

Govt to seek donors' help to fight avian flu

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government will seek assistance from the donor agencies to implement a project aimed at preventing the outbreak of bird flu in the country, official sources said.

The proposal seeking assistance will be submitted to the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), said Mohammad Abdul Karim, secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

"We will request our development partners to contribute to various components of the proposed project," he told the news agency.

On the amount of the expected assistance, he said this will be determined after finalising the

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Bird flu found in Britain, Croatia as virus spreads

APP, London

The global battle against outbreaks of bird flu was expanding yesterday after officials confirmed cases of the virus in a parrot in British quarantine and among swans at a Croatian lake.

A parrot that died in quarantine in Britain tested positive for the H5 strain of the bird flu virus. The bird imported from South America arrived in Britain last month and had been held with a consignment of birds from Taiwan, officials at the British agriculture ministry said.

Chief Veterinary Officer Debby Reynolds did not want to speculate whether the bird could have had the lethal H5N1 strain, which has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003. That strain has recently spread into Turkey and Romania, which also

reported a new suspected case on Friday.

"I don't intend to speculate on the N-type until I have formal, official confirmation of this," Reynolds told a press conference.

Croatia also said further tests were needed to determine if the virus detected in the dead swans was the H5N1 strain, feared to be the precursor of a human pandemic that could kill millions.

The discovery of the six dead swans prompted the European Union authorities in Brussels to announce they were preparing to ban imports of live poultry and poultry products from the Balkan country.

The six dead swans were found in the lake at Zdenici in the east of Croatia, which is one of 20 sites Croatian veteri-

nary services have put under heightened surveillance as part of a huge operation to take samples from wild birds.

In France, the French agency for food safety AFSSA recommended early on Saturday stepped up scrutiny of wildlife, but stopped short of proposing poultry be confined.

The United Nations' bird flu envoy flew into China Friday where more than 91,000 birds have been destroyed to stamp out a new outbreak.

"The international community needs to cooperate fully to protect the health of the world's people," Chinese Health Minister Gao Qiang told UN envoy David Nabarro.

In Thailand, doctors reported the seven-year-old son of a Thai

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PHOTO: STAR

A man with his little daughter on his shoulders makes way through the crowd of Eid shoppers, defying the daylong drizzle, at Gausia Market in the capital yesterday.

Call for UN resolution on victims of power abuse

Urges C'wealth law ministers' meet

REZAUL KARIM

The Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting (CLMM) has called for adoption of the United Nations Resolution on victims of crime and abuse of power.

The CLMM gave the call in a 33-point communiqué issued on the concluding day of the October 17-20 meet in Accra, Ghana, according to a report of the Commonwealth Secretariat yesterday.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed led the Bangladesh delegation at the 13th CLMM.

Terrorism, human rights and

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SHOOTING BY COPs

Companiganj OC, SI suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

An officer-in-charge (OC) and a sub-inspector (SI) were suspended yesterday following the killing of five people by police.

Superintendent of Police AKM Shahidur Rahman admitted the suspension of OC Md Aiyub and SI Shudhangshu Chakrabarty of Companiganj Police Station yesterday.

On Thursday night, angry businessmen brought out a rally protesting police inertness following a robbery on a jewellery shop in

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Ex-JCD leader arrested for tender snatching

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Savar police on Thursday arrested a former leader of Salimullah (SM) Hall unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP, for assaulting a contractor and snatching the schedule papers of a tender work for earth filling in Sylhet.

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PHOTO: STAR

These three children undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital do not know where to go once they get discharged.

3 lost kids end up in DMCH

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Three children who had migrated to Dhaka in the face of extreme poverty ended up in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They do not know what awaits them in the future and nobody came searching for them.

Asma Sharmin, 10, used to work as a domestic help to a family at Gabtoli area in the city for several months amid routine torture and scolding by her employer. On October 18 the employer took her to the DMCH and left her there. Now she has nowhere to go.

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Hectic preparations on for Saarc summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has stepped up all-out preparations for the November 12-13 summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), as officials of the ministries concerned have been working round the clock, even in the holidays.

The foreign ministry, which has earlier cancelled all government holidays including the weekly ones for the officials and employees engaged in the summit preparation, worked on Friday and Saturday last.

To ensure foolproof security for

the 13th summit, senior officials of the home ministry and all intelligence agencies are holding regular meetings and surveying the security measures for all the venues to be visited by the heads of the state and government.

Highly placed sources said the government will deploy some 20,000 security personnel for ensuring security of the Dhaka meet, which was postponed twice earlier this year.

Over 600 officials and journalists are expected to be in Dhaka for

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PBCP leader killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A regional leader of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was killed in "crossfire" during a shootout between his accomplices and police in Sirajganj early yesterday.

Police on Thursday night arrested the outlaw leader, Hossain Ali, 35, at Joydebpur in Gazipur district and handed him over to Solonga police in Sirajganj the following day.

A team of Solonga police, following his confessional statement

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AUG 17 SERIAL BLASTS

Investigators focus on Khulna arrestee

Powerful bomb found in Sirajganj

STAR REPORT

Investigators in Khulna keep quizzing Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) member Shahidullah alias Lokman with hope to get the whereabouts of militant kingpins JMB chief Abdur Rahman and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) operations commander Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

Shahidullah, arrested in Dhaka on September 8, and Hafez Abdul Jalil, another JMB cadre arrested in Bagerhat recently, are close relatives and were involved in different JMB activities, an investigator said.

Shahidullah has given very important information about August 17 serial

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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
18	23		5-29
19	24	4-40	5-28



Prayer Timing		
October 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	4-46
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-29	5-44
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		