

\$16m WB support to fight bird flu

The government yesterday signed an agreement worth 16 million dollars with the International Development Association (IDA) to support the country's efforts to minimise the threat and risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), says a press release.

The signing ceremony was held at the Economic Relations Division at Agargaon. M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, secretary, Economic Relations Division, and Xian Zhu, World Bank country director, signed the agreement.

The Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response Project supports the government's National Avian Influenza and

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan, and is designed to control infections in domestic poultry and prepare for controlling and responding to possible human infections, specially an influenza epidemic and related emergencies.

It will also strengthen disease surveillance, diagnostic capacity and laboratory facilities. In addition, it will also support applied veterinary research, improve bio-security in poultry production and trade, and support surveillance of migratory birds.

The Public Awareness and Information component will strengthen capacity of the national as

well as district-based mass media to accurately report on avian influenza and provide appropriate information to various target groups.

The project will also be co-financed initially by a \$ 2 million grant from the Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) Facility, which is administered by the World Bank and supported by nine donors, including the European Commission.

The credit from the IDA, the World Bank's concessionary arm, is interest-free and has 40 years to maturity with a 10-year grace period.



PHOTO: PID

Former deputy prime minister of Malaysia and World Islamic Economic Forum Chairman Tun Musa Hitam calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

Govt to ensure transparency at all levels: Law adviser

Bss, Dhaka

Law and Information Adviser Barrister Mainul Hosein yesterday said the main principle of the present caretaker government is to ensure transparency and accountability at all levels of the administration.

"Image of the country depends on a government that runs through discipline. The present caretaker government, which has taken over power amidst a difficult reality, is to manage crisis," he said.

He was addressing a conference of the district registrars at the Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) in the city as the chief guest.

Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal was also present on the occasion with Inspector General of Registrar Majdar Hossain in the chair. Department of Registrar organised the conference.

Barrister Mainul Hosein urged the district registrars for performing their duties with honesty, efficiency and sincerity to further brighten the image of the department as well as the government.

"Slem legal actions would be taken against those who will fail to perform their assigned duties," he sounded a note of warning and said, "It will not be wise to seek our sympathy in such cases."