

Vitamin A+ campaign tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The national Vitamin 'A' plus campaign will be observed across the country on tomorrow, aiming to feed Vitamin A plus capsules to all children aged between six and 59 months.

Health Minister Zahid Malik announced the fresh date of the campaign at a press briefing at the secretariat yesterday.

On January 17, the government postponed the Vitamin A plus campaign scheduled for January 19, citing "unavoidable reasons".

HC seeks explanation

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The petition was filed following a report published on the Bangla daily Prothom Alo on Wednesday. According to the report, Badal was wrongly arrested during a visit to India 11 years ago.

He did not know English. So, he was unable to communicate that it was a mistake.

An Indian court sentenced him to life term imprisonment instead of one Badal Singh, who was an accused in a murder case.

The health minister said, "As a problem was detected in the Vitamin A capsules, we did not want to take any risk and we did not use those capsules. Now there is no problem."

The campaign will be conducted through 1.2 lakh centres. There will be government teams at launch ghats, ferry ghats, toll plaza, Bangabandhu bridge, Daudkandi, Meghna bridges, airports and stations said the minister.

Children living in remote areas under 240 unions in 42 upazilas of 12 districts will be fed the capsule in the next four days.

Govt launches roadmap to curb greenhouse emission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to reducing emissions of greenhouse gas as promised to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change yesterday launched a roadmap and action plan for power, transport and industry sectors for the coming years.

Bangladesh in its Nationally Determined Contributions submitted to UNFCCC in September 2015 committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the power, industry and transport sectors by five percent below "business-as-usual" emission levels by 2030 unilaterally, and up to 15 percent if sufficient and appropriate support is received from developed countries.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin launched the "Roadmap and Action Plan" at an event at the capital's Cirdap.

Speakers said good governance and coordination among all stakeholders including

government sectors, private sector and civil society are keys to reducing greenhouse gas emission.

The roadmap covers the period 2016 to 2025, with a focus on the period up to 2020. It will be updated from time to time and more sectors will be included.

Secretary to the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry Abdullab Al Mohsin Chowdhury said the country is lagging behind in capacity-building, and that is why it is not getting access to international funds.

Mohsin said there are 17 ministries and 86 departments linked to greenhouse gas emissions. "We will add more ministries in future."

Asking government officials to work diligently, Environment Minister Shahab Uddin said if they work properly, the country will be able to cope up with the loss that has been caused due to climate change.

Joint Secretary of Power Division Mohammad Alauddin laid emphasis on solar energy.

Evicted workers, owners

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"Over 200 workers of my factory became unemployed after it was demolished," he said. "We weren't served any eviction notice... the administration published a notice in newspapers; many of us do not read newspaper," he alleged.

Jahangir Alam, who used to work in Janani Salt Factory, said the factory was demolished two days ago. "I used to earn Tk 700 to Tk 800 a day. I don't know what will happen to us..." said the father of three.

Md Mohsin, another worker, claimed that around 10,000 workers became jobless in four days. "Most of us worked in salt factories and warehouses... We want the government to rehabilitate us," he said.

Asked, AC (Land) Tahmilur said the first survey was conducted in the area in 2015 and since then the grabbers knew that their structures were illegally built.

"What they are saying is not true," he said. "How did they shift their products before the drive started had they not known? We announced through loudspeakers for two days about the drive."

Regarding workers plea for rehabilitation, Tahmilur said the government high-ups are discussing about that. "Although some workers became jobless, other opportunities will open up as a result of the eviction," he said.

"As the river banks will be freed, more lighter-vessels would be able to anchor in the quays. It will also help businessmen engage more trucks in loading and unloading goods... ultimately, workers will have more job opportunities," he added.

Second phase on March 18

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Sylhet and Moulvibazar under Sylhet division; Goalganj and Faridpur districts under Dhaka division; and all upazilas of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari districts under Chattogram division.

Besides polls will be held in, Hatiya upazila of Noakhali, Chakaria of Cox's Bazar and Sitakunda, Swandip, Rangunia, Fatikchhari, Mirsarai, Rouzan and Hathazari upazilas of Chittogram district.

Elected representatives from other local government bodies should resign from their posts if they wish to participate in the upazila parishad election, Helal said.

The commission is yet to take any decision whether incumbent chairmen of the upazila parishads will be able to take part in the election without resigning, he added.

This matter will be settled before

February 11, the last date for submitting nomination papers for the first phase of polls, Helal said.

Asked about the use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in the polls, Helal replied that rules to use EVM in upazila election have been sent to the Ministry of Law for vetting. After getting approval, the EC will take decision in this regard.

EVM will not be used in the first-phase upazila council election, he said.

Earlier on January 14, Helal said that EC was planning to use EVM in every Sadar upazila of the country in the upazila polls.

Election to 87 upazila parishads in 12 districts under Rangpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions will be held in the first phase.

The first upazila polls were held in 1985, with the following three in 1990, 2009 and 2014.

Human rights

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five-member delegation of the United Nations led by its senior Human Rights Advisers Heike Alesken and Shoko Ishikawa at the secretariat.

Minister Anisul said the wrongful imprisonment of Jaha Alam in 26 corruption cases was very unfortunate.

He condemned the incident and said that the Anti-Corruption Commission has been notified about the incident.

"I feel that they (ACC) will take serious steps immediately regarding this issue," he added.

Access for disabled persons

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In his presentation, Vashkar Bhattacharjee, also the national consultant for the government's a2i project, showed the latest initiatives of the government to adopt accessible books for the persons with disability.

"All school textbooks from first grade to tenth grade have now converted to audio books. University of Chittagong has been declared as the first model university for persons with disabilities; we expect Dhaka University to be the second very soon," Vashkar said.

In her presentation, Elizabeth Beaumont described easy and effective accessibility of Benetech Book Share online library in specialised book formats.

Using the platform, people with dyslexia, blindness, cerebral palsy, and other reading barriers can customize their experience to suit their learning styles and find virtually any book they need for school, work, or the joy of reading.

"We want to ensure accessibility for people with disability," said Elizabeth Beaumont.

Dr Homiyar Mokedji, disability expert of Book Share (Asia and Africa) said there are three tasks: producing multimedia content, delivering those on a device and training up persons how to use those. "We are facing challenges in other countries similar to those in Bangladesh," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nazrana Yeasmin, programme coordinator of

MJE, said, "As Bangladesh hasn't ratified the Marrakesh Treaty yet, transforming traditional books into digital format is prohibited under copyright act. Websites are not also accessible for persons with disabilities."

World Health Organization (WHO)'s data show that there are four million Bangladeshis are visually impaired.

Conducted by MJE programme director Ria Roy, Monsur Ahmed Chaudhuri, ex-member of UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Zainab Chinikwala, membership head of Benetech Book Share (Asia and Africa) and representatives from different disability organisations spoke at the event.

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