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## Biman waiting to start flights to KSA

Resumption to be a relief for stranded migrants

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is waiting for the response from the Saudi Arabia authorities to operate flights in the Gulf country as international flight operations between the two countries are expected to resume soon.

The resumption of air communications will bring much relief to thousands of Bangladeshi migrant workers living in the Kingdom, many of whom got stranded at home amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Saudi Arabia opened international flight operations on Tuesday. The move was aimed at reviving the Gulf country's economy, according to media reports.

A top official of Biman, the national flag carrier, on Saturday said they have been planning to resume flight operations to Saudi Arabia soon.

Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab), yesterday said Biman sought permission from the Saudi authorities to operate schedule flights from Dhaka, but the Saudi authorities were yet to respond.

Meanwhile, Caab has given permission to Saudi Arabian Airlines to operate two weekly flights from Dhaka after the airlines sought permission to operate seven flights a week.

Caab, however, might cancel the permission for Saudi airlines if the Saudi authorities do not allow Biman to operate flights to the Kingdom.

Operating flight to a country is "reciprocal", he added.

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Lighter vessel MV Golam, which sustained a breach in its hull on way to Jashore on June 21, is beached near the coastline of Patenga in Chattogram. Two vessels rendered unusable after damage from accidents are near the beach. Owners are often reluctant to dismantle these vessels in accordance with environmental rules and regulations.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## As dismal as 2018

Says HRSS 2019 report on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual report of the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) on the human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2019 shows that the overall condition of human rights is as dismal as it was in 2018.

"Political and civil society space continues to be curtailed. Security forces continue to enjoy impunity in cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests," said the report that was sent to media yesterday.

The report was prepared on the rights situation from January to December last year based on data collected from national dailies and fact-finding reports prepared by country-wide representatives.

The report will soon be published.

The rising incidents of rape, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, violent attacks, public

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## HALDA RIVER POLLUTION Asian Paper Mill take measures to restart operations

Fisheries, water resources ministry place conditions for resumption

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chattogram

Asian Paper Mill, which last year was found to be a major factory responsible for polluting the Halda River, possibly the lone natural breeding ground of carp fish in South Asia, is accelerating its efforts to resume operations.

The factory management recently sought permission from the Department of Environment (DoE) claiming to have restored facilities to contain the pollution.

On July 23, DoE sought an opinion from both the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in this regard, as the river was declared "Bangabandhu Fish Heritage" last year, following the factory's written request.

MA Salam, managing director of the factory, told The Daily Star that they have met the requirements stipulated by DoE and two teams formed by the department have already visited the plant and found everything to be in compliance.

"We hope to resume operations soon

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Food must reach affected areas in time



British Minister Geoffrey Rippon calls on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban on September 21, 1972.

September 21, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

HIGH LEVEL FOOD CONFERENCE AT GONO BHABAN

A high-level conference held at the Gono Bhaban today reviews the food situation in the country. Presided over by Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the conference is attended by Food Minister Phani Bhushan Majumdar and Communications Minister Mansur Ali. Besides, high officials of the two ministries attend the conference.



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## OC, 4 cops closed for taking bribe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Five policemen of Shayestaganj Police Station, including the officer-in-charge, were closed yesterday for their alleged involvement in taking bribe and releasing a man during his detention in Habiganj.

A three-member probe committee was formed on Thursday to investigate the allegation and it was asked to submit its report within yesterday night.

Police, however, did not provide any details of the report as of 7:08pm last night.

Mohammad Ullah, superintendent of Habiganj police, told The Daily Star that the allegation was proven primarily.

Anwar Hossain, additional superintendent (ASP) of Habiganj police, said departmental actions would be taken against the accused if the allegations were proven.

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## Covid-19 test kit 'Feluda' gets green light



OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has given green signal to the commercial launch of a new coronavirus-detection technology named after master director Satyajit Ray's iconic detective Feluda also known as Prodosh Mitter.

"Feluda", the Tata CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) Covid-19 test has received regulatory approvals from the Drug Controller General of India, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) said late Saturday night.

The name "Feluda" has been given because of the sleuth's pinpoint accuracy for zeroing in on criminals.

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## RAPE OF DU STUDENT Trial of lone accused begins

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of the case -- filed against Md Majnu for the rape of a Dhaka University student in the capital's Kurmitola area -- began at a Dhaka tribunal yesterday with the deposition of the complainant.

Judge Begum Mosammat Quamrunnahar of the Women and Children's Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 recorded the statement.

Later, the witness was cross-examined by the defence lawyer on behalf of the accused.

Court sources said the complainant earlier narrated the incident before the tribunal and demanded exemplary punishment for the accused.

The tribunal fixed today for next hearing of the case.

The tribunal also asked the victim to appear before it the same day to give her deposition.

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## Daily new cases drop

MOUJUD AHMED SUJAN

Comparing with the previous epidemiological week, the number of new Covid-19 cases have drastically decreased.

The detection of coronavirus cases decreased by 9.22 percent while the deaths also decreased by 17.25 percent as of yesterday which was the 38th epidemiological week, read a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Experts, however, said the situation could not be observed based on this narrow definition only.

Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, yesterday said,

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Using a megaphone, two Red Crescent officials asking people to maintain health guidelines yesterday as the wave of Covid-19 is not over in the country. They also gave masks to those who did not have them. This photo was taken on Satmasjid Road in the capital's Dhanmondi.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## India's infections surge to 5.4m

England imposes up to \$13,000 fine for breaking Covid rules; France sees another record daily rise

AGENCIES

India's coronavirus case tally surged to 5.4 million as it added 92,605 new infections in the last 24 hours, data from the federal health ministry showed yesterday.

The country has posted the highest single-day caseload in the world since early August, and lags behind only the United States, which has 6.7 million cases in terms of total infections.

A total of 1,113 people died of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, India's health ministry said, taking mortalities to 86,752, which is a relatively low 1.6% of all cases.

In Europe, Britain is at a tipping point on Covid-19, health minister Matt Hancock said yesterday, warning that a second national lockdown could be imposed if people don't follow government rules.

Covid-19 cases have risen sharply in recent weeks to more than 4,000 per day. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has called it a second wave and stricter lockdown measures have been introduced in areas across the country - with London possibly next in line.

"The nation faces a tipping point and we have a choice," Hancock told Sky News. "The choice is either that everybody follows the rules ... or we will have to take more measures."

People who refuse to self-isolate to stop the spread of coronavirus could face fines of up to 10,000 British pounds (\$13,000) under tough new regulations announced to tackle a surge in cases.

The rules will apply from September 28 to anyone in England who tests positive for the virus or is notified by

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## PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 21

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION