

93pc people

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percent had the antibodies.

However, these findings should not be generalised, the speakers warned.

“We do not know how long the antibodies will last inside the body,” said Prof SM Samsuzzaman, head of microbiology at the college, who led the research done over five months.

The participants were all aged over 30, and 80 percent of them were over 50, he said.

College Principal Prof Titu Mia said, “Anyone can get infected with the coronavirus even after they get inoculated. However, it reduces the chances of developing severe illness.

“But, the number of samples is not small. The study at least gives us an idea. Research on a larger scale is needed.”

On February 7, Bangladesh launched a mass inoculation campaign with the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine. But the campaign stumbled amid depleting stocks of the doses, thanks to non-compliance of the international supply commitments.

Boy killed

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His mother Shahana Khatun said her son went to the village field on a motorcycle with his two co-villagers on Saturday afternoon.

In the evening, the two co-villagers returned and informed the villagers that an unknown person held Abir hostage and took him away.

Later, an unidentified person called Abir’s mother from Abir’s mobile phone around 8:00pm and demanded a ransom of Tk 1 one lakh.

An hour later, Abir’s phone was found switched off, said his mother.

The victim’s family then informed Gangni police of the matter.

A team of Gangni police went to the spot and recovered Abir’s body from the field with his arms and legs tied.

Bazlur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gangni Police Station, said police detained the two co-villagers for their alleged involvement in the murder.

This paper could not mention the detainees’ names as they are below 18.

HC questions

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a Talaq notice, in which words like “wife’s being disobedient to husband” and “completely contradictory to Sharia” had been used.

The use of such words is illegal and unconstitutional, as article 11 of the constitution specifically states that the republic shall be a democracy in which fundamental human rights and freedoms and respect for the dignity and worth of a person shall be guaranteed, Abdullah said.

Citing the petition, he added that due to the use of such abusive words and phrases, women are humiliated and often face severe discriminations, and as such, the practice followed by the Nikah Registrar is liable to be set aside for securing the ends of justice.

Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar represented the state during a virtual hearing on the writ petition.

Govt officially

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Nasrul said an English daily earlier published a list of the cancelled plants but that was not a correct one.

He claimed that the move will not adversely impact the power supply to the national grid as some alternative plants are now under construction and would generate electricity to meet the demands.

“After adjustment in the plan, finally the national grid will have 13,313 MW surplus electricity by 2041. There will be no problem of power supply to meet demands”, he said.

He, however, said there will be a special thrust on renewable energy promotion in the future planning of electricity as part of the country’s commitment to the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is currently chair of the organisation.

“We have pledged to the CVF to generate 40 percent electricity from renewable sources by 2041”, said Nasrul.

Responding to a question he said that the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (Sreda) has been given the responsibility to prepare a roadmap to achieve the goal.

“Sreda has already started work on the issue”, he added informing that a significant portion of renewable energy will be imported from Nepal and Bhutan.

“We’re going to sign a final deal with Nepal to import hydropower from an Indian company’s generation plant in Nepal”, he said.

Discussions are going on with both Nepal and Bhutan to set up hydropower plants there under a bipartite or tripartite arrangement, he noted.

The state minister said there is also a plan to increase the import of LNG to set up more gas-based power plants across the country.

“We want to take gas pipeline to south-western and northern regions including Gopalganj through Padma Bridge”, he said.



French President Emmanuel Macron greets local residents as he arrives at a polling station in Le Touquet, France during the second round of regional elections yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

FLORIDA BUILDING COLLAPSE

Death to rises to 5, 156 still missing

REUTERS, Surfside

Searchers worked early yesterday to find more than 150 missing residents amid the rubble of a Florida condo building that collapsed three days ago as questions arose about the tower’s structural integrity.

The death toll rose to five on Saturday after emergency workers found a victim in their methodical search of the site in Surfside, a shore town near Miami, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said during an evening news briefing.

“Our top priority continues to be search and rescue and saving any lives that we can,” Levine Cava said.

Workers also found some human remains; three other victims were identified and their family members notified, she said.

Officials said they harbored

hope that some of the 156 people unaccounted for might be alive. Firefighters on Saturday made progress on a smoldering fire and smoke beneath the rubble of the 40-year-old building, allowing rescuers to search with fewer limitations, officials said.

Aided by dogs, infrared scanning and heavy equipment, rescuers hope that people can survive in air pockets that may have formed in the debris.

“The biggest thing now is hope,” Fire Chief Alan Cominsky said. “That’s what’s driving us. It’s an extremely difficult situation.”

A 2018 report showed that an engineer found evidence of major structural damage beneath the pool deck and “concrete deterioration” in the underground parking garage of the 12-story oceanfront condominium.

The report, released by town officials, was produced for the condominium board in preparation for a major repair project set for this year.

