

Over 660,000 displaced during pandemic

More than 660,000 people have been displaced from their homes in conflict zones around the world since March, despite a UN call for a global ceasefire during the coronavirus pandemic, a top international aid group said yesterday. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said its figures showed that armed conflict around the world had continued during the pandemic, even as much of globe went into lockdown. This was despite a call on March 23 by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for a global ceasefire for the pandemic. The NRC said a total of 661,000 people have been displaced in 19 countries since then, with the highest number by far in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Lanka lifts weddings ban

Sri Lanka yesterday lifted a ban on wedding receptions as part of an easing of coronavirus restrictions, but grooms may not kiss the bride -- at least in public. The country's well-heelled usually hold wedding celebrations with thousands of guests, and the festivities can last for days with much eating, drinking, dancing and singing. But under the new guidelines there should be no more than 100 guests, all of whom must stay a metre (three feet) apart and wear masks -- including the happy couple. Sri Lanka imposed a nationwide curfew on March 20 that ruled out gatherings of any sort, but the restrictions have been eased in many districts that are not considered high-risk. Religious gatherings remain banned while only the bereaved family are allowed at funerals. Sri Lanka has reported 1,055 virus infections with nine deaths since the first case was found on January 27.

Myanmar editor jailed for 2 years over virus error

A Myanmar news editor has been jailed for two years after his agency reported a coronavirus death that turned out to be false, his lawyer said yesterday. The country has only 199 confirmed cases of coronavirus and seen six deaths, although the low numbers tested mean experts fear the true figures are far higher. Chief editor Zaw Ye Htet was arrested April 13, the same day his online news agency Dae Pyaw published an erroneous article alleging there had been a death due to the COVID-19 in eastern Karen state. On May 20 he faced trial, an unusually swift process in a country where suspects often languish for months behind bars before being convicted. Myanmar is drafting new legislation on the control of communicable diseases that would make it even easier to criminalise reporters deemed to be causing public panic.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Residents salvage their belongings from the rubble of a damaged house in the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan, in South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, India, yesterday. Several thousand people have been left homeless after the most powerful cyclone in more than a decade hit India and Bangladesh this week, officials said, as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the affected area yesterday and pledged aid.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC UPDATES

MORE THAN 332,800 DEATHS
The pandemic has killed at least 332,870 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT on Friday based on official sources. There have been at least 5,109,296 officially recorded cases in 196 countries and territories. The United States has recorded the most deaths at 94,729. It is followed by Britain with 36,042, Italy with 32,486, France with 28,215 and Spain with 27,940.

CHINA HAILS 'ACHIEVEMENTS'
China praises its own response to the coronavirus outbreak, Premier Li Keqiang saying Beijing has made "major strategic achievements". Li says China now faces "immense" economic challenges -- it has not set an annual growth target for the first time in decades.

INDIA SEES RECORD CASES
India registered some 6,000 new cases of the novel coronavirus yesterday, the country's biggest jump in 24 hours, as New Delhi eases a nationwide lockdown. The country reported a total of over 118,000 confirmed cases yesterday. Included in the total are 3,583 deaths.

LATIN AMERICA DEATHS SURGE
Brazil's death toll -- the sixth highest of any country -- has doubled in just 11 days. The epicentre of Latin America's outbreak has now recorded more than 20,000 dead. In Chile, coronavirus deaths have increased by 29 percent over the past 24 hours. The United Nations says the economic crisis caused by the pandemic has left an extra 11.5 million people unemployed in Latin America.

FRANCE TO HOLD DELAYED POLLS
France will hold a second round of municipal elections on June 28 after they were called off in March because of a lockdown, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe says.

RUSSIA'S ECONOMY PLUNGES
Russia's economy is forecast to shrink by 9.5 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared with the same period last year, while yearly GDP will fall by five percent, economy minister Maksim Reshetnikov says.

QUARANTINE IN BRITAIN
Britain is to introduce a quarantine period of 14 days for those arriving in the UK, Northern Ireland secretary Brandon Lewis says. UK retail sales dived by a record 18.1 percent in April with clothing sales by volume in particular plunging by more than half compared with the previous month.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Fight to 'liberate Palestine' 'Islamic duty': Khamenei

AFP, Tehran

Iran's supreme leader said it was an "Islamic duty" to fight for the "liberation of Palestine" in a landmark speech yesterday amid rising tensions with regional arch-enemy Israel.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei lashed out at Western governments and their Arab "puppets" for supporting the Jewish state, in his first ever address marking Quds (Jerusalem) Day.

The 80-year-old leader also appeared to confirm for the first time that Iran has helped to provide Palestinians with arms.

The remarks came at the end of a week that saw Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launch a Twitter tirade against Khamenei and reports that the two sides carried out cyber attacks on each other.

"The aim of this struggle is the liberation of the entire Palestinian land" and "the return of all Palestinians to their country," Khamenei said in the speech broadcast live on state television.

Every year since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has marked Quds Day on the last Friday of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, in solidarity with the Palestinians.

In his speech, Khamenei also criticised the UN for failing to do its job in Middle East trouble spots.

Jordan threatened Thursday to review its relationship with Israel if the Jewish state goes ahead with controversial plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

"We will not accept unilateral Israeli moves to annex Palestinian lands and we would be forced to review all aspects of our relations with Israel," Prime Minister Omar al-Razzaz told the official Petra news agency.

His comments came days after Jordan's King Abdullah II warned that if Israel "really annexes the West Bank in July, it would lead to a massive conflict with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan".

Khashoggi family forgive killers

REUTERS, Riyadh

The family of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi yesterday said that they had forgiven the men who murdered their father, paving the way for a legal reprieve for five defendants sentenced to death for the October 2018 killing.

"If a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from Allah," Khashoggi's son Salah tweeted.

"Therefore, we the sons of the martyr Jamal Khashoggi announce that we pardon those who killed our father".

In Saudi Arabia, which lacks a codified legal system and follows Islamic law, forgiveness from a victim's family in cases of murder can allow for a formal pardon.

However, Khashoggi's fiancée Hatice Cengiz said that no one could pardon his killers. Khashoggi was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2, 2018, where he had gone to obtain documents for his impending wedding. His body was reportedly dismembered and removed from the building, and his remains have not been found.

The murder caused a global uproar and tarnished the image of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Some Western governments, as well as the CIA, said they believed he had ordered the killing.

Saudi officials denied he played a role.

CONTROVERSIAL NATIONAL SECURITY LAW 'Death knell for Hong Kong autonomy'

US slams China; Beijing says laws needed for security

REUTERS, Hong Kong

A Chinese proposal to impose national security laws on Hong Kong could see mainland intelligence agencies set up bases there, raising fears of direct law enforcement and what US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called a "death knell" for the city's autonomy.

Communist Party rulers in Beijing unveiled details yesterday, a day after proposing the legislation that critics see as a turning point for China's most free-wheeling city.

Pro-democracy activists and politicians in the former British colony have for years opposed such legislation, arguing it could erode its autonomy, guaranteed under the "one country, two systems" agreement under which Britain returned Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Some pro-democracy lawmakers denounced the plans as "the end of Hong Kong". Hong Kong activists called for people to rise up against the proposal, aimed at tackling secession, subversion, terrorism, and foreign interference, that has sent shockwaves across the business and diplomatic communities.

Foreign diplomats fear establishing new Beijing agencies in Hong Kong could give mainland security and intelligence officers enforcement powers that could potentially put rights and freedoms, protected in the handover agreement, at risk.

Calls have emerged for flash mobs at night across the territory and democracy activists plan to meet the press to announce "street action".

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said her government will "fully cooperate" with the Chinese parliament to safeguard national security, which she said would not affect rights, freedoms or judicial independence.

US President Donald Trump warned Washington would react "very strongly" if Beijing went ahead with the security law.

In his annual report to parliament, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said China would establish a "sound" legal system and enforcement mechanisms to ensure national security in Hong Kong and Macau.

Li Keqiang yesterday also left out the word "peaceful" in referring to Beijing's desire to "reunify" with Chinese-claimed Taiwan, an apparent policy shift that comes as ties with Taipei continue on a downward spiral.

Democratic Taiwan has shown no interest in being ruled by autocratic China.

US plans to quit 'Open Skies' treaty

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump announced Thursday he plans to withdraw the United States from the Open Skies Treaty with Russia, the third arms control pact Trump has abrogated since coming to office.

The US leader said Moscow had not stuck to its commitments under the 18-year-old pact, which was designed to improve military transparency and confidence between the superpowers.

Yesterday, Russia said it will continue to observe the treaty that allows spy planes access to other countries' air space even if the US pulls out.

The Open Skies treaty allows its 34 full members to carry out unarmed surveillance flights over other member countries at short notice.

Aircrafts can survey the territory below, collecting information and pictures of military installations and activities. The idea is that the more rival militaries know about each other, the less the chance of conflict between them.

A family wearing face masks eat next to a stall in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei province yesterday. China took the rare move of not setting an annual growth target this year after the coronavirus battered the world's second-largest economy and ravaged global growth, Premier Li Keqiang said.

PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers holding up placards are blocked by security as they protest during a House Committee meeting concerning the second reading of a national anthem bill, at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

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দুইটি বর্ষ বঙ্গ বার
একটি ঘরে অনেক দেশ

তারিখঃ ১০/০৫/২০২০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়/স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ।		
০২	সম্প্রদায়িক/স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী।		
০৩	অর্থায়নের উৎস	রাজস্ব/জিওবি/বোকা/অতিরিক্ত/বিশেষ বরাদ্দ।		
০৪	আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের স্মারক ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-উপজেলাঃ স্বাস্থ্যকমঃ/বিঃ/নোয়া/২০/১০৭৬ তারিখঃ ১০/০৫/২০২০		
০৫	দরপত্রের নাম/কাজের বিবরণ	২০১৯-২০২০ইং অর্থবছরে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী এর এম.এস.আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের দরপত্র (গ্রুপ নং-"ক"-ঔষধপত্র সামগ্রী, "খ"-সার্জিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাতি সামগ্রী, "গ"-লিঙ্গেন সামগ্রী, "ঘ"-গজ, ব্যাডেজ, কটন, "ঙ"-কেমিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট সামগ্রী এবং "চ"-আসবাবপত্র ও ক্রিটেন সামগ্রী।		
০৬	সম্প্রদায়িক স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা	নোয়াখালী।		
০৭	ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া	লিপিঅর ২০০৬, ২০০৮ ও (সংশোধিত ২০১৯) মোতাবেক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।		
০৮	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সকল সরবরাহকারী/বাজারজাতকারী/আমদানীকারক/উৎপাদনকারী/এজেন্ট/হিসাদার।		
০৯	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফারতফযোগ্য)	প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য চাশানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৬৮১ এ বাংলাদেশ/সোনালী ব্যাংক, টৌমহনী শাখায় জমাদানপূর্বক উপজেলা হিসাবরক্ষণ অফিস, বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী কর্তৃক চাশানের সি.টি.আর সহ মূলকপি হিসাবরক্ষকের নিকট জমা করে দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।		
১০	দরপত্র জামানত/বাছনার	গ্রুপের নাম	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারতফযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানতের পে-অর্ডার/ডিভিডির পরিমাণ
		"ক"-ঔষধপত্র সামগ্রী	১০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা	৪৮,০০০/- (আটচল্লিশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
		"খ"-সার্জিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাতি সামগ্রী ও মোরামত	৭৫০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা	২৮,০০০/- (আটশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
		"গ"-লিঙ্গেন সামগ্রী	৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা	১৪,০০০/- (সোঁদ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
		"ঘ"-গজ, ব্যাডেজ, কটন	৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা	১৪,০০০/- (সোঁদ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
		"ঙ"-কেমিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট সামগ্রী	৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা	৫,৫০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র)
		"চ"-আসবাবপত্র ও ক্রিটেন সামগ্রী	৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা	৫,৫০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র)
১১	দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয়, দর প্রস্তাব গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী। (দরপত্র পুস্তিকা ক্যাশিয়ারের নিকট হতে সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে)।		
১২	দরপত্র সংগ্রহের স্থান	১। উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী ২। সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, নোয়াখালী ৩। উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী।		
১৩	দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ, দিন ও সময়	২৮/০৫/২০২০খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (০৮-০২.৩০ মিনিট)।		
১৪	দরপত্র তফসীল দাখিলের স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী।		
১৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৩১/০৫/২০২০খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
১৬	দরপত্র ব্যর্থ খোশার তারিখ ও সময়	৩১/০৫/২০২০খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১.৩০ ঘটিকা।		

ডায় অসীম কুমার দাশ

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা

বেগমগঞ্জ, নোয়াখালী

জিডি-৮৮৮৬