

## Clinical trial of Nipah virus vaccine launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University of Oxford has launched the world's first Phase II clinical trial of a Nipah virus vaccine.

The trial is being conducted in Bangladesh in partnership with icddr,b and is funded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. An icddr,b press release yesterday said the trial began earlier this month and will enrol 306 healthy participants aged 18 to 55.

The vaccine was developed by scientists at the University of Oxford's Pandemic Sciences Institute. The first-in-human trials of the ChAdOx1 NipahB vaccine began in January 2024 in Oxford, led by the Oxford Vaccine Group.

## ACC files case

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allegedly conspired to violate banking regulations by approving large loans based on insufficient collateral and falsified financial statements.

It claims that Tk 600 crore was embezzled through loans issued under Bashundhara Import Export Limited, cash withdrawals, and other financial transactions.

## High enrolment, low learning gains

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CEO Sayeed Ahmed said only 23 percent of children have any books at home, and just 7 percent have access to a computer or tablet.

He stressed the need for better-trained teachers, especially in primary schools, and urged political parties to prioritise education in their election manifestos.

He said repeated requests for an Education Rights Act and separate education commissions have been denied, even under the interim government.

National Citizen Party Joint Member Secretary Musfiq Us Salehin said the country continues to emphasise infrastructure development, while improving teacher training is equally important.

Media personality Kazi Tasin said it is the responsibility of the government and stakeholders to ensure

strong teacher training, professional conferences, and quality education at the school level.

He suggested allocating adequate budgets, offering regular training at primary and secondary levels, and organising district- or division-level conferences to improve teacher competencies.

National Academy for Primary Education Director Dilruba Ahmed acknowledged ongoing challenges, including dependence on coaching centres and weak classroom instruction.

She stressed the need for practical solutions, saying Bangladesh is shifting its primary education agenda from infrastructure development to improving classroom quality.

## We still lack

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She highlighted that Bangladesh has kept reservations on key articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) charter, which are essential for eliminating discrimination.

Liberation War Museum Trustee Sarwar Ali said Bangladesh cannot honestly claim progress in human rights unless the 1971 genocide and its aftermath are confronted and acknowledged.

"To consider today's rights situation, we must consider the situation of 1971. It is impossible to improve the overall situation without eliminating the 'culture of fear' from society," Sarwar Ali said.

He reflected on the mindset of the Pakistani occupation forces, saying that the root of the genocide lay in their view of East Pakistanis as "inferior" or "low-caste" people.

Genocide begins when a specific group in society is marked for elimination in the name of "purifying" society. That mentality, that no one can be spared, leads to mass killings, he said.

"We hope to free society from these deep-set prejudices by taking the lessons of 1971 into account," Sarwar Ali added.

The programme began with a musical performance by Promila Biswas.

## Issue notice for Joy to appear

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She fixed for charge framing hearings in another crimes against humanity case against Salman F Rahman, former adviser to the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and former law minister Anisul Huq. Both are in custody and were produced before the tribunal.

Meanwhile, defence counsel Md Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury filed a petition seeking permission to appoint foreign lawyers for Salman and Anisul, arguing that tribunal approval was needed before approaching the Bangladesh Bar Council.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam opposed the plea,

calling it "misconceived" and saying the accused must first seek Bar Council permission. He accused the defence of trying to delay the trial. The tribunal said it would pass an order later.

### PALAK'S JAIL RIGHTS CURTAILED

Meanwhile, Palak's lawyer, M Liton Ahmed, told the tribunal that jail authorities had curtailed some of his client's rights after he chanted "Joy Bangla" and sang the national anthem.

He requested an order to restore facilities such as weekly phone calls to family members and fortnightly meetings with relatives and lawyers. He added that Palak, who faces 88 cases, had been

denied access to his lawyers since November 28.

Opposing the request, Tajul said the plea was not maintainable since most of the cases were outside the tribunal's jurisdiction. He said Palak would receive facilities under jail code and must apply to jail authorities in writing.

Justice Mortuza observed that "something must have happened" for the rights to be curtailed and asked whether jail authorities had given any written explanation. The defence said they had not.

The tribunal said if Palak committed any misconduct, jail authorities could take action within the law.

## Star journo among 10 wins

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Mohammad Didarul Alam (Daily Ittefaq), Mohammad Gulam Rabbani (Financial Express), Abu Saleh Rony (Dainik Samakal), Ehsanul Haque Jasim (Daily Sun), Md Iqbal Hossain (BTV), Shakera Arju (Ekushey TV), Habibul Islam (Star News), Asadur Rahman (Radio Padma) and Syeda Sabrina Mojumder (Desh TV).

Five journalists received the award in the "Print and Online" category, while five others in "Television and Radio" category.

Mahbuba Farjana, secretary of the information ministry, attended the event as the chief guest.

Shahed Mohammad Ali, editor of the Daily Samakal, Mohammad Moazzem Hossain, registrar of

the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, Anowarul Haq, assistant resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, and Abdul Qayum, head of communications of UNDP Bangladesh, spoke at the event.

M u h a m m a d Hiruzzaman, director general of NIMC, presided over the programme.

## Divisive politics

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country is still struggling to overcome the legacy of years of authoritarian rule.

"The state must ensure that law enforcement or intelligence agencies do not pick up people, torture them or kill them. There must not be a situation where people disappear without a trace," he added.

UN Human Rights Office Senior Adviser Huma Khan stressed the need for cultural and institutional change to improve human rights.

She welcomed steps toward legal reforms – including moves for an independent judiciary and a new police commission – but said laws alone are not enough. "We need a cultural shift in education,

social interactions, and family structures," she added.

