

Standoff with China will be a long one

India warns in pulled statement

REUTERS, Guwahati

India's defence ministry has warned, in a statement since removed from its website, that a military standoff with China that began with border fighting in June is likely to be a long one, despite multiple rounds of talks between the nuclear-armed rivals to defuse the tension.

The ministry said in an update for June - which has now been removed - that Chinese forces had breached the border in the Kugrang Nala and Gogra areas and the north shore of Pangong Tso lake in the northern Indian territory of Ladakh on May 17-18.

New Delhi says a "violent face-off" that followed the intrusion killed 20 of its soldiers in the western Himalayas.

It was the worst outbreak of violence between the giant Asian neighbours in decades. China accuses the Indian side of crossing the de facto border and provoking its soldiers.

"While engagement and dialogue at military and diplomatic level is continuing to arrive at mutually acceptable consensus, the present standoff is likely to be prolonged," the Indian defence ministry said in the now-removed statement, which was posted to Twitter by Reuters partner ANI and others on Thursday.

In another development, India's federal government yesterday named a former telecoms minister to lead the restive region of Kashmir, where it hopes to accelerate economic development and end years of strife. Manoj Sinha, a leader in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party, will replace career bureaucrat GC Murtmu as lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir, a government statement said.



French President Emmanuel Macron talks to people during a visit to the Gemmayzeh neighbourhood, which has suffered extensive damage due to a massive explosion in the Lebanese capital, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Rajapaksa party on course for big Sri Lanka election win

Sri Lanka's ruling party took a clear lead yesterday in early results from parliamentary elections in which the dominant Rajapaksa family hope to strengthen their grip on power. Counting in the island's south showed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Party with 72 percent of the vote. Since the prime minister's younger brother Gotabaya won a presidential election in November, Sri Lankans have largely embraced the family's populist platform. The policy programme emerged from a wave of nationalist sentiment that followed Easter bombings in 2019 by Muslim radicals which killed 279 people. The brothers are viewed as heroes by the country's Sinhalese majority for orchestrating a ruthless military campaign to end a decades-long Tamil separatist war in 2009 under the leadership of Mahinda. Final results were expected late yesterday.

Pompeo wants to eliminate Chinese apps from US stores

The US is expanding its China-targeted Clean Network program to include Chinese-made cellphone apps and cloud computing services that it claims are security risks, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Wednesday. Pompeo said the US wants to ban untrusted Chinese apps from the app stores of US mobile carriers and phonemakers. "With parent companies based in China, apps like TikTok, WeChat, and others are significant threats to the personal data of American citizens, not to mention tools for CCP content censorship," he said, referring to the Chinese Communist Party. But he added that the US also wants to block American-made apps from being pre-installed, or made available for download, on Chinese-made phones and wireless equipment from global giant Huawei and other makers.



Dinosaurs got cancer too!

Dinosaurs loom in the imagination as forces of nature, but a new study that identifies the first known case of cancer in the creatures shows they suffered from the debilitating disease too. A badly malformed Centrosaurus leg bone unearthed in the Alberta, Canada badlands in 1989 had originally been thought by paleontologists to be a healed fracture. But a fresh examination of the growth under a microscope and using a technique also employed in human cancer care determined it was actually a malignant tumor. "The cancer discovery makes dinosaurs more real," study co-author Mark Crowther told AFP. "We often think of them as mythical creatures, robust and stomping around, but (the diagnosis shows) they suffered from diseases just like people." The findings were published in the August issue of The Lancet Oncology.

Beirut blast: Grief turns to anger

Macron visits Lebanon to offer help, urge reform; toll rises to 137, dozens still missing

AGENCIES

French President Emmanuel Macron visited shell-shocked Beirut yesterday, pledging support and urging change after a massive explosion devastated the Lebanese capital in a disaster that has sparked grief and fury.

"Lebanon is not alone," he tweeted on arrival before pledging Paris would coordinate international relief efforts after the colossal blast killed at least 137 people, wounded thousands and caused billions of dollars in damage.

But Macron also warned that Lebanon -- already mired in a deep economic crisis, in desperate need of a bailout and hit by political turmoil -- would "continue to sink" unless it implements urgent reforms.

Public anger is on the boil over the blast caused by a massive pile of ammonium nitrate that had for years lain in a ramshackle portside warehouse -- proof to many Lebanese of the deep rot at the core of their state system.

Macron visited Beirut's harbourside blast zone, now a wasteland of blackened ruins. As Macron inspected a devastated pharmacy, angry crowds outside vented their fury at their "terrorist" leadership, shouting "revolution" and "the people want an end to the regime!"

"Come rule us!" one man yelled at the president. Macron told them he would urge Lebanon's leaders to accept "a new political deal" and "to change the



system, to stop the division of Lebanon, to fight against corruption."

