

Saudi attacker on US base had al-Qaeda ties: US

The Saudi military student who killed three Americans at a US naval base in December had longstanding ties to al-Qaeda and planned an attack before he arrived in the United States, US justice officials said Monday. The December 6 attack by Mohammed Alshamrani, a Royal Saudi Air Force flight student at the Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida, "was actually the culmination of years of planning and preparation," said FBI Director Christopher Wray. Evidence discovered on an encrypted cell phone shows he was radicalized at least as far back as 2015, and had since been associating with "dangerous" operatives from the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Wray added.

Rocket hits near US embassy in Baghdad

One rocket hit near the US embassy in Baghdad early yesterday morning, security sources told AFP, the first to land in the high-security zone in weeks. The blast could be heard across the Iraqi capital and triggered security sirens at the US embassy compound but did not cause casualties, the sources confirmed. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. It follows more than two dozen similar attacks against American interests in Iraq since October that the US has blamed on Iran-backed factions among Iraq's security forces. Tensions reached boiling point in January when the US killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani and Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a drone strike on Baghdad.

China offers farmers cash to give up wildlife trade

Farmers in China are being offered cash to quit breeding exotic animals as pressure grows to crack down on the illegal wildlife trade that has been blamed for the coronavirus outbreak. Authorities have for the first time pledged to buy out breeders in an attempt to curb the practice, animal rights activists say. China has in recent months banned the sale of wild animals for food, citing the risk of diseases spreading to humans, but the trade remains legal for other purposes -- including research and traditional medicine. The deadly coronavirus -- first reported in the central Chinese city of Wuhan -- is widely believed to have passed from bats to people before spreading worldwide.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



PHOTO: AFP

A policeman disperses migrant workers gathered outside a railway station intending to board a special service train without valid tickets to return back to their home towns during a nationwide lockdown imposed as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 disease, in Mumbai, yesterday. The dire economic situation caused by lockdown has sparked a migrant worker crisis, as many businesses shut down when the it was imposed.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

UPDATES

DEATH TOLL NEARS 320,000

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 318,517 people so far, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday. At least 4,816,040 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. Of these, at least 1,755,700 are now considered recovered. The United States has the highest number of deaths with 90,369. Britain has recorded 34,796 deaths. It is followed by Italy with 32,007 deaths, France with 28,239 deaths and Spain with 27,709 fatalities.

INDIA CASES TOP 100,000

Coronavirus cases in India reached 100,000 yesterday, matching its number of intensive care beds, and the rate of increase of new infections showed little sign of slowing. India reported 4,970 new cases over the previous 24 hours, taking its total to 101,139. Deaths rose by 134 to 3,163. New cases in India have risen by an average of more than 4,000 a day over the past week, according to a Reuters tally based on official data, despite a severe week-long lockdown.

TRUMP TAKING MALARIA DRUG

President Donald Trump on Monday made the surprise announcement that he is taking hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug that his own government experts say is not suitable for fighting the novel coronavirus. Trump, noting that he has tested negative for the virus and shows no symptoms, said he'd been taking the drug as a preventative measure for about a week and a half.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

New drug can stop pandemic

Claim China scientists, say world may not have to wait for vaccine

AFP, Beijing

A Chinese laboratory has been developing a drug it believes has the power to bring the coronavirus pandemic to a halt.

The outbreak first emerged in China late last year before spreading across the world, prompting an international race to find treatments and vaccines.

A drug being tested by scientists at China's prestigious Peking University could not only shorten the recovery time for those infected, but even offer short-term immunity from the virus, researchers say.

Sunney Xie, director of the university's Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Genomics, told AFP that the drug has been successful at the animal testing stage.

The drug uses neutralising antibodies -- produced by the human immune system to prevent the virus infecting cells -- which Xie's team isolated from the blood of 60 recovered patients.

A study on the team's research, published Sunday in the scientific journal Cell, suggests that using the antibodies provides a potential "cure" for the disease and shortens recovery time.

He said he hopes that the drug will be ready for use later this year and in time for any potential winter outbreak of the virus, which has infected 4.8 million people around the world and killed more than 315,000.

Scientists have also pointed to the potential benefits of plasma -- a blood fluid -- from recovered individuals who have developed antibodies to the virus enabling the body's defences to attack it.

