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Travellers in limbo as India flights uncertain

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and the two local airlines are yet to get the requisite approval from India to resume flights to the neighbouring country from today, leaving hundreds of passengers who bought tickets in a state of suspense.

Different Indian media reported yesterday that the scheduled Biman flights from today have been called off as the two aviation authorities could come into an agreement on the resumption of flights, which has been on pause for four months after the second wave of coronavirus cases in India.

Earlier on August 18, Biman announced the resumption of flights to Kolkata and Delhi from today under the "air bubble" agreement. There would be two flights to Delhi and three flights to Kolkata every week.

Following the announcement, hundreds of Bangladeshis, most of whom are patients and students and were waiting for long to fly to India, bought tickets.

One such passenger is Sharifa Begum from Rajbari, Faridpur. She bought tickets to Delhi for her 11-year-old son's treatment and booked doctor's appointments and hotels accordingly.

"But the flight cancellation has put us in a big problem," she said.

AMRI Hospitals said it processed 300-400 visa invitation forms for Bangladesh patients who were scheduled to visit next week, reports The Times of India.

Most of them have emergency surgeries or treatment lined up, according to Rupak Barua, chief executive officer of AMRI.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



The family on the boat consider themselves lucky because the tin-roof could be saved from being washed away by the swollen Teesta river in Gangachara, Rangpur. Many other families in the region are losing their homes and belongings to erosion and floods.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DENGUE MENACE 80 children in treatment at Shishu Hospital

Breaks previous record of 69

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday gave treatment to 80 dengue infected children admitted to the facility, the highest ever at a time.

In 2019, when the mosquito-borne disease was quite prevalent, 69 children with dengue were at the hospital at one time, said its Deputy Director Prabir Kumar Sarkar.

The number of dengue patients is increasing and children are particularly vulnerable, he added.

Since January, 356 children have taken treatment at the hospital. Six of them died, said Epidemiologist Kinkor Ghosh.

He added that over 58.5 percent of the child patients were from Dhaka North City Corporation areas, 31.5

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

'I will go insane if I do not get bail'

Says Pori Moni to her lawyers who did not file a petition; actor sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Pori Moni yesterday expressed displeasure with her lawyers in the courtroom for not filing any bail petition in the narcotics case.



"Why are you not petitioning for bail?" the disgruntled actor asked at the end of yesterday's hearing.

After the hearing, Pori Moni was sent to jail by Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ashek Imam after Kazi Golam Mostafa, an inspector of Criminal Investigation Department and also the investigation officer of the case, produced her before court with police forwarding report on completion of her one-day remand in the third phase in the case, court sources said.

She was taken to a women's prison in Gazipur yesterday, said the court police.

The defence did not file any bail petition with the court for Pori Moni yesterday.

Soon after the magistrate ended the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Reluctant candidates in Dhaka

AUGUST 22, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SHIP SABOTAGE SHATTERED PAKISTAN

The Daily Telegraph reported that no candidates could be found for the 79 constituencies which had been declared vacant by the Martial Law Authority in East Pakistan. Civil servants and the more "dovish" members of the martial law authorities had so far been unable to persuade people to stand as candidates, either for the Muslim League or one of the other recognised parties, added the report.

The London-based daily commented, "For it is well known that candidates will be wide open to threats and harassment from the Mukti Foj guerrillas. Supporters of Bangladesh are likely, too, to make the life of any candidate's family difficult and unpleasant, even if they do not use bullets or bombs."

In another report, the daily stated that supply ship sabotage shattered confidence of West Pakistan. It may be mentioned here that Bangladeshi guerrillas had sunk several Pakistani supply vessels in the previous week, seriously interrupting the flow of soldiers and military supplies from West to East Pakistan.

