

Poor state of preparedness to fight swine flu in N dists

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Almost all private hospitals and clinics in frontier Rajshahi and other 15 northern districts are remaining out of the government's preparedness programme against H1N1 swine flu epidemic in terms of isolation capacity and clinical assessment.

"Private hospitals and clinics are yet to be instructed for the preparedness. We expect them to respond to the common call for creating isolation wards in advance," said Dr AKM Nur Kutubul Alam, director of health for Rajshahi division.

"In case of any steep rise of positive cases, we might need extra health infrastructure that the private hospitals can ensure," he said with an alert for flu outbreak in the country as its detection is increasing.

Following the government directives, the authorities of all public hospitals in the region are creating separate isolation wards and making inventory of essential drugs and preventive equipment, but

there is no arrangement for diagnostic laboratory or pathological tests of the flu.

Official sources said none is so far reported to be detected positive in Rajshahi region.

If any suspect is found, the authorities will have to depend on the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) or other organisations in Dhaka for testing H1N1 virus and the process might take more than two days for results.

"Pathological tests of H1N1 influenza are very costly as reagents needed for the test once would cost as much as Tk 10,000," said Dr M Johurul Islam, civil surgeon of Rajshahi.

Dr Alam said healthcare personnel at Sona Mosque, Hili, Burimari and Bangla Bandha land ports in Rajshahi division have been put on high alert as part of preparedness to prevent swine flu outbreak.

Replying to a question, he said there would be no blood screening facility and thermal scanner for testing the incoming passengers at the land ports.

Isolation wards were already set up at Pabna, Rajshahi, Natore and Chapainawabganj spending around Tk 1.54 crore while the construction in other districts is underway.

A separate isolation ward is under construction near ward number 24 at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where an isolated cabin and two emergency chambers were set up and a five-bed isolation ward has been prepared at Rajshahi Infectious Disease Hospital.

Apart from the isolation facilities, the authorities have made a handsome inventory of Oseltamivir, a drug, personal protection equipment (mask, gloves and gown) and disinfectants.

Upazila health complexes were also asked to create isolation facilities while necessary drugs and equipment would be provided from the district headquarters when necessary.

Orientation at every healthcare centre is going on, but maximum people are still away from any knowledge of the flu situation and what to do when affected.



Members of Rapid Action Battalion search for explosives with metal detectors at the auditorium of the National Press Club in the city yesterday after an anonymous caller made a hoax call about a bomb threat. (Story on Page 16)

Woman trafficked to Oman in name of job

Manpower agents are threatening victim's husband with death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanjanj

Manpower agents have trafficked a woman to Oman in the name of giving her a job as housemaid.

The victim, Milon Begum, who was sent to Dubai on August 9, called her husband Mokhtar Hossain in Narayanjanj recently and told him that the manpower agents have sold her in Oman in exchange for Tk 3 lakh.

Mokhtar, a resident of Daria Sonakandi in Bandar Upazila, informed Shaheen of Tamakpatti in Narayanjanj town, a manpower agent who sent Milon to Dubai, of the incident.

But Shaheen and his men are now threatening Mokhtar with death. Mokhtar filed a complaint with Bandar Police Station in this regard yesterday.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Bandar Police Station Harun-or-Rashid said legal action would be taken after investigation into the allegations.

Help establish prosperous country

Nahid urges teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid called upon the teacher community to turn themselves into a vital means of changing days aiming at establishing a prosperous Bangladesh.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a foundation-training course for the BCS education cadres (general and vocational) of 108 and 109 batches at National Academy for Education Management (NAEM) auditorium in the city, said a government hand-out yesterday.

Expressing the government's determination in

establishing a 'Digital Bangladesh' he said, "The only way to make the dream true is to turn the young generation human resource."

He also informed that the government has taken a number of initiatives, including distribution of textbooks to secondary level, drafting of time-befitting education policy, inserting actual history of the Liberation War in the textbooks aiming at improvement of the country's education system.

