

Local poultry vaccine in a yr

BAPI secretary general tells seminar

UNB, Dhaka

The country is going to produce much-needed poultry vaccine locally within a year, Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI) Secretary General Abdul Mukhtar announced the breakthrough in the ani-

mal health sector at a seminar in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh's rising pharmaceutical industry will take two more years to manufacture human vaccine, he added.

Directorate of Drug Administration (DDA) organised the seminar titled 'Fast

Track Licensing for WHO Pre-qualified Vaccines Used in EPI' at Sheraton Hotel in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Health Minister Prof Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, WHO Bangladesh representative Dr Duangradee Sungkhobol and Bangladesh Pharmaceutical

Society President Prof ABM Faroque also spoke at the function with DDA Director Brig Gen Dr Ismail Hossain in the chair. DDA Assistant Director AA Salim Barami presented the keynote paper.

Mukhtar said the country has to import both human and poultry vaccines to meet a huge local demand.

Speaking as the chief guest Dr Ruhul Haque said the government has taken necessary steps to enhance its drug-testing lab capacity to promote the local pharmaceuticals.

About fast-track registration, Salim Barami said this procedure is applicable to all imported pre-qualified vaccines that are used in national immunisation programme and supplied through a UN agency or procured directly by the government.

"The vaccines currently used in EPI and the vaccines which will be used in future in EPI (procured from WHO pre-qualified list) will be eligible for fast track registration," he said.

BDR MUTINY

Pintu's bail prayer rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected bail prayer of former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in the BDR Mutiny case, but directed the government to shift him (Pintu) to Birdem Hospital from Kashimpur Jail for treatment.

The HC bench of Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Md Rais Uddin also disposed of a petition filed by Pintu seeking bail in the case.

The court passed the order after hearing arguments of the counsels for both the petitioner and the state.

Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq, counsel for Pintu, told the court that his client is very sick and has been suffering from eye disease.

He said the Dr Niaz Rahman of Bangladesh Eye Hospital has prescribed for sending Pintu to Singapore for better treatment and therefore, he should be granted bail.

Opposing the bail petition, Advocate Anisul Huq, counsel for the state, said if Pintu is granted bail, investigation in the case will be hampered.

Pintu filed a petition with the HC recently seeking bail on medical ground in the case.



PHOTO: STAR

Police fires a tear gas shell to disperse agitating students who were demonstrating on the Mirpur Road in the city yesterday demanding cancellation of the gazette notification that brings equality between GPA (Grade Point Average) and division. (Story on page 1)

'Steps soon to stop child marriage'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will take necessary steps to eliminate child marriage from the society with a bid to slash the maternal mortality rate in the country.

Rokeya Sultana, secretary to the Women and Child Affairs Ministry, said this yesterday while speaking as the chief guest at an awareness-oriented debate contest to mark the National Girl Child Day at the Shishu Academy in the city.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and Debate for Democracy jointly organised the event where Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Girls College and

Cambrian College took part.

Termining the culture of child marriage a social plague, she said, "We will have to draw the course of action to prevent child marriage on a priority basis. The government is working on that."

She also stressed creating mass awareness to this end.

Md Tajul Islam, director of Shishu Academy, suggested the teenage girls remain aware of the negative impacts of child marriage and along with their friends and classmates convince their guardians if the parents try to marry them off so early.

Hassan Ahamed Chowdhury Kiron, chairman of Debate for Democracy, said that child marriage is the main reason

behind maternal death.

"Both the government and the civil society should work together to eliminate child marriage," he added.

The speakers at the programme urged the government to implement the existing laws strictly to prevent child marriage with a view to establishing a prosperous Bangladesh.

Nasima Akhtar Jolly, secretary of the National Child Girl Advocacy Forum; Hosneara Khandaker, programme director of USC (Canada-Bangladesh), and Mir Ashfaquzzaman, deputy editor of The New Age, were also present on the occasion.

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