



## Vaccination begins countrywide amid warm response

STAR REPORT

Mass inoculation against Covid-19 that began across the country yesterday drew warm response from different sections of people.

In most of the districts, cabinet members, lawmakers and government officials took the shot of vaccine to gain public trust.

The health department has set up multiple booths at district headquarters and upazila health complexes for administering the vaccine.

Significant numbers of health workers have been trained up at district and upazila levels to run the programme effectively.

Those who took the vaccine, urged mass people not to panic over it as they did not face any adverse effect.

"I took the first shot of vaccine in this district. I am absolutely fine. I have not gotten any report of side effects among those who have been vaccinated here," said Dr Muhammad Imtiaz, Civil Surgeon of Narayanganj.

Sixty-five-year-old Sabeda Khanam, resident of Station Road in Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh, yesterday took the vaccine at Mymensingh Medical College.

"Earlier, I was in fear that I might get sick due to adverse effect of the vaccine. But I am feeling well and healthy," she told The Daily Star.

In Chattogram, vaccination started with inoculating the Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in the morning.

Later, senior government officials and health workers in the district were vaccinated at CMCH where four booths

-- two for men and two for women -- have been opened.

In Rajshahi, mostly health workers and security personnel were vaccinated. Health officials said anyone who has completed online registration will be allowed to take vaccine.

In Khulna, the city's Mayor Talukder Abdul Khalek inaugurated Covid-19 vaccination by receiving the first dose in the district around.

Vaccines will be administered in 13 centres in Khulna city along with some other centres at upazila health complexes.

In Barisal, the city Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah launched the vaccination programme at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH), while another lawmaker Nasreen Jahan Ratna took the vaccine at Bakerganj Upazila Health Complex. A total of 197 people were vaccinated in Barisal.

In Sylhet, vaccination began at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital yesterday morning with city councillor Taufiq Baksh Lipon receiving the first dose in the city.

On the first day, some 700 people took the vaccine. A total of 52 booths have been set up in the district to vaccinate people.

In Patuakhali, 297 people were vaccinated at 26 centres. Lawmaker Kazi Kaniz Sultana Helen inaugurated vaccination at Patuakhali Medical College Hospital at 10am.

In Manikganj, a total of 626 people took the vaccine in nine centres. On the first day, the maximum number of vaccinated people were government officials.

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Healthcare workers were busy ensuring smooth operation of the Covid-19 vaccination programme that took off across the country yesterday. Doctors are being prioritised in the vaccination process, and this senior doctor was one of the first to receive the vaccine at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Meanwhile, people queued up at the vaccination centre at Chattogram Medical College Hospital from 10:30am to get their shots.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, TITU DAS, RAJIB RAIHAN



## Repatriation the only solution

Says Turkish envoy on Rohingya crisis at meeting with PM



Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Osman Turan pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

UNB, Dhaka

Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Mustafa Osman Turan yesterday said the only solution to Rohingya crisis is their repatriation to their place of origin in Myanmar.

"Turkey always supports Bangladesh in resolving the Rohingya problem and will remain in favour of Bangladesh in the future, too," he said while meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's official residence Gono Bhaban.

The prime minister expressed her gratitude to the Turkish first lady for visiting the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar soon after the Myanmar nationals were forced to take shelter in Bangladesh, said PM's assistant press secretary MM

Imrul Kayes.

Noting the recent mutual visits of the foreign ministers of the two countries, she expressed satisfaction over the existing bilateral relations and hoped the ties would get stronger during his tenure in Bangladesh.

Mustafa Osman, who came to Bangladesh taking his first-ever assignment as ambassador, expressed his country's willingness to increase bilateral trade between the two countries.

He said various trade organisations and businesspeople have expressed their desire to invest in Bangladesh. Mustafa Osman said a Turkish organisation is going to invest US\$ 100 million in the LPG sector of Bangladesh.

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## Woman, two children die in road accident

STAR REPORT

A woman and her two children were killed and another person was injured when a speeding bus while overtaking a truck hit an auto-rickshaw carrying them at Mirpur Kalachand intersection in Sadar upazila of Sirajganj yesterday, reports our Pabna correspondent.

Rifat Sultana Runi (38), wife of Masud Rana from village Mirpur Dokhinpara in the upazila and a teacher of Bonbaria Government Primary School; and her 12-year-old son Mohammad Wadi died on the spot, Sirajganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (investigation) Golam Mostafa, told The Daily Star.

Sultana Runi's six-year-old daughter Sayfa succumbed to her injuries at the 250-bed Bongomata Sheikh Fozilatunnesa Mujib General Hospital, said the police official.

The accident happened around 1pm while the victims were heading to Sirajganj town.

Auto-rickshaw driver Chan Miah (25) from Ekdala Sluice gate area was undergoing treatment at the hospital, said the police officer.

Police seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the scene, said the law enforcers.

Our Faridpur correspondent adds, Bhanu Begum (50), wife of Abul Sheikh from Takadia village, died as a bus ran her over on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Bramankanda area under Madhukhali upazila yesterday.

Abul Khayer, sub-inspector of Karimpur Highway Police Station, said she died on the spot.

In another accident, Tania Aktar (20), daughter of Abul Kalam Azad from Dhigalia village in Madhukhali, was killed after she fell from a motorbike in front of Government Aluiddin College in the upazila yesterday, according to police officials.

