

# Bangladesh AMR Newsletter



## Minister of Health Emphasises the Value of Evidence-based Use of Antimicrobials: National Steering Committee on AMR Endorses New National Strategic Plan

In a recent meeting of the highest body of AMR governance in Bangladesh, National Steering Committee for AMR, held at the conference room of the Ministry of Health, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & President of the Steering Committee Dr Samanta Lal Sen emphasised the importance of prudent prescription of antimicrobials by the concerned physicians based on the available clinical and laboratory data. He praised the concerned departments, technical experts, and the partners for producing the National Strategic Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance Containment Program (NARC) (2023-2028), which was presented to the Steering Committee for endorsement. The Honourable Minister of Health also underscored the need of strengthening the ongoing AMR surveillance and containment activities and of increased efforts for mass awareness building. The Honourable Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Mohammad Abdur Rahman MP reiterated that surveillance of antimicrobial use is necessary across all sectors with One Health approach. In the National Steering Committee meeting Dr Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin, President BMA & Member of the Presidium of Bangladesh



Next page →

## Editorial



"Bangladesh has made a bold step forward in the antimicrobial resistance containment through the finalization and endorsement of the 'National Strategy and the costed National Action Plan for AMR containment 2023-2028' by the National Steering Committee (NSC) in its meeting in February 2024 chaired by the Minister of Health Dr Samanta Lal Sen. The strategy is a bold declaration of Bangladesh's commitment to this cause. It is a comprehensive blueprint that transcends the traditional silos of healthcare, integrating human, animal, aquatic health, and environmental considerations under the One Health umbrella. This approach is not merely a strategy; it is a paradigm shift, acknowledging that the health of people is inextricably linked to the health of animals and our shared environment.

Bangladesh's efforts are multifaceted, addressing the complex web of factors that contribute to the rise and spread of AMR. The engagement of clinicians with microbiologists to optimize antimicrobial use is a commendable initiative. It will bridge the gap between laboratory data and clinical decision-making, ensuring that antibiotic prescriptions are judicious and evidence-based. Surveillance is the backbone of Bangladesh's AMR containment strategy. By monitoring trends and patterns in resistance, the country can tailor its interventions, develop guidelines, and measure the impact of its actions. This data-driven approach is crucial in a world where microbes evolve rapidly, and yesterday's solutions may not suffice tomorrow.

However, the road ahead is not without challenges. The barriers to tackling AMR are as diverse as they are daunting. Inadequate infrastructure, over the counter sale, limited access to quality diagnostics, and the overuse of antibiotics in different sectors are but a few of the hurdles that Bangladesh must overcome. Moreover, the specter of AMR looms larger in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has strained healthcare systems and disrupted routine surveillance activities. Despite these obstacles, Bangladesh's resolve remains unshaken".

**Dr Sheikh Daud Adnan**

Chief Editor, Director, Disease Control & Line Director,  
Communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services.

Awami League, the designated members representing secretaries and other high officials from the different ministries and departments, and partner organisations were present. Prof. Dr Md. Nazmul Islam, Director (Disease Control), DGHS presented the National Strategic Plan of NARC (2023-2028) costed Action Plan, highlighting the rationale, goal, objectives, methodology, and the work plan linking it with the financial resources. The National Action Plan for ARC was formulated in the One Health approach and the importance of collaborative involvement of major government stakeholders and of different developmental partners was underscored. Following discussion by the esteemed participants on various technical and operational aspects, the National Strategic Plan of NARC (2023-2028) was endorsed.

## Kick-off Workshop of Fleming Fund Country Grant Bangladesh - Phase II

Fleming Fund Country Grant, Bangladesh (FFCGB) was established under Fleming Fund Grant programme of the UK Government to support the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen its' AMR surveillance system. In Phase I, lasting from Jan 2020 to Dec 2023, the Country Grant concentrated on building the country capacity in AMR Data production. From Jan 2024, the Country Grant stepped into a new Phase II, which will end in December 2025. In this phase Fleming Fund has emphasised on sustaining the gains of phase I, while emphasising on improved data quality and greater usage of the data for AMR containment. A kick-off workshop for Phase II took place at a hotel in Dhaka from 5-7 March 2024. The main goal of the workshop was to discuss and agree upon the strategies that would form the basis of FFCGB priorities and design in Phase II. Additionally, the workshop aimed review the work plan with other Fleming Fund grantees to prepare an aligned and synchronised plan. The final objective of the workshop was to share the phase II plan with the key government stakeholders to obtain their suggestions and overall agreement to the plan. It is important to mention that the draft strategy and workplan was developed based on prior extensive discussions with the key stakeholders.

The initial two days of the event focused on reviewing the work plan. The primary attendees included the regional team of Mott Macdonald, regional grantees/recipients of Fleming Fund Grant, as well as the FFCGB and consortium partners (icddr,b, CVASU, LSTM). The workshop was led by Prof Nitish Chandra Debnath, the Team Lead, FFCGB. During the first two days significant concepts were presented and discussed by both national and international keynote speakers. The output of the discussions was a revised draft of the work plan, focusing on areas of AMR surveillance, laboratory data management, utilization and sharing of AMR data, as well as AMR governance and coordination. Additionally, an outline of programme sustainability plan, along with monitoring and annual review framework, were developed.



On day 3, Prof Debnath shared the Fleming Fund strategies and Phase II plans with the key AMR stakeholders and partners. They included the country's AMR focal point, the Director of the department of Communicable Disease Control of DGHS, Director General the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), high officials from the Department of Fisheries (DOF), the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), the Department of Environment (DOE), the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and representatives from the One Health, Bangladesh.

➡ Next page



On behalf of the government stakeholders Dr Rezaul Haque, DG DLS and Prof Tahmina Shirin, Director IEDCR, appreciated the contribution of Fleming Fund support during Phase I and pledged to work together during the Phase II.

The first phase of the Fleming Fund Country grant centred around producing outputs (AMR data), whereas the second phase is centred on achieving outcomes (AMR data use by the practitioners and policymakers). In addition to the preceding efforts, phase II would expand the scope of AMR/AMU/AMC surveillance to capture data from all 8 divisions of Bangladesh, adopting a more comprehensive methodology. In addition, AMR surveillance from environment sector will be added to the existing surveillance in human and animal health sectors. This will help to visualise the full picture of AMR burden and trend in the country based on One Health concept.



## National Workshop on Monitoring of Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals in Bangladesh



Antimicrobial use data is an essential asset to reduce the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials and to curb the spread of AMR. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has been collecting data on the amounts and reasons for antimicrobial use in animals since 2015. The WOAH's dedicated AMU monitoring data collection platform, ANIMUSE is integrated with a powerful business

intelligence tool, an online platform that allows countries to report, access, analyse and communicate data on antimicrobials use to different stakeholders with user friendly data sharing and data visualization tools.

In Bangladesh, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) is the national drug regulatory

➔ *Next page*

authority including Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs). The Department of Livestock Services (DLS) is a member of DGDA veterinary medicine working group. The DLS has been using an online database to collect AMU and AMR information from different farms based on active surveillance. But it is difficult for DLS to collect, import and domestic production data, known as antimicrobial consumption (AMC) without strong collaboration with DGDA. A workshop was organized on 19 February 2024 at Hotel Amari, Gulshan-2, Dhaka to harmonise monitoring of AMU and AMC data collection in animals, including the data from both public and private sectors and to sensitize the authorities and policy makers about the importance of AMU monitoring.

The Honourable Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MOFL) Md. Abdur Rahman, MP inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. The Director Generals of the DLS, Department of Fisheries (DOF) and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Director, DGDA and Director Administration of the DLS, representatives of the quadripartite partners from WOA, FAO-ECTAD and WHO, and from various government departments and partner organisations including Fleming Fund Country Grant participated in the workshop. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Project in Bangladesh provided the financial support to hold the workshop.

Four papers were presented in the workshop by the experts from the WOA, DGDA and DLS describing *WOAH's AMU data collection system, AMU/AMC monitoring system for intended use in human, animal and aquatic sectors* and *Revision of the AMU supply chain map in animal health sector*. Based on the discussion the workshop recommended the following actions for effective monitoring of AMU and AMC in the animal health sector:

- Development of a comprehensive national AMU monitoring strategy including development of proper SOPs and guidelines
- Strong collaboration among DGDA, DLS, DOF to establish functional system of AMC surveillance with collection of data from the producers and importers of antimicrobials
- Development of a dedicated monitoring and evaluation system, and development of skilled human resources for conducting AMU monitoring
- Development of a user-friendly common data sharing platform
- Motivation and awareness development including training of the private sector data providers (producers and importers of antimicrobials) on the data submission process
- Ensuring adequate logistics and financial support

## Workshop on AMR Awareness Raising to the Veterinary Schools

A workshop on “Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Raising to the Veterinary Schools” was held on 22 January 2024 at the conference room of the Department of Livestock Services (DLS). The workshop was jointly hosted by the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The workshop was attended by 35 number of participants from the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Veterinary Schools, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Fleming Fund Country Grant Bangladesh and other stakeholder organizations. Dr. Md. Emdadul Haque Talukder, Director General, DLS graced the occasion as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the workshop. The convenor of the veterinary dean council, Professor Dr. K. M. Mozaffor Hossain, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Rajshahi University graced the occasion as the special guest.

DGHS, DGDA and DLS shared presentation on AMR Containment in Human Health, Regulatory Landscape for Combating AMR in Bangladesh and AMR Containment in Animal Health Sector respectively.

There was interactive discussion following which several recommendations were agreed upon.

- Integration of AMU and AMR into the veterinary education curricula
- Inclusion of judicious use, dosage and duration of the antimicrobials in food animals.
- Strengthening capacity of the veterinary teaching hospitals on microbiological methods such as isolation, identification and antimicrobial sensitivity testing.
- Establish coordination among the departments of microbiology, pharmacology, medicine and surgery for responsible uses of the antimicrobials
- Veterinary schools to be encouraged to align their AMR research activities with the priorities of national AMR surveillance
- Access of the veterinary schools to the Bangladesh Animal Health Intelligence System (BAHIS) for sharing of AMR research data.

➡ Next page



- Development of AMR knowledge sharing or virtual learning platform for the veterinary students
- Awareness building on AMR for the veterinary students.



## Workshop on Aligning Bangladesh's One Health Initiatives with One Health Joint Plan of Action organized by One Health Secretariat, Bangladesh

The One Health Secretariat, Bangladesh with technical and financial support of the Asia Pacific Quadripartite Secretariat, WHO South-East Asia Region Office (SEARO) organized a three-day workshop on 27-29 February 2024 to align Bangladesh's One Health initiatives with One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA). This country level workshop was a follow up of the recommendation of the Asia Pacific Quadripartite Regional One Health Workshop held in Bangkok on 5-8 September 2023 for the development of national OH JPA considering country context, needs and priorities in four subregions and South Asia is one of them. The One Health Secretariat of Bangladesh from South Asia expressed keen interest in organizing a national OH JPA workshop and requested WHO to provide technical and financial support for the workshop including coordination with quadripartite One Health partners. In setting the context, the journey of One Health in Bangladesh, workshop's objectives, introduction to the OH JPA and its action tracks were shared with the participants. The findings and recommendations of the external and internal evaluations (JEE, e-SPAR, PVS, NBW,

One Health capacity assessment, etc) and the progress of the 3<sup>rd</sup> revision of Bangladesh's One Health Strategic Framework (2024-2030) and Action Plan were also shared with the participants before engaging them in the exercise of aligning the One Health approach in Bangladesh to OH JPA. Rest of the workshop was dedicated to using three pathways of change, identifying the gaps in relation to the One Health JPA action tracks, findings outputs and outcomes against each of the Action Track and finally making a set of recommendations for way forward. During the workshop, there was a session on One Health funding opportunities and investment cases where representatives from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), USAID and World Bank participated. The workshop also prioritized the action packages and identified the next steps. Representatives from the Directorate General of Health Services; Bangladesh Forest Department; Department of Environment; Department of Livestock Services; IEDCR; Department of Agriculture Extension; One Health Bangladesh; FAO; WOA; WHO; UNICEF;

➔ *Next page*

World Bank; USAID; and academicians from universities, researchers, NGO officials and private sector organizations were present in the workshop. The event successfully sensitized the participants on OH JPA and its theory of

change, integration of OH JPA, OH approach in Bangladesh, and developed plan of action to enable Bangladesh to design and implement future OH programming in line with regional global OH frameworks.



## The UKRI-GCRF One Health Poultry Hub Final Meeting 2024

The UKRI-GCRF One Health Poultry Hub Final Meeting, which took place from 7th to 9th February 2024, served as an important opportunity for interdisciplinary interaction and cooperation in the area of poultry health and production. Dr Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, delivered an inaugural address focusing on the importance of One Health, particularly in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She, in her speech, underlined the interconnectedness of animal, human, environmental and ecosystem health and importance of promoting effective and efficient intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration across the human, animal, plant and environment domains. Since early 2019, the Hub has employed a One Health approach to identify factors influencing health risks associated with intensification of poultry production. These include avian influenza – which has epidemic and pandemic potential, bacterial pathogens such as Salmonella and Campylobacter, and the growing threat from antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The Hub's objective has been to inform the development of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable policy and interventions that will result in improved health for people, animals and societies.

➔ [Next page](#)



The final all-Hub meeting brought together more than 80 researchers from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The meeting comprised two days of oral and poster presentations, hands-on workshops and discussions to finalise and start to integrate findings across all Hub work packages. A third day was dedicated to high-level panel discussions with key external stakeholders.



Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and former Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO), spoke about the growing epidemic/pandemic threat of zoonotic infections.

Dr Swaminathan spoke of the importance of the influenza monitoring and surveillance networks, coordinated by the WHO in preparation of the post-COVID 19 WHO pandemic treaty which is now being negotiated.

Hub Deputy Director Professor Dirk Pfeiffer, Chow Tak Fung Professor of One Health and Director of the Centre for Applied One Health Research and Policy Advice at City University of Hong Kong, spoke on the subject 'One Health for tackling real-world complex challenges, emphasizing the implementation of wider systems approach.

Hub Director Professor Fiona Tomley, of the Royal Veterinary College, noted that the epidemic and pandemic threats are high as was demonstrated by COVID 19. Other honored guests for the opening ceremony included Professor Satish Chandra Garkoti, Rector of Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Mr Takayuki Hagiwara FAO Representative in India. Professor Rajib Dasgupta, of Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Hub Director Professor Fiona Tomley presided at the ceremony.

Source- <https://www.onehealthpoultry.org/news/hub-wins-praise-at-final-meeting-as-researchers-urged-to-continue-systems-thinking/>

## National Workshop on Multisectoral AMR Communication Strategy

A national workshop on “multisectoral AMR communication strategy” was organized jointly by the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 20 February 2024 at a Hotel in Dhaka. The workshop was



supported by the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) project. The objective of the workshop was to develop a multi-sectoral AMR communication strategy for raising awareness among the key stakeholders, including among prescribers, farmers, policymakers, and the general public about the risks and consequences of AMR.

➡ Next page

Dr. Md. Emdadul Haque Talukder, Director General of the DLS was present as the chief guest and inaugurated the workshop. Besides, the workshop was graced by the representatives of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Department of Fisheries (DOF), and representatives of the quadripartite, WOA, FAO-ECTAD and WHO. Furthermore, the workshop was attended by the 60 participants from the different national organizations and development partners, including the DLS, DGHS, DGDA, DOF, BLRI, IEDCR, Department of Environment (DOE), WOA, FAO-ECTAD, WHO, Fleming Fund, and USAID, etc.

