

5 lakh doses may arrive

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The Bangladesh government approved emergency use of the Sinopharm vaccine last week.

The Directorate General of Drug Administration then informed journalists that it would inoculate 1,000 people first and review the outcome. Mass inoculation will launch later.

In early 2020, the Beijing Institute of Biological Products developed an inactivated coronavirus vaccine called BBIBP-CoV. China, the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Pakistan and some other countries across the world are currently using it.

The World Health Organization has yet to approve it, but the WHO's advisory panel said the Sinopharm has presented data on its vaccine indicating the levels of efficacy.

This vaccine consists of two doses to be administered 28 days apart.

Bangladesh's mass inoculation programme stumbled after the Serum Institute of India failed to ship the vaccine.

As per an agreement, Bangladesh was supposed to receive three crore shots in six months. Serum delivered

the first 50 lakh doses in January, but shipped only 20 lakh in February. No shipment has been made since.

Looking for alternative sources, the government has been in talks with vaccine suppliers in Russia and China.

Last week, the government approved in principle the local co-production of Russia's Sputnik V and Sinopharm vaccines.

A meeting was held between the health officials and the representatives of three companies to discuss the co-production of Sputnik V.

Health secretary and other officials of health ministry were present in the meeting where the private drugmakers were asked to communicate with the Russian vaccine authorities.

"Russian vaccine authorities will come and inspect those factories and then the issue of co-production will be settled," Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of DGHS, told The Daily Star.

He also said representatives from Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Popular Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Ltd were present in the meeting.

Govt plans to isolate

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per section-269 of the penal code. The cabinet may issue a circular in this regard," said Khurshid.

The circular will also include other directives aimed at curbing the virus transmission, he mentioned.

At the meeting, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) placed a set of recommendations as the ongoing restrictions proved not so effective, he said.

The recommendations include district-wise lockdown, shutting down shops and malls that are not following the health safety guidelines and amendment to the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act 2018.

"We have observed that most of the cases of virus transmission occurred in the city corporation areas. We have recommended stricter surveillance in the cities. Otherwise, there is a high risk of a rise in transmission again."

"The upcoming restrictions will not be like the current ones... We have discussed the next course of action to contain Covid-19. Hopefully, we will get a final announcement tomorrow [today]," Khurshid added.

According to health ministry sources, the cabinet today will decide on the recommendations discussed at yesterday's meeting.

The cabinet may come up with some decisions, including extension of the ongoing shutdown of public and private offices till the Eid; restrictions on leaving work stations during the holidays; sending garment workers on leave in phases; closure of shops and malls for a certain period after the Eid, they said.

Meanwhile, at another virtual meeting at the health directorate yesterday, the health minister sounded a note of caution, saying that if people remain indifferent to the health safety guidelines like they did during the first wave of Covid-19, the country may see a third wave very soon.

As the country was hit by the second Covid wave in the second week

of March, the government imposed countrywide restrictions from April 5, which was extended in phases till May 5.

It, however, allowed markets and shopping malls to reopen from April 25.

Though Covid cases have been in decline since mid-April, the DGHS warned that reopening of shopping malls and people's reluctance to comply with the health safety guidelines may lead to a further rise in infections.

Health officials said the risk of virus transmission has gone up recently due to an increase in people's movement ahead of the Eid.

In another development, transport workers yesterday staged demonstrations in different parts of the country, demanding resumption of public transport.

EXPERTS' WARNING
Experts have warned that huge gatherings at shopping malls and a possible mad-rush ahead of the Eid may increase the virus transmission once again.

People in large numbers are likely to leave the capital for village homes to celebrate the Eid with their loved ones. In normal times, 80 lakh to 1.2 crore people leave Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Gazipur before the Eid, according to passenger welfare organisations.

The DGHS data shows that the number of Covid cases went up after every home rush.

To ease the rush this time, the government is likely to extend the closure of public and private offices until the Eid as there would be only three working days between May 6 and the Eid holidays, a Cabinet Division official told this newspaper, seeking anonymity.

Earlier on Wednesday, the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 advised the government to be stricter in enforcing the health safety guidelines.

