

Global swine flu cases cross 5,000 mark

AFP, Geneva

The number of worldwide swine flu cases yesterday passed 5,000, according to the World Health Organisation, as the virus spread to three more countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

The highest number of cases has been reported in the United States with 2,600 infections, including three deaths, and Mexico with 2,059 cases, including 56 deaths. The global total stood at 5,251, the latest data posted on the WHO website showed.

Meanwhile the WHO defended its decision to raise the global pandemic alarm for swine flu following the outbreak of new influenza A(H1N1) last month.

The global health body's acting Assistant Director-General Keiji Fukuda insisted the outbreak would have been more severe if the WHO had not raised its pandemic alert two weeks ago.

"If countries had not been thinking about what to do in this kind of situation, the fact is we would have had much more confusion," Fukuda said.

"In many ways, the severity would have been greater."

The WHO raised its alert to five on a scale of six two weeks ago, signalling that a pandemic was "imminent" after Mexico and the United States showed sustained local transmission of the influenza A(H1N1) virus.

With the WHO confirmed death toll at 61, Costa Rica reported its first fatality from the flu - believed to be a mix of bird and human flu which came together in pigs - and the United States confirmed a third death.

Three more countries reported their first cases of the virus.

Thailand's first two cases were on Tuesday confirmed in patients who had travelled to Mexico, the epicentre of the outbreak where authorities have put the death toll at 56. The WHO has only confirmed 48 of those deaths.

Finland confirmed its first two cases of swine flu Tuesday while Canada confirmed 40

new cases, bringing the total number recorded by national authorities there to 331.

Cuba had earlier reported its first case in a Mexican student, one of a group of 14 Mexicans studying in Havana who were tested for the disease, according to the health ministry.

But attention was most focused on China, where authorities confirmed that a 30-year-old man was hospitalised with the virus after arriving in the southwestern city of Chengdu on a flight from the United States.

"This is our country's first case of A(H1N1)," Chinese health ministry spokesman Mao Qunan said Monday.

Beijing on Tuesday ordered stepped up flu monitoring nationwide and said it had found and isolated nearly all those who travelled on flights with the man.

China had previously confirmed a case, a Mexican national, in the semi-autonomous southern city of Hong Kong.

US health officials reported that the 2,600 confirmed cases across the United States represented just the tip of the iceberg of actual infections.

"Many states did not report over the weekend, so we expect a big jump in the number of cases tomorrow," said Anne Schuchat, the interim deputy director at the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Most of the 5,251 laboratory-confirmed cases recorded by the WHO in some 30 countries have involved relatively mild symptoms and the virus has proved to be treatable with anti-viral drugs such as Tamiflu so far.

Mexico is struggling to get back to normal. Six schools remained shut Monday and local officials said Tuesday that tourist cancellations had forced 25 hotels to shut in and around the popular coastal resort of Cancun.

Mexican authorities announced a one-billion-dollar business support programme to help counter the impact of swine flu, particularly on the tourism industry.

Swiss drugs giant Roche said Tuesday it was donating 5.65 million treatment courses of Tamiflu to help fight the swine flu outbreak.

Over 1 lakh left

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them to local government offices across the country," Yeafesh said.

The state minister however said the plan is still at an initial stage, and some time will be needed to implement it. "We will also think how to ensure their utilisation for other purposes," the state minister added.

Information communications technology (ICT) experts also said the government should do something to utilise the skilled pool of manpower in its effort to build the desired digital Bangladesh.

"They can be appointed as teachers to primary and higher secondary educational institutions on the basis of their educational backgrounds," Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, president of Buet Alumni Association (Buetaa), told The Daily Star yesterday.

"They have already been provided with training. If necessary, they can be provided with further training, so they may teach computers," Jamilur said adding that something should be done to utilise them.

Asked about the idea of recruiting them to teach computers at educational institutions, the state minister said the idea is good.

The army trained 1.04 lakh data entry operators in a few months at a recorded cost of Tk 10.81 crore under the EC's highly ambitious project titled 'Preparation of Electoral Roll with Photographs and Facilitating the Issuance of National Identity Cards'.

The actual cost was however much higher, although many peripheral expenses were saved because of the army's involvement, officials involved in the project said.

On receiving training, the data entry operators worked for voter listing for four to five months between August 2007 and October 2008, under the supervision of members of the armed forces at field level during the immediate past caretaker government.

With their assistance, the EC completed the landmark task of preparing the current

voter list with photographs in early October registering over eight crore voters, and simultaneously prepared the same number of national identity cards for the voters.

The commission also has the electronic database of the eight crore voters, which perhaps will be one of the largest electronic databases of electoral rolls in the world, while being definitely the largest among developing countries.

The new voter list played a pivotal role in holding the ninth parliamentary election in a free and fair manner, drawing appreciation from all over the world.

The EC is now going to recruit data entry operators again for correcting and revising the voter list from June this year. But this time, only 3,000 to 4,000 operators will be recruited through tests, considering the size of the job, which might continue for four to five months.

A number of senior officials, who were engaged in preparing the voter list with photographs, were also thinking back then whether another project could be taken to generate employment for the trained data entry operators at district and upazila levels, sources in the voter listing project said.

"But the idea could not develop much since everybody was busy focusing on the task in hands," a senior official said.

After the voter list was ready, every data entry operator was given a certificate in recognition of his or her work, which might help them in getting jobs, the official said adding that a very few of them might already have managed work by now.

Asked whether the private sector showed any interest in recruiting them, a senior official in the voter listing project said the private sector did not show much interest yet.

"A very few private entrepreneurs communicated with me seeking to recruit data entry operators trained by the project. A very few of them however got jobs in private firms," the official said.

Obama to meet ME leaders to talk peace

AFP, Washington

The White House yesterday named the dates for a trio of summits that will pitch President Barack Obama deep into Middle East peacemaking with the leaders of Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians on May 18, 26 and 28.

The talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas will set the stage for Obama's crucial address to the Islamic world in Egypt on June 4.

The talks will be watched for signs of discord between Obama and the new mainly right-wing Netanyahu government, which is yet to commit to the US goal of a Palestinian state and wants to prioritize efforts to confront Iran.

"The president looks forward to welcoming key partners in the effort to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East to the White House later this month," said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs in a statement.

Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel will visit on May 18, President Mubarak of Egypt will visit on May 26, and president Abbas of the Palestinian Authority will visit on May 28.

"With each of them, the president will discuss ways the United States can strengthen

and deepen our partnerships, as well as the steps all parties should take to help achieve peace between Israelis and Palestinians and between Israel and the Arab states."

The looming visits to Washington, as the Obama administration solidifies its Middle East policy, have set off a flurry of diplomacy and jockeying for position among key players in the region.

Jordan's King Abdullah II, who last month was the first Arab leader to meet Obama in the White House, warned in an interview with the Times newspaper of London on Monday that war could break out next year without an Arab-Israeli peace deal.

Netanyahu meanwhile met in Egypt with Mubarak on Monday, and said he wanted to resume peace talks with the Palestinians within weeks -- but avoided any mention of a two-state solution to the conflict.

Mubarak in turn said after meeting Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in the Red Sea resort of Sharm-El Sheikh Tuesday that Palestinian factions must unite before they could expect to achieve the creation of a state.

Cairo has played a mediating role between Abbas's Fatah faction and the rival Islamist Hamas movement, which have been bitterly

divided after Hamas seized Gaza in a week of deadly factional fighting in June 2007.

In another possible sign of friction between the United States and Israel, a senior Israeli official told AFP Tuesday that Netanyahu will tell Obama next week he wants to keep building in existing settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The United States has called for Israel to stop construction of settlements, one of the main obstacles in the stalled peace process.

In another sign of tensions, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal warned Tuesday that a reported Israeli plan to raze Palestinian homes in east Jerusalem and surround the city with Jewish-controlled sites was "dangerous."

Prince Saud said the moves reflect Netanyahu's "extreme position" on the Arab-backed two-states peace plan for the region.

The peace plan calls for the Palestinians and Israelis to share Jerusalem as the capital of both states.

On Sunday, an Israeli rights group said the government has secret plans to surround Jerusalem's Old City with sites under its control to strengthen its hold on the divided city.

The plan would involve razing Palestinian homes built without permits in east Jerusalem.

3 more public universities

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Prof Nazrul Islam told UNB yesterday.

The three in the public sector are: Rangamati University of Science and Technology in the hill district of Rangamati, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib University in Gopalganj and another in Barisal which is yet to be named.

The three proposed private universities are: Exim University Bangladesh, BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology, and Dhaka University of Technology, according to UGC officials.

Asked about the high-powered committee for redistribution of colleges under the National University, Prof Nazrul said the panel may extend its timeframe by three more months to submit its report to the government.

