

# Humanitarian Appeal for AstraZeneca Vaccine to Bangladesh

8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

Hon Prime Minister,

Greetings on behalf of all the Bangladeshi Australians living across the seven states and territories. We would like to draw your attention to the humanitarian utilisation of surplus AstraZeneca vaccines in Australia.

In view of rare thrombotic complications, hyped up by the media, we are aware that AstraZeneca vaccines uptake among the Australian population has been rather low. The Pfizer vaccine is on roll now and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is expected in a few months. Even after distribution among the Pacific Islands, it is highly likely that there will be a surplus of AstraZeneca vaccines in Australia.

In Bangladesh, there has been an exponential rise in COVID -19 in the last several weeks. As we speak Bangladesh has gone into lockdown to prevent a catastrophic public health crisis averaging 8000 diagnosed cases daily with an alarming 30% positivity rate! The true daily infection we fear is much higher. The current crisis is dominated by the Delta variant with much higher infectivity exacerbated by recent religious events necessitating mass movement.

In the backdrop of this potential catastrophe, Bangladesh seems to be inadequately prepared primarily due to the uncertainties owing to non-realisation of commitment by previously identified suppliers of COVID-19 vaccines.

Bangladesh does not have any local vaccine production facility. The Government has bought the initial supply of AstraZeneca vaccine from India through Serum Laboratory which stopped further scheduled supply due to India's massive demand during a recent catastrophic situation. New supplies of vaccines from other sources are becoming difficult to secure.

Only 10.7 million doses of vaccine have been administered to a population of 165 million. This translates into vaccination uptake of 6.5% only! Six and half million people have received their first dose while only 4.2 million have received their 2nd doses. **The vaccine rollout has come to a halt due to non-existence of further supply of vaccine.**

As you are aware that the Bangladeshi Government has already formally approached Australia to part with the surplus AstraZeneca vaccine. As Bangladesh had already received AstraZeneca from India which has now halted, there may not be any issues raised by the company in parting surplus vaccine from Australia to Bangladesh. We would urge the Australian Government to continue utilising the CSL Victoria in producing the AstraZeneca vaccine to save lives in countries like Bangladesh.

At recent times we understand the Australian Government has been indicating greater strategic importance in her relationship with Bangladesh. Nothing could be more useful than considering the “gift of life (vaccine)” from the Australian Government to the people of Bangladesh during this hour of impending calamity.

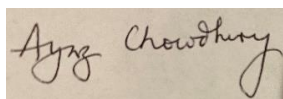
The Australians of Bangladeshi origin are contributing immensely to the socio-economic fabric of the Australian society. The goodwill gesture on behalf of the Australian Government will have a significant impact to all Australian citizens of Bangladeshi origin.

We fondly remember that Australia was among the first country among the Western world who recognised Bangladesh as an Independent nation in 1971. This will be another milestone as Australia will be extending her hand in times of crisis.

We thank you in advance for your compassionate hand which we believe will be fondly remembered by all the Bangladeshi-Australians and the people of Bangladesh in the years to come.

On behalf of 100 thousand Bangladeshi-Australians.

Kind regards,



Dr Ayaz Chowdhury FRACP

Consultant: Gastroenterologist, WSAHS  
Chairman: Auburn Hospital Medical Staff Council  
President: Bangladeshi Forum for Community Engagement  
President: United Bangladeshi Association of Australia

E-mail: ayaz.chowdhury@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0414 372 485

Tel: 02 9806 9591

Postal Address:

Westmead Specialist Medical Centre  
102/151-155 Hawkesbury Road  
Westmead NSW 2145

