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ROOPPUR N-PLANT

What Dhaka can expect from Moscow

SHARIER KHAN

Bangladesh has asked Russia to install a nuclear power plant at Rooppur having the safety and efficiency features of third generation nuclear reactor model VVER-1200 that Moscow stamps as the world's safest reactor.

"Our top priority in implementing this power plant is safety. So we asked Russia either to provide us with the latest technology having features of VVER-1200 or AES 2006 (another model)," said a senior official of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project (RNPP).

Bangladesh's grid is ready for a 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant and it aims at having two such units by 2021 in line with the country's power system master plan. This will help ensure 10 percent of the country's total electricity generation from nuclear power, and thus increase energy security.

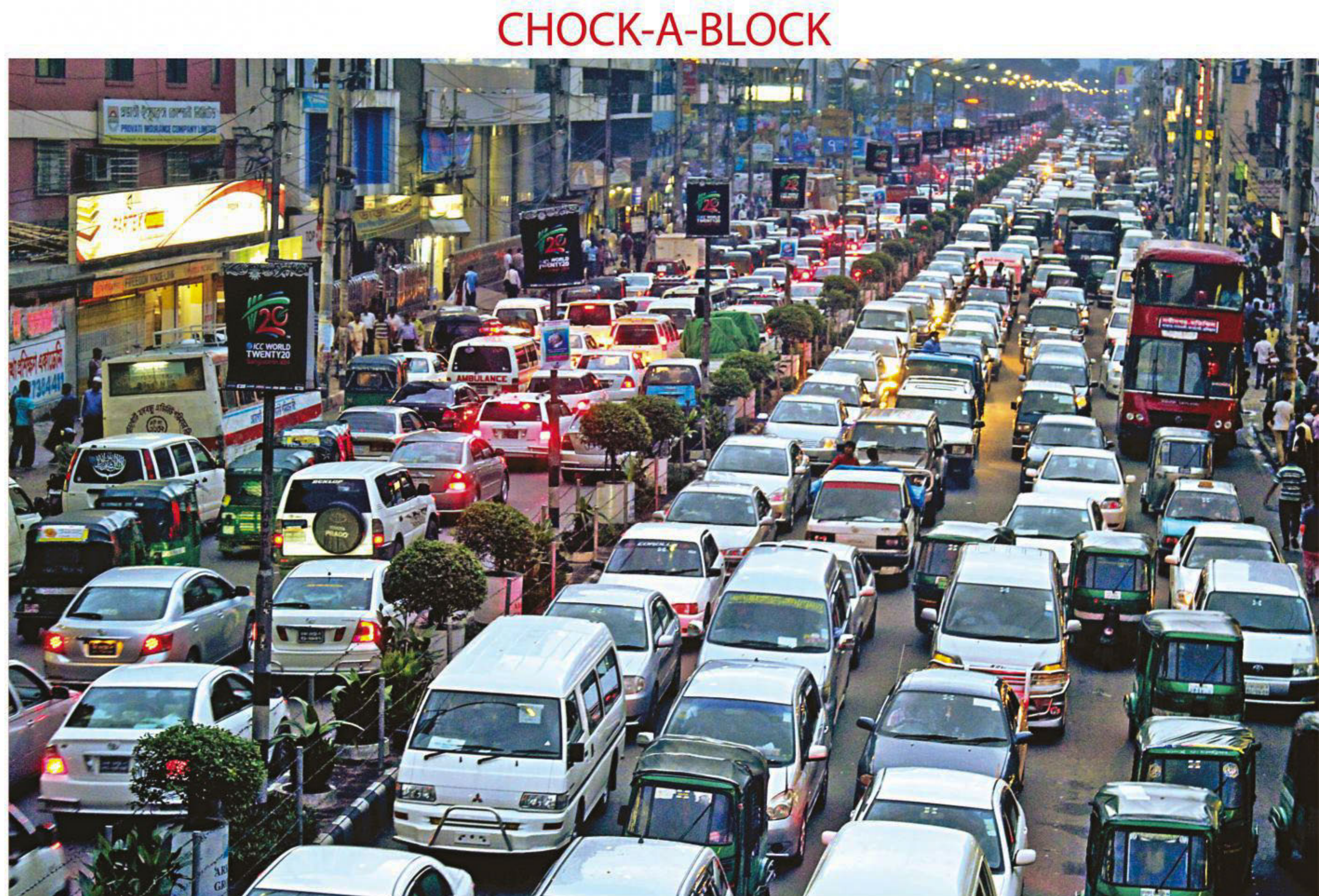
Each VVER reactor has a capacity of 1,200 MW. If Bangladesh wants to set up two such units, the government will have to build a robust and stable power grid so that such a large power plant does not have to shut down, and at the same time will be able to transmit power to distant areas.

