

Earth Award 2008

FROM PAGE 1
 Helen Clark, prime minister of New Zealand, Balgis Osman-Elasah, a senior researcher at Sudan's Higher Council for Environment & Natural Resources, Henrietta Elizabeth Thompson, former energy and environment minister of Barbados, Prince Albert II of Monaco, former US Senator Timothy E Wirth and Abdul-Qader Ba-Jamal, secretary general of the People's General Congress of Yemen.

The winners will be presented with their awards at a special ceremony in Singapore on April 22, 2008.

In the award letter, Achim Steiner, UN under-secretary general and UNEP executive director, observed that Dr Atiq is one of the leading specialists in the field through his national and international experience in sustainable development, and environment and resource management.

Dr Atiq's publications on the subjects of environment and development in Bangladesh can be a reference for peers, he said adding that the post-graduate course that Dr Atiq had designed on 'Sustainable Development Challenges and North South Dialogue' is innovative.

Lauding Dr Atiq's contribution, Achim Steiner noted that as a citizen of Bangladesh, a country extremely vulnerable to climate change and flooding, his expertise remains vital throughout the region.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) set up the award in 2004.

The annual prize rewards individuals from around the globe who have made a significant and recognised contribution globally, regionally and beyond, to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth's environment and natural resources.

Past Champions of the Earth winners include, among others, Ms Massoudeh Ebtekar, former vice president of Iran, Mikhail Gorbachev of the Russian Federation, Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, Jacques Rogge and the International Olympic Committee, and Al Gore, former vice president of the United States.

PROFILE OF DR ATIQ RAHMAN:
 Born in 1950, Dr Atiq Rahman is a lead author of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), He

Nizami, Mojahid

FROM PAGE 1
 on those mass graves, the IO said that he would collect evidence from the graves at Alokdi and at the western side of Botanical Garden in Pallabi.

The IO said that he had talked with several accused in the case as well, but refused to disclose the names for the sake of investigation.

Mohammad Amir Hossain Mollah, a freedom fighter and resident of Pallabi's Duaripara, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on January 24 against Nizami, Mojaheed, five of their party men and three non-Bangalees for the massacre during the Liberation War in 1971.

A day later, Pallabi police registered a case following the court order. The court also asked the police to submit a report in this connection after investigation.

MP influence

FROM PAGE 1
 law is amended," Adviser MM Shaykat Ali told The Daily Star last night.

In the wake of a long standing demand for repealing the authorities of lawmakers over local government institutions, the caretaker government took the decision in a bid to strengthen the local government system, making it free of interference from the central government.

At the meeting, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said the caretaker government wants to implement soon the recommendations of a committee on strengthening the local government system.

The LGRD and cooperatives ministry moved the proposals for bringing amendments to the Upazila Parishads Act 1998. Although the law was introduced in 1998, no government since then initiated steps to hold polls to upazila parishads as senior ministers and lawmakers vehemently opposed the move.

The last Awami League (AL) government passed the Upazila Parishad Act empowering the EC to announce schedules for the parishad elections.

However, amid a volatile political situation, the then EC could not hold the polls and later the government amended the upazila law and took away the authority from the EC.

Section 25 of the current law empowers lawmakers to become advisers to upazila parishads which are bound to accept their suggestions.

Once the amendments are brought to the current laws, lawmakers will have no power over upazila parishads and the EC will have the power to announce schedules for parishad polls through discussions with the central government, instead of taking approval from it.

The first election to upazila parishads was held in 1985 after its introduction in the local government system during the regime of military ruler HM Ershad. But the very existence of upazila parishads

played a leading role in UNCED, Rio, 1992, Intergovernmental Negotiations on Climate Change (INC) session and all the Conferences of Parties and Climate Summits in Kyoto, 1997 leading to Kyoto Protocol. Dr Atiq has designed, developed and taught a multi-disciplinary post-graduate course on 'Sustainable Development Challenges and North South Dialogue' at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Cambridge, USA. He is a visiting professor of International Diplomacy and Sustainable Development at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA where he designed and teaches a multi-disciplinary post-graduate course on 'Southern Perspectives on Sustainable Development'.

Emergency

FROM PAGE 1
 structure similar to a public or national security council that would be comprised of civil society members, military officials and non-partisan citizens.

The council would ensure the continuation of democratic process if political parties fail to settle political issues and prevent similar violent situations that preceded 1/11, he added.

Though the caretaker government has made some significant changes by separating the judiciary from the executive, appointing some good individuals in the Election Commission, the Public Service Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission, it did not succeed as much in impressing the political parties, Prof Ahmed observed.

Professor Rehman Sobhan said the reasons of malfunctioning of the political parties should be identified and their conduct improved to meet the expectation of the people.

Bangladesh is going through a transition period, but democracy is the ultimate goal of the people, he said putting the emphasis on serious studies and discourses on democracy and its development in this region, particularly in Bangladesh.

Terming 2008 a critical year, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, the commerce and education adviser, said the caretaker government is working persistently to meet the people's desire for the restoration of democracy.

"We want to take the country one step further and witness a qualitative transformation in politics," he said adding that the present government has broken the culture of impunity in the country.

A system of check and balance in the executive, legislative and local governments should be ensured for a sustainable democracy, said Adviser Rahman. "We have to exercise a sort of mutual trust so that we can move forward despite our differences... we want to continue a vibrant dialogue process."

Professor Rounaq Jahan said lack of concern about democratic procedures in the South Asian region is a setback for institutionalising democracy and ensuring checks and balances.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
 The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge made the decision as the Supreme Court on January 24 cleared obstacles in holding the trial under the Emergency Powers Rules by vacating the HC stay.

On January 17, the HC stayed proceedings of the case until disposal of a rule pending in an HC bench following an application filed by Hasina to that end.

Just couple of hours before the HC stay came, the court dealing with the extortion case fixed January 21, 22 and 23 for trial. The SC vacated the HC stay following an appeal by the government.

The trial court on January 13 framed charges against Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and cousin former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in connection with the case.

Earlier on July 30 last year, Hasina filed a writ with the HC challenging bringing the case under the EPR when the HC issued a rule on the government to explain why bringing it under the EPR should not be declared illegal. The rule is still pending with the HC.

The joint forces held Hasina on July 16 and later that day a magistrate's court sent her to a sub-jail on the Latiya Sangsad Bhaban complex. The same day the home ministry issued an approval for the case to be taken under the EPR, 2007.

Azam filed the case against former cabinet minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim and Hasina accusing them of taking about Tk 3 crore in return for allowing him to set up a power plant during the AL rule in 1996-2001.

Sheikh Rehana was also charged with taking a portion of the extorted money in the supplementary charge sheet. Rehana is being tried in absentia as she lives in London.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday filed a petition with the HC for quashing the extortion case.

The petition is likely to be heard next week.

Hasina's counsel filed the petition arguing that there are no allegations in the charge sheet, first information report and any other documents and records against Hasina. The lawyer said the case was filed with "political motivation".

Azam filed the case against former cabinet minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim and Hasina accusing them of taking about Tk 3 crore in return for allowing him to set up a power plant during the AL rule in 1996-2001.

Sheikh Rehana was also charged with taking a portion of the extorted money in the supplementary charge sheet. Rehana is being tried in absentia as she lives in London.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday filed a petition with the HC for quashing the extortion case.

The petition is likely to be heard next week.

Hasina's counsel filed the petition arguing that there are no allegations in the charge sheet, first information report and any other documents and records against Hasina. The lawyer said the case was filed with "political motivation".

Azam filed the case against former cabinet minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim and Hasina accusing them of taking about Tk 3 crore in return for allowing him to set up a power plant during the AL rule in 1996-2001.

Sheikh Rehana was also charged with taking a portion of the extorted money in the supplementary charge sheet. Rehana is being tried in absentia as she lives in London.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday filed a petition with the HC for quashing the extortion case.

The petition is likely to be heard next week.

Hasina's counsel filed the petition arguing that there are no allegations in the charge sheet, first information report and any other documents and records against Hasina. The lawyer said the case was filed with "political motivation".

Djokovic

FROM PAGE 16
 became the first Serb to win a tennis Grand Slam, coming from behind to register a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 victory over the tournament bolter in three hours six minutes.

