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## Char children brought under EPI

BSS, Gaibandha

All the char children aged 0-1 year of three upazilas in the district were successfully brought under Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) to protect them from eight fatal diseases.

Friendship, a national NGO, helped the government to achieve this success under its one year term EPI support programme in the remote char areas funded by Crucell.

A total of 1808 children of 63 chars under 7 unions of Fulchhari, Sundarganj and Sadar upazilas in the district were administered BCG, Polio, DPT, Hepatitis- B, Measles and Vitamin-A doses properly till December, 2010.

The success rate of immunization is 99 percent. At this moment, no children will be found beyond the programme, said project coordinator M. Ali Abdullah.

To make the programme a grand success, Friendship has provided the logistic, staff and boat supports to the government health staff

working in the chars.

Besides, the char dwellers were also made aware about the EPI through community

meeting and rendering folk songs under logistic support programme.

M. Saiduzzaman, chairman of Mollarchar Union Parishad of Sadar Upazila said earlier the government could not achieve cent percent success on EPI in the chars due to man power shortage, transport and other problems.

After starting the support project in the month of April, 2010 at the initiative of Friendship, all children of the chars were brought under the EPI successfully, he also said.

Expressing gratefulness to Friendship, Civil Surgeon Dr. M. Rafiqul Islam Sarker said the supports of the organization helped us significantly make the programme a success in the chars of the districts.

He also requested Friendship and donor organizations to extend the duration of the project and expand its working areas in the greater interest of the neglected and underprivileged char people to ensure the existing health facilities of the state.