

AstraZeneca's India vaccine partner seeking EU travel resolution



Serum Institute of India CEO Ajeet Poonawalla said on Monday he was trying to resolve EU travel problems facing India's vaccine partner AstraZeneca.

A European Union vaccine passport programme will allow people to travel freely within the bloc from July 1, as long as they have had one of four Western-made vaccines, read more.

While the UK's AstraZeneca (AZN.L) shot, it does not extend to Covid-19, the Indian version produced by SII.

"I have taken this up at the highest levels and hope to resolve this matter soon, both with regulators and at a diplomatic level with countries," Poonawalla said on Twitter.

India's Ministry of External Affairs has raised the issue of Covid-19 vaccine recognition by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the Economic Times reported on Monday.

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Amid COVID dip, Pakistan to ease some flight restrictions

With active cases of the coronavirus continuing to drop in Pakistan, authorities say they have decided to ease incoming flight restrictions from several countries, including all the European countries, Canada, China and Malaysia.

Direct flights from these countries will be permitted in general, with the new regulations covering the full schedule of flights as per the government's decision, said, with the new regulations covering the full schedule of flights as per the government's decision, said.

On Monday, government data showed that Pakistan had registered 914 new cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, with a positivity rate of 2.65 percent.

At least 20 people are confirmed to have died from COVID-19 on Sunday, the data showed.

The number represents a sharp drop from the peak of the country's third wave of the virus in late April, when daily case rates were hitting almost 6,000 cases.



Jazeera Airways Launches New Routes to Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Karachi, June 27, 2021: Marking the first ever route to be established between Karachi and Uzbekistan, Jazeera Airways today launched its new flight to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

The flight took off from 17:30 at Karachi International Airport at 20:35 local time.

Present at the launch were Jazeera chief executive officer, Rohit Ramchandran, and the Consul of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Farukh A. Valibekov.

Speaking at the new launch, Ramchandran said, "We are very pleased to be launching yet a new destination to Tashkent to support the trade relations between the Middle East region and Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is also a unique source of destination to visit, especially during a year in which travel was restricted and all markets are eager to start exploring new places once again. Uzbekistan offers a unique history, rich culture and long history, in addition to great outdoor activities. The airline will be operating the new route with two flights per week."

On his part, the Consul of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Farukh A. Valibekov, said, "Uzbekistan is a world's destination worth visiting. It is a country with a rich history, rich culture and long history, in addition to great outdoor activities. The airline will be operating the new route with two flights per week."



Jazeera Airways chief executive officer, Rohit Ramchandran, and the Consul of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Farukh A. Valibekov, at the launch of the new flight to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

Government of Nepal and world bank sign \$150 million agreement to support Nepal's resilient recovery



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Bangladesh extends closure of borders with India amidst surge in COVID cases

Bangladesh on Monday extended the closure of borders with India for 14 more days amidst a surge in the COVID-19 cases in the country. On April 26, Bangladesh first shut down its border with India for two weeks to stem COVID-19 transmission. The government subsequently extended the closure several times.

The closure of the border with India has been extended for another 14 days, till July 10, as the worsening COVID-19 situation in Bangladesh, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

"All other previous conditions remain the same," Masleeh Rana Shams, secretary (East) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was quoted as saying by the report.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial virtual meeting chaired by Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Morshed, the report said. Although the border roadblock, cargo transports are allowed to cross.

Bangladesh often restricts travelling to India for treatment with visas valid for less than 15 days and enter Bangladesh through only Benapole, Akhaura and Feni border after taking permission from Bangladesh mission in New Delhi, Kolkata, and Agartala, the report said.

COVID-19 negative certificates through PCR tests within 72 hours of entry in Bangladesh are mandatory conditions.

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