



Britain's PM 'stable' in intensive care

Prime Minister Boris Johnson began a third day in intensive care yesterday battling the coronavirus. "I understand the prime minister is in a stable condition, he's comfortable and in good spirits," Edward Argar, a junior health minister, told Sky News. "He has in the past had some oxygen but he's not on ventilation." The Times reported Johnson's persistently high temperature had fallen.

AGENCIES

India is considering plans to seal off coronavirus hotspots in Delhi, Mumbai and parts of the south while easing restrictions elsewhere as a way out of a three-week lockdown that has caused deep economic distress, officials said yesterday.

The sweeping clampdown in the country of 1.3 billion people to prevent an epidemic of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the virus, ends on April 14 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to decide this week whether to extend it.

In a video meeting with leaders of all parties, Modi reportedly said he would consult with Chief Ministers of states

ILO says pandemic may sink 400m Indian workers into poverty

Some 80% of cases in less than 10% of India's landmass

but by all accounts the lifting of the lockdown "is not possible".

"The priority of the government is to save each and every life. The situation in the country is akin to a 'social emergency', it has necessitated tough decisions and we must continue to remain vigilant," said the PM.

Life will not be the same again after COVID-19, the Prime Minister said, adding that there would be "pre-corona and post-corona" for times to come.

But it was unlikely that schools, colleges, rail travel and religious gatherings would be allowed anywhere in the country, the official said.

Scenes of poor migrant workers and their families walking long distances on empty highways to their homes in the countryside after losing their jobs have increased pressure on Modi to reopen parts of Asia's third largest economy.

More than 80% of confirmed COVID-19 cases in India, also the world's second most populous country, have been traced to 62 districts representing

CASES AND DEATHS IN SOUTH ASIA

India has 5,194 cases, 149 deaths
Pakistan has 4,072 cases, 58 deaths
Afghanistan has 423 cases, 14 deaths
Sri Lanka has 188 cases, 6 deaths
Maldives has 19 cases and no deaths
Nepal has nine cases and no deaths
Bhutan has five cases and no deaths

less than 10% of India's landmass, according to government data.

These are concentrated in the western state of Maharashtra, home to financial capital Mumbai, the capital Delhi and the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala.

Many parts of the country have not reported a single case. Such a skewed geographical spread strengthens the case for a more targeted

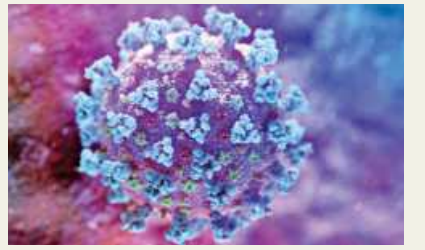
approach under which the affected area and its neighbouring district would be cordoned off, health officials said.

The government of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, said 15 districts which had each recorded six or more cases of COVID-19 would be cordoned off beginning Wednesday night as it steps up the fight to stem the infections.

So far, India has registered 5,194 COVID-19 infections of whom 149 have died, government data showed on Wednesday. However, health experts say India needs to ramp up testing for infections to help ensure it has a grasp on how widespread the coronavirus is, and that a lockdown alone is no solution.

Meanwhile, UN's labour body the International Labour Organization (ILO) yesterday warned that about 400 million people working in the informal economy in India are at risk of falling deeper into poverty due to the coronavirus crisis.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC LATEST UPDATES



MORE THAN 83,000 DEAD
At least 83,568 people have died around the world in 192 countries since the virus emerged in China in December, according to a JHU tally at 1300 GMT. The pandemic has killed at least 17,127 in Italy and 14,555 in Spain. There are 12,911 deaths in the United States, 10,328 in France and 6,159 in Britain. More than 1.4 million cases have been officially recorded around the world.

US BIGGEST DAILY TOLL
A total of 1,939 people die in the US in 24 hours, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University (JHU), the highest daily death toll reported in any country since the start of the pandemic.

EU RESCUE TALKS FAIL
EU finance ministers fail to agree a rescue plan to help hard-hit member states after the Netherlands blocks the deal over bailout conditions.

FRANCE IN RECESSION
In its worst performance since 1945, France's economy shrinks around six percent in the first quarter of 2020, the Bank of France says, as the pandemic decimates business activity and plunges the country into recession. The German economy is expected to shrink by nearly 10 percent in the second quarter, leading research institutes warn.

WUHAN EXODUS
Tens of thousands stream out of the Chinese city of Wuhan after officials lift a nearly 11-week travel ban at the birthplace of the coronavirus.

NO JOGGING IN PARIS
Paris toughens its lockdown measures, banning individual outdoor sports between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. Other cities in France also announce stricter restrictions.

