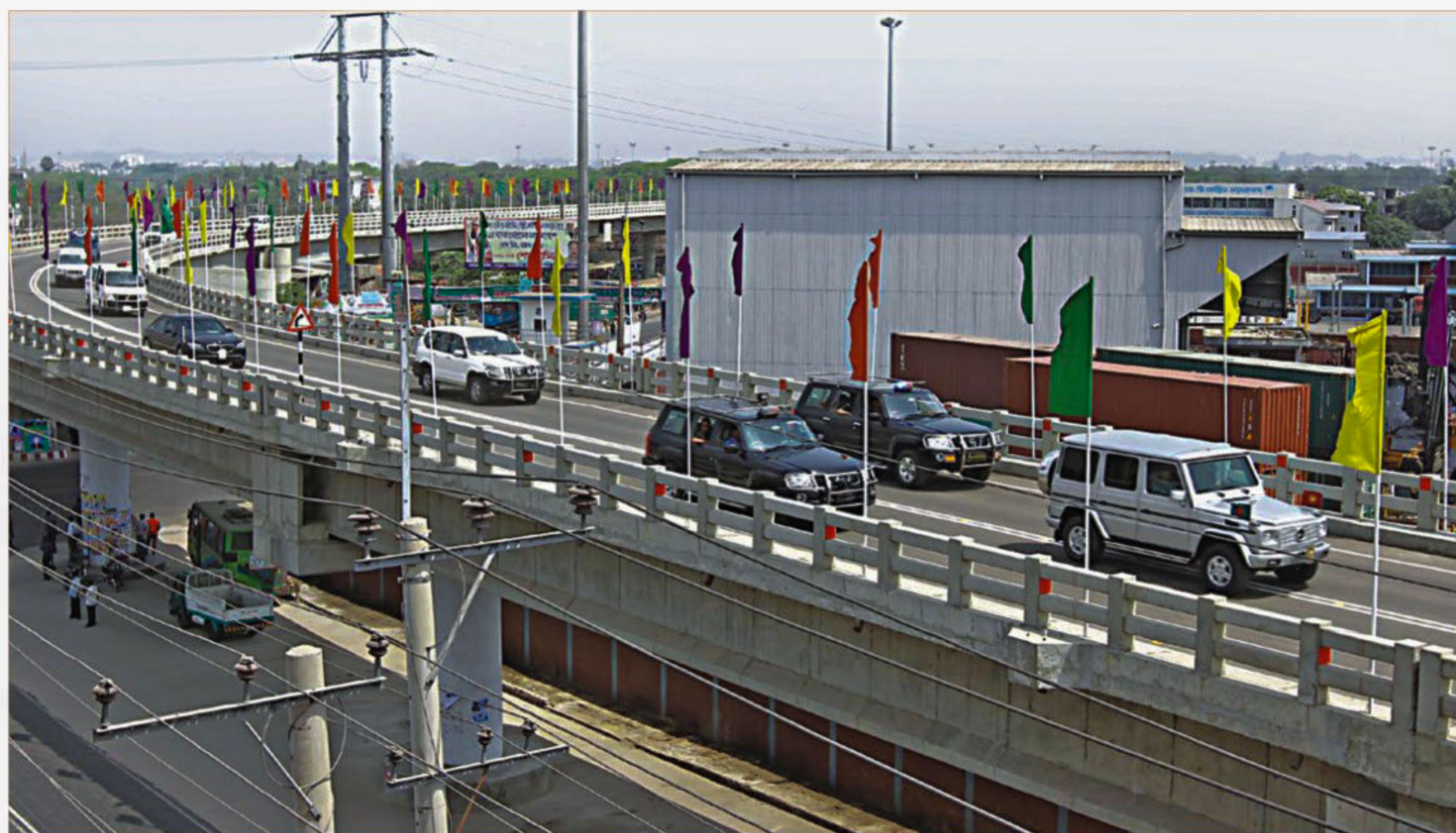
Under Uttara Apartment Project, the government will construct 20,160 flats in phases on 214.44 acres of land for people of low and middle income groups.

The project will cost around Tk 9030 crore.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan, who inaugurated the construction work yesterday, said there was a plan to build one lakh flats across the country.

Rajuk alone will build 50,000 flats, while the National Housing Authority and other departments will construct 50,000 more flats throughout the country, he said.

The government has already signed an agreement with the Malaysian government to construct 13,560 more apartments of B Type (1050 square feet) and C Type (850 square feet).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina travelling in a motorcade through the only flyover of Chittagong, after its inauguration yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# PM opens three power stations in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the operation of three power stations, each of 100 MW capacity, at Dohazari, Hathazari and Jaldia (Patiya).

She inaugurated the power stations by unveiling the replica of plaques from the Polo Ground in the afternoon, prior to the 14-party public meeting.

PM's Energy Adviser Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and Power Division Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were also present.

# Continued agitation disrupts JU activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academic and administrative activities were partially held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) as the agitating teachers' all-out strike continued to the second day yesterday.

A very few departments could hold classes and examinations due to the agitators' boycott of classes and all other professional activities to press home their demand.

