

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (RSU-SAARC)

BANGLADESH

22 Oct 2015: Visceral leishmaniasis (Black-fever) still a menace in some Rajshahi villages

Black-fever (Kala-azar) which was once a widespread menace among indigenous as well as local people of Godagari and Tanore upazilas is still remained an enigma as the disease is spreading there despite having a free treatment facility for curing it. According to civil surgeon, Rajshahi sources, during last January to September the recorded number of patients attacked with Visceral leishmaniasis in the district was 9, all of whom were from Godagari upazila while in 2014, the number was 20. A record shows, from 2005 to February-2015 the total number of black-fever patients in Godagari upazila was 519 in Godagari while five in Tanore upazila. [read more](#)

INDIA

22 Oct 2015: Kerala: Won't take action against those who kill dangerous dogs, says minister

Kerala Home Minister said the state police would not initiate action against those culling rabid and dangerous stray dogs. The Home Minister said the stray dog menace has emerged as a law and order issue and the government cannot remain a mute spectator. Hence, nothing illegal in killing dangerous stray dogs which attack people. Police would not register case against those who kill such dogs, said the minister in his facebook page. [read more](#)

NEPAL

22 Oct 2015: Nepal reports scrub typhus cases

The Clinical Research Unit of the Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital reported on Monday that a case of scrub typhus has been reported in Kathmandu. This is the first case to appear in Kathmandu with no travel history associated with infection. Cases of this illness have been reported in other districts within Nepal. These cases prompted the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) to engage in joint surveillance of these areas. Currently Kathmandu is not under this surveillance, but the risk for an outbreak is high due to the possibilities of an unreported case being treated in private clinics or hospitals outside of governmental jurisdiction. [read more](#)

PAKISTAN

22 Oct 2015: Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus has claimed 11 patients in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

At least 25 CCHF virus positive patients from Peshawar, Swabi, Kohat and Dir were brought to Hyatabad Medical Complex (HMC) in critical condition in last five months. Out that total, 11 could not survive. Most of the patients were Afghans. [read more](#)

OTHERS

20 Oct 2015: U.S. backs FAO efforts to combat global animal disease threats with \$87 million

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is backing FAO's efforts to combat pandemic animal disease threats in Asia, Africa and the Middle East with an additional \$87 million in funding covering the 2015-19 period. USAID and FAO have worked in partnership on controlling animal diseases and managing related human health threats for over a decade. USAID financial backing for this work now amounts to \$320 million since 2004. [read more](#)

20 Oct 2015: Commission welcomes US move to recognise EU system to control animal diseases

The Commission welcomes the recent decision by the US to recognise the EU regionalisation system to control animal diseases. This recognition will help to avoid trade disruptions in the event of an outbreak of a disease. Trade in pork products between the EU and the US was valued at approximately €335 million, in 2014 alone. In the US Federal Register notice, the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognises any EU region that the EU or any EU Member State has placed under restriction because of ASF. In so doing, the US APHIS recognises the EU as a single entity with a single animal health legislation, veterinary oversight and disease control programmes. The significance of this notice is that, rather than carrying out its own assessment, the US will accept EU decisions regarding regions affected by ASF. [read more](#)

World Antibiotic Awareness Week - 16-22 November 2015

World Antibiotic Awareness Week aims to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. A global action plan to tackle the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines was endorsed at the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2015. One of the key objectives of the plan is to improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education and training. [read more](#)