

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE



MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER



Principal Cement in the Flyover Project

21 killed as flyover collapses in Kolkata

Around 88 injured; toll likely to rise; builder calls the disaster an 'act of God'

At least 21 people were killed and 88 injured and some others feared trapped as a portion of a flyover collapsed on a congested intersection in Kolkata yesterday.

The flyover was under construction when a 100-metre (330-foot) section collapsed suddenly onto the crowded street around lunchtime, crushing pedestrians, cars and other vehicles under huge concrete slabs and metal.

The police said 21 people died in the incident in Burrabazar area, which houses the city's largest wholesale market, while at least 88 others were injured, reports PTI.

Unconfirmed sources have put the death toll at 24. Fifteen of the dead were identified while the identification process of the rest was on, police said.

The state government has ordered a high-level probe into the incident.

Specialist rescue teams armed with concrete and metal cutters, drilling machines, sensors to detect life and sniffer dogs were dispatched to the scene.

Anurag Gupta, a spokesman for the National Disaster Management Authority, told AFP hundreds of rescuers would work through the night to rescue the trapped victims.

"Three hundred men from NDRF are at the spot along with 300 Indian army men. Police and local authorities are also helping," Gupta said.

But many of those engaged in the rescue effort appeared to be ordinary people who were seen trying to pull away concrete slabs with their bare hands.

Workers struggled to get cranes and other large machinery through the narrow streets of Burrabazar, one of the oldest and most congested parts of the city, where locals desperately waited for news of missing loved ones.

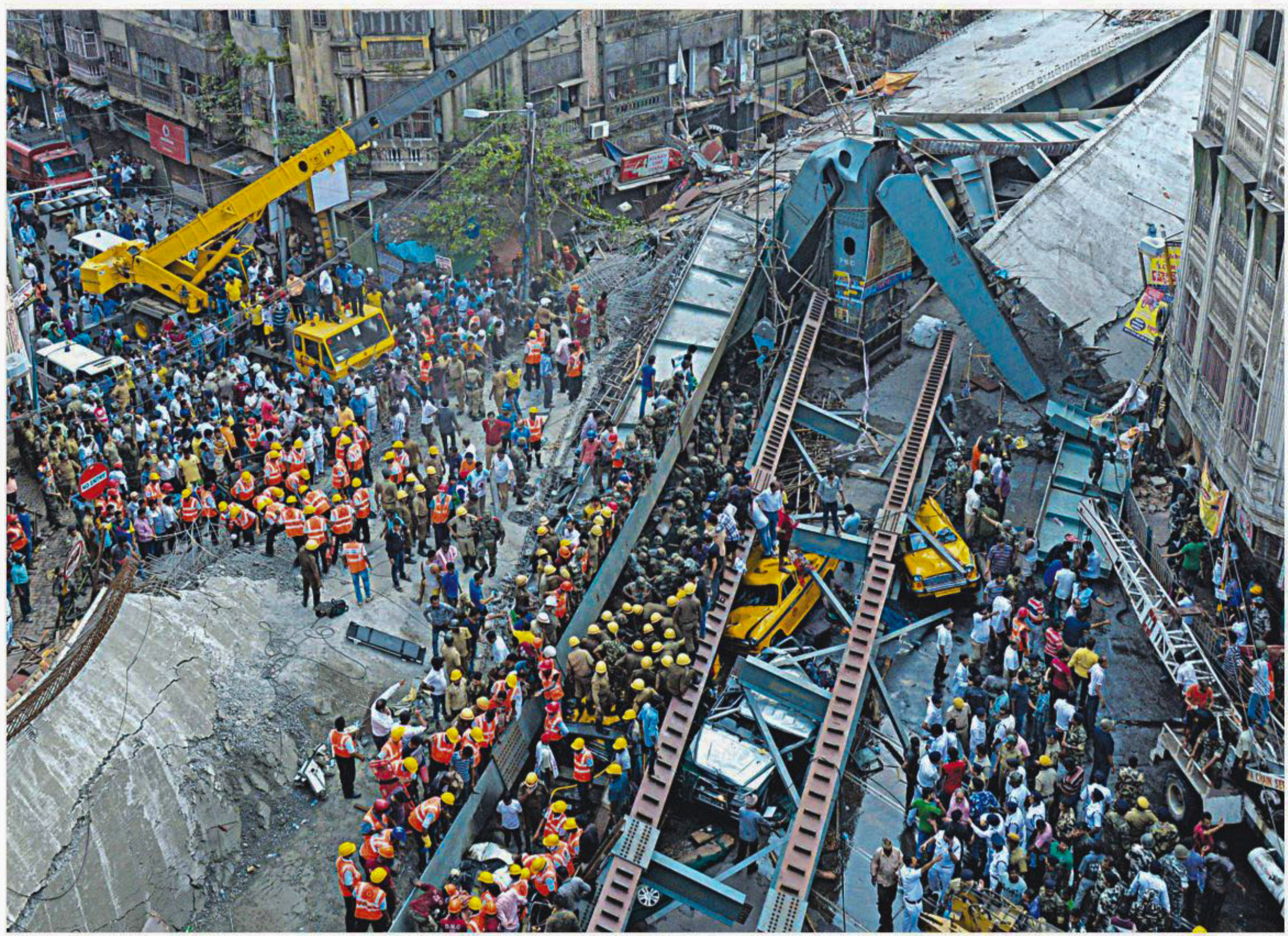
"Everything is finished," screamed Parbati Mondal, whose fruit-seller husband had not been seen since the accident.

An injured builder told AFP at the scene that he had been working on the structure before it collapsed and had seen bolts come out of the metal girders.

"We were cementing two iron girders for the pillars, but the girders couldn't take the weight of the cement," said 30-year-old Milan Sheikh before being taken away to hospital.

