



The soil of the riverbed being tested before the piling work for the Padma bridge begins. The photo was taken at Janjira of Shariatpur yesterday.

# Massive road-rail work to follow

FROM PAGE 1  
 piling work of the main bridge by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.  
 The existing two-lane Dhaka-Mawa and Janjira-Bhanga roads would be expanded to four lanes for smooth traffic. "We don't need to acquire land for this."  
 A 13.32km flyover from the capital's Shantinagar to Dhaka-Mawa road via Babubazar bridge would be built at a cost of Tk 2,670 crore to ensure smooth passage of vehicles to and from the capital.  
 At the same time, a 76.17km railroad on both sides of the Padma has also been planned to boost connectivity in the region, said Quader.  
 The road transport minister said Bangladesh Army has already begun given the job of four-laning 55km stretches of Babubazar-Postagola-Mawa and Janjira-Bhanga roads by June 2019. The project would cost around Tk 5,000 crore. The Dhaka-

**FUTURE PLAN**  
 To give tourism a boost, a modern city modelled after Hong Kong would be built on the banks of the Padma near the bridge, he said.  
 There's also a plan to build an international airport there, he mentioned.  
 "A cantonment is being setting up while the 99 Composite Brigade of Bangladesh Army has already been shifted there."  
**AGAINST ALL ODDS**  
 The project faced numerous obstacles, conspiracies and other challenges from the very beginning, but all odds could be overcome due to the full support of the prime minister, said Quader.  
 "All credits go to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her determination, commitment and courage in taking the decision to construct the bridge with self-financing."  
 "Had the prime minister not remained firm on her commitment, construction of the Padma bridge

implementing such a mega project, especially after the WB withdrew from the project on graft allegations.  
 Quader, however, said they maintained 100 percent transparency so far.  
 "We have adopted 'zero-tolerance' policy on corruption. Since the project director, my secretary and I are fully transparent, there will be no room for corruption. I have made this clear."  
 Although the WB's corruption allegations proved false, "it made us extra careful," he says.  
 He faced tremendous pressure from influential people, ministers, lawmakers and party leaders to award them contracts related to the project, Quader claimed.  
 "There was huge pressure on me even from my district to recruit workers in the project. But I did not compromise on a single occasion. My leader [Hasina] has given me full protection."  
 "If any influential person wants



Chittagong highway would also be connected with Dhaka-Mawa road through a four-lane road.  
 "The Bhanga-Benapole road via Kalna and the Bhanga-Kuakata road via Lebukhali of Patuakhali would also be expanded to develop road infrastructure in the southern region," said Quader, adding that the proposed Pairst deep seaport in Patuakhali will also reap the benefits of the bridge.  
 Expansion work of the 135km Bhanga-Benapole and the 241km Bhanga-Kuakata roads will begin in July next year. The first project involving Tk 7,273 crore is scheduled to end in July 2020 and the second one involving Tk 9,800 crore in 2021.  
**REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**  
 The minister believes the Padma bridge, once in operation, will contribute to the country's socio-economic development by boosting regional connectivity.  
 As part of the proposed Asian Highway Network, the bridge will facilitate transit with India.  
 "Our interests will be prioritised in giving transit facilities to India. We cannot live in isolation. But we won't harm the country's interests for friendship with others," said the minister.

would not have been possible," he says.  
 "Eviction of the local people and land acquisition on both sides of the Padma was the toughest challenge at the beginning. And I had to visit Mawa and Janjira many times for this."  
 The road transport minister says he has visited Mawa 135 times and Janjira 66 times since the project started in 2012.  
 "I am grateful to all the people who gave away their ancestral land and homes in the country's interests."  
 Even the tendering process was not easy either, he continues.  
 "Some showed interests and some refused to proceed with the project after the World Bank cancelled its loan agreement. Our senior and junior colleagues in the cabinet too had doubts as to whether we would be able to construct the bridge with our own funds."  
 Planning the river training was the most crucial job, Quader says.  
 "To my knowledge, there are two unpredictable rivers in the world. One is the Amazon and the other is the Padma. The details of the river training have been worked out after extensive studies on the Padma's behavioural pattern."  
**PREVENTING CORRUPTION**  
 Corruption was always a concern in

any contract, she [Hasina] has told me to send them to her," said the minister.  
 Besides, a technical evaluation committee headed by Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury is strictly monitoring the expenses.  
 Quader also praised the army's role in the project. "Had the army not been there, going ahead with such a huge task would not have been easy."  
**Death toll rises to 42 in Afghan hospital strike: MSF**  
 AFP, Kabul  
 The death toll from a devastating US air strike on an Afghan hospital in October has risen to 42, medical charity MSF said Saturday, citing an internal probe as pressure grows for an international inquiry.  
 The October 3 bombing of the hospital in the northern city of Kunduz during a Taliban offensive forced the facility to close and sparked an avalanche of global condemnation.

