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P3 Sugar prices go up amid speculation



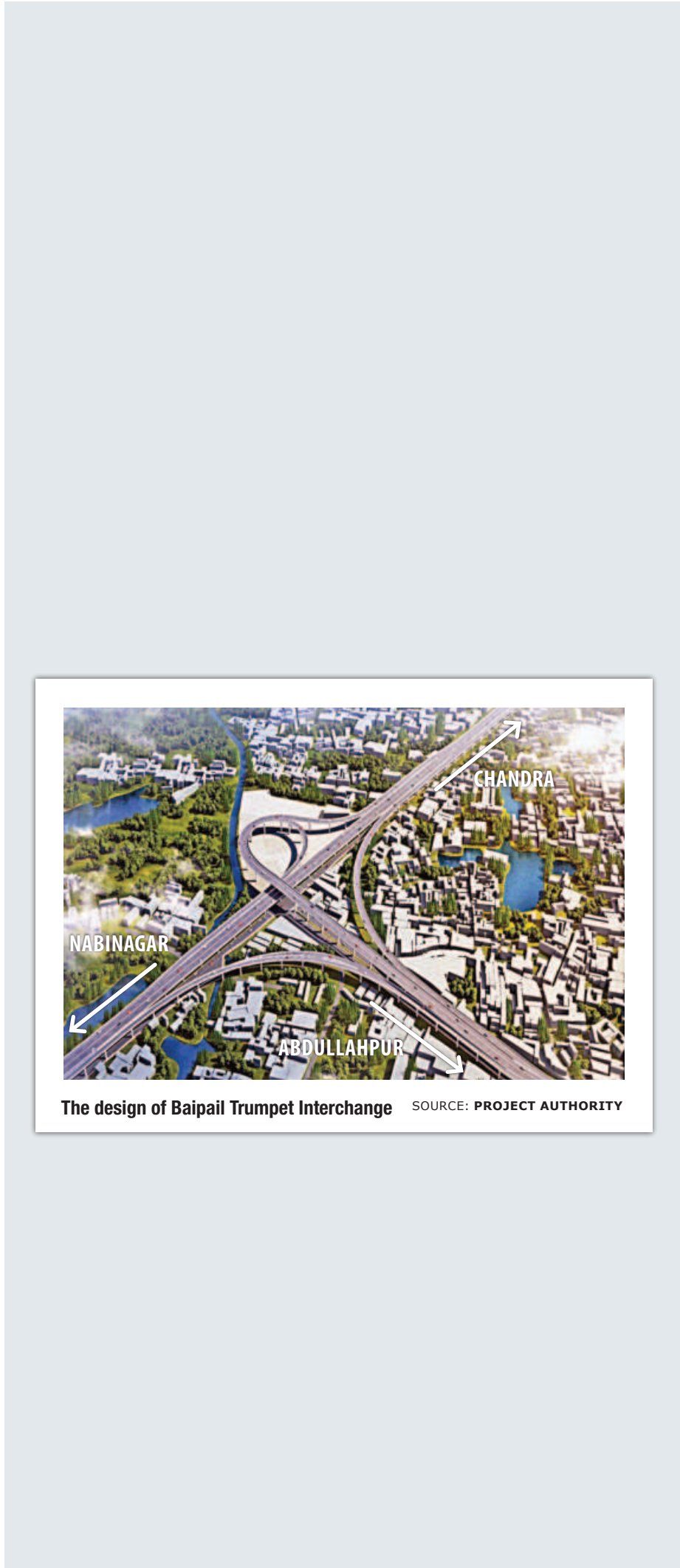
P4 Protest foils attempt to lease out waterbodies for fishing



P7 7 killed in occupied Ukraine, says Moscow



P11 Hockey league rolls today



The design of Baipail Trumpet Interchange SOURCE: PROJECT AUTHORITY



Low water-levels in the Turag exposes the extent of damage done by incoming ships and boats on the embankment in the capital's Gabtoli. In the absence of protective pillars, vessels often crash against the banks when the river is full, causing it to erode, which increases the possibility of the adjacent walkway to collapse. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

THE THIRD VIEW

The speech and those transformative days of March '71

MAHFUZ ANAM



The days of March 1971 are among the most crucial in the history of Bangladesh's struggle for independence. Events in this month are a combination of the finest (the March 7 speech) and the most tragic (the beginning of the genocide against us). It began with a spontaneous protest at Dhaka Stadium when the crowd, while watching a game, burst out in rage at the news that Pakistani President Gen Yahya Khan had postponed the convening of the National Assembly, and ended with the massacre in Dhaka and elsewhere, marking the beginning of the genocide on the night of the 25th, the Declaration of Independence, arrest of Bangabandhu by the Pakistanis, and the start of our Liberation War.

For those of us who had the good fortune of being a part of those supremely inspiring days, we know that each day was full of dreams, self-awareness, determination, and expression of love for our country, culture, and mother tongue. For those of us who were students of Dhaka University -- the nerve centre of nationwide student activities -- each day unfolded as if opening a new chapter in our nationalistic struggle. Each day was a rebirth of our determination, strengthening of our resolution, and signified our ever-rising confidence -- all mixed with an overwhelming feeling of euphoria.

SEE PAGE 9

FIRES IN CITY Rajuk must be made accountable

Architect Tanwir Nawaz tells Star

HELEMUL ALAM



the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha is not held accountable for how it functions, fires will continue to happen, like the one that claimed 46 lives in Dhaka on February 29, eminent architect Tanwir Nawaz said in an interview with The Daily Star.

"Rajuk now does not answer to anybody. No one knows anything about what they are doing, whether they have skilled manpower to approve buildings, who

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Exposed electric wires all tangled up in front of a building in the capital's Motijheel area, while overhead cables hang chaotically twisted above -- a common sight across the city. Such haphazardly placed electric wires and cables increases the risk of fire incidents. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON