



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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Your Right to Know

RABUS SANI 7, 1437 HIJRI

The Daily Star-BSRM roundtable on "PaDMA BRIDGE -- NeW LIFELINE OF DeVELOPMENT" was held on January 9. A special supplement on this roundtable appears on page 8 & 9 in today's newspaper.

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVI No. 5 | MAGH 5, 1422 BS | 20 PAGES PRICE : Tk 12.00

## Int'l sanctions on Iran lifted

IAEA finds Tehran complied with nuke terms; Rouhani announces 'golden page' in country's history; new US sanctions over missile

AGENCIES

Iran has reentered the global economy as years of crippling international sanctions ended in exchange for the verified disabling of much of its nuclear infrastructure.

For Iran, implementation of the landmark deal it finalised with six world powers last summer means immediate access to more than \$50 billion in long-frozen assets and freedom to sell its oil and purchase goods in the international marketplace.

Tehran has hailed the deal as vindication of its power and influence in the world.

"Today marks the start of a safer world," said Secretary of State John F Kerry. "We understand this marker alone will not wipe away all the concerns the world has rightly expressed about Iran's policies in the region. But we also know there isn't a challenge in the entire region that wouldn't become much more complicated, much worse, if Iran had a nuclear weapon."

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### OVERVIEW

#### Int'l SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

##### UNITED NATIONS

Dec 2006

Imposes economic and commercial sanctions against 10 entities linked to Tehran's nuclear and ballistic programmes. Their assets and those of 12 individuals are frozen.

MaRCH 2007

Freezes the assets of 13 new entities linked to the nuclear programme of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. There is also an embargo on Iranian arms purchases and restrictions on loans to Iran.

MaRCH 2008

Imposes a foreign assets freeze and travel ban on key players in the nuclear programme and forbids the supply of dual-use items (civilian and military) to Iran.