TOKYO SEES BIGGEST JUMP IN INFECTIONS
Tokyo recorded 144 coronavirus infections yesterday, its biggest daily jump since the start of the pandemic, public broadcaster NHK said, without citing sources on the first day of a state of emergency aimed at containing the outbreak. Total infections in the Japanese capital stand at 1,339, NHK said, for an increase that would carry the nationwide tally beyond 4,600, including 98 deaths, based on numbers it published earlier in the day.

SOURCE: AFP

Afghanistan releases 100 Taliban prisoners

The Afghan government yesterday released 100 Taliban prisoners, an official told AFP, a day after the insurgents said they were walking out of talks with Kabul. The two foes have been negotiating in Kabul since last week to try to finalise a prisoner swap that was originally supposed to have happened by March 10 and pave the way for "intra-Afghan" peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban. But the swap has been beset with problems, with Kabul claiming the Taliban want 15 "top commanders" to be released, while the insurgents have accused Afghan authorities of needlessly wasting time.

SA minister put on leave for flouting lockdown

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday placed on special leave a minister seen lunching at a friend's house in violation of the coronavirus lockdown. Ramaphosa has ordered a three-week national lockdown to try to brake the virus, which has infected 1,749 people, killing 13 of them. But a picture posted on Instagram on Sunday showed Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams having lunch with five other people at the home of a former deputy minister earlier that day. Last month, just two days into the lockdown, Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu was forced to issue an apology after she posted a video on her Instagram account, joking about how she was struggling to stay home.

Bezos tops Forbes list of billionaires, again



Not even a nearly \$40 billion divorce can topple Amazon (AMZN) founder and CEO Jeff Bezos from being the world's richest person. For the third year in a row, Bezos landed the top spot on Forbes' rank of global billionaires. His net worth fell \$18 billion last year to \$113 billion, according to Forbes, partially due to his high-profile split from MacKenzie Bezos. Microsoft (MSFT) cofounder Bill Gates is in second place with a \$98 billion fortune, an increase of \$1.5 billion. Bernard Arnault, chairman and CEO of luxury magnate LVMH (LVMHF), nudged Warren Buffett out of third place with a \$76 billion fortune. At \$67.5 billion, Buffett's fortune landed in fourth place. The world's richest woman continues to be Walmart (WMT) heir Alice Walton. She's in ninth place with \$54.4 billion.

SOURCE: AFP



Departing medical staff from Jilin Province (in red) hug nurses from Wuhan after working together during the coronavirus outbreak at train station in China's central Hubei province, yesterday. Authorities yesterday lifted a more than two-month prohibition on outbound travel from the city where the global pandemic first emerged.

PHOTO: AFP

EU fails to bridge split over 'coronabonds'

AFP, Brussels

EU finance ministers yesterday failed to agree on a rescue plan to help hard-hit member states face the coronavirus outbreak, after the Netherlands blocked the deal over bailout conditions.

"After 16 hours of discussions, we came close to a deal but we are not there yet. I suspended the Eurogroup and (we will) continue tomorrow Thursday," said Eurogroup chief Mario Centeno.

Bickering EU finance ministers were unable to bridge differences on how to rebuild their economies after coronavirus, with a North versus South split that recalled the worst days of the eurozone debt crisis.

The ministers' video conference dragged on from Tuesday into Wednesday, with Italy and Spain insisting on having no strings attached to the aid plan on the table.

With tensions running high, ministers put off an especially touchy discussion on a solidarity fund that would be paid for by European partners jointly borrowing money on the financial markets.

Sometimes called "coronabonds", this proposal was firmly resisted by Germany and the Netherlands and ministers agreed to pass the idea over to EU leaders, who will meet later this month.

Berlin and its allies insist that any European rescue should use the eurozone's existing 410-billion-euro (\$443-billion) bailout fund, as well as wait to see the effects of the massive monetary stimulus already unleashed by the European Central Bank.

TRUMP'S RETALIATION THREAT

India lifts drug export ban

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

India has lifted a ban on some drug exports, including the experimental COVID-19 treatment, hydroxychloroquine, after United States President Donald Trump threatened possible retaliation if New Delhi failed to ship the anti-malarial medicine to the US.

The reversal of the export ban comes after Trump spoke to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a phone conversation, during which the US president said that he would be surprised if New Delhi did not relent on his request, considering India's good relations with the US.

"I spoke to him Sunday morning, called him, and I said, 'We'd appreciate your allowing our supply to come out.' If he doesn't allow it to come out, that would be okay, but of course, there may be retaliation. Why wouldn't there be? I would be surprised if he would, you know, because India does very well with the United States," Trump said on Monday.

India, dubbed the pharmacy of the world, banned the exports on April 4

as countries globally stockpiled the anti-malarial drug developed nearly a century ago.

