



NOBLE PEACE PRIZE
Is this Greta Thunberg's year?
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Budget boosted for job campaign

Govt raises allocation to Tk 17,000cr this FY for Covid vaccines as it secures supply of 24cr doses

VACCINE PROCUREMENT

- ✦ ADB budget support Tk **7,990cr**
- ✦ Govt to spend from its own fund Tk **3,310cr**
- ✦ Govt released from ADB's fund Tk **6,299cr** to buy **10.5cr** doses under Covax facility
- ✦ Per dose to cost \$**6**

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

The government will spend an estimated Tk 17,000 crore this fiscal year to procure Covid-19 vaccines as it has secured access to around 24 crore doses from multiple sources.

The amount, which includes transportation and other costs associated with administering the jobs, exceeds the 2021-22 fiscal year's allocation of Tk 14,200 crore for vaccination.

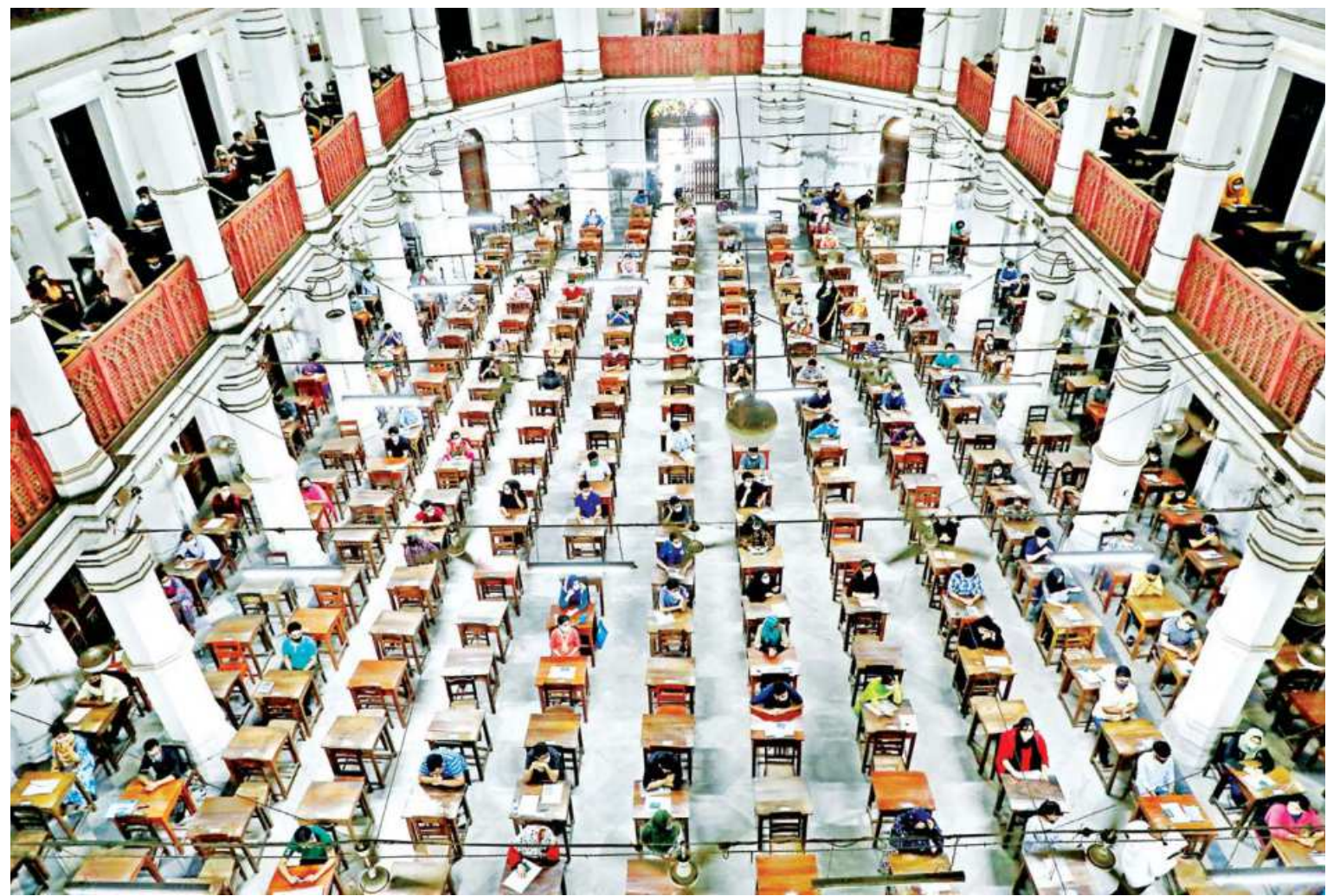
The funds include loans from development partners. The government will readjust the allocation at the end of this fiscal year, according to officials of the finance and health ministries.

The finance ministry earlier this month

released Tk 6,299 crore (\$741 million) of Tk 7,990 crore (\$940 million) it received from the Asian Development Bank to buy 10.5 crore doses from two Chinese drug makers under the Covax facility.

Of the doses, around 7.5 crore shots will be procured from Beijing-based biopharmaceutical company Sinovac while the rest will be from Sinopharm, a Chinese state-owned company, finance ministry officials said.

"The vaccines will start coming to Bangladesh from next month. By December, we hope to get all the 10.5 crore doses," a top official of the ministry told The Daily Star, preferring anonymity.



Admission seekers at an exam hall at Dhaka University's Curzon Hall before the start of the undergraduate entrance exam yesterday morning. The university for the first time held the exam in all eight divisions of the country amid the pandemic. Story on page 3

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ROHINGYA LEADER MOHIB ULLAH KILLING

Caught between fear and distrust

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Life in Lambashia Rohingya camp in Ukhia appeared normal. People roaming here and there. Grocers busy with customers. Kids playing on the street. Youths gossiping and watching videos on their smartphones.

But beneath this regular life, there was an underlying fear and distrust. To feel this unease, one only needs to spend a little while at the camp that still reels from the shock of the killing of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah.

Everyone would just start walking with heads down when asked why it happened or who might be the killers. These correspondents tried to talk to at least 50 people and most of them declined to say anything on the record.

They would, however, recall how great a leader Mohib was and what the camp dwellers lost because of this tragedy.

"If Mohib was spared, the Rohingyas would have been able to return to their motherland one day," said a 50-year-old man while preparing to offer Juma prayers.

He requested not to disclose his identity, as "spies of the criminals were everywhere."

Mohib Ullah, 48-year-old chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, was killed by gunmen at his office Wednesday night.

His brother Habib Ullah filed a case with Ukhia Police Station against 20-30 unnamed people on Thursday night, said Ahmed Sanjur Morshed, officer-in-charge of the station.

Where shall we seek justice?

Wife of slain Rohingya leader asks in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star

Afnan, daughter of deceased Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah, peeps into her father's office in Lambashia camp of Cox's Bazar yesterday.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah came home in Lambashia camp in Ukhia after his Esha prayers on Wednesday night. His wife, Nasima, asked him whether he wanted to eat something.

Mohib nodded and smiled as he went to change his clothes. Nasima then gave him three rotis with some curry, and a fruit. As he finished his dinner, Nasima gave him a betel leaf.

Mohib, the leading voice for the rights of Rohingya people, would be assassinated in less than 10 minutes next to their home.

"We don't want justice. Where shall we seek justice?" Nasima asked between sobs as she spoke

to the correspondents inside the tiny bamboo shack where Mohib lived with Nasima, their eight children, and his elderly mother.

These correspondents waited for an hour to meet Nasima amid tight security measures by the Armed Police Battalion.

The woman in her early 40s was wearing a traditional Rakhine dress covering half her face. Their eldest daughter Shamima soon joined her. The grieving mother and daughter looked scared.

Sitting in the poorly-lit room with little ventilation and no fan, Nasima said she saw three of the gunmen. They were young, wearing lungi and had no face coverings.

Viewers vexed as foreign TV channels blocked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the country's cable operators stopped broadcasting foreign TV channels yesterday, viewers expressed anger as they were unable to watch their favourite shows.

According to a government decision, programmes with advertisements on foreign channels cannot be shown in Bangladesh.

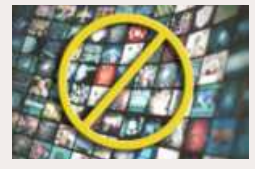
Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud on Thursday said mobile courts would be conducted to implement ad-free (clean feed) broadcast of foreign TV channels from October 1.

On the other hand, Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) says it is not possible to broadcast foreign channels by cutting advertisements. So they have stopped the broadcast.

This has left viewers angered.

"I spend my weekend watching sports and international news... I'm not finding any entertaining programmes in the channels now," said Taposh Barua, an official of a private company.

"I'm an avid football fan and like me there are thousands of people who love the game. We'll miss the sports," he said.



"Local media industry will be benefited if advertisements are not aired on foreign channels."
INFORMATION MINISTER HASAN MAHMUD

RABINDRA UNIV AGITATION

Closure no solution

Students say they want permanent removal of teacher Farhana

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Although Rabindra University in Sirajganj's Shahjadpur has been closed and teacher Farhana Yeasmin Baten suspended, aggrieved students continued their demonstrations seeking her permanent expulsion.

They confined the acting vice chancellor and several officials to the university's administrative building yesterday to press home their demand.

"Closing the university is not the solution. We want her [Farhana's] permanent removal," one of the agitators, told The Daily Star.

Another student, Roksana Raha of cultural heritage and Bangladesh studies department, said the university closed its academic and administrative activities to tame the demonstrations,

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Booters off to winning start

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Topu Barman's calmly converted spot-kick in the 56th minute helped Bangladesh off to a winning start in their SAFF Championship campaign as the men in red and green beat Sri Lanka 1-0 at the National Stadium in the Maldives yesterday.

Sri Lanka defender Duckson Puslas, who handled the ball inside the box on a chip from Biplu Ahmed and conceded the crucial penalty, was shown marching orders as he received his second yellow card of the game following the incident.

Duckson had already been cautioned in the first half for a reckless challenge.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"SAY NOT IN GRIEF 'HE IS NO MORE' BUT IN THANKFULNESS THAT 'HE WAS'."

Iftekhar Uddin Ahmed (Ifi)
(August 27th 1950 - October 2nd 2015)
Founding Chairman, Bonanza Group of Companies & Raj Overseas Ltd.

The memories of your calm strength, your indelible smile, and your unflinching fortitude guide us through these trying times.

We ask all friends and family to remember him in their prayers.

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