PHOTO: STAR

Health Adviser Major General (Retd) ASM Matiur Rahman speaks at a roundtable titled 'During and Post-Flood Health Management' at the ICDDR,B auditorium in the city yesterday.

POST- FLOOD HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Supply of pure drinking water, nutritious food stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for supply of pure drinking water and nutritious food as well as ensuring a suitable sanitation system for health management during-and-post- flood period.

The speakers said various waterborne diseases including diarrhoea intensify with the recession of floodwater.

The roundtable titled 'During and Post-Flood Health Management' was organised jointly by the ICDDR,B and Prothom Alo at the ICDDR,B auditorium in the city.

Speaking as chief guest, Health Adviser Major General (Retd) ASM Matiur Rahman said acute diarrhoea was witnessed this year causing 75 percent fluid loss from the body of the patients.

But it is also true that after receiving treatment these patients are going back to normal life within 24 hours, he added.

Matiur said most of the patients admitted to ICDDR,B are from Dhaka and its outskirts, bur there are also intensity of diarrhoea in Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Jamalpur districts.

He said linkage of water and sewerage lines in the city and its outskirts is causing more diarrhoea this year.

" But the government has already taken necessary steps to repair the pipe lines and the finance ministry has also sanctioned money immediately for this purpose," the adviser added.

While moderating the discussion Joint Editor of the Prothom Alo Abdul Quayum said management of diarrhoea is not difficult.

" If we wash our hands with soap before taking food, the rate of getting diarrhoea will reduce significantly. Then if we are attacked by diarrhoea we should have to start drinking saline immediately," he said stressing the need to provide safe drinking water and nutritious food for flood-affected people in post-flood situation.

Stressing the need to increase budget allocation for health sector Quayum said per capita health expenditure in this country is only $ 4 and only seven percent of the total public expenditure.

" If we do not pay more attention to health sector, then we will not get rid of this crisis," he cautioned.

While presenting the keynote paper Dr MA Salam talked about health management during and post-flood situation.

He suggested coordination among the government and non government organisations to manage the disaster, preservation of some medicines before the flood takes place and wide publicity about the places where to get the services.

Dr Salam said economic, social and other long-term effects of flood should also be reviewed after the flood.

At the same time report should be prepared and presented at the coordination committee, and a guideline of flood management should be prepared with the experience acquired from the recent floods, he added.

Presenting a research conducted on 800 children after the flood in 2004, Dr Pradip K Bardhan said around 30 percent children did not get complementary food and fell victim to malnutrition.

Post flood morbidity in the household increased to 70 percent, he added.

The speakers suggested continued breastfeeding, provision for safe water and Vitamin A, and strengthening of EPI and Zinc programme.

At the same time private organisations and international organisations like WFP can come forward to ensure food security, they added.

Secretary to health and family welfare ministry AKM Zafar Ullah Khan, Director General of DG Health Services Shahjahan Biswas, Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, Dr Shirajul Islam, Dr Shams Al Arefin, Dr Muhammad Yunus and Dr Derdousi Kadri also spoke on the occasion.

10 get life for killing Khulna Jubo Dal leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday sentenced ten people to life term imprisonment in the sensational Jubo Dal leader Molla Sirajul Islam murder case.

Judge Md Abdus Salam Shikder also fined the convicts Tk 10,000 each. If they fail to pay, they will have to suffer two more years in jail.

The convicts are Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) leader KM Shamim, chairman of Jalma Union Parishad Gafur Molla, former chairman of Bhandarpara UP Shafiqul Islam Litu, extremists Debaprashad alias Debu, Mrinal Baiddya, Abu Taleb, Biplob Fakir, Alif Hossain, Hafizur Rahman and Mashubar Rahman Khan.

Of them, Shamim, Mashubar Rahman, Abu Taleb and Hafizur Rahman are at large.

Thirty other accused in the case were acquitted.

According to the prosecution story, general secretary of Khulna district Jubo Dal Molla Sirajul Islam was gunned down at Dumuria Bazar on April 10 in 2002.

His younger brother Molla Abul Kashem lodged an FIR with Dumuria Police Station.

Officer-in-Charge Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal of Dumuria Police Station pressed charges against the accused on January 8 in 2004.

Robbery in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted valuables and money totalling over Tk 13 lakh from three houses at village Fatehpur in Hathazari yesterday.

Sources said the gang of about 40 or 50 robbers stormed the houses of Jasim Uddin, Jamal and Badiul Alam at around 12:30am. They took away 81 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 47000 and 13 cellphone sets.