

'Over 2.5 lakh die of flu a year globally'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Influenza (flu) that infects 30 to 50 lakh people every year and causes death to around 2.5 to 3 lakh people every year globally can be prevented easily, said experts at a seminar yesterday.

GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Limited organised the seminar on 'Flu Vaccination: Bangladesh Viewpoint' at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

The experts said every year a significant number of people in Bangladesh get infected with flu, though the mortality is still low.

Human flu is extremely contagious and it passes from person to person when an infected individual coughs or sneezes and the virus come in contact with other person.

However, it can be prevented by proper hand washing practice, maintaining respiratory hygiene and taking vaccine against flu.

The vaccine has been proved effective and two doses of the vaccine can work for the whole year, they said adding that in Bangladesh the peak season of flu is May to September.

Dr A J Chitkara of Max Hospital, India, Dr Sabine Arnoux, medical director of GSK Biologicals, Belgium, and Dr K Zaman, senior scientist of ICDDR,B presented papers on flu vaccination from the Bangladesh and global perspective.

Prof AKM Shamsul Huq, former director of the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital, Prof Mahmudur Rahman, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, Prof Syed Atiqul Huq of BSMMU, Prof SAR Chowdhury and M Azizul Huq of GSK Bangladesh, among others, also addressed the seminar.

New species of layer chicken developed

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) has developed a local variety of chicken ushering in a new hope in the country to reduce dependence on import of layer chicken to meet the demand of protein.

The BLRI handed over the newly invented layer chicken, named "Shubhra", to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function at her office yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina during her last tenure asked the BLRI to take steps to produce the local variety of chicken to reduce dependence on import of layer chicken from abroad, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said, briefing journalists after the function.

The BLRI through its efforts for the last 11 years has innovated the new species of chicken with the support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), Azad said.

The new species can lay egg within 19 weeks and its annual laying capacity of eggs is around 280-295. The chicken has disease resistance power and also immunisation capacity to survive in local environment, BLRI officials told the prime minister.

Addressing the function, Hasina urged the scientists to make their best efforts for development of poultry and dairy industries in the country to address the shortage of meat and protein.

She underscored the need for setting up cold storages in the haor-baor areas for preservation of the locally produced fishes, meats, and chickens. She also stressed the development of market places in the suburban areas of the capital city to help the farmers sell their produces at fair prices.



Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute hands over the newly invented layer chicken, named "Shubhra", to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function at her office in the city yesterday.

Increase budget window for education

Supro urges govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Campaign for Good Governance (Supro) demanded the government to increase the budgetary allocation for primary and mass education.

Observing the World Literacy Day yesterday, they formed a human chain in front of National Museum at Shahbagh in the city and organised street plays and cultural programmes.

It is important to increase budget allocation and take appropriate plan of action to ensure 100 per cent literacy rate in the country by 2015, they said.

They emphasised on sustainable strategy to implement formal and non-formal education programmes and long-term planning to eradicate corruption in the education system.

The demands also include separating the expenditure on defence and religious studies from the educational budget allocation, establishing at least a school at every village to increase adult literacy rate, providing school meal for the students at poverty prone areas and increasing the local government's involvement in primary and mass education.

Kazi Shafiqur Rahman and Mohammad Shariful Islam Unnati Rani of Supro, Monsur Uz Zaman of Fulbaria Protibondhi Kolyan Sangstha and Mofidul Islam of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad addressed the human chain.

Supro also organised programmes at 45 districts in the country in this regard.

Another Mirsarai tragedy survivor dies

Plan to send two others to India for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Raihan Uddin Shuvo, one of the three survivors of the Mirsarai tragedy, passed away early yesterday, raising the death toll to 42.

A truck packed with students crashed and flipped over into a ditch in Mirsarai upazila in Chittagong on July 11, killing 39 students on the spot.

Shuvo's body was taken to his village home at Moghadia under Mirsarai upazila yesterday morning where he was buried after Asr prayers.

After the accident, Shuvo was diagnosed with fungal meningitis, a serious infectious illness which affects the brain and spinal cord, said doctors.

On August 23, Shuvo's mother Fatema Begum at Chittagong Medical

College Hospital (CMCH) said, "Shuvo can not eat properly and his body temperature has been very high since the day of the accident."

Moreover, he felt pain all over his body and was losing weight, added Fatema.

Shuvo was at first admitted to city's Centre Point Hospital, a private clinic, on July 11 and was discharged on July 23.

"The doctors there told us that Shuvo was getting well and we took him home," said Shuvo's elder brother Rafiq.

He was taken to city's Fair Health Hospital, a private clinic, as his health condition failed to improve. After undergoing treatment there for a week he was referred to CMCH on July 31, Rafiq said.

He was flown to Apollo Hospitals by

helicopter along with two other survivors, Jewel Barua and Nayan Shil, on Wednesday night, he added.

Chairman of Mirsarai upazila Gias Uddin said they were preparing to shift the three to All India Medical Research Centre in Delhi and was supposed to apply at the Indian embassy for visa yesterday.

"I even got their passports ready on Wednesday," he added.

Nayan and Jewel are now undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospitals. "We are now trying to take the other two to All India Medical Research Centre," he added.

All three are students of Abu Torab Bahumukhi High School with Shuvo studying in class seven while Nayan and Jewel in class eight.

BNP standing body meets tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Standing Committee, the highest policymaking forum of BNP, will sit tomorrow to discuss about the anti-government agitation programme to be announced soon.

The important meeting will be held at the chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office with her in the chair.

"The standing committee will meet on Saturday to discuss about the agitation programme. Right now, we have no alternative but mounting a movement to protect the country", Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of the party, said yesterday.

On July 13, Khaleda Zia had declared that she would announce anti-government protest programme after Eid-ul-Fitr to compel the government to restore caretaker government system, which was annulled from the constitution by the fifteenth amendment.

BNP formally said they will not allow to hold any parliamentary election in the country without the non-party caretaker government system.

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