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SHAH CEMENT

Misery mounts for Italy returnees

They have to pay hefty sum for tickets of Biman's special flight to Rome

JAMIL MAHMUD

Expatriate workers flying to Italy on a special Biman flight will have to pay about Tk 77,000 for a ticket, over twice the amount they used to pay before the pandemic.

The workers have already been struggling after months of being unemployed and stuck at home.

The special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines will carry a maximum of 260 passengers due to coronavirus restrictions imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

The national flag carrier will operate the flight on Wednesday directly from Dhaka to Rome, Biman officials said.

Some of those who came home on vacation before the pandemic on Turkish Airlines flights said they paid between Tk 50,000 and Tk 75,000 for the round trip.

Although the additional money will be a burden for them, they have no choice because further delay might cost them their jobs in the European country, the expatriates said.

Mosharraf Hossain, an expatriate who works in Palermo, said he bought round trip tickets from Turkish Airlines at Tk 75,000 when he came home on February 3.

Talking to The Daily Star at Biman's Motijheel office yesterday, he said his original return date was March 14. But Turkish Airlines now wants to re-issue the return ticket for November 13.

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A man uses the hand-washing facilities at the Khamarbari Puja Mandap, installed as precautionary measures against the spread of the coronavirus. Durga Puja celebrations began yesterday, but due to torrential rain throughout the afternoon and fear of the Covid-19 pandemic, the turnout was much thinner compared to other years.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHANGMA

COVID VACCINE

Nepali firm likely to buy 2m shots of BANCOVID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nepalese drugmaker Anmol Healthcare Ltd might buy two million shots of BANCOVID, the vaccine candidate being developed by Bangladesh's Globe Biotech Ltd, officials said.

The Nepalese company has sent a "letter of intent" to Globe on Wednesday, said a spokesperson of the company.

Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Banshidhar Mishra visited a laboratory of the company in the capital yesterday.

The Nepal government is also interested in procuring the potential vaccine once the clinical trials are complete, the ambassador said at the facility.

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POTATO PRICE HIKE

Wholesalers allege pressure from hoarders

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Wholesalers have expressed concerns that the price of potatoes may not come down anytime soon as they are under pressure from a section of hoarders, who recently bought potato stocks at cold storages, to sell the vegetable at a price higher than the government-fixed wholesale rate of Tk 30 a kg.

They also alleged that the hoarders were threatening to stop the supply if they did not follow their directives.

The price of potatoes started rising from the middle of last month. Last week, consumers had to buy the tuber for up to Tk 50 a kg.

According to wholesalers, ownership of potato stocks at cold storages changes up to four times a year. This year, the ownership changed more frequently as a

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangladesh will attend Colombo Plan meeting

October 23, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH WILL ATTEND AS OBSERVER

Bangladesh will attend the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee meeting in New Delhi on October 30 as an observer. This decision to seat the newborn nation as an observer is taken by the Colombo Plan Secretariat after an overwhelming number of the 24 member nations extended their consent to the proposal. Bangladesh is already a member of the Commonwealth, a permanent invitee as an observer at the United Nations and an observer to such world bodies as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

WALDHEIM MAY SEND EMISSARY TO PAKISTAN

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



24 more die, 1,696 infected in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-four people have died from Covid-19 in the country in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 5,747, which is 1.46 percent of all confirmed cases.

During the same period, another 1,696 people had tested positive for the viral

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Son 'kills mother over property'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A 55-year-old woman was killed allegedly by her son and six others in Noakhali's Subornachar upazila.

Police said Humayun Kabir Huma, 28, the victim's son, and six others strangled Noor Jahan to death and then cut her body into pieces and threw them onto a paddy field of one Amir Hossain, who had lent money to Huma's step-brother Belal, to frame him in the murder.

Noor Jahan was married to another person who fathered Belal, locals said.

Belal took Tk 4 lakh as loans from local NGOs and Amir Hossain for rearing cattle and farming fish, and Noor Jahan was the guarantor of the money, police added.

As Belal died around one and a half years ago, the lenders put pressure on Noor Jahan and Huma to repay the money.

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Three girls raped by neighbours

Retired cop held for raping woman

STAR REPORT

Three teenage girls were raped by their neighbours in Savar, Narayanganj and Mymensingh on Wednesday and a 65-year-old retired sergeant was arrested for raping a woman for the last nine months in Noakhali.

Meanwhile, Jubo League leader Mujibur Rahman Sharif, who is accused of

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'This isn't a reality show'

Obama slams 'racist', 'divisive', 'incapable' Trump ahead of final presidential debate

AGENCIES

Former US president Barack Obama excoriated Donald Trump and warned against complacency despite favorable opinion polls during his first public rally in support of Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Wednesday ahead of the November 3 election.

Campaigning for Democratic White House nominee Joe Biden in Pennsylvania, Obama likened Trump to a "crazy uncle" and said he emboldened racists.

In North Carolina, the Republican president mocked Obama for being wrong

about the 2016 election outcome.

More than 42 million Americans have already voted, according to the US Elections Project of the University of Florida, nearly 30 percent of the total turnout in 2016.

Biden and Trump are scheduled to meet in their second and final debate later in the night in Nashville, Tennessee, giving the Republican an opportunity to change the trajectory of a race that Biden is leading in national opinion polls.

But the margin is slimmer in the handful of US states that could go either way and ultimately decide the outcome on 3

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Senate body okays SC pick by Trump

REUTERS, Washington

The Republican-led US Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday approved President Donald Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to a lifetime US Supreme Court seat despite a Democratic boycott of the meeting, clearing the way for a full Senate debate and vote on confirmation.

By a vote of 12-0, the panel approved Barrett with all Republican members voting yes and the 10 committee Democrats boycotting the meeting.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham said the Democratic boycott was "their choice, adding, "We're not going to allow them to take over the committee."

"This is a groundbreaking moment" for conservatives, Graham said before the vote began. Barrett, a federal

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 23

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:50 12:30 4:00 5:36 7:15
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:39 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

প্রগতি লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড

প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ প্রগতি ইন্স্যুরেন্স ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ২০-২১ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

পিএবিএক্স: ৮১৮৯১৮৮-৮, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮-০২-৯১২৮০২৮

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জমি ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রগতি লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত প্লটটি ক্রয়ের জন্য চুক্তিবদ্ধ হয়েছে। জমির তফসিল : প্লট নং-১৩, সড়ক নং-১৮, গুলশান দক্ষিণ বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২১২। RAJUK কর্তৃক বরাদ্দসূত্রে মালিক জনাব মনজুর মোরশেদ খান। উক্ত জমির ব্যাপারে কারও কোন আপত্তি থাকলে আগামী ২৭ অক্টোবর, ২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

প্রধান, প্রশাসন বিভাগ
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২০-২১, কাওরান বাজার
ঢাকা-১২১৫।