



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina administers polio vaccine to a child after inaugurating the 18th National Immunisation Day and Measles Immunisation Campaign-2010 at a ceremony at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

18th Nat'l Immunisation Day today

Over 2cr children to be given polio vaccine, vitamin A capsule, deworming tablets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18th National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed across the country today to provide polio vaccine, vitamin A capsule and deworming tablets to 2.20 crore children aged within five years.

The vaccines, capsules and tablets will be provided from 1.40 lakh centres, including more than 8,000 community clinics. All the parents have been requested to bring their children under five years to the centres for vaccination.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the 18th NID at 10:00am at her official residence Jamuna yesterday by providing two drops of polio vaccine for some children.

Later, at a press briefing at the auditorium of Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) at Mohakhali in the city, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said all children aged 0-5 years would be given two drops of polio vaccine.

Furthermore, children aged between one and five years will be given one vitamin A capsule and children between two and five years with one deworming tablet.

"There is no side effect of polio vaccine, vitamin A capsule and deworming tablets and quality of these vaccines and tablets are strictly controlled. But the children should not take deworming tablets in empty stomach as a precautionary step."

The centres will remain open from 8:00am to 4:00pm today. Besides, the permanent centres, some 10,000 mobile centres will work at bus stands, rail stations and other places, the minister said.

The excluded children will be searched and provided with polio vaccine from January 11 to 14. Special groups will work to provide vaccine to vulnerable children, he added.

The second round of the vaccination programme will go on from February 14-28. All

the children aged between nine months and five years will be provided with measles vaccine along with two drops of polio vaccine again.

Though no polio patient was found in the country since the last three years, it is still vulnerable to polio while there are some 865 polio patients in India. So, the campaign is very significant, health officials said.

They government officials also said Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO) Margaret Chan would visit Bangladesh from March 8-9 in response to the prime minister's invitation.

Bangladesh will seek vaccine-related support from WHO as it is planning to set up a world-class laboratory for manufacturing vaccine.

Adviser to Prime Minister Prof Syed Modasser Ali, State Minister Mozibur Rahman Fakir, Director General of DGHS Prof Shah Monir Hossain and Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali were present at the briefing.

'Stop hill cutting in Cox's Bazar to save environment, ecology'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday demanded steps to stop hill cutting in Cox's Bazar to save the environment and ecology of the world's largest sea beach.

According to forest department, they said, almost 7,000 acres of the department's land worth Tk 3,888 crore were encroached by influential people.

They laced the demand at a

press conference organised by Cox's Bazar Paribesh Bachao Andolon (CPBA) and Coast Trust at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

They also demanded hand-over of 51 acres of land reclaimed by hill cutting to the forest department, which was illegally allocated to different influential people.

The allocation of the land was cancelled by the then caretaker government.

CPBA President Sharmina

Resmin read out a written statement at the press conference.

"A total of 51 acres of hill were cut and made plane land by 28 bulldozers and later allocated to political leaders, bureaucrats, ministers and secretaries during the then four-party alliance government," she said.

The then caretaker government on April 16, 2007, cancelled the allocation after CPBA with the locals forged a movement to

save the hill, she added.

The CPBA chief said the local administration remains silent whenever such incidents of hill cutting take place and, thus, the hills of Cox's Bazar are slowly disappearing.

It may be mentioned that Cox's Bazar was declared ecologically critical area by environment ministry in 1995.

CPBA also demanded investigation of all the incidents of hill cutting and trial of the culprits. It also demanded

setting up of a botanical garden in the land.

CPBA and Coast Trust will submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 14 to press home their demands.

Deputy Director of Coast Trust Dr Sanad Kuma Bhowmik, Member Secretary of CPBA FM Nurul Alam and Assistant Director of Coast Trust Dr Sohel Iqbal were present at the press conference.





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Fight against disability Immunize your child against polio



The National Immunization Day 10 January 2010

If your child is younger than 5 years of age, take her or him to the nearest vaccination center for polio shots. Additionally, vitamin A tablets will be given to children between ages of 1 to 5 years, and intestinal worm medication to children between ages of 2 to 5 years.

Let's work together towards a healthy and polio-free Bangladesh.

You uplift millions to a better world we feel proud to celebrate your achievements



A tribute to you, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

The accolade that you have received is shared amongst the masses of our country with tremendous pride and respect. We humbly salute your efforts to uplift the teeming millions from abject poverty, admire your passion for a better world and learn from your faith on the ability and credibility of each and every human being.

We congratulate you on being appointed the Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCMG) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for services in tackling poverty and empowering the poor in Bangladesh and worldwide.

Thank you for a better Bangladesh and a better world.



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