

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethiopia: UN plans for 200,000 refugees as violence rages on

Rebel forces from Ethiopia's Tigray region fired rockets on Friday at the distant capital of the neighbouring Amhara region, Amhara authorities said, raising worries the conflict could spill into a wider war. Two weeks into the conflict, the United Nations said it was making plans for as many as 200,000 refugees fleeing into neighbouring Sudan, and made an urgent appeal for \$200 million to assist them. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people have been killed and tens of thousands of refugees have fled from fighting in Tigray, raising questions of whether Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed can hold his ethnically diverse nation together.

Uganda's Bobi Wine gets bail as protest death toll rises to 37

Ugandan pop star and presidential candidate Bobi Wine, whose arrest this week triggered protests that led to at least 37 deaths, was released on bail yesterday after being charged with holding rallies likely to spread the coronavirus. Authorities have deployed the military across the capital Kampala and surrounding areas to help police forces disperse protesters. They have used live bullets, tear gas, water cannon and arrested hundreds. Uganda, a nation of 42 million people, is due to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on Jan. 14, with Wine emerging as a serious threat to veteran Museveni, 76, who aims to extend his rule.

EU hopes for US's return to multilateralism



The EU hopes the US will adopt a more multilateralist stance when president-elect Joe Biden takes power, the bloc's chief said yesterday, on the eve of a G20 summit. "The next (US) administration has already committed to increase multilateral cooperation. ... I'm very hopeful now with the new president elect that this will change," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. Under Trump's presidency, the United States retreated from several multilateral accords and institutions, including the Paris climate agreement, the Iran nuclear deal, the World Health Organization, UNESCO, the UN Human Rights Council, a Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, funding of the UNRWA agency providing support for Palestinian refugees, and the Open Skies Treaty allowing countries to make surveillance flights over other nations' military installations. Saudi Arabia is hosting the G20 summit this weekend.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



People flash the victory sign as they gather outside a church during a memorial service for Roman Bondarenko, an anti-government protester who died in hospital following what witnesses said was a severe beating by security forces, in Minsk, Belarus, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump, Xi join Apec summit amid trade war

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

A virtual summit of Asia Pacific leaders started yesterday with US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in attendance to discuss the coronavirus crisis and global economic recovery amid lingering trade differences.

The pair joined a meeting of the leaders of the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) hosted virtually by Malaysia just two weeks after Trump lost his re-election bid.

Asia Pacific leaders have called for more open and multilateral trade to support the economic recovery and warned against protectionist trade policies, with Xi saying unilateralism has added to global economic risks.

At the last Apec summit in 2018, member countries failed to agree on a joint communique for the first time in the bloc's history as the United States and China disagreed on trade and investments.

Trump has slapped tariffs on billions of dollars worth of Chinese products, which launched a trade war between the world's two largest economies. In opening remarks at the leaders' meeting, Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said the bloc's top priority should be to reaffirm its support and commitment for a rules-based multilateral trading system.

Other leaders who joined the virtual meeting include New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Japanese premier Yoshihide Suga, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

In the run-up to yesterday's meeting, several Apec leaders warned against protectionism as the world grapples with the economic impact of the novel coronavirus.

"As we confront this generation's biggest economic challenge, we must not repeat the mistakes of history by retreating into protectionism," Ardern said on Friday, speaking at the Apec CEO Dialogues. "Apec must continue to commit to keeping markets open and trade flowing."



Other Asia Pacific leaders have also expressed hope that the incoming US administration of Joe Biden will engage more and support multilateral trade.

Trump pulled US out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact. The United States is also absent from the world's largest free-trade bloc, the Regional Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (RCEP) - a 15-nation pact backed by China that was signed last week.

Thai police to charge pupils over protest

REUTERS, Bangkok

Two Thai high school student leaders will be charged for joining a banned protest last month, police said yesterday, a day after embattled Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha threatened tougher action against protesters.

The students said they had been summoned for violating an emergency decree by joining a protest on Oct 15, when tens of thousands of people defied a ban by Prayuth aimed at halting protests demanding his removal and reforms of the monarchy.

"Even if you arrest protest leaders, there is not enough space in prison because hundreds more will rise up," one of the students, 15-year Benjaminorn Nivas, told Reuters in an instant message.

Youth- and student-led protests since July have become the greatest challenge to Thailand's establishment in years and dozens of arrests and attempts to quell them have so far only brought more people into the streets.

Prayuth has refused the protesters' demand to resign. Protesters also seek to redraw the constitution written by his former junta and curb the powers of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, saying the monarchy has enabled decades of military domination.



Covid reinfection unlikely for at least 6 months: study

REUTERS, London

People who've had Covid-19 are highly unlikely to contract it again for at least six months after their first infection, according to a British study of healthcare workers on the frontline of fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The findings should offer some reassurance for the more than 51 million people worldwide who have been infected with the pandemic disease, researchers at the University of Oxford said.

