



## FIGHT AGAINST TB, HIV Bangladesh poised to reach targets

*Finds a study*

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

One in every 1,000 tuberculosis (TB) patient in Bangladesh has HIV, found a recent study -- in what can be viewed as a boost to the country's bid to end the infectious disease and meet 90-90-90 targets for HIV by 2030.

Bangladesh -- which is a low-level HIV prevalent country and one of the 30 high TB-burden countries, accounting for 3.6 percent of the global total -- is committed to the two targets as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

People living with HIV are more likely than others to become sick with TB as HIV weakens the immune system, making it harder for the body to fight TB germs. Globally, TB is one of the leading causes of death among people with HIV.

HIV prevalence among tuberculosis patients in Bangladesh was 0.1 percent, found the study styled "HIV Sero Survey among Tuberculosis Patients in Bangladesh, 2019-2020" conducted by the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) under the Directorate General of Health Services.

The result is very positive for Bangladesh as HIV prevalence in TB patients is a sensitive indicator of the spread of HIV into the general population, said Baizid Khoorshid Riaz, principal investigator and director of NIPSOM.

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**RESTRICTIONS IGNORED...** Hundreds of people getting on and off a ferry at Munshiganj's Shimulia terminal yesterday afternoon. People have been ignoring government restrictions barring movement of people in the districts around the capital to avert further spike in Covid-19 deaths and cases, as well as those of social distancing and mask wearing.

PHOTO:  
SAJJAD HOSSAIN

## SINHA MURDER Charges framed against 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox's Bazar

A Cox's Bazar court yesterday framed charges against 15 accused, including suspended police inspector Liaquat Ali and former OC of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das, in a case over the killing of Maj (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan.

The Court of Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge fixed July 26-28 for recording statements of the witnesses.

It also rejected bail petitions of six accused -- Liaquat, Pradeep, suspended police sub-inspector Nandadulal Rakshit, and suspended constables Sagar Deb, Kamal Hossain and Abdullah Al Mamun.

The other accused are Safanur Karim, Liton Mia, Md Abdullah, Md Shahjahan, Md Rajib, Rubel Sharma, Nurul Amin, Nezam Uddin and Ayaz Uddin.

The order was issued in the presence of all the

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## It's a case of suicide, not murder

*HC says, acquits death-row convict*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday acquitted a death-row prisoner convicted of killing his wife in Gournadi, Barishal, in 2010.

The HC concluded that the woman died by suicide and acquitted Mostafa Sarder.

The body of Kohinur Begum, 35, was found in a tin-shed house of her husband, Mostafa Sarder, in February of that year.

In 2015, a Barishal court found Mostafa guilty of killing his wife Kohinur and sentenced him to death.

The HC bench of Justice SM Emdadul Hoque and Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty yesterday delivered the verdict after hearing on the death reference and an appeal filed by Mostafa challenging the Barishal court verdict.

"After considering the depositions of the prosecution witnesses, post-mortem report and the inquest report, the HC concluded that it was a case of suicide and not homicide," Mostafa's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

"Therefore, the High Court scrapped the

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### ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Yahya banned Awami League

JUNE 28, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### YAHYA'S LETTER TO NIXON

Pakistani President Yahya Khan, in a letter dated June 28, 1971, expressed his disappointment to American President Richard Nixon at Pakistan Aid Consortium's decision to withhold further aid to the country until the Pakistan government reveals what sort of political settlement it envisages for East Pakistan.

"All these developments have led to a strong and widespread public reaction in Pakistan. It is most unfortunate that all this should have happened at this juncture. It can only make more difficult the task of a political settlement," said Yahya.

He interpreted the decision as a "consequence of Indian pressure tactics".

He further said, "In response to these developments I had no choice but to declare in unequivocal terms in my broadcast of today that external assistance with political strings will be unacceptable to Pakistan."

