



IRAN NUKE TALKS
Blinken warns negotiations can't go on 'indefinitely' as Khamenei blames 'cowardly' US for stalemate
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IMPLEMENTATION OF MASS VACCINATION PLAN

Govt needs \$3.7b in next 2 years

A large portion of the cost to be met thru' loans from development partners

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

Bangladesh will need an estimated \$3.7 billion to inoculate 80 percent of the population against Covid in one and a half to two years and achieve herd immunity.

The government gave this estimate to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in June while chalking out plans to buy the vaccine shots and delivering the jabs to the people.

Officials believe that about 10 percent of the vaccines would go to waste.

The government will need to inoculate 10 to 12 million people every month to reach the target of administering over 300 million shots. It has so far administered a measly 11.8 million, largely due to supply shortage.

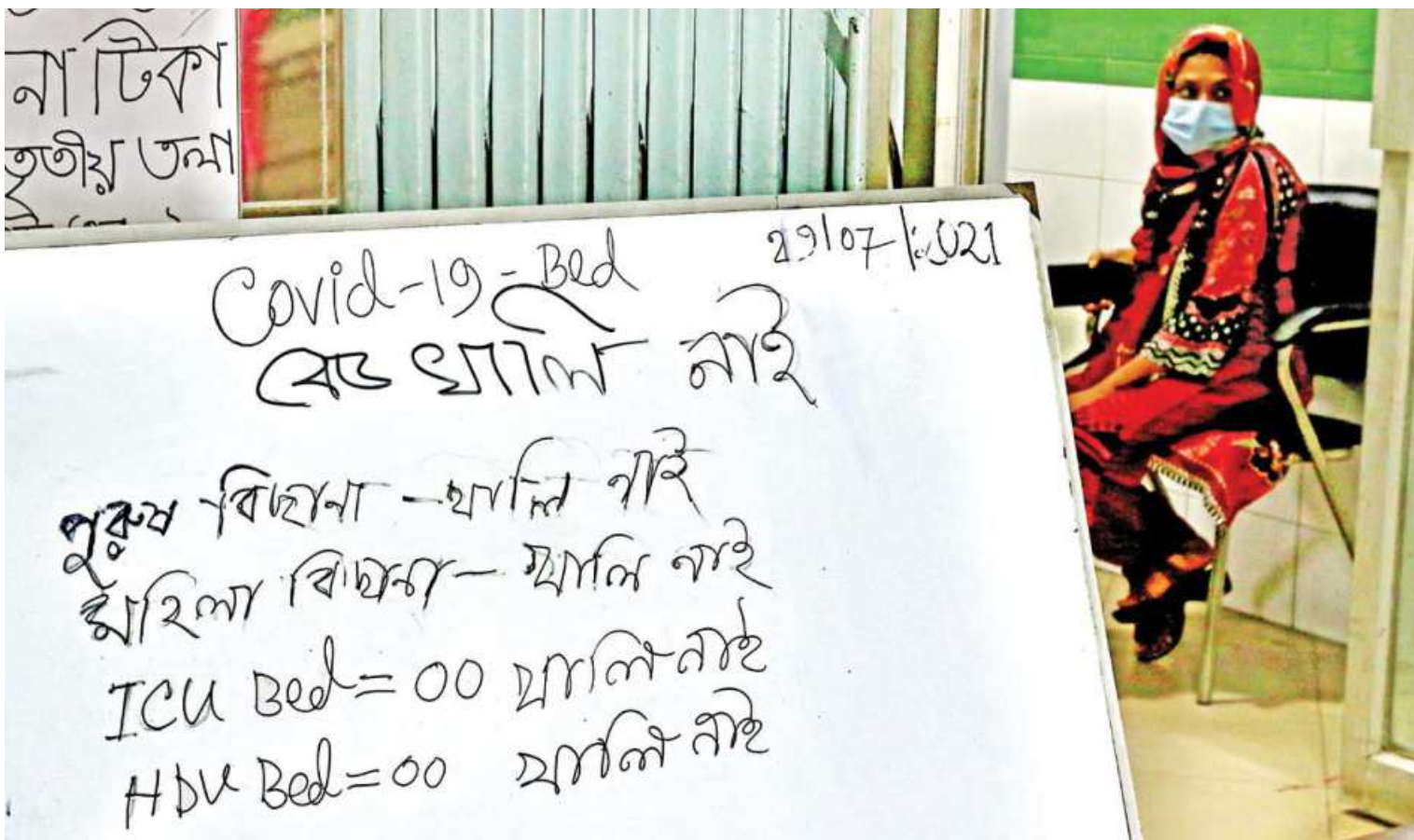
Taking into account the promises made by the ADB and the World Bank, Bangladesh would need to spend over \$2 billion to finance the vaccination programme.

According to Unicef, each of the vaccine

- ✦ ADB approved \$940m loan
- ✦ WB approved \$500m loan
- ✦ \$500m-\$300m expected from AIIB
- ✦ \$500m-\$300m expected from JICA
- ✦ Deployment expenditure \$614m

doses could cost \$4 to \$40, depending on the manufacturer and supplier, due to market volatility. But the government estimate was made considering the prices to be between \$4 and \$20 per shot.

The government, however, expects to get loans from the development partners to inoculate around half the target population.
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A notice placed in front of the emergency unit of Mugda Medical College and Hospital says all beds in the hospital dedicated to Covid-19 patients, including those needing ICU care, were occupied yesterday. Other public hospitals in the capital are also dealing with a rush of coronavirus patients.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Only 20pc aimed at protecting the poor

Shows Brac report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 20.3 percent of the funds in government support programmes in response to the pandemic was directly targeted towards protecting the poor.

Experts revealed this at a webinar yesterday evening during the launch of a report titled "State of Governance in Bangladesh 2020-21: Managing the Covid-19 Pandemic" by Brac Institute of Governance and Development.

"Protection oriented programmes intervene directly to protect the poor households and individuals who face the threat of hunger," said SR Osmani, professor of developmental economics at the Ulster University.

The budget has 79.7 percent allocated for growth-oriented programmes whose impact would be on the revival of economic growth through enterprise support, he added.

Even growth-oriented support favoured large industries over smaller businesses, found the expert. As much as 67 percent of the funds went to large enterprises, while only 26 percent went to small enterprises. These figures are from January 2021.

"While direct food and cash support was wholly

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Govt lowers age limit to 25 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday lowered the age limit from 30 to 25 years for Covid-19 vaccination.

Health directorate officials said from now on anyone aged 25 and above can register on the Surokha app or website for vaccines.

The development comes at a time when the pandemic situation in the country is becoming grimmer by the day.

Meanwhile, the health directorate reported 239 Covid deaths in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

The country during the same period logged

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Red tape stymieing biomed inventions

Only one of many prototypes of ventilators, hi-flow nasal cannulas sees the light of the day; investors show little interest

ZYMA ISLAM

As the pandemic raged on for the last year and a half, the inventor's wheels also kept turning.

Laboratories came up with important biomedical prototypes of ventilators and hi-flow nasal cannulas which could save lives if produced in large quantities.

Only one of the inventions, however, has so far seen the light of day because of a lack of interest from investors and, in many cases, red tape.

Take Spondon for example. In April last year, when the pandemic had just begun, a team of innovators from Axion Engineering domestically produced a ventilator that would cost a fraction of the price of regular ventilators and be affordable for resource-strapped hospitals.



"A rough-edged black box with a plastic tube coming out of it, and a small LCD screen -- this could be the lifesaving ventilator for critical Covid-19 patients in the imminent future" is how this very newspaper had described Spondon.

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Of a probe report without DNA test

STAR REPORT

Police recently submitted a probe report without conducting a DNA test of the lone accused in the case filed over abetting the death by suicide of a college student, even though male DNA was found on the victim's body.

While a legal expert said a probe report without a DNA test of the lone accused is incomplete, the investigation officer in the case said it was "irrelevant" based on the findings of the probe.

In the tests done after the college student's body was recovered from her Gulshan flat on April 26, the DNA of a male was found on the victim's body, the probe report said. However, Investigation Officer Abul Hasan did not take any steps to conduct a DNA test on the lone accused, Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir.

In his probe report submitted to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on July 19, Hasan said it is not reasonable to collect and test the samples of a suspect's DNA solely on the basis of the complainant's allegations without any supporting evidence.

In the report, the investigator, also officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, urged the court to relieve the lone accused of the charges of instigating the college student's death by suicide.

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A man wades through over waist-deep water in Lama-Gajalia Bus Stand area of Bandarban's Lama upazila yesterday. Low-lying areas of the upazila were inundated after it rained heavily for the last few days, causing public sufferings. Locals said a poor drainage system was mainly to blame.

PHOTO: STAR

BUSINESS BB sticks to expansionary monetary policy

Bangladesh Bank once again declared an expansionary monetary policy for the ongoing fiscal year despite record excess liquidity in banks and depressed credit growth. Although the previous policy largely failed to augment demand in the economy, the BB took the same route to offset the impacts of the crisis.

STORY ON B1

DENGUE INFECTION Hospitals see rise in patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dengue infections keep rising as 194 more people with dengue fever were hospitalised in the country in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, the highest in a single day this year.

With them, the number of patients diagnosed with the mosquito-borne disease stood at 2,292, said the Directorate General of Health Services.

Of yesterday's figure, 67 were from outside Dhaka.

The DGHS data shows that 1,726 people were diagnosed with dengue this month alone, which indicates a fast-rising trend of the disease.

Last year, the number of dengue cases was 1,405 and seven people died from the infections.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday urged city dwellers to clean their houses and yards to prevent breeding of the Aedes

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Convey grievances personally

Editors' Council invites Naem Nizam in next meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council, suddenly faced with a crisis arising out of Naem Nizam's unilateral public announcement of resignation from the post of its general secretary on July 27, and that too from abroad, on grounds of differences of opinion with the president and the subsequent public response of the president

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WE DEEPLY MOURN



Mrs. Najma Dowla, Director of the Board of ACI Limited and its Subsidiaries breathed her last on Wednesday at 11:45 pm, 28 July 2021 at a local Hospital in Dhaka.

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajjun

She was 75 and left behind her husband, Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman, ACI Limited, daughter Ms Shusmita Anis, son Dr. Arif Dowla, daughter-in-law, Rumana Rashid Ishita, grandchildren and a large host of friends and relatives.

The family has requested all to pray for the departed soul.

