

**Seoul mayor takes own life after '#MeToo' complaint**



The mayor of Seoul, a contender to be South Korea's next president and a former human rights lawyer, took his own life a day after he was accused of sexual harassment, authorities said yesterday. Park Won-soon, whose body was recovered on a mountain in the capital, is by far the most high-profile politician to be implicated in a harassment case in South Korea. Park offered a general apology in a suicide note found at his official residence and released by city authorities. "I'm sorry to everyone. I thank everyone who has been with me in my life," he wrote, asking to be cremated and his ashes scattered at his parents' graves. "I'm sorry to my family, to whom I only caused pain." "Bye everyone," he signed off, without referring to the allegations against him. His death came a day after his former secretary filed a police complaint — said to involve sexual harassment — against him.

**Furore after Indian police shoot gangster dead**

Indian police shot dead one of the country's most wanted gangsters yesterday just a day after his dramatic arrest, sparking accusations of a staged extra-judicial killing. Officials said Vikas Dubey, detained for the killing of eight police officers, was shot as he tried to escape a police vehicle while being driven to his home city in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Within hours of TV stations carrying images of his bloodstained body lying in a hospital, rights lawyers and activists alleged that police had killed Dubey to prevent him revealing his connections with powerful people. Senior opposition Congress party leader Priyanka Gandhi said the people "protecting" Dubey were still free. Dubey, aged about 50, was accused in more than 60 murders, attempted murders and other cases. He was said to have shot dead an Uttar Pradesh state minister inside a police station in 2001.

**Kim's sister says 'no need' for another US-N Korea summit**

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday said there was "no need" for another summit with the United States unless Washington offered a "decisive change" in approach. Kim and US President Donald Trump first met in Singapore two years ago but talks over Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal have been stalled since their Hanoi summit collapsed in early 2019 over what the North would be willing to give up in exchange for sanctions relief. Trump said this week he would "certainly" meet with Kim again "if I thought it was going to be helpful", after speculation that he might pursue another summit if it could help his re-election chances in November.

SOURCE: ANN, REUTERS, AFP

**Pandemic keeps breaking records**

*Bolivia leader catches virus as US, India see record cases; HK to shut all schools*

AGENCIES

Bolivia's interim president became the latest world leader to test positive for the coronavirus, as India and the United States notched yet another record-breaking surge of cases while global infections and fatalities continued their relentless rise.

Covid-19 has now claimed more than 550,000 lives across the planet, and infected more than 12 million people since it first emerged in China in late 2019 -- among them Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and now Bolivia's Jeanine Anez.

In a video on Twitter Anez said she was "fine" and would continue working from isolation.

India recorded 26,506 new cases of the disease, the highest jump so far, in the last 24 hours pushing its infection tally to 793,802, according to the Union health ministry yesterday.

The country has recorded more than two lakh cases since July 1 and has witnessed over 20,000 infections every day since July 3. The ministry reported 25,000 new infections on Thursday and 25,724 new cases on Wednesday.

The death toll in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning mounted to 21,604 with 475 new fatalities. The Indian government continued to maintain that there is no community transmission of the virus yet in the country.

Rajesh Bhushan, Officer on Special Duty in the health ministry, had said on Thursday that "Even today, the health minister (Harsh Vardhan) clearly said



**Chilean nurse Damaris Silva plays the violin for patients infected with COVID-19, at the Intensive Care Unit of the El Pino hospital, in Santiago, Chile, on Thursday.**

PHOTO: AFP

that India has not reached the stage of community transmission. In some geographical areas, there have been localised outbreaks."

The number of recoveries from Covid-19 yesterday stood at 4,95,51, while there are 2,76,685 active cases of the infection across the country, the updated data said. "Thus, around 62.42 percent of patients have recovered so far," an official said.

West Bengal reported the highest one-day jump of 1,088 cases taking the state's tally to 25,911 while the death toll stood at 854 with a record 27 deaths in the last 24 hours.

In view of the rise in the cases, West Bengal authorities clamped a

week-long strict lockdown in all the containment zones, which are areas with high caseloads, across the state since Thursday in a bid to contain the spread of Covid-19.

With 2,187 fresh coronavirus cases, Delhi's infection tally stood at 1,07,051 and the death toll mounted to 3,258.

The United States recorded 65,551 new cases in last 24 hours-- a new high, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The country, the hardest-hit in the world by the pandemic, has a total caseload of more than 3.1 million, with 133,195 deaths.

