

China wants me to lose 2020 polls

Claims Trump as election nears

AGENCIES
President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he believes China's handling of the coronavirus is proof that Beijing "will do anything they can" to make him lose his re-election bid in November.

"China will do anything they can to have me lose this race," Trump said in an exclusive interview with Reuters news agency at the White House.

"I can do a lot," he said.
The Republican president, often accused of not acting early enough to prepare the United States for the outbreak, said he believed China should have been more active in letting the world know about the coronavirus much sooner.

Asked whether he was considering the use of tariffs or even debt write-offs for China, Trump would not offer specifics.

"There are many things I can do," he said. "We're looking for what happened."

Before the coronavirus pandemic began, the US and China were already engaged in a trade war that has resulted in billions of dollars in tariffs.

For weeks, Trump has been heaping blame on China for a global pandemic that has killed people more than 61,000 people in the US according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University and thrown the economy into a deep recession undermining his campaign for a second four-year term.

On Tuesday, he had said he wants to conduct "serious investigations" into China's handling of the pandemic.

Trump had previously referred to COVID-19 as "Chinese virus", igniting a war of words with Beijing, which accused the US military of bringing the disease to Wuhan.



Teacher Marie Kaas-Larsen speaks with her pupils of the Norrebro Park primary school outside in a nearby park in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Wednesday. Denmark was the first country in Europe to reopen its schools for the youngest pupils on April 15. In addition to practicing social distancing and regular handwashing, classes in Denmark must be held outdoors as much as possible to limit the spread of the virus.

PHOTO: AFP

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

LATEST UPDATES

DEATH TOLL NEARS 230,000

The new coronavirus has killed at least 227,482 people since the outbreak first emerged in China in December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday. More than 3,180,800 cases were registered in 193 countries and territories.

Of these cases, at least 908,500 are now considered recovered. The United States has the highest number of total deaths with 60,999 out of 1,040,488 cases. Italy has the second highest toll with 27,682 deaths, followed by Britain (26,097 deaths), Spain (24,543 deaths) and France (24,087 deaths).

JAPAN TO EXTEND EMERGENCY

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is likely to extend a nationwide state of emergency imposed over the coronavirus, possibly by another month, local media reported. Japan has so far seen a relatively limited outbreak compared to parts of Europe and the United States, with around 14,000 infections recorded and 415 deaths.

RUSSIA CASES CROSS 100,000

Coronavirus cases in Russia surged past 100,000 yesterday, the government said, with an increase of 7,099 confirmed infections in the last 24 hours. Russia has so far recorded 106,498 cases and 1,073 deaths from the virus, the government's coronavirus information site said in a daily update.

THUNBERG DONATES \$100,000

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has donated a \$100,000 prize she won from a Danish foundation to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for use against the COVID-19 pandemic. "Like the climate crisis, the coronavirus pandemic is a child rights crisis," Thunberg, 17, was quoted as saying in the UNICEF statement.

VACCINATIONS WARNING

WHO's European office warned that to keep other infectious diseases in check, vaccination programmes must remain a priority even during the coronavirus pandemic. WHO's European branch was particularly concerned about a resurgence of measles, which affected 6,000 people on the continent in the first two months of this year.

MALDIVES REPORTS FIRST DEATH

The Maldives reported its first coronavirus fatality with the death of an 83-year-old woman, as the Indian Ocean holiday hotspot extended a nationwide lockdown. There have now been 280 confirmed cases since the virus was first detected on March 7.

AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL 'VIRUS-FREE'

Health officials declared Australia's capital free of the virus while the country's Northern Territory announced the most comprehensive easing of restrictions in the nation. Canberra and its surrounding areas were said to be rid of the disease after two patients recovered overnight.

'Perhaps world didn't really know who she was'

Outgoing UN envoy to Myanmar says about Suu Kyi

AL JAZEERA, CNN

The United Nations' outgoing human rights envoy for Myanmar has told Al Jazeera that the country's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, failed to live up to her reputation as a humanitarian.

