

EVERYONE CAN MAKE ROADS, BUT **THERE'S ONLY 1 EXPERT** SO CHOOSE BSRM TO BUILD SAFER HOMES

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

**BSRM** building a safer nation

**Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**

Work in progress using Shah Cement

**SHAH CEMENT**

## FARIDPUR-MAGURA RAIL LINK Delayed start, result obvious

BR seeks to extend project  
deadline by 26 months

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government in May 2018 approved a project for constructing a rail line from Faridpur to Magura even before carrying out a feasibility study.

The project was supposed to be completed within April 2022. But its physical work started in June this year, more than three years after receiving approval.

Now, the project authorities seek to extend the project tenure by 26 months, meaning people will have to wait even longer for rail services.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) has already sent a time-extension proposal to the railways ministry, which will forward it to the Planning Commission. If the commission approves the proposal, the deadline of the project would be extended to June 2024, BR officials said.

Although cost escalation usually goes hand in hand with delay in project implementation, the project authorities insist that the total project cost of Tk 1202.49 crore will not increase.

This project is going to be included in the growing list of railways' schemes that had to go through time revisions due to poor implementation rate. Out of the BR's 37 ongoing projects, 26 have already been revised at least once. Four of those projects were taken up at least a decade ago, but those are yet to be completed.

On May 29, 2018, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the project to

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School students and their guardians crossing a busy road in the capital's Farmgate during rush hours yesterday afternoon. Even though jaywalking has always been rampant across the city, more people now resort to it in Farmgate area since a footbridge there has lately been removed, raising the risk of fatal accidents.

PHOTO:  
SK ENAMUL HAQ

## MASUD RANA SERIES Abdul Hakim owns books

High Court upholds  
copyrights office's  
decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the order of Bangladesh Copyright Office that granted copyright of 260 books of the popular spy thriller "Masud Rana Series" and 50 books of "Kuasha Series" to ghostwriter Sheikh Abdul Hakim.

The court rejected a writ petition filed by Kazi Anwar Hossain, owner of Seba Prokashoni, challenging the copyright office order.

The bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Iqbal Kabir Lytton delivered the verdict after holding hearing on the petition.

The grounds on which the HC delivered the verdict could not be known as its full text was not released yet.

Copyright office's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the books of "Masud Rana

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## Star HEALTHLINE WHY VACATION IS NEEDED

STAR HEALTH DESK

Everyone loves vacations. But how many of us know its positive impacts on health?

Time off work has been

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**Hyginex**  
Instant hand sanitizer

**BEACON**  
Pharmaceuticals Limited

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

### Malik cabinet resigns en masse

DECEMBER 14, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### EAST PAKISTAN REGIME RESIGNS

The entire regional government of East Pakistan headed by Dr AM Malik resigned today, disassociating itself from the central administration of Pakistan President Yahya Khan.

Dr Malik wrote the draft of the resignation letter for his cabinet to Yahya with a shaking ballpoint pen on a scrap of office paper as Indian MIG-21s destroyed the Governor's House.

Governor Malik, surrounded by the ministers of his East Pakistani administration, showed the draft of his resignation to a United Nations official, John Kelly, and to Gavin Young of The Observer. They had been trapped with him in his bunker during an air raid.

All morning, Dr Malik and his regional cabinet had been unable to decide whether to resign or hang on. The air raids finally resolved the issue.

Earlier, 16 senior civil servants, led by the Inspector General of Police MA Chaudhry sought refuge in the Hotel Intercontinental which had been declared as a neutral zone.

Meanwhile, heads of seven political parties constituting the United Coalition headed by Prime Minister Nurul Amin appealed to the United



States and China today "to urgently arrange for practical help to Pakistan". **SOVIET LEADERSHIP'S MESSAGE TO NIXON** Soviet leaders in a message to US

President Richard Nixon said today that further aggravation of the situation in the Indian subcontinent demanded urgent measures be taken.