As a base-load power plant, any nuclear unit must run at the minimum generation capacity of 92-93 percent. This also demands setting up a robust power grid, the official said.

At an international ministerial conference on nuclear power in St Petersburg that concluded June 29, Russia highlighted the features of this "water-water reactor"—which has a track record of no single serious event in its operation since it was developed. This reactor is being used in many new plants in Russia and abroad.

Russian state company Rosatom is installing it in its latest power plant "Leningrad 2" in St Petersburg. "Not a single existing plant is fitted with such a configuration of

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CHOCK-A-BLOCK

With engines running, cars stand still on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday evening. The rush before the approaching weekend and the heavy rain since afternoon caused serious congestion all over the city. In many places, citizens braved the rain and waded through knee-deep water to reach their destinations.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Indian envoy meets Khaleda

Submits response to BNP chief's allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India yesterday responded to various allegations made by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in parliament, including postponement of JRC meeting and floating of a tender for building a container terminal in Bangladesh.

Meeting the opposition leader at her Gulshan office last night, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran handed over his government's reply to the BNP chief's allegations, Khaleda's adviser Reaz

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5

WORKER SAFETY IN BANGLADESH

Of insults and injuries

THE ECONOMIST

The garment industry, so close to the heart of Bangladesh's economy, is smarting from a sudden suspension of its preferential access to the American market. On June 27th the White House issued a technical note faulting Bangladesh for "not taking steps" to enforce "internationally recognised worker rights". The suspension serves mainly a symbolic purpose, but it stings all the same. Ready-made garments, the mainstay of Bangladesh's exports, were not actually covered by America's Generalised System of Preferences programme (GSP). But it is well understood that the GSP was withdrawn in order to demonstrate America's persistent frustration

with over the sector's dire labour conditions and the fatality rate among its workers.

Removing the GSP should have little immediate effect on Bangladeshi RMG exports to America. What is being affected more broadly is the mood in the country, which has already been poisoned by the toxic state of its national politics.

In January 2013 the leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Khaleda Zia, published an hysterical op-ed in an American newspaper in which she called on America and Britain to take punitive action in response to the disasters, in order to "save democracy" from the Awami

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SQ CHY IN THE DOCK

Defence evidence goes against him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution at International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday showed a book, submitted by the defence of BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, in which he and his father were listed as war criminals.

During cross-examination of war crimes accused Salahuddin, who is the first defence witness in the case against himself, prosecutor Zaed Al Malum yesterday showed the book "Juddhaporadhider Talika and Bichar Prosongo" (List of war criminals and the context of trial).

Malum said on page-163 of the book there was a list under the headline: "Details of political members accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide". He said the list contained 106 names and Salahuddin and his father Fazlul

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BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT

Hope for HIV patients

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Two men who became free of HIV infection after bone marrow transplants have stopped taking Aids drugs without any sign of the virus returning, according to scientists.

Talk of a cure is premature, the doctors told the International Aids Society conference in Kuala Lumpur.

But the news will raise hopes that progress can be made towards a treatment that will not only keep the virus at bay but eventually eradicate it.

The two men, who had longstanding HIV infections, were given bone marrow transplants at the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Centre in Boston because they were suffering from cancers of the blood.

Tests showed that as their own cells were replaced by cells from the bone marrow donor, the levels of virus in their blood steadily dropped to undetectable.

One of the men stopped taking antiretroviral medication

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the proposed food safety law is strict enough to stop food adulteration?

Yes (17%)

No (83%)

TOTAL VOTES: 219

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Asian Development Bank's Social Protection Index that Bangladesh has poor social protection for the poor and the vulnerable?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING July 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Strong, silent husband

Woman marries a bridge in France

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

For the last 10 years Australian artist Jodi Rose has travelled the world recording the vibrations in bridge cables with contact microphones and using them to create experimental music.

You could say she has an almost intimate relationship with bridges, and recently she decided to make it official by marrying a mysterious bridge in the south of France.

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Brave cop dies trying to stop unruly bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policeman gave his life trying to stop a bus that was fleeing after hitting a rickshaw puller on the Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

The victim, constable Sohrab Hossain, 40, of the Highway Police was run over by a Naogaon-bound bus near Nabinagar Bus Stand around 1:00pm.

Before knocking him over, the Rocky Paribahan

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Dhaka South eyes more revenue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday announced its budget for the fiscal year 2013-14, keeping intact the Tk 375 crore allocation for the construction of Polashi-Gabatali elevated expressway.

The process of starting the feasibility study for the expressway was underway, said DSCC Administrator Mohammad Nozmul Islam after unveiling the Tk 1876.08 crore budget at Nagar Bhaban.

For the new fiscal year, the DSCC set the target of revenue income at Tk 558.75 crore. Last year, it realised Tk 320.17 crore against a target of Tk 459.18 crore.

It has kept the holding tax, the largest source of its

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