"We try to work in consistency with the newly constituted national education policy formulation committee to submit our report," said the UGC chairman.

He informed that the committee was formed to redistribute the 1,800 graduate and postgraduate colleges in six regions of the country for smooth conduct of higher education under the affiliating university.

"The committee also proposed to establish the National University as a full-fledged university," he said.

Asked about control over the mushrooming private universities, the UGC chairman said after passage of the Private University Ordinance into a law in the next parliament session, they can be able to impose some restrictions on different issues, like tuition fee hike and ask for enhancing infrastructure and educational facilities.

Nazrul said the ordinance was promulgated by the past caretaker government and published as gazette notification, but it had been back to the UGC for a revision in consultation with all stakeholders.

"We are going to arrange a meeting with the guardians, teachers and governing bodies of the private universities and educationists this month," he added.

The new legislation, one of the reform measures, is meant for upgrading the standard of education in the private universities at affordable costs as well as bringing them under proper management.

Khaleda's petition

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petition.

Moudud Ahmed, another counsel for Khaleda, yesterday told reporters that the crisis seems to have been resolved with acceptance of his client's petition for hearing by the bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury.

Mentioning Khaleda's letter asking the government to withdraw the show-cause notice by Friday, he said if the government opts not to comply with it, they will file a supplementary petition.

Of the four judges, one has explained in writing and one verbally the reasons for their declining to hear the petition. But the other two have yet to say why they felt embarrassed, said Moudud, also former law minister.

Khaleda, also leader of the opposition, filed the petition on May 3, seeking a stay on the decision to cancel the allotment of her cantonment residence and a rule upon the government to explain why its decision should not be declared illegal.

The same day two benches felt embarrassed to entertain the petition, Justice Zinat Ara and Justice AKM Abdul Hakim adjourned hearing on the attorney general's assurance that the authorities would not move in a week to

evict Khaleda from the house.

Then on May 10, Justice AKM Abdul Hakim felt embarrassed to hear the petition, prompting the chief justice to refer the matter to the bench of Justice M Anwarul Haque and Justice Farah Mahbub.

The following day, Anwarul Haque, senior judge of the bench, said he would not hear the petition, as he thinks he is disqualified to do so.

In response to the developments, the chief justice sent the petition to Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury.

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions. For detailed Job Description for each position, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

1. Contracts Officer, NO-B, S&P Section (Fixed Term)
2. Supply Assistant, GS-4 (Fixed Term)

Last date of receiving applications: 24 May 2009

QUALIFIED FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

www.unicef.org.bd

unite for children

unicef

Training on Technical Report Writing for Government Officials Requests for Proposals

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) seeks a qualified Bangladeshi organization or individual to provide training on technical report writing to Bangladesh Government officials. This work will be contracted under the USAID-funded Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) Project.

Objective. To increase the technical writing skills of government officials and the quality of reports written in government offices involved in expenditure auditing and oversight.

Tasks. The selected organization/individual will complete the following tasks:

- Needs assessment of training participants;
- Develop training curriculum and materials;
- Conduct training courses for a total of 50 participants. The training should occur in three phases with each phase an estimated 12 hours of instructions.

Proposals. Interested organizations/individuals should submit proposals including the following information [maximum 8 pages]:

1. Cover letter, with address details, contact information and contact person [1 page].
2. Organizational profile, including management structure and staff expertise in related areas of work [3 pages].
3. Qualifications, presenting similar project undertaken as lead firm in last five years, include information on task and outputs client reference information, and period of engagement [1 page].
4. Method and technical approach, describing how you will conduct the required tasks and including explanation of roles and responsibilities of all persons proposed for the work [3 pages].
5. Present a detailed timeline for completing the tasks noted above.
6. Provide clear and detailed budget estimates for all labor, travel and material costs necessary to complete all tasks [not included in proposal page limits].

Proposals will be assessed on both technical and cost proposals. Do not include attachments or promotional documents with your submission. Note that this enlistment does not in any way commit DAI to enter into contact or partnership with any organization.

PROGATI will host a bidder's conference to answer questions regarding this RFP. The bidder's conference will be held at 15:00 hours on Tuesday May 19 at House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka.

Electronic submissions are encouraged, and should be sent to progati01@yahoo.com with "Technical Report Writing" in the subject line. Written submission should be delivered to House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka in sealed envelop addressed to "PROGATI Grants Manager". All submissions are due by 14:00 hours on 25 May 2009. Only short listed organizations/individuals will be contacted.



Directorate of Continuing Education (DCE)
Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology

BUET

A short course on
Remote Sensing and GIS in Water Management

will be held during 06-08 June, 2009
at DCE, BUET. Course Fee Tk.4500/person

For more information:

Office : DCE, BUET Tel: 8620738
BUET PABX 9665650-80 Ext.7503 Fax : 8620738
email: dircce@dce.buet.ac.bd Mob 01818-662932

GD-2439

মোহাম্মদপুরস্থ "এফ" ব্লকের জমি ক্রয় বিক্রয়ের সতর্কবাণী

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অজান্তেই জনা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বতন ভবন নির্মাণের জন্য মোহাম্মদপুরস্থ "এফ" ব্লকের অত্যাধীন সরকারি জমি কাঁচপয় অসাব্য ব্যক্তিগণ দখল দখল ও কাগজপত্র ভেদী করে অধিভুক্তি সাধন করে নিকট বিক্রয়ের প্রচেষ্টায় রত আছে। সেহেতবে সর্বসাধারণকে এ ধরনের অধিভুক্তি ক্রয়-বিক্রয় হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

এমতাবস্থায় যদি কোন ব্যক্তি উক্ত এলাকার সরকারি জমি ক্রয় করে প্রচারিত হন সেহেতবে এনিমিত্ত জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন দায়-দায়িত্ব বহন করবে না।

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ডিডি-২৪১০



Department of Geography and Environment
Jahangirnagar University
Savar, Dhaka-1342, Bangladesh

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN GIS

Admission Notice

The Department of Geography and Environment, Jahangirnagar University is inviting applications for admission into a four-week long training course in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) during this summer. GIS is an exciting and fast-growing field with a broad range of applications. This intensive course will provide participants with an opportunity to learn both theoretical and applied aspects of GIS, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and Remote Sensing (RS) techniques using state-of-the-art software. The Department of Geography and Environment at Jahangirnagar University has excellent laboratory facilities and a team of experienced GIS and Remote Sensing experts with foreign masters and doctoral degrees. The Department reserves the right to limit enrollment in the certificate course.

Course Details

- Course Title: Certificate course in Geographic Information Systems
- Starting Date: **June 1, 2009** Course Timing: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Minimum Qualification: Graduate with computer literacy
- Course Fee: Taka 25,000/- (Taka Twenty five thousand) only (includes lunch & tea)
- Registration Deadline: **May 28, 2009** (Admission will be given on a first come first serve basis)

For further information and application form please contact:

Professor Sajed Ashraf Karim

Coordinator, GIS Certificate Course

Telephone: 7791421, Mobile: 01824516004

e-mail: sajed@juniv.edu; sajedk@gmail.com



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)



UNDP
Bangladesh

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks quotations from interested and well qualified Companies to Supply following items for the CHTDF Project,

1. HF Mobile Radio
2. VHF Mobile Radio
3. Magnetic base mobile antenna
4. VHF walkie-talkie

The RFQ solicitation documents can be downloaded from UNDP website: http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php

The deadline for submission of RFQ is **28th May 2009 (Thursday) 05:00 pm (Local Time)**



JAGANNATH UNIVERSITY

Faculty Recruitment

Ref : JnU/Admin.-13(08)/4140

Date : 11 May, 2009

Applications are hereby invited from the citizens of Bangladesh to fill-up the following permanent posts of **Associate Professor**. Applications must be in prescribed form which will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Scale of pay : 15000-600x8-19800/-

Departments : (a) **Zoology** : 01 (one); (b) **Political Science** : 01 (one)

Candidates must have high academic qualifications preferably a Ph.D. or an equivalent degree. They should have at least 7 (seven) years teaching and research experience in a University or an Institute of Advanced Research. They should have original research works published in recognized research journals. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of University activities especially in guiding overall educational and co-curricular activities of the students will also be treated as additional qualification.

- * Candidates having third division/class in any examination should not apply.
- * Candidates in service must apply through proper channel.
- * Applications must reach on or before **30/05/2009** during office hour.

The following documents must be enclosed with the application :

- * Pay order/Bank draft of Tk. 400/- (non-refundable) in favour of **Treasurer, Jagannath University, Dhaka.**
- * Attested copy of certificates, mark-sheets and experience certificate.

F. Rahma - Registrar