

**FAILURE OF SELF-ISOLATION OVER VIRUS**

# Moscow threatens jail terms of 5 yrs

AGENCIES

Moscow city authorities yesterday threatened prison terms of up to five years for people failing to self-isolate in their homes for two weeks after visiting countries hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak.

The city government had announced a "high alert regime" and imposed extra measures on Thursday to prevent a spread of the illness in the Russian capital.

Those who return from China, South Korea, Iran, France, Germany, Italy and Spain and other states showing possible "unfavourable" signs of coronavirus should self-isolate themselves at home for 14 days, Moscow city hall said.

The Moscow healthcare department said yesterday that those disregarding the regulation risked severe punishment including imprisonment of up to five years, reports Reuters.

There have been 15 cases of coronavirus infections reported in Russia so far. Russia has closed its borders to foreign travellers from Iran. The country similarly closed crossings along its border with China last month as the virus spread there.

Compared to other countries fighting the spread of the virus - particularly China, South Korea and Italy - the Russian government has been relatively quiet about the spread of the virus within its borders and its plans to tame the epidemic. Putin on Thursday blasted what he considered false rumors that the coronavirus is running rampant across Russia in an attempt "to spread panic among the public."

Russia as of Friday afternoon reportedly had four confirmed cases of the coronavirus, according to an online tracker maintained by Johns Hopkins University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering. But the country has reportedly quarantined hundreds of people, employing raids and facial recognition software to find cases of potential infection.



Medical staff members wearing protective gear carry a patient infected with the coronavirus at a hospital in Seoul, South Korea yesterday. Hundreds of churches across South Korea closed their doors yesterday and held online services as the country reported its lowest number of new coronavirus cases in more than a week. Most of the country's infections are linked to the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a religious sect often condemned as a cult. One of its members attended at least four services before being diagnosed.

PHOTO: AFP

## Saudi releases king's photos after purge over 'coup plot'

Saudi Arabia released images of King Salman carrying out his royal duties yesterday, after a stunning purge of at least three princes including his brother and nephew for allegedly plotting a coup. Saudi royal guards on Friday detained the trio, multiple sources told AFP, in a move that signals Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's tightening grip on power. The detentions also raised speculation about the health of the 84-year-old king and whether Prince Mohammed's succession to the Arab world's most powerful throne was imminent. But the official Saudi Press Agency posted photos of the king presiding over the swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed Saudi ambassadors to Ukraine and Uruguay. A source close to the Saudi leadership told AFP on Saturday the "king is healthy and fine" and the detentions were meant to enforce "discipline" within the royal family. The crown prince is "in control" and the purge was carried out "after an accumulation of negative behaviour by the two princes", this source added without elaborating.

## Malaysia, Thailand bar cruise ship over virus fears

Malaysia and Thailand have barred a cruise ship carrying about 2,000 people, including dozens of Italians, from docking due to fears about the new coronavirus, an official said yesterday. The Costa Fortuna was first turned away from the popular Thai holiday island of Phuket Friday, despite there being no suspected virus cases aboard, according to its operator. Thai authorities had imposed restrictions "on Italians that have transited in Italy in the last 14 days", Costa Cruises said on Twitter. The ship is carrying 64 Italians, according to Malaysian officials. Italy has been hard hit by the virus with more than 230 fatalities, the most deaths from the disease of any country outside China, where the outbreak began in December. On Saturday the vessel tried to dock in the northern Malaysian state of Penang but was also refused entry, local politician Phee Boon Poh told AFP.



## Trump refuses to halt rallies as coronavirus surges

US President Donald Trump signalled Saturday that he has no intention of halting campaign rallies despite surging coronavirus infections, as a case was confirmed for the first time within miles of the White House. The president struck a defiant tone as he spoke to reporters about the outbreak at his Mar a Lago resort in southern Florida, where he was hosting his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro. "We will have tremendous rallies and we're doing very well, and we've done a fantastic job with respect to that subject," Trump responded when asked if his "Keep America Great" campaign events would continue. Trump's remarks came as the number of cases confirmed across the United States leapt past 400, with 19 deaths confirmed so far, mainly in the west coast state of Washington. Meanwhile health authorities announced the first confirmed case in the nation's capital -- a Washington DC resident in his 50s with no history of international travel and no close contacts with anyone known to be infected.