# AL, BNP

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 hope it will happen again," Tofazzal Hossain, the incumbent mayor and an AL rebel candidate at Sujanagar in Pabna, told The Daily Star.  
 In Jaldhaka municipality of Nilphamari, AL rebel candidate for mayoral post Ilias Hossain Bablu claimed he was facing pressure from the party to quit.  
 "But I am determined to run as people are with me. By winning, I want to show that the party selection was wrong," he said.  
 The municipalities, where AL is facing strong rebel candidates, include Chatmohor, Sujanagar and Pabna sadar, Khoksha municipality of Kushtia, Narsingdi sadar, Muladi of Barisal, Badarganj of Rangpur and Shibganj of Chapainawabganj.  
 The BNP has rebels at Chapainawabganj sadar, Madhabdi and Monohordi of Narsingdi, Rangunia and Potia of Chittagong, Habiganj sadar, Betagi of Barguna, Hosenpur of Kishoreganj, Tangail sadar and Birampur of Dinajpur, among other places.  
 The party, however, is still hoping that its dissidents will withdraw their nomination papers by today.  
 So far, some 20 BNP rebels have agreed to withdraw their nomination papers after discussion with central leaders, said Mohammad Shajahan, a joint secretary general of the party.  
 Meanwhile, BNP candidates and their supporters are facing obstructions in electioneering in some municipalities, including Muladi, Banaripara and Mehendiganj of Barisal, Kotchandpur and Maheshpur of Jhenidah and Savar in Dhaka, report our correspondents.  
 Some BNP candidates cannot campaign for fear of police harassment as they are accused in different cases. Several candidates are hiding to avoid pressure from the ruling party to pull out, party leaders claimed.  
 BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhruddin Alamgir at a function yesterday alleged that the government resorted to repressive acts to thwart its "possible debacle" in the municipal polls.  
 Meanwhile, the election office has validated the candidacy of BNP leader GK Gaus for the post of Habiganj municipal mayor, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.  
 Gaus is now in jail and an accused in the murder of ex-finance minister SAMS Kibria.  
 Allocation of polls symbol is scheduled to take place tomorrow.

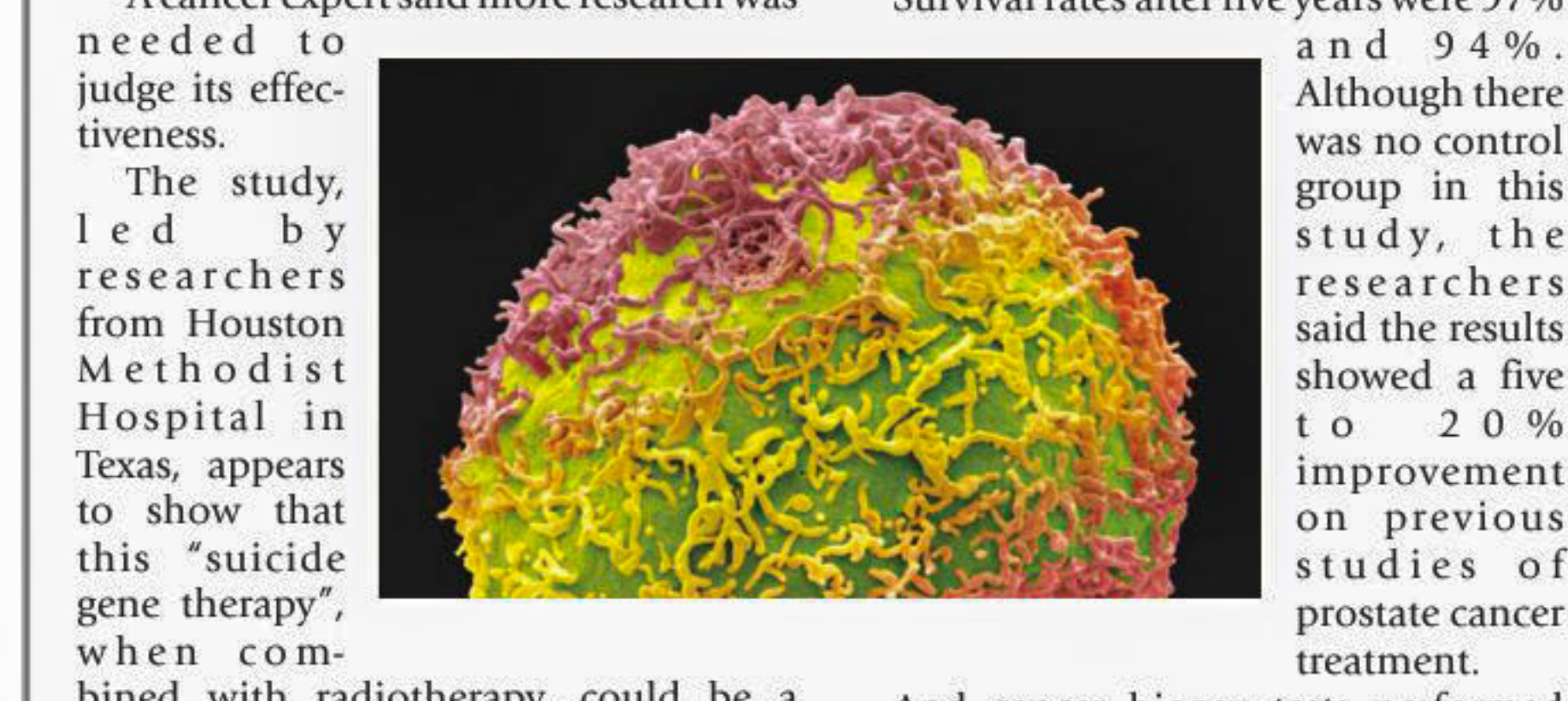
# Suicide bomber kills six on Iraq-Saudi border

