

'LOCKDOWNS' AROUND THE WORLD

RUBBER BULLETS, BATONS, WHIPS

SOUTH AFRICA: Soldiers towered over youngsters in South Africa's Soweto township, forcing them to do push-ups and roll on the floor as punishment for not adhering to a lockdown meant to halt the spread of coronavirus. Rubber bullets, tear gas and whips have been used to maintain social distancing in shopping queues and to discipline citizens caught outside their homes without any valid reason.

'SHOOT THEM DEAD'

PHILIPPINES: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has told security forces they should shoot dead anyone causing "trouble" in areas locked down due to the coronavirus pandemic. About half the country's roughly 110 million people are currently under quarantine -- including millions in deep poverty, left jobless by tough restrictions on movement.

TOTAL AND PARTIAL SHUTDOWNS

CHINA: Nearly sixty millions of people were caught in Hubei or stuck outside it for two months after China shut down the central province to curb the spread of coronavirus. Residents were barred from leaving homes, requiring them to order food and other supplies online. Several other Chinese cities were also put under a virtual lockdown and travel between provinces was severely limited by the cancellation of long-distance buses and trains.

INDIA: Police have strictly enforced the nationwide lockdown even though PM Modi said essential services would be maintained. Already there have been reports of police beating to death a man who left his house to buy groceries. People venturing out without good reason could be arrested, fined up to 1,000 rupees (US\$19.03) and jailed for as long as six months.

ITALY: The country implemented its first lockdown in late February in 11 municipalities in the north. A nationwide lockdown was put in place on March 9. It has banned all but core strategic activities, while shuttering restaurants, most shops, bars, schools and universities. Anyone caught on the streets without a valid reason risks a fine of up to 3,000 euros (US\$4,697). Authorities have charged more than 40,000 people so far for violating the lockdown.

STAY-HOME ORDERS

THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY: At least 21 states, representing more than half the American population of 330 million, have closed non-essential businesses and told residents to stay home. Despite being the third worst-hit European country after Italy and Spain, Germany has not introduced stringent measures. It has urged the population to stay indoors and limit contact with other people as much as possible.

GENDER-BASED PROHIBITIONS

PANAMA: The Central American country has separated citizens by gender in a stringent effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Starting from April 1, men and women can only leave their homes for two hours at a time, and on different days. Men will be able to go to the supermarket or the pharmacy on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, while women will be allowed out on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Sunday is no-go day for all.

'NO NAGGING' WIFE

MALAYSIA: The Malaysian government was forced to apologize after its Women's Development Department published a series of sexist "tips" to help deal with the ongoing coronavirus lockdown, including advising women to continue to wear makeup and to "avoid nagging." Malaysia has enacted strict nationwide controls locking down all travel in or out of the country and heavily restricting movement within the country.

SOURCE: AFP, THE STRAITS TIMES



A vegetable vendor sets up her stall on a marked area on the floor maintaining social distancing at a bus stand during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus, in Chennai, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

India eyes phased exit

Turns trains, stadiums into isolation wards as COVID-19 cases rise

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will pull out of a three-week lockdown in phases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday, as officials battle to contain the country's biggest cluster of coronavirus infections in the capital, New Delhi.

The shutdown, which has brought Asia's third-largest economy to a shuddering halt, is due to end on April 14.

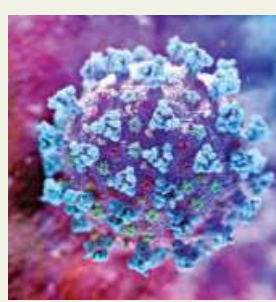
Modi had ordered India's

1.3 billion people indoors to avert a massive outbreak of coronavirus infections, but the world's biggest shutdown has left millions without jobs and forced migrant workers to flee to their villages for food and shelter.

He told state chief ministers that the shutdown had helped limit infections but that the situation remained far from satisfactory around the world and there could be a second wave. India has 1,965 confirmed infections, of whom 50 have died. Health experts have warned that the death toll could surge

CASES AND DEATHS IN SOUTH ASIA

Pakistan	2,291 cases	31 deaths
India	1,965 cases	50 deaths
Sri Lanka	148 cases	3 deaths
Afghanistan	196 cases	4 deaths
Maldives	28 cases	0 deaths
Nepal	6 cases	0 deaths
Bhutan	5 cases	0 deaths



across South Asia, home to a fifth of the world's population and with weak public health systems.

India has begun converting railway carriages and sport stadiums into isolation wards to deal with an anticipated surge in coronavirus cases.

Indian Railways on Wednesday said work had begun on modifying 20,000 carriages into medical facilities, with each carriage containing 16 beds.

This means that a total of 320,000 patients could be cared for in the "quarantine coaches", a statement from the railways said.

Apart from converting railway coaches, Indian states have also begun converting sports stadiums into quarantine facilities and temporary hospitals, taking a cue from other countries which resorted to similar measures to cope with the huge number of cases.

Stadiums in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Assam have been converted into a quarantine centre to deal with the rising numbers of COVID-19 patients.

Should we wear masks or not?

WHO expert panel expected to recommend the protective gear for public

AGENCIES

Should more of us wear face masks to help slow the spread of coronavirus?

Reports said a panel of the World Health Organization will be meeting in coming days to reconsider its decision to tell healthy people not to wear face masks to protect themselves from the coronavirus.

A recent Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) study found that coughs and sneezes can spread virus particles up to 27ft (8m) raising questions about the current safety precautions put forward by health experts including WHO.

The WHO currently does not recommend that people without the illness wear face masks because there is little evidence they help and they would be better used by healthcare workers and patients who test positive.



The WHO recommends keeping a distance of at least 1m from anyone coughing or sneezing to avoid the risk of infection. It advises that healthy people only need to wear them if they are caring for others suspected of being infected or if they themselves are coughing or sneezing.

The UK, along with other countries including the US, advises that social distancing should mean staying at least 2m apart.

This advice is based on evidence showing that viruses can only be transmitted while carried within drops of liquid.

The understanding is that most of those drops will either evaporate or fall to the ground near to the person who released them.

According to Prof David Heymann, head of WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Infectious Hazards advisory panel,

the new research from MIT and other institutions will be evaluated because it suggests that droplets from coughs and sneezes could be projected further than originally thought.

He said that if the evidence is supported, then "it might be that wearing a mask is equally as effective or more effective than distancing."

But he adds a warning that masks need to be worn properly, with a seal over the nose.

He adds that masks need to be worn consistently.

"It's not on to wear a mask and then decide to take it off to smoke a cigarette or eat a meal - it must be worn full time," he said.

Besides the new studies, the use of masks in parts of Asia with relatively low numbers of infections and deaths from the virus, including Japan and Hong Kong, has led some to theorise mask-wearing is making the difference.

Trump doubts China coronavirus numbers

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump cast doubt on the accuracy of official Chinese figures on its coronavirus outbreak after US lawmakers, citing an intelligence report, accused Beijing of a cover up.

"How do we know" if they are accurate, Trump asked at a press conference. "Their numbers seem to be a little bit on the light side."

Republicans in Congress, pointing to a report by Bloomberg citing US intelligence, expressed outrage that Beijing apparently misled the international community on China's infections and deaths that began in late 2019 in the city of Wuhan. China has publicly reported 82,394 confirmed cases and 3,316 deaths as of yesterday, according to a rolling tracker by Johns Hopkins University.

That compares to 216,722 cases and 5,137 deaths in the United States, the country with the world's largest reported outbreak.

Republican Senator Ben Sasse attacked Beijing's numbers as "garbage propaganda." "The claim that the United States has more coronavirus deaths than China is false," Sasse said in a statement.

CHINA COUNTY IN LOCKDOWN

A Chinese county of around 600,000 residents has gone into lockdown after a woman who visited the area tested positive for the coronavirus, underscoring concerns over a second wave of domestic infections.

The tightening comes as China reported 35 new confirmed cases yesterday, drastically down from the peak of the crisis. But they were all imported, bringing the tally of such cases to 841 and adding to fears about infections brought in from overseas.

Jia county in central Henan province said in a social media post Wednesday that it was tightening restrictions on villages and residential compounds, and was not allowing people to enter or leave their homes without the relevant authorisation.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Health Services

Office of the Director, Stores & Supplies

Central Medical Stores Depot

30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Corrigendum

IFT No. CMSD/G-1907/ICT/2019-2020/D-2/71

Dated: 17/02/2020

Procurement of Lab Equipment (NCL)

Invitation for Tender (IFT) No. CMSD/G-1907/ICT/2019-2020/D-2/71 dated 17/02/2020 and the relevant portions of the tender documents is hereby amended to read as under:

Reference	Existing entries	Amended entries
Section 2. Tender Data Sheet (TDS): ITT 36.1, ITT 42.2 & Column of IFT No.10 & 11		
Last selling date	05/04/2020 (during office hours)	21/04/2020 (during office hours)
Tender submission date	11:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 06/04/2020	11:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 22/04/2020
Tender opening date	11:30 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 06/04/2020	11:30 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 22/04/2020

Director (Stores & Supplies) &

Line Director, Procurement, Storage & Supplies Management

of Health Services (PSSM-HS), Central Medical Stores Depot

30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Telephone: 9129231

Fax No.: 88-02-9126547

e-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net

GD-718

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police

Police Telecom & Information Management Headquarters

Police Telecom Bhaban, Rajarbag, Dhaka

www.tim.police.gov.bd

Corrigendum of International Tender Notice

Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs.	
Agency	Bangladesh Police.	
Procuring entity name	SP (Logistics), Police Telecom & Information Management.	
Tender package name	UHF DMR Radio System for FPU.	
Invitation Ref. No.	44.01.0000.057.11.048.19/1286/Betar	
Date	02-03-2020.	
Tender last selling date	13-04-2020.	
Corrected tender last selling date	16-04-2020	
Tender closing date and time	Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	Time
	15-04-2020	11.00am
Tender opening date and time	Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	Time
	15-04-2020	11.30am
Corrected tender closing date and time	19-04-2020	11.00am
Corrected tender opening date and time	19-04-2020	12.00pm

Haroon-ur-Rashid Hazaree

SP (A&F)

Additional Charge of SP (Logistics)

Police T&I, Rajarbag, Dhaka

Ph: 8301105 Fax: 8301404

E-mail: splog.telecom@police.gov.bd

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