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Swine flu infection rises to 604

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of swine flu patients has risen to 604 in the country since the first case was detected on June 18, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) confirmed yesterday.

Even two weeks back the number of patients was 372 and by now the pandemic has spread over 21 districts. Though the cumulative effect of the flu resulted in increase in number of patients, it showed a downward trend, said IEDCR Director Prof Mahmudur Rahman at a press briefing. Three people died from H1N1 virus so far but in last 14 days, no death case has been observed, he added.

"The patients were suffering from mild syndrome and of the total, 14.7 percent patients needed to be kept

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Lifters feast on public libraries

Over 40,000 books gone missing in decades; sheer negligence of authorities blamed

ALPHA ARZU

Over 40,000 books of the public libraries across the country have gone missing in the past 41 years, thanks to the negligence of authorities in preserving rare books and manuscripts.

The number of books, newspapers and bulletins stolen from 68 public libraries is more than 40,000 as there was no effective system to make inventories of the books in those libraries, sources at cultural affairs ministry said.

The Director General of Directorate of Public Libraries, Nur Hussain Talukder, admitted the fact and said people involved in pinching books don't realise their importance.

Sources at the directorate said they already started enumerating the stock in 68 public libraries across the country in October 2005 following information that a huge number of

books went missing since the launch of the public library in 1968.

Before the Independence, the directorate made inventory of the books thrice, but no report was submitted in this regard.

Stocktaking should be done annually, said a library official, adding that manpower shortage hampers the annual counts.

The total collection of the directorate is around 1,75,000, and three to five percent books go missing annually, said a high official.

The Central Public Library renamed as Sufia Kamal National Public Library installed 12 closed-circuit televisions (CCTV) in its reading room to prevent book lifting. These CCTVs have long been out of order.

The book lifting increased manifold after the 24-hour service was initiated on July 26, 2003.

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This photo of Central Public Library shows almost empty shelves. Thousands of books of public libraries across the country have gone missing in the past 41 years.

PHOTO: STAR

Bijoya Dashami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five-day long Durga Puja finally comes to an end today through the celebration of Bijoya Dashami after performing the sacred rituals of Sashthi, Saptami, Ashtami and Navami.

Bijoya Dashami will, end with the idols of Mother Goddess and her four children-- Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesha--taken in processions for immersion in river or sea.

As the twilight approaches, devotees irrespective of men, women and children join a long procession to the riverbanks or sea to immerse the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks during a discussion on world approach to food security organised by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in New York Saturday. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: PID

Controlling Ctg was their target

Mohiduddin, SQ Chy met for personal gains, not for party's

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury of Awami League and BNP stalwart Salauddin Quader Chowdhury held a meeting recently to keep dominating politics in the port city rekindling acrimony between factions in their parties.

Insiders of both parties said the meeting was held to reach an agreement between the two apparent political foes on helping each other for keeping their firm hold on Chittagong city politics. However, both the leaders denied it and said they met at Mohiuddin's home during

Eid holidays as relatives.

Even though both the leaders have been enjoying dominance in their parties' Chittagong units for years, their positions have been waning centrally. Neither Mayor Mohiuddin, president of AL's Chittagong city unit, nor SQ Chowdhury has any post in their party's central committees. They have grudge against their party high commands, sources said.

Sources in the AL and BNP said these two leaders do not care for implementing party decisions since they enjoy strong political

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Depression over Bay

UNB, Dhaka

Deep convection is taking place over north Bay and adjoining coastal areas of Bangladesh under the influence of the low over the north-west Bay and adjoining west central Bay, said a Met Office bulletin last night.

"Squally weather may affect the maritime ports and the coastal regions of Bangladesh," it warned.

Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla seaports have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

Shafiq on 1972 charter

UNB, Dhaka

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said if the original 1972 Constitution revives following the nullification of the Fifth Amendment, the four fundamental state principles--democracy, nationalism, secularism and socialism--would be restored concomitantly.

He said restoration of the basic spirit of the War of Liberation enshrined in the 1972 Constitution is not the end-all rather more areas under the Constitution are amendable and the government contemplates bringing

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Jalil earns kudos from BNP

But faces party music over London antics at Oct 3 meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran Awami League leader Abdul Jalil, who faces disciplinary action from the party for his controversial remark, receives high praise from rival BNP leaders.

In an interview with London-based Bangla TV, former AL general secretary Jalil said the party's landslide victory in the ninth parliamentary election came through an "understanding".

AL plans to make a decision on the issue at its next central working committee meeting slated for October 3.

When asked about the possible actions against the veteran party leader, AL presidium member Matia Chowdhury yesterday told reporters, "A decision on this matter will be made at the party's central working committee meeting on October 3."

Acting AL President Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said Jalil's remark would not be able to tarnish the image of a big political

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Iran's missile tests stoke nuke tension

AFP, Tehran

Iran test-fired three short-range missiles yesterday as the Islamic republic began war games two days after the UN nuclear watchdog disclosed it was building a second uranium enrichment plant.

Hossein Salami, air force commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, said that on Monday there would also be a test-firing of the long-range Shahab 3 missile which Iran says has a range of 1,300-2,000 kilometres (800-1,240 miles) and could hit arch-foe Israel.

"Tomorrow we will test the long-range Shahab-3 missile," he told state television.

He also told reporters, without elaborating, that the Guards tested a "multiple missile launcher for the first time" on Sunday and that later in the day Shahab-1 and Shahab-2 medium-range missiles would be

test-fired.

Iran's Fars news agency said the multiple launcher could fire two missiles aimed at separate targets simultaneously.

Salami called the manoeuvres an "indication" of Iran's "strong will to defend our values and interests."

"This exercise has a message of friendship for friendly countries. For greedy countries that seek to intimidate us, the message is that we are capable of a prompt and crushing response to their animosity," state television website quoted him as saying.

Dismissing Israel as a potential threat, Salami said: "That regime is not in a position that we need to comment about threats from it."

He said Iran has "increased the precision of our missiles... hopefully, these missile tests will contribute to our deterrent and defensive capabilities."

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VAT on health bill still in force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most private hospitals and clinics are charging patients Value Added Tax, violating a High Court order, since the VAT Act 1991 is still in force.

The National Board of Revenue, which looks after realising VAT from citizens, has not given hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres any instructions to break the stalemate arising out of the contradiction between the HC order and the VAT act.

NBR's Member (VAT) Mannan Patwary yesterday told The Daily Star, "We are taking steps to appeal in the court against the

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This road in Senpara Parbata of Mirpur in the capital has garbage dumped on the side, mud in the middle and a drain too to make it unusable for any vehicles.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Roads hardly exist

HELEMLU ALAM

A loaded pushcart struggled for at least half an hour to cross only 50 yards and that too with the help of locals, as the road it was passing through was extremely rough and rutted.

The road is located behind Shah Ali Market in Senpara Parbata. Like this one, many more run-down streets of the locality have remained neglected by the authorities concerned over the last five years adding woes to local residents.

Like Senpara roads, different roads of Shewrapara, Kazipara, Pirererbagh and Barobagh are also in a very bad state.

Hasnath, a resident of Kazipara Aroplane Goli, said the residents of the area have been suffering for quite a long time for the poor condition of the road.

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OnlinePoll

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain that Awami League wants to scrap CG system to prolong power?

Yes (49.4%)
No (46.6%)
No Comments (4.0%)

Total votes: 1353

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the law enforcement agencies' wholesale arrest following the bomb hoax in the capital?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

September 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-15	5-30
Maghrib	7-00	7-05
Esha	8-30	9-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

কুলখানী

বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি ও চৌধুরী শিল্প গোষ্ঠীর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম জনাব আলহাজ্ব আব্দুল কাদের চৌধুরীর সহধর্মীণী আলহাজ্ব সেরাজা খাতুন গত ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইল্লা লিল্লাহি..... রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৯৭ বৎসর। তিনি ছেলে, মেয়ে, নাতী, নাতনী ও প্রচুর আত্মীয়-স্বজন রেখে গেছেন। তাঁর পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে আগামী ২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর বাদ আসর ৩-০০মি. পশ্চিম ধানমন্ডি, সাতমসজিদ রোডে নিজ বাস ভবনে স্বতমে কোরআন ও কুলখানীর আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের উক্ত মাহফিলে শরীক হয়ে মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার শান্তি ও মাগফেরাতের জন্য দোআ করার অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

পক্ষে
পরিবারবর্গ