

India to reopen for tourists from Oct 15

AFP, New Delhi

India will reopen for tourists from October 15 after being closed for more than a year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the government said yesterday.

"After considering various inputs, the MHA (home ministry) has decided to begin granting fresh Tourist Visas for foreigners coming to India through chartered flights with effect from October 15, 2021," the home ministry said in a statement.

"Foreign tourists entering into India by flights other than chartered aircraft would be able to do so only with effect from November 15, 2021 on fresh Tourist Visas," it added.

India suspended all visas for foreigners in March 2020 when the pandemic took off as the government imposed a strict lockdown.

Restrictions on some categories of foreigners such as diplomats and businesspeople were later lifted but tourists remained barred.

Earlier this year India was hit by a severe wave of coronavirus infections with about 400,000 cases and 4,000 deaths every day.

But cases in the country of 1.3 billion people have since slowed sharply to around 20,000 new daily infections and 200 to 300 deaths.

At the same time restrictions on most activities have been lifted.

It's causing infectious

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September to October has increased by 43mm.

The report further said, according to the survey done on 15,000 people, sickness among the people rises by 26 percent during monsoon. Respiratory infections also increase during the season with the rise in temperature and humidity.

With a 1-degree rise in temperature, 9.3 percent more people are likely to suffer from respiratory diseases, while for one percent increase in humidity, there may be a 12.5 percent increase in the number of such patients.

Adverse weather can cause mood swings too.

More cases of depression are reported during cold and dry seasons compared to the rainy season, the report says. However, anxiety disorders can become more prominent with an increase in temperature and humidity during monsoon.

The reports further said erratic weather conditions played a key role in the 2019 dengue outbreak in Dhaka city, where 77 percent of the country's total dengue-related deaths occurred.

The report linked higher rainfall and humidity with dengue. It said that in 2019 Dhaka recorded more than three times the average rainfall in February, followed by higher temperature and humidity between March and July.

With further climate change predicted, more physical and mental health issues are likely to emerge.

The report further suggests that by strengthening healthcare systems, Bangladesh can deal with outbreaks of infectious and other climate-sensitive diseases.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on forest, environment and climate change ministry, said it is a study of immense value. It is giving a message to the world that the climate change has another dimension - that of physical and mental health.

It is not only about land degradation, rising sea levels or melting glaciers. The whole issue has to be seen from a public health perspective and we must act accordingly, he said.

Saleemul Haq, leading climate researcher, said, "We are entering an era of loss and damage due to human-induced climate change. The future is going to be worse unless we prevent it. Every day will be worse than the last. Rich or poor, every one will face it, so we need to prepare ourselves."

Going forward, Bangladesh can better track the evolution of climate-sensitive diseases by ensuring stronger data collection, said Iffat Mahmud, World Bank Senior Operations Officer and co-author of the report.



Rohingya refugees carry a water tank at Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhiya yesterday.

Arun Basu passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arun Basu, a journalist and Prothoma Prokashan's coordinator, passed away yesterday. He was 68.



He breathed his last at Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the morning.

Basu was hospitalised on October 5 after contracting coronavirus. Earlier, he was suffering from flu fever and jaundice.

Basu left behind his wife and son.

Locals in fear

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5,000 votes from the union during parliamentary elections, but receives way lower votes during UP elections, and they know the union has 2,800 Hindu voters, indicating that the community does not vote for them.

Contacted, Golam said his speech was distorted.

"My speech was not against Hindus. It was against AL leaders who don't work for party candidates during the elections," he said.

The video footage shows Golam advising party leaders to control Hindu voters by threatening them.

Golam told this correspondent, "The speech should not have come out in public. It was an indoor meeting of party insiders, where we talk openly."

New US aid

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killing three enemy soldiers. On the same day, Mukti Bahini raided the occupation army position in Mojumderhat area, killing six enemy soldiers. In an ambush on the same day in Charnal area, Mukti Bahini killed two enemy soldiers.

BHUTTO ACCUSES YAHYA OF TRYING TO SPLIT HIS PARTY

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan Peoples' Party, today accused President Yahya Khan of lavishly spending government funds to create a rift in his party. Addressing party workers in Multan, Bhutto said in a recent meeting with the president he had produced proof in support of his accusation.

Bhutto also criticised the government for bypassing the PPP in taking major decisions. Bhutto pointed out that following the banning of the Awami League his was the largest parliamentary party. Yet it was not consulted in installing a civilian administration in East Pakistan.

