



"India is at the cornerstone of how the United States approaches the Indo-Pacific."

Marco Rubio,
US secretary of state

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Tk 60,000cr stimulus for private sector

BB rolls out biggest package since Covid to restart closed factories, boost employment

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank yesterday announced a Tk 60,000 crore stimulus package aimed at reviving the struggling private sector amid slowing growth and persistent inflation concerns.

Announcing the package at a press briefing at the central bank headquarters, BB Governor Md Mostaqur Rahman said the initiative was designed to address industrial disruption and financial sector vulnerabilities while supporting employment generation.

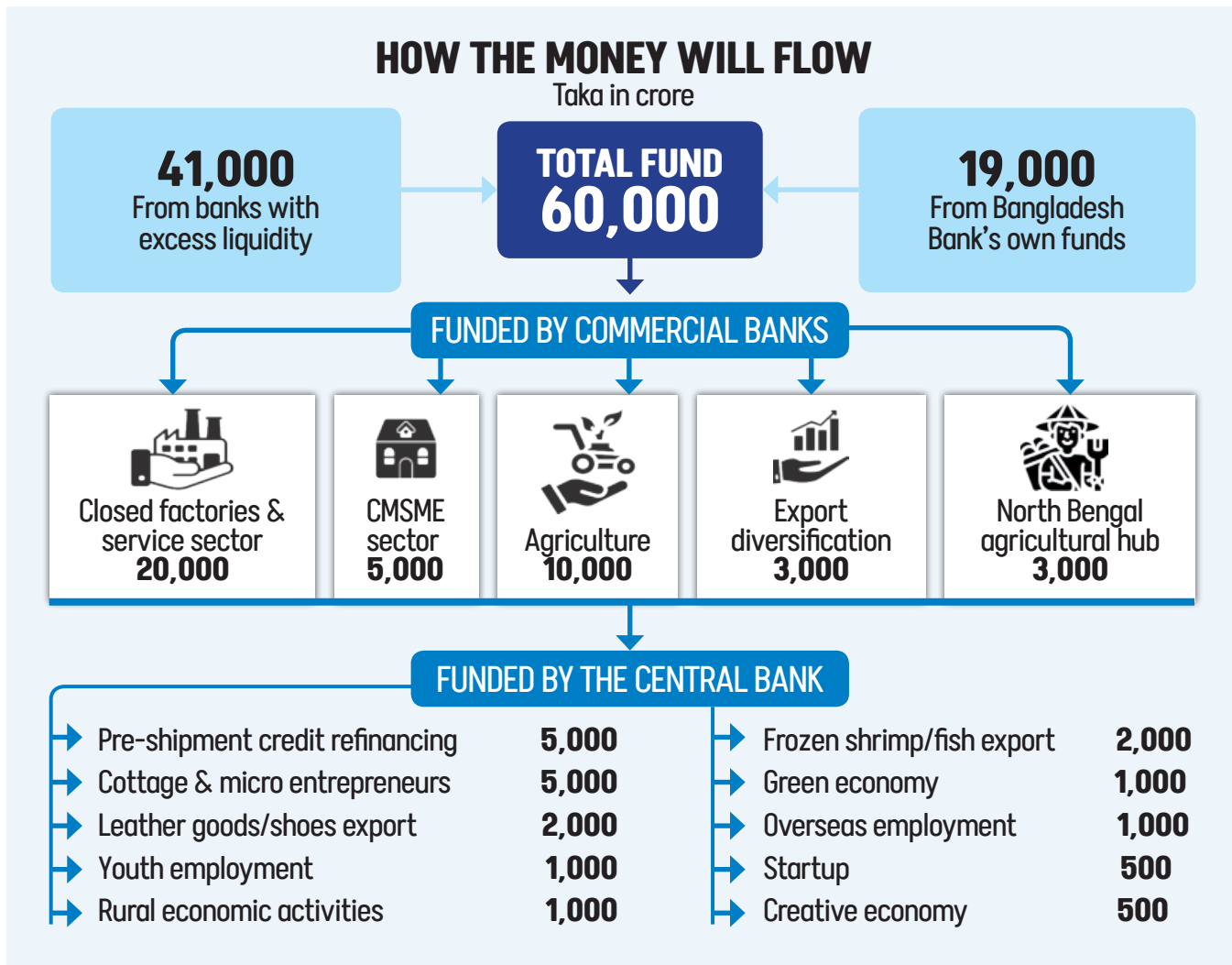
The package has two main components.

The first is a Tk 41,000 crore refinancing fund to be mobilised from banks with surplus liquidity through long term deposits of at least three years at a 10 percent interest rate. Under the arrangement, Bangladesh Bank will provide refinance at 4 percent interest, while the government will subsidise the remaining 6 percent.

The second component is a Tk 19,000 crore fund sourced directly from the central bank's own resources with a government guarantee.

Under the overall scheme, large borrowers will be able to access loans at around 7 percent interest, while

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Declare violence against women, children a nat'l emergency

Demand 156 organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep concern over the rising incidents of rape, sexual violence, abuse and murder of women and children, 156 organisations and platforms yesterday demanded that such cases be declared a "national emergency".

They also urged the government to adopt and strictly enforce a "zero tolerance" policy against violence targeting women and children.

The demands were made at a joint press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in Segunbagicha.

Moderating the event, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said violence against women and children, especially child rape, had reached alarming levels in the country.

She said a culture of impunity and social decay was fuelling such crimes, while many cases disappear from public attention after brief discussion, allowing offenders to escape punishment.

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Deaths from measles, symptoms cross 500

Infections easing but deaths may continue over several more days: DGHS officials

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Measles-related deaths may continue for several more days as thousands of infected children remain hospitalised, although the outbreak is finally showing signs of slowing after a nationwide vaccination drive, health officials said.

The death toll from measles and

During those 24 hours, the DGHS recorded 49 confirmed and 972 suspected cases, bringing the total count of confirmed cases to 8,494 and suspected cases to 62,507.

The country has been battling one of the worst measles outbreaks in recent memory, with children accounting for almost all of the deaths.

Till yesterday, 49,389 patients with

Remain alert to anarchy attempts

Tarique vows justice for Ramisa within a month

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged people to stay vigilant against attempts to create unrest, warning that such instability could obstruct the government's development activities and put people at risk.

"Everyone must remain alert about those who want to create this anarchic situation in the country today," he said while addressing a rally after inaugurating the re-excavation work of the Dharar Khal in the Bailor area of Trishal in Mymensingh.

"Because if an anarchic situation is created in the country at this moment, the government's development activities will be obstructed. The country's people will be in danger," added Tarique, chairman of the BNP.

Referring to the murder of child Ramisa in Pallabi, he said the government was committed to establishing the rule of law.

"From the very beginning, we have been saying that if any person commits a crime in the eyes of the law, he or she must be punished. We want to establish the rule of law. However, everything must be done according to rules and regulations," he said.

Tarique said the government had specific procedures for punishing offenders and bringing wrongdoers to justice, but alleged that some groups had been trying to exploit the incident to create unrest.

"Yet, centering around one incident, some people have been trying for the last few days to create a murky situation in the country," he said.

"They are blocking roads, stopping vehicles, setting

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RAMISA MURDER Charge sheet likely today

Trial to begin after Eid, says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are set to submit the charge sheet today in the rape and murder case of eight-year-old Ramisa in the capital's Pallabi area on May 19.

The Criminal Investigation Department handed over the chemical analysis and DNA reports to the investigation officer yesterday.

Meanwhile, the government has said the formal trial proceedings in the case would begin after the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, Mostak Sarker, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Mirpur Division), said, "We've received the post-mortem, chemical analysis, and forensic reports. We're hoping to submit the charge sheet tomorrow [today] following the government's directives."

Meanwhile, according to an office memo issued by the Law and Justice

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MOBILE SERVICE QUALITY TEST Tk 21cr spent, no final report yet

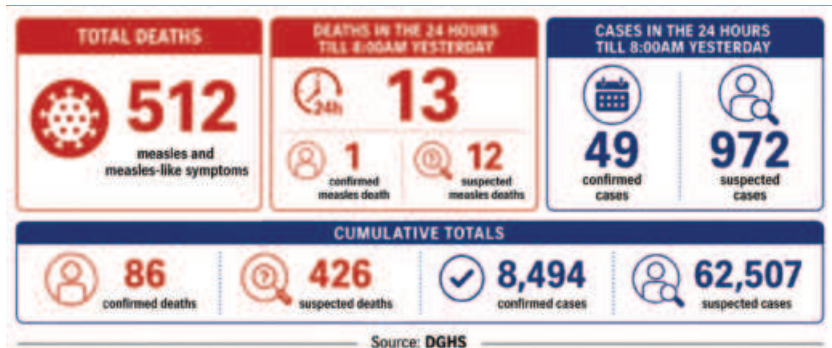
MAHMUDUL HASAN

Four years after spending 1.5 million Euro (Tk 21.4 crore in yesterday's rate) on a sophisticated mobile network testing system, the telecom regulator has yet to publish a final report on the quality of services (QoS) provided by the country's mobile operators.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) bought the German-made system to measure call drops, voice quality, internet speed and network coverage.

When BTRC launched the system at its headquarters in Dhaka's Agargaon on November 6, 2022, the regulator said it would help ensure better and more reliable mobile

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measles-like symptoms crossed 500 yesterday, with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reporting 13 more deaths in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am, taking the tally to 512.

Of the latest deaths, one was confirmed as caused by measles while 12 were listed as suspected measles deaths. Confirmed deaths now stand at 86, while those from measles-like symptoms have risen to 426.

measles or measles-like symptoms had been admitted to hospitals, while 45,011 had been discharged, leaving more than 4,000 children still undergoing treatment.

Prof Zahid Raihan, additional director general (administration) of the DGHS, said health authorities were now seeing encouraging signs that infections were abating.

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CATTLE FLOAT INTO CAPITAL

Sacrificial animals arriving in the capital aboard cargo boats and trawlers through the river routes ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, to be celebrated on May 28. Although cattle are usually transported by truck, boats and trawlers are also used during this Eid as demand rises manifold. To meet the demand at the city's cattle markets, traders have already started bringing cattle from different districts. The photo was taken from Postogola Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

China coal mine blast kills 82

AFP, Beijing

A gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China has killed at least 82 people, state media reported yesterday, the country's biggest mining disaster in 17 years.

A total of 247 workers were underground at the time of the blast, which occurred at 7:29pm on Friday at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province, according to state news agency Xinhua.

At least 82 people had died and 123 others were sent to hospital for treatment, four of whom were in critical or severe condition, state broadcaster CCTV said. Two people remained missing.

Of those sent for treatment, 33 had returned home as of 2:00pm, it added.

A total of 755 emergency and medical personnel were dispatched to the site, with rescue efforts still ongoing yesterday afternoon, CCTV said.