AFP, Baghdad  
 A suicide bomber attacked an Iraqi position on the border with Saudi Arabia on Saturday, killing six guards, including a commander, officials said.  
 The attack by the bomber, who detonated an explosives-rigged vehicle at the headquarters of the Hafir Zawayih border post in Iraq's vast Anbar province, also wounded 14 guards.  
 An army lieutenant colonel said the bomber was dressed in a military uniform with captain's insignia and was driving an explosives-rigged military vehicle.  
 Hussein al-Goli, a lieutenant colonel in the border guards, was among the dead, the army officer said.

# Gene therapy kills prostate cancer cells

BBC ONLINE  
 Using a virus to carry the gene therapy into the tumour cells, the result is that the cells self-destruct, alerting the patient's immune system that it is time to launch a massive attack.  
**GOOD SURVIVAL**  
 In two groups of 62 patients, one group received the gene therapy twice and the other group -- who all had more aggressive prostate cancer -- received the treatment three times.  
 Both groups also received radiotherapy.  
 Survival rates after five years were 97% and 94%.  
 Although there was no control group in this study, the researchers said the results showed a five to 20% improvement on previous studies of prostate cancer treatment.

A new gene therapy technique is able to modify prostate cancer cells so that a patient's body attacks and kills them, US scientists have discovered.  
 The technique causes the tumour cells in the body to self-destruct, giving it the name "suicide gene therapy".  
 Their research found a 20% improvement in survival in patients with prostate cancer five years after treatment.  
 A cancer expert said more research was needed to judge its effectiveness.  
 The study, led by researchers from Houston Methodist Hospital in Texas, appears to show that this "suicide gene therapy", when combined with radiotherapy, could be a promising treatment for prostate cancer in the future.



The technique involves the cancer cells being genetically modified so that they signal a patient's immune system to attack them.  
 Usually, the body does not recognise cancer cells as the enemy because they have evolved from normal healthy cells.  
 Unlike an infection, which the body reacts against, the immune system does not react to kill off the offending cancer cells.  
 And cancer biopsy tests performed two years after the trial were found to be negative in 83% and 79% of the patients in the two groups.  
 Dr Brian Butler, from Houston Methodist Hospital in Texas, said it could change the way that cancer is treated.  
 "We may be able to inject the agent straight into the tumour and let the body kill the cancer cells."  
 "Once the immune system has knowledge of the bad tumour cells, if they pop up again, the body will know to kill them."