3 MINISTERS SWORN IN

In Dhaka, three ministers were sworn in today raising the strength of the three-week-old puppet civilian regime in East Pakistan. Radio Pakistan named the new ministers as Mujibur Rahman, AK Muzharar Hussain and Jamiruddin Ahmed.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

The silent killer

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the toll our health pays over time. High BP is a silent killer that secretly builds itself for years and attacks us with ferocity we may have never experienced before.

Scientifically speaking, high BP is a condition where the pressure within the blood vessels is higher than normal and it makes our heart work unusually fast. But if you can use your relaxing sources to calm down, you're good to go, right? Not quite, since it's a double whammy.

High BP compounds over time. While high BP anxiousness episodes risk cardiac arrests, the compounding effect also weakens your heart muscle and gradually pushes it to succumb to a cardiac arrest later down the line.

An ideal heart rate, or blood pressure measurement, as we call it, is around 120/80. Anything above a 120 or an 80 is an indication of high BP.

Even though the symptoms are not certain, there are indications that the likelihood of high BP increases if a person is overweight, consumes high amount of salt, does not get enough sleep etc. Sometimes, high BP can even be hereditary.

The first point of contact should be a doctor. But to control high BP, changing your lifestyle is imperative. Cutting excessive consumption of salt, smoking and drinking less, even a cut in coffee is a good idea, and exercise always helps. In a nutshell, the home prevention regime should include activities that can cut down on things that exacerbate stress.

Our heart is the engine that keeps us going day after day. If some healthy choices can help keep this machine spick and span, is it not worth the efforts? Look at it this way: No one wants to feel like sitting on a scary roller coaster while stuck in traffic.

How did you get close

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[and health] secretary were present in the MoU-signing ceremony. I got acquainted with Shahed from there."

He claimed that at that time he did not know that Shahed was a fraud.

"Sir, I have diabetes. We've always worked for the welfare of the people... I've not committed any crime," Azad told the judge.

"Although the Regent Hospital did not renew its licence, the MoU was inked as per the directive of the [health] secretary in order to save lives," he said.

The defence told the court that the ex-DG was being framed.

The state lawyer opposed the bail petition, saying Azad signed the agreement with Regent Hospital without the health ministry's consent.

The lawyer claimed Azad, in collusion with other accused including Shahed, misappropriated Tk 1.37 crore which was earned illegally in the name of sample collection for Covid tests and treatment of coronavirus patients. So, the bail petition should be scrapped.

Upon hearing both the sides, the judge granted Azad the conditional bail till November 2.

On September 30, ACC Deputy Director Farid Ahmed Patwary, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet in the case to Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka against Abul Kalam Azad and five others.

The five others are: Shahed, DGHS former director (hospitals and clinics) Dr Aminul Hasan, deputy director (hospital-1) Dr Md Younus Ali, assistant director (hospital-1) Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman and research officer Dr Md Didarul Islam.

The court then fixed November 2 to decide whether to accept the charge sheet or not.

Azad's name was not in the first information report of the case, but the name has been included in the

charge sheet as his involvement in misappropriating the money was found during investigation, the IO said.

Of the accused, only Shahed is in jail, while the five others, including Azad, are now on bail.

Azad was shown "fugitive" in the charge sheet.

The ACC filed the case against Shahed and the others, without Azad, on September 22 last year.

Despite much discussion and criticisms, Azad was not accused in the case at that time.

According to the case statement, the accused converted Regent Hospital, which was closed, into a dedicated Covid-19 hospital without renewing its licence and abused power as they wanted benefit by illegal means.

They embezzled over Tk 1.37 crore through collections and testing samples of Covid-19 patients in a government-run lab Nipsom, the statement said.

Moscow invites Taliban to Afghanistan talks on Oct. 20

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia will invite representatives of the Taliban to international talks on Afghanistan that it plans to host in Moscow on Oct. 20, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan said on Thursday.

Zamir Kabulov, the representative, did not provide further details on the planned talks in comments carried by Russian news agencies.

Moscow hosted an international conference on Afghanistan in March at which Russia, the United States, China and Pakistan released a joint statement calling on the then-warring Afghan sides to reach a peace deal and curb violence.

ACC sues former chief justice Sinha

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Using his influence, he [Sinha] then managed to change the allotment to 5-katha," reads the first information report.

Sinha then abused his power to shift the allotment location from Purbachal to Uttara sector-4 and got approval for the construction of the building from Rajuk, reads the case statement.

"Surendra Kumar Sinha paid the money [for the plot]," it said.