In the plenary session, four presentations were delivered by the experts from the DGHS, DLS and WOA. These presentations are entitled with, (i) multi-sectoral communication strategies with previous examples from Cambodia & Indonesia, (ii) AMR/AMU communication activities in Bangladesh - challenges and opportunities, (iii) One health communication activities in Bangladesh, and (iv) draft communication strategy blueprint. Following plenary session, SWOT exercise was done by the all participants in a four groups. Further, another group exercise was done with four groups to identifying target audiences and communication modalities in the human, animal, fishery and environmental sectors. Finally, target audiences of communication were prioritized through an online exercise with the active engagement of all participants.

The workshop identified vital audiences, key messages along with channels in the different sectors. The summary of the audiences in the different sectors are as follows;

Human health: Doctors, MBBS/BDS students, nurses, community health care providers, sub-assistant community medical officer, drug seller, mass population, pharmaceutical companies, media personnel, etc.



Animal health: Veterinarian, veterinary students, farmer, drug seller, feed seller, traditional healer, policy maker, pharmaceutical company representatives and feed manufacturer, etc.

Fisheries: Aquatic animal health professionals/fisheries expert, paraprofessionals/diploma, farmer, farm owner, feed seller, drug seller

Environment: farm owner, hospital authority, industrial authority, pharmaceuticals company and consumers

Moreover, workshop suggested important channels for the communications with the relevant stakeholders are workshop, training, advocacy, meeting, uthan boithok, focus group discussion, pre-service & in-service training, academic curriculum, competitive extracurricular activities, electronic media, print media, poster, leaflets, festoons, miking, rallies, campaigns, banners, brochure, awareness through text message, TV scrolling, newspaper, and billboard.



## Coordination Meeting with the Department of Fisheries for Enhancing AMR Surveillance Activities in Aquaculture Sector

A meeting was held at the conference room of the Department of Fisheries (DoF) on 02 April 2024 for enhancing coordination among the laboratories of Aquaculture sector under AMR surveillance network. Chaired by the Director General (DG), DoF Mr. Syed Md. Alamgir the meeting was attended by Professor Dr. Nitish Debnath, Team Lead, Fleming Fund Country Grant Bangladesh (FFCGB). The staff from DoF, Matshya Bhavan attended in the meeting include, Dr. Md. Abdur Rouf, PSO, Fish Inspection and Quality Control (FIQC); Mr. Sujit Kumar Chatterjee, Deputy Director, FIQC; Dr. Maksudul Haque Bhuyan, Senior Assistant Director, FIQC (AMR focal point); Mr. Md. Nowsher Ali, Assistant Director (Aquaculture). Ms. Shilpi Dey, Quality Assurance Manager, and Mr. Md. Shafiul Alam, Fisheries Quarantine Officer, Quality Control Laboratory (QCL), DoF, Dhaka also attended the meeting. The meeting was started with the presentation on AMR surveillance activities in the QCL, DoF, Dhaka (the only laboratory from Aquaculture sector under AMR surveillance network). During discussion on strengthening coordination among the Aquaculture sector AMR surveillance laboratories Professor Nitish Debnath informed that to boost the AMR surveillance activities in the Aquaculture sector two more laboratories, QCL Chattogram and QCL Khulna have been included in the AMR surveillance network and FFCGB during its phase-2 tenure will provide support to the laboratories in AMR surveillance capacity building. After a long discussion following recommendations were made in the meeting:

1. DoF will share the AMR surveillance data including AST data to National AMR Data Dashboard after necessary validation.

2. AMR surveillance will start in Quality Control Laboratories of DoF in Chattogram and Khulna.
3. Quality Control Laboratory in Dhaka will act as NRL for AMR surveillance in Fisheries sector; DoF will take administrative procedure for converting QC Lab in Dhaka as NRL.
4. DoF needs establishing AMR dashboard for AMR surveillance data sharing. In the meantime, however, DoF will share AMR surveillance data with the One Health dashboard using the BAHIS platform of the Department of Livestock Services.
5. For initiating AMU surveillance in fisheries sector, FFCGB will develop a protocol and provide necessary support to assist DoF conducting AMU surveillance sustainably.
6. DoF will designate an inspector or officer from DoF to assist QC Lab, Dhaka in collection of samples for smooth implementation of AMR surveillance in Aquaculture sector.
7. DoF will arrange for its officials a condensed professional course on Pharmacology preferably at FTA, Savar, Dhaka and will take necessary steps to form a council for the fisheries professionals so as to authorize them as registered prescriber for treating aquatic animal diseases.