Mutual respect and accountability are essential for a rights-based society, she added.

Attorney General Md Assaduzzaman said the human rights situation has significantly improved since the July uprising.

"There has been no reported enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing, or politically motivated case by law enforcement since July," he said.

He added that protecting human rights is the government's top priority.

UN Human Rights Officer Md Zahid Hossain also spoke.

## Apprehension over

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understanding, where parties realise they "cannot get away with major injustice or misrule".

The Citizen's Platform will announce its "Reform Watch" on December 14 and present a "Citizen Manifesto," prioritising grassroots opinions, to political parties on December 20, he said.

During the open discussion, Ali Akbar, director of the Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association, argued against bringing in foreign operators for two of the Chattogram port terminals but insisted that terminals requiring foreign expertise be leased through a competitive international

tender.

Responding to the port issue, Debapriya said, "Good work should not be done in a hurry. We were all surprised by why this was done in a rush."

He acknowledged the need for modern equipment but stressed that the process matters as much as the outcome.

Professor Mostafizur Rahman, a Citizen's Platform fellow, questioned the political leadership: "Has the fear of God not entered the hearts of politicians after such a big movement only a year and a half ago? Have they not developed the fear that worse consequences will follow if they behave similarly in the future?"

## UN proposals saw 'mixed response'

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on disbanding Rab, but that didn't happen, though there were "welcome changes in the criminal code," including the enactment of a law on enforced disappearances, which she said came faster than expected.

She said the report received "very positive responses from the government, from civil society, from victims, and everyone else," except from those opposed to accountability.

These atrocities were not carried out by individuals but by institutions, and many of those institutions remain at the event.

in the same shape and form," she said, adding that no "major fundamental change" has taken place.

Journalist David Bergman highlighted the significance of the UN fact-finding report, noting it came amid widespread disinformation from Indian sources. While some journalists knew the facts, the report provided the first clear, well-documented, and systematic account of the events.

Family members of slain Mohammad Ridoy and Tahir Zaman Priyo, along with student leader Umama Fatema also spoke at the event.

### MONSOON PROTEST ARCHIVE

Organisers said work on the archive began during the uprising and remains ongoing. The records are intended to serve as digital evidence of alleged human rights violations and to support future efforts toward justice and accountability.

So far, the database contains information on 933 victims, including their names, occupations, causes and locations of death. The website also features an interactive map showing the geographical distribution of protester deaths across the country.

**Office of the Sub Project Manager**  
"Advancing Climate-Smart .... of Bangladesh" Sub-Project  
Department of Marine Biorereource Science  
Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Khulshi, Chattogram  
Memo No. CVASU/DMBS/HEAT/05/2025/14  
Date: 09/12/2025

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal: ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Goods/Works	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1187315	CVASU/PIN13362/G-1	Procurement of ICT Equipment for the Dept. of Marine Bioreresources Science and Project Activity.	23-Dec-2025 12:00 PM	23-Dec-2025 02:00PM	11-Dec-2025 12:00PM

This is an online Tender, Where, only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

SD-  
Sub Project Manager  
13362, CVASU

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**  
Power Division  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.  
Admin-3 Section  
[www.powerdivision.gov.bd](http://www.powerdivision.gov.bd)

No. 27.00.0000.043.07.042.25.580  
Date: 10.12.2025

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID	Description	Tender Publish Date	Tender Closing Date
1.	1179353, GR-04	Procurement of Official Stationery Items	09.12.2025	22.12.2025

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through National e-GP Portal. No hard Copy will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks. Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](http://helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

GD-2717

HP 10.12.25  
(Md. Nazmul Hamid Reza)  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
Power Division  
Ph: 02223390024  
E-mail:admin-3@pd.gov.bd

**Kaligong Pourashava, Jhenaidah**

Memo No. Kali/Poura/LGCRP/8-64/2023/557  
Date: 10/12/2025

**e-Tender Notice: 02/2025-26 (NOTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the Procurement of works as mentioned under the table.

SL No.	Package No.	Name of scheme	e-Tender ID No.	Last date & time of selling documents	Opening & closing date and time
1	LGCRP/Kaligong/2025-26W-08	1) Upgrade of Bolidakara road from H/o. Mr. Mohammad Ali to Raigram Road via H/o. Mr. Akter Ch 0-00-1+085.00-1085.00m under Kaligong Pourashava. FY-2025-2026. 2) Construction of RCC drain by the side of Bolidakara Road from H/o. Mr. Malek Driver to Ricer Chittor Ch 0-00-450.00m=450.00m under Kaligong Pourashava. 3) Construction of RCC drain by the side of Hospital Road near Bolidakara Kabarstan Mosque at Ch 600-765)=165.00m under Kaligong Pourashava	1188624	Date: 28.12.2025 Time: 17:00pm	Date: 29.12.2025 Time: 12:00am

Tenderer must submit updated trade license, Vat, IT, updated LGED enlistment documents and bank solvency certificate etc. as described in TDS. Without updated enlistment documents Tender will be nonresponsive. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited on the line through any registered banks branches up to 28-12-2025 at 17:00am. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from E-mail: [kaligongpourashavajh@gmail.com](mailto:kaligongpourashavajh@gmail.com) or call +880171210480. For any queries interested tenderer are requested to communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

GD-2707

HP 10.12.25  
(Md. Kabir Hasan)  
Executive Engineer  
Kaligong Pourashava, Jhenaidah  
[kaligongpourashavajh@gmail.com](mailto:kaligongpourashavajh@gmail.com)