The former chief justice then tasked his relative Shangkhaeet Shingha with looking after the construction of the building.

A joint account was opened in Shangkhaeet and Narendra's names at the Uttara branch of Shahjalal Islami Bank.

On November 28, 2016, about Tk 2.23 crore was transferred to the joint account from Sinha's account at Sonali Bank's Supreme Court branch.

Later, Tk 78 lakh was transferred to Shangkhaeet's personal account at the EPZ branch of Dhaka Bank.

Shangkhaeet told investigators in writing that upon Sinha's instructions, he opened two FDRs with Tk 60 lakh and kept the remaining Tk 18 lakh in his account.

The accounts containing the money were later frozen upon a court order in 2019, reads the FIR.

One Sujon Kumar Singha, who is an architect, was appointed to supervise the construction of the building along with Shangkhaeet Shingha.

Both Sujon and Shangkhaeet told investigators that the former chief justice and his wife paid construction expenditure in cash.

Sinha's brother Narendra was not involved in the construction, reads the case statement.

Pinaki Das, tax lawyer of the former chief justice, told investigators that Sinha had once requested him to prepare his brother Narendra's tax documents. Pinaki then prepared tax files for five years from 2011-12 to 2017-18 for Narendra.

Pinaki submitted this information in writing to the ACC.

Narendra showed the under-construction building in this tax file.

As sources of the funds for construction, he showed an advance of Tk 4.4 crore as flat booking from one Khaleda Chowdhury, Tk 1.49 crore from selling a flat to his brother Surendra Kumar Sinha, Tk 74.53 lakh as loan from Sinha's daughter Suchana Sinha, and Tk 89.81 lakh as bank loan.

According to Pinaki's statement before investigators, Sinha sent necessary documents through his representatives and the tax lawyer prepared the tax files without

examination.

On the other hand, Khaleda Chowdhury said she booked flats in the building but paid only Tk 70 lakh from January 2018 through his son Atiqul Islam Chowdhury.

Atiqul showed the transaction in his tax file.

"Therefore, getting Tk 4.4 crore from Khaleda as booking money is not true," reads the FIR.

Narendra told investigators that he did not receive any advance money from anyone.

"Actually, his brother Surendra Kumar Sinha included the information in the tax file. He [Narendra] is not aware of it," an ACC official told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the report of an independent architect, about Tk 6.31 crore was spent on the construction of the building.

About Tk 75 lakh was spent to buy the plot, Khaleda Chowdhury gave an advance of Tk 70 lakh and about Tk 78 lakh remain frozen in banks, according to the case statement.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court on Tuesday rescheduled delivering verdict in a case, filed against Sinha over laundering over Tk 4 crore, to October 21.

Sinha, the 21st chief justice of the country, resigned on November 10, 2017 while he was abroad.

In-person classes

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"All departments and institutes were asked to take in-person and virtual classes. Departments with fewer students can take all their classes in person if they want, but all departments have to ensure that at least 60 percent classes are held in person," he added.

In-person classes at DU have been suspended since March 18 last year due to the pandemic.

Bangladesh fall 2-0

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against Sri Lanka and India, they failed to replicate anything similar in a match where any other result than a loss would have suited them.

Oscar Bruzon made two changes to the team that played out a 1-1 draw against India, bringing in Rahmat Mia for the suspended Bishwanath Ghosh and Sohel Rana in place of Rakib Hossain.

To contain the dangerous front three of Ali Ashfaq, Ali Fisir and Hamza Mohamed, Bruzon deployed Rahmat Mia ahead of Saad Uddin, who was playing at right back, protected the right flank well together.

The hosts looked more energetic from the onset but it was Bangladesh who first launched the attack in the second minute, midfielder Biplu Ahmed driving straight to goalkeeper Mohamed Faisal.

Ashfaq, playing as a free-roaming forward, was marked tightly the hosts and the hosts struggled to penetrate Bangladesh's defence in the first half, barring one moved by Hussain Nihaan, the only change to the team that lost 1-0 to Nepal on the opening day.

Maldives, bolstered by deafening support of their fans, gained momentum

and established authority in midfield while Bruzon and team manager Satyajit Das balked instructions.

Bangladesh focused on the counter and Matin Mia broke through on the half-hour mark, sprinting into the opposition box but the chance petered out as there was no one to pass to. Maldives earned two free kicks around the box and Ashfaq almost gave Maldives a lead in the 45th minute but his curling free kick was rebuffed by Anisur Rahman Zico.

