



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## Massive vaccine drive next month

PM tells JS; 'govt to spend whatever it takes to procure jabs, inoculate 80pc of population'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the problems over securing Covid vaccines have been resolved and her government will carry out a massive vaccination campaign across the country once more jabs arrive next month.



stopped exporting the vaccine after seeing a massive surge in Covid deaths and infections. But, by the grace of Allah, the problem is now over...

"We have taken up a plan to bring 80 percent of the population under vaccination coverage in phases.

"We have announced vaccinating all the citizens of the country for free. We will pay whatever amount of money is required to collect Covid vaccines."

Hasina said the government allocated Tk 14,200 crore in the budget to purchase the vaccines. It has so far secured 1.14 crore doses from multiple sources.

The PM further said the authorities concerned have been directed to vaccinate the outbound Bangladeshi workers on a priority basis so that they don't face quarantine upon reaching their destinations abroad.

### VACCINATION FOR STUDENTS

Hasina said a vaccination programme has



The Dhaka Metropolitan Police's ban on taking a pillion passenger is largely being ignored. Streets in the capital have been witnessing heavy rush hour traffic of mostly private vehicles as the government has restricted public transport. The photo was taken on Bijoy Sarani yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 'STRICT LOCKDOWN' Violators to be punished

Home boss-led meeting decides no one to be allowed outside; 112 more die, 7,666 get Covid

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Anyone who goes outdoors without an urgent cause will face severe punishment during the seven-day lockdown starting tomorrow.

Except emergency services, all public movement will be restricted to rein in the rising Covid-19 cases.

The decision came at a late evening meeting yesterday, chaired by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, according to a handout from the Press Information Department.

"It [the lockdown] will be the toughest one. Army, Rab and police will be deployed," Md Mohsin, secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, told the Daily Star last night.

The government has chalked out a contingency plan for providing aid to the poor people.

"About Tk 23 crore has been allocated to make the plan a success," he said, adding that the government has procured the essentials that will be distributed.

"We'll distribute aid to the transport workers and people who will become jobless due to the lockdown."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## URBAN POOR IN PANDEMIC

# Plunging into debt just to get by

Finds a study by Brac University



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from the low-income groups in urban areas are struggling to have three meals a day, consume quality food and maintain their daily protein intake due to the crisis induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many of them have plunged into debts after borrowing overwhelmingly from informal sources to face the crisis, Brac University's Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) has found in a study.

The report of the study, titled "Covid-19 -- Livelihood Crisis, Social Cohesion Challenges and Mitigation Options: An Empirical Study", was launched at a virtual event yesterday.

A team of researchers applied a mixed-method research -- quantitative research complemented by qualitative tools -- for the study. A survey among 1,056 respondents belonging to three groups -- 425 RMG workers, 425 non-RMG workers and 206 migrant returnees -- was conducted in November and December last year for the study.

The research team also conducted qualitative research through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and others. It reached the respondents in areas under the jurisdictions of the two city corporations in the capital and in Savar. The respondents also included migrant returnees living in Dhaka's Nawabganj

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## RMCH Covid unit overrun

Patients, attendants claim doctors, nurses hardly help

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

When Khadiza Khatun took her Covid-infected grandmother to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Sunday night, she never imagined that she was going to experience such a shock.

Her grandmother Hajera, 60, died on Monday, the day when the hospital's Covid unit recorded the highest daily deaths of 25, including nine from Covid-19.

Hejera passed away at 12:10pm while waiting for a CT scan of her chest. She was scheduled to undergo the test at 5:30pm, Khadiza told The Daily Star yesterday.

An honours 2nd year student of a public college in Chapainawabganj, Khadiza had been

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## VACCINE CAMPAIGN

# Uncertainty goes, for now

2.5m Moderna shots due by July 3; migrants get jabs from tomorrow

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Two and a half million shots of the Moderna vaccine for coronavirus will arrive in the country on July 2 or 3, paving the way for resuming the mass inoculation campaign after over two months.

The first shipment of the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine will also arrive in Dhaka around the same time, but the date has not been confirmed yet, Health Minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star yesterday.

The minister said the date of arrival of the Moderna shots was confirmed by Covax.

Mass inoculation against Covid-19 has been suspended for over two months. Both inoculation and registration for the vaccination will resume once the new doses arrive, he added.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Drug Administration last night issued an emergency use authorisation for the Moderna vaccine, clearing the way for its use in the vaccination campaign.

The vaccine was developed in partnership with the US National Institute of Health.

It was seen in trials that Moderna's efficacy is over 94 percent. The vaccine uses the same mRNA technology as Pfizer's vaccine does.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Covid-19 patient Anwar Hossain gets oxygen support inside an ambulance that brought him from Noakhali to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. His family members were busy making arrangements to get him admitted. The country yesterday recorded the second highest confirmed deaths from Covid in a day. The number of daily new cases also remains high.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Whistleblower to be punished

Comilla University probe body finds teacher who unveiled exam anomalies guilty

STAR REPORT

The authorities of Comilla University have decided to take departmental action against a teacher who pointed out an anomaly in the 2019-2020 admission process because they found him guilty of leaking the information to the media.

Mahbulul Haque Bhuiyan, assistant professor of mass communication and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Scope to clean black money stays

Penalty hiked in next fiscal year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday passed the next fiscal year's tax measures that met critics and advocates of the provision to whiten black money in the middle.

In the incoming fiscal year, black money holders can legalise their undisclosed wealth by paying 25 percent tax and a further 5 percent penalty on the tax amount furnished.

At present, amnesty to black money can be obtained by paying a 10 percent tax.

However, if the undisclosed income is to be legalised by establishing new factories, the tax would be 10 per cent.

As in this fiscal year, the wealth can be legalised without any questions asked on their source by the

tax officials.

However, tax officials could ask questions about the source of funds for investing in properties this fiscal year. But from July 1, that authority has also been taken away from the tax administrators.

As in this fiscal year, black money can be cleaned by investing in land, buildings or apartments by paying a specific amount of tax per square metre depending on the location. The specific tax rate remains unchanged.

The fresh bid to help legalise black money without question comes amid lobbying from various quarters after the provision went missing in Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal's proposed budget for fiscal 2021-22 on June 3 following criticism from economists and civil society.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

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