



A health worker sanitizes as people wait to get themselves inoculated with the dose of Covishield coronavirus vaccine at a vaccination camp in a residential area in Chennai, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

CMSMEs see stimulus funds at last

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Bakht says the slower disbursement is because the private banks are showing reluctance now in lending to large industries.

"When the package was announced, the private banks made sure their reliable large borrowers got funds from the package. But now, they are being more careful."

The state banks though are not being as selective, he said, adding that Agrani achieved its disbursement target for the sector, too.

A total of 23 stimulus packages involving Tk 128,441 crore -- which is 4.9 percent of the country's GDP -- was announced by the government since the novel coronavirus put down its roots in Bangladesh in March last year.

Of the schemes, 11 are credit-based stimulus packages involving Tk 103,700 crore.

As of March, their implementation status stands at 70.4 percent.

Of the 11 packages, seven involving Tk 87,750 crore are being implemented through the banking system, the tenure of many of which

will come to an end in June.

"Since the pandemic is not nearing its end anytime soon, the government is mulling over extending their tenure by another 2-3 years," said a finance ministry official requesting anonymity as he is not authorised to speak with media.

The government will most likely set aside Tk 12,000 crore as interest subsidy for the loans in the upcoming budget due to be unveiled on June 2, he added.

However, many remained out of the purview of the stimulus packages, particularly those engaged in informal work, whose livelihood was battered for the necessary movement control orders imposed to slow the spread of the highly contagious pathogen.

Experts said the schemes could not reach them due to a lack of a comprehensive database.

"There is a challenge in reaching assistance under the stimulus packages to the informal sector workers since it is difficult to select the real deserving people," said Moshir Rahman, economic affairs

advisor to the Prime Minister, at a webinar on Sunday.

He, however, said the government is trying to take assistance to those who need it badly with the help of local representatives.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), a think-tank, suggested setting up a separate window in each bank for disbursing loans to the CMSMEs as they struggle with the existing complicated loan procedure.

"Banks should not think of profit when lending to the CMSMEs under the stimulus packages," he said, while advising the government to enlist the service of the non-governmental organisations too.

There might be risks of default but the government needs to take some risk.

"The micro and small enterprises generate huge employment and are integrated with different supply chains of our economy. They are lying in a vulnerable stage and have no strong voice," Raihan added.

national broadcaster NHK.

Seasonal fruit offerings in Japan routinely attract massive sums from buyers seeking prestige and plenty of free publicity.

Prime accused

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Shahinuddin over the land of a project since 2004. Failing to grab the victim's land, he planned to kill him.

Three or four days before Shahinuddin's murder, Awal drew out a blueprint for the killing at his office in Kalabagan in the presence of Sumon and Taher, another accused who is yet to be arrested.

The former lawmaker asked Sumon to hire 10-12 goons to execute the murder. In accordance with the instructions, Sumon hired the goons and had a meeting with them at Mirpur-12 on May 15, he told the magistrate.

As per the plan, Sumon and the others went to the spot in Mirpur-12 the next day, asking Shahinuddin to come and resolve the land dispute.

When Shahinuddin approached the scene around 4:00pm with his son, Sumon led the group of 10 to 12 persons who started to hack Shahinuddin indiscriminately with sharp weapons, killing him on the spot.

Sumon said in his confessional statement that he called Awal's on the phone after the murder and said, "Sir, finished".

Sumon also told the magistrate that Awal is mainly a property and land developer.

Under the former lawmaker's protection, Sumon and his group used to grab land and engage in other criminal activities. They were paid Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000 a month by Awal.

They received additional sums for special tasks, Sumon told the magistrate.

Detectives arrested Sumon in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on May 19. He was later placed on a four-day remand.

On May 22, two other accused, Mohammad Murad and Rony Talukder, confessed before another magistrate.

On May 21, Awal, Zahurul Islam Babu and Nur Mohammad Hasan were each placed on a four-day remand.

On May 23, three other accused -- Mohammad Sharif, Iqbal Noor and Mohammad Tipu -- were also each placed on four-day remand.

Two other accused -- Monir and Manik -- were killed in a so-called gunfight with law enforcers.

On May 17, Aklima, the victim's mother, filed a case against 20 named and 13 to 14 other unnamed individuals with Pallabi Police Station.

Awal was a lawmaker from Lakshmipur-1.

Nazrul's 122nd birthday

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melodious songs.

He was a poet, lyricist, musician, revolutionary and philosopher. There are 2,400 of his songs, and together, they are known as Nazrul Sangit.

Although known for his rabid criticism of imperialism, social and religious taboos, Nazrul also explored the themes of love, romance and devotion.

He introduced a robust style that was very bold and innovative. His use of Persian and Arabic words in Bengali poetry also opened up new literary horizons.

In the 1930s, the leading gramophone company of India, HMV,

employed him as a lyricist full-time. Later, All-India Broadcasting Authority employed him.

But his luck once again ran out and in 1942, he developed a rare neurological disorder that led to the loss of his voice and memory. Doctors in Vienna diagnosed it as Pick's disease.

