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Bangladesh receives US\$ 2 million grant from Avian Flu Facility

Dhaka, 08 October 2007: An agreement between the Government of Bangladesh and the International Development Association for a US\$ 2 million grant from the World Bank's Avian and Human Influenza Facility (AHIF) was signed here today to support the country's efforts to minimize the threat and risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

M. Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division and Xian Zhu, World Bank Country Director signed on behalf of the Government and the World Bank, respectively.

The AHIF is a multi-donor grant-making mechanism, administered by the World Bank. On 16th July, the AHIF awarded a US\$ 2 million grant to the Government of Bangladesh for the Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response Project. This was followed on 26th July by an IDA credit agreement worth US\$ 16 million signed also with the Government.

AHIF is supported by the European Commission and eight other donors' countries that include the United Kingdom, Australia, the Russian Federation, The Peoples Republic of China, The Republic of Korea, Iceland, Slovenia, and Estonia.

The purpose of AHIF is to minimize the risk and socio-economic impact of avian influenza (and other zoonoses) and of possible human pandemic influenza in developing countries lacking adequate domestic resources and capacity to prepare for and combat any onset of the disease. Specifically, it is designed to fill those financing needs and gaps that remain unmet from any loan, credit and grant assistance being made available from other sources.

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