



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

PLUS 32 PAGES 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT SEGMENT-2

REGD. No. DA 781

Vol. XXXI No. 31

MAGH 30, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

JAMADIA SANI 30, 1442 HIRI

12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



MASS VACCINATION GETS MOMENTUM

## First month's target may be revised

Top hospitals in Dhaka see huge demand

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The health authorities are now thinking about revising the target of vaccinating 35 lakh people in the first month of mass inoculation against Covid-19.

They are considering the expansion of the vaccination target as more and more people are showing interest in taking the jabs, said health officials.

"People in their numbers are thronging the vaccination centres and we've no problem in vaccinating them. We've enough stock [of vaccine] in hand and are thinking about expanding the target," Prof ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told The Daily Star yesterday.

The government had initially planned to vaccinate 60 lakh people in the first month, but later revised the target to 35 lakh following a lukewarm response to the online registration.

The mass inoculation campaign began on February 7.

Since then, the number of people showing up at the centres, especially those in Dhaka, to take the first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has increased every day.

Till Thursday night, around 5.5 lakh people had been given the shots and the number of those who did the registration on www.surokkha.gov.bd reached around 14 lakh.

The centres remained closed yesterday since it was a Friday.

Officials at several key vaccination centres in the capital said they had administered almost all the doses which they received.

Progressing slowly ahead of the campaign, the registration gained momentum after the government announced that people aged 40 and above could also register for the vaccination, they said.

The authorities also introduced on-spot registration and inoculation, but have stopped it later after receiving a good

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Workers unload vegetables from a boat in the capital's Shyambazar area yesterday. Prices of vegetables have witnessed a sharp fall across the country in recent weeks, thanks to abundant supplies of winter crop. Wholesalers are selling cauliflowers for about Tk 5 a piece, depending on size.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The Daily Star  
CELEBRATES  
GLORIOUS  
50 YEARS OF  
INDEPENDENCE  
COURAGEOUS  
30 YEARS OF  
JOURNALISM

The second part of our special supplement series which is out today, focuses on the digital transformation of the country. Today we have a look at the ways we have fast adapted to the new normal. From private sector to govt initiatives, digitisation has been the way forward from survival to rapid growth and innovation.

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## ROHINGYAS IN BHASAN CHAR Govt plans tour for diplomats

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Bhasan Char

The government is planning a foreign diplomats' visit to Bhasan Char. Over 7,000 Rohingyas have already been relocated to the island from Cox's Bazar and more will be joining them in the coming days.

"We are planning, especially for our friendly ambassadors who want to support us, a visit to Bhasan Char soon," Commodore AA Mamun Chowdhury, project director of Ashryan-3 at Bhasan

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## Over 100 aided PK Halder in scams

Most of them bank officials, his close associate tells court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

PK Halder's close associate Sukumar Mridha told a Dhaka court that over 100 people, mostly bankers, had helped Halder execute financial scams.

Those people included a former chairman and a managing director of two private banks.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit yesterday directed all banks to freeze for one more month

the accounts of 64 people, including PK Halder, who was the managing director of NRB Global Bank.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ashek Imam recorded Sukumar's statement at his chamber after the latter was taken there on February 11 by Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] Deputy Director Salahuddin, investigation officer of a money laundering case against PK Halder.

The magistrate sent Sukumar to Dhaka

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## ASA founder passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, founder and president of the Association for Social Advancement (ASA), a leading microfinance institution serving millions of borrowers across the country, breathed his last at a city hospital early yesterday.



Shafiqul Haque Chy

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SIKDER GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR

## Arrested on arrival, gets bail in 5 hours

Probe of case over torturing 2 bankers on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


Ron Haque Sikder, managing director of Sikder Group, got ad interim bail yesterday five hours after his arrest upon arrival at Dhaka airport in a case filed over abducting, torturing and opening fire on two Exim Bank officials over a loan permission.


A Gulshan division team of Detective Branch of police arrested Ron soon after he landed at the Hazrat

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Ron Haque Sikder





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