# World agrees landmark deal

FROM PAGE 16  
 Some aspects of the agreement will be legally binding, such as submitting an emissions reduction target and the regular review of that goal.  
 However, the targets set by nations will not be binding under the deal struck in Paris.  
 Observers say the attempt to impose emissions targets on countries was one of the main reasons why the Copenhagen talks in 2009 failed.  
 At the time, nations including China, India and South Africa were unwilling to sign up to a condition that they felt could hamper economic growth and development.  
 The latest negotiations managed to avoid such an impasse by developing a system of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).  
 In these, which form the basis of the Paris agreement goal of keeping global temperature rise "well below" 2C (3.6F) above preindustrial levels, nations outline their plans on cutting their post2020 emissions.  
 An assessment published during the two-week talks suggests that the emission reductions outlined in the INDCs submitted by countries will only limit global temperature rise by 2.7C.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
 ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর  
 কাজী আলাউদ্দিন রোড, ঢাকা

স্মারক নং-এফএসডি/সিডি/রেশন/ক-০১/২০১৩/১২৪৩২ তারিখঃ ২৬/৮/১৪২২ বঙ্গাব্দ ১৩/১২/২০১৫ খ্রিঃ

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তরের অধিনস্থ (বৃহত্তর সকল জেলা) (টাঙ্গাইল জেলা ব্যতীত) সহকারী পরিচালকের দপ্তর।
২।	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	স্থানীয় উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)।
৩।	অর্থের উৎস	:	রাজস্ব বাজেট ("৪৮৭০" - খাদ্যদ্রব্য সংগ্রহ)।
৪।	টেডারের নাম	:	ক) ভোক্তা তৈল সয়াবিন (ভিটামিন-'এ' সমৃদ্ধ) বিএসটিআই অনুমোদিত ১ লিটার, ২ লিটার, ৫ লিটার প্লাস্টিক কন্টেইনারে সরবরাহযোগ্য। খ) মত্তর ডাল (উন্নতমানের দেশী ছোটদানা) প্রতি গ্রামে ৪০-৪৫টি দানা থাকতে হবে।
৫।	টেডারদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	বিভিন্ন পোশাকধারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে রেশনসামগ্রী সরবরাহকারী/প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/আমদানীকারক প্রতিষ্ঠান।
৬।	টেডার সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ ও সময়	:	১৪/১২/২০১৫ হতে ০৩/০১/২০১৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)।
৭।	সিডিউলের মূল্য	:	প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা, ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)।
৮।	টেডার সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান ও সরবরাহের স্থান	:	সহকারী পরিচালকের দপ্তর, ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স ঢাকা, ময়মনসিংহ, জামালপুর, ফরিদপুর, চট্টগ্রাম, বান্দরবান, রাঙ্গামাটি, কুমিল্লা, নোয়াখালী, সিলেট, খুলনা, যশোর, কুষ্টিয়া, রাজশাহী, পাবনা, বগুড়া, বরিশাল, পটুয়াখালী, রংপুর ও দিনাজপুর।
৯।	টেডার দাখিলের স্থান	:	সহকারী পরিচালকের দপ্তর, ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স ঢাকা, ময়মনসিংহ, জামালপুর, ফরিদপুর, চট্টগ্রাম, বান্দরবান, রাঙ্গামাটি, কুমিল্লা, নোয়াখালী, সিলেট, খুলনা, যশোর, কুষ্টিয়া, রাজশাহী, পাবনা, বগুড়া, বরিশাল, পটুয়াখালী, রংপুর ও দিনাজপুর এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলাসমূহের (বৃহত্তর সকল জেলা) (টাঙ্গাইল জেলা ব্যতীত) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় ও পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়।
১০।	টেডার দাখিলের তারিখ	:	০৪/০১/২০১৬ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	টেডার জামানত	:	সংশ্লিষ্ট সহকারী পরিচালক কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।
১২।	টেডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৪/০১/২০১৬ তারিখ বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা।
১৩।	সরবরাহের সময়	:	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির পর ৭ (সাত) দিন।
১৪।	টেডারের বৈধতা	:	দরপত্র দাখিলের পর কমপক্ষে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।
১৫।	পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর নীতিমালা ও টেডার সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী প্রতিপালন সাপেক্ষে টেডার দাখিল করতে হবে।	:	
১৬।	টেডার দাখিল ও খোলার দিন যদি সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটি ঘোষণা করা হয়, সে ক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবস টেডার দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসেবে গণ্য হবে। টেডার খোলার সময় টেডারদাতা/প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।	:	
১৭।	কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক কার্যাদেশের জন্য নির্বাচিত টেডারদাতাকে কার্যাদেশের পূর্বে কার্য সম্পাদন জামানত বাবদ মোট মূল্যের ১০% হারে (শতকরা দশ) টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার/বাংক ড্রাফট/বাংক গ্যারান্টির মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার সহকারী পরিচালক এর বরাবরে প্রদান করে চুক্তিপত্র সম্পাদন করতে হবে।	:	
১৮।	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	:	

আনিস মাহমুদ  
 যুগ্মসচিব  
 পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)

জিডি-৩৮৫২