AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 34
RUANGAN : DUNIA

66 budak maut di Gambia selepas minum ubat batuk

WHO keluarkan amaran empat produk Maiden Pharmaceuticals di India

Geneva: Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengeluarkan amaran mengenai empat sirap ubat batuk dan selesema dibuat oleh Maiden Pharmaceuticals di India, yang dikaitkan dengan kematian 66 kanak-kanak di Gambia.

Menurut amaran produk perubatan yang dikeluarkan oleh WHO kelmarin, empat produk itu ialah Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup dan Magrip N Cold Syrup.

Agensi kesihatan Pertubuhan Bangsa Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) turut memberi amaran bahawa ubat-ubatan yang tercemar itu mungkin sudah diedarkan di luar negara Afrika Barat, dengan 'kemungkinan wujud pendedahan global'.

Ketua WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, berkata empat sirap ubat selesema dan batuk yang dipersoalkan itu 'berpotensi dikaitkan dengan kecederaan buah pinggang akut dan 66 kematian dalam kalangan kanak-kanak'.

"Kehilangan nyawa kanak-kanak ini adalah menyayat hati dan WHO akan menjalankan siasatan lanjut dengan syarikat itu dan pihak berkuasa kawal selia di India," katanya.

Semalam, pihak berkuasa Gambia mula mengumpul paracetamol dan sirap promethazine daripada isi rumah di luar bandar.

Kegagalan buah pinggang akut

Siasatan Kementerian Kesihatan Gambia yang bermula pada Julai lalu dan sedang berjalan, turut menyebut bakteria E coli sebagai kemungkinan penyebab kegagalan buah pinggang akut.

"Keputusan awal daripada penyiasatan yang sedang dijalankan menunjukkan bahawa kemungkinan besar sirap paracetamol dan promethazine yang menyebabkan kes kecederaan buah pinggang akut dalam wabak ini," kata Pakar Nefrologi yang mengetuai penyiasatan Kementerian Kesihatan, Abubacarr Jagne.

Pihak berkuasa kesihatan pada 23 September mengarahkan penarikan balik semua ubat yang mengandungi paracetamol atau sirap promethazine.

"Sejak Julai 2022, terdapat peningkatan dalam bilangan penyakit buah pinggang yang teruk dengan kematian yang tinggi dalam kalangan kanak-kanak terutama akibat penyakit cirit-birit," kata kementerian itu dalam satu kenyataan pada September.

Sehingga kini, pengilang yang dinyatakan tidak memberikan jaminan kepada WHO mengenai keselamatan dan kualiti produk mereka.

Analisis sampel produk di makmal pula mengesahkan ia mengandungi jumlah bahan cemar dietilena glikol dan etilena glikol pada tahap yang tidak boleh diterima.

WHO berkata, maklumat yang diterima daripada Pertubuhan Kawalan Standard Dadah Pusat India menunjukkan bahawa pengeluar hanya membekalkan ubat tercemar itu ke Gambia.

"Bagaimanapun, pembekalan produk ini melalui pasaran tidak rasmi atau tidak dikawal ke negara lain di Afrika, tidak boleh diketepikan.

"Selain itu, pengilang mungkin telah menggunakan bahan tercemar yang sama dalam produk lain dan mengedarkannya secara tempatan atau dieksport, oleh itu pendedahan global adalah mungkin," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, Tedros meminta semua pihak berjaga-jaga dan menggesa semua negara bekerjasama mengesan dan meluputkan ubat-ubatan tercemar itu bagi mengelakkan ia terus memudaratkan pesakit. AFP

> Kehilangan nyawa kanak-kanak ini adalah menyayat hati dan WHO akan menjalankan siasatan lanjut dengan syarikat itu dan pihak berkuasa kawal selia di India

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, *Ketua WHO*

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Al-Sultan Abdullah diiringi Tuan Ibrahim serta Khairy memantau bilik operasi PRABN di JPS Cawangan Ampang.

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Titah Agong kepada Kasa

Al-Sultan Abdullah pantau persiapan, kesiapsiagaan PRABN menghadapi bencana

Kuala Lumpur

Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah menitahkan supaya Kementerian Alam Sekitar dan Air (Kasa) memberi perhatian kepada sistem amaran awal banjir serta pelarasan agihan bantuan bencana itu kepada mangsa.

Menteri Alam Sekitar dan Air, Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, berkata perkara itu ditekankan Yang di-Pertuan Agong selepas baginda meninjau sendiri persiapan dan kesiapsiagaan Pusat Ramalan dan Amaran Banjir Negara (PRABN) bagi negara berdepan musim banjir di seluruh negara.

Mengulas lanjut, katanya, baginda turut menzahirkan rasa puas hati terhadap persiapan yang dilakukan PRABN bagi berdepan kemungkinan banjir ekoran Monsun Timur Laut 2022/2023.

"Beberapa perkara untuk diberi perhatian soal antara bila berlaku bencana amaran lebih awal dan kita juga maklumkan kepada baginda bahawa kali ini kita menambahkan jumlah fasiliti siren dan kemudahan yang ada di kawasan *hotspot*.

"Selain itu baginda juga minta penyelarasan dari segi bantuan di bawah agensi seperti Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma) dan semua pihak.

"Ia supaya apabila berlaku banjir kita dapat mengurangkan impak dan bantuan dapat diserahkan dengan sama rata kepada seluruh mangsa," katanya ketika ditemui, di sini semalam.

Terdahulu, Tuan Ibrahim mengiringi Yang di-Pertuan Agong yang berkenan berangkat ke PRABN, Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS), di Ampang, dekat sini, bagi meninjau sendiri persiapan dan kesiapsiagaan bagi negara berdepan musim banji.

Hadir sama Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin serta Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Pada masa sama, Tuan Ibrahim berkata, Kasa mengambil perhatian serius mengenai perkara dibangkitkan Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Beliau berkata, kementeriannya turut mempersembahkan kepada Seri Paduka mengenai data dan taburan hujan di seluruh negara yang dijangka berlaku Oktober hingga Mac depan.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

King checks out preparations for floods

By ZAKIAH KOYA
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Yang di-Pertuan Agong made an official visit to the National Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre here, hours before the Prime Minister was due to have an audience with him.

Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah was briefed on the forecast of the northeast monsoon and preparations for floods during his visit to the centre in Ampang at 10am.

The King was accompanied by Environment and Water Minister Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

The two-hour royal visit also included a briefing by Khairy on the current Covid-19 situation and preparations by the Health Ministry for the floods.

After the briefing, Tuan Ibrahim said the King was satisfied with the preparedness, but asked that there be more early warning systems and quicker assistance to those affected by the floods.

"His Majesty was satisfied with the preparedness level.

"He had requested for this briefing to see for himself the forecasting of the northeast monsoon by the Meteorological Department.

"He asked that there be more focus on the early warning system. We informed His Majesty that we have increased the facilities for early warning system such as sirens and that we will make sure that assistance reaches the flood victims quicker," said Tuan Ibrahim.

Khairy said the King was also informed of the current public health situation and health facilities.

"I have briefed him on the situation of the public health and the preparations of health facilities at flood evacuation centres.

"I also informed His Majesty on preparations at existing hospitals and clinics. He was satisfied with the preparedness level," said Khairy.

Both ministers played down talks that the briefing had to do with a pending snap polls.

"His Majesty is very concerned for the people's well-being," said Khairy.

Talk of possible snap polls has been rife and it has been speculated that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob would advise the King to dissolve Parliament at the audience.

However, there have been many who feel that polls should not be held this year because of the impending floods.

Royal visit: The King being briefed on the preparations for floods at the centre in Ampang. With His Majesty are Tuan Ibrahim, Khairy and Mohd Zuki. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

Anti-Smoking Bill snuffed out – for now

THE Generational End Game (GEG) Bill, which seeks to put an end to all forms of tobacco smoking in the future, is off the table, at least for now.

However, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has appealed to MPs to support the Bill when it is retabled in the Dewan Rakyat.

The Bill did not come up for debate yesterday due to time constraints and with Budget 2023 to be tabled today, the GEG is not likely to see the light of day at this Dewan Rakyat meeting.

The meeting itself may not last long as there is talk of dissolution of Parliament.

"Based on the consensus achieved by MPs from both sides in Special Parliamentary Select Committee (SPSC), it is hoped other MPs will give their support to the Bill when debates resume in the interest of public health and the nation," he said in a media statement.

He noted that the SPSC had recommended 23 changes to the Bill and submitted its report to the Dewan Rakyat on Wednesday.

Among the recommendations was the removal of the proposed clause to make it an offence for those born after Jan 1, 2007 to be in possession of cigarettes or related tobacco products.

It would still be an offence if the youths are caught smoking or vaping. However, offenders penalised under the proposed law would not have a criminal record.

The committee also recommended lowering the fine from RM5,000 to RM500 with the law to be enforced after three years of advocacy and awareness.

The bipartisan SPSC was set up on Aug 2 to further scrutinise the proposed Tobacco and Smoking Control Bill (GEG) which was tabled by Khairy in the Dewan Rakyat on July 27.

The Bill sought to ban the use, possession and sale of cigarettes and vape products to those born after 2007.

However, no vote was taken on the Bill during the second reading on Aug 2 with a motion passed instead to refer the matter to a bipartisan SPSC.

This was done following resistance on certain aspects of the proposed law.

Khairy previously indicated that the Bill may not pass through both Houses at this meeting if Parliament is dissolved.

The Dewan Rakyat meeting is scheduled to end on Nov 29 while the Dewan Negara will meet between Nov 21 until Dec 7.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Selangor logs highest number of dengue cases

PUTRAJAYA: Selangor recorded the highest number of dengue infections of 748 cases in the 39th epidemiological week (epi week) from Sept 25 to Oct 1, said Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

It was followed by Sabah (173 cases), Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (163), Johor (131), Negri Sembilan (46), Penang (42), Kedah (40), Kelantan (33), Pahang (31), Perak (24), Sarawak (13), Malacca (11), Terengganu (three) and one case each in Perlis and Labuan.

"In the 39th epi week, the number of dengue fever cases reported was 1,460, compared with 1,533 the previous week, which is a decrease of 73 cases. Two deaths were reported in the 39th epi week in Sabah," he said in a statement yesterday.

The number of dengue hot spots continued to increase from 48 localities in the 38th epi week to 55 in the 39th epi week, with 33 in Selangor, 16 in Sabah and six in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

Noor Hisham said three chikungunya cases were recorded in the 39th epi week. All the cases were recorded in Selangor, bringing the cumulative cases to 649 so far.

For Zika surveillance, a total of 1,488 blood and 15 urine samples were screened and all were negative.

Noor Hisham advised all parties to ensure their areas are free from mosquito breeding grounds, especially during the northeast monsoon from Oct 3 to early November, when heavy rain and strong winds are expected. – Bernama