



\$6b more to come from dev partners

The amount expected over next four years from WB, ADB, JICA, AIIB

REJAUL KARIM
BYRON and
MAHBUBUR
RAHMAN KHAN

Bangladesh is expected to get about \$6 billion over the next four years from development partners other than the International Monetary Fund to meet the development financing needs, particularly to address climate change challenges.

The IMF's staff mission projected a financing gap of \$9.1 billion for the period. While the lender would be providing \$4.7 billion, there would still be a deficit.

Subsequently, during its nine-day tour of Dhaka last year, the staff mission met with the representatives of the other development partners to learn about their financing plans for Bangladesh and also to harmonise their conditions with the IMF's 42-month loan programme.

The staff mission learnt that another \$6 billion would be arriving from the other multilateral and bilateral lenders.

Of the \$6 billion, \$1.75 billion is expected from the World Bank, \$2 billion from the Asian Development Bank and \$2.12 billion from other development partners

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GOVT'S TASK LIST FROM IMF FOR 2024-26

- Automated pricing formula for petroleum products
- Bring down national savings certificate sales
- 60pc of govt transactions through electronic transfers
- Move to interest rate-based monetary policy
- Publish fiscal risks of state enterprises
- Publish banks' distressed assets as per BASEL III
- Submit to parliament amendments to bankruptcy, money loan court and negotiable instruments acts



A dockyard has been set up encroaching upon the Buriganga in Char Kaliganj area of South Keraniganj. Grabbing of land beyond the demarcation pillar, circled, on the river bank has narrowed the water body, but the authorities don't seem to bother. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No licence, no bike

BRTA prepares guideline to control operation of motorcycles responsible for 40pc of road accidents

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Nobody will be allowed to buy a motorcycle without a driving licence. Also, one would need a licence to get a motorcycle registered with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.

This has been stated in the draft guideline prepared by the BRTA to control the operation of bikes, the vehicle involved in the highest number of crashes in recent years.

According to the guideline, no biker will be allowed to carry a pillion passenger on highways. Operations of bikes on highways



and inter-district roads will be suspended for 10 days before and after the day of any major festivals like Eid.

The speed limit for bikes on highways and inside cities will be 60 kilometre per hour and

30kmph respectively.

Violation of this guideline by a rider, a dealer, an agent of a motorbike producer or an importer will be considered as crimes and legal actions can be taken against them, said the draft of the Motorcycle Operation Control Guideline-2022.

"We have prepared the draft guideline following the directives of the National Road Safety Council [NRSC] and sent it to the road transport and bridges ministry last month," BRTA Spokesperson Mahbub E Rabbani said.

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- For bike ownership, minimum age 18yrs, minimum education level class-VIII
- No pillion rider on highways
- Bike's highest speed 60kmph on highways, 30kmph in cities
- Violation of the guidelines will be punishable
- 55.92 lakh vehicles got registered till Dec 2022, of them 40.07 lakh or 71.67% motorcycles
- Many motorbikes are not registered in the country

AL, BNP gear up for show of strength

Both parties to hold rallies today

STAR REPORT

The ruling Awami League will hold "peace rallies" in Dhaka and five other metropolitan cities today in an apparent bid to counter the BNP rallies at the divisional headquarters across the country.

The BNP rallies are aimed at garnering support for its 10-point demand, which include holding the next national election under a non-partisan government.

The other cities where the AL will organise rallies are Mymensingh, Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna, and Rangpur.

The central committee members of the party have asked local leaders and activists in those cities to keep an eye on BNP's activities, insiders said.

BNP leaders say AL's counter programmes have created unnecessary tension in these cities and the ruling party was trying to instigate violence to foil BNP's pre-scheduled events.

In Dhaka, the BNP rally will be held in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters around

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45th Death Anniversary

(Abul Company) The founder of Abul Khair Group noted industrialist and social worker

Late Janab ABUL KHAIR



Death: 4th February, 1978

In accordance with the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent, you left this mundane world, leaving us and many of your relations overwhelmed by grief. In our everyday life your bright ideals serve as beacon. You are immortal in your death. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of your departed soul.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Your loving
Sons, Daughters and Relatives

COMBATting CANCER

2 in 3 patients die without treatment

Says expert as shortage of resources persists

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

In mid-September last year, Mozibor Rahman, a 42-year-old cancer patient from Rangpur, visited the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) in Dhaka with the hopes of receiving radiotherapy -- one of the most common treatments recommended.

However, as luck would have it, after 18 days of failed admission attempts, he was forced to return home, where he died in agony the following month without palliative care, a type of medicare for lessening the pain of dying patients like him.

Once a rickshaw-puller, Mozibor, lacked the means to stay in the capital city for an extended period of time in order to wait for a bed to become available at one of the very few cancer hospitals there.

Hundreds of patients like him are rejected daily from the nine public hospitals in the country that offer cancer treatment, owing to dysfunctional radiotherapy machines and acute manpower crisis.

Meanwhile, a 20-year-old cancer patient from Munshiganj was admitted to the Health and Hope Hospital in Dhaka for basic care until he could be admitted to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for radiotherapy.

Since he was diagnosed with cancer in April last year, his family has spent around Tk 16 lakh so far.

"Due to the shortage of treatment facilities, two-thirds of cancer patients die without treatment. The shortage of resources has made the situation worse for the patients," said Dr Habibullah

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