

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC  
KEY UPDATES

DEATH TOLL NEARS 330,000

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 328,220 people since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday.

At least 5,012,630 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. The United States remains the country with the highest number of deaths with 93,439 fatalities. Britain has recorded 35,704, Italy has 32,330 deaths, France saw 28,132 deaths, and Spain recorded 27,888.

MONKEYS GROW IMMUNITY  
AFTER INFECTION, VACCINE

Two studies on monkeys published on Wednesday offer hope that humans can develop protective immunity to the novel coronavirus. The studies, published in the journal Science, looked at a prototype vaccine and whether infection with SARS-CoV-2 provides immunity against re-exposure. In one study carried out by Barouch and other researchers, nine adult rhesus macaque monkeys were infected with the virus. The monkeys developed COVID-19 symptoms but created protective antibodies and recovered after a few days. To test their immunity, they were exposed to SARS-CoV-2 again 35 days later for what is called a "re-challenge", and they showed few to no symptoms.

VIRUS RISK FOR MILLIONS IN  
CYCLONE SHELTERS

At least 84 people died as the fiercest cyclone to hit parts of Bangladesh and eastern India this century sent trees flying and flattened houses, with millions crammed into shelters despite the risk of coronavirus. Millions more were left without power after Cyclone Amphan, packing winds of around 150 kilometres per hour (95 mph), carried away electricity pylons, walls and roofs, officials said as they began to assess the damage.

INDIA DOMESTIC AIR TRAVEL  
TO RESUME MAY 25

Domestic air travel will resume in India on May 25 after a two-month shutdown imposed to stop the spread of coronavirus, the aviation minister said, in a further easing of national lockdown restrictions. The government halted all domestic flights -- which ferried 144 million passengers as well as cargo across the vast country last year -- on March 25.

TRUMP FOR IN-PERSON G7 MEET

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday he is considering hosting world leaders for the annual G7 summit at his Camp David retreat despite the ongoing coronavirus crisis, as the global death toll soared past 325,000. Trump said in a tweet that he may hold the G7 in June in person, instead of remotely by videoconference as proposed previously. "I am considering rescheduling the G-7, on the same or similar date, in Washington, D.C., at the legendary Camp David," he said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



An aircraft is parked at the flooded Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport after the landfall of cyclone Amphan in Kolkata, yesterday. India and Bangladesh began a massive clean-up Thursday after the fiercest cyclone since 1999 killed at least 84 people, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

PHOTO: AFP

## WHO reports most virus cases in a day

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization has expressed concern about the rising number of new coronavirus cases in poor countries, even as many rich nations have begun emerging from lockdown.

The global health body said 106,000 new cases of infections of the novel coronavirus had been recorded in the past 24 hours starting from Tuesday, the most in a single day since the outbreak began.

"We still have a long way to go in this pandemic," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news conference Wednesday. "We are very concerned about rising cases in low and middle income countries."

The WHO has come under fire from US President Donald Trump, who accuses it of having mishandled the outbreak and of favouring China, where the virus is believed to have emerged late last year. This week Trump threatened to withdraw from the WHO and permanently withhold funding.

Tedros acknowledged receiving a letter from Trump, but declined to comment further.

Tedros said he was committed to accountability and would carry out a review into the response to the pandemic. Such a review was demanded by member states in a resolution this week that was passed by consensus, although the United States expressed reservations about some elements of it.

"I said it time and time again that WHO calls for accountability more than anyone. It has to be done and when it's done it has to be a comprehensive one," Tedros said of the review, while declining to say when it would start.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Officials wearing face masks observe a minute of silence for victims of the coronavirus disease at the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, yesterday.

## China plans nat'l security laws for Hong Kong after unrest

REUTERS, Hong Kong

China will propose national security laws for Hong Kong in response to last year's often violent pro-democracy protests that plunged the city into its deepest turmoil since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997, three people with direct knowledge of the matter said yesterday.

The South China Morning Post newspaper, citing unnamed sources, said the laws would ban secession, foreign interference, terrorism and all seditious activities aimed at toppling the central government and any external interference in the former British colony.

The legislation, which could be introduced as a motion to China's parliament, could be a turning point for its freest and most international city, potentially triggering a revision of its special status in Washington and likely to spark more unrest.

Online posts have already emerged urging people to gather to protest yesterday night and dozens were seen shouting pro-democracy slogans in a shopping mall as riot police stood nearby.

Hong Kong people took to the streets last year, sometimes in their millions, to protest a now-withdrawn bill that would have allowed extraditions of criminal suspects to mainland China. The movement broadened to include demands for broader democracy amid perceptions that Beijing was tightening its grip over the city.

The technical details of the proposals remain unclear but an announcement will be made in Beijing later on Thursday,

one senior Hong Kong government source said.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on May 6 he was delaying the report assessing whether Hong Kong was sufficiently autonomous to warrant Washington's special economic treatment that has helped it remain a world financial centre.

The delay was to account for any actions at the National People's Congress, he said.



A previous attempt by Hong Kong to introduce national security legislation, known as Article 23, in 2003 was met with mass peaceful protests and shelved.

Hong Kong has a constitutional obligation to enact Article 23 "on its own", but similar laws can be introduced by Beijing separately into an annex of the Basic Law, the city's mini-constitution.

That legal mechanism could bypass the city's legislature as the laws could be imposed by promulgation by Hong Kong's pro-Beijing government.

