

Bangladesh-India flights

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Countries, Covid-19 negative certificate is a must within 72 hours before travel, said Kamrul Islam, general manager, public relations, US-Bangla Airlines.

All passengers traveling to India will have to undergo mandatory home quarantine for seven days, authorities said.

The categories of people allowed on the flights are: Indian nationals; all Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders holding passports issued by Bangladesh; and Bangladesh nationals/residents (including diplomats), and foreigners (including diplomats) holding valid visa issued by an Indian Mission in any category covered under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines.

On the first day of the resumption of air communication with India, US-Bangla Airlines, a leading private air operator of Bangladesh, will operate one flight each on the Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka routes.

The Chennai flight will leave the Dhaka Airport at 10:30am while the Kolkata flight will leave at 9:45am, said Kamrul Islam.

US-Bangla Airlines will operate flights from Dhaka to Chennai via Chattogram and from Chennai to Dhaka via Chattogram every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

The national flag carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume regular passenger flights to India from tomorrow.

Biman will operate flights on the Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka route from October 29, Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka route from November 1 and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka route from November 15, said Tahera Khondoker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman.

The resumption of air communication will bring relief to many Bangladeshis, who are waiting to travel to India for medical treatment.

Sources at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh said around 20 lakh Bangladeshis visit India every year by air and many of them go there for treatment.

Apart from Biman and US-Bangla, another Bangladeshi air operator, Novo Air, would initially operate 28 flights a week while five Indian airlines -- Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara and GoAir -- would operate 28 flights a week between the two countries.

Secretary of Civil Aviation Ministry Mohibul Haque said India would allow more than one attendant with each patient from Bangladesh to visit the country.

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka on October 9 said for now, visas will be issued under nine categories, including medical, business, employment, journalist, diplomatic, official, UN official and UN diplomatic.

India had stopped entry of all foreigners by halting visa approvals since March 12 following the Covid-19 outbreak across the globe.

VISTARA, SPICEJET ANNOUNCE FLIGHTS TO BD Indian air carrier Vistara yesterday announced it would launch flight services to Bangladesh from November 5 under the recently signed bilateral air bubble agreement, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Vistara's announcement comes a day after budget carrier SpiceJet said it will operate flights to Dhaka and Chattogram from India starting from November 5, using bilateral traffic rights under the air bubble pact.

Vistara, a Tata-Singapore Airlines joint venture, will operate special non-stop flights between Delhi and Dhaka from November 5, the airline said in a release.

SpiceJet had said it will operate non-stop flights four times a week between Kolkata and Chattogram, besides connecting Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai with Dhaka.

Serve people

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agricultural group to evaluate future foodgrain crops in Bangladesh. The purpose of the special group will be to evaluate future harvest in Bangladesh, particularly the Aman crop, which accounts for approximately 60 percent of total domestic production, as this will help estimate the import requirement for 1973.

JACKSON REPORTS BANGALEES' CONDITION TO WALDHEIM
Sir Robert Jackson, chief coordinator of the UN Relief Operation yesterday reported to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim about the condition of stranded Bangalees in Pakistan. Sir Robert Jackson met Pakistan President Bhutto in Rawalpindi on October 26 and had talks with him on a number of issues including humanitarian problems. Jackson's meeting with Bhutto came in the wake of Bangabandhu's letter to the UN secretary general requesting him to use his good offices for the repatriation of stranded Bangalees, many of whom are passing their days in great agony in concentration camps in Pakistan.

SOURCES: October 29, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Soumitra

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gone up while his urine output is not satisfactory," Dr Arindam Kar, who is leading a team of doctors treating the thespian, told mediapersons late Monday night.

Chatterjee, one of Bengal's most celebrated actors, has received many awards and honours, including the Padma Bhushan, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, national awards and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna.

He is best known for his collaboration with Oscar-winner Satyajit Ray and the Feluda series.

