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is being built with BSRM

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building a safer nation



**Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**

Work in progress  
using Shah Cement



## RAILWAY PROJECTS UNDER INDIAN LOC Dhaka for quick release of funds

6 running behind schedule; consultants picked for Bogura-Sirajganj rail link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon yesterday sought India's cooperation for the quick release of funds for the projects which are being implemented under the Indian Line of Credit (LoC), in order to maintain deadlines.

The minister made the request as six railway projects under the Indian LoC fund are running behind the schedule, while several of them already saw a huge cost escalation.

Sujon was speaking at a contract-signing ceremony in relation to an Indian-funded project at Rail Bhaban where Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami was present as a guest of honour.

The Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday signed a contract with an Indian joint venture firm for consultancy services for a project to construct a direct rail line from Sirajganj to Bogura.

Under the Tk 97.56 crore contract, RITES Ltd and Aarvee Associates Architects Engineers and Consultants Pvt Ltd of India will work for updating the project's feasibility study, detailed design, and preparing tender documents.

They will also provide construction supervision services when the physical work of the project will start, expectedly by mid-2023.

Project Director Abu Zafar Miah and Sanjay Agarwal, executive director (regional projects) of RITES signed the contract on behalf of their respective organisations.

The BR is implementing the Tk 5,579.70 crore project to build an 86.51km dual gauge rail line from Bogura to Shaheed M Mansur Ali

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Even though the removal of the BGMEA building from the capital's Hatirjheel area is almost complete, the pollution left behind in the water is still there. The stench has become a constant source of suffering for locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 308 accused in 172 cases in 8 months

Article 19 statement says on Bangladesh's Digital Security Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Article 19 recorded 172 cases filed under the Digital Security Act from January to August in Bangladesh, it said in a statement yesterday.

Three hundred and eight people of different professions have been charged in these cases. Of them, 41 are journalists.

Of the accused, 114 were arrested immediately, many of whom are still awaiting bail.

Last year, 197 cases filed against 368 people were recorded, said the statement, sent to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

The number of cases recorded in 2019 and 2018 was 63 and 34 respectively. Most of the victims of these cases are still in custody

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## Abducted teenager tortured

Pro-AL men held him with his employer for ransom, case doc says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Eight people, including three local Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders, have been accused of abducting a businessman and his 15-year-old employee from Natore town and pulling out the nail of the latter's left-hand finger for collecting ransom money.

Police picked up two of the accused -- Ekram Hossain Sumon, 35, of Nabinagar village in Natore, and Md Abir, 26, of Chakrampur area in Natore town -- on Sunday, hours after the incident took place.

Victim businessmen Abdus Salam filed a case with Natore Sadar Police Station on Sunday, accusing the eight. The other victim is Faisal Hossain, an employee at Salam's mobile phone shop.

Among the six other accused are: Roni Ahmed, general secretary of Natore municipality ward-4 Jubo League, his brother Rabiul Awal Bappi, executive member of the Jubo League unit, and Abdullah Hel Shubho, president of the municipality Chhatra League.

Jubo League and Chhatra League are pro-Awami League organisations.

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Kosygin calls for political settlement

SEPTEMBER 28, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### INDIRA'S MEETING WITH SOVIET LEADERS

Talks between Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Soviet leaders began today.

The Indian side gave a detailed analysis of the situation in East Pakistan and expressed concern at the failure of the world opinion to urge Pakistan to create conditions conducive to the dignified return of refugees. It was pointed out that Pakistan trying to intensify atrocities in East Pakistan would inevitably have repercussions on India. The Soviet leaders were also informed that the Bangladesh crisis might escalate after the monsoon, and only an immediate political solution would meet the needs of the situation.

Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin stressed the need for a political settlement in East Pakistan which would take into account the legitimate interests of its population, and called upon Pakistan President Yahya Khan to undertake the most effective steps for the liquidation of this hotbed of tension.

