

Bird flu claims sixth victim this year

JAKARTA: A 17-year old construction worker has died of bird flu on Indonesia's Lombok island, the sixth death from the virulent disease this year, a health ministry official said yesterday. The man developed fever on Feb 28 and was admitted to a local hospital five days later where he died on March 9, the ministry's head of animal-borne infectious disease control said. "A laboratory result confirmed that he tested positive for the bird flu virus," Rita Kusriastuti said, adding that the man contracted the H5N1 virus from poultry living around his house.