Macron's visit to the small Mediterranean country, France's Middle East protege and former colonial-era protectorate, was the first by a foreign head of state since Tuesday's unprecedented tragedy.

Two days on, Lebanon was still reeling from a blast so huge it was felt in neighbouring countries, its mushroom-shaped cloud drawing comparisons with the Hiroshima atom bomb.

The deadly explosion left dozens more missing and a staggering 5,000 people wounded, many by flying shards of glass as windows imploded.

The death toll was expected to rise as rescue workers keep digging through the rubble.

According to several officials, the explosion was

caused by a fire igniting 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertiliser stored for years in the warehouse.

Even as they counted their dead and cleaned up the streets, many Lebanese were consumed with anger over a blast they see as the most shocking expression yet of their leadership's incompetence.

"We can't bear more than this. This is it. The whole system has got to go," said 30-year-old Mohammad Suyur as he picked up broken glass in Mar Mikhail, one of the worst-hit city districts.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab and President Michel Aoun have promised to put the culprits behind bars, but trust in institutions is low and few on Beirut's streets held out hope for an impartial inquiry.

Amid the gloom and fury, the aftermath of the terrible explosion has also yielded countless uplifting examples of spontaneous solidarity.

Business owners swiftly took to social media, posting offers to repair doors, paint damaged walls or replace shattered windows for free. Lebanon's diaspora, believed to be nearly three times the tiny country's population of five million, has rushed to launch fundraisers and wire money to loved ones.

In Beirut, much of the cleanup has been handled by volunteers in improvised working groups who bring their own equipment and organise online appeals for help. "We don't have a state to take these steps, so we took matters into our own hands," said Husam Abu Nasr, a 30-year-old volunteer.



US offers \$10m reward against polls meddling

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday offered a \$10 million reward aimed at preventing foreign interference in the November election, as the State Department accused Russia of waging an increasingly sophisticated disinformation campaign.

The reward marks one of the most public signs that members of President Donald Trump's administration are taking election meddling seriously, despite anger by Trump himself over findings that Russia has assisted him.

Pompeo pointed to efforts by "Russia and other malign actors" as he announced the effort to stop election interference.

The United States "is offering a reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to the identification or location of any person who, acting at the direction or under the control of a foreign government, interferes with US elections by engaging in certain criminal cyber activities," Pompeo told reporters.

US intelligence concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to support Trump, especially through manipulation of social media, although it did not find that his campaign colluded with Moscow.

Trump has been outraged by the "Russia hoax" and in February removed the director of national intelligence over a briefing to lawmakers that found that Russia appeared to want Trump to win a new term on November 3.

US officials have also warned less specifically about China's efforts to manipulate polls.



A girl stands along the riverbank as paper lanterns are released on Motoyasu River in front of ruins of the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, now commonly known as the atomic bomb dome, in Hiroshima, yesterday. Japan yesterday marked 75 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack, with the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic forcing a scaling back of annual ceremonies to commemorate the victims. PHOTO: AFP

India sees record deaths

904 killed in 24 hours; Europe tightens curbs fearing second wave

AGENCIES

India has recorded the biggest single-day fatalities of 904 in the past 24 hours as fresh coronavirus infections surged by another 56,282 cases to reach nearly two million.

The health ministry said yesterday the total fatalities touched 40,699. India has recorded 20,000 deaths in the past 30 days.

The ministry also said the recovery rate has improved to 67 percent from 63 percent over the last 14 days. Nearly 600,000 patients are still undergoing treatment. The case fatality rate stands at 2.09 percent.

The worldwide death toll crossed 707,000 as several European countries and cities reimposed tighter restrictions, including a "wake-up week" in Greece and new face mask and quarantine rules elsewhere, reports AFP.

The US tallied another 1,262 deaths and 53,158 cases Wednesday, marking 157,930 total deaths and more than 4.8 million cases -- making it by far the worst-hit country in the world.

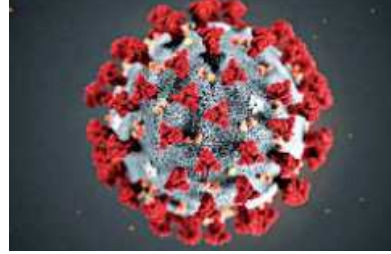
Chicago will teach online only when school resumes in September, the mayor said on Wednesday, and New York City announced checkpoints at bridges and tunnels to enforce a quarantine on travelers from 35 states on a list of Australia's second-largest city entered the country's toughest lockdown yet yesterday. Melbourne's streets were visibly quieter as non-essential businesses were forced to shutter under new rules expected to be in place for six weeks.

Germany's health minister said the country will introduce mandatory coronavirus tests for travellers returning from designated risk zones from tomorrow.

Poland re-imposed compulsory face masks in all public spaces in nine districts, the health minister said.

Pakistan yesterday announced it would be lifting most of the country's remaining restrictions after seeing new cases drop for several weeks.

All restaurants and parks will be allowed to re-open from August 10, as will parks, theatres, cinemas and public transport, said Asad Umar, who heads Pakistan's task force to fight the coronavirus.



Grenade attack on Pak rally for Kashmir injures 30

REUTERS, Karachi

At least 30 people were injured in a grenade attack on a rally in Karachi on Wednesday, as Pakistan marked the first anniversary of India's revocation of Kashmir's semi-autonomy.

The wounded were rushed to different hospitals, an official said.

The attack was claimed by Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army, a separatist outfit that wants Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital, to break from the Pakistani federation.

It has also announced its alliance with the Balochistan Liberation Army, a militant group fighting for greater autonomy for the Balochistan region.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়	
আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট	
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স্মারক নং- তত্ত্বাব/হাস/অস/আউটসোর্সিং/দরপত্র/২০২০-২০২১/২৫৫৮	তারিখ: ২৮/০৭/২০২০ইং
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অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্মারক নং-০৭.০০.০০০০.১৫৬.১৫.০২৩.১৯-১২৭ তারিখ: ২৩.০২.২০২০ এবং স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্মারক নং-৪৫.০১.০০০০.১৪০.২৭.০০১.১৮.৪১২ তারিখ: ১১.০৫.২০২০ইং অনুযায়ী ২০২০-২০২১ইং অর্থ বছরে ১০০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট এ আউটসোর্সিং এর মাধ্যমে জনবল সরবরাহের উদ্দেশ্যে পিপিএ-২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ (মোটাবেক প্রকৃত জনবল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।	
১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়/স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর।
২। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট।
৩। কাজের নাম	গার্ডেনার-০১, বায়ুটি-০২, সহকারী বায়ুটি-০২, পরিষ্কারকারী-০৩, জেম-০১।
৪। দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২৮/০৭/২০২০ইং
৫। দরপত্র সমগ্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (পিপিএ-২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী)।
৬। স্থাবরের উৎস	রাজস্ব/ঋণ।
৭। দরদাতার যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	প্রকৃত জনবল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, জাটি রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, টিআইএন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ, ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট (সোলভেন্সি), জাতীয়তাবাদ সনদ, মালিকানাধীন এফিসিয়েন্সি, প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকের পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০২ কপি বহিন সত্যায়িত ছবি, প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় মর্মে অসীমাবাদনা, প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে নমুনা স্বাক্ষর, সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে জনবল সরবরাহের পূর্ববর্তী ০১ (এক) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতার প্রত্যয়নপত্র, সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের আর্থিক চুক্তিপত্রসহ প্রত্যয়ন, দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে জনবল সরবরাহের ২/৩ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা অর্জনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হইবে। সনদ সনদের ফটোকপি, ছবি এবং নমুনা স্বাক্ষর ১ম শ্রেণি গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তার নামের সীলসহ সত্যায়িত থাকতে হবে।
৮। দরপত্র মূল্য ও জামানতের পরিমাণ	(ক) দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা, অফেরতযোগ্য। কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২০৬৬ যাতে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা দিয়ে চালানের মূলকপি জেলা হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সিডিআর করে দাখিল সাপেক্ষে প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউল করা করা যাইবে। (খ) দরপত্র প্রস্তুতির সাথে তত্ত্বাবধায়ক আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট-এর অনুমুদিত বে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে দরপত্র জামানত হিসাবে ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা পেমেন্ট/ব্যাংক ড্রাকট, ফেরতযোগ্য দাখিল করতে হবে।
৯। শর্ত সন্নিবেশিত দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রার্থীর স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	(১) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ২৫/০৮/২০২০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পাওয়া যাবে।
১০। দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট এর কার্যালয় তারিখ ২৬/০৮/২০২০ইং সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বাতিল প্রত্যয়ন করা হবে।
১১। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট এর কার্যালয় ২৬/০৮/২০২০ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্রপ্রার্থীদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) খোলা হবে।
১২। কাজের সমাপ্তিসীমা	কার্যসম্পন্ন তারিখ হতে ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছর (৩০ জুন/২০২১ইং পর্যন্ত)।
১৩। যোগাযোগ	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, আধুনিক জেলা হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট। ফোন: ০৫৭১-৬২২২০।
১৪। আউটসোর্সিং এর মাধ্যমে "সেবা গ্রহণ নিতিমালা-২০১৬" নি পাবলিক অফিসের আইন-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিত) ও অন্যান্য বিধিবিধান আদেশ অনুসারে দরপত্র কার্যক্রম গৃহীত হবে।	
১৫। বিশেষ নিদেশিকা	সমগ্রকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দর প্রস্তুত গ্রহণ অথবা সনদ দর প্রস্তুত/জনবল সনদে প্রক্রিয়া ব্যতিত করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।