

# Early measures cut pandemic flu in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prevalence of pandemic flu in Bangladesh is less than India thanks to the early steps taken, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Shah Monir Hossain said yesterday.

"But increasing awareness among the people is still a big challenge," he said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day workshop on Pandemic Influenza at a city hotel.

The Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) Project with the

CORE Group, Save the Children and Care Bangladesh jointly organised the workshop with a view to providing updates on global, regional and national status of the current pandemic and issues related to future planning.

Experts from different countries talked on global epidemiology of pandemic flu and its trend, global perspective on pandemic flu mitigation and Bangladesh's experience with avian and swine flu.

Stressing the need for increased participation of the NGOs, the DG of DGHS said that the involvement of the NGOs in combating pandemic flu is less than their involvement in other issues.

Bangladesh experienced avian influenza in 2007 first and then the swine flu caused by H1N1 virus in 2009.

Dr Be-Nazir Ahmed and Dr M Mushtaq Hussain of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) described the responses of Bangladesh to pandemic.

Kelly Stevenson of Save the Children USA, Shahidul Alam of Bangladesh Medical Association, Dr Syed Umar Khyyam, joint secretary, WHO Public Health of the health ministry, Nick Southern of CARE Bangladesh and Dr Eric Starbuck also spoke the occasion.

# Bangladesh can import food grains

Cambodian team tells minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could import food grains from Cambodia by establishing trade relations between the two countries, said a Cambodian delegation yesterday.

The 17-member delegation is on a visit to Bangladesh to learn from its experiences on food security, food grains preservation and social safety programmes.

The delegates said this when they called on Food Minister Abdur Razzaque at the food ministry.

The Cambodian delegation said Cambodia produces 20 lakh tonnes of surplus food grains, which are exported to Thailand and Vietnam. By establishing trade relations, Bangladesh could import rice, it added.

The delegation led by Cambodia's Emergency Food Assistance Project Director

Sandap Vong said they were interested to use Bangladesh's experience in food security and social safety net programmes, says a food ministry release.

The food minister said Bangladesh has a standing order on disaster management under which the responsibilities of the prime minister, local representatives and public officials are specified in any disaster.

Besides, there are 42,000 volunteers, who give early warnings to people on cyclones or tidal surges and help people to go to the cyclone shelter centres, he added.

Razzaque said Bangladesh can produce enough food in favourable weather conditions. However, it is not possible to achieve targeted food production if there are natural calamities like floods and cyclones, which are quite common here.

# Anti-adulteration drive begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) would start stronger drive against adulteration in food and sales of unauthorised food items in the city today.

Four magistrates will lead the mobile

courts in different parts of the city, says a BSTI press release.

"We have been conducting such drives. But, from now on it will be stronger," BSTI Director Lutfar Rahman Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Local Government and Rural Development

Jahangir Kabir Nanak said the drive against adulteration will spare none.

After a meeting of the National Food Safety Advisory Council at the ministry, Nanak said they discussed the dangers of adulterated food sold widely in the market.

High officials of the ministries concerned were present at the meeting.

## SPECIALLY PACKAGED DRUGS FROM MARCH

# Step to stop drug pilfering in public hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday said the government would provide specially packaged drugs to public hospitals across the country next month to stop drug pilfering.

Private drug manufacturing companies would not be allowed to use the same package for open sale in the market, he added.

The minister said this as the chief guest at the 23rd scientific conference of Bangladesh Orthopaedic Society at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

"Special packaging system will help stop drug pilfering from the storerooms of public hospitals and also help reduce the wastage of the government medicines which are mainly manufactured for poor patients for free distribution."

Anti-adulteration mobile courts of chief metropolitan magistrate and Drug Administration (DA) already seized not-for-sale drugs from the city's main drug hub Mitford market and some small shops from different places.

AA Salim Barami, assistant director of DA, told The Daily Star that: "We could not provide the exact amount of such pilfered drugs which are only for free distribution in public hospitals

for poor patients." In the first week of January, DA and CMM court in a joint drive found that different types of costly medicines with stickers 'not for sale' were available in the Mitford Hospital area.

Sources in the drug wholesale market also alleged that the government-supplied free drugs come from the storerooms of different state-owned hospitals through their own employees even with the help of on-duty physicians and sell the drugs in cheaper rates.

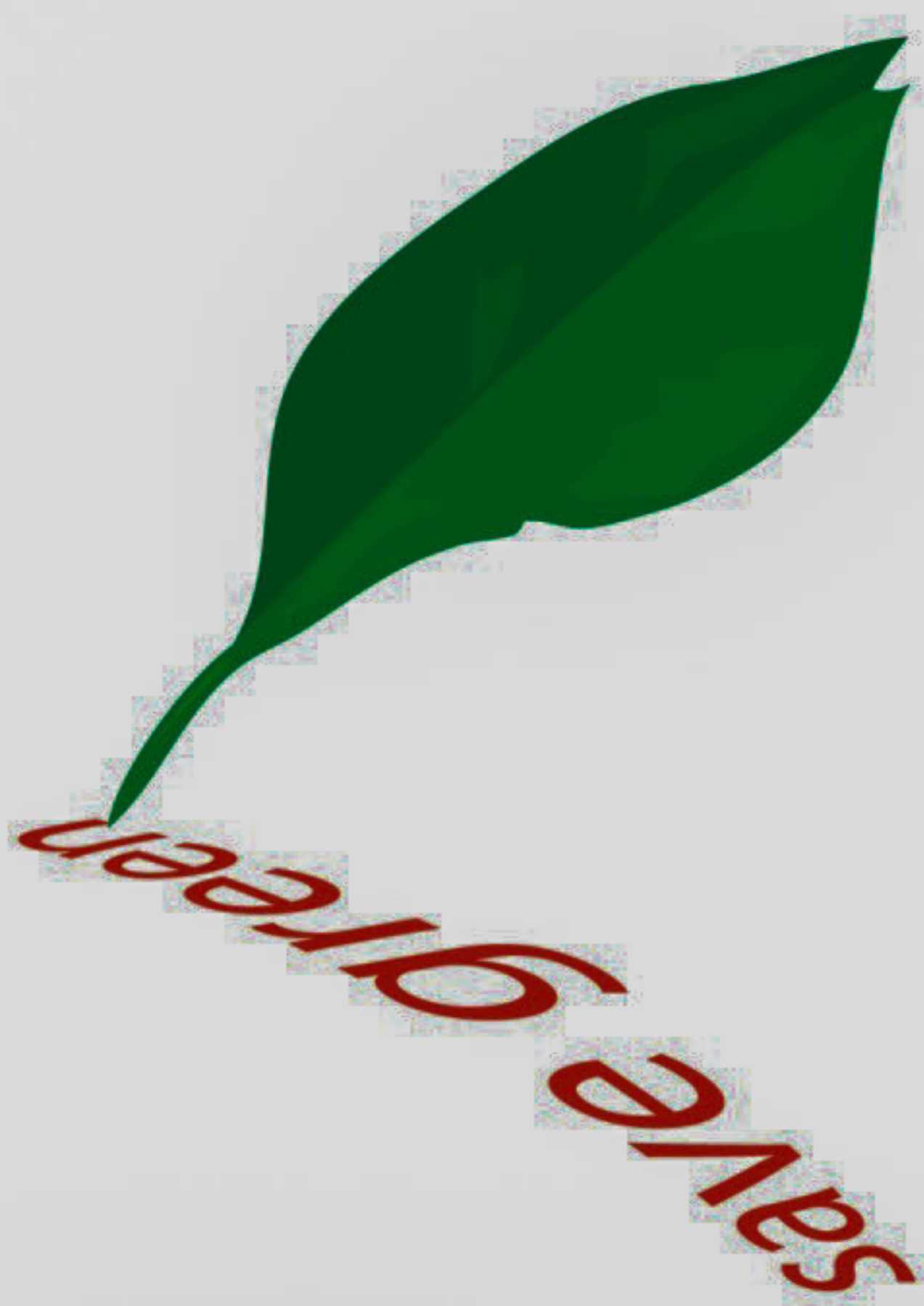
Prof Md Sirajul Islam chaired the conference where State Minister of Health Mujibur Rahman Fakir, DGHS Director General Shah Monir Hossain, Bangladesh Medical Association General Secretary Prof Md Sharfuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Orthopaedic Society Secretary Prof Sazzad Hossain and Chairman of conference preparation committee Prof Md Iqbal Kavi also spoke.

Bangladesh Orthopaedic Society introduced Dr RJ Garst Memorial Award for the first time and gave it to the health minister for his contribution to the orthopaedic surgery.

Dr Garst was a US citizen, who founded National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor). He is called the father of modern orthopaedic surgery.

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## Gulshan Society executives

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CM Shafi Sami and Dr Wahiduzzaman were elected president and general secretary of Gulshan Society on February 18.

Other office-bearers are Vice-presidents: KM Mahmudur Rahman, Ahsan Habib Kohinor and Luna Shamsuddoha; Joint Secretary: Riaz Ur Rahman, Khandaker Rashed Ahmed and Fahima Nasrin; Treasurer: MH Chowdhury Samir and Joint Treasurer: AKM Abdus Samad.

Members are Delwar H Dulal, Jahurul Islam Chowdhury, Maizuddin Ahmed, ML Rahman, Dr Mohammed Rahmatullah, ASM Rashidul Hye, Md Ashraf Huda, Shirin Shila and Shoheli Akter Beg, says a press release.

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Banani <b>Six Season Park</b> 1524 sft	Banani <b>ANZ Hug Eleven Square</b> Commercial Up coming	Uttara <b>Spring Flower</b> 1238 sft	Uttara <b>Rosewood Areebah</b> 1915 sft	Uttara <b>Lumeire</b> 1728 sft	Nazimuddin Rd. <b>Cristal Plaza</b> Shops & Commercial
Nazimuddin Rd. <b>Park Valley</b> 1259 sft	Middle Badda <b>Penzance</b> 1180-1630 sft	Wari <b>Crimson de Vale</b> 1221-1466 sft	Mirpur <b>Peonenza</b> 1130-1286 sft	West Malibagh <b>Azzaro</b> 1247-1269	Moghbarar <b>ANZ Husne Heights</b> 1494 & 1569 sft
Dhanmondi <b>ANZ Square</b> Commercial Up coming					

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South Khulshi <b>Allistar</b> 1340-1550 sft	South Khulshi <b>Rose Heaven</b> 1700-1708 sft	Halishahar H/E Block: K <b>Green Bay</b> 1403-1433 sft			

1 sft = 0.092 sqm (approx.)

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- Must have valid registration with Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council

> Resident Medical Officer for ICU/CCU

**Education & Experience**

- MBBS with minimum 2 years' experience in ICU/CCU in a reputed hospital
- Valid registration with Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council

> Resident Medical Officer for Emergency/Internal Medicine

**Education & Experience**

- MBBS with minimum 1 year experience in a reputed hospital
- Valid registration with Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council

> Physiotherapist

**Education & Experience**

- B. Sc in Physiotherapy
- Minimum 1-2 years' experience in a reputed public/private hospital

> Lab/ Radiology Technician

**Education & Experience**

- Minimum H.S.C
- At least 3-5 years' experience in a reputed public/private hospital

#### Operations Department

> Officer - Customer Care

The Officer Customer Care will be responsible for multitasking operational activities and be ready to work in flexible shifting hours. The basic role requires for providing assistance to consultants as well as patients /attendants regarding appointments, registration, follow-up visits, medicine collection and investigations (blood tests/X-Ray etc), admission etc. In addition, s/he shall be able to provide information and guidance to the visitors on consultants' profile, availability, visiting hours, tariffs, healthcare facilities and services etc.

**Education & Experience**

- Graduation in any field with experience in Customer Care Department, preferably in Hospital-ity or Pharmaceutical Industry
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with superb customer care attitude
- Proficient in MS Office particularly in Excel, Word and PowerPoint (knowledge of Windows XP and MS Outlook is essential)
- Excellent command both in English and Bengali

Age: 26- 30 years

#### Finance Department

> Officer - Billing

Responsible for collection of payments from out/inpatient customer respectively. S/He will have to deal with customers in a cordial and helpful manner.

**Education & Experience**

- Post Graduation preferably in commerce fields with computer literacy especially Word and Spreadsheet applications (Excel)
- One year experience in managing hospital billing

Age: 26- 30 years

#### Hospitality Department

> Waiter and Housekeeper

**Education & Experience**

- Minimum S.S.C
- Experienced candidates will be preferred

Interested Candidates are requested to apply by March 07, 2010 with updated CV and photograph to: Human Resources Department, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, Plot 81, Block E, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka 1229 Or email your CV (along with photograph) to: recruit@apollodhaka.com

All applications should reach us no later than March 07, 2010

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