Pakistan denies refugee

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a neutral position in the fighting in Bangladesh, ordered the shipments be suspended as neither the Japanese government nor the business wanted to take any risk regarding payment. The Japanese authorities were now looking for alternative markets for goods originally meant for Pakistan against aid agreements.

MAHMUD ALI SETS UP BANGLADESH MISSION IN NEW YORK

Mahmud Ali, who on April 26 denounced Islamabad and swore allegiance to the Government of Bangladesh, was authorised by the provisional government to establish a Bangladesh mission in New York. In fact, Bangladesh already had the nucleus of its first political presence abroad except the one in Kolkata because Mahmud Ali, without wasting a moment, rented a small office near the UN headquarters and declared it as the Bangladesh Mission in New York. The mission under Mahmud Ali would try to provide a broad general platform to be used to create in this part of the world public opinion in favour of accepting Bangladesh as a new member in the family of nations.

UN WON'T RESUME WORK ON PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH

The United Nations decided that there was no early prospect of its resuming work on various development and aid projects in Bangladesh. A UNDP circular to various UN-specialised agencies conveyed this view and advised that technical experts engaged for work in Bangladesh should be

resigned or their services terminated. The move was essentially one based on financial and economic considerations. After the outbreak of fighting in Bangladesh, UN Secretary General U Thant ordered the evacuation of all personnel working in Bangladesh for the UN or its specialised agencies.

PAKISTAN ACCUSES INDIAN AIR FORCE
Amid signs of a deterioration in the already hostile relations between India and Pakistan, Pakistan charged that Indian fighter planes had violated Pakistani air space on May 3 on two occasions.

The Pakistani radio reported that Indian aircraft had flown over the Rangpur district of East Pakistan in the morning and again at noon. The broadcast did not identify the type of aircraft allegedly involved.

It was the first time in the present crisis that Pakistan had charged that Indian planes had violated her air space.

In another development, it appeared that negotiations had been nearly completed for the repatriation of Pakistani diplomats from Calcutta in India and of Indian diplomats from Dacca in East Pakistan.

Pakistan's deputy high commission, or consulate, in Calcutta had been the centre of a diplomatic war since the predominantly Bangalee staff took it over and transformed it into a mission of the newly-proclaimed provisional government of Bangladesh.

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

More Covid aid lands

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"It is a necessity now. We are seeing so many people testing positive."

Social media platforms have been flooded with desperate pleas from people looking for oxygen cylinders, medicines and hospital beds as the Covid-19 wave causes widespread shortages.

The dire situation prompted

many nations including the United States, Russia and Britain to send emergency supplies including oxygen generators, face masks, and vaccines.

Aid from France reached India yesterday, including eight oxygen generator plants and 28 ventilators, adding to the 120 ventilators from Germany that arrived a day earlier.

Khaleda

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admitted to the capital's Evercare Hospital under cardiologist Shahabuddin Talukdar.

Zahid said once all the tests are carried out, the reports will be reviewed and the medical board will decide her treatment plan accordingly.

The physician said as she was taken to hospital after a long time, doctors want to do all the necessary and regular medical tests.

The BNP chief has been suffering from arthritis, diabetes and ophthalmological problems.

Khaleda tested Covid-19 positive on April 11 and in the follow-up test on April 24, she tested positive again.

Asked whether she tested Covid-19 negative, the physician yesterday said she does not have any symptoms since April 27 and now she is being treated at non-Covid unit of the hospital.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government on March 25 last year freed Khaleda from jail for six months through an executive order suspending her jail sentences in two graft cases.

She was released from the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University the same day. Since then, Khaleda has been staying at her Gulshan residence.

The government extended her release period for six months on August 27 last year. It was extended for another six months on March 15 this year.

On February 8, 2018, the BNP chief was sent to the Old Dhaka Central Jail after a court sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. The High Court later doubled her sentence.

Khaleda was found guilty in another graft case the same year. Her party, however, claims both the cases are politically motivated.

Journo sued

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the district's Ghoraghat upazila.

The journalists reported that the truck belonged to BCL leader Inan.

On information, Inan went to the police station and filed a case against them.