Yanghee Lee's time in the role was dominated by Myanmar's bloody crackdown in western Rakhine state in 2017, when at least 750,000 people, mostly ethnic Rohingya, fled across the border to Bangladesh.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been widely criticised for remaining mostly silent on accusations of anti-Rohingya violence, and Lee told Al Jazeera on Wednesday she believed the Myanmar leader's inaction was "utterly disappointing".

"We all knew that she was put on a pedestal or portrayed as the icon of democracy and human rights, but ever



since [her party] has taken office [after the 2015 election] and ever since she took the office of the state councillor, all of her actions and her words, statements point otherwise," said Lee, whose requests to enter Myanmar were repeatedly denied by the government.

"I would still like to believe that she can change how she's been doing, but perhaps the world didn't really know

who she was," she added.

Aung San Suu Kyi became an icon of democracy during the 15 years she spent under house arrest during Myanmar's military dictatorship.

In December last year, the Nobel Peace Prize winner defended Myanmar's military against allegations of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Lee also said that the Myanmar military was carrying out "war crimes" against ethnic minorities, emboldened by special extended powers intended to help control the spread of the coronavirus.

"I am calling the situation crimes against humanity and war crimes. These are the highest, the most heinous and gravest crimes of international law," she added.

Cut oil supply or lose US military support

Trump told Saudi Crown Prince Salman

REUTERS, Washington/London/Dubai

As the United States pressed Saudi Arabia to end its oil price war with Russia, President Donald Trump gave Saudi leaders an ultimatum.

In an April 2 phone call, Trump told Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that unless the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) started cutting oil production, he would be powerless to stop lawmakers from passing legislation to withdraw US troops from the kingdom, four sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The threat to upend a 75-year strategic alliance, which has not been previously reported, was central to the US pressure campaign that led to a landmark global deal to slash oil supply as demand collapsed in the coronavirus pandemic - scoring a diplomatic victory for the White House.

Trump delivered the message to the crown prince 10 days before the announcement of production cuts. The kingdom's de facto leader was so taken aback by the threat that he ordered his aides out of the room so he could continue the discussion in private, according to a US source who was briefed on the discussion by senior administration officials.

The week before Trump's phone call with Crown Prince Mohammed, US Republican Senators Kevin Cramer and Dan Sullivan had introduced legislation to remove all US troops, Patriot missiles and anti-missile defense systems from the kingdom unless Saudi Arabia cut oil output. Support for the measure was gaining momentum amid Congressional anger over the ill-timed Saudi-Russia oil price war.

COVID-19 to cause record emissions fall in 2020

IEA says global energy demand to fall 6pc

AFP, Paris

COVID-19 is expected to cause global energy emissions to fall a record eight percent this year due to an unprecedented drop in demand for coal, oil and gas, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.

The IEA's Global Energy Review was based on an analysis of electricity demand over

more than 100 days, during which much of the world has entered lockdown in a bid to control the pandemic.

It predicted that global energy demand would fall six percent in 2020 - seven times more than during the 2008 financial crisis and the biggest year-on-year drop since World War II.

Biden to keep US embassy in Jerusalem if elected

AFP, Washington

Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden said Wednesday that he would keep the US embassy in Israel in Jerusalem if elected - even though he disagrees with Donald Trump's controversial 2017 decision to move it out of Tel Aviv.

The former vice president said the embassy should never have been moved without that decision being part of a wider Middle East peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

"But now that it's done, I would not move the embassy back to Tel Aviv," Biden told a virtual fundraising event.

Israel seized control of the east of the city in 1967 and later annexed it in moves never recognized by the international community. Israel considers the city its undivided capital, but Palestinians believe the east is illegally occupied and see it as the capital of their future state.

Trump shattered the status quo when he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announced his decision to shift the US embassy to the holy city in December 2017.

Meanwhile, Biden Wednesday said he has a proud history of campaigning against sexual violence, as he faces mounting pressure to respond to an assault allegation made by a former aide.

The presumptive Democratic nominee has been accused by Tara Reade of assaulting her in 1993, when she was a 29-year-old staff assistant in the office of Biden, then a US senator from Delaware. Biden's campaign has denied the claims, but he himself has not responded directly to the allegations by Reade, now 56.

Obstacles they scale to serve

FROM PAGE 12

and his family away from the building was that Rasel was involved in student politics and now has a strong base in his locality.

"But my ambulance drivers are suffering a lot. They have to sneak in and out of their homes. On many occasions, they cannot even take the ambulance out," he said.

Like Rasel and his drivers, many ambulance operators, their assistants, drivers and owners, who have been providing services for patients while risking their lives, are facing similar harassment at their homes and even public places like restaurants and petrol stations.

They said that their landlords have been asking them to leave their homes or their jobs fearing they might spread Covid-19. In many cases, they have been denied food at restaurants and fuel at petrol stations.

Law enforcers also been harassing such drivers and their assistants when they are returning to Dhaka or going to other places with empty ambulances after dropping off patients, they alleged.

Besides, several thousand drivers and their assistants, who work at different private ambulance services, run the risk of getting infected as they don't have adequate safety gear.

The ambulance owners' association has requested the authorities to provide them with enough protective equipment and necessary training amid the looming crisis. But it has not received any response yet, association leaders said.

There are more than 7,500 private ambulances across the country, according to Dhaka Mohanagar Ambulance Malik Sombay Samity Ltd.

So, around 15,000 people -- at least one driver and an assistant for each ambulance -- are providing services to the people even in this tough time, it said.

Apart from the privately-run ambulance services, the country has nearly 1,000 ambulances at different public hospitals.

HARASSMENT

Azizur Rahman, an ambulance driver, on Tuesday called this correspondent over phone and said, "Brother, we [ambulance

drivers and assistants] are now in big trouble, please do something for us."

This correspondent spoke to Azizur, an employee of a private ambulance provider, a few days ago and learnt about their safety measures while carrying patients.

Azizur began with a situation he faced. "When I was taking a patient to Bhola, I went to the canteen at a ferry on Mawa Ghat [now known as Shimulia ghat] for some food. But they declined to give me any when they came to know that I am an ambulance driver. What could I do? I just took a packet of biscuits."

He said many of his colleagues are facing similar discriminations and they even face problems while parking their vehicles.

"We are giving services to the patients knowing that we may get infected anytime. But what we are facing now is harassment."

Alamgir Hossain, president of Dhaka Mohanagar Ambulance Malik Sombay Samity Ltd, told The Daily Star on Tuesday that they have received around 50 complaints from ambulance owners and drivers that their landlords asked them to choose between their homes or their jobs.

"Law enforcers ask them why they come out without patients, ignoring the shutdown. Even after our drivers say that they just left the patients at the destination and are now going back, they [law enforcers] keep them waiting for hours," he said.

Sarifur Alam Mehdi, an adviser to the Samity, said the authorities in many districts do not provide the owners and drivers with the facilities to run the requisitioned ambulances, resulting in further problems.

About the safety of their staffers, he said they had written a letter to the director general of the Directorate General of Health Services on March 22, seeking training, awareness campaigns and safety equipment for drivers and their assistants.

"But we did not get any response yet. Initially, they assured us but now they are not receiving our phone calls," he alleged.

Mehdi, however, said Grameen Fabrics and Fashion Ltd has provided them with 500 Personal Protective Equipment while Manusher Jonno Foundation provided 100.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়		
গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট		
gowainghat@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd		
স্মারক নং: উখা/গোয়াইনঘাট/এমএসআর/দরপত্র/২০১৯-২০২০/৩৮১		তারিখ: ২৮/০৪/২০২০ইং
এম.এস.আর সংশোধিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট সহ এর আওতাধীন একটি উপ-স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্রসমূহের জন্য ২০১৯-২০২০ইং অর্থ বছরের গ্রন্থ ভিত্তিক এমএসআর সামগ্রী (মেডিক্যাল এন্ড সার্জিক্যাল রিকুইজিটস) ত্রু/সমগ্র্যের নিমিত্তে পন্যবাহে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও তৎপরবর্তী সংশোধনী এবং সঙ্গ্রহ বিধিমালা ২০০৮ ও পরবর্তী সংশোধনী মতে নিম্নোক্ত চক মোতাবেক প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/টিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে নিম্ন ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত দরপত্র পূরণ সাপেক্ষে নির্ধারিত সিডিউলে গ্রন্থ ভিত্তিক সিলগালাকৃতভাবে দরপত্র আহ্বানকরা যাইতেছে।		
১	মন্ত্রালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রালয়।
২	সংস্থার নাম	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর।
৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও মোবাইল নাম্বার	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট, ০১৭১৭৬৩৯২১৭।
৪	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বানের মাধ্যমে।
৫	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব বরাদ্দ (প্লিগেবি)।
৬	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং: উখা/গোয়াইনঘাট/এমএসআর/দরপত্র/২০১৯-২০২০/৩৮১, তাং- ২৮/০৪/২০২০ইং।
৭	দরপত্রের নাম/কাজের বিবরণ	২০১৯-২০২০ইং অর্থ বছরে গোয়াইনঘাট উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স ও এর অধীন একটি উপ-স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্রের জন্য মোট ০৬টি গ্রন্থক এমএসআর সামগ্রী সরবরাহ। গ্রন্থনং- (ক) ঔষধপত্র (খ) মেডিকেল যন্ত্রপাতি (গ) পঃ, বেডেজ ও তুল্য (ঘ) আসবাবপত্র ও কিসেন সামগ্রী (ঙ) সিলিন সামগ্রী (চ) মেমিকেল এন্ড রিয়েজেন্ট।
৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দপ্তরের নাম	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট।
৯	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট।
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ সাপেক্ষে ১০/০৫/২০২০ইং হইতে ১৭/০৫/২০২০ইং অফিস চলাকালীন (২.৩০) ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ও সার্জিক্যাল ডুটির দিন ব্যতিত)।
১১	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময়	১৮/০৫/২০২০ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	০১. উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট। ০২. নির্ধারিত অফিসার এর কার্যালয়, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট। ০৩. অফিসার ইনচার্জ এর কার্যালয়, গোয়াইনঘাট থানা, সিলেট।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৮/০৫/২০২০ইং দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা (দরপত্রাদা তা কিংবা প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে যদি কেহ থাকেন)।
১৪	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট।
১৫	দরপত্রাদাদের যোগ্যতা	এমএসআর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/প্রতিষ্ঠান/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
১৬	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	গ্রন্থ নং- ক/খ/গ প্রতিগ্রন্থে ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং ঘ/ঙ/চ প্রতি গ্রন্থে ৫২২/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ এ সোনালী ব্যাংক, গোয়াইনঘাট শাখায় জমাদান করিয়া চালানের মূলকপি অত্রাফিসে ক্যাশিয়ারের নিকট ত্রুমা প্রদান সাপেক্ষে শর্তসম্বলিত ঘ-ঘ গ্রন্থের দরপত্র সিডিউল ও শর্তাবলি দলিল গ্রহণ ক্রিতে পারিবেন।
১৭	দরপত্র দলিলের নিরাপত্তা জামানত	গ্রন্থ ও কাজের বিবরণী জামানতের পরিমাণ ক- ঔষধপত্র (ইউসিএল বহির্ভূত) = ৭০০০০/- (সত্তর হাজার) টাকা মাত্র খ- সার্জিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাতি = ৪০০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র গ- পঃ, বেডেজ ও তুল্য = ৪০০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র ঘ- আসবাবপত্র ও কিসেন সামগ্রী = ২৫০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র ঙ- সিলিন সামগ্রী = ২৫০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র চ- মেমিক্যাল এন্ড রিয়েজেন্ট = ২০০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র
১৮	সরবরাহকাল	কার্যাদেশ (নোটিফিকেশন অব এওয়ার্ড) মোতাবেক।
*** অত্র কার্যালয়ের স্মারক নং: উখা/গোয়াইনঘাট/এমএসআর/দরপত্র/২০১৯-২০২০/৩৮০, তারিখ: ১৩/০৪/২০২০ইং মূলে আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ না হওয়ার কারণে উক্ত সংশোধনী দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি আহ্বান করা হল।		
* কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		
* অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংরক্ষিত আছে।		
ডায় মোঃ রেহান উদ্দিন উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট		
সিডি-৭৮২		