A dozen patients FROM PAGE 12

other patients. That is why we have sent them back to their homes."

He added, "Our hospital has an isolation unit designated for new patients. If any new patient comes, we keep them in the isolation unit for 14 days and then we shift them to the main unit. But we don't have any facility to provide treatment to Covid-19 patients. So, we don't have an alternative to sending them back home."

Meanwhile, the hospital is providing guidelines for the families of the affected to take care of the patients while maintaining health safety rules.

Apart from the patients, at least three doctors and seven nurses of the hospital tested positive for Covid-19 and they all are in home isolation.

Ex-UPDF

FROM PAGE 12

Hospital for autopsy. "The victim's brother filed a case while we are trying to arrest the criminals," said the OC.

Aongay Marma, the spokesperson of UPDF, said "Kholo was our former member.'

On June 26, another former UPDF member was abducted and stabbed to death in remote Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhri.

"The criminals are killing our former members to create a new situation in Chattogram Hill Tracts," said Aongay.

Vaccination rate FROM PAGE 12

Finance Minister Rishi Sunak will both self-isolate in line with national guidance, abandoning heavily criticised plans to take part in a pilot scheme that would have allowed them to continue working.

The U-turn comes a day after Health Minister Sajid Javid said on Saturday he had tested positive for Covid-19 and at a time when the government's coronavirus response is under intense scrutiny.

Javid said he was self-isolating -- just as his government prepared to jettison most pandemic restrictions in Éngland.

They lost

were shared during a virtual ceremony yesterday organised by Migrant Forum in Asia, a regional migrant rights platform.

Titled "South Asian Perspectives on Wage Theft and Access to Justice", the event also saw sharing of similar study findings from India and Nepal.

Disclosing the report on Bangladesh, BCSM Chair Prof CR Abrar said the amount lost by Bangladeshi returnees is "quite a staggering sum".

Covid-19 had taken a huge toll on the respondents, most of whom were gainfully employed during the pre-pandemic period, said Prof Abrar, also executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit



Palestinian women argue with an Israeli security force member after brief clashes erupted between Israeli police and Palestinians at al-Aqsa Mosque over visits by Jews on the Tisha B'Av fast day to the compound known to Muslims as Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Carry on efforts to improve the lot of people

FROM PAGE 12

Hasina reiterated her call to the people to maintain the health protocols to check further spread of the lethal virus.

"I know, people like to go to their village homes [to celebrate the Eid-ul-Azha with their near and dear ones]," she said and asked the government officials to make sure that people, particularly the home-goers, use masks by making them aware about the virus.

The PM said her government has taken required measures so that no one remains out of the inoculation.

"We have started [mass] vaccination. More vaccines are coming. We will purchase whatever amount of jabs is required to bring all the people under crisis was ever seen before. We have vaccination," she added.

officials as the main driving force to

economy and quicken the country's amid the pandemic. development."

government officials for their brave role in tackling the Covid-19 onslaught, saying that the country's situation could have worsened during the pandemic if they did not perform their duties accordingly.

Hasina said her government has been able to move the country towards a developing nation as it is in power for the third consecutive term after the 2008 national election.

But she opined that the coronavirus becoming an impediment to Bangladesh's advancement, saying, "The coronavirus has plunged the entire world into a crisis. No such

Hasina said Bangladesh will

an agreement has been signed between the cabinet secretary on behalf of the prime minister and secretaries of the

ministries will set their visions, missions and strategic goals in line with the development priorities of the government, take short- and long-term plans as per budgetary allocations.

On behalf of the prime minister, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque later distributed crests and certificates among the top 10 ministries and divisions in the FY 2019-20 APA performances and integrity awards among top three ministries following receipt of the APAs signed for the FY 2021-2022.

State Minister for Public Administration Ministry Farhad Hossain, MP, spoke at the function while Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam gave the welcome address.

A video documentary on the APA performance and its contribution to the country's overall development was

Terminal saw a greater number of

passengers yesterday as compared to

A total 95 launches left the country's

argest terminal on Saturday while 60

launches left till 7:00pm yesterday,

said Zainal Abedin, joint director of

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport

leave till tomorrow [Monday]," he told

"Forty more launches are likely to

The number of passengers is likely

Kamalapur station manager, said 34

inter-city and local trains were being

operated from Dhaka to different

passengers outside the station we are

not allowing any passengers without

carrying cattle reached Dhaka from

Meanwhile, several special trains

tickets," he told this correspondent.

different districts yesterday.

"Although there is a crowd of

Masud

Sarwar

Pilgrims stream

each year into a vast encampment for pilgrims.

Pilgrims were brought there vesterday on buses which were only half-filled to respect social distancing rules, and authorities provided 3,000 electric cars to transport the elderly and those with limited mobility.

"We have applied social distancing inside the camps where there are four pilgrims in each room. We have put barriers between each bed to apply social distancing," tour operator Hadi Fouad told AFP.

"For the common areas at the camp, like the prayer area and the cafeteria, we have assigned a security company whose guards are spread throughout the camp to make sure there is no crowding."

GOLDEN TICKET

In the high point of the Hajj, worshippers will climb Mount Arafat today

Also known as the "Mount of Mercy", it is the site where it is believed that the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) delivered his final sermon. Worshippers will undertake hours of prayers and Koranic recitals there.

After descending the following day, they will gather pebbles and perform the symbolic "stoning of the devil". The Hajj, usually one of the world's

largest annual religious gatherings, is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken by all Muslims with the means at least once in their lives.

This year's pilgrimage is larger than the pared-down version staged in 2020 but is drastically smaller than in normal times, creating resentment among Muslims abroad who are barred once again.

Participants were chosen from more than 558,000 applicants through an online vetting system, with the event confined to fully vaccinated adults aged 18-65 with no chronic illnesses. 'A PRIVILEGE'

I thank Allah that we received approval to come, even though we did not expect it because of the small number of pilgrims," said Abdulaziz bin Mahmoud, an 18-year-old Saudi.

Saddaf Ghafour, a 40-year-old Pakistani woman travelling with her friend, was among the women making the pilgrimage without a male "guardian", which was a requirement until recently.

"It is a privilege to perform Hajj among a very limited number of pilgrims," she said.

Saudi Arabia has so far recorded more than 507,000 coronavirus infections, including over 8,000 deaths. Some 20 million vaccine doses have been administered in the country of over 34 million people.

The Hajj Ministry has said it is working on the "highest levels of health precautions" in light of the pandemic and the emergence of new variants.

Pilgrims are being divided into groups of just 20 "to restrict any exposure to only those 20, limiting the spread of infection", ministry undersecretary Mohammad al-Bijawi said.

Scientists stunned FROM PAGE 12

the convective heat needed to generate lightning storms. But as climate change warms the Arctic faster than the rest of the world, that's changing, scientists say.

specified the work plan to overcome Describing the government the crisis. The PM said her government

pursue the country's development announced 28 stimulus packages spree, Hasina said, "You're those involving Tk 1,31,641 crore to keep who help run the wheels of the running the lives and livelihoods

She said her government has The premier thanked all the been giving topmost priority to ensuring socio-economic uplift of the grassroots people.

definitely advance towards the development following the spirit of the Liberation War as envisioned by the Father of the Nation overcoming all the hurdles, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

The premier mentioned that the government has introduced the method of APA in the 2014-2015 fiscal year for the public sector to ensure institutional transparency, accountability, proper utilisation of resources and, above all, enhancing the institutional efficiency.

This is for the eighth time that such ministries concerned.

Under the agreement, the also screened.

Journey home may worsen today from page 2 A total of 32,713 vehicles crossed vehicles still faced tailbacks on the in the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and at form the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector, of which 70 Dick The will be here and the garments sector and the garments sector and the garments sector and the garment sector and the garment

from page 2 Telecommunication

Regulatory the bridge in 24 hours till yesterday Dhaka-Tangail highway and at ferry percent are from Dhaka, Narayanganj, Commission (BTRC). Mustafa Jabbar, 6:00am and the authorities collected terminals. Tk 2.82 crore in tolls, sources said. Meanwhile, the launch terminal for the Shimulia-Banglabazar route witnessed crowds in the morning and many of the launches were seen operating with more than the stipulated passengers, violating the health safety guidelines, reports our Munshiganj correspondent. The ferry terminal also witnessed tailback of private vehicles in the а morning but which eased as the day progressed. Visiting the Paturia-Daulatdia ferry terminal around 1:30pm yesterday, our Manikganj correspondent found ferry services at almost the usual levels PRESSURE LIKELY TO RISE TODAY The five-day Eid holiday, including the weekend, will start from Tuesday but many people will leave Dhaka during the second half of today. Romesh Chandra Ghosh, chairman of the Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association, said the number of passengers was low yesterday but

and Gazipur. Meanwhile, Sadarghat Launch

Saturday.