Djokovic's victory was the first Grand Slam final since the 2005 Australian Open not won by Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal with the top-ranked pair dominating the game, claiming the last 11 majors between them.

"I am so proud of myself and to be the first Serb to win the Grand Slam title," said Djokovic, who eclipsed Jim Courier as the youngest men's winner at Melbourne Park.

"I think it will be a crazy house back in Serbia in my country, I love you guys."

Djokovic and Tsonga rocked the established order by dumping Federer and Nadal out in the semifinals to set up a decider unimaginable at the start of the tournament.

The Serb went on to claim his first major title in his 13th Grand Slam after losing to Federer in last year's US Open final and also reaching the semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon.

The victory stretched his winning streak to 11 matches, beating his previous best unbeaten run.

Tsonga, bidding to become France's first Grand Slam winner in 25 years, started well and took the only set off Djokovic in the tournament but could not go the distance with him.

"I thank Novak for a good fight and for me it was a good moment. I'll be back," said Tsonga, who blasted Nadal out of the tournament in straight sets.

But he could not reproduce his blistering semifinal form on Sunday, although he still played well with his winners outnumbering his errors.

Djokovic appeared to tweak his left hamstring in stretching for a volley at 0-30 on Tsonga's service in the fourth game of the fourth set and sought treatment from the trainer at the next changeover.

But he held on to take the championship in the fourth-set tie-breaker.

FROM PAGE 16
 Mahbubul Alam, an assistant director ACC, filed the case on December 9 with Teigaon Police Station against Khaleeda Zia and four others.

The case statement said Khaleeda Zia, despite being the custodian of the country's wealth as a prime minister, criminally awarded Niko the opportunity to extract Tk 10,000 crore worth of gas through violating her oath and abuse of power.

Two other accused in the case - Khandaker Shahidul Islam, former acting energy secretary, and Kashem Sharif, vice president (South Asia) of Niko Research Bangladesh Ltd.

TAIMUR CASE
 Deputy Assistant Director of ACC Mohammed Mahmud Hassan, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Taimur to the CMM's court, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

On August 14 last year, Golam Mostofa, a deputy director of ACC, filed the case with Palton Police Station against Taimur on charge of taking Tk 25 lakh in bribe from the owner of an automobile service centre.

According to the case statement, Taimur received Tk 25 lakh in bribe from Alim Talukder, owner of

FROM PAGE 16
 Mahbubul Alam, an assistant director ACC, filed the case on December 9 with Teigaon Police Station against Khaleeda Zia and four others.

The case statement said Khaleeda Zia, despite being the custodian of the country's wealth as a prime minister, criminally awarded Niko the opportunity to extract Tk 10,000 crore worth of gas through violating her oath and abuse of power.

Two other accused in the case - Khandaker Shahidul Islam, former acting energy secretary, and Kashem Sharif, vice president (South Asia) of Niko Research Bangladesh Ltd.

TAIMUR CASE
 Deputy Assistant Director of ACC Mohammed Mahmud Hassan, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Taimur to the CMM's court, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

On August 14 last year, Golam Mostofa, a deputy director of ACC, filed the case with Palton Police Station against Taimur on charge of taking Tk 25 lakh in bribe from the owner of an automobile service centre.

According to the case statement, Taimur received Tk 25 lakh in bribe from Alim Talukder, owner of

FROM PAGE 16
 Mahbubul Alam, an assistant director ACC, filed the case on December 9 with Teigaon Police Station against Khaleeda Zia and four others.

The case statement said Khaleeda Zia, despite being the custodian of the country's wealth as a prime minister, criminally awarded Niko the opportunity to extract Tk 10,000 crore worth of gas through violating her oath and abuse of power.

Two other accused in the case - Khandaker Shahidul Islam, former acting energy secretary, and Kashem Sharif, vice president (South Asia) of Niko Research Bangladesh Ltd.

TAIMUR CASE
 Deputy Assistant Director of ACC Mohammed Mahmud Hassan, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Taimur to the CMM's court, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

On August 14 last year, Golam Mostofa, a deputy director of ACC, filed the case with Palton Police Station against Taimur on charge of taking Tk 25 lakh in bribe from the owner of an automobile service centre.