Sheikh Ekramul Kabir, director general of NAEM, presided over the function while course director Mostafizur Rahman, Prof Bilkis Ara Begum, among others, spoke.

Climate change confce begins in Nepal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Climate Change and Environment will attend South Asian Regional Conference on Climate Change which begins in Nepal today, says a press release.

Nepalese Prime Minister Madhav Kumar will inaugurate the two-day conference where the strategies of the South Asian countries on climate change will be finalised for submitting those as recommendations to the International Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

APPG Chairperson Saber Hossain Chowdhury will preside over a session on the first day of the conference on behalf of Bangladesh.

APPG vice chairmen Mahbub Ara Gini MP,

Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, advocate Junayed Ahmed Palak MP and two concerned officials from forest and environment ministry and directorate of environment are also in the delegation.

State Bank of India at Motijheel to receive visa applications

UNB, Dhaka

The Indian High Commission in Bangladesh informed that the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) has opened an exclusive visa counter at State Bank of India, Dilkusha, Motijheel for receiving visa applications from Bangladesh nationals desiring to travel to India by Maitree Express.

IVAC, Gulshan, Dhaka continues to facilitate separate expedited entry for submission of visa applications by certain categories of persons on priority, said a release of Indian High Commission.

These categories of persons include members of parliament and judiciary, accredited journalists, persons above 60 years of age, medical patients, medical attendants and officials of the government of Bangladesh.

Visa applications of Chairman/CEO/Managing Director of established companies and members of their family can be submitted through an authorised representative of the company.

Facilities also exist for submission of group visa applications of persons working in established companies, university faculty members and students, cultural institutions, who undertake business tours or study tours to India in a group of not less than five persons.



The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources and Power and Port stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding full implementation of six-point Phulbari agreement.

Killing of Tamanna condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different rights organisations yesterday condemned the killing of Tamanna Haque, a physician of gynaecology at Mitford Hospital, for dowry.

They also demanded proper investigation into the incident and punishment to the culprits.

Khaleda hosts Iftar for professionals

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday hosted an Iftar party in honour of professional leaders and eminent citizens of the country on the Parliament's LD hall premises.

Teachers of different universities, physicians, engineers, lawyers, journalists, businesspersons and representatives of other professions and distinguished personalities attended the Iftar.

Tamanna was allegedly killed by her husband Fakrul Islam, who is also a doctor, at her Bibir Bagicha residence at Uttara Jatabar in the city on Saturday.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed concern and condemned the killing and demanded proper investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment of those are involved.

Protesting the incident Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafiq and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir in a statement said the incidents of violence against women increasing day by day as the culprits go unpunished.

Samajtantrik Mahila Forum convener Rawshan Ara and member secretary Syeda Parveen Akhter in a statement said lack of application of law and proper attention of the law enforcing agencies women like Tamanna being victims of dowry.

They urged the women community to build a united movement to stop violence and repression against women.

AMIN FABRICS LIMITED Offers for Sale

a) 80 LEFCO Hessian Loom 56^{1/2} R.S. Manufactured by: LAWSIDE ENGINEERING FOUNDRY CO. LTD. DUNDEE

Complete Looms with Motor and Reeds and Warp Stop motions Asking Price: 1350 US\$ FOB Karachi. Looms Weight: 1350 Kg Approx with beam.

b) 120 SPINDLES Cop Winding Machine

Two Sides run separately Manufactured by: JAMES F. LOW & CO. LTD. MONI FIETH SCOTLAND

Asking Price: 6000 US\$ FOB Karachi.

Please send your offer on following address before 30th September 2009

AMIN FABRICS LIMITED 1st Floor, Ocean Center, 40-Talpur Road, Karachi - Pakistan

Tel: +92-21-2414778-9, Fax: +92-21-2411686

E-mail: aminfb@cyber.net.pk

MASK ASSOCIATES (PVT.) LTD.

Apartment # E1, (5th Floor), House # 7, Road # 23A

Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.

Tel: (8802) 9898351, 9898381, Fax: (8802) 9893774

E-mail: contact@mask-site.com, Web: www.mask-site.com

Rice-laden truck hijacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Miscreants hijacked a rice-laden truck from Namuja area under Bogra Sadar upazila by beating its driver and helper

yesterday.

In another incident, an empty truck was stolen from Thangamara the same night.

Truck owner Md Abdul Quddus said keeping the truck

by the roadside, he slept in a nearby house when the thieves stole it.

Two separate cases were filed in this regard. Police could not arrest anybody yet.

Panasonic ideas for life

eco ideas

Explore the coolest offer of this Eid

Win a Panasonic Air conditioner absolutely FREE*

Scratch and win guaranteed Tk.2000 cash back or be the lucky one to win 25% or 50% discount or even win a Panasonic Air conditioner absolutely free with every purchase.

Save 50% energy In Style

envio Environmental Innovation

INVERTER

EWVO inverter offers an impressive 50% reduction in electricity consumption by requiring compressor speed to deliver just the right amount of cooling power without compressing labour.

Electricity Consumption

Non-Inverter

Inverter

SAVE 50% energy

* 1.5HP Inverter and Non-Inverter comparison.

Eco-Inspired Design

Made stylish with a sleek, curved front, the new ENVIO complements any room interior. With recyclable materials and energy-efficient features, the ENVIO is clearly designed with the environment in mind.

ADVANCED*PLUS

e-ion Air Purifying System

New advanced e-ion Air Purifying System with Patrol Sensor monitors the air and indicates the level of dust in the room. With a large cross flow fan for improved airflow and air purifying performance, ENVIO deactivates 99% of airborne particles for cleaner and healthier air.

* Certified by the Japan Food Research Laboratories.

* This offer is valid till Eid-Ul-Fitr 2009 or till stocks last.

Hotline: 01199 AIRCON

M. K. Electronics: (Gulshan Branch), Hamid Tower, 24 Gulshan C/A, Circle-2, Dhaka-1212. Mob: 01712714095 Tel: 9894225, 9863108. (Stadium Branch), 95, B.B. National Stadium Market, Dhaka-1000. Mob: 01718152737, Tel: 9558487, 9554232

AB Electronics: (Dhanmudi Branch), Dhaka, Mob: 01670017231 Tel: 9664331. (Stadium Branch), Dhaka, Mob: 01816135865

Tel: 7169128, 9556338. Syed Enterprise: Khilkhet, Dhaka, Tel: 01715011714. Lifeline International: Monipuri Para, Dhaka, Tel: 01552319195, 01199020491. Techno Cool Associates: Middle Badda, Dhaka, Tel: 8854692, 01819120568.

Irsallah International (Pvt) Ltd.: Uttara, Dhaka, Tel: 8913291, 01714005250. R.S Electronics: B.B National Stadium, Dhaka, Tel: 9553920. Panna Electronics: B.B National Stadium Market, Dhaka, Tel: 9565368. Ice Burg: Indira Road, Dhaka, Tel: 9111457, 01715441001. Cosmic Electronics: Shymoli, Dhaka, Tel: 01721314737, 0172669088, 01711374390. Prominent Engineering: Santinagar, Dhaka. R.B Electronics: Lalkhan Bazar, Chittagong, Tel: 01727605526, 01819382517. Appolo Traders: Agrabad, Chittagong, Tel: 01711749672. Avilash Electronics: Biponi Bitan, Chittagong, Tel: 031-631989, Tel: 01819223561.

J.B International: Kandipar, Comilla, Tel: 01817029983, 081-77713. Future Electronics: Zinda Bazar, Sylhet, Tel: 01727363258, 0821-2831101. ABC Electronics: Zinda Bazar, Sylhet, Tel: 0821-711600.

macomm/panasonic/310809

Liquid

Liquid

Liquid

Home Equity Loan

HSBC understands the value of liquidity in times of need. Therefore, the world's local bank offers you Home Equity Loan, an easy loan against one of your most solid assets.

Call 01199 88HSBC (4722), 01199 88LOAN (5626)

Click www.hsbc.com.bd

HSBC The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited in Bangladesh