## Gender equality can bring sustained peace, security

Speakers tell webinar on UN Security Council Resolution 1325

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring equality between men and women both in public and private spheres can bring about sustainable peace and security, foreign diplomats and civil society members have said.

They said women can be agents of peace in all societies when they are given access to equal opportunities, but stressed that lot more investment is required towards their education and empowerment.

The observations came at a virtual event marking the 20 years of "UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Women, Peace and Security" organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. Bangladesh played a leading role in adopting the resolution at the UN Security Council in 2000.

Bangladesh has nearly 7,000 peacekeepers in the UN Peacekeeping Missions. Of them, 139 are women military officers and 183 are women police officers.

Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Espen Rikter-Svendsen said he was pleased to see an all-women team of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Haiti in 2010. "This is something that Bangladesh can be proud of," he said.

However, he said, Bangladesh also needs to look at what's happening in the domestic front in terms of gender violence. The issue should not get less priority amid the coronavirus pandemic.

UK High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson said Bangladesh is a champion in women empowerment, especially when it comes to women participation in the UN peacekeeping. Their role is critical in the missions as women and girls are affected the most in any violence.

It is also important to look at how the women enjoy their rights at home, he said, adding, "Gender equality is a basic human right."

Canadian High Commissioner Benoit Prefontaine said finding out the root causes of violence and solution is key to peace, and that's what is required by any society going through violence.

Manzoor Hasan, executive director at the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University, said cyber-bullying and unemployment among women have

become important factors in the rise of violence against women.

He suggested that developing entrepreneurship skills among women and ensuring life skills and human rights education in college/university level for everyone could help address some of the root causes of gender-based violence.

Addressing as chief guest, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said the key focus of the UN Security Council's Women in Peace and Security (WPS) resolution is that women -- equal half of humanity -- bring in a new breadth, quality and balance of vision to the common effort to move away from the culture of war to the culture of peace.

"Empowered women bring important and different skills and perspectives to the policy-making table. Gender equality makes our planet safe and secure," he said.

The women in Bangladesh are playing key roles in the disaster management, rescue and recovery.

"One third of our volunteers responsible for rescue and recovery are women. They play essential preventive role in the context of emerging security threats, including violent extremism," said the foreign minister.

However, financing remains a challenge. Bilateral aid for women's empowerment has decreased from 5.3 percent to 4.5 percent, while overseas development aid for women's organisations remained the same (0.2 percent) during the last decade, he said.

"We must reverse this depressing trend and redouble our efforts to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace process," said the minister.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen; Secretary (East) Mashfee Binte Shams; Women and Children Affairs Ministry Senior Secretary Kazi Rowshan Akhter; Armed Forces Division Principal Staff Officer Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman; Foreign Ministry Director General (UN) Samia Anjum; UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo; South Korean Ambassador Lee Jang-Keun; UN Women Bangladesh Representative Shoko Ishikawa and Bangladesh Police Women Network President Amena Begum also spoke at the event.

## Man gets life term for raping 7-yr-old daughter

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A man was sentenced to life term imprisonment yesterday for raping his seven-year-old daughter in the capital's Hazaribagh area in April 2018.

Judge Begum Sumshunnahar of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-5 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in presence of the lone accused Akter Sardar at a packed courtroom, advocate Fahmida Akter Rinky, a lawyer for the victim, told The Daily Star.

The judge fined Akter Tk 50,000, in default of which he will have to stay six more months in jail, she said.

In her judgment, the

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## Re-evaluation of 40th BCS written test demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of examinees, who failed the written test of 40th BCS exam, yesterday demanded re-evaluation of the result as over 1000 examinees have raised question over it.

The demand came from a sit-in in front of Bangladesh Public Services Commission at Agargaon. After the programme, they held a press conference at Dhaka University Journalists' Association.

They told the press conference that they passed two or three BCS exams earlier but got non-cadre posts. This year, they had more preparation and they were expected to go for viva, but failed.

"We expected at least 570 marks or more on the basis of previous experience but didn't even cross the bar of 450," said Saidul Khan, a protester.

"I was astonished and still cannot believe that I did not pass the exam whereas I was expecting a very good result as I did quite well," he added.

Another astonishing thing is that PSC re-evaluated 8,000 exam papers within 10 to 12 days while they took one year to evaluate 17,000 papers, said Saidul.

"The collapse, we think, in the result must have occurred due to OMR, overlapping or other technical reasons. We want re-evaluation of the result immediately," said Jobaer Ahmed, an examinee.

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## Corruption on the rise in country

Says GM Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said corruption is growing in Bangladesh due to lack of a democratic system.

"It's a shame for the nation as Bangladesh is identified as a corrupt country by global organisations. Our heads hang in shame before the world due to such news (on corruption)," he said.

"Corruption is on the rise in Bangladesh due to shortcoming in its democratic system," the Jatiya Party chief observed.

GM Quader made the remarks while exchanging views with additional secretaries general of Jatiya Party at its chairperson's Banani office in the capital.

He said Jatiya Party

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Members of the Mro community brought out a long march yesterday -- from Chimbuk Hill to Bandarban town -- in protest against construction of a five-star hotel and tourist spot in Chimbuk Hill. They said such construction is a threat to the forest, biodiversity and environment of the area.

PHOTO: STAR