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GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

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SHAH CEMENT

## AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL New radar to usher in a new era

Purchase deal likely to be finalised in a couple of months

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The purchase deal of a state-of-the-art radar system, long overdue for safe aircraft navigation and control of air traffic through the country's airspace, is expected to be finalised in a couple of months.

The ultra-modern radar will enhance the country's airspace safety, ensure safe landing of aircraft in adverse weather and improve the communication system which is now very weak.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) recently issued a letter requesting the French government to authorise the radar-maker Thales to supply the long-range sophisticated radar, said a top Caab official.

The radar costing between Tk 600 to Tk 700 crore will be purchased following a government-to-government (G2G) deal.

First a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed with the French government on authorising Thales. Then Bangladesh will negotiate with the company, and an inter-ministerial committee has already been formed for this, added the official.

"The purchase of the radar was under process for quite a long time. Now it has reached a matured stage," Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman told The Daily Star recently.

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Trucks and other vehicles, headed for the capital mainly from Manikganj and Tangail, stuck in gridlock on a waterlogged Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Shimultola area following heavy rain throughout yesterday afternoon. Surrounding areas too suffered the same fate, and the road leading to CRP hospital was submerged completely.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## HC asks judge to enquire into imprisonment of 'wrong' man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the judge of special tribunal-2 of Dhaka to conduct an inquiry into the allegation that an innocent day labourer, Md Liton, in Bhol's Lalmojan upazila, is serving a jail sentence instead of a convicted man of the same name.

The HC also instructed the judge to pass the necessary order to this effect in two weeks.

The HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman passed the order after hearing a virtual writ petition jointly filed by rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Liton, who is now in jail, seeking a release order for him.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Dasgupta told The Daily Star that the special tribunal-2 of Dhaka can release Md Liton, 30, if it finds in the inquiry that he is not the Liton, 41, who was convicted.

ASK and Md Liton  
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## METRO RAIL LINK EXTENSION PMO roped in to settle row

To sit with BR, project officials tomorrow

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With the Bangladesh Railway and the metro rail authorities locked in a row over the extension of MRT Line-6 from Motijheel to Kamalapur in the capital, the Prime Minister's Office is set to step in to resolve the dispute.

The PMO will hold a virtual meeting tomorrow with officials of Bangladesh Railway and the Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing authority of the metro rail projects. Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the prime minister, will chair the meeting, said officials.

The move came after the DMTCL sought the PMO's help in resolving the issue.

Although the meeting agenda is selecting sites for two stations of the extended MRT Line-6 and MRT Line-1 in Kamalapur area for proper integration, some other unresolved issues over MRT Line-6 extension plan are expected to dominate the discussions at the meeting, the officials said.

The railway authorities have expressed serious reservations about a move to

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### 3 Arab states will support UN entry

September 2, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**SAMAD CALLS ON BANGABANDHU IN GENEVA**  
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad arrives in Geneva this morning. He drives straight to Hotel Le Reserve where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is staying and calls on him. The foreign minister makes a detailed report to the prime minister on his mission to three Arab countries. Iraq, Egypt and Syria assured him that they would support Bangladesh's application for UN membership, he informs.

**BHUTTO REFUSED INDIAN OFFER ON POWS**

India has made an offer to Pakistan to repatriate the Pakistani prisoners of war captured on the western front last December but Pakistani President Bhutto declined to take them back, Indian External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh discloses today in Delhi. He says this while replying to a discussion at the Lok Sabha on the recent Indo-Pak official level talks.

Bhutto had refused to take the POWs of the western front back on the grounds that the question of all the prisoners of war was a single one and no difference could be made between prisoners of one front and another. Bhutto was then told by India that the Pakistani soldiers and civilians taken prisoner on the eastern front

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GONOSHASTHAYA KENDRA

## DGHS official making threats over running of laboratory

Alleges Dr Zafrullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An official of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has threatened Gonoshasthaya Kendra saying mobile courts would be operated against the Covid-19 lab to shut it down.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury made this allegation in a letter sent to the director general of DGHS Prof ABM Khurshid Alam on Monday.

Earlier on the same day, Dr Farid Hossain Mian, DGHS director (hospitals and clinics), called Gonoshasthaya Kendra Director Dr Badrul Haque over phone and asked him to shut the lab as "the lab has no authorisation".

On August 29, Gonoshasthaya Kendra also

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## Bees love the buzz of city life!



MAIL ONLINE

Bumblebees in cities are bigger and more hard-working than those living in the countryside, according to a study.

Scientists found they were about 4 percent larger than their country cousins and reckon this is because they have to work harder to find food, travelling across roads - which break up the gardens, cemeteries, parks and other green spaces where they seek the next patch of flowers.

Larger bees may be better able to face city commutes to find pollen, as they are superior at flying long distances, with larger flight muscles.

They are also less easy targets for predators and appear better at spotting flowers and recalling their location.

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## BASHUNDHARA CITY Star Cineplex brings down curtain on 6 movie halls

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

At a time when businesses are trying to recover from huge losses following the Covid-19 pandemic, Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City was served an eviction notice from the authorities.

As cinema halls across the country have closed down due to safety concerns, Cineplex was already incurring huge losses. On August 12, Star Cineplex set up a press conference, raising a 7-point demand in order to help save the movie theatres.

With six halls and a seating capacity of 1,626, Star Cineplex not only provided citizens the first multiplex experience in the country but also had great contributions in popularising Bashundhara City.

"We did everything we could to save it but the

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## Death toll 1.37pc of confirmed Covid cases

Shows DGHS data, 35 die, 1,950 test positive in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate reported 35 deaths due to novel coronavirus infection in the past 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday.

With this, the death toll from Covid-19 rose to 4,316 - 1.37 percent of all confirmed cases, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In the same 24 hours, a total of 1,950 new people were tested for the virus

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## PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 2

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-23 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-26 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Elementary school students gesture during a flag-raising ceremony on the first day of the new semester in Shenyang in China's northeastern Liaoning province, yesterday. Students returned to class yesterday in Wuhan, the central Chinese city where the coronavirus first emerged last year, as the city opened schools and kindergartens for the first time in seven months.

PHOTO: AFP

## SURGING COVID CASES India leads global tally

Says WHO; millions of European children back to school despite rising infections

AGENCIES

India reported the most new Covid-19 cases of any country in the past week, its nearly half a million fresh infections pushing the global tally up by 1 percent, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday.

Overall global new deaths in the past seven days fell by 3% compared to the previous week, the WHO reported, adding that overall new infections around the world rose by 1.8 million.

The respiratory disease is also spreading in the Americas, which continues to account for more than half of reported cases and deaths worldwide, although there have been slight decreases in some areas, WHO said in its latest update.

Peru, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina have seen "increasing trends", it said.

Spain, Russia, France, and Ukraine reported the highest number of new cases in Europe in the week to August 30, with a resurgence in Spain matching peaks seen last March and April, the UN agency said. New cases in Italy jumped by 85%, it said.

"South-East Asia has reported the largest week-on-week increase, largely due to increased case detections in India," the WHO said. "India has reported nearly 500,000 new cases in the past seven days, a 9% increase compared to

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