It added, "We are in constant contact with the Indian side. One of the results of these very contacts was the message transmitted to you on December 12 that India has no intention to take any military action in connection with West Pakistan. We have firm assurances by the Indian leadership that India has no plans of seizing West Pakistan territory."

"In the course of consultations the Indian side," continued the message, "has expressed the willingness to ceasefire and withdraw its forces if Pakistani government withdraws its forces from East Pakistan and peaceful settlement is reached there with the lawful representatives of East Pakistani population, to whom the power will be transferred and conditions will be created for return from India of all East Pakistani refugees. At the same time the Indians have no intentions to impose their will on the East Pakistani people who themselves will determine

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## Bangladeshi found dead in Indian territory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

The body of a Bangladeshi man, reportedly a cattle trader, was found floating in a water body on the Indian side of the border opposite Jhenaidah's Moheshpur upazila on Sunday.

Family members of the deceased, hearing the news from his companions and relatives across the border, alleged yesterday that he was killed by India's Border Security Force (BSF).

Police and Border Guard Bangladesh officials said they do not have any official information about the incident.

The deceased was identified as Mikael Hossain, 30, son of Ruhul Amin of Baghdadanga village in Moheshpur.

Quoting family members, Shamsul Alam, Nepa union parishad chairman, said Mikael was among 12 or 13 cattle traders who went to India a few days ago. BSF opened fire on them on their way back. Some of the others came back to Bangladesh but Mikael had gone

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## Putin says he drove cabs after Soviet fall



AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the collapse of the Soviet Union spelled the end of "historical Russia," revealing he drove a taxi to make ends meet following the USSR's fall.

Putin, a former agent of the Soviet Union's KGB security services, who has previously lamented the USSR's fall, said the disintegration three decades ago remains a "tragedy" for "most citizens".

The comments, reported by state-run news agency RIA Novosti Sunday, were excerpts from an upcoming film by broadcaster Channel One, dubbed "Russia. Recent History".

"After all, what is the collapse of the Soviet Union? This is the collapse of historical Russia under the name of the Soviet Union," the Russian leader was cited as saying.

A loyal servant of the Soviet Union, Putin was dismayed when it fell apart, once calling the collapse "the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century".

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## DEATH IN CUSTODY Explanation of detectives quizzical

Family considering  
to sue cops

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Family members of Babul Sardar, who died on Sunday in the custody of Detective Branch of police in Satkhira, are considering whether to file a murder case accusing police.

Babul's grieving brother Fazar Sardar yesterday said the family was still in shock and it was his strong suspicion that Babul was tortured to death.

Police, however, maintain that the 56-year-old man died by suicide in the lockup.

Contacted yesterday, DB Inspector Yeasin Alam Chowdhury of Satkhira said Babul was five and five inches tall and he hanged himself between 3:00am and 5:00am on Sunday, using a 39 inches long nylon lace that he took to the lockup wearing around his waist.

He hanged himself from an iron bar above the door of the lockup room. The bar is six and a half feet above the floor.

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Abdul Gaffar, 78, came to Dhaka all the way from Jamalpur early yesterday. Since then, he has been waiting on the High Court premises for anticipatory bail along with at least 200 others, who came from different districts. He is among the hundreds of ruling Awami League activists sued by their own party men over polls violence.

## PCJSS leader killed after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Bandarban

A leader of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) was killed after being abducted allegedly by members of "Mogh Party" in Bandarban on Sunday night.

The dead, Pushoi Thoai Marma, 42, was the secretary of PCJSS Bandarban thana unit.

A group of armed members of "Mogh Party"

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## PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 14

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT 5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**Congratulations**

শ্রীমতী শাহীন চৌধুরী  
জানুয়ারী ২০২০

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for  
Awarding Green Factory Award-2020  
to  
**Mithela Group**

Md. Azahar Khan, Chairman of Mithela Group, received the "Green Factory Award-2020" from Begum Monnujan Sufian, State Minister for Labor and Employment