



An Iraqi protester falls down after being hit by a tear gas canister amid clashes with riot police on Mohammad al-Qasim highway in east Baghdad, yesterday. An Iraqi protester was killed yesterday in Baghdad, medics said, where angry youth have reignited their anti-government protest movement by shutting roads to pressure authorities to implement long-awaited reforms.

PHOTO: AFP

Virus spreads, fear grows

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Wuhan. The coronavirus has caused alarm because of its genetic similarities to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

At four airports in Thailand, authorities introduced mandatory thermal scans of passengers arriving from high-risk areas of China. Anyone exhibiting signs of fever will be quarantined for 24 hours for monitoring.

Around 1,300 passengers are expected each day in Thailand from Wuhan over Chinese New Year, which starts on Friday.

In Hong Kong, where memories of SARS still haunt the city, authorities said they were on "extreme high alert", with passengers from Wuhan required to fill out health declarations and face possible jail time if they do not declare symptoms.

"We are ... preparing for the worst. We have not lowered our guard," Hong Kong's number two leader, Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, told reporters.

Taiwan went onto its second-highest alert level for those travelling to and from Wuhan, advising visitors

to avoid visiting any live poultry markets while screening has been stepped up at airports.

Enhanced screening measures have also been set up at airports in Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Singapore, and the United States.

A man showing symptoms of the disease who had travelled to Wuhan has been put in isolation in Australia as health officials await test results, authorities said yesterday.

In China, the government yesterday announced it was classifying the outbreak in the same category as SARS, meaning compulsory isolation for those diagnosed with the disease and the potential to implement quarantine measures on travel.

In Wuhan, authorities banned tour groups and police were conducting spot checks for live poultry or wild animals in vehicles leaving and entering the city, state media said.

Passengers were being screened for fever at the airport, railway stations and bus terminals. Those with fevers would be registered, handed masks and advised to see a doctor, and they would not have to pay to change their tickets.

Zhong Nanshan, a renowned scientist at the National Health Commission, raised the alarm when

he said on Monday that patients can contract the virus without having visited Wuhan, though he added that it was milder than SARS.

The WHO had previously identified animals as the likely primary source, but had warned of "some limited human-to-human transmission".

Doctors at the University of Hong Kong released a study yesterday estimating that there have been 1,343 cases of the new virus in Wuhan. Scientists at Imperial College in London said last week the number was likely closer to 1,700.

The WHO has only called a global public health emergency a handful of times, including during the H1N1 -- or swine flu -- pandemic of 2009 and the Ebola epidemic that devastated parts of West Africa from 2014 to 2016.

The Communist government was accused of covering up the SARS outbreak in 2003 but some foreign experts have praised the swift release of information on this new virus.

"China is willing to continue to deepen international cooperation, join hands with the international community to respond to the epidemic, and jointly maintain regional and global health security," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters.

Talks on BBIN vehicle deal to resume

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seems to have changed its stance and now shows its interest in the initiative, said a Bangladeshi official involved in the initiative.

On June 15, 2015, aiming to make a route for seamless flow of passenger and cargo traffic in the region, the MVA was signed at the BBIN transport ministers meeting in Bhutan.

The initiative got a setback in November 2016 when Bhutan stepped out of the BBIN process amid severe domestic opposition to the agreement, primarily on fears of vehicular pollution and environmental degradation.

Bhutan, however, asked the other stakeholders to go ahead

with the plan and expressed hope to join it after clearance from its parliament.

Against the backdrop, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal in April 2018 went for a trial run of a tri-nation bus service to scrutinise in detail all aspects of the journey. Officials of the three countries took part in the bus trip.

The 1,100km route was Dhaka-Rangpur-Banglabandha-Siliguri (India)-Kakarvitta (Nepal)-Bharatpur-Katmandu, said officials.

Currently, Bangladesh has a bus route with India only.

The officials were supposed to submit a report with necessary recommendations and based on

the report, a protocol will be inked before a regular bus service starts, officials said at the inauguration of the trial run in Dhaka.

But Nepal reportedly backtracked on the initiative at that time.

Before signing of the protocol, the three countries have to ink a "memorandum of understanding" to go ahead with the tri-nation approach, said the Bangladeshi official.

Bangladesh approved the draft of "memorandum of understanding" prepared by India, but Nepal did not agree with it, the official told this newspaper.

No meeting was held after the trial run, he said, adding, "I have heard

that Nepalese officials will attend the JWG meeting and their stance would be clear at the meeting."

In October last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met her Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli on the sidelines of the 18th NAM Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Asked about the BBIN issue after the meeting, then foreign secretary Shahidul Haque said Bhutan had a problem in implementing the initiative, but Nepal agreed to execute it.

In this connection, Hasina said, "We've raised the issue before India, and Nepal could also raise it before New Delhi and we could operationalise the BBIN through it."

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Trump lawyers 48 hours, evenly split, to present their arguments over four days. Opening arguments are expected to begin this week and could well run into each night.

Under the resolution, lawyers for Trump could move early in the proceedings to ask senators to dismiss all charges, a senior Republican leadership aide said, a motion that would likely fall short of the support needed to succeed.

"That is not a fair trial. In fact, it is no trial at all," the seven House Democrats who will set out the case against Trump said in a statement on Tuesday.

"A White House-driven and rigged process, with a truncated schedule designed to go late into the night and further conceal the President's misconduct, is not what the American people expect or deserve," they wrote.

Senate Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer told CNN that Democrats would seek amendments.

McConnell has repeatedly said the rules for the trial would mirror those the Senate used in the 1999 impeachment of then-President Bill Clinton, and Republican senators have not ruled out the possibility of further witness testimony and evidence.

Votes could take place as early as Tuesday on the rules, including deciding whether the Senate should at a later date consider subpoenas for witnesses, such as Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in a statement, said the Republicans' plan would force the trial into the "dark of night" and accused McConnell of choosing "a cover-up for the president, rather than honor his oath to the Constitution."

"Every Senator who supports this sham process must be held accountable to the American people," added Pelosi, who formally kicked off the House impeachment investigation in September.

Republican Senator John Cornyn said on Twitter that the House's investigation had been "tainted and half-baked" and that Democrats were to blame for any issues in the Senate trial.

The Senate trial is expected to continue six days a week, Monday through Saturday, until at least the end of January.

At the heart of the impeachment trial is Trump's request to Ukraine

in July to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a top Democratic contender to face Trump in the 2020 election, and his son Hunter.

Democrats accuse Trump of pressuring a vulnerable ally to interfere in US elections at the expense of American national security and say he needs to be removed from office because he is a danger to American democracy and national security.

Trump and his legal team, which includes White House counsel Pat Cipollone, say there was no pressure and that the Democrats' case is based on hearsay. They say the president did nothing wrong and that Democrats are simply trying to stop him from being re-elected.

During his bilateral meeting with the President of the European Commission in Davos, Switzerland yesterday, Trump called the trial a hoax.

"That whole thing is a hoax," he said. "It goes nowhere because nothing happened. The only thing we've done is a great job."

Cops find

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Bureau of Investigation yesterday, MKH Jahangir Hossain, additional superintendent of police of the PBI, said they analysed mobile phone call lists, government records, and statements of two of the accused during the over four-month long probe.

But it was not primarily proved that SI Khairul was present at the victim's house on September 3.

DNA tests were conducted on all the four accused and the test results showed that only one of the accused was involved in the incident, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the victim said, "I have no complaint against police."

She declined to make further comments.

The rape incident came to light after the victim, a mother of two, talked to reporters while receiving treatment at a Jashore hospital.

A day after filing the rape case against the four, she claimed that though she had identified Khairul as her rapist, she did not name him in the case out of fear when senior police officers had brought the SI before her.

Later, police arrested three of the accused -- Abdul Quader, 40; Kamruzzaman Kamrul, 40, and Abdul Latif, 50.

Our Benapole correspondent contributed to this report.

AL MP Ismat Ara Sadique

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Minister MA Mannan, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan and Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury also expressed profound grief over her death.

Taking part in the discussion of condolence motion, Hasina said after the death of Ismat's husband ASHK Sadique, she requested Ismat to contest in the ninth general election.

"She was a little nervous about whether she would be able to tackle the pressure. I told her that she could win the election, and she won," the

PM said.

Hasina said at first she made Ismat the state minister for primary and mass education and then the state minister for public administration.

Ismat carried out all her duties with honesty, Hasina said.

"Honesty, sincerity and integrity were her great qualities," the PM added.

Ismat had undertaken so many works for the development of her constituency, Hasina said, adding that the lawmaker provided electricity connections to all houses

in Keshabpur, from where she was elected an MP for twice.

Senior treasury and opposition bench MPs including Tofail Ahmed, Abdus Shahid, Swapan Bhattacharjee, Rowshan Ara Mannan, among others also took part in the discussion where they discussed various aspects of late Ismat's life.

Later, prayer seeking eternal peace of the departed soul was offered in the House.

Her first-namaz-e-janaza was held at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban last afternoon.

After the janaza, President Hamid, PM Hasina and Speaker Shirin, among others, laid floral wreaths at her coffin.

Body of the lawmaker was taken to her constituency last night. Ismat's body will be taken to Bogura today and will be buried at their family graveyard, sources at the parliament said.

Ismat was born in Bhogoti village of Jashore's Keshabpur upazila on December 12, 1942.

She left a son, a daughter and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Cows can talk!

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"It all relates back to their emotions and what they are feeling at the time," she said.

Previous research has found cattle mothers and offspring communicate through individuality in their lowing.

However, this new study has detailed how cows keep their individual moo throughout their lives, even when talking among themselves.

It found the animals studied would speak to each other during their sexually active period, while waiting for or denied food and when kept separate from the group.

The University of Sydney research, which has been published in Scientific Reports, recorded and analysed 333

samples of cow vocalisations.

"Ali's research is truly inspired. It is like she is building a Google translate for cows," said Cameron Clark, an associate professor at the university.

Ms Green said she hoped her research would help farmers "tune into the emotional state of their cattle, improving animal welfare".

A 2018 study found that animals communicate with each other in a similar way to humans.

Taking turns in conversations had previously been considered something that distinguished the human language from the way animals talk to each other -- but this research found the characteristic exists throughout the animal kingdom.

French police arrest seven for terror plot

AFP, Paris

Security forces on Monday arrested seven men believed to be planning a terror attack in France and preparing to travel to conflict zones in Iraq and Syria, sources close to the case told AFP.

They were detained by France's DCSI domestic intelligence agency in the western coastal city of Brest and the surrounding Finistere region.

Some of the men were on the country's "Fiche S" list of potential security risks because of their links with Islamic extremists, one of the sources said.

Investigations will continue to determine how far the suspects had advanced in their plans for the attack and flight to the Middle East.

+CIFRC

Motel Labonee, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Motel Road, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT-TENDER NOTICE

DATED: 22/01/2020

1	Sourcing entity	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
2	Seeking	IFRC invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced bidders for the supply and provision of the following goods and services.
3	Reference Category	Description
4	Shelter housing construction	Agreement for Construction of Shelter houses. Expected quantity is 35 houses, Location is Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar District for Union host community.
5	Shelter housing framework	Framework Agreement for Construction of Shelter houses. Expected quantity is 2495 houses, Location is Kutupalong, Camp 12, Block A and B for Displaced People from Myanmar.
11	Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	Interested bidders must fulfill the following requirements: 1. Have an updated business registration certificate. 2. Recent Tax compliance certificate and TIN. 3. Evidence of providing similar goods or services. 4. Solvency letter from the bank confirming your bank account. 5. Audited financial statements for the last 3 years. 6. Bank statement for 1 year up-to-date. 7. Evidence of providing similar goods or services in the last 3 years.

Documents to be filled in provided by IFRC;
8. Tender documents (Request for quotation or proposal).
9. IFRC Supplier registration form (to be filled in signed and stamped).
10. IFRC General terms and conditions (to be signed and stamped).
11. IFRC Specifications for the requested goods (to be acknowledged).
12. IFRC Terms of reference in case of services (to be acknowledged).
13. IFRC Pricing Template (to be filled in signed and stamped).

A Tender Guarantee (an amount equal to 2.5% of the tender value) must be submitted with the tender by way of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from a recognized scheduled bank. A Bank Guarantee will not be accepted.

12	Designation and contact of official inviting Expression of Interest	All interested companies or businesses can request for the tender document and instructions on requirements and submission by email to the IFRC PMO Procurement Delegate on gela.tsuladze@ifrc.org . The email subject should quote the reference category. E.g. "Tender Request for Shelter Housing Construction". Inquiries should be requested in writing and response will also be in writing.
13	Deadline and instructions	Launch date for the various tender(s) is 23 January 2020. The Deadline for submission is 05 February 2020, 5pm Bangladesh time. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Any tender containing false/fabricated certificates will be rejected. IFRC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof. IFRC does not require any payment for issuing tender documents or receiving the tender submissions and will not be held responsible for payments made by your companies to third parties.

Head of Cox's Bazar Sub-Office
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Bangladesh, 22nd January 2020

D-19

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka- 1208

Local Tender Notice

Tender ref.: EDCL(Bogura)/PUR/PT/2020/27 **Dated. 21/01/2020**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the genuine importers/suppliers for supply & installation of following items for EDCL, Bogura on urgent basis:

Name of Items	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
Supply & installation of 01 (one) no Pharmaceutical Garments Drying Machine & 01 (one) no Garments Washing Machine. (Details as per technical specification)	Tk. 2.5% of quoted amount	Tk.1000.00/set (Non refundable)	Closing : 11/02/2020 At 12.00 noon Opening : 11/02/2020 At 12.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of **Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL)**, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Limited" without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

Essential Drugs Company Limited authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager
Procurement Deptt.
For : Managing Director