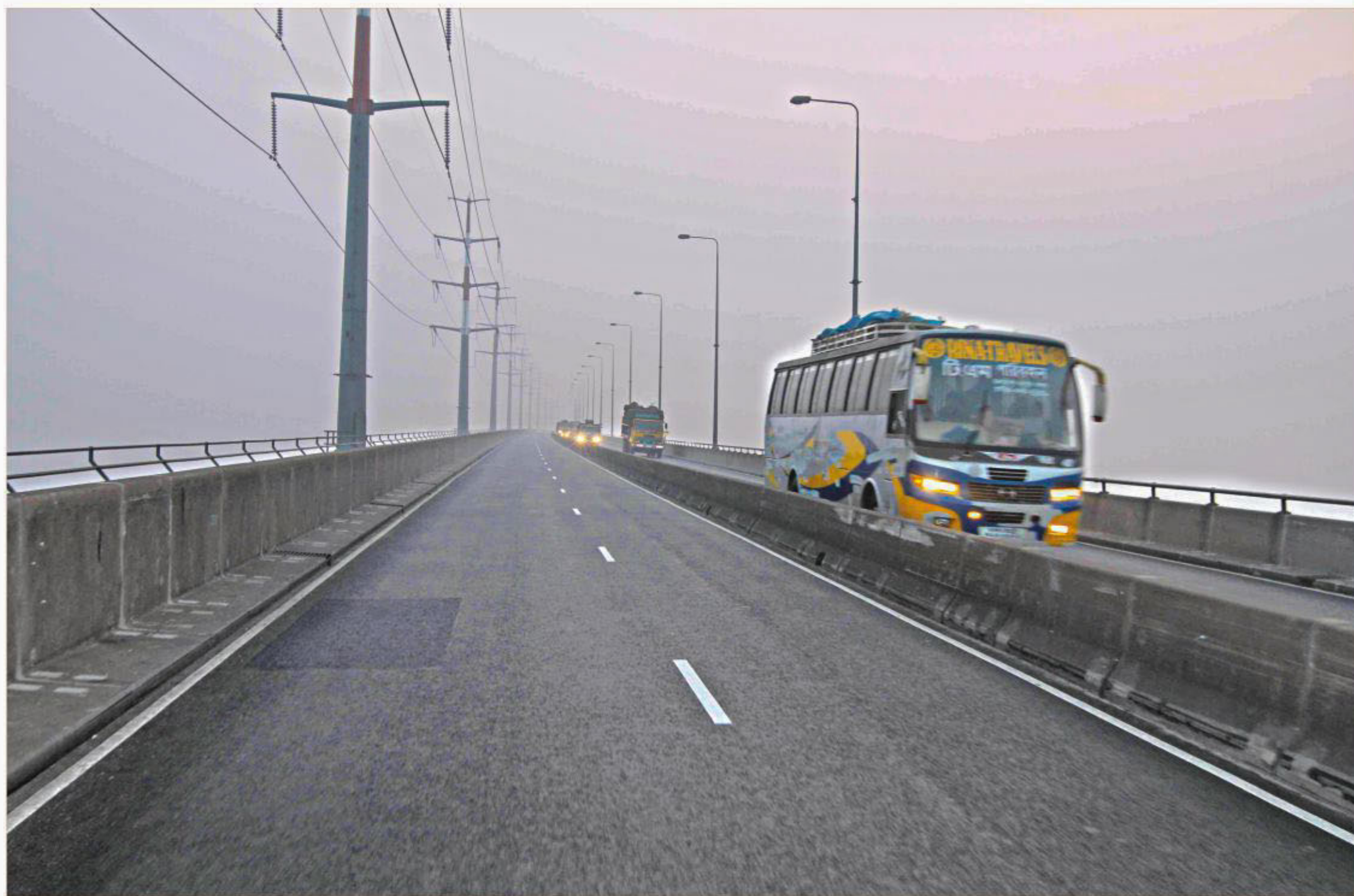


PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Vehicles cross the Bangabandhu bridge with their headlights on in poor visibility at 6:57am on January 15 after the bridge lights had been turned off. Amid worse weather, the lights on the bridge were off on January 9. There were two pile-ups on the bridge that day, one at 6:30am and another at 9:45am.

## Lights were out during pile-ups

BBA did not turn lights on in foggy weather; not even after the first crash

M ABUL KALAM AZAD with MIRZA SHAKIL in Tangail

All 153 sodium lights on Bangabandhu bridge were turned off during the 16-vehicle pile-ups on the bridge in the early morning fog of January 9 that left six people dead.

To the astonishment of many, Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), which looks after the country's longest bridge, had usually been using only half of the lights on the bridge to "save electricity", even in dense fog.

The BBA had not used the six flood lights on the bridge to improve visibility either, sources said.

When the first pile-up happened on that day at 6:30am, the lights were off.

The sun rose at 6:42am that day.

The lights were also off during the second pile-up in poor visibility a few hours later and yards away from the first crash, said victims, witnesses, and police.

Had the lights been on, perhaps the crashes

would not have happened, they said.

People who had been involved in running the bridge claimed that when all the 400-watt lights were turned on, it improved visibility significantly even amid dense fog.

"There was dense fog but no sodium lights were on, which made driving more difficult," a truck driver told our correspondent in Tangail on the bridge two hours after the first pile-up.

Two days after the crashes, BBA's Executive

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## Devotees seek divine blessings

Biswa Ijtema's 2nd phase ends

HELEMUL ALAM and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

The second phase of Biswa Ijtema, the largest Muslim congregation after the Hajj, concluded yesterday with the Akheri Munajat (final prayers).

Several lakh devotees raised their hands to seek divine blessings for mankind and the Muslim Ummah during the prayers on the Turag bank in Tongi, Gazipur.

The Akheri Munajat began at 11:04am and lasted for 29 minutes. Noted Indian Islamic scholar Mawlana Muhammad Saad led the final prayers.

Many poor and lower middle class people of the country, who do not have the financial ability to go to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, joined the Ijtema, considering it as the alternative to the Hajj for them.

"I am now on the verge of death. I am not financially able to perform the Hajj, for which I try to come to the Ijtema every year to beg pardon from Allah," said Lal Mia, 85, a resident of Faridpur who came to

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A SABBIR SPECIAL: Bangladesh batsman Sabbir Rahnan continued his good form with an unbeaten 43 in the second match against Zimbabwe at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday. However, his greater contribution came in his bowling stint, as he scalped three wickets for just 11 runs during the Tigers' 42-run win. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Stop charging hiked fees

Govt asks private schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday ordered the private schools to immediately stop collecting hiked tuition and other fees from students until further notice.

The directive came in an official order issued by the education ministry amid a huge outcry of guardians over a sudden rise in monthly tuition fees. The order said the government would soon give necessary directive in this regard.

Most of the renowned private schools in the capital suddenly hiked the tuition fees by 50 to 100 percent showing the increase in public servants' salaries as an excuse.

The move triggered uproar among the guardians who staged demonstrations, formed human chains and observed sit-ins in the past two weeks. But the schools did not budge from their decisions, as there are no specific guidelines on monthly tuition fees.

The ministry in its order said the private education institutions were collecting

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## India's Bhel gets Rampal contract

Construction of 1,320MW coal-fired power plant may begin this month

SHARIER KHAN

Indian power company Bhel has been selected to construct the 1,320-megawatt coal power plant in Rampal close to the Sundarbans.

The Bangladesh-India Friendship Company has chosen Bhel out of three bidders and issued it with a notification award for the \$1.5 billion job.

The signing of the contract is expected to take place within a few days, says a well-placed source in the Friendship company. "Construction of the power plant would start immediately," the source adds.

Bhel would have to arrange the finance from the Indian Exim Bank on behalf of the Friendship company. Of this finance, \$1.39 billion will be in foreign currency and another \$101 million in local currency.

The loan terms of this finance is being negotiated now. "The interest rates are likely to be very low and beneficial for Bangladesh," says a competent source of the Friendship Company without specifying the interest rates or other terms.

Bhel and Japanese and Indian consortium Marubeni and Larsen & Toubro and Chinese Harbin, Alstom China and Etern submitted their bids in September. The Friendship company has finalised the bid evaluation and is now preparing for signing of the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract with Bhel.

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