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PRESS RELEASE

**U.S. GOVERNMENT-FUNDED AVIAN AND HUMAN PANDEMIC
INFLUENZA MEDIA WORKSHOP CONCLUDES**

DHAKA, APRIL 30 -- The U.S. Government, in conjunction with the Bangladesh National Institute for Mass Communication, hosted a two-day Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza workshop for journalists from print and electronic media from April 29-30. The participants discussed key issues related to avian and human pandemic influenza with public health and journalism experts from the Voice of America, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, USAID, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, academia and the poultry industry. In particular, the group reviewed the various types of influenza, the status of avian influenza in Bangladesh, and key steps to mitigate a future human pandemic influenza outbreak. The workshop also addressed the economic and commercial consequences of avian influenza as well as the important role of the media in disseminating information. U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty distributed certificates among the participants at the end of the the workshop.

Since 2005, the United States Government has provided more than \$15 million in assistance for avian and human pandemic influenza -related projects in Bangladesh. This money helps Bangladesh strengthen animal and human surveillance systems, train animal and human health response teams and front-line workers, and support national communications programs.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)