## NEWSIN brief

### US approves sale of 18 torpedoes to Taiwan

AFP, Washington

The United States approved the sale of 18 heavyweight torpedoes to Taiwan for \$180 million, the State Department said Wednesday, in a move that could further strain Washington's already tense relationship with Beijing. The MK-48 torpedoes -- which can be launched from a submarine -- are being provided from existing US Navy stock, the State Department said.

### Evacuations as two dams fail in US

AFP, Sanford

More than 10,000 residents were evacuating their homes in Michigan Wednesday after two dams failed following heavy rain and triggered what officials warned will be historic flooding. Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency in Midland County, site of the breached dams, in the towns of Edenville and Sanford. The National Weather Service warned of life-threatening flash flooding and urged people in the area to seek higher ground immediately.

### Cohen leaves prison early due to virus

REUTERS, Washington

Michael Cohen, Donald Trump's former personal attorney, was released from a federal prison in New York state yesterday due to concerns he could be exposed to the novel coronavirus there. Cohen, 53, had completed a bit more than a year of a three-year sentence for his role in paying hush money to two women who said they had sexual relationships with Trump, as well as financial crimes and lying to Congress. He is expected to serve the rest of his sentence in home confinement.

## India has to resist China 'aggression'

### Says US amid border clashes

AFP, Washington

The United States on Wednesday accused China of employing border clashes with India to try to shift the status quo, and encouraged New Delhi to resist.

Alice Wells, the top US diplomat for South Asia, drew parallels between the growing skirmishes in the Himalayas and Beijing's years of increasing assertiveness in the dispute-rife South China Sea.

"For anyone who was under any illusions that Chinese aggression was only rhetorical, I think they need to speak to India," Wells told the Atlantic Council think tank.

"If you look to the South China Sea, there's a method here to Chinese operations, and it is that constant aggression, the constant attempt to shift the norms, to shift what is the status quo."

"It has to be resisted," said Wells, speaking as she retires from the State Department.

Indian and Chinese troops have engaged in a growing number of brawls and other low-level clashes on their sprawling border, including a recent standoff at the Nathu La Pass which connects the Indian state of Sikkim and Chinese-ruled Tibet.

The world's two most populous nations have longstanding border tensions and fought a brief 1962 war. China still claims about 90,000 square kilometers of territory under New Delhi's control.

Wells reiterated that the US backs India's claims and encouraged a diplomatic solution. US has for two decades been building close ties with India and has an increasingly acrimonious relationship with China on multiple fronts.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare				
Medical Education and Family Welfare Division				
Directorate General of Family Planning				
Logistics & Supply Unit (5th Floor)				
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215				
Invitation for Tenders (Non-Consulting Services)			Date: 20/5/2020	
DGFP/ILS2&4-PSSM/PSN3-PvtTrans/19-20/72/93				
GENERAL INFORMATION				
1	Ministry/Division	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
2	Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP).		
3	Procuring entity name	Director (Logistic and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management- Family Planning).		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Transport Service in Selected Warehouses & Upazila Stores.		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	DGFP/ILS2&4-PSSM/PSN3-PvtTrans/19-20/72/93		
8	Date	20/5/2020.		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	OTM (National).		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB (Dev.)		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	224108300		
13	Project name (if applicable)	4th Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Program (4HPNSP).		
14	Tender package No.	PSSM/PSN-3		
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Transport Service in Selected Warehouses & Upazila Stores.		
16	Tender publication date	Date	Time	
17	Tender last selling date	Date	Time	
18	Tender closing date and time	11/6/2020	11:30am	
19	Tender opening date and time	11/6/2020	11:45am	
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address		
- Selling tender document (principal)		Office of the Director (Logistic and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management- Family Planning), Logistics & Supply Unit (5th Floor), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Contact: Md. Shahadat Hossain, Cell Ph # 01741-404-804		
-Selling tender document (others)		Not applicable.		
21	No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents.			
- Receiving tender document		Office of the Director (Logistic and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management- Family Planning), Logistics & Supply Unit (5th Floor), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.		
- Opening tender document		Office of the Director (Logistic and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management- Family Planning), Logistics & Supply Unit (5th Floor), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.		
23	Brief description of services	The Selection of a Firm for Procurement of Transport Service in Selected Warehouses & Upazila Stores.		
24	Price of tender document (Tk)	Taka 2,000/- (Taka two thousand only), non- refundable. Method of payment should be Treasury Challan from Bangladesh Bank or Sonali Bank Ltd following Code No. 1-7481-0000-2366 in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Original copy of Treasury Challan must be online certified (CTR) by the concerned Accounts' Officer.		
25	Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
26	PSSM/ PSN-3	Procurement of Transport Service in Selected Warehouses & Upazila Stores	Central Warehouse (CWH) to 10 Regional Warehouses (RWH) and RWHs to 256 Upazila Family Planning Stores situated in different upazilas in the country (details info of location/routes attached Service Specification).	24 (twenty-four) months from date of contract signing
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
27	Name of official inviting tender	Sukesh Kumar Sarker.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Logistic and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management- Family Planning).		
29	Address of official inviting tender	Logistics & Supply Unit (5th Floor), Directorate General of Family Planning (5th Floor), 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 88-02-55012349	Fax No. 88-02-5512349	e-mail: diridsdgp@gmail.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			
If the opening date falls on any office holiday or any valid ground, the first working day will be the last selling date of tender document and the next working day will be the opening date.				
Sukesh Kumar Sarker Director (Logistic and Supply) and Line Director (PSSM- FP)				
GD-886				