

Swine flu infects cells deep in lungs: Study

AFP, Paris

Swine flu can infect cells deep in the lungs than seasonal flu, thus helping to boost the severity of the illness, a study released yesterday said.

The paper provides the first laboratory corroboration of reports from front-line doctors that some patients with A(H1N1) virus suffer worse symptoms compared to those with run-of-the-mill seasonal flu.

Influenza viruses penetrate cells by attaching themselves to molecules called receptors, located on the outside of the cell wall.

The virus' docking spike and the receptor are like a key and a lock. Some viruses only open a few cells, while others have something rather closer to a pass key, making it possible to infect a larger cell variety.

Once inside, the virus uses the cell's machinery to replicate, eventually bursting the cell and going on to attack others.

Seasonal strains attach themselves almost exclusively to cells found in the nose, throat and upper airway, producing a some of influenza's signature symptoms: runny nose, scratchy throat, a dry cough.

But the new research, published in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, shows that the new swine flu -- by sticking to a greater range of receptors -- can also breach cells deep in the lungs.

Lab-dish experiments were carried out by Ten Feizi of Imperial College London and colleagues in which 86 different receptors were exposed to both

CYCLONE AILA Tk 6cr for rebuilding in 2 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has allocated Tk 6 crore for four upazilas in Khulna and Sathkira to repair the houses of people hard-hit by the cyclone Aila.

Dakop and Kolra of Khulna, and Shyamnagar and Ashashuni of Sathkira, will get Tk 1.5 crore each, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said addressing a concluding session of a workshop as the chief guest in the city yesterday.

Besides, Tk 4 crore has been allocated for other affected upazilas of the coastal districts, the minister said, adding that the government has already asked the deputy commissioners concerned to prepare a comprehensive plan on the needs of the affected districts for the next four months.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Rifles authorities who had suggested the home ministry arrange for a presidential reference to be sent to the SC on the mode of trial would not pursue the government anymore for holding the trial under the army act, said BDR sources.

Some BDR sources said

"We would suggest a speedy trial tribunal for trying the mutineers. We would also request the government amend the BDR and other existing laws so the trial can be completed as soon as possible."

The mode of trial became a much-talked about issue as BDR and the army, which lost

in the cyclone, are still living under the sky and the government will start employment generation scheme for these people soon.

BDR Director Sayedur Rahman chaired the session, also addressed by Swiss Ambassador to Dhaka Dr Dora Rapold.

Sugar

FROM PAGE 1

Added to this, many of the retailers and other traders were also in the run for procuring additional quantity of sugar to bag extra profit from possible price hike in the coming days, especially on the occasion of Eid.

In the morning hours yesterday, sugar sold at Tk 55-56 a kg at retail level in different city markets. Sugar price rose to as high as Tk 58-60 a kg at wholesale price shot up to about Tk 2,750 per 50 kg at Moulvibazar, and more than Tk 2,900 at Karwan Bazar -- two major markets in the city.

In the past couple of weeks, price of the import-oriented commodity has been on a gradual surge on the domestic market, influenced by rise in its price on the international market due to supply shortfall on account of drought in India and slow harvest in Brazil, two biggest sugar producing nations.

Industry sources said Bangladesh has fallen into the global price rise as it meets more than 90 percent of its annual sugar demand of over 12 lakh tonnes through import.

In the past week, global price of sugar however plunged. Raw sugar, which local refiners import mainly, fell for five straight sessions through Monday amid speculation the highest rates in 28 years will curb demand, according to a Bloomberg report.

To cushion consumers from the price shock of international market, the government withdrew import duty on unrefined sugar and reduced duty on refined sugar last month.

Refiners also promised to sell the sweetener at Tk 39 per kg after duty cut.

But the price, after registering a dip for a few days, rebounded.

"There is a shortage of refined sugar on the wholesale market compared with the demand which causes rise in price," said Abul Hashem, vice-president of Bangladesh Wholesale Sugar Merchants Association, claiming that demand for sugar has increased during Ramadan.

Refiners however turned down the argument of rise in demand for sugar, and said they are supplying about 4,000 tonnes a day, a portion of which is going to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) for open market operation.

"It's mainly because of panic and rush buying," said Fazlur Rahman, chairman of City Group of Industries, the leading sugar refiner.

Golam Mostafa, general secretary of Bangladesh Sugar Refiners Association, also attributed panic buying among retailers behind the rise in sugar price.

Saber placed another bill, proposing enactment of a law against eviction of slum dwellers from government land. The bill was also sent to the parliamentary standing committee on private members' bills and resolutions for scrutinising and placing the report to parliament.

Against this backdrop, the interim government arrested her on different charges including corruption on September 2, 2007 and later released on bail on September 11, 2008.

Dhaka protests

claims to the CLCS on the limit of the continental shelf by July 2011.

Bangladesh would have to submit its claims to the UN CLCS over 150 nautical miles (277km) or more area beyond 200 nautical miles of the extended continental shelf in the Bay of Bengal by July 27, 2011.

The minister said the government has also been negotiating with the two neighbouring countries to resolve the maritime and other disputes through bilateral discussions.

In reply to another query of BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid whether India has claimed 32,000 square km areas within the maritime boundary of Bangladesh to the UN, the minister said the CLCS will give final recommendations after justifying claims of India and Myanmar.

"So, there is no scope to say that India has claimed 32,000 square km within the maritime boundary of Bangladesh before the United Nations makes final recommendations on the issue," the minister said.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in scripted answers to lawmakers' queries informed the parliament that the government has moved to create a new post titled 'Inspector General of Missions' (IGM) to oversee the activities of foreign missions to protect country's interests.

In the scripted answer, the foreign minister said process is also underway to appoint necessary manpower for the office of IGM.

Besides, Dipu said steps

Khaleda flies

Shamser Mobin Chowdhury, her press secretary Maru Kamal Khan Sohel, personal aide Shimul Biswas, among others, will accompany the BNP chairperson during her visit.

Khaleda, also the leader of the opposition in parliament, may go to London later to meet her ailing son Tarique but the source could not confirm it.

Khaleda earlier refused to leave the country for Saudi Arabia several times on what was billed as an exile during the tenure of the army-backed caretaker government. The interim government reportedly kept her under pressure to leave the country.

At one stage, the BNP chairperson agreed to leave the country on condition but the Saudi authorities did not issue visa, as they were not convinced whether Khaleda will leave for KSA on pressure or willingly.

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have been taken to set up a new sub-division to strengthen the consular and welfare department of the foreign ministry.

She said the government has decided to open missions in Sudan and Sierra Leon and reopen the activities of the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The ministry has also taken initiatives to protect interests of the Bangladeshi citizens living abroad, she added.

The foreign minister said Tk 261 crore was spent in last financial year to run the foreign offices abroad.

The foreign minister said efforts are on to bring back the killers of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She said killers of Bangabandhu are hiding in different countries but she declined to give the whereabouts of the killers.

Dipu Moni said the home ministry has already been asked to revive the taskforce formed in 1996 for bringing the killers of Bangabandhu back home. "All our efforts can be made in coordination with other agencies once the taskforce is revived," the minister added.

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It seeks to enact a provision to punish an offender with rigorous imprisonment for a term no less than five years, and also with a fine no less than Tk 25,000.

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