SOURCE: AFP

# 'Get us off this ship'

## Passengers on virus-hit cruise liner off US coast plead as their vacation turns into nightmare

AFP, Los Angeles

It was supposed to be a relaxing cruise with plenty of time to read, take in the sights and sip martinis.

But Carolyn Wright's dream vacation to Hawaii on the Grand Princess quickly turned into a nightmare this week after the vessel became stranded off the coast of San Francisco following a coronavirus outbreak on board.

"Every morning the captain is hoping to tell us where we're gonna land and when we're gonna land, and of course the day drags on and no news," the 63-year-old from New Mexico told AFP on Saturday, three days after passengers were confined to their cabins.

Although passengers initially did not panic on learning the ship might be suffering a rash of COVID-19 infections, the mood has soured as the Grand Princess idles off the coast following news that 21 out of 45 people tested on board had the virus.

"It feels like after three days we ought to at least have a timeline," she sighed.

Echoing criticism by fellow passengers on the handling of the crisis, Wright said it was taking way too long for authorities to decide where the ship should moor and

what to do with the passengers and crew.

"He needs to get us off this ship," she said, referring to US Vice President Mike Pence, who has been put in charge of the government's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. "We are not plague victims."

"There is definitely options that would work as far as getting us off the ship and into some place where we are not putting other people at risk, and where we're not at risk."

Late on Saturday owner Princess Cruises said the ship would dock in nearby Oakland today and begin disembarking passengers in need of "acute medical treatment."

Wright said while she and her traveling companion were lucky enough to have a window in their room, while many more of the 2,422 passengers on board did not have that luxury.

"I feel bad for anyone who has any level of claustrophobia," she said. "I'm starting to think I'm so glad I've never had to go to jail."

She said crew members were trying their best to make the wait bearable by providing complimentary internet, movies and even exercise videos.



Local people distribute food to migrants at their makeshift camp near a bus terminal, as migrants wait to resume their efforts to enter Europe near Pazarkule border gate in the city of Edirne, northwest Turkey yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# 'Open the gates' to migrants

## Erdogan calls on Greece after clashes in border

AFP, Ankara

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he will hold talks in Brussels today as he called on Greece to "open the gates" for migrants at Turkey's border trying to get to Europe.

"I will have a meeting with European Union officials tomorrow (Monday) in Belgium," Erdogan said during a speech in Istanbul yesterday.

He added he would discuss the migration issue after Turkey opened its borders.

"I hope I will return from Belgium with different outcomes."

Turkey repeatedly rails against what it describes as unfair burden-sharing, since around four million mostly Syrian refugees live in Turkey.

In 2016, Turkey and the EU agreed a deal in which Brussels would provide billions of euros in aid in exchange for Turkish authorities preventing the flow of migrants.



But Ankara has repeatedly accused the bloc of not fulfilling promises made as Europe suffered the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War. Over a million people fled to the continent in 2015. Erdogan's top press aide Fahrettin Altun has said one of the unmet conditions was that the EU would take in refugees from Turkey. During the same televised speech, Erdogan urged Greece to open its border after clashes in recent days between migrants and Greek police.

"Hey Greece! I appeal to you... open the gates as well and be free of this burden," he said, adding: "Let them go to other European countries."

Thousands of migrants massed on the land border with Greece after Turkey last month said it would no longer prevent people from leaving the country.

Turkey's decision sparked an escalating row between Ankara and Brussels, as well as a war of words between Turkey and Greece.

But Erdogan on Friday ordered the Turkish coastguard to prevent risky Aegean sea crossings after more than 1,700 migrants landed on Lesbos and four other Aegean islands from Turkey over the past week.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and European Council President Charles Michel met Erdogan in Ankara on Wednesday.

Erdogan has felt extra pressure as nearly a million people in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib fled towards the Turkish border during the recent Syrian regime assault backed by Russia and Iran.

# Time to end lockdown

## Say people of Hubei province as several cities have not recorded any new infections

AFP, Beijing

For days now, several cities at the heart of China's deadly coronavirus epidemic have not recorded any new infections -- so residents such as factory worker Tang Wushan have a message for the authorities: it's time to lift their quarantine.

Tang lives in central Hubei province, whose nearly 60 million residents have been under lockdown since late January as the government rushed to put a lid on a virus that first emerged in the regional capital, Wuhan. He has not stepped out of his home in rural Xiangyang for more than 40 days.

"It's been too long," the 30-year-old told AFP over the phone, adding that he felt like he was "going to have a breakdown".

Yesterday, there were no new cases in the province for a third consecutive day except in Wuhan, which recorded 41 fresh infections. It is the first time that has happened since daily figures were released in January.

There have been no new cases in Xiangyang for 12 consecutive days. Xianning city and Shennongjia Forest District have not had new confirmed patients for 15 straight days.

"There are some areas with no virus cases since the start of the outbreak. I think these areas could gradually reopen," Tang said.

The hashtag "When will Hubei be unblocked" has been read more than 100 million times on China's Twitter-like platform Weibo as of yesterday.

"This situation has messed up my plans," wrote one user. "Can't the province be inspected and people allowed out in batches?"

More than 3,000 people have died and over 80,600 have been infected in China.

The vast majority of deaths and cases have been in Wuhan, where health officials believe the virus first appeared in a market that sold wild animals before spreading around the world.

But the number of new cases has gradually fallen for weeks.

Following China's example, Italy plans to put large parts of the north of the country in lockdown to contain the spread of the new coronavirus.

"China and other countries are demonstrating that spread of the virus can be slowed or even reversed through the implementation of robust containment and control activities," the World Health Organization said Saturday as the global number of cases passed 100,000.

## 'Signing off'

### Modi hands over social media accounts to mark International Women's Day

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday gave prominent women control of his social media accounts to mark International Women's Day in a move critics dismissed as a publicity stunt.

"Greetings on International Women's Day! We salute the spirit and accomplishments of our Nari Shakti. As I'd said a few days ago, I'm signing off. Through the day, seven women achievers will share their life journeys and perhaps interact with you through my social



media accounts," PM Modi tweeted.

A disability activist and a water campaigner were among the women who tweeted from Modi's Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts where he has tens of millions of followers.

Their posts attracted thousands of likes and drew many positive responses across the platforms.

But some rights activists said Modi's government should instead focus on reducing high levels of sexual violence and economic disadvantages faced by women in the largely conservative and patriarchal society.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
 College Education Development Project (CEDP)  
 Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh  
 www.mugmc.edu.bd  
 E-mail: muminunnisagovtmohilacollege@gmail.com, Phone No. 091-67247

### Invitation for Tenders

Issue No-MGMC/CEDP/G-6/2020 Date: 09-03-2020

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.
3	Procuring Entity Name	Principal, Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Mymensingh.
6	Invitation for	Supplying of Fitting, Fixing and installation of Air Conditioner, IPS, Fan (G-6).
7	Invitation Ref No.	MGMC/CEDP/G-6/2020
8	Date	09/03/2020
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).
11	Development Partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12	Project Code	224017200
13	Project Name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).
14	Tender Package No.	G-6
15	Tender Package Name	Supplying of Fitting, Fixing and installation of Air Conditioner, IPS, Fan (G-6).
16	Tender Publication Date	09/03/2020
17	Tender Last Selling Date	24/03/2020
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	25/03/2020 Time 12.00 noon.
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	25/03/2020 Time 12.30pm
20	Name & Address of the office	Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
	Selling Tender Document	Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
	Receiving Tender Document	Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
	Opening Tender Document	Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Will not be held
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum number 05 years general experience in refurbishment activities (renovation/repair/extension) and physical services. The tenderer shall have satisfactory supplying of similar goods of minimum BDT 20,00,000.00 (twenty lac) only under minimum 01 contract in the last 03 years. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital of the tenderer shall be Tk. 24.00 lac.
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Air Conditioner, IPS, Fan, etc.
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Schedule of Requirements and Section 7: Technical Specification of the tender document.
25	Tender Document Price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred).
26	Tender Name	Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion time in days
	Supplying of Fitting, Fixing and installation of Air Conditioner, IPS, Fan (G-6)	Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh. 75,000.00 28 (twenty eight) days
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Md. Abu Taher, Principal, Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Principal, Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal, Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.
30	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 091 67247 Tel: 091-61053 Tel:
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Professor Md. Abu Taher  
 IDG Manager & Principal  
 Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College  
 Mymensingh

GD-451