It was not immediately clear whether the damage described in the report was connected to the collapse about 1:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) on Thursday.

Vice mayor Tina Paul called the structural issue described in the document “very alarming” in an email on Saturday morning.

Donna DiMaggio Berger, a lawyer who works with the condo association at Champlain Towers South, said the issues outlined in the 2018 report were typical for older buildings in the area and did not alarm condo board members, all of whom lived in the tower with their families.

She added that the board had taken

out a \$12 million line of credit to pay for the repairs and asked owners to pay \$80,000 each. Work had started on replacing the roof ahead of hurricane season and the board was gathering bids for the concrete work, but the pandemic slowed the project, she said.

The condominium was also preparing for recertification this year, a safety requirement for buildings older than 40 years in Florida.

Officials said the county would audit all buildings more than 40 years old within the next 30 days to ensure they have been recertified.

Satellite data from the 1990s showed the building was sinking 1 to 3 millimeters per year, while surrounding buildings were stable, according to Florida International University professor Shimon Wdowinski.

Bangladesh poised to reach targets

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As the HIV epidemic continues to fuel the global TB epidemic, the surveillance of HIV among TB patients is increasingly recognised as an important tool for the management of both TB and HIV.

“We have to keep the transmission under control and if we can do that, we can achieve the SDG target,” he told The Daily Star yesterday, ahead of the unveiling of the findings of the study, the first-of-its-kind, today.

A nationwide cross-sectional survey was conducted among 12,065 TB patients managed by the TB Reporting Centre (TRC) of the National

Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) from June to December 2020.

Tuberculosis remains a public health concern as 129 people die of infectious disease every day in Bangladesh, according to the data of the government in 2019.

The disease also makes 978 people ill every day, according to the NTP.

At least 3.57 lakh TB patients are identified in a year in Bangladesh, with an incidence rate of 221 per lakh and mortality of 29 per lakh, according to the data.

Every year, at least 5,900 TB patients are identified with multi-drug resistance, which is concerning, the report said.

Among them, 1.5 percent are new patients and 4.9 percent are previously-treated patients but re-diagnosed with the drug-resistant TB bacteria.

“The good news is that not a single HIV positive case was found among drug-resistant TB patients, as they are the most vulnerable patients,” Riaz said.

As none of the HIV positive cases had any history of blood transfusion, it indicates the country’s blood transfusion system is safe at large.

The study also found that none of the TB-infected third gender was detected with HIV.

Out of the samples, only 12

TB patients was found with HIV positive and among them four were housewives.

It means either their husbands are HIV positives or they infected by other means, according to Riaz.

The study found that the prevalence of HIV among the TB patients was same for both the male and female.

The report also found that of those who are infected with HIV, 83 percent were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

When it comes to occupation, the study found that HIV prevalence was also found higher among transport labours and day labourers.

Moscow posts record deaths

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solution,” Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanyin told state-run television on Saturday.

The Delta variant is also feeding fresh outbreaks in Southeast Asia and Australia where authorities have brought back or prolonged restrictions.

More than five million Sydney residents endured their first full day of a two-week lockdown yesterday to contain an outbreak of the strain.

Restaurants, bars and cafes were shuttered and stay-at-home orders were issued, leaving the city centre virtually deserted.

More than 110 Covid-19 cases have been reported in Sydney since a driver for an international flight crew tested positive in mid-June for the Delta variant.

The flare-up has been a shock for a place that had returned to relative

normality after months with few local cases.

Australia’s northern city of Darwin also entered a separate snap 48-hour lockdown yesterday after a handful of cases were linked to a coronavirus outbreak on a remote gold mine.

Similar spikes in infections have recently been seen across Southeast Asia.

Thailand will reimpose restrictions on restaurants, construction sites and gatherings in the capital Bangkok from today as it tries to contain a wave of infections.

The country’s latest wave kicked off in April when a cluster was found in upscale Bangkok clubs.

Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha has said he plans to fully reopen the country by October, but this would require hitting a target of vaccinating 50 million Thais in four months.

In neighbouring Malaysia, the prime minister announced that a

nationwide lockdown in place for about a month already will continue, and he gave no date for the lifting of restrictions.

Meanwhile, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday urged people to overcome their hesitancy and get Covid-19 vaccinations as soon as possible.

After a fall in infections from May’s daily peak of 400,000, India has redoubled its efforts to inoculate the country’s 940 million adults amid supply constraints and fears of a third wave of pandemic.

“Get vaccinated,” Modi said in his monthly radio address, urging the public to adhere to social distancing and wear masks. “That is a good safety shield. Think about that.”

India must administer 10 million doses a day to achieve its aim of inoculating all adults by December, experts say. But the country has fully

vaccinated fewer than 6% with two doses.

India’s daily Covid-19 infections rose by 50,040, while the death toll rose by 1,258, including 511 deaths in the state of Maharashtra, health ministry data showed yesterday.