Authority (BIWTA).

Meanwhile,

districts.

The Daily Star yesterday.

to increase today, he added.

(RĂMRÚ).

He said the experiences of Bangladeshi migrant workers exposed the "systemic weakness" of the protection structure of migrant workers.

"Here, as we said, countries of destination, countries of origin, and private sectors in both countries everyone is culpable," he said, adding that the issue has to be addressed.

Seven BCSM member organisations, including RMMRU, conducted the survey in 45 districts between March 25 and May 6 this year.

The Bangladeshi migrants, 14.7 percent of whom are female, returned from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait

Aged between 20 and 49, they stayed in the countries of destination formore than five years. They were employed in various sectors, including construction, domestic staff, hospitality, and services.

The BCSM report says 83.9 percent returnees had valid contracts.

As reasons for return, 63 percent respondents said they were forced to return or stay back in Bangladesh at the instruction of their employers, with 28.5 percent having come back on vacation and then got stranded.

When asked whether they had registered a complaint regrading wage theft, 92 percent of respondents said they did not, according to the report.

As reasons, they cited lack of information about where to file the complaint, finding "no reason" to believe that recovery was possible, and fearing retaliation from employers, it savs.

The report recommended that all dues of migrant workers be cleared before repatriation.

In case of inability of the employers to clear such dues before the return of the workers, documents should be issued by the employers that can be presented in courts for settlement, it says.

Addressing the event, Andalib Elias, director general (multilateral economic affairs) of the foreign ministry, said lack of manpower in the Bangladesh missions abroad is a major challenge in providing required services to migrant workers.

However, the present government is fully aware and conscious of the problems, he said, adding, "We are taking all necessary steps that is possible in our periphery to address this issue.

minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology, shared the information on his Facebook account vesterday.

HEAVY TRAFFIC ON DHAKA-

TANGAIL-RANGPUR HIGHWAY Like the previous two days, the highway -- a gateway to the northern districts -- witnessed heavy traffic of vehicles carrying home-goers and cattle-laden trucks yesterday.

As a result, a tailback of a large number of vehicles was created on both sides of Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail and Sirajganj early yesterday. Traffic congestion, however, started easing after 10:00am.

But a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a truck at Soratoil area in Kalihati upazila at around 4:00am, left 10 people injured.

Although police and fire service members rescued the injured and sent them to Tangail General Hospital, vehicular movement on the busy highway remained halted for one hour, causing a long tailback there.

"Buses are running four to five hours behind schedule due to traffic congestion on this route. But we are fearful about what will happen once the holiday starts," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked about allegations of overcharging by bus operators, he said many buses are being operated from outside the terminals and they have very little to do regarding those buses.

Mosharref Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, echoed Romesh.

He said buses returning from south and south-western districts via the Paturia-Daulatdia route faced delays while returning. Buses had to wait for hours at Daulatdia terminal to cross the river to give way for cattle-laden trucks and faced traffic jams on the Nabinagar-Gabtoli road due to a large cattle market at Gabtoli.

He said the situation may worsen once the garment workers start to leave Dhaka from today.

Around 40 lakh workers are involved

United Air voices worry over sale of eight planes

FROM PAGE 12

The cargo village area apparently turned into a dumping place for these abandoned aircraft, which have occupied a large portion and is disrupting loading and offloading of goods at the main parking zone, airport sources said.

Airways owe the CAAB around Tk 750 crores as outstanding bills, he said.

"At least four to five cargo aircraft in the cargo village area could have been accommodated if the abandoned planes were removed."

Of the total arrears, the CAAB is supposed to get around Tk 190 crore from United Airways.

member high-powered committee, with AHM Touhid-Ul Ahsan as its convener to find out ways how to float tender to sell those aircraft.

Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, CAAB chairman, earlier told this correspondent that they have served several notices to the respective United Airways, GMG, and Regent authorities, asking them to remove those aircrafts from the airport premises and to pay the outstanding money.

"But we didn't get any response from them. That's why we have finally decided to confiscate those aircraft." In February 2016, United

Airways ceased flights without any announcement. The airline began operation on July 10, 2006, after The CAAB has formed a four-receiving approval from the CAAB in

2005.

Earlier in February, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) took the initiative to revive operation.

As part of this, BSEC reorganised the board of directors of the now defunct airlines with Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert and editor of the Bangladesh Monitor, an aviation and tourism based weekly magazine, as its chairman.

Tasbirul Alam Chowdhury was removed as the head of the board of directors of United Airways, which was listed with the BSEC in 2010. The company is listed with the BSEC but its transaction is now closed.

The airlines was the first private aircraft," the letter read.

airline listed with the stock exchange. In a letter, it urged the CAAB to allow the airlines' officials and its technical teams to visit their aircraft for technical audits and to take the next course of action.

The airlines also said they are hoping to relocate their aircraft soon.

"We were informed that those planes are at least 50 percent capable of flying. That's why we are hopeful those can fly again after necessary maintenance," the airlines said.

"Apart from the owners, who hold 1.5 lakh of the shareholders, different banks have also invested in the airlines who are deeply concerned about the CAAB's initiative of auctioning off the

Journo arrested over FB post on graft allegations

FROM PAGE 12

due honorarium to multipurpose health volunteers.

Shamima filed a complaint with Bogura Sadar Police Station on Saturday night over the post. Police carried out an investigation and

Emran Mahmud Tuhin, inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of Police in Bogura.

Asked, Md Selim Raza, officer-incharge of Bogura Sadar Police Station, said, "A team of DB police arrested Akhtaruzzaman from his house found that the Facebook ID was around 3:00am today. Hours later, a operated by Akhtaruzzaman, said case was filed against him under the

Digital Security Act.

"In primary interrogation, he [Akhtaruzzaman] admitted that he uploaded the post from a fake ID on provocation from some multipurpose health volunteers."

Contacted, both Mishu and allegations and claimed that the electronic devices."

volunteers were proper given honorarium as per rules.

Talking to this correspondent, Akhtaruzzaman's father Md Rafiqul Islam said, "A team of police along with Samir Hossain Mishu came to our Sabgram house around 3:00am Shamima refuted the corruption and took away my son and his

Bangabandhu FROM PAGE 12 off the tracks by mines," it added.

The Pakistan army responded in kind, the Weekly commented. After guerrillas blew up a bridge north of Dhaka, Punjabi soldiers put several neighbouring villages to the torch, killing scores of residents and taking others into custody, reported Newsweek correspondent Jenkins.

He also provided a terrifying account of the Pakistan army's response to the assassination of a pro-army official in Khulna named Ghulam Sarwar Mullah: "The morning after Sarwar was beheaded, workers travelling to Khulna's jute mills found seventeen dead bodies lined up neatly in front of the railroad station. Their hands had been tied behind their backs and each man had been shot. The army left the bodies in view for a full 24 hours to make sure the population got the message."

Newsweek quoted a Western diplomat in Dhaka who said, "It may be too early to view the Mukti Bahini as a serious military threat. But there is no doubt that what we are witnessing is the first stage of bloody, long-lasting guerrilla warfare. ... Yahva Khan and the military high command thought they could terrorise the Bengalis but the result has been just the opposite. Sure the Bengali has been frightened. But he has also been made to hate as he never did before—and he realizes that it is only through violence that he has a chance to free himself."

US STOPS AIRLIFTING REFUGEES IN INDIA

The United States airlift of East Pakistani refugees away from the border areas of India ended yesterday at the request of the Indian government, an American embassy spokesman said

Four C'130's moved about 23,000 people from the eastern territory of Tripura to Assam in the last four weeks.

The spokesman said India had asked that the airlifts last a month and had not sought any extension. The reason given was that bad weather, which led to the cancellation of 44 flights, would become even worse and make flying very difficult.

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