"We are trying to get him better than what he is now. But the challenges are very steep. Time and again new issues are cropping up because of his age, comorbidities and repercussions of so much medication," stated the last medical bulletin issued late Monday night.

The actor was hospitalised on October 6 after he tested positive for Covid-19. He had to be shifted to the Covid ICU as his condition deteriorated.

Millions of people in Bengal and beyond have been praying for his recovery since he was admitted.

Khulna court

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in Labanchara Police Station area with 30 grams of cannabis and six yaba pills.

A case was filed against him with the police station under the Narcotics Control Act.

SI Nasiruddin, investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet against Samrat on February 9 this year.

On October 22, charges were framed against Samrat, and six witnesses testified the next day.

Arguments from the prosecution and defence concluded on Sunday.

Sundarbans

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in the Sundarbans Forest Department, a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Forests and Environment was held on October 19 over the reopening.

The meeting decided to reopen the Sundarbans ahead of the upcoming tourist season. Instructions to reopen the entrances are likely to come in the next couple of days, the sources said.

On March 19, the Forest Department announced a temporary restriction on tourist movement and boat plying in the Sundarbans to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

According to the Forest Department, over 45,000 tourists visit nine areas in the Sundarbans every day during the tourist season (November to March).

Md Moinul Islam Jamaddar, president of the Tour Operators' Association of the Sundarbans, said bookings for tours have already started ahead of the tourist season.

However, health rules must be maintained, he said, adding that the number of tourists allowed on each ship will be decreased.

Moon richer

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on Monday suggest water could be even more widespread, including the first confirmation that it is present even in easier-to-access sunlit areas.

If this water could be extracted, it could give astronauts travelling to the Moon and beyond access to drinking water. They might even be able to split the molecules to make rocket fuel.

That is of particular interest to Nasa, which is planning a human mission to the Moon in 2024 and wants to build a sustainable presence there by the end of the decade to prepare for onward travel to Mars.

The new study was able to "unambiguously" distinguish the spectral fingerprint of molecular water in a sunlit area, said lead author Casey Honniball, of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology.

All democratic institutions destroyed

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We don't design our policies based on any incumbent government. Rather, we set our strategies analysing the ruling class. Our focus is on which class do those in power belong to. Is it that working class or capitalistic class? DS: The ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance has been in power for three consecutive terms. How do you look at it?

SA: We don't find any difference between the AL or BNP as far as class is concerned.

DS: Do you mean to say the AL and BNP are the same?

SA: I am not talking about which party is pro-liberation and which is anti-liberation. The two parties are different from that perspective. We want to see things from an infrastructural ground.

All the post-75 governments are the same in terms of class variation. Those who exploit the public, including businessmen, bureaucrats and politicians, have assumed state power (since 1975). A large syndicate has been formed among this class that has been exploiting the people in the name of a free-market economy.

DS: Is that a theoretical analysis? What is your opinion on the current governing system run by AL?

SA: An authoritarian rule is prevailing in the country. All democratic institutions have been destroyed. Everything including the judiciary, local government institutions and the parliament have turned into institutions of the party in power. Lawmakers cannot speak freely beyond their party's decision. Even the culture of self-criticism is gone.

DS: What are your thoughts on the government's campaign of economic and infrastructural development?

SA: Development for whom? Firstly, it has widened the gap between the working class and capitalistic class. Secondly, it has increased the paths of corruption. Thirdly, it has damaged our environment and bio-diversity. Our country is small. We need to

focus on the expansion of waterways and railways. It will be good for us. Be it the gas sector, energy sector or other sectors -- corruption is everywhere.

DS: But the government claims major success in power generation.

SA: The government is spending money on quick-rental power plants -- it's a hub of corruption. We are yet to get uninterrupted electricity supply.

DS: But the government has ensured electricity supply.

SA: True, but it is not sustainable. The price should be rational and just. Wrong policies and corruption are everywhere.

