

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

BANGLADESH

17 Feb 2017: 40 cattle die of unknown disease, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat

An unknown disease has killed at least 40 cattle in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat district, Rangpur division in the last one week, creating panic among the farmers. Twenty two (22) cows and eighteen (18) goats died due to the disease at Pashuram village. The affected cattle started trembling followed by swelling up of their stomach and death. An affected cow died within one and a half hours, while a goat died within 15 to 20 minutes. Such an unknown disease was noticed for the first time in the village in the middle of February in 2015 which was also observed at the same time in 2016 and 2017. ([Read More](#)) Furthermore, the livestock officers of Rangpur and Lalmonirhat districts refuted the deaths of the livestock due to any infectious cause but probably due to nitrate poisoning. ([More](#))

INDIA

18 Feb 2017: Monkey Fever claims two lives in Maharashtra

The outbreak of Monkey Fever also known as Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) has claimed two lives in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra this month. The victims are the first casualties of the season as the viral infection is intensified during the December to May period. A total of 43 patients from 15 villages, mostly in the southern part of district, have been infected with this fever. Cases of Monkey Fever were first reported in February last year in Maharashtra, wherein seven patients had succumbed to the disease. ([Read More](#)). The disease has also been detected in the forests near Balekoppa village in Thirthahalli taluk, of Shimoga district in Karnataka. ([More](#))

21 Feb 2017: Elephants turn TB carriers: India plan to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025

India plans to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025, five years before the WHO target of 2030. In fact, Union finance minister Arun Jaitley has earmarked enhanced provisions in 2017-18 budget to move towards the target. However, the target can only be realised if Mycobacterium tuberculosis is controlled both in humans and animals. Elephant is one of the animals that are known to carry the human TB bacterium. TB has also been found in wild elephants, therefore the scope of TB control strategy should include captive and wild pachyderms too. ([Read More](#))

22 Feb 2017: India reported HPAI-H5N1 (poultry) to World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

On February 2017, a fresh H5N1 outbreak in a state poultry breeding and research farm in Odisha state is being reported to OIE by Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi, India.. The alert for the suspected disease outbreak was already provided last week in this bulletin. The outbreak began on Jan 30 and killed 2,091 of 3,570 birds at the facility. Authorities destroyed the surviving birds to curb the spread of the virus. This is the second H5N1 outbreak in poultry in India this year. In late January, officials have also reported an H5N1 event involving village birds, in the in different districts of the same State. ([Read More](#), [More](#))

NEPAL

19 Feb 2017: Victims were bitten by a suspected rabid fox

Twenty (20) people, were referred from Mehelkuna hospital (Surkhet district) visited the outpatient department of Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (STIDH) for the administration of rabies immunoglobulin. These victims were bitten by a suspected rabid fox in Mehelkuna and Maintada VDCs (village development committees) of Surkhet district of Nepal. This incidence occurred on 17 Feb 2017. ([Read More](#))

OTHERS

21 Feb 2017: China confirms highly pathogenic avian influenza H7N9 in poultry

China's detection of highly pathogenic H7N9 in poultry markets was noted in a Feb 18 report to the OIE that appeared on the group's Web site today. Since it was first detected in early 2013, the novel virus has circulated in poultry as a low-pathogenic strain, which made it difficult for animal health officials to identify outbreaks. Often, human illnesses have been sentinels that the virus is present in local poultry, especially at live-bird markets. However, over the weekend the Guangdong province Center for Disease Control said that two recent samples in humans showed mutations which suggested that H7N9 might be becoming more pathogenic in birds. Samples from the birds sent to the national avian influenza reference lab by Guangdong officials were positive for highly pathogenic H7N9. ([Read More](#))