

Intrusion of foxes spread disease at BAU

From BAU correspondent

AGRI-VARISTY (Mymensingh), Feb. 8: Population of foxes at BAU is increasing at an alarming rate. Moreover horrible information is that they carry some infectious diseases which can transmit into human body.

Professor Dr Md Abu Hadi Noor Ali Khan and his MS student Dr Md Abu Yousuf of Dept of Pathology, BAU, Mymensingh got the information after a rigorous research work on fox at the campus. They found some zoonotic diseases like heart worm infestation, toxocariosis, which can transmit into human body.

Dr Hadi said, this heart worm can transmit through mosquito biting. This worm (heart worm) destroys the lungs of human body. He also added it requires further collaborative investigation with human doctors.

They also identified Canine distemper virus in the fox samples using RT-PCR technique which is the first report in Bangladesh. It causes brain disorder in the canine animals which makes the pet animals mad.

It is noticed that fox population is increasing in alarming state at the campus. Foxes come out even at broad daylight which is the anomaly of the normal situation, perhaps it occurs due to food shortage in the campus. Sometimes, it is seen that foxes raid the dining rooms of the halls of the campus for waste foods which poses a threat to the transmission of diseases into the students.

To control the disease, population of foxes and mosquitoes should be controlled. The scientists draw attention of the DPHE and concerned authorities in this connection. They also suggested students to use mosquito nets.