Yahya requested Nixon to exercise his influence over the Consortium members including the World Bank and said, "In view of the friendly relations between our two countries and your personal interest in Pakistan's integrity and well-being, you will prevent the present ambiguity and misunderstanding from becoming a source of further strains in Pakistan's relations with the Western world. This is something which we should in our joint interest try to prevent."

AWAMI LEAGUE BANNED

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## AstraZeneca tests booster jab against variants

AFP, London

AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford yesterday began new trials to test a modified vaccine against the Beta variant, which first emerged in South Africa.

The 'booster' vaccine's trial will involve around 2,250 participants from Britain, South Africa, Brazil and Poland.

They include people who have been fully vaccinated with two doses of the original Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine or an mRNA vaccine such as Pfizer as well as those who have not got the jab at all.

The new vaccine, known as AZD2816, has been designed using the same base as the main AstraZeneca shot but with minor genetic alterations to the spike protein based on the Beta variant.

"Testing booster doses

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## China reveals plans to colonise space



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

China's plans for the future of space exploration include a Mars base, planetary development, and a 'sky ladder' to transport cargo.

The first of a three-step plan involves androids launched to take samples of Mars and look for the location of a Mars base site, said Wang Xiaojun, head of the state-owned China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT) at the Global Space Exploration Conference, as reported by Global Times.

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## ASTRAZENECA SHOTS 93pc people developed antibodies

DMCH study finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ninety-three percent of those who received both doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine have developed antibodies against Covid-19, according to a study done at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Antibody tests were done on 308 fully vaccinated doctors, nurses and other DMCH employees.

The findings were presented at an event at the DMCH yesterday.

Microbiologists took blood samples of the individuals following each of the two doses of the vaccine.

Of the blood samples taken four weeks after the subjects received their first shot, 41 percent had the antibodies. But of the blood samples taken two weeks after the second dose, 93

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## Quader Mirza says he has someone ready to kill Obaidul

*Goes live on Facebook*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

In the event that he is jailed or murdered, Noakhali's Basurhat municipality Mayor Quader Mirza said he had taken steps to kill Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, his wife Isratunnesa Quader, and Noakhali-4 lawmaker Ekramul Karim Chowdhury.

In a Facebook Live video around noon Saturday, Quader Mirza, also the younger brother of Obaidul Quader, said, "Enemy inside the house is terrible."

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**A pedestrian wades through dirty water while crossing Medical Road in the capital's Jurain yesterday. The authorities concerned have not taken any steps to improve the drainage system even though they have been informed about the problem, locals alleged.**

PHOTO:  
AMRAN HOSSAIN

## EFFECT OF DELTA VARIANT Moscow posts record deaths

*Lockdowns, other curbs return across Asia-Pacific*

AGENCIES

Moscow yesterday recorded the worst daily coronavirus death toll so far for a Russian city, as countries across the Asia-Pacific region extended or reimposed restrictions to tackle fresh waves of infections.

The pandemic has now killed close to four million people across the world but vaccination drives have brought down infection numbers in many wealthy countries, though the Delta strain of the virus remains a concern.

The variant is now in 85 countries and is the most contagious of any Covid-19 strain identified, according to the World Health Organization.

Still, in much of Europe and the United States curbs on daily life are easing as vaccination programmes bear fruit, although Russia is grappling with a deadly third wave.

The Russian capital yesterday recorded 144 Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours, a day after Saint Petersburg set the previous highest figure.

Saint Petersburg has hosted six Euro 2020 matches and is due to host a quarter-final on Friday, with spectator numbers capped at half but still upwards of 26,000 people.

Russia as a whole has seen an explosion of new infections since mid-June driven by the Delta variant.

The dramatic rise in cases comes as officials in Moscow are pushing vaccine-sceptical Russians to get inoculated after lifting most anti-virus restrictions late last year.

"To stop the pandemic, one thing is needed: rapid, large-scale vaccinations. Nobody has invented any other

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### PRAYER TIMING JUNE 28

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:05	12:45	5:00	6:54	8:17	
JAMAT	4:40	1:15	5:15	6:57	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION