

Incepta Vaccine of world-class: drug DG

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Incepta Vaccine has achieved the capability of world-class vaccine production, said Maj Gen Md Mahbubur Rahman, director general at the Directorate General of Drug Administration, yesterday.

It has the capability of world-class plants by producing the vaccine according to the infrastructure and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standard, he added.

The remarks came while he was visiting the country's first lifesaving international-standard vaccine producing organisation Incepta Vaccine at the company's plant at Zirabo in Savar on October 31.

"I think in the period of Covid infection any other country can use this plant too. Thus, in case of the world health protection the capability of Incepta's vaccine production will play a big role."

Rahman visited the bulk facility, R and D facility, production facility and

animal house of Incepta Vaccine at the plant.

Md Salauddin, deputy director of the drug administration, and Mahbubul Karim, chief operation officer, accompanied him during the visit.

Rahman said Incepta has the capability of producing 180 million doses of vaccine annually. "It is very big, good news for every one of us. When the bulk requirement of the corona vaccine will be created all over the world, we are hopeful that the world community will use this plant," he added.

Incepta Vaccine started its journey in June of 2011.

Established according to the GMP rules and regulations of World Health Organization, the plants are being operated there on separate spaces.

The plant is equipped with many high standard equipment for producing vaccines.

Besides, there is a big animal house where various types of tests are being

done on animals.

To execute all the works related to the vaccine production, there are numerous foreign experts and skilled pharmacists.

To date it has successfully produced and marketed 13 vaccines along with immunoglobulins such as Rabbish, Rabbish-IG, Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis-A, Typhoid, Titenus, Titenus-IG, Mijels-rubela, Antivenum and Meninxities.

The company is maintaining the quality of the produced vaccine from production to distribution all over the country with a strong, effective and controlled cold-supply-chain system.

Incepta Vaccine has established a bulk vaccine manufacturing facility according to the WHO's GMP that is capable of producing both the bacterial and viral antigen.

Thus, Bangladesh has stepped forward in achieving the self-sufficiency in production and marketing of vaccines, says a press release.



Mamoon Mahmood Shah, CEO (current charge) of NRB Bank, opens a branch at Boliyadi Manson of Dilkusha in Dhaka yesterday.

Build skills of the youth for faster economic recovery: experts

FROM PAGE B4

However, he said the youth might be given Tk 5,000 per month as allowance if they receive training in different trades for skill development.

He also stressed on the need to allocate Tk 50,000 crore in the budget for skills development of the youth.

"We need youth friendly initiatives at this moment to address the problems faced by young people due to the Covid-19 fallout," Patwary said.

The government should take the initiative in collaboration with the private sector to build up a skilled workforce, he added.

Keya Akhter, owner of the Care Beauty Parlour in Savar, said her business has fallen on hard times due to the ongoing crisis.

She also said she had no idea about how to avail loans from the government's stimulus packages.

"If I get a loan, then my business will run smoothly," she added.

Md Hasan Ali, president of the Bangladesh Textile and Garment Workers League (BTGWL), alleged that 85 per cent of the garment sector's workforce are youths but they do not get any proper skill training.

Besides, 3 lakh employees of garment industries were sacked due to job cuts amid the Covid-19 fallout, he said.

The BTGWL president also said there is no initiative to develop the skills of garment workers even though they heavily contribute to the economy.

"So, the government should take the initiative to develop the skills of these garment workers," Ali added.

Riaj Uddin Badsha, a youth

skills development programme graduate of UCEP Bangladesh, said technical education is practical since it guarantees an income most of the time.

On the other hand, ICT based technical education may not always be so fruitful, he said.

Talha Rahman, technical officer of ADD International, recommended the introduction of disability friendly education as children with disability generally lag behind other students in the country.

The corporate sector should come forward in this regard and create opportunities for students with disabilities, Rahman said.

Manjuni Chakma, project officer of Kapaeeng Foundation, said most economic activities were halted for a while due to the ongoing pandemic.

Most students of indigenous communities had no opportunity to access the internet due to a lack of knowledge on ICT and technology-based services.

And so, Chakma urged the government to create more opportunities for these students.

Nupur Rani, youth representative from the Dalit community, pointed out that there is no opportunity for Dalit students.

Anika Bushra, central youth volunteer of the Y-moves project of YES BD, said some new opportunities have created though.

Everybody wants to be involved in income generating activities, she said.

Sanjana Islam, a member of Action Aid Bangladesh, said the opportunity to conduct economic activities is declining in rural areas compared to

their urban counterparts due to the Covid-19 fallout.

She urged the authorities concerned to create the scope for young people to raise their voices and share their problems.

Avra Chakrabarty, executive director of Dhruvotara Youth Development Foundation (DYDF), said if a policy is not sufficient, it should not be implemented.

According to Chakrabarty, the government formulated a youth policy four years ago but there has been no move to implement it till date.

He also urged for youth financing to help create start-ups.

Debariya Bhattacharya, convenor of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, said youths should be considered separately instead of a united youth community for in-depth realisation of their problems.

He also suggested to take an initiative to bring the youth under an incentive package in the next budget.

Bhattacharya alleged that the problems faced by the youth are not realised properly.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the CPD, said there is a wide gap in skills among the youth in rural and urban areas.

"This gap should be addressed to resolve the youth problems," he said.

Moderated by Towfiqul Islam Khan, senior research fellow of the CPD, the webinar was addressed, among others, by Mahmud Hasan, project officer for the governance cluster of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Rani Chowdhury, youth representative from the third gender community.

61pc poor received no support despite income loss: survey

FROM PAGE B1

He spoke while presenting the report at a webinar organised by the PPRC and the BIGD on Saturday.

The survey was carried out among 7,638 households in an urban slum, rural areas and hill tracts between June 20 and July 2 to analyse the effects of the pandemic on the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable people, the way they were coping with it and the recovery during the Covid-19 crisis.

The study found that the resumption of economic activities from June reduced the number of the crisis-caused new poor by 1.1 percentage points to 21.7 per cent as income recovery had been sluggish.

"The overall story is that there have been months of low income," said Matin.

Amid falling income and insignificant external support, the poor and vulnerable people had to depend on savings and cut food consumption. Yet, the non-food expenditure of the poor in urban areas rose because of the deepening burden of house rent and utility expenditure.

And a large number of poor and low-income people had to leave cities because of the income loss

and increased non-food expenditure burden.

"Businesses with lower capital are being forced to shut operations," Matin said.

PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman said there was a critical need for a new stimulus package for the micro, small and medium enterprises to be delivered through alternative delivery platforms.

"We have microfinance institutions and other platforms that are more capable of dealing with this sort of clients,"

Noted economist Wahiduddin Mahmud said Bangladesh's economy was recovering as activities were returning to the pre-Covid-19 period.

"The recovery in Bangladesh is speedy and one of the reasons is Bangladesh's resilience."

The revival would depend on how the country supports small enterprises, said the former adviser to a caretaker government.

"Because small enterprises are the most dynamic in Bangladesh's economy. There has been so much of scaling up," he said.

A large number of small enterprises closed because of the crisis and these

are the enterprises that lost working capital, Mahmud said.

"Replenishing them with working capital is a challenge. Large enterprises will thrive again as a stimulus package is there."

The study recommended increasing social protections for the urban poor.

Shantayanan Devarajan, a professor of the Practice of International Development at the Georgetown University, said the pandemic may have a long-term effect.

He suggested giving cash support instead of subsidies and kind transfers.

"There is an opportunity to start a universal social protection and strengthen the health sector," said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Robin Burgess, a professor of economics and director of the International Growth Centre at the London School of Economics, stressed on training the youth for skill development and providing livelihood and micro-finance support.

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Tajul Islam said the pandemic was a very new event for the world and the government tried to provide support despite having constraints.

Daraz continues growth amid pandemic

FROM PAGE B4

Apart from this, there would be a pre-sale campaign from November 4 to November 10, when select products would be available at prices lower than what it would be during the 11.11 campaign.

Moreover, customers will get a chance to win a Toyota Aqua when they play a "1 Taka Game".

According to Hoq, smartphones, televisions, home appliances and fashion items, including clothing, accessories, watches, perfumes, home decor items and sports items, will be the highest-selling items this year.

Additional discounts are available from Brac Bank, City Bank, Eastern Bank Limited, Mercantile Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and bKash along with cash back offers.

Hoq also shared Daraz's ongoing activities and future plans with The Daily Star.

Daraz is transforming some villages into e-commerce hubs. Those villages would allegedly feature logistics, facility and training to inspire farmers to get involved in online sales of farm produce and local specialties.

It is said to closely resemble

Alibaba's Taobao Villages, which comprise a series of e-commerce shops built in small villages, enabling villagers to both purchase products and sell goods online.

Daraz has set up over 4,500 centres where customers who are lagging behind in technology can order products online as well as introduce various training programmes for sellers.

The integration with Alibaba has mainly brought changes to the technological side.

"Before the acquisition, we thought of ourselves as just a marketplace and after Alibaba's taking over, we are broadening our vision, working on creating a better ecommerce ecosystem in the country as well as building a countrywide logistic infrastructure," said Hoq.

As a part of that vision, in early June, Daraz announced its plans to invest Tk 500 crore by 2021 in Bangladesh to set up logistics infrastructure and hubs that would help expand its footprint to all 64 districts.

"A big chunk of the investment has already been utilised on different purposes, including the purchase of over 100 vehicles, facilitating Daraz

to mail products to 50 districts of the country through its own conveyances. Now we are equipped with the logistic infrastructure that Alibaba uses," said Hoq.

It is also now building a sorting centre which will be 2 lakh square feet in area and a warehouse of the same size with an investment of about Tk 150 crore, making both the largest in Bangladesh and employing around 2,000 people.

Garment jobless crisis deepens in Sep: study

FROM PAGE B4

Therefore, it is urgent to develop a back-up plan for the garment sector to safeguard the workers from a potential second wave, she said.

Country Director of ILO Bangladesh Tuomo Poutiainen, SANEM Chairman Bazlul Hoque Khondker and Executive Director Selim Raihan, Bangladesh Program Officer of Financial Services for the Poor of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Snigdha Ali and Chief Commercial Officer of bKash Mizanur Rashid also spoke at the event.

Remittance on a roll

FROM PAGE B1

The migrant workers now prefer the banking channel to hundi, an illegal cross-boundary financial transaction system, as they can transfer funds to their near and dear ones on a real-time basis thanks to technologies and through mobile financial services, Mansur said.

The two per cent cash incentive introduced by the government last year has also encouraged the expatriate Bangladeshis to send more money through the formal channel.

Between July and October, remittance hit \$8.82 billion, up from 43.24 per cent year-on-year.

Diversion of remittances from informal to formal channels due

to the difficulty of carrying money under travel restrictions amid the pandemic and damages inflicted by the recent floods helped Bangladesh bring the remittance flow back to the positive territory in 2020, according to a recent statement of the World Bank.

In April, the multinational lender had said money sent by the migrant workers to Bangladesh is projected at \$14 billion for 2020, a fall likely of about 22 per cent because of the fallouts of the pandemic.

The rising flow from May led the WB to forecast on Friday that inbound remittance would accelerate by about 8 per cent to \$19.8 billion this year.

Emranul Huq, managing director

of Dhaka Bank, said the London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) has declined drastically soon after the recession hit the world. "This has put a positive impact on remittance as well."

The six-month Libor rate stood at 0.25 per cent yesterday in contrast to 1.93 per cent a year ago.

"The declining fund transfer through hundi is playing a major role in retaining the upward trend of remittance," said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank.

The travel restrictions imposed by the countries compelled the hundi cartels to scale back their operation, he said.

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Memo No: MFSP.13.01.0000.362.07.234.2018.202 Date: 01/11/2020

Name of country: Bangladesh
Name of Project: Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
Credit number: 5265-BD

Corrigendum

Package No: MFSP GD-27a
Package Name: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Online food stock and market monitoring system of DG Food including data center, software etc

This is for general information of all concerned that the above mentioned bid invited vide this office Memo no: MFSP-13.01.0000.362.07.234.2018.139 Dated: 20/09/2020 has been amended as follows:

| SL | Clause of bidding document | Existing Provision in bid doc. | Changed Provision in bid doc. |
|----|----------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Vol-1 Page-47 ITB 21.1 | Deadline for bid submission is Date: 4 Nov 2020 Time: 14:00 hrs Local Time | Deadline for bid submission is Date: 26 Nov 2020 Time: 14:00 hrs Local Time Last selling date of bidding document: 25 Nov 2020 |

There is an addendum to bidding document reference Memo No: MFSP.13.01.0000.362.07.234.2018.201 Date: 01/11/2020. It is available on website of the project www.mfsp.gov.bd. It is also sent to all bidders via email. Any bidder may have a copy of the addendum at PMU Office during office hour.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

(Md. Rezaul Karim Sheikh)
Project Director
Modern Food Storage Facilities Project

GD- 1739

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
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শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.1561.000.99.002.16-728 Dated: 01/11/2020

e-Tender Notice-04/2020-2021

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. To submit-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 23/11/2020 at 17:00pm.

| Sl No. | Package No. | Name of works | Tender ID | Last date & time of selling documents | Last date & time of submission documents |
|--------|--|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | e-Tender/PEDP4/CHA/PAT/2020-2021/W2-1203 | Construction of Additional classroom of Nischintapur GPS under PEDP4. | 504489 | 23/11/2020 17:00 | 24/11/2020 15:00 |
| 2 | e-Tender/PEDP4/CHA/PAT/2020-21/W2-02559 | Construction of Additional classroom of Kusumpura GPS under PEDP4. | 504426 | 23/11/2020 17:00 | 24/11/2020 15:00 |

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1740