"The bolts started coming out this morning and then the flyover came crashing down."

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Indian rescue workers and volunteers try to free people trapped under the wreckage of a collapsed flyover in Kolkata yesterday. At least 21 people were killed and dozens more injured in the disaster.

PHOTO: AFP

Govt cuts furnace oil price by 30pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cut the price of furnace oil by more than 30 percent to Tk 42 a litre as oil prices continue to remain low on the international market for nearly two years.

The price cut came into effect last night, according to a circular from the power, energy and mineral resources ministry.

Earlier, a litre of furnace oil was Tk 60.

The prices of diesel, petrol and octane remained the same.

However, a ministry official said the price cut on the fuels would come within a month.

The finance ministry has already sent a letter to the energy ministry (in this regard), the official told The Daily Star.

Diesel prices would be slashed by Tk 10-15 a litre. The prices of petrol and octane would be brought down to a level that would allow the government to make a profit of Tk 20-25 a litre, said an official last week.

The price of diesel and kerosene now stands at Tk 68 a litre, octane at Tk 99 and petrol at Tk 96.

In the current fiscal year, the country is estimated to consume 10 lakh tonnes of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Golden flower Kuchai

MOKARAM HOSSAIN

I have heard of Patharia hills in Moulvibazar's Borolekha from the numerous writings of Prof Dwijesh Sharma. He had spent his childhood playing around the hills. However, I was rather amazed by recent information that the Patharia hills is home to our lone wild variety of Magnolia Dulichapa (*Magnolia pterocarpa*).

I had been to Moulvibazar quite a few times but could not manage to go to the Patharia hills. Therefore, the recent trip was entirely planned to that end. We stayed in Borolekha upazila headquarters, which is quite close to the Patharia hills. We got to the foothill early in the morning and were lost in the silence of the hills. While walking past a fountain, my eyes caught sight of something in the foothill in the shape of a dazzling yellow flower bouquet. Braving a number of thorny bushes, we finally got there and saw the beautiful fragrant flowers. I took photographs of them and collected samples.

A few days later, I spotted the flowers in the natural hillocks around Sama nbagh Tea Estate and in the hills of Khagrachhari. Nature in our hills and forests adorn herself with this sort of flowers. After coming back to Dhaka, I sent the samples to the Bangladesh National Herbarium.

A senior scientific officer there identified that the scientific name of the tree is *Caesalpinia*

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



Solve 'political crisis' thru' talks

Says Khaleda at Islami Oikya Jote council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday once again called upon the government to resolve "the ongoing political crisis" in the country through holding dialogue with the opposition parties, and a free, fair and acceptable election.

She made the call while addressing the national council of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, a component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

"We've urged the government to hold dialogue with

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

HSC exams begin on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations will begin on Sunday across the country, says Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

At a press conference at the ministry yesterday, he said around 12.19 lakh examinees from 8,533 educational institutions

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

Stay away from corruption

Prime minister urges fresh BCS cadres

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the new members of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) to work as public servants and stay away from corruption.

"Don't indulge in corruption and let others indulge in corruption. You must discharge your duties with utmost patriotism...you must love and know the country and its people. You can't neglect the common people...you must ensure they always get the desired services."

Putting emphasis on maintaining rule of law by the public servants, she said there would be no development without the rule of law and stability.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Labour abuse at Qatar WC stadium

Says Amnesty; workers, mostly from Bangladesh, India, Nepal

AFP, Doha

Qatar World Cup stadium workers have suffered abuse and been subjected to forced labour, Amnesty International said yesterday, for the first time alleging rights violations at a 2022 tournament venue.

The London-based watchdog said labourers at the Khalifa International Stadium, mostly from Bangladesh, India and Nepal, were lied to over their salaries, went unpaid for months and were housed in squalid

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 1

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4-45	12-30	4-45	6-20	7-45
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	5-00	6-25
8-15				

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

MYANMAR'S NEW CABINET

Suu Kyi to be given new 'PM-like' role

BBC ONLINE

Myanmar's newly installed parliament has proposed that Aung San Suu Kyi be given a new role similar to that of prime minister.

A bill submitted to parliament yesterday proposes making the ruling party's leader "state counsellor".

Her National League for Democracy (NLD) party won historic elections last year but she is not allowed to be president.

Suu Kyi, who already holds several other government posts, has said she will rule by proxy. On Wednesday, her close aide Htin Kyaw was sworn in as president.

The draft bill states that the new position of "state counsellor" will be funded, created, and then filled by Aung San Suu Kyi.

The bill will give Suu Kyi the power to

work on all the key issues of government and meet whoever she pleases.

Effectively it is the creation of a position similar to that of prime minister elsewhere.

After the swearing in of the new government on Wednesday the former political prisoner is already directly in charge of three key ministries and has said she will give instructions to the new President Htin Kyaw.

It is possible that this new role is an attempt to protect her from the charge that she is acting unconstitutionally by taking on so much power.

Htin Kyaw is Myanmar's first elected civilian leader in more than 50 years. Taking the oath of office on Wednesday, the 69-

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Netaji made three 'broadcasts' after 'death' in crash

Suggest newly declassified files



TNN, Hyderabad

Did he didn't he? The Netaji mystery deepens. Files declassified by the Modi government on Tuesday indicate that Netaji Subhas Bose made three

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

US to send back 30 Bangladeshis

Delegation says courts declared them illegal immigrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States will send back 30 Bangladeshis living there illegally.

"They [the US] have followed all the legal procedures and after that their courts declared some Bangladeshis illegal immigrants. The number is not so big. In the first phase, they will send back 30 illegal immigrants," said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

বিমান
তোমাকে মনে করি
সব কাজের মাঝে

বেঙ্গল ফাউন্ডেশন