The protesting teachers laid siege to the administrative building preventing all, including the registrar, from attending office. They also obstructed operation of the university transports.

A section of JU teachers under the banner "Shikkhak Samaj" launched a 10-day agitation Tuesday, demanding the resignation of the vice-chancellor as he denied their demands.

Their demands include stopping the appointment of teachers, holding elections for the post of the VC, senate, syndicate and deans, and giving punishment to ex-proctor Prof Arzu Miah.

Meanwhile, the VC has decided to talk to journalists at a press conference today to inform them of the current situation of JU campus.

# National body to celebrate maritime victory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national committee has been formed for countrywide celebration of the Bangladesh's maritime victory and for rewarding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the achievement.

Titled "Jatiya Nagorik Committee", the committee was formed at a meeting at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the city yesterday in the presence of eminent professionals from different sectors.

The committee, headed by noted educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, will sit on April 1 to chalk out detailed programme of the celebration.

Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif was made the member secretary of the committee.

On March 14, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, in a verdict, gave Bangladesh 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal rejecting the claims of Myanmar.

# Equal rights of people of all faiths ensured

PM says at foundation laying ceremony of Ctg Buddhist Monastery building

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government, through the fifteenth amendment to the constitution, ensured equal rights of people of all faiths as well as the right of performing respective religious rites freely.

She made the remark while laying the foundation of a 10-storey building for century-old Chittagong Buddhist Monastery at Nandankanan in the port city.

Sheikh Hasina said article 12 of the constitution does not permit any discrimination on grounds of religion.

Referring to the use of religion for political gains, she said the people of Bangladesh will no longer allow anybody to use the religion in political interest.

Hasina said trial of war criminals has already started and would be completed in the soil of the country despite obstructions from different quarters.

She urged all irrespective of religious identity to keep vigil against those who are trying to save the war criminals.

She also sought cooperation of all to turn Bangladesh as the most peaceful nation in South Asia.

Earlier, at the beginning of her daylong tour to Chittagong, the prime minister inaugurated the newly constructed flyover of the port city in Port Area yesterday morning.

The 1.42km flyover constructed at a cost of Tk 82 crore under the 'Chittagong Port Trade Facilitation Project' will help reduce congestion in the port and enhance the port's efficiency, significantly easing traffic knot on Airport Road and Port Connecting Road as well.

Hasina also laid the foundation of five dormitory buildings for female garment workers to be constructed at Saltgola Crossing near Chittagong EPZ at a cost of Tk 92 crore, inaugurated the 55metre rubber dam of Fatikchhari and the 10-storey LGED Building from the same venue.

Top Buddhist religious priest Dharmasen Mohasthir presided over the function which was also addressed, among others, by Industries Minister Dilip Barua.

In another event, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government officials to put in their best efforts so that the country could be developed within the shortest possible time.

"You're the employees of the republic, if you perform your duties properly there's no reason to have obstacles towards achieving progress," she said during a meeting with senior government officials of Chittagong at the Circuit House.

# AL, BNP urged to shun politics of confrontation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The unelected forces will again get an opportunity of interfering in the democratic system if two major political parties of the country do not shun politics of confrontation, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They made the observation at the roundtable on the state of Bangladesh politics organised by Shushasoner Janno Nagorik at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Political analysts, jurists and members of civil society also said the people of the country hoped that the two parties--Awami League and BNP--would give importance to a consensus to resolve political disputes by recalling the one-eleven experience of 2007.

"It is a matter of concern that the political confrontation that caused an intervention by the army [earlier], has been remaining for the last three years of the present government. So, the two major political parties have to avoid political standoff,"

said Dr Rownaq Jahan, a political analyst.

Rownaq Jahan said it was unfortunate that the two political parties are still engaged in confrontation and are yet to come any consensus over how the next general polls will be held.

Dr Kamal Hossain said it was clearly mentioned in the constitution that the people are the source of all power in the country. "Now, it is mentioned that the two political parties are the owners of the country."

He also stressed the need for holding discussions among the political parties to settle all disputes, including the much-talked about caretaker government system.

Prof Mozaffer Ahmad said, although the people of the country are conscious, they are yet to get or find any alternative in the country's politics. "I think we civil society members should work to create a third force in the country's politics," he added.

সৌন্দর্য, সাহসের যত গল্প  
The Daily Star  
**অদম্য চট্টগ্রাম উৎসব**  
৩০ মার্চ ২০১২ 'অদম্য চট্টগ্রাম'-এর বর্ণাঢ্য উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে আসুন আর উপভোগ করুন বৈচিত্রের সেরা উৎসব  
আপনার অংশ গ্রহণ ছাড়া অদম্য চট্টগ্রাম রয়ে যাবে অসম্পূর্ণ  
৩০ মার্চ ২০১২, চট্টগ্রাম এম.এ. আজিজ স্টেডিয়াম, সময়: বিকাল ৪টা  
॥ এই কুপনটি কেটে নিয়ে আসলে উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে প্রবেশ ফ্রী ॥ ॥ ফটোকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় ॥

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