After Bangladesh's independence, Nazrul was declared the national poet and he was brought to Dhaka from Kolkata.

He died in Dhaka in 1976 and was buried beside the central mosque of Dhaka University.

In his short articulate years, he also wrote and directed a play, Byathar Dan (The gift of pain).

Party will 'exist

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her legal case and her lawyers struggling to gain access to their client.

There was a heavy security presence in the capital Naypyidaw, an AFP correspondent said, with the road to the specially-constructed courthouse blocked off by trucks of police.

Suu Kyi had faced weeks of delays to her legal case and her lawyers had struggled to gain access to their client.

The next hearing was set for June 7, Min Min Soe said, adding she had also met with former president Win Myint, who was ousted and detained along with Suu Kyi.

Meanwhile, an American journalist working for a Myanmar-based news outlet was detained by authorities as he attempted to board a flight to Malaysia yesterday, his employers said.

Danny Fenster, the managing editor of Frontier Myanmar, "was detained at Yangon International Airport this morning," the publication said on its

verified Twitter account, adding it did not know the reason for his detention.

"EVERYTHING SHE CAN" Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing gave a two-hour interview to Hong Kong's Phoenix Television last week, with the full programme yet to air, though portions have been released.

Asked about Suu Kyi's political achievements, the military leader said: "In short, she has done everything she can."

A group of ousted lawmakers -- many of them previously part of the NLD -- have formed a shadow "National Unity Government" in an attempt to undermine the junta.

The military has declared the group would be classified as "terrorists".

In a separate interview excerpt, Min Aung Hlaing disputed the death toll from anti-coup protests and said the junta was not ready to adopt a consensus brokered by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to halt violence.

Hasina seeks Commonwealth's

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the underprivileged people.

She said Bangladesh has emerged as a global leader on adaptation despite vulnerabilities and resource constraints. "Every year, we are spending about \$5 billion from our own resources for adaptation and climate resilience."

Hasina said Bangladesh has adopted "Mujib Climate Prosperity Initiatives" marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.

Under the initiatives, Bangladesh is pursuing a low-carbon development path. "We're going to generate up to 40 gigawatt of renewable energy by 2041, and plant 30 million saplings. We hope to submit a quantified

ambitious NDC by June 2021."

As the second largest exporter of readymade garments, Bangladesh is also exploring efficient options of circular fashion and textiles as part of the overall circular economy, she added.

Noting that the world is going through an unprecedented and yet uncertain pandemic situation, the PM said her government has adopted policies and measures focusing on lives and livelihoods.

"By the grace of the Almighty, Bangladesh has been able to continue with its socioeconomic development minimising the impact of the pandemic."

Hasina extended her sincere thanks to the Royal Highness for convening the roundtable with "mother nature" at the heart of the dialogue.

Genocide against Rohingyas not abating

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measures" ordering Myanmar to prevent and halt genocidal acts against the Rohingyas.

Myanmar is required to report periodically to the court on its compliance with these measures, with a report due by May 23, 2021. The military coup in Myanmar on February 1 added much uncertainty around the case.

Against this backdrop, it is unclear if the military dictatorship intends to engage with the ICJ, or if it will submit a report. Myanmar's agent in the ICJ case, former State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, has also been placed under house arrest by the Tatmadaw.

BROUIC has called on the international community to redouble efforts to hold the Myanmar military to account for atrocity crimes.

"The National Unity Government should throw its full weight behind international justice efforts, and submit its own report to the ICJ spelling out how it will end persecution against the Rohingyas."

"The military coup in Myanmar has again shown the Tatmadaw's brutality and callousness to the world. At the same time, the genocide against the Rohingyas continues at pace, putting the very existence of our people at risk," said Tun Khin.

"Authorities in Myanmar have taken no meaningful steps to amend the laws and policies underpinning the genocide. What is more, abuse, extortion and humiliation of Rohingya continue on a daily basis. The military coup has made the situation even more precarious."

Severe internet restrictions in effect off-and-on in Rakhine State since June 2019, have continued since the coup, affecting all aspects of Rohingyas' lives.

"The Rohingya continue to live a hellish existence in Rakhine State. The restrictions on all aspects of our lives are clearly designed to make our lives so unbearable that we have no option but to flee," said Tun Khin.

"It is unconscionable that nine young children have recently lost their lives because of the conditions they were living in and the denial of proper medical care."

Ending the Rohingya genocide and building a democratic Myanmar are closely linked -- both involve stopping the Tatmadaw's reign of terror once and for all, he said.

"The international community must now more than ever take genuine action to make this a reality. The human cost of failure is too high."

Reuters adds: Myanmar's junta leader Min Aung Hlaing cast doubt on the return of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled to Bangladesh in comments made in his first interview since taking power in a Feb 1 coup.

Min Aung Hlaing was asked by Chinese-language Phoenix television whether the Muslims could be allowed back to Rakhine State -- from where most fled an army crackdown in 2017 that UN investigators said had "genocidal intent".

"If it doesn't comply with Myanmar's laws, what else is there to consider? I don't believe there is any country in the world that would go beyond their own country's refugee laws to accept refugees," Min Aung Hlaing responded, according to a transcript of the interview.

When asked whether that meant vocal international appeals on behalf of the Rohingya were to no avail, he nodded.

Min Aung Hlaing, who headed the army in 2017 when some 700,000 Rohingya fled from advancing troops, reiterated the view of nationalists in Buddhist-majority Myanmar that the Rohingya are not one of its ethnic groups.

Meghalaya border shelled

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the government's resources.

"I have pleaded with all countries to recognise this threat to peace on the subcontinent," she declared. "If the world does not take heed we shall be constrained to take all means as may be necessary to ensure our own security and for the preservation of the structure of social and economic life. I say this with full sense of responsibility," said Indira Gandhi.

Indian Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram said Pakistani troops had crossed the Indian border seven times since the trouble began in East Pakistan on March 25. There had been 43 incidents of firing across the border and 11 violations of air space. Instructions had been given that intruding aircraft were to be shot down if they disobeyed orders to return to Pakistan territory, he added.

NOBODY SEEKS WAR: YAHYA

Pakistan President Yahya Khan said "nobody wants war" since it would solve nothing. Yahya said he believed Indira Gandhi did not want a war despite her recent statements.

Yahya told journalists that he would announce a plan within a few weeks to turn over governmental power in Pakistan to representatives elected last December. He also offered amnesty to members of Awami League who did not commit crimes in the initial fighting last March in East Pakistan.

He said US President Richard Nixon had offered Pakistan aid in what Yahya called a "warmhearted, kind, personal letter of friendship" received on May 23, 1971.


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

200 hurt in Malaysia train crash

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(train) operator... to conduct an in-depth probe to find out the cause of the accident," he said.

Accidents are rare on the metro system that serves Kuala Lumpur.



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২৩ মে, ২০২১

| দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি | |
|---|--|
| ১. সংস্থার ও সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম | : মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি |
| ২. সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার জেলার নাম | : ঢাকা |
| ৩. যে জন্য দরপত্র আহবান | : Tab সরবরাহ |
| ৪. দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ | : এমআরএ-৫৩.০৪.০০০০.০০২.০৭.০০৫-২১-১১২৬, তারিখঃ ২৩/০৫/২০২১ |
| ৫. সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি | : উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র |
| ৬. বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস | : সরকারি |
| ৭. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ | : ০৮/০৬/২০২১ইং, বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত |
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| ১১. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা | : ১) বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের নির্ধারিত তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী ০৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি (আইটি)/আহবানকৃত দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত সাদৃশ্যপূর্ণ মালামাল সরবরাহ এবং বিপণনকারী হিসাবে অনুমোদিত এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৪৮ এবং ৪৯ এবং দরপত্র দলিলে ITT Clause 9.1(a) (b) & 10.1-এ বর্ণিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ব্যবসায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠান দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে। |
| ১২. দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিলকৃত দলিলসমূহ | : ১) যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদত্ত বৈধ ও হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন সনদ, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ-এর সত্যায়িত কপি; ২) বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের নির্ধারিত তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী ০৩ (তিন) বছরের মধ্যে রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব প্রতিষ্ঠান, সরকার নিয়ন্ত্রিত কার্যালয়/স্থাপনা/কারখানা এবং ব্যাংক ইত্যাদিতে একক কার্যাদেশের আওতায় ন্যূনতম ৮১০ (দশ) লক্ষ টাকার আহবানকৃত দরপত্র/সাদৃশ্যপূর্ণ ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি (আইটি) সম্পর্কিত মালামাল সরবরাহ কাজের ০১ (এক)টি সন্তোষজনক পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতার অনুকূলে সেবা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান উপযুক্ত কর্মকর্তার ইস্যুকৃত কার্যসম্পাদনের প্রত্যয়নপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি; ৩) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের তারল্য, পুঁজি অথবা ঋণসীমা ন্যূনতম ৮১০ (দশ) লক্ষ-এর ঘোষণাপত্র; ৪) ক্রয়কৃত দরপত্র দলিল এবং মানি রিসিট। |
| ১৩. সেবার বিবরণ | : দরদাতাকে দরপত্রের উল্লিখিত কারিগরি বিনির্দেশ অনুযায়ী, মানসম্মত ব্র্যান্ড নিউ ৪০টি Tab supply, setup কাজ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। |
| ১৪. দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের জন্য আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে) | : ৮৫০০/- (টাকা পাঁচশত মাত্র) |
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| ১৮. দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা | : গুলফেশা প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮, শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭। ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৩৩৩২৫৭। ই-মেইলঃ evc@mra.gov.bd |

বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। (খ) আলোচ্য দরপত্র পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং তৎপূর্ববর্তী আনুষ্ঠানিক সংশোধনী সমূহের প্রযোজ্য ধারাসমূহ প্রতিলিপিত হইবে। (গ) অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময় ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।

জিডি-১০৫৪

এক্সিকিউটিভ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান