

Two arrested while collecting blood from patients at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two health technicians of private diagnostic centres were caught red handed while they were collecting blood from patients at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Nurul Islam, 22, of The Pathology Diagnostic Centre of Nabab Katra and Saidur

Rahman, 24, of Popular Diagnostic Centre, Dhanmondi were collecting blood from the patients of Ward no 19 (female medicine).

Hospital Director Brig Gen Shahidul Haque Mallik saw the incident over the hospital close circuit camera and caught them.

"They were collecting blood from the patients to test it at their respective diagnostic

centers without the permission of the hospital authorities. As I saw it, I went to the spot and nabbed them at around 11:30pm," said the director.

He also said that later he called on Abul Kashem, 45, the manager of The Pathology Diagnostic Centre, and sent them all to the Shabbagh Police Station.

Officer in Charge of

Shabbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said that hospital authorities handed over the three men at around 2:00pm. Later they were released following an undertaking as no case was filed against them.

Hospital sources told The Daily Star that the pathology representatives enter the hospital saying that they would cover tests that are not present at DMCH.

But in connivance with a section of doctors they conduct the simple tests from their diagnostic centers, depriving the government from revenue and causing unnecessary harassment to the patient.

New vaccine to treat people suffering from dog bite

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on the modern and widely used cell culture vaccine will be used to treat the patients suffering from dog bite instead of the obsolete nerve tissue vaccine.

Patients will receive the post exposure treatment of rabies free of cost under the rabies control programme of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At a press conference at the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) Director (disease control) of the DGHS Dr Moazzem Hossain said that the Institute of Public Health had been manufacturing the nerve tissue vaccine despite the warning of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The tissue culture vaccine, which needs only four doses in 28 days, is safe, effective and less expensive. But the nerve tissue vaccine takes 14 doses, he said.

"Rabies causes death to one person every ten minutes across the globe. In Bangladesh, an estimated 2000 people die of rabies and 85 percent of them live in villages," said Dr Jagdish Chandra Ghosh, senior consultant of IDH.

Rabies is a virus that is usually transmitted by a bite from an infected animal, such as dog, cat, monkey, bat or fox. If a bite from a rabid animal goes untreated and an infection develops, it is almost always fatal.

To control the disease and to expand the service the health ministry in collaboration with the Livestock ministry and LGRD ministry has taken a programme. A

national guideline has already prepared in this regard and training of the nurses and doctors have begun since July 11 to administer the vaccine properly, the speakers said.

The programme will be expanded to divisional and district level gradually, they said adding that under the Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS) some 1800 vials of cell culture vaccine have already been procured.

Among others Dr Ziauddin Ahmed, chairman of Rabies in Asia Foundation Bangladesh, Dr Bariul Islam, programme manager of Disease Control Unit, Dr Tania Bulbul of Bangladesh Anti-Rabies Alliance were also present.

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