Many countries, including the US, are using hydroxychloroquine as an experimental treatment for COVID-19 patients, amid a global death toll from



the pandemic of more than 83,000 people.

Trump last week called the drug "a very special thing" and a "game changer". However, experts have cast doubt on the effectiveness of the drugs in the fight against COVID-19.

India's foreign ministry said it would lift the ban on the export of hydroxychloroquine as a gesture of solidarity.

"In view of the humanitarian aspects of the pandemic, it has been decided that India would license paracetamol and HCQ [hydroxychloroquine] in appropriate quantities to all our neighbouring countries who are dependent on our capabilities," the foreign ministry spokesperson, Anurag Srivastava, said.

"We will also be supplying these essential drugs to some nations who have been particularly badly affected by the pandemic," he said in a statement. Srivastava said there were adequate stocks of medicines in the country.

Washington and New Delhi are close security and trade allies with annual bilateral trade worth above \$80 billion.

Meanwhile, India's opposition parties accuse Modi's government of buckling under pressure from Trump.

On Trump's threats, Indian National Congress former leader Rahul Gandhi said: "Friendship isn't about retaliation. India must help all nations in their hour of need but lifesaving medicines should be made available to Indians in ample quantities first," Gandhi tweeted.

Monster cyclone Harold tears through Fiji

AFP, Suva

A deadly Pacific storm slammed into Fiji yesterday, tearing off roofs and flooding towns, after leaving a trail of destruction in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Tropical Cyclone Harold weakened slightly overnight from a scale-topping Category Five to a Four, but was still lashing Fiji with winds of up to 240 kilometres per hour (150 miles per hour), forecasters said.

The official NaDraki weather service said the cyclone was offshore south of Fiji's main island Viti Levu, but passing closer to land than initially expected.

Harold claimed 27 lives in the Solomon Islands last week, and on Tuesday ripped through Vanuatu, destroying much of the country's second-largest town Luganville.

The cyclone formed off the Solomons last week. Latest forecasts say it will brush past Tonga today, still at Category Four strength, before petering out over the sea by the weekend.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali, District: Patuakhali, e-mail: dfopatuakhali@gmail.com

Memo No. 22.01.7800.535.29.013.20.1230 Date: 06/04/2020

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works given below:—

Sl. No.	Tender/ Proposal ID No.	Invitation Reference No.	Brief Description of Works	Tender/ Proposal Publication Date and time	Tender/ Proposal Last Selling Date and time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and time	Tender/ Proposal Opening Date and time
1.	452002	PATUA (CFDY/ SUFAL/ 2019-2020/WD-1	Construction of Boundary Wall at Mohipur Range, Kuakata Beat.	06 April 2020 21:30 PM	29 April 2020 14:00 PM	30 April 2020 13:30 PM	30 April 2020 13:30 PM
2.	452039	PATUA (CFDY/ SUFAL/ 2019-2020/WD-2	Construction of Boundary Wall at SFFC, Kalapara	06 April 2020 22:30 PM	29 April 2020 14:00 PM	30 April 2020 14:30 PM	30 April 2020 14:30 PM
3.	453202	PATUA (CFDY/ SUFAL/ 2019-2020/WD-3	Construction of Boundary Wall at Mohipur Range Office	06 April 2020 23:00 PM	29 April 2020 14:00 PM	30 April 2020 15:00 PM	30 April 2020 15:00 PM

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches within the specified time on the previous day of receiving tender.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and form e-GP Help Desk (e-mail: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Aminul Islam
Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division
Patuakhali, Tel: 0441-62285

Office of the Muktagacha Pourashava
District: Mymensingh

Memo No. Mukta:Poura/Prokrow:2020/084 Date: 08/04/2020

Corrigendum for e-Tender No. 03/2019-20

This is notify to all concerned that e-Tender Notice No. 03/2019-20 vide Memo No. Mukta/Poura/Prokrow:2020/064, Date: 05/03/2020 has been amended as follows due to unavoidable circumstances (general holiday declared by government due to corona crisis).

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Subject	Old value	New value
433665	UGIIP-III-3/AF/MUKT/MF/01/2019	Tender document selling date & time	12-04-2020, 16:00pm	04-05-2020, 15:00pm
		Tender security submission last date & time	13-04-2020, 12:00pm	05-05-2020, 13:00pm
		Tender closing date & time	13-04-2020, 13:00pm	05-05-2020, 14:00pm
		Tender opening date & time	13-04-2020, 13:00pm	05-05-2020, 14:00pm

All other documents, terms & conditions will remain unchanged. This amended notice will be treated as part & parcel of the tender document.

Md. Mukhlesur Rahman
Executive Engineer
Muktagacha Pourashava
District: Mymensingh