



"Those police personnel who got involved in crimes will be punished."

HOME MINISTER  
ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL



"President (Joe) Biden's decisions have us hurtling toward an even worse sequel to the humiliating fall of Saigon in 1975"

-- TOP REPUBLICAN SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL ON US'S AFGHANISTAN STRATEGY



"We oppose political tracing... and abandoning the joint report... We support scientific tracing."

CHINA'S VICE FM MA ZHAOXU ON FURTHER WHO COVID ORIGINS PROBE



## Wonder nasal vaccine knocking on the door

Swedish drug awaits human trial in Bangladesh; successful test may see it available for use at start of next year

**Mohammad Al-Masum Molla**

One sniff, and you're vaccinated against Covid-19! Almost 100 percent protected against almost all variants. It could be just that simple. No hassle for registration, hospital visit, cold chain storage or inoculation by medical staffers. Just vaccinate yourself, at your convenience.

And that's the promise an under-trial powdered vaccine is showing in which Bangladesh can be a part. A potential game-changing vaccine, as dubbed by Swedish researchers, now awaits human trial -- the third and final phase of a vaccine research and development before approval for use -- which can be conducted right here in Bangladesh from next month.

If the government weighs in to ensure a smooth research and approval process, the nasal vaccine could be available for use by the start of next year.

And, if the trials get a clean chit, Bangladesh is free to buy the vaccine at production cost or even produce it on its own for being a party to the development of the vaccine,

planned to be named after the Father of the Nation -- Bangabandhu ISR.

Swedish research organisation Holding AB (ISR) is closing in on conducting human trial of its invented vaccine in Bangladesh, thanks to intense engagement of some Bangladeshi doctors and scientists living in Sweden, the USA and Canada.

To conduct the human trial, the ISR signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Clinical Trials Ltd as its Contract Research Organisation (CRO) earlier this month.

Renowned physicians Prof ABM Abdullah and Prof Ahmedul Kabir are the principal investigators of the CRO, which plans to conduct the trial at Mugda Medical College Hospital in the capital.

They are planning to carry out the Phase-I trial on 180 healthy persons.

Contacted, Prof Abdullah said that after taking the first sniff, one has to get the second one within three to four weeks like any other double-dose Covid-19 vaccine.

"The results of the Swedish vaccine's trial



After failing to get their mother admitted to six different hospitals in the capital, the desperate daughter cries for help in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital while her brother, inset, is being tackled by police after he engaged in a fight with the hospital employees. Eventually, the family from Gazaria, Munshiganj, was able to get her admitted to the dedicated Covid treatment facility of the hospital yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



The trial [of the vaccine] on mice is very promising as the results show efficacy rate is close to 100 percent and there is no side effect of the vaccine.

**PROF DR ABM ABDULLAH**  
REKNOWNED PHYSICIAN

► The vaccine can withstand up to 40 degrees Celsius temp

► Trial at Mugda Medical College Hospital in Dhaka

► Phase-I trial to be conducted on 180 healthy persons



**PROF DR AHMEDUL KABIR**  
SECRETARY GENERAL,  
BANGLADESH SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

"The biggest benefits of the trial would be Bangladesh can purchase vaccine at the production cost. Even if the government wants to produce vaccine on its own arrangement, it can."

## Funds for vaccine purchase Disbursement remains slow

Unavailability of jabs a challenge

## Kandahar falls to Taliban

Insurgents also take provincial capital 50km south of Kabul, other key cities; UN warns of humanitarian catastrophe

AGENCIES

The Taliban seized more major cities yesterday as they raced to take full control of Afghanistan and inched closer to Kabul, with the United States and Britain deploying thousands of troops to evacuate their citizens from the capital.

The evacuation orders came as the Taliban took control of Kandahar -- the nation's second-biggest city -- in the insurgency's heartland, leaving only Kabul and pockets of other territories in government hands.

The Taliban also captured the capital of Logar province, just 50kms (30 miles) from Kabul, with a local lawmaker saying the insurgents were in complete control of Pul-e-Alam city.

Earlier yesterday, officials and residents in Kandahar told AFP that government forces had withdrawn en masse to a military

facility outside the southern city.

"Kandahar is completely conquered. The Mujahideen reached Martyrs' Square," a Taliban spokesman tweeted, referring to a city landmark.

Hours later, the Taliban said they had also taken control of Lashkar Gah, the capital of neighbouring Helmand province.

A security source confirmed the fall of the city, telling AFP that the Afghan military and government officials had evacuated Lashkar Gah after striking a local ceasefire deal with the militants.

The Taliban also captured the town of Qala-e-Naw in the northwest, security officers said. Firuz Koh, capital of central Ghor province, was handed over without a fight, officials told Reuters.

The loss of Kandahar will be a heavy blow to the government. It is the heartland of the Taliban, ethnic Pashtun fighters who

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## Infection rate drops to 21pc

Below 200 deaths first time since July 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily infection rate of Covid-19 has been dropping consistently over the last couple of weeks.

The rate began to rise from June and it reached 21 percent on June 25. From there, it went up further and surged to 33 percent.

Yesterday, after 50 days, the infection rate dropped to 21 percent. The same day, the country witnessed the lowest death toll in three weeks.

At least 197 more deaths were recorded from Covid-19 in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, read a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

On July 24, the death toll was 195 and after that it remained over 200-mark every day until yesterday.

The number of Covid-19 deaths in the country now stands at 23,810 and the death rate is 1.69 percent.

At least 8,465 fresh infections were recorded

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A group of boys playing football in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyana as it drizzled the whole morning yesterday. Such sights are quite common during monsoon in the villages and small towns, but less so in the city.

## Ferry hits Padma bridge pillar again

BIWTA to relocate Banglabazar ghat to avoid further collision

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS