



Govt eyes Tk 300cr plant to cut animal vaccine imports

SUKANTA HALDER

The government has initiated steps to set up an animal vaccine plant at an estimated cost of around Tk 300 crore to reduce dependence on imports and boost domestic production.

The Department of Livestock Services (DLS) plans to conduct a feasibility study before implementing the project. According to DLS documents, the study was expected to run from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

The feasibility study will assess demand, operational requirements and associated costs, as well as prepare design drawings, specifications and cost estimates for laboratory machinery and reagents. It will also include financial and economic analyses.

Mohammad Bozlur Rahman, director of the planning section at the DLS, said the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) in Savar is the only public-sector institute with facilities for producing a wide range of animal vaccines.

- 260cr doses needed annually
- 32cr doses produced locally
- Tk 5,000cr spent on annual imports
- Existing facilities built 3 decades ago
- 200-acre site in Bogura identified for new plant



The DLS has submitted a project proposal to the fisheries and livestock ministry for the study, which has received in-principle approval, a top DLS official said, requesting anonymity.

The department has initially identified a site in Gabtali, Bogura, for the proposed plant, where around 200 acres of land are available, the official said.

Animal vaccine manufacturing is a highly sophisticated process, requiring a detailed feasibility study before a new production facility can be established.

However, it has yet to be included in the Annual Development Programme, preventing the release of the required funds, the official said.

The department hopes to secure the allocation soon, as the government appears to be giving the initiative considerable importance, the official added.

The DLS's Biologics and Applied Research unit also has limited vaccine production facilities in Cumilla.

Both institutes are producing vaccines at facilities built around three decades ago, Bozlur told The Daily Star.

BLRI produces only 32 crore doses a year, meeting 12.31 percent of the country's annual requirement of 260 crore doses, according to DLS data. The rest is met through imports, costing the country around Tk 5,000 crore annually, department officials said.

Bangladesh imports vaccines from 18 countries, including Hungary, Morocco, Italy, South Korea, China, the United States, Spain, France, Russia, Sudan, Jordan, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Germany, Indonesia, India and Japan.

BLRI currently produces 17 types of

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Perform or step aside

Top bureaucrats warn secretaries

BAHARAM KHAN

Senior government secretaries, including the cabinet secretary and the principal secretary to the prime minister, have expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of work in ministries at a secretaries' meeting convened on short notice.

They warned that officials who cannot carry out their duties efficiently and

This stern message was delivered at the second secretaries' meeting held at the Secretariat yesterday, chaired by Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani. A total of 53 secretaries out of 56 attended.

wholeheartedly to implement government decisions must make way for others, stressing that idling will not be tolerated.

Instead, official responsibilities must be discharged keeping in view the expectations of the people in the post-uprising period, according to instructions issued to the secretaries of all ministries and divisions to inject momentum into the administration.

This stern message was delivered at the second secretaries' meeting held at the Secretariat yesterday, chaired by Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani. The meeting began around 2:30pm and concluded around 4:00pm. A total of 53 secretaries out of 56 attended.

The first secretaries' meeting after the Tarique Rahman-led government assumed office was held on September 15, eight months into its tenure.

Within two months of that meeting, the cabinet secretary abruptly called another one on a few hours' notice, The Daily Star has learnt from at least four officials who attended the meeting.

According to sources, ABM Abdus Sattar, principal secretary to the prime minister, stressed the importance of upholding the prime minister's trust in the bureaucracy.

Addressing the secretaries, he said the prime minister has immense faith in the civil service, but breaching that trust would certainly bring unwelcome consequences.

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Man gets death for killing judge's son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A Rajshahi court yesterday sentenced a man to death for murdering a judge's 16-year-old son at the family's rented house in the city last year.

Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge-2 Rezaul Karim pronounced the verdict around noon.

The convict, Limon Mia, 35, was also sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on each of two separate charges and fined Tk 3 lakh.

According to the case statement, Limon entered the house in the city's Dabtala area around noon on November 13 last year, posing as the judge's brother, and stabbed his son, Tawsif Rahman Sumon, and wife, Tasmin Nahar.

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BNP leader shot dead inside Khulna shop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*



A BNP leader was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Rupsha upazila of Khulna last night, according to police.

The deceased was identified as Md Zakir Hossain, 43.

The incident took place around 10:30pm at a shop in Swalpobahirdia village under the upazila's TSB Union.

Zakir was a resident of Khajadanga village in Rupsha upazila. He was a member of the search committee

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Protest against false and fabricated news concerning Mondol Group

It came to our notice that some dailies published a false and fabricated report on November 03, 2026, against different sister concerns of Mondol Group regarding recent labor unrest, and the rejoinder was also duly published on November 06, 2026. The report also spread on various social media platforms. We strongly protest it and clarify our position as stated hereinafter: Mondol Group, or any of our companies, is not directly or indirectly involved in any labor unrest, vandalism, or violence, nor do we provide any financial backing or assistance to instigate chaos. Our export-oriented enterprises are registered under the Companies Act, 1994. This sort of false report disrupts our own production, and it goes against our business interests, our commitments to foreign buyers, and the livelihoods of our thousands of workers. All units operate in strict compliance with the Bangladesh Labor Act, 2006, ensuring workers' wages and dues are paid regularly. Exposing a total lack of verification and publishing severe allegations based on anonymous sources without seeking our viewpoint prior to publication violates basic principles of objective journalism. Mondol Group conducts its business in full adherence to all national laws, regulations, and international compliance standards. As one of the largest foreign currency-earning conglomerates in the country, we make a substantial contribution to the national economy. Publishing unverified and fabricated reports not only harms the reputation of our organization, but also damages the image of the state and undermines investors' confidence. We earnestly request all media outlets and concerned parties to refrain from publishing or spreading baseless rumors in the greater interest of the country's economy. The allegations published against us are entirely false, fabricated, baseless, and motivated, and have caused severe harm to our long-standing reputation and commercial goodwill. We strongly condemn and protest the report published in the dailies as well as all similar misinformation circulating in other media.

Board of Directors, Mondol Group.

Nvidia CEO Huang steps down in big blow to AI boom

REUTERS



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is stepping down, leaving the AI industry without its biggest champion and clouding the future of the chipmaker he built into an AI powerhouse.

Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress will take over as interim CEO as Nvidia looks for a permanent successor, the company said yesterday. It named former Synopsys CEO and board member Harvey Jones as its first-ever board chairman.

Huang, who co-founded Nvidia and is its fourth-largest investor with a stake of about 3.61 percent, will exit the board as well.

Pressure had been mounting on Huang in recent days after reports said the 63-year-old, who is married, had an

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Democrat Colom wins Mississippi Senate seat

Becomes state's first black senator since 1874

REUTERS, *Washington*



Democratic challenger Scott Colom defeated incumbent Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith in the Mississippi election for the US Senate, media projected on Wednesday, making him the Southern state's first Black senator since the Reconstruction era that followed the US Civil War.

The result was a stunning upset in the heavily Republican state and expanded on the national drubbing the Democrats delivered to President Donald Trump's Republicans in the November 3 midterm elections.

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