Maldives maintained their stranglehold after resumption and Hamza Mohamed eventually provided the breakthrough in breathtaking fashion, launching an overhead bicycle kick into the far post in the 55th as Ibrahim Aisam's header looped towards him inside the box.

Bangladesh soon sent on Mahabubur Rahman Sufil, Suman Reza and Jewel Rana and amplified pressure in search of an equaliser but Maldives doubled their lead through a counter-attack in the 73rd minute. As Niaz Hossain broke through on goal, a trailing Sohel Rana dragged him down inside the box. Ali Ashfaq duly converted from the spot.

Pluto's atmosphere

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the dwarf planet and revealing its small, nitrogen rich atmosphere.

Their observations suggest that as Pluto moves further from the Sun in its long orbit, it is getting colder and its nitrogen is refreezing to the surface.

Pluto was discovered in 1930 and is just over a third of the way around the Sun. The small world is currently moving further from the star, meaning it is getting colder over time.

It is currently 3.7 billion miles from the Sun, and will not complete its first full orbit of our star since its discovery until March 23, 2178.

The astronomers used a technique known as occultation to determine the impact the distance was having on its thin and tenuous atmosphere.

This technique relies on a dark object being backlit by a distant light to reveal previously hidden details.

This includes showing atmosphere density for a distant world like Pluto. The occultation took about two minutes, during which time the star faded from view as Pluto passed in front of it.

The rate at which the star disappeared and reappeared determined the density profile of Pluto's atmosphere, the researchers explained.

"Scientists have used occultations to monitor changes in Pluto's atmosphere since 1988," said Dr Eliot Young, a senior author on this new research.

"The New Horizons mission obtained an excellent density profile from its 2015 flyby," he added.

These findings were consistent with Pluto's bulk atmosphere doubling every decade.

However, the 2018 observations by the team behind the new study "do not show that trend continuing from 2015."

The data will help atmospheric modellers improve their understanding of Pluto's subsurface layers, particularly regarding compositions that are compatible with the observed limits on heat transfer.

The findings were presented at the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences Annual Meeting on October 4.

২০২১-২০২২

মিতসুবিশি এশীয় শিশুদের সচিত্র দিনলিপি [এনিকি ফেস্টা]

- ৬ থেকে ১২ বৎসর বয়স পর্যন্ত শিশুরা এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশ নিতে পারবে।
- উৎসবে প্রত্যেক অংশগ্রহণকারী দেশের একজন করে শিশুশিল্পীকে গ্র্যান্ড প্রিন্স ও জাপান সফরের সুযোগ এবং আরো ৭জন শিশুশিল্পীকে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে।
- একজন শিশুশিল্পীকে মোট ৫টি ছবি একে তার রোজকার ডাইনী (সচিত্র দিনলিপি) লিপিবদ্ধ করতে হবে। ছবির বিষয় হবে 'এই আমার জীবন'।
- অংশগ্রহণের নীতিমালা, এন্ট্রি ফরম এবং ছবি আঁকার কাগজ (এক সেট) দেশের ৬৩ জেলা শিল্পকলা একাডেমি হতে ১১ অক্টোবর ২০২১ এর মধ্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। ঢাকায় বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমির চারুকলা বিভাগ থেকে ৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ এর মধ্যে ফরম সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। ফরম মূল্য ৩০ (ত্রিশ) টাকা।
- ঢাকায় ২০২২ সালের অক্টোবর মাসের দ্বিতীয় সপ্তাহে একাডেমির জাতীয় চিত্রশালায় বাংলাদেশের অংশগ্রহণকারী শিশুদের নির্বাচিত চিত্রকর্মের ১০ দিনব্যাপী বিশেষ প্রদর্শনী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

আবেদনের নির্দেশিকা সংগ্রহ এবং পূরণকৃত আবেদন জমাদানের জন্য যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা:

চারুকলা বিভাগ, কক্ষ নং ৩০৯, জাতীয় চিত্রশালা ভবন, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, ১৪/৩ সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০
 মোবাইল: ০১৯১৪-৮৫৪৮১২, গুয়েব সাইট: shilpakala.gov.bd, ই-মেইল: macef.bsa.bd@gmail.com
 অঙ্কিত ছবি প্রত্যেক জেলা শিল্পকলা একাডেমিসমূহে ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ জমা দিতে হবে। ঢাকার অংশগ্রহণকারীগণ বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমির চারুকলা বিভাগে ২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ এর মধ্যে অফিস চালাকালীন সময়ে জমা দিতে হবে।

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি

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