#### WARNING AGAINST CONTEMPT OF COURT

In a press note issued today by the chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, people were asked to refrain from saying or doing anything which might constitute a contempt of court as to the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The press note disclosed that the trial of Bangabandhu was in progress and, so far, the prosecution had examined 20 witnesses in support of the charges brought against him.

It may be mentioned here that a special military court was convened by the chief martial law administrator of Pakistan to try Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on camera for "waging war against Pakistan and for other charges".

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## Rights activists condemn case against MJF ED, others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moulik Odhikar Surokha Committee, a platform of human rights activists, yesterday termed as "false" the case filed against Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam and others.

In a press statement, Moulik Odhikar Surokha Committee (Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights) hoped that the complainant will withdraw the case and that money from the state coffers and labour will not be expended in investigating and conducting the "ill-motivated and harassing" case.

Earlier, different rights organisations issuing separate statements expressed grave concern over the filing of the case and demanded immediate withdrawal of it.

On September 21, one Akash Ghosh filed a case with the Narayanganj Chief

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## Dinosaur fossil with 'bizarre' spikes found in Africa



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have discovered a new species of dinosaur with "bizarre" bony spikes projecting from its ribs, an advance they say will fill an "important gap in evolution."

The new species named Spicomellus afer is the oldest of a group of dinosaurs called ankylosaurs -- known for the extraordinary bony armour -- and the first of its kind to be discovered in the African continent, according to the researchers, including Susannah CR Maidment from the National History Museum in the UK.

The spiky ribs seen in the dinosaur which lived about 160 million years ago is also a "bizarre" feature that is not seen in any other vertebrate species living or extinct, says the study, published in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution.

"The specimen consists of a rib with spiked dermal armour fused to its dorsal surface, an unprecedented morphology among extinct and

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Keep your eyes on tomorrow's special issue on

## WORLD HEART DAY 2021

Present status of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) treatment facilities in Bangladesh, heart-healthy lifestyle changes and insights from doctors and experts.



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-15 6-00 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-30 6-05 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



**Star HEALTHLINE**

**Covid-19: KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM THE '3 CS'**

DR RUKHSANA PARVIN

The government reopened schools and colleges after 18 months, instructing authorities to strictly maintain health rules. The government is supposed to monitor whether the educational institutions are ensuring health guidelines. But are students sufficiently prepared to maintain those? Although elderly people are at greatest risk, children are not immune to Covid-19. Recent evidence suggests that children likely have

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**BEACON**  
Pharmaceuticals Limited

GERMANY ELECTIONS

## SPD narrowly wins vote

Seeks three-way alliance to replace Merkel-led coalition

REUTERS, Berlin

German Social Democrat Olaf Scholz vowed yesterday to strengthen the European Union and keep up the transatlantic partnership in a three-way coalition government he hopes to form by Christmas to take over from Angela Merkel's conservatives.

Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) came first in Sunday's national election, just ahead of the conservatives, and aim to lead a government for the first time since 2005 in a coalition with the Greens and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

Scholz, 63, projected a sense of calm assurance when asked whether the close election result and the prospect of prolonged coalition negotiations sent a message of instability in Germany to its European partners.

"Germany always has coalition governments and it was always stable," he said in fluent English, standing beside a statue of Willy Brandt, a Cold War-era SPD chancellor awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for fostering dialogue between East and West.

The SPD, Germany's oldest party, won 25.7% of the vote, up five percentage points from the 2017 federal election, ahead of Merkel's CDU/CSU conservative bloc on 24.1%, provisional results showed. The Greens came in with 14.8% and the FDP won 11.5%.

The SPD's recovery marks a tentative revival for centre-left parties in parts of Europe, following the election of Democrat Joe Biden as US president in 2020. Norway's centre-left opposition party also won an election earlier

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MORE NEWS

60pc returnee female workers unemployed **PAGE 3**

Khulna's Bastuhara colony waterlogged for 70 days **PAGE 3**

Tk 210cr e-commerce payment stuck at gateways **PAGE B1**



**শুভ জন্মদিন**

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মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী  
দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনার  
জন্মদিনে জানাই  
প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন

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