The guerrillas had also begun attacks on well-guarded military targets. Nearly a thousand minor bridges and culverts, and 157 major road and rail bridges had been destroyed. The army had not been able to repair the most important of the rail bridges, connecting the main port of Chittagong with Dhaka. It was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Two held for gang-rape of teen

Another held for violating girl with challenges

STAR REPORT

Police arrested two men on charge of gang-raping a teenager, making a video of the incident and then stealing her jewellery in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila.

Meanwhile, a grocer was arrested in Gafargaon upazila of Mymensingh yesterday noon alleged for raping of speech-impaired girl, while a madrasa girl was raped in Bogura on Friday night.

In Noakhali's Begumganj, the victim's mother filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and Pornography Act accusing Abdur Rahman, 28, and Md Ibrahim, 24, with Begumganj Police Station yesterday morning, said Md Kamruzzaman Siddik, officer-in-charge of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Woolly mammoth walked far enough to circle Earth twice



THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

He was huge, hairy and boasted two enormous tusks: researchers say they have discovered a woolly mammoth called Kik who traipsed almost far enough in his life to circle the Earth twice.

Experts say the work not only sheds light on the movements of the giant proboscideans, but adds weight to ideas that climate change or human activity may have contributed to the demise of most of the creatures about 12,000 years ago.

Dr Clément Bataille, a researcher from the University of Ottawa and co-lead author of the research, said it highlighted the importance of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Dhaka, Beijing ties deepened in pandemic

Says Momen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-China relations have further deepened during the pandemic, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told Xinhua news agency.

"From the very beginning, they [China] have been very supportive," Momen said in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of the agreement-signing ceremony between Bangladesh and China on vaccine co-production on Sunday.

Xinhua published the interview yesterday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 22
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:33 8:00
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:36 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

HASINA'S MOTORCADE

Convict in attack case held after 17 years

STAR REPORT

Detectives have arrested a convict in a case filed over the attack on the motorcade of the then opposition leader and incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Sathkhira in 2002.

Arifur Rahman Ranju, 42, was arrested in Dhaka's Hazaribagh area on Friday, AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner of the detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told journalists at a press briefing at DMP media centre yesterday.

A former Chhatra Dal leader of a college in Sathkhira, Ranju was sentenced to 10 years in prison in the case, he added.

A Sathkhira court in February this year jailed 50 people, including former BNP lawmaker Habibur Islam Habib of Sathkhira-1 constituency, to different terms over the attack.

During the verdict, 34 of them were present in the courtroom. The others were on the run.



Members of Fire Services and Civil Defence trying to cut the cab of a truck to rescue its driver. He got trapped after a head-on collision between the truck and a bus. The accident happened near Ghatail Bus Stand in Tangail town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

India okays world's first DNA-based Covid-19 shot

AFP, New Delhi

India has authorised the emergency use of a second homegrown Covid-19 vaccine, which is also the first approved for children older than 12 in the country.

India's Department of Biotechnology on Friday announced its approval for ZyCoV-D, by Indian pharmaceutical firm Zydus Cadila, as the "world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA-based vaccine for Covid-19."

The approval for ZyCoV-D, which can be applied using a needle-free injector, comes with vaccination rates picking up across the country over the last few weeks.

"This three-dose vaccine... when injected produces the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and elicits an immune response," the biotechnology department, which partnered with Zydus Cadila, said in a statement.

"The plug-and-play technology on which the plasmid DNA platform is based can be easily adapted to deal with mutations in the virus, such as those already occurring," it added.

ZyCoV-D is now the sixth vaccine to be approved by New Delhi after Moderna, Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield, Covaxin -- which was developed by Indian firm Bharat Biotech, Russia's Sputnik V, and Johnson and Johnson.

More than 574 million jabs have been administered so far in India.

The country broke its daily record earlier this week by administering more than 9.2 million vaccine doses in the mass vaccination programme which began in mid-January.

India hopes to inoculate its entire eligible population by the end of December. But with only about 10 percent -- or 127 million people -- having received both doses of a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1