According to the case statement, Taimur received Tk 25 lakh in bribe from Alim Talukder, owner of

FROM PAGE 1
 The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge made the decision as the Supreme Court on January 24 cleared obstacles in holding the trial under the Emergency Powers Rules by vacating the HC stay.

On January 17, the HC stayed proceedings of the case until disposal of a rule pending in an HC bench following an application filed by Hasina to that end.

Just couple of hours before the HC stay came, the court dealing with the extortion case fixed January 21, 22 and 23 for trial. The SC vacated the HC stay following an appeal by the government.

The trial court on January 13 framed charges against Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and cousin former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in connection with the case.

Earlier on July 30 last year, Hasina filed a writ with the HC challenging bringing the case under the EPR when the HC issued a rule on the government to explain why bringing it under the EPR should not be declared illegal. The rule is still pending with the HC.

The joint forces held Hasina on July 16 and later that day a magistrate's court sent her to a sub-jail on the Latiya Sangsad Bhaban complex. The same day the home ministry issued an approval for the case to be taken under the EPR, 2007.

Azam filed the case against former cabinet minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim and Hasina accusing them of taking about Tk 3 crore in return for allowing him to set up a power plant during the AL rule in 1996-2001.

Sheikh Rehana was also charged with taking a portion of the extorted money in the supplementary charge sheet. Rehana is being tried in absentia as she lives in London.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday filed a petition with the HC for quashing the extortion case.

The petition is likely to be heard next week.

Hasina's counsel filed the petition arguing that there are no allegations in the charge sheet, first information report and any other documents and records against Hasina. The lawyer said the case was filed with "political motivation".

Bird flu spreads

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds were culled.

This year the first outbreak of bird flu was recorded at Kurigram on January 3. Later the outbreak was recorded at Savar, Bonosree, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Barguna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore, Narayanganj and in some other districts.

A presentation on bird flu was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday informing it the situation is not very alarming. The meeting was also informed about government measures to check the spread of avian influenza.

The chief adviser asked the authorities concerned to follow the measures that had been adopted by preceding governments to check such outbreaks. He also asked the authorities to take further steps to raise awareness among the people about the pestilence.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the authorities concerned were put on highest alert in the entire division following an outbreak of bird flu there affecting 13 out of 16 districts in the northern region so far, posing threats to some 10,00,000.

The district administration and border security forces were asked to strictly prevent entry of Indian poultry, a practice that is reportedly quite rampant despite a ban on poultry import, said officials adding that out of 124 upazilas in 11 districts, 35 are near the border.

The officials were also directed to stop transportation of poultry from the affected districts after veterinarians and scientists had claimed that infected birds could have been smuggled out of the districts.

The steps were taken after Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser on livestock affairs, had rushed to the north following the

FROM PAGE 1
 corporations were directed to improve their waste management to contain the spread of the virus, Manik Lal said.

Some 3,26,844 chickens were culled since March 2007 while the country has around 21 crore poultry. A total of 93 farms were infected in 84 upazilas and six metropolitan cities, government sources confirmed.

Asking the people not to panic, government officials said they should be more aware of the disease and should take cautionary measures like refraining from buying sick chickens or other sick fowls, washing their hands properly with detergent after touching fowls and eggs, and putting a stop to mixed fowls farming as ducks are sometimes the carriers of the virus, spreading it to other fowls.

Although no human being has been infected with bird flu virus yet, the government is nonetheless prepared to face any such infection, said the officials.

Samples from 803 patients in 12 hospitals across the country were tested recently, but no H5N1 virus was found in them, they said.

Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Mahmudur Rahman said a bird flu ward has been set up in the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCHH). A laboratory has also been set up to diagnose infected persons.

"Sequestration facilities have been prepared in 64 districts to treat infected persons in isolation. Civil surgeons also have been trained in treatment of bird flu and the government has already procured adequate amount of antiviral, masks, and gloves as part of its beefed up security measures," he said.

Last year avian influenza (AI) had been confirmed in 68 poultry farms in 20 districts, following which some 2,85,224 poultry including free range poultry like ducks, pigeons and other domestic birds