DS: You were talking about development and corruption increasing parallelly while the government is saying it is taking action against corruption.

SA: Exploiters have laundered money abroad. Now, the government is taking action against the second layer of corrupt people. No initiative has been taken to bring the laundered money back. I think the government is not taking any initiative to bring it back from fear that such an attempt might throw it out of power.

DS: You were talking about the destruction of democratic institutions. The BNP raised allegations of election engineering. What is your take in this regard?

SA: It was not an election at all. Votes were cast the night before the election, and administrations, along with other agencies, cooperated in vote manipulation.

DS: Why are feuds prevailing among left political parties? Why you are not united?

SA: We, the left political parties, are united on our demands. But we are not united in designing the strategies to realise our demands. Many left political parties want to talk with the BNP. But we want a platform other than the AL and BNP.

DS: Is there any possibility of unity among left political parties in the future?

SA: Of the parties, CPB has networks

all over Bangladesh -- in all the districts. But the strength of those units is not as strong as it was in the past. Other left political parties do not have enough organisational strength. Moreover, the parties have differences in terms of designing strategies. There needs to be an alternative left-democratic alliance. CPB does not believe in Left-Sectarian. We need for form an alliance with those who believe in non-communism and a corruption-free society. But many of them like Dr Kamal Hossain and Mahmudur Rahman Manna have joined the BNP-led alliance. We will continue our movement for establishing good governance instead of assuming power.

DS: What is the situation in Bangladesh as far as good governance is concerned?

SA: There is nothing. DS: The AL government has completed trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman overcomng many challenges. This trial created a kind of hope that good governance would be established. Why do you think it is still not seen?

SA: The trials of war criminals and Bangabandhu's killers is a good sign. But good governance cannot be established as there is criminalisation and commercialisation in politics.

DS: What are your thoughts on our economic situation during the Covid-19 pandemic?

SA: People are not well. The poverty rate has shot up. And people are having to struggle through days without any alternative options.

DS: The per capita income has increased. Then, why do you think people are struggling?

SA: The per capita income is the average income of all. It is not fair if you present an average with the inclusion of those who earn Tk 5 lakh or 10 lakh along with those who are living below poverty line. It's a trick.

Log onto to thedailystar.net to read the full interview.

Facebook commits to safe

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security last year, more than its entire revenue at the time of Initial Price Offering (IPO).

Currently, 35,000 people are employed at Facebook to protect user safety and security, and combined with the platform's Artificial Intelligence (AI) detection system, are capable of taking down 90 percent of harmful content before they are reported.

Facebook said its policies cover a wide range of safety issues on the platform. Notable issues being addressed include impersonation or identity theft, graphic violence, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and child sexual exploitation.

The social networking platform gives users control over what they share, who they share it with, the content they see and experience, and

who can contact them.

According to Facebook, it partnered with Bangladesh's health and ICT ministries earlier this year to strengthen and localise awareness about safety measures during the Covid-19 pandemic through its Information Hub.

This further included a nationwide campaign to disseminate reliable health messaging and information about social distancing, Covid-19 symptoms as well as a national helpline number.

A brief question-answer session followed the presentation, where the briefing hosts answered questions from journalists.

Amy Sawitta Lefevre, Facebook's emerging countries policy communications manager, was also present at the programme.

Two held for raping

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The victim's father filed a case with Haragachha Police Station under Rangpur Metropolitan Police later that night.

In Narayanganj, rape accused Sunny was stalking the victim, a student of class six at a local kindergarten.

On Sunday noon, the victim's mother went to visit a doctor after keeping the girl to one of their neighbours.

At one stage, the girl alone went back to her flat to take food. When the girl opened the door, the accused sunny forcibly entered into the room and raped her. The alleged rapist fled the scene around 30 minutes later.

Later on the evening, the victim's mother returned home. Then the girl shared the incident with her mother.