More than 700 patients have received plasma therapy in China, a process which authorities said showed "very good therapeutic effects".

"However, it (plasma) is limited in supply," Xie said, noting that the 14 neutralising antibodies used in their drug could be put into mass production quickly.

Ebola drug Remdesivir was considered a hopeful

early treatment for COVID-19 -- clinical trials in the US showed it shortened the recovery time in some patients by a third -- but the difference in mortality rate was not significant.

The new drug could even offer short-term protection against the virus.

The study showed that if the neutralising antibody was injected before the mice were infected with the virus, the mice stayed free of infection and no virus was detected.

This may offer temporary protection for medical workers for a few weeks, which Xie said they are hoping to "extend to a few months".

More than 100 vaccines for COVID-19 are in the works globally, but as the process of vaccine development is more demanding, Xie is hoping that the new drug could be a faster and more efficient way to stop the global march of the coronavirus.

"We would be able to stop the pandemic with an effective drug, even without a vaccine," he said.



A civilian raises his hands as he moves past India's Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel standing guard near the site of a gun battle with suspected militants, in Srinagar, yesterday. Two Kashmir militants including a key rebel leader were killed in a rare 12-hour gun battle in the main city Srinagar yesterday, officials said, sparking clashes between locals and police.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Afghan forces repel Taliban attack on key city

UN expresses alarm as April civilian casualties jump

AGENCIES

Afghan security forces yesterday repelled a fierce Taliban attack on Kunduz, a strategic city in northern Afghanistan that had briefly fallen to the militants twice in the past, officials said.

Taliban fighters attacked several government posts on the outskirts of the city at around 1:00 am, a defence ministry statement said, triggering fierce fighting.

"With the support of air force their attack was repelled," it said, adding the fighting lasted for several hours.

Both sides have clashed repeatedly in rural areas in recent months, but an attempt to enter a city as large as Kunduz is seen as a serious escalation.

The latest violence follows a declaration by President Ashraf Ghani last week to resume offensive strikes against the insurgents, after a string of brutal attacks. The Taliban responded by vowing to increase assaults against Afghan security forces.

During yesterday's fighting, the insurgents managed to briefly capture an Afghan army post, killing one soldier, but it was quickly retaken by security forces. Hadi Jamal, an army spokesman in northern Afghanistan told AFP.

The defence ministry said 40 Taliban fighters were killed and 50 others wounded in the Kunduz assault.

In a separate incident, a bomb placed on a bicycle detonated near a market in the city, killing two civilians and wounding 18, Kunduz police said.

The Taliban briefly captured Kunduz, a strategic city not far from the Tajikistan border, twice before -- in September 2015 and again a year later. An attempt last year failed.



in April, expressing alarm about a "striking deterioration" in respect for international humanitarian law as the United States withdraws troops and attempts to usher in a peace deal.

Civilian casualties attributed to the Taliban in April rose by a quarter from the same month a year earlier to 208, while casualties attributed to Afghan security forces rose 38% to 172, according to provisional data from the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

"I call for a halt to the fighting and for parties to respect humanitarian law that is there to protect civilians," said Deborah Lyons, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

Nepal unveils new map amid row with India

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal has drawn-up a new political map that includes strategically important territory it disputes with India, officials said yesterday, as the Himalayan country takes a tougher stance against its giant neighbour.

Protests have been staged in Nepal since India earlier this month inaugurated an 80-kilometre road in Uttarakhand state leading up to the disputed Lipu Lekh pass.

Nepal claims the pass under an 1816 treaty that sets the boundary with India along the Kali River, but disputes have arisen because neither side can agree its source.

A cabinet meeting on Monday decided to publish a new map that includes Lipu Lekh and zones in Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, Law Minister Shiva Maya Tumbahangphe told AFP.

The zones form a region of more than 300 square kilometres considered important because it is where the Nepalese and Indian borders touch China.

India and Nepal had both shown Kalapani and Lipu Lekh in their political maps, but Nepal had not previously shown Limpiyadhura.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Banshkhali, Chattogram.
E-mail: banshkhali@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Date: 18.05.2020

Memo no- Uhc/Sec-Accounts/MSR/Tender/2019-2020/483

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced Importers / Contractors / Suppliers / Distributors to supply MSR goods for Uhc, Banshkhali in the fiscal 2019-20. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (Including all corrigendum); Terms and conditions are as follow(s):

KEY INFORMATION				
1 Ministry / Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.			
2 Agency	50 Bedded Upazila Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram.			
3 PE Name, Designation & Contact details	Uhc/fpo, 50 Bedded Upazila Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram.			
4 Procuring Entity Code & District	GOB, Chattogram.			
5 Invitation for	Procurement of MSR goods for 50 Bedded Upazila Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram in the fiscal year 2019-20.			
6 Tender Ref. No & date	Uhc/Sec-Accounts/MSR/Tender/2019-20/483 Dated: 03-01-2019.			
7 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National). Item-by-item.			
8 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB in Bangladeshi Taka.			
9 Tender Publication Date	20-05-2020.			
10 Tender Schedule Selling Starting Date and Time	28-05-2020 During office hours.			
11 Tender Last Selling Date and Time	04-06-2020 During office hours.			
12 Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	Dropping date: 06-06-2020, Dropping time: from 09:00 AM to 12:00PM, Closing time: 12:01PM			
13 Tender Opening Date and Time	06-06-2020 at 12:30 P.M.			
Name and address of the Office's				
(a) Selling Tender Documents	1 Store Keeper, Office of the Uhc/fpo, 50 Bedded Upazila Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram.			
(b) Receiving Tender Documents	1 Office of the Uhc/fpo, 50 Bedded Upazila Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram.			
	2 Officer in-charge, Banshkhali Thana, Chattogram.			
(c) Tender Documents Opening Place	Office of the Uhc/fpo, 50 Bedded Upazila Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram..			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
All Bidders must submit Tender through "Tender Booklet" prepared by procuring entity and abide by the terms and conditions stated in the "Tender Booklet". The Bidder must enclose the following documents with the Tender: 1 The bidder must be a Bangladeshi Citizen and must submit attested photocopy of National Identity Card. 2 02 (Two) Passport size photo of the bidder / representative. 3 Electronic Tin (E-TIN) registration certificate. 4 Valid Trade License. 5 Up-to-date BIN (Business Identification Number) certificate & Vat Clearance Certificate. 6 Income Tax Clearance Certificate & Acknowledgement Receipt Of Return Of Income of current Fiscal Year. 7 Bank Statement (Original Computer Sheet) from 01-07-2019 to 31-12-2019. Where minimum balance of the account for the whole month of December 2019 is not less than 5 lac. Bidder bidding for different groups should attach the original copy of the bank statement with one group and attested photocopy of the same with other groups. 8 Bank Solvency Certificate(Original Copy) stating amount from any scheduled Bank with the bidder holding an account (The Statement should be issued after 31-03-2020). Solvency certificate should be based on Bank Statement attached. Certificate Stating "Sound & Solvent" is not acceptable and bidder submitting that type of certificate will be rejected. 9 The Bidder should be experienced in supplying MSR Goods worth at least total BDT 3,00,000.00 (Three Lac only) to any Tertiary level Hospital / Specialized Government Hospital / Civil Surgeon Office / Any Government Hospital within any of the last 01 (one) fiscal years. Experience certificate and respective work order must be submitted.				
Description of Groups, Price of Tender Document, Tender Security etc.				
Sl. No.	Group No.	Description of Groups	Price of Tender Document in BDT by treasury challan Code no-1-2711-8000-2366	Tender Security in BDT (in the form of Pay Order / Demand Draft)
16	1	A Medicine (Without EDCL)	BDT 750.00 (Seven hundred fifty Only) for group: A, B,E,F & BDT 400.00 (Four Hundred only) for group: C, D	BDT 70,000.00 (Seventy thousand) for group: A, BDT 30,000.00(Thirty thousand) for group: B, BDT 10,000.00 (Ten thousand only) for group: C & D & BDT 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand) for group: E, F
	2	B MSR Instrument(Medical).		
	3	C Chemical, Re-agent etc. (Including X-Ray Film, ECG Paper)		
	4	D Furniture & Kitchens Material.		
	5	E Surgical Gauge, Bandage, Cotton etc.		
	6	F Linen Goods		
17	Description of Related Services			Detailed description in Tender Booklet.
Note: (a) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. (b) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.				

(Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman Mazumder)
UHC/FPO
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Banshkhali, Chattogram.

GD-874