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“Together with our partners, the United States stands in solidarity with Muslims who continue to face oppression, including Uyghurs in the People’s Republic of China...”



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# ADB, partners to give \$2b by June

## Budget support will shore up foreign currency reserves ahead of IMF review

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh is poised to get about \$2 billion in budget support this fiscal year in a co-funding initiative led by the Asian Development Bank, in a development that would ease the continued pressure on the foreign currency reserves.

The fund would come in two phases: \$1.05 billion in April and about \$1 billion more in June, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

Of the sum, the Manila-based multilateral lender would be providing as much as \$750 million.

The government would have to implement at least 14 reforms in return for the funds, which would come from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Korea among others.

The other donors are not coming up with separate conditions; they are going along with the reform programme drafted by the ADB.

Should the government ensure budget support under the ADB-led co-financing programme, it would help it to meet one of the mandatory conditions for the \$4.7 billion loan programme from the International Monetary Fund: the floor on foreign currency reserves.

As of March 22, reserves stood at \$31.3 billion, enough to secure about three and a half months’ import.

The government has already implemented some of the conditions under the ADB-designed co-financing programme and is working earnestly on implementing the remaining reform actions, said a finance ministry official on the condition of anonymity.

One of the conditions is getting the amendment to the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 approved by the parliament.

The amendment would make income tax return submission mandatory for those who have spent Tk 4 lakh when travelling abroad in the previous income year; Hajj spending is excluded from this.

In so doing, the government would be able to expand the taxpayer base for income tax through expenditure tracking.

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Sand traders encroach upon the Turag in Goran Chatbari area near the Birulia-Dhour Beribadh road in Savar. They even allegedly moved some demarcation pillars to facilitate their operations. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Should the government ensure budget support under the ADB-led co-financing programme, it would help it to meet one of the mandatory conditions for the \$4.7 billion loan programme from the International Monetary Fund: the floor on foreign currency reserves.**

## Arav Khan under watch in Dubai

### Says foreign ministry spokesperson

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign ministry spokesperson Sehel Sabrin yesterday said Rabiul Islam alias Arav Khan is under watch in the United Arab Emirates.

The home ministry and Bangladesh’s mission in the United Arab Emirates are working on issues related to Arav, a fugitive accused in a police officer murder case.

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## Not road accidents, but ‘murder’ by neglect

MAHFUZ ANAM

A death is an accident only when it occurs in spite of all logical, scientific and experience-based steps taken to prevent it. But if the possibility for it to occur exists in every turn of the system, and no step is taken to prevent it in spite of official findings, public outcry and media reports over the years, then it is no longer an “accident,” but “murder” by neglect, committed by the authorities whose responsibility it is, by law, to prevent that. The people in charge should be held culpable for gross negligence and

charged as such. That would happen if we had the rule of law operating independently of power.

### THE THIRD VIEW

The bus that killed 19 people and injured at least 25 others on March 19 had killed three others and injured many only four months back, in November, for which its registration and route permit had been suspended. The bus should have been off the road months ago and in

police custody, as all vehicles involved in fatal accidents are. But not only was the bus returned to its owner, but they were allowed to run it on a regular basis.

According to the survivors, the bus was speeding from the start and passengers were heard shouting at the driver to slow down. Instead, the driver further accelerated when he got on to the expressway, because his higher pay depended on the number of trips he could make. Who cared about the passengers’ lives? Bribe would solve everything.

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh’s pacers put on a show against Ireland in the third ODI yesterday, accounting for all 10 of the visitors’ wickets for the first time in Sylhet. Hasan Mahmud led the charge with his maiden five-wicket haul in the format to set the platform for the Tigers’ first 10-wicket ODI triumph, which wrapped up the three-match series 2-0.

## Tigers script more history

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

Bangladesh challenged Ireland to a game of conditions in the ODI series, hoping to gauge their own strengths in Sylhet with bounce and carry for pacers and an equal opportunity for batters to put up big scores.

One of Ireland’s assistant coaches had joked about the conditions being ‘Irish’ due to the conditions and the way the ball was moving. But the Tigers excelled in such conditions with the pace attack leading the way yesterday as they clinched a convincing clean-sweep with a 10-wicket victory at Sylhet.

The 10-wicket win was the first of its kind in Bangladesh’s ODI history. It was all the more impressive considering that the pace attack was on the rise and pacers on the prowl. Bangladesh had been waiting for such a win and it was a statement made not in a different part of the world, but at home, where spin has dominated for so long.

A day earlier, pace-bowling coach Allan Donald had mentioned that his work involved taking the fear of making mistakes out of the crop of pacers in order to get them into the right mindset to be

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## Hackers want \$5m for Biman data

### Threaten to make public 100GB of info on passengers, staffers, flights

ZYMA ISLAM and RASHIDUL HASAN

Hackers are demanding \$5 million in ransom for restoring Biman’s access to its server.

The national carrier has approximately four days’ to comply or else the hackers would make public about 100GB of data, which include passport details of passengers, employees, and reports on other carriers.

The data the hackers are threatening to make public also includes flight, cargo, and crew information of all flights.

Biman and aviation insiders furnished this paper with documents stating these.

The ransomware continuously changes its identifiable traits which made IT experts unable to isolate it or find out the people behind the attack, sources said.

The attackers also have claimed to have access to Biman’s software for human resource management, financial resource management, and enterprise resource planning. The software are integrated into other systems, including planning, finance, and inventory keeping, they added.

The hackers also claimed to have access to “Bimanprod, BGDBF, and Ctrain” databases, the natures of which this newspaper could

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