## In support of the following organisations: AZ Vaccine to Bangladesh

<b>United Bangladeshi Association of Australia Bangladesh Forum for Comm. Engagement</b> President: Dr. Ayaz Chowdhury FRACP	<b>United Bangladeshi Association of Australia</b> Secretary: Kamrul Hossain Chowdhury OAM
<b>Bangladesh Forum for Comm. Engagement</b> General Secretary: Tanveer Shaheed	<b>Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) Lakemba Branch</b> President: Mohammad Zaman
<b>Federation of Bangladesh Medical Societies of Australia</b> President: Dr. Mohammad Islam	<b>Federation of Bangladesh Medical Societies of Australia</b> General Secretary: Dr. Mohammad Wazed
<b>IEB (The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh) Australia Overseas Chapter</b> President: Engr. Abdul Matin	<b>IEB (The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh) Australia Overseas Chapter</b> General Secretary: Dr. A H M Kamruzzaman
<b>Krishibid Australia Inc</b> President: Dr. Hanif Miah Jheelu	<b>Krishibid Australia Inc</b> General Secretary: Dr. Masud Parvez
<b>Bangladesh Australia Association of Canberra</b> President: Aminur Rashid	<b>Bangladesh Australia Association of Canberra</b> General Secretary: Saqib Yaman
<b>Victorian Bangladeshi Community Foundation</b> President: Md Yousuf Ali	<b>Victorian Bangladeshi Community Foundation</b> General Secretary: Md Zahid H Mazumdar
<b>South Australian Bangladeshi Comm. Assoc.</b> President: Md Assaduzzaman	<b>South Australian Bangladeshi Comm. Assoc.</b> General Secretary: Md Matiur Rahman
<b>Bangladesh Association of Northern Territory</b> President: Abdus Sattar	<b>Bangladesh Association of Northern Territory</b> General Secretary: Noorun Salma
<b>Bangladesh Australia Association of Western Australia</b> President: Dr. M S N Shahid (Rajoo)	<b>Bangladesh Australia Association of Western Australia</b> General Secretary: Tasneemul Galib Amit
<b>Hobart Bangladeshi Community Inc</b> President: Nur Rahman	<b>Bangladesh Association of NSW</b> President: Mahabub Chowdhury
<b>Bangladesh Doctors Association of ACT</b> President: Dr. Moyazur Rahman	<b>Bangladesh Doctors Association of ACT</b> General Secretary: Dr. Shaheen Ashraf
<b>BUET Alumni Australia</b> President: Dr Saniya Sharmeen	<b>BUET Alumni Australia</b> General Secretary: Soumen Chakraborty
<b>Ekushe Academy Australia Inc</b> Founder President: Nehal Neyamul Bari	<b>Ekushe Academy Australia Inc</b> General Secretary: Rownak Hasan
<b>Dhaka University Alumni Association Australia</b> President: Mostafa Abdullah	<b>Dhaka University Alumni Association Australia</b> General Secretary: Anis Mojumder
<b>Rajshahi University Alumni Assoc. Australia</b> President: Zulfiquer Ahmed	<b>Rajshahi University Alumni Assoc. Australia</b> General Secretary: Tariq Zaman
<b>KUET Alumni Australia</b> President: Prof. Dr. Ataur Rahman	<b>CUET Alumni Australia</b> President: Assoc Prof. Dr. Neaz Sheikh
<b>RUET Alumni Australia</b> President: Engr. Siddiqur Rahman	<b>Aussie NSUers Association</b> President: Nahid Kamal
<b>Ex-IUBIANS Australia Association</b> President: Elius Chowdhury	<b>MECA Australia</b> General Secretary: Firoze Ali

<b>Australia Bangladesh Business Council</b> President: Asif Kawnine	<b>Australia Bangladesh Business Council</b> General Secretary: Mohammed Sarker
<b>Bangladesh Awami League Australia</b> President: Prof. Shams Rahman	<b>Bangladesh Awamileague Australia</b> President: Dr. Sirajul Haque
<b>Bangladesh Awami League Sydney Australia</b> President: Gausul Alam Shahajada	<b>USQ Family 2004</b> President: Azad Kamrul Hassan
<b>Bongobondhu Society of Australia Inc</b> President: Dr. Ratan Lal Kundu	<b>Bongobondhu Parishod Australia</b> Secretary: Nirmalaya Talukder
<b>Sechasebok League Australia</b> President: Zakaria Al Mamun Sapon	<b>Bangladesh Chatra League Australia</b> President: Aminul Islam Rubel
<b>Australia BNP Shadhinota Udjapon Comm.</b> Convenor: Monirul Haque George	<b>Zia Forum Australia</b> Secretary: Engr. Sohel Iqbal
<b>BNP Australia</b> President: Dr Humayer Chowdhury Rana	<b>Bangladesh Islamic Centre of NSW Inc</b> President: Emamul Haque
<b>Lions Club of Sydney South Shapla Shaluk</b> President: Dr. Md. Moinul Islam	<b>MLC Movement International</b> Founder Chairman: Nirmal Paul
<b>Bangla Prosher Committee Inc</b> Secretary: Selima Begum	<b>Kobita Bikel</b> President: Mahmuda Mamun Runu
<b>PROTITEE</b> President: Sirajus Salekin	<b>OIKOTAN</b> President: Anisur Rahman
<b>Kisoloy Kochi Kacha</b> President: Rokhana Rahman	<b>Bangladesh Puja Association</b> President: Sukumar Bhakta
<b>Bangladesh Australia Buddhist Society Inc</b> President: Shadesh Barua	<b>Bangladesh Christian Association Australia</b> President: Ratan Dominic Perera
<b>Bangladesh Christian Fellowship of Australia</b> President: Ronald Partra	<b>Bogra Samity of Australia Inc</b> President: Shah Md. Enayetur Rahim Belal
<b>Let's Work for Bangladesh</b> President: Shamsuddin Shafi	<b>Let's Work for Bangladesh</b> General Secretary: Zafreen Ahmed
<b>Bangladeshi Australian Mariners Association</b> President: Habibul Ahmed	<b>Bangladeshi Australian Mariners Association</b> General Secretary: Firoze Ali
<b>Sydney Press and Media Council</b> President: Mohammad Abdul Matin	<b>Australia Bangladesh Press and Media Club</b> President: Rahmat Ullah
<b>Bangladesh Association of Australia</b> President: Gama Abdul Kadir	<b>Bangladesh Forum of Australia</b> President: Hossain MD. Mohsin
<b>Bangla Aus Wellbeing Foundation</b> President: Dr. Moyazur Rahman	<b>Bangla Aus Wellbeing Foundation</b> General Secretary: Dr. Shaheen Ashraf
<b>Bangladesh Seniors Club of Canberra</b> President: Prof. Monir Mir	<b>Bangladesh Seniors Club of Canberra</b> General Secretary: Dr. Iqbal Zahid
<b>Bangladesh Super League</b> Head of Operation: Sharfaraz Khan (Dip)	<b>Origin Cricket Australia Inc.</b> Vice-Chairman: Ali Ashraf Himel
<b>iRight</b> Chairman: Engr. Md. Habibur Rahman	<b>Creatus Australia</b> President: Shampa Ghosh
<b>Rangdhanu Aus-Bangla Cultural Society Inc</b> President: Wohab Miah	<b>Women Council Australia Inc.</b> President: Sazedra Akter Sanjida
<b>Banglatown Australia Inc.</b> President: Mohammad Shariful Abid	<b>Multicultural Society of Campbelltown Inc.</b> President: Enam Hoque