Babu was arrested on April 30 night. He is now facing 10 cases, including two lawsuits filed under the DSA, claimed his family members.

Azim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station in Dinajpur, said they handed Babu over to the Detective Branch of police in the district after the arrest.

Scientists

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measured", said Dr Brett Addison, a University of Southern Queensland astrophysicist, in a statement.

"It is a particularly interesting discovery as the host is one of the hottest stars with a transiting planet we've ever found, and because TOI-1431b is in such close orbit around its star, it's one of the hottest planets surveyed."

This temperature is significantly greater than the melting point of most metals, many of which will turn to liquid at under 2000 degrees Celsius. Titanium melts at 1670 degrees, platinum at 1770 degrees, and stainless steel at between 1375 and 1530 degrees.

However, the world still does not manage to top the blistering temperatures of The Sun, which has a surface temperature of 5505 degrees.

These types of planets, known as ultra-hot Jupiters, are rarely discovered but this particular one is even more unusual due to its retrograde orbit.

"If you look at the Solar System, all the planets orbit in the same direction that the Sun rotates and they're all along the same plane. This new planet's orbit is tilted so much that it is actually going in the opposite direction to the rotation of its host star," Dr Addison said.

Cops seek

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two years promising that he would marry her.

Besides, two violence cases were lodged against Mamunul and many other Hefajat men for vandalism and arson in Sonargaon on April 5.

Mamunul, former joint secretary general of the defunct central committee of Hefajat, has been behind bars since April 18 in a violence case filed with Paltan Model Police Station in the capital.

Meanwhile in Brahmanbaria, a lawmaker filed a case under the Digital Security Act against 14 named persons, including Hefajat's district unit president and general secretary, and 150 other unnamed ones.

RAM Obaidul Muktar Chowdhury, ruling Awami League lawmaker from Brahmanbaria-3, lodged the case with Sadar Police Station.

In the case statement, the lawmaker alleged that the Hefajat men spread rumour and hate speech through social media to provoke people to be violent.

[Our Narayanganj and Brahmanbaria correspondents contributed to this report.]

Some int'l flights

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For people coming from Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, the quarantine period is three days, it said, adding that after the three days, if they test negative for coronavirus, they will be asked to be in home quarantine for 11 days.

If the people from the aforesaid 26 selected countries had transit in India, Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Mongolia, Oman, South Africa and Tunisia, they will be allowed to enter Bangladesh provided that they remained at the airport during the transit, it said.

People arriving from any other

country will be asked to be in home quarantine for 14 days.

The government suspended regular flight operations on all international routes on April 14, said the statement.

It allowed operation of special flights to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Singapore and Oman from April 17 so that several thousand expatriate workers, whose visas and work permits were about to expire, could fly to their work places.

Special flights to China, Bahrain and Kuwait were also resumed later.

US-BANGLA TO OPERATE FLIGHTS TO MALAYSIA

US-Bangla's Boeing 737-800 with 164 seats will leave Dhaka for Kuala Lumpur every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00pm from May 4, officials said.

From Kuala Lumpur, the flight will leave for Dhaka at 3:00am on Wednesday and Friday and will reach Dhaka at 5:00am.

US-Bangla Airlines is currently operating flights from Dhaka to Dubai, Doha, Singapore and Guangzhou as per the government's instructions amid the pandemic.

The airlines suspended flight operations to Muscat, Chennai and Kolkata due to restrictions.



PUBALI BANK LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE

26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

NOTICE OF THE 38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all concern that the **38th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of Pubali Bank Limited will be held on **Thursday, 03 June 2021 at 10.30 AM (Dhaka Time)** at **Pubali Bank Auditorium, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka** with physical presence and also virtually through the link **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2021** by using digital platform to transact the following businesses:

AGENDA

Ordinary Business:

- To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 and Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- To declare Dividend for the year ended 31st December 2020 as recommended by the Board of Directors.
- To appoint/re-appoint Auditors of the Bank for the year 2021 and to fix their remuneration.
- To appoint/re-appoint Corporate Governance Compliance Auditor for the year 2021 and to fix their remuneration.
- To elect / re-elect Directors.

Special Business:

- To adopt, consider and resolve the following agenda as "Special Resolution"
"The proposal for issuance of unsecured, contingent-convertible, BASEL III compliant, perpetual bond (PB) of BDT 5,000 million by Pubali Bank Limited subject to approval of regulatory authorities as part of the Bank's Additional Tier I regulatory Capital with the Loss Absorption Option by conversion of Tier - I Bonds into shares upon occurrence of a Trigger Point Condition. The condition for conversion summarily includes: (i) if the Bank's consolidated CET-1 ratio falls below Bangladesh Bank requirement (currently of 4.50%) and stays below for 03 (Three) successive quarters (the "Trigger Point Condition"), the option of conversion of Bonds into shares (the "Loss Absorption Option") shall be exercised; (ii) At the end date of successive 03 (Three) quarters during which Trigger Point Condition exists, the Loss Absorption Option shall be exercised upon conversion of the outstanding principal of the Bonds to common shares at the Conversion Strike Price (i.e. average of 180 business days market price of the Bank's ordinary shares prior to the 3rd quarter end on which the Bank's consolidated CET-1 falls below Bangladesh Bank requirement (currently of 4.5%) or Par Value (BDT 10) whichever is higher) by such amount which shall not exceed the amount which would be required to bring the consolidated Common Equity Tier 1 (CET 1) ratio to 4.5% of risk weighted asset; (iii) If an issue in relation to issuance of a fractional share arises upon conversion, the Bank will round the number of shares issuable, up to the next whole number. Fractional lot size will also be rounded to the next whole number; (iv) The Bondholder will not be eligible for the interest payment if the same situation prevails (Bank's consolidated CET-1 ratio remains below the regulatory requirement of 4.5%) after the publication of audited financials. In case of exercise of the Loss Absorption Option, the portion of Bonds that will be required to be converted, no such interest shall be paid on such converted Bonds."

All the honorable members/shareholders of Pubali Bank Ltd. are requested kindly to make it convenient to attend the meeting physically or virtually in time.

Dated: Dhaka
28 April 2021

By order of the Board of Directors
sd/-
Zahid Ahsan
Deputy Managing Director &
Company Secretary

NOTES:

- The members whose names will appear on the Members/Depository Register as on the "Record Date" i.e. **Sunday, 09 May 2021** are eligible to attend/participate and vote in the 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and also entitle to receive dividend.
- The AGM shall be held maintaining strict social distancing protocols with due regard to public health concerns during the Covid 19 Pandemic.** Members/shareholders wishing to participate in the AGM virtually may do so through the link **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2021** by using digital platform in pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's order No. SEC/SRMIC/94-231/91 dated 31 March 2021.
- As per Companies Act 1994 under Regulation 79, 80 and 81 of schedule- I and as per article no. 90 & 91 of the Bank's Articles of Association, one-third of the directors need to retire every year and they will be eligible for re-election. Under this circumstances, the honorable directors (a) Mr. Habibur Rahman (b) Mr. Fahim Ahmed Faruk Chowdhury (c) Mr. Musa Ahmed and (d) Mr. Asif Ahmed Choudhury will retire in the 38th Annual General Meeting and they are eligible for re-election.
- A Member entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting may appoint a Proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. He / she shall have to submit his / her proxy form, duly filled in, signed and stamped (along with other necessary papers, if any) through online after successful completion of Registration or Paper based Manual form in the Share Department, 3rd floor, Registered Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka of the Bank no later than 48 hours before commencement of the Annual General Meeting i.e. **Tuesday, 01 June 2021 up to 10.30 AM.**
- An entitled member who wants to attend the meeting and cast his/her vote physically has to submit his/her duly filled and signed registration form to the registration counter at Registered Office of **Pubali Bank Limited, Credit Conference Room, 5th Floor, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka** of the Bank. Then an OTP (One Time Password) will be sent to his/her mobile number and email address mentioned in the registration form. By using the OTP, he/she will be able to attend in the meeting physically in the AGM venue (Pubali Bank Auditorium, 13th floor, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) and exercise his/her voting right through ballot paper (at Registered Office of Pubali Bank Limited, Credit Conference Room, 5th Floor, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka of the Bank). Time for physical registration will be Thursday, 03 June 2021 from 8.00 AM to before closure of the Meeting and time for physical voting will be Thursday, 03 June 2021 from 10.30 AM to before closure of the Meeting.
- An entitled member who wants to attend the meeting virtually by using digital platform and cast his/her vote through online has to go to the link: **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2021** for login to the system. After putting his/her 16 digit BO ID/folio ID, an OTP (One Time Password) will be sent to his/her registered mobile number and email address (as per CDBL data). By using the OTP, he/she will be able to attend and cast his/her vote through online. Time for online registration and e-voting will be Wednesday, 02 June 2021 from 8.00 AM to before closure of the Meeting on Thursday, 03 June 2021.
- A valid proxy holder may attend the meeting virtually through link: **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2021** by using digital platform or physically in the AGM venue (Pubali Bank Auditorium, 13th floor, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) and may cast his/her vote through online (link: **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2021**) from Wednesday, 02 June 2021 at 8.00 AM to before closure of the Meeting on Thursday, 03 June 2021 or paper ballot (at Registered Office of **Pubali Bank Limited, Credit Conference Room, 5th Floor, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka** of the Bank) from Thursday, 03 June 2021 at 10.30 AM to before closure of the Meeting.
- The last date of submission of nomination paper through link **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2021** or manually at Board Division for election of Directors is 18.05.2021 up to 5.00 PM. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be completed on 20.05.2021 and will be published the eligible candidates list in the Notice Board of the Bank's Registered Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka by the Chief Election Commissioner and also in the bank's website by 5.00 PM. Last date of withdrawal of nomination paper through email to "chiefelectioncommissioner@pubalibankbd.com" or paper based manually on 24.05.2021 up to 5.00 PM and list of names of final candidates to be published in the Notice Board of the Bank's Registered Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka by the Chief Election Commissioner and also in the bank's website on 24.05.2021 after 5.00 PM.
- Nomination form, Registration Form and Proxy Form will be available in the Bank's website **www.pubalibangla.com**
- All the online related activities are available in the link: **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2021**
- Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/208/Admin/81 dated 20 June 2018, the soft copy of the Annual Report 2020 will be sent to the email addresses of the Members available in their Beneficial Owner (BO) accounts maintained with the Depository. The Members are requested to update their email addresses through their respective Depository Participant (DP). The soft copy of the Annual Report 2020 will also be available on the Investor Relations section of the Bank's website at: **www.pubalibangla.com.**
- Honorable Shareholders are requested to update their Mailing Address, Bank Account no., Branch Routing no., Signature, Mobile Number and other related information through Depository Participant (DP) of their BO Account before record date i.e before 09 May 2021.**
- Hon'ble Shareholders under BO are requested to update their respective BO Accounts with 12 Digits Taxpayer's Identification Number (e-TIN) through Depository Participant (DP) and Hon'ble Shareholders under Folio are requested to provide their e-TIN Certificate to Share Department of the Registered Office before record date i.e before 09 May 2021, failing which Income Tax at Source will be deducted from payable Dividend @ 15% (Fifteen Percent) instead of @ 10% (Ten Percent) as per amended under section 54 of IT Ordinance 1984.**
- Merchant Banks and depository participant (DPs) are requested to email the soft copy of their margin clients list (in MS Excel format) as on 'Record Date' at boardpbl@pubalibankbd.com within 27 May 2021 for facilitating payment of Cash Dividend.
- The Board of Directors has recommended M/s Howlader Yunus & Co. Chartered Accountants and M/s A. Qasem & Co. Chartered Accountants to appoint/re-appoint as auditor of the bank for the year 2021.
- The Board of Directors has recommended M/s Mohammad Sanaullah & Associates, Chartered Secretaries & Management Consultants to appoint as Corporate Governance Compliance Auditor of the bank for the year 2021.

Payment of Dividend:

- Cash Dividend amount will be credited to the respective bank account of the shareholder through BEFTN.