

**Bangabandhu Tunnel**  
is being built with BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT **BSRM**  
building a safer nation

**Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**

Work in progress  
using Shah Cement

**SHAH CEMENT**

## PHQ revamps recruitment process

Move comes after widespread allegations of corruption, bribery

SHARIFUL ISLAM

With a view to making the recruitment of constables transparent and free of corruption, the Police Headquarters has overhauled the recruitment procedure ahead of hiring 5,000 individuals in the posts in 64 districts.

The new process would allow the PHQ to directly evaluate the written test of the candidates.

The PHQ has changed the weights of the written and viva marks and put in place a more rigorous assessment of candidates before a shortlist is prepared.

The move came following widespread allegations of rampant bribery and corruption in recruitments in recent years.

Superintendents of police in districts recruit constables as per the existing rules. There are allegations that in most cases, constables are recruited from the lists of names provided by political leaders and influential people, several SPs told The Daily Star.

Political leaders and those who lobbied for recruitment of their candidate allegedly took hefty amounts in bribes from aspiring candidates. Besides, dishonest SPs also allegedly take bribes during recruitment.

To bring such alleged malpractice to a halt, Police Headquarters (PHQ) for the first time will evaluate the written exam sheets of the candidates instead of district SPs, said PHQ officials.

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As the pressure of supply water is low in the hills of Motijharna in Chattogram city, some people install illegal pumps to fill the tanks of their homes. This, however, deprives their neighbours who chose not to indulge in the illegal activity.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## BR wants its own body to consult on projects

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is planning to form a separate body for carrying out feasibility studies and getting consultancy services for its potential and ongoing projects.

Two separate committees -- technical advisory committee and working committee -- have already been formed for assessing the need of different departments and a draft organogram of the new body, sources said.

The working committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting today and is expected to make their recommendations in this regard, said one of the members of the committee on condition of anonymity.

"This is still at a very preliminary stage. Our committee will prepare the structure and the technical advisory committee will work on it," the member told The Daily Star yesterday.

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## MASSIVE HAITI QUAKE

### Death toll jumps to over 1,200

Hospitals swamped by thousands of injured

AGENCIES

The death toll from Haiti's powerful earthquake jumped to over 1,200 yesterday, as crews desperately dug through collapsed buildings for survivors in the Caribbean nation still reeling from its president's assassination.

In Les Cayes, as in other hard-hit cities on the southwestern peninsula, most of the population spent the night sleeping outdoors in front of their houses -- or what remained of them -- amid fears of new aftershocks.

The streets there were filled with the grinding of heavy equipment lifting debris from collapsed buildings, as well as the quieter sounds of people pulling away rubble by hand while searching for

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Kosygin warns Yahya

AUGUST 17, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

WAR WILL BE SUICIDAL, KOSYGIN TELLS YAHYA

Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin was said to have told Pakistan President Yahya Khan that any war with India will be suicidal for Pakistan. Kosygin conveyed this in a message which the new Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan AA Rodinov delivered at Rawalpindi today.

The communication, it was learnt, asked the Pakistani junta to bring an end to atrocities in Bangladesh and not to proceed with the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Soviet Premier also pointed out that the continued influx of refugees from Bangladesh to India had been due to conditions of insecurity in East Pakistan. He was supposed to have advised President Yahya in favour of a political solution with the elected leaders of Bangladesh.

OPERATION OMEGA BEGINS

Operation Omega, a radical London-based scheme to rush relief to starving millions in Bangladesh, begins today.

The Pakistan government had so far spurned all efforts to send



Operation Omega volunteers cross into Bangladesh on August 17, 1971. Courtesy: Anandabazar Patrika.

relief through regular channels to Bangladesh, keeping it a closed country for the outsiders, even when the spectre of famine loomed large over the Bangladeshi people.

Eight Omega volunteers, therefore,

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## 3 killed as vehicle falls into ditch

Two Chinese nationals among the dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three people, including two Chinese nationals, were killed early yesterday as a pickup truck carrying them veered off Dhaka-Kuakata highway and plunged into a ditch in Barguna's Kawabunia area.

The dead are Liwen Tao, safety officer of Shanghai Electric Power Construction Company; engineer Luziklong; and engineer Md Fakhru Hasan from the capital's Gulshan area.

All three were staffers of an under-construction power plant in Barguna's Taltoli. They were on their way to the plant from the capital, said police.

The driver of the vehicle survived the crash.

Md Shah Alam Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Amtali Police Station, said the accident took place

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## 1995 McLaren F1 sells for \$20m



FOX NEWS ONLINE

A 1995 example of the supercar was sold at the Gooding & Company Pebble Beach auction on Saturday night for a model-record \$20,465,000, double the second highest price paid for a vehicle during Monterey Car Week and ranking among the top 15 or so all-time automotive sales.

The V12-powered three-seater with a top speed of 240 mph is one of just 64 road legal versions of the car that were built and was originally sold in Japan, but not driven there much.

It only shows 390 km (242 mi) on its odometer after spending much of its life as a museum display in Japan, but was later purchased by an American collector who had it modified to be EPA compliant.

As the only Creighton Brown-painted F1 it is

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## PK HALDER'S SCAM

### Officials were punished for not signing off loans

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Officials of FAS Finance and Investment who declined to sign off on loan applications to fictitious organisations were punished with no promotion or transferred to remote offices by rogue banker PK Halder's men.

At one stage, the then FAS management began to bypass junior officials and directly sanctioned fake loans, finds investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission, who quizzed 12 former and current officials of different ranks of the non-bank financial institution yesterday in connection with misappropriation of about Tk 1,300 crore.

During the interrogation, the officials admitted that Proshanta Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, was the ringleader and

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## Bodies of 2 missing Rohingyas recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two bodies of Rohingya women were recovered yesterday from coastal areas of Chattogram's Sandwip after a boat carrying 30 Rohingyas capsized in the Bay of Bengal while fleeing from Bhasan Char early Saturday.

At least 17 Rohingyas still reportedly remain missing while 11 were rescued from the sea by a fishing trawler on Saturday. So far, two bodies were recovered in four days.

The rescue operation, launched by Coast Guard East Zone, is going on for the missing Rohingyas, say

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Wearing masks, employees of a readymade garments factory in Tejgaon working behind plastic shields. Some factories go the extra mile to protect their workforce from the coronavirus that has already claimed over 24,000 lives since March last year.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Star HEALTHLINE

### Delta variant vs VACCINES

DR MIR MOYEEDUL ISLAM

After weeks of lockdown, the government is allowing return of normalcy for the benefit of general people. The step comes based on a feeling of hope.

But experts warn not to relax the lockdown at this time. They warn that hospitals might not be able to handle the pressure of new cases.

By now, we know that the delta variant spreads quickly and is more infectious than other variants of Covid-19.

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HygineX  
Instant hand sanitizer

BEACON  
Pharmaceuticals Limited



## PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 17

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-38 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION