



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXXI No. 247 | ASHWIN 13, 1428 BS | **Your Right to Know** | SAFAR 20, 1443 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk12.00

Target now 75 lakh jobs

Special vaccination drive today marking PM's birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government begins a special daylong drive at 9:00am today to administer the first dose of the Covid vaccine to 75 lakh people marking the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"Only those who have already registered and been waiting for vaccines will be jabbed," Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the health directorate, said in an online briefing yesterday afternoon.

In the first two hours, males aged 50 and above, females, and differently abled people will get vaccines on a priority basis, Khurshid said.

Expecting and lactating mothers will not be vaccinated during this campaign.

Everyone must carry the Covid vaccine registration card and the national identity card to the vaccination centres to get vaccines, according to a public notice published in the Facebook page of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday.

Each centre at unions and municipalities has a target to jab 500 people throughout the day while the target figure is 1,000 for each centre in the city corporation areas, according to the DGHS DG.

On Saturday, Health Minister Zahid Maleque

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From ashes she rises and prevails

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman devoted his life to making one dream come true: establish a democratic, peaceful and disparity-free society called "Sonar Bangla". Braving myriad hurdles, he was striving to take the nation to that promised land.

But the dream stopped dead in its tracks as he along with almost his entire family was brutally murdered on August 15, 1975, barely three and a half years after he shepherded the nation to liberation.

Sheikh Hasina, who along with her sister Sheikh Rehana, was abroad when the tragedy struck, took it upon herself to revive the Sonar Bangla dream and work towards that, keeping personal grief to her chest.

Fast forward to the present, she is leading the country quite deftly towards prosperity.

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SSC exams to start Nov 14, HSC on Dec 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's SSC and its equivalent examinations will begin on November 14 while HSC and equivalent exams on December 2.

The examinees will have to take the tests only in three optional subjects with a shortened syllabus and the exams will carry fewer marks.

They will not have to sit for tests in compulsory subjects like Bangla, English and Mathematics.

Usually the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations take place in February while the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent tests in April.

But the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the exams this year, severely disrupting the academic life of students.

The routines published yesterday show the SSC exams will conclude on November 23 and HSC on December 30.

The exam duration for each paper will be one and a half hours and there will be no break between MCQ

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SHOTS FOR HIGHER EDN STUDENTS

Half yet not registered

- About 24.34 lakh univ students yet to register
- 21 lakh NU students do not have NID card
- UGC weblink to continue registration
- Academic council, syndicate can fix reopening date

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Although the government said any university or its affiliated colleges could resume in-person classes if all their students completed the Covid-19 vaccine registration by yesterday, more than half the tertiary-level pupils across the country failed to do so within the deadline.

Most students do not have their national identification (NID) card, which is mandatory for vaccine registration through the government's Surokkha app.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) opened a weblink for such students to enable them to use their birth certificates to register. But a large number of them have not used the link yet, several top UGC officials told The Daily Star yesterday.

UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah, however, thinks resuming in-person classes at universities and their affiliated colleges will not be a big challenge.

"The Covid-19 infection rate has come down significantly. It is now under five percent. If universities can ensure health guidelines properly, they can resume classes upon approval of their academic councils and syndicates," he said.

UGC Member Prof Muhammed Alamgir hoped that a huge number of students would get their first dose of the vaccine as the government today conducts a special daylong campaign aiming to inoculate 75 lakh people.

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Now time to strengthen climate journalism

AGENCIES

The fourth annual World News Day, a worldwide campaign for global news organisations to draw audience attention to the value of fact-based journalism, will take place today.

This year's campaign focuses on climate change and will highlight the critical importance of journalism in providing trustworthy information about the planet's future.

The campaign, with nearly 500 news organisations involved, comes as 2021 is being declared the hottest year on record and amid mounting concerns over global warming's likely consequences.

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MORE ON PAGE 8, ONLINE

Happy Birthday

Dear Prime Minister, the Champion of Change

Long live the Leader, long may it continue—your love and care for the people. You led us into becoming the 37th largest economy of the world with a GDP of US dollars 350+ billion (it was just 91 billion in 2008; and the ranking 62nd). Your leadership also made possible our transition into a 'developing' country in no time. We are confident, soon it will be half a trillion dollars economy, and soon we will gain the status of a 'developed' nation.

Let the ongoing pace of progress continue.

May you stay healthy and stay blessed.

Congratulations
We are proud of the UN's 'SDG Progress Award'

শেখ জন্মদিন
উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রযাত্রার রূপকার
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

অসাধারণ নেতৃত্ব এবং দেশ ও জাতির উন্নয়নের রূপকার
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জন্মদিনে কেডিএস পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে শুভকামনা

From the house of KDS

Happy Birthday & Congratulations

to
The Achiever of the Prestigious SDG Progress Award
Dreamer of Digital Bangladesh and Pioneer of Presenting the Country Globally
Our Honorable Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**