The country has scaled back its estimate of vaccine supplies to 1.35 billion doses between August and December from an earlier estimate of nearly 2 billion doses, according to an affidavit filed with the Supreme Court on Saturday.

The pandemic has killed at least 3,919,801 people since the virus first emerged in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data at 1000 GMT yesterday. The United States is the worst-affected country with 603,891 deaths, followed by Brazil with 512,735, India with 395,751 Mexico 232,521 and Peru 191,584.

Quader Mirza

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He said if he is jailed or killed, he has prepared someone to kill Obaidul Quader -- also the Awami League general secretary -- along with his wife and AL lawmaker Ekramul Karim.

“Obaidul Quader is a disgusting person with a cheap mentality,” Quader Mirza said, and wrote on the Facebook post that the minister had turned the whole family against the mayor by abusing his power.

Quader Mirza claimed that his brother had planned to kill him seven times and that Obaidul Quader wants to give the Basurhat mayoral post to his wife, Isratunnesa.

Quader Mirza also declared that he would never contest any polls in the future.

Charges framed

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accused, Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam told this newspaper.

Security was beefed up in the court area with the deployment of additional policemen and ansar members.

In December last year, the investigators submitted the charge sheet of the case against the 15, about five months after Sinha was killed in police firing at a check post in Cox’s Bazar’s Teknaf upazila on July 31.

Sinha’s elder sister filed the murder case with Teknaf Senior Judicial Magistrate’s Court against Pradeep, Nandadulal and several others on August 5 last year.

China reveals

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Following that will be a manned Mars mission to develop the base, while the third stage will be transporting cargo fleets from Earth to Mars to construct a community on the planet; the current timetable schedules these launches approximately every two years from 2033 until 2043.

A potential fourth stage -- a “sky ladder” that could reduce the cost and time spent travelling to Mars -- is also being developed, but it is unclear how much progress has been made yet.

Theoretical designs, developed in computer simulations, feature a space capsule travelling along a “ladder” made of carbon nanotubes to reach a space station; following that, the capsule would be launched from the station to Mars.

The notion of a “sky ladder” or corresponding space elevator has been considered by humans since 1895, when it leapt from the brain of Russian space pioneer Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.

It’s a case

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Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

“Therefore, the High Court scrapped the judgment and order delivered by the lower court and acquitted the husband, Mostafa Sarder, from the charges brought against him.”

Meanwhile, Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Zahid Ahammed Hero expressed utter surprise at the HC decision.

He said the post-mortem report and other evidence of the case, upon which the trial court had considered the case and sentenced Mostafa Sarder to death, supported the conclusion that the incident was a murder.

But the HC considered the incident as a suicide and acquitted accused Mosfata Sarder from the murder charges following arguments placed by his defence lawyer.

Citing the post-mortem report, AAG Zahid said the death was due to the combined effect of intracranial haemorrhage and violent asphyxia resulting from strangulation, which was ante-mortem and homicidal in nature.

He said the HC observed that the incident of homicidal haemorrhage was not proven beyond doubt.

The state will move an appeal before the Appellate Division challenging the HC verdict, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, defence lawyer Shishir Manir said the forensic department of Barishal’s Sher-E-Bangla Medical had concluded the incident was homicidal in nature in the post-mortem report.

But, he said, transverse ligature mark on the neck and protruded tongue are symptoms of suicide.

Besides, he claimed, Kohinur’s father Asmat Ali Sarder and her two children told the magistrate concerned that Kohinur committed suicide.

He said his client Mostafa Sarder will be released from Barishal jail if the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court does not stay the HC verdict.

The details of the observations and grounds on which the HC came up with the decision could not be known as its full text was not released yesterday.

THE CASE

According to the case statement, Mostafa Sardar, a small trader of Lalkheraj Kasba village under Gournadi upazila in Barisal had married Kohinur Begum and had two daughters and a son together.

Two months before the incident of Kohinur’s death, Mostafa married Bulu Begum, wife of one Lal Miah in the same area. The second marriage had been the source of friction and quarrels between Mostafa and Kohinur.

On February 1, 2010, Kohinur’s father Asmat Ali Sarder came to know from a neighbour, Hasi Begum, that his daughter had been missing for a few days.

Upon information, police and locals recovered her decomposed hanging body.

Later, Asmat Ali Sarder filed a case with the police station concerned against Mostafa Sarder and his second wife Bulu Begum, Lal Miah and two others on charge of killing her daughter.

Police submitted the charge sheet against Mostafa, Bulu Begum and Lal Miah to the trial court on May 31, 2010.

The additional district and sessions judge’s court concerned of Barishal on October 8, 2015 sentenced Mostafa Sarder to death and acquitted Bulu Begum and Lal Miah of the charges.

Mostafa then filed the appeal with the HC challenging the trial court verdict.