A day later, the victim's mother filed a case with Fatullah Model Police Station. Then, police arrested the accused, who in primary interrogation gave confessional statement, said Aslam Hossain, OC of the police station.

In Noakhali, Delawar Hossain, the prime accused of the case of the gang-rape and torture of a woman in Begumgunj upazila of Noakhali, was sent to jail yesterday.

Earlier at noon, he was produced before the district's chief judicial magistrate court after five-day remand. After a hearing, judge of Cognizance Court Number-1 sent him to jail, said Sirajul Mostafa, inspector of PBI on Noakhali.

Delwar and other members of "Delwar Bahini" broke into the house of the victim at Joykrishnapur village of Eklashpur union in Begumgunj upazila on the night of September 2 and tortured her as she had repeatedly refused Delwar's immoral proposals earlier.

Our correspondents from Dinajpur, Barishal, Narayanganj, Dinajpur and Noakhali contributed to this report.

Biden makes late push

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right and clinching his judicial legacy in a landmark victory for American conservatives. Barrett cleared the Senate on Monday by a 52-48 vote and was sworn in during a nighttime outdoor ceremony at the White House, meeting the president's goal of having her on the court by Election Day.

The 2020 US presidential campaign has been unlike any other as a raging coronavirus pandemic that has so far killed more than 225,000 Americans

pushes record early voting. More than 64 million votes have been cast so far, approaching half the total 2016 vote, according to the US Elections Project at the University of Florida.

The travel schedules and ad spending in the race's final week underscores the reality that Biden's campaign is competing on a much larger playing field than Trump -- one that includes states where a strong Biden performance could also help deliver Democratic victories in key House and Senate races.

Children's court jails

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Md Mostafizur Rahman Babul briefed journalists and expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

"We are happy with the judgement as the real culprits have been awarded punishment. Such a judgement will help reduce such heinous crimes in the future."

However, Md Humayun Kabir, lawyer of one of the accused, said, "We are not happy with the judgement. We are being deprived of proper justice. We will go to the High Court to ensure proper justice and hope we will get it there."

Another accused's lawyer Golam Mostafa Quader said, "We hoped that all the juveniles accused would be acquitted but now we are frustrated. We hope they will be acquitted after we appeal to the High Court."

Slain Rifat Sharif's father Abdul Halim Dulal Sharif reacted positively to the verdict. "My family and I are happy with this judgement. My son's soul can now rest in peace, I believe."

"We were waiting for this

judgement. We demand the execution of all six adults accused, who were awarded the death penalty for my son's murder," he said.

An elder brother of an accused said, "My brother is innocent. Police have wrongfully framed him. He was never involved in criminal activities."

On January 8, the Barguna District and Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against the 14 juveniles in the Rifat murder case, and hearings of their testimonies began from January 13.

Earlier on September 30, the Barguna District and Sessions' Judge's Court delivered the verdict against 10 adult accused in the Rifat murder case and ordered the execution of six, including Rifat's wife Ayesha Siddique Minni, while four were acquitted.

Rifat Sharif was killed in front of Barguna Government College on June 26 last year, after which 24 people were charged.

The main accused in the case, Nayan Bond, was killed in a gunfight with police on July 2 last year.

We must not

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His comment comes as the United States, Russia, France and many other countries are setting records for coronavirus infections as a tidal wave of cases washes over parts of the Northern Hemisphere, forcing some countries to impose new curbs.

In the United States, the number of hospitalised Covid-19 patients is at a two-month high, straining health care systems in some states.

US President Donald Trump, facing a tough re-election battle on Nov. 3, lashed out again at reports that the coronavirus is surging.

"Cases up because we TEST, TEST, TEST. A Fake News Media Conspiracy. Many young people who heal very fast. 99.9%. Corrupt Media conspiracy at all time high," Trump said in a Twitter post.

In Europe the picture was unrelentingly grim as a string of countries reported record increases, led by France, which posted more than 50,000 daily cases for the first time on Sunday, while the continent passed the threshold of 250,000 deaths.

 মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭, বাংলাদেশ। www.mra.gov.bd		বাংলাদেশে ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটির সনদ বাধ্যতামূলক।															
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২.	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার জেলার নাম	: ঢাকা															
৩.	যে জন্য দরপত্র আহবান	: ৪টি আইটেমের প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ															
৪.	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র															
৫.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	: সরকারী															
৬.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় এবং গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ	: ১৫/১১/২০২০ইং, বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত															
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৮.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তিস্থান, দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	: মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি, গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭।															
৯.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	: ১) ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণ এবং প্রিটিং সামগ্রী সরবরাহের জন্য কেবলমাত্র যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদত্ত বৈধ ও হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন সনদ, ড্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদসহ প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ, বীধাই ও সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৪৮ও ৪৯ এবং দরপত্র দলিলের IIT Clause 10.1 অনুসরণপূর্বক দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে। ২) দরপত্র দাতার নিজস্ব প্রিটিং প্রেস থাকতে হবে এবং ১৯৭৩ সনের ছাপাখানা ও প্রকাশনা আইনের ৪(২) ধারা মোতাবেক "ছাপাখানার ঘোষনাপত্র"-এর সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। ৩) বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের নির্ধারিত তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী ০৩(তিন) বৎসরের মধ্যে সরকারী/ আধা-সরকারী/ স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/ আধা-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/ সংবিধিবদ্ধ সংস্থা/ সরকার নিয়ন্ত্রিত কর্পোরেশন (কার্যালয়/কারখানা) ইত্যাদিতে একক কার্যাদেশের আওতায় ন্যূনতম ৪ লক্ষ টাকার সাদৃশ্যপূর্ণ প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ, বীধাই এবং সরবরাহ কাজের ০২(দুই)টি সন্তোষজনক পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ৪) দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের তারল্য অথবা ঋণসীমা ন্যূনতম ৬৫(পাঁচ)লক্ষ টাকা থাকতে হবে। ৫) দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলকৃত তথ্যাদি সঠিক ও বৈধ কাগজপত্র দ্বারা সমর্থিত হতে হবে। এছাড়া অভিজ্ঞতার অনুকূলে ইতোপূর্বে সেবা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপযুক্ত কর্মকর্তার ইস্যুকৃত কার্যসম্পাদনের প্রত্যয়ন পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।															
১০.	সেবার বিবরণ	: দরদাতাকে দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত অথরিটির নমুনা মোতাবেক কারিগরি বিনির্দেশ এবং মানসম্মত প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ ও বীধাইপূর্বক সরবরাহ কাজ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ক্রঃনং</th> <th>বিবরণ</th> <th>সংখ্যা</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>০১)</td> <td>দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার</td> <td>৬,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> <tr> <td>০২)</td> <td>দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডারের খাম</td> <td>২,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> <tr> <td>০৩)</td> <td>ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার</td> <td>৩,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> <tr> <td>০৪)</td> <td>ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার খাম</td> <td>১,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ক্রঃনং	বিবরণ	সংখ্যা	০১)	দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার	৬,০০০ পিস	০২)	দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডারের খাম	২,০০০ পিস	০৩)	ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার	৩,০০০ পিস	০৪)	ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার খাম	১,০০০ পিস
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১১.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: ৮৩০০/- (টাকা তিনশত মাত্র)															
১২.	দরপত্রের জামানত	: ৬১৫,০০০/- (টাকা পনের হাজার মাত্র)															
১৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	: অমলেন্দু মুখার্জী															
১৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদনাম	: এগ্রিকিউটিভ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান															
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	: গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭। ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৩৩২৫৭৭। ই-মেইলঃ evc@mra.gov.bd															
বিঃদ্রঃ																	
(ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।																	
(খ) অনির্ধারিত কারণবশতঃনির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিনে একই সময় ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।																	