<b>Listen For</b> President: Mohammad Hossain Emon	<b>Bangladesh Community School of NSW Inc</b> President: Dr Abdul Wahab
<b>Bangla Hub Inc</b> President: Munir Hossain	<b>Bangladesh Community Council Inc</b> President: Mohammad Rashedul Hoque
<b>Bangladeshi Cultural Forum Australia</b> President: Zakir Alam Lelin	<b>Bangladesh Trade and Cultural Festival</b> President: Waziha Sharmin
<b>Open Friends Circle Australia</b> President: Jahid Abedin	<b>Bangla Music and Dance Academy</b> President: Tamanna Rahman
<b>Krishibid Inst. Bangladesh, Australia Chapter</b> President: Paramesh Bhattacharya	<b>Nrityajali Dance Academy Australia</b> President: Mousumi Saha
<b>Bangladesh Australia Fashion Association</b> President: Tasnina Jahan Tammi	<b>Agamoni Australia</b> President: Anupam Deb Shuvo
<b>Noakhali Association of Australia</b> President: Mohammad Shamsuzzoha Swapon	<b>Shariatpur Association of Australia</b> President: M Ataur Rahman Khan (Lemon)-
<b>Comilla Association Australia Inc.</b> President: Minhazul Islam	<b>Brihottor Chattagram Samity Australia Inc.</b> President: Mohammed Iftikhar Uddin
<b>Bogra Samity of Australia Inc.</b> President: Shah Md. Enayetur Rahim Belal	<b>Campbelltown Welfare Society Inc</b> President: Nazrul Islam
<b>Greenfield Entertainment</b> President: Miraz Hossain	<b>Sydney Bangla Group</b> President: Hafizur Rahman
<b>Fagun Hawa</b> President: Tisa Tasmin Tania	<b>BD Hub Inc</b> President: Abdul Sarkar
<b>Aborton Australia</b> President: Nasima Akter	<b>Amader Kotha</b> President: Purabee Bosh
<b>Sydney Bengalee Community Inc.</b> Representative & Spokesperson: Md. Abu Tarik	<b>AMRA Bangladeshi</b> Representative & Spokesperson: Rashed Khan
<b>Eastern Community Welfare &amp; Cultural Centre</b> President: Mohammed Aslam Mollah	<b>Bangladesh Australia Disaster Relief Comm.</b> President: Dr Abdul Wali Islam
<b>Bangladeshi Expatriate's Welfare Assoc. Aust.</b> President: Hasan Shimun Farooq Robin	<b>Australia Bangladesh Sports &amp; Cultural Assoc.</b> President: Mohammad Ahasan Siam
<b>The Association of Bangladesh Voice Australia</b> President: Md. Rashedul Islam	<b>Bangladesh Badminton Association</b> President: Shamim Hossain
<b>Bangladesh Australian Welfare Society Inc</b> President: Mohammed Monsur	<b>Sydney Bangla Group</b> President: Hafizur Rahman