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TERMINALS AT SHAHJALAL

Flyers face long delays



RASHIDUL HASAN

The outbound passengers at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport go through a painful ordeal as they need to wait even for hours in long queues just to enter the airport and drop off luggage for scanning.

Besides, people who arrive late at the airport because of the city's horrific traffic jams sometimes miss their flights after further delays at the gates, officials of a private airline said.

Different airlines are now requesting their international passengers to come to the airport three to four hours ahead of schedule.

For the chaotic situation at the airport, officials blame the shortage of entrance doors equipped with luggage scanning machines as passengers need to stand in queues to complete the security checking procedures.

Following a hijack bid of a Biman flight on February 24, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has asked the authorities to ensure foolproof security checks at all airports including Shahjalal.

Taking advantage of negligence by some staffers in security checking, a youth named Polish Ahmed boarded BG-147 flight carrying a toy gun and some plastic pipes

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Sir Abed retires as Brac chair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder of Brac, announced his retirement as chairperson of BRAC Bangladesh and BRAC International yesterday.

He will now work as the chair emeritus, effective August 2019, said a press release by the organisation. He will now focus on Brac's global strategy and governance structure.

Sir Fazle founded Brac in 1972, at the age of 36, and served as its executive director until 2001.

At 65, he retired as

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We don't support torture in custody

Hasina tells the BBC

Bss, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told the BBC that her government does not support torture in custody.

"To tell you the truth, our government is never led by any intention to torture people in custody and it [government] also doesn't do it [either]," she said.

Senior broadcast journalist at BBC World Service Manoshi Barua interviewed the PM in London when issues of Bangladesh economy, politics and social issues came up.

Her comments on the custody issue came as Manoshi asked what steps the present government took to stop such torture, which the journalist described as a legacy of subsequent governments.

"Incidentally, some [one or two incidents] may happen... if you see our position in the last 10 years, we could take appropriate measures to control crime," Hasina said.

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Sania from the city's South Banasree area sits beside her brother Adham at a ward in Mughda Medical College and Hospital yesterday. Infected with dengue virus, they and their other sister Prova, not in picture, have been in the hospital since Friday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Ensure no still water at home

Experts urge Eid holidaymakers; offices, schools, colleges too must be aware; 7 more die of dengue

HELEMUL ALAM and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Health experts fear the exodus of thousands city dwellers during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha vacations could further spread the dengue outbreak in the city, as mosquitoes might use the empty homes, schools and offices as prime breeding grounds.

If stagnant water in any of those sources is not cleaned, then they may become breeding sites for the Aedes mosquito.

Educational institutions will remain closed for Eid for 10 days from August 8. Office holidays will be observed on August 11, 12 and 13, following the weekend holidays.

According to the Centre for Disease Control in America, an Aedes mosquito takes approximately 8-10 days to go from being an egg to an adult mosquito.

A big worry for experts during this period are educational institutions.

"If the authorities of educational institutions do not take proper steps to clean the property, eventually it will become a breeding ground for Aedes mosquito," said HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawady Medical College Hospital.

PHILIPPINES DECLARES NAT'L EPIDEMIC -- PAGE 8

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Govt focus now on hospitals outside Dhaka

Takes measures to deal with outbreak during Eid holiday

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has taken a number of initiatives to ensure medical services for dengue patients. The measures include setting up helpdesks in all government and private hospitals and logistical support to all district and upazila hospitals.

All community clinics across the country have been directed to be operational during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha vacation, with adequate round-the-clock logistical support.

Keeping in mind the rush of homegoers ahead of Eid, health officials have begun training district and upazila doctors on dengue treatment and patient management through video conferences.

"Many people will go outside Dhaka ahead of Eid and the situation might

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Kashmir still locked down

Blackout continues; Pak army vows to stand by Kashmiris

AGENCIES

A communications blackout in disputed Kashmir entered a second day yesterday, after India snapped television, telephone and internet links to deter protests over its scrapping of special constitutional status for the Himalayan region.

Moving to tighten its grip on India's only Muslim-majority region, the government dropped a constitutional provision for the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which has long been a flashpoint in ties with neighbouring Pakistan, to make its own laws.

"We are managing for now," said a senior official at a hospital in the region's main city of Srinagar that was among the medical facilities hit by the communications crackdown. Staff were working overtime at the 500-bed Lal Ded hospital, with ambulances having been sent out to fetch doctors and nurses, added the official, who sought anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to media.

Hours before Monday's announcement, authorities in Kashmir, which is also claimed by Pakistan, clamped an unprecedented communications blackout on the region, arresting its leaders, including two former state chief ministers.

Washington on Monday urged respect

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Workers repair the battered Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila yesterday. Locals said parts of the highway to Rajshahi were badly damaged due to waterlogging and flood last month. The repair work was already causing long tailbacks. Eid holidaymakers fear they would suffer delays on their journeys.

PHOTO: STAR

Welfare, for whom?

Expatriates' welfare minister wants no trafficking cases by legal migrant workers against recruiting agents

PORIMOL PALMA

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad wants police not to record cases under the anti-trafficking act if workers sent abroad with proper documents come up with complaints against recruiting agents.

He rather suggests actions be taken through the ministry, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) or Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) instead of filing the cases.

Experts and activists say migrants can fall victim to human trafficking even after going abroad for jobs maintaining all legal procedures. So, they should be able to file cases under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012.

"The suggestion of expatriates' welfare minister will encourage human traffickers and leave victims unprotected. Therefore, I would say this is an ill-advised instruction," said Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of

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