## AMR Sensitization Workshop with Students and Interns of Veterinary and Medical Institutions



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Bangladesh AMR Response Alliance (BARA) organized several sensitization workshops on AMR/AMU with veterinary and medical interns and students at Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Dinajpur funded by USAID and UK Flaming Fund. The workshops are designed to raise awareness and combat antimicrobial resistance together.

As a part of the raising awareness, the students took part in the AMR quiz competition and participated in awareness campaign distributing AWARe (access, watch, reserve) categorization posters and banners in both campuses.

The workshop ended with a prize giving ceremony where the champion team for the quiz competition received trophy and the winners of the essay competition related to AMR also awarded medal.

Considering the fact of irrational use of antibiotics driving AMR, FAO ECTAD along with government human and animal health counter parts implemented several One Health-oriented initiatives on AMR. Through these initiatives, a comprehensive AMR problem tree and corresponding solutions for Bangladesh were developed collaboratively by all the partners.

## MPTF Inception Workshop December 2023

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and World Health Organization (WHO) jointly organized an inception workshop for Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) project on 12 December in Dhaka. The aim is to combat Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) in Bangladesh in partnership with the government stakeholders.

The workshop provided an opportunity to share the activities in detail and output from all development partners to the government, also to take feedback from the government on the implementation of the project in more coordinated way moving forward.

The Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Multi-Partner Trust Fund promotes combatting the rising global threat of AMR through One Health approach. FAO, WOAH, WHO and UNEP will provide support to Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) through MPTF project.





## DG-DSHE with DGDA's AMR Comic Book and Coloring Book

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) and the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE) have collaborated on an innovative initiative to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through educational materials aimed at children. This initiative involves the creation and distribution of both an AMR comic book and an AMR coloring book, which are designed to educate and engage children on the importance of responsible antibiotic use and the threat posed by AMR. In this connection, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) and WHO Bangladesh handed over the AMR comic book and coloring book to the Director General-Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE). DG-DSHE, upon receiving the educational materials, commended the proactive approach taken by DGDA and WHO in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among children. This acknowledgment underscores the importance of such initiatives in promoting public health awareness and responsible antibiotic use from a young age.



DG-DSHE with DGDA's AMR Comic book and Coloring book

## DGDA's AMR Children's Books Featured at Ekushey Book Fair 2024, Narayanganj

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, 21st February 2024, 1000 copies of Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Comic Book “Tinu Minu & Super Bug” and Antibiotic Coloring Book “The invention of Penicillin” were distributed to children for free at the Ekushey Book Fair in Narayanganj under the initiative of District Office, DGDA Narayanganj. Dhaka Divisional Commissioner and Narayanganj District Commissioner visited the stall of District Office R from an early age.



The enthusiastic response from children emphasized the importance of making antimicrobial resistance (AMR) awareness accessible and engaging. It highlighted the effectiveness of using relatable educational resources, like the comic book and coloring book, to instill understanding and prompt action against AMR from an early age.



## Implementation of Drug and Cosmetics Act-2023 for Antibiotics

Legislation is a crucial matter for low and middle-income countries aiming to reduce self-medication with antibiotics. The Drug and Cosmetics Act-2023 was approved by the Parliament in September 2023, and on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 marks the first day of implementing this Act,

which prohibits the sale of antibiotics without a prescription. In Narayanganj, DGDA office participated in a mobile court, and during this mobile court, five pharmacies were fined for selling antibiotics without a prescription.



Ms S.M. Sabrina Yesmin, Asst Director, DGDA implementing the Drug and Cosmetics Act-2023 for antibiotics.

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