"We're in a very difficult, challenging period right now," top US infectious

diseases expert Anthony Fauci said. US President Donald Trump, who has publicly disagreed with Fauci, has downplayed the spike.

Hong Kong will close all schools after a spike in locally transmitted coronavirus infections, the city's education minister said yesterday.

Schools will close from Monday, bringing forward the start of the summer holidays, Kevin Yeung said, after the city recorded an "exponential growth" of locally transmitted cases in the past few days.

Australia will slash the number of returning citizens allowed into the country by half as it struggles to contain a worsening outbreak in its second-largest city Melbourne. From Monday, only 4,000 Australian citizens or permanent residents will be allowed back each day.

Meanwhile thousands of angry Serbians protested for a third day against the government's handling of the crisis -- though the demonstrations remained largely peaceful after two nights of violence.

And, in a potentially worrying discovery, scientists in Italy said there was "strong evidence" that Covid-19 positive mothers can pass the virus on to their unborn children.

The pandemic could push 45 million people from the middle classes into poverty in already economically troubled Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations warned.

**BORDER DISPUTE**  
**Nepal cable operators ban Indian news**

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's cable television operators have suspended Indian news channels for "objectionable" reporting on the country's prime minister as tensions between the neighbours rise over a border dispute.

The countries have been wrangling since India opened a new road to the disputed Lipu Lekh pass on their border in May.

The Indian channels went blank late on Thursday, days after the Zee Hindustan news channel aired a report that said a relationship between China's ambassador and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli had caused the dispute with India.

Indian army chief General MM Naravane sparked anger last month after suggesting Nepal's conflict with India over their shared frontier might have been "at the behest of someone else", hinting at China's involvement in the dispute.

New Delhi and Beijing have been locked in their own frontier stand-off. A deadly high-altitude Himalayan border clash between the world's two most populous nations last month claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers.

**Hagia Sophia becomes mosque**

REUTERS, Istanbul

President Tayyip Erdogan declared Istanbul's Hagia Sophia open to Muslim worship yesterday after a top court ruled that the building's conversion to a museum by modern Turkey's founding statesman was illegal.

Erdogan made his announcement, just an hour after the court ruling was revealed, despite international warnings not to change the status of the nearly 1,500-year-old monument, revered by Christians and Muslims alike.

"The decision was taken to hand over the management of the Ayasofya Mosque...to the Religious Affairs Directorate and open it for worship," the decision signed by Erdogan said.

Erdogan had earlier proposed restoring the mosque status of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, a focal point of both the Christian Byzantine and Muslim Ottoman empires and now one of the most visited monuments in Turkey.



The United States, Greece and church leaders were among those to express concern about changing the status of the huge 6th Century building, converted into a museum in the early days of the modern secular Turkish state under Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

The association which brought the court case, the latest in a 16-year legal battle, said Hagia Sophia was the property of the Ottoman leader who captured the city in 1453 and turned the already 900-year-old Byzantine church into a mosque.

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**Israeli forces fire a sound grenade at Palestinian demonstrators during a protest against Jewish settlements and Israel's planned annexation of parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in the Palestinian town of Asira ash-Shamaliya, yesterday.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

**AL JAZEERA'S MIGRANT DOCUMENTARY**

**Malaysia grills journos**

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian yesterday police questioned five Australian journalists from Al Jazeera over a documentary about the plight of migrants which has angered the government, as the broadcaster expressed shock at the probe.

The investigation into the Qatar-based network's programme has added to concerns about a widening media crackdown in Malaysia after a scandal-plagued party came to power earlier this year.

The documentary, "Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown", looked at the detention of undocumented foreigners during a coronavirus lockdown, as well as the plight of other members of the migrant community.

But the government decried it as misleading and inaccurate, and police are now investigating the broadcaster for breaking laws against sedition, defamation and transmitting offensive content.

On Friday six Al Jazeera staff members were questioned for five hours by police in Kuala Lumpur over the documentary made for "101 East", a weekly show featuring in-depth investigations.

Five of the six are Australian, according to Australian union the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

Malaysia's national police chief Abdul Hamid Bador said prosecutors believed there were "elements of sedition" in the

documentary but insisted that "police will act fairly". The staff interviewed Friday were being treated as witnesses in the case, not suspects, he said. He also said police were looking for a Bangladeshi man who appeared in the programme.

Ahead of the questioning, Al Jazeera said it was "shocked" by Malaysia's response to the documentary, broadcast on July 3, and it stood by the "professionalism, quality and impartiality of its journalism".

"Charging journalists for doing their jobs is not the action of a democracy that values free speech," it said. "Journalism is not a crime."

The International Federation of Journalists, which represents media unions worldwide, said it "deeply regrets" Malaysian authorities using tough laws against transmitting offensive content "to silence and intimidate journalists".

The show sparked a huge backlash online in Malaysia, and the defence minister demanded an apology from the broadcaster. Authorities said the arrests in May of undocumented migrants were necessary to protect the public, although rights groups raised concern that placing them in detention centres could increase the risk of coronavirus infection.

Malaysia is home to large numbers of migrants from poorer countries like Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar

**NEWSIN brief**

**Japan to get 105 US F-35 fighters**

AFP, Washington

The United States announced Thursday that it has approved the sale of 105 F-35 stealth aircraft to Japan for an estimated \$23.11 billion. Japan had asked to buy 63 F-35A, the traditional version of the electronics-laden fighter aircraft, and 42 F-35B, the short-takeoff and vertical-landing version for aircraft carriers, the State Department said in a statement.

**Colombia lost 159,000 hectares of forest**

AFP, Bogota

Colombia lost 159,000 hectares of forest -- an area the size of Brazilian megacity Sao Paulo -- to deforestation in 2019, according to an official report presented on Thursday. Although considerable, it represents a 19 percent reduction in deforestation compared to the 197,000 hectares destroyed in 2018. In 2017, that figure was 219,000. Some 62 percent of the deforestation was in the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest that spans across Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

**Israeli troops kill Palestinian man**

AFP, Ramallah

Israeli troops killed a Palestinian civilian in the West Bank on Thursday, the Palestinian health ministry said. The ministry did not give any details as to the circumstances of the killing, stating only that "a civilian was killed by Israeli forces" after being shot in the neck at Kif Hares, a village south of Nablus. The West Bank is a Palestinian territory which has been under Israeli occupation since 1967.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
College Education Development Project (CEDP)  
Ananda Mohan College  
Mymensingh  
E-mail: anadamohan1908cedp@gmail.com, Phone No. 091-66769

**Invitation for Tenders**

Issue No. AMC/CEDP-IDGW-1 Date: 11-07-2020

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.		
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.		
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh.		
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.		
5	Procuring entity district	Mymensingh.		
6	Invitation for	Renovation & Refurbishment of IDG Office, Dept. Office, Classroom, Seminar, Lab, Drinking Water Facilities and Wash Room (Re-Tender).		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	CEDP/PM/IDG/IDP-11/2017-299 OF PROJECT DIRECTOR.		
8	Date	11/07/2020		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).		
11	Development partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
12	Project code	224017200		
13	Project name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).		
14	Tender Package No.	002 AMC/CEDP-IDG		
15	Tender package name	Renovation & Refurbishment of IDG Office, Dept. Office, Classroom, Seminar, Lab, Drinking Water Facilities and Wash Room (Re-Tender).		
16	Tender publication date	11/07/2020		
17	Tender last selling date	25/07/2020		
18	Tender closing date and time	26/07/2020 Time 2:00pm.		
19	Tender opening date and time	26/07/2020 Time 3:00pm.		
20	Name & address of the office	Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh.		
	Selling tender document	Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh, Muminunnesa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh, Date: 12-07-2020, Time 09:00am.		
	Receiving tender document	Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh, Muminunnesa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh, Office of Police Superintendent, Mymensingh.		
	Opening tender document	Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh.		
21	Place/date time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Will not be held.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum number 05 years general experience in refurbishment activities (renovation/repair/extension) and physical services. The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities of minimum BDT 3,500,000 (thirty-five lac) only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 20,000,000 (two crore) only over the last 03 years.		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Brick work, Plaster, Floor & Wall tiles, Plastic paint, Door window repair, Grill repair, Enamel paint, Sanitary work & Electrification works etc.		
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract Section 6: Schedule of Requirements and Section 7: Technical Specification of the tender document.		
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred).		
26	Tender name	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
	Renovation & Refurbishment of IDG Office, Dept. Office, Classroom, Seminar, Lab, Drinking Water Facilities and Wash Room (Re-Tender)	Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh	1.00 lac	3 (three) months
27	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Narayan Chandra Bhowmik, Principal, Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal, Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh.		
29	Address of official inviting tender	Principal, Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 091-66769	Tel: 091-65366	Tel: 091-66859
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

**Professor Narayan Chandra Bhowmik**  
Principal, Ananda Mohan College  
Mymensingh

GD-1115