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It's bedlam at Dhaka airport

Passengers suffer amid curtailed flight operation time for runway closure, blame inadequate response

SHARIFUL ISLAM and RASHIDUL HASAN

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport has been nothing short of a travellers' nightmare for over a week.

Luggage carts are hard to get by, the queue in front of the departure lounge is way too long, the health officers to verify the Covid tests are too few, and the mind boggles at how crowded the counters are.

This has been happening mostly because flights that were supposed to be operated over 24 hours are now being operated over 16 as the lone runway remains closed from 12:00am to 8:00am for renovation of the taxiways.

The utter chaos could have been averted had the authorities deployed more people to handle the logistics, and serve the travellers, said flyers and employees of different airlines.

Meanwhile, flights often get delayed by up to two hours as passengers stress over missing their connecting flights.

"It is a total mess," said Razila Sultana on Tuesday night before leaving for Istanbul. "The departure lounge remains

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FLIGHT OPERATIONS CLOSED
12:01am-8:00am

NUMBER OF FLIGHTS
110

NUMBER OF TRAVELERS
12,000-15,000

Most flights to the Middle East
delayed by up to two hours



The cone-shaped concrete pillar inside the tea stall is there to demarcate the Buriganga river in Kamrangirchar, Dhaka. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority placed the pillar inside the shop recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Covid booster shot campaign starts today

STAR REPORT

The country would begin a campaign for Covid-19 booster doses at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons today.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday confirmed this while attending a programme in Manikganj.

"Pfizer vaccines will be given as booster doses as the World Health Organization has approved it," he said.

Citizens aged 60 and above would be eligible for receiving the booster doses. The frontliners who have received both

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MP's sign 'forged'

BB contacts CID to take action against businessman

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Bank has contacted the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) requesting it to take action against a businessman who allegedly forged the signature of a lawmaker while attempting to secure a loan from a non-bank financial institution (NBFI).

The matter came to the BB's notice after First Finance tried to extend a credit support of Tk 15 crore to Amjad Hossain, owner of Megh City Complex, a multi-storied commercial building in Bogura through the central bank.

First Finance is not allowed to disburse more than Tk 1 crore to any client without BB's approval because of the NBFIs failure to pay back

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DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT JP to push for EC formation law tomorrow

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jatiya Party will emphasise enacting a law on the formation of the Election Commission during its dialogue with President Abdul Hamid, the party leaders said.

From tomorrow, President Abdul Hamid would hold dialogues with the country's registered political parties over the formation of the next EC.

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Vaccination key to sustain progress

WB vice-president tells Star about Bangladesh's challenge ahead

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh's immediate challenge is accelerating the Covid-19 vaccination programme to cover the targeted 80 percent of the population, said a World Bank official.

"This is now the challenge, as the country seeks to sustain the achievements made so far after facing setbacks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic."

Hartwig Schafer, vice president of WB South Asia, during his visit on December 4-10, his first since the pandemic, lauded Bangladesh's socio-

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