"This is really good news, because we can be confident that, at least in the short term, most people who get COVID-19 won't get it again," said David Eyre, a professor at Oxford's Nuffield Department of Population Health, who co-led the study.

Isolated cases of re-infection with Covid-19, the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, had raised concerns that immunity might be short-lived and that recovered patients may swiftly fall sick again. But the results of this study, carried out in a cohort of UK healthcare workers - who are among those at highest risk of contracting Covid-19 - suggest cases of reinfection are likely to remain extremely rare.

The study, part of a major staff testing programme, covered a 30-week period between April and November 2020. Its results have not peer-reviewed by other scientists.

During the study, 89 of 11,052 staff without antibodies developed a new infection with symptoms, while none of the 1,246 staff with antibodies developed a symptomatic infection. Staff with antibodies were also less likely to test positive for COVID-19 without symptoms, the researchers said, with 76 without antibodies testing positive, compared to only three with antibodies. Those three were all well and did not develop Covid-19 symptoms, they added.

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www.pwd.gov.bd

**Invitation for International Re-Tender
IFIT No. 01/2020-2021**

Memo No. 25.36.3900.164.07.001.20/794

Date: 19/11/2020

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2.	Agency	Public Works Department (PWD).
3.	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, Jamalpur PWD Division, Jamalpur.
4.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
5.	Invitation for	ICT (Works).
6.	Reference for invitation of tender	Memo No. 25.36.3900.164.07.001.20/794 Dated: 19/11/2020.
7.	Budget and source of funds	GOB (Development Budget) and LOC from India.
8.	Tender No.	01/2020-2021.
9.	Project name	Establishment of Sheikh Hasina Medical College and Hospital & Nursing College, Jamalpur.
10.	Tender package name	Establishment of Sheikh Hasina Medical College and Hospital & Nursing College, Jamalpur. Sub-Head: Construction of hospital building (6-storied building with 10-storied foundation) including internal sanitary and external water supply, internal electrification, compound drain, gas connection etc. FY: 2020-21.
11.	Tender last selling date	20/12/2020 at 05:00pm.
12.	Tender closing date & time	21/12/2020 at 12:00pm.
13.	Tender opening date and time	21/12/2020 at 03:00pm.
14.	Name & address of the offices	
	Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Jamalpur PWD Division, Jamalpur.
	Selling tender document (others)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Mymensingh/Kishoreganj/Tangail/Sherpur/Netrakona/ Dhaka PWD Division III/IV/Dhaka Maintenance/Mohakhali/Savar/Gazipur/Chittagong PWD Division-I/Rajshahi PWD Division-II/Khulna PWD Division-I/Barisal PWD Division/Sylhet PWD Division/Rangpur PWD Division. The tender notice will also be available in the official website www.pwd.gov.bd and CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd .
	Receiving tender document	i) Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Sheikh Hasina Medical College and Hospital & Nursing College, Jamalpur. ii) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur. iii) Office of the Executive Engineer, Jamalpur PWD Division, Jamalpur. iv) Office of the Police Super, Jamalpur. v) Office of the Executive Engineer, Sherpur PWD Division, Sherpur.
	Opening place of tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, Jamalpur PWD Division, Jamalpur.
15.	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) General experience: Experience of minimum 10 years in construction/EPC contracts for construction of commercial buildings, in the role of prime contractor or a JV member. (ii) Specific experience: The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or JV Member in construction works of at least 1 (one) contract(s) of minimum 6 (six)-storied RCC frame structure building with 10 (ten)-storied foundation having single basement in the health sector in Bangladesh/India successfully completed within the last 10 (ten) years, with a value of at least USD 16.50 million (USD sixteen point five million only) or equivalent amount in other currency. The experience certificate for successful completion of a building work shall have to be enclosed along with the tender documents in prescribed format as

		shown in Tender and Contract Forms section.
		01. In case of the work done under any other organization of Bangladesh other than PWD the certifying authority shall be an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer.
		02. In case of work done in India, certifying and authenticating authority shall be equivalent to the mentioned personnel as mentioned above.
		03. Self-work or non-tendered work or will not be entertained for the work experience. Prescribed form for work certificate for this purpose will be available in all offices selling Tender Document mentioned in Clause No. 14.
		(iv) Construction turnover: The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than USD 16.50 million (USD sixteen point five zero million only) over the last 5 (five) years or best 5 (five) years in the last 10 (ten) years or equivalent amount in other currency. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. Payment certificates for contracts in progress or completed must be submitted along with tender in support of average annual construction turnover. Payment certificate is to be obtained from the Executive Engineer/Pay master.
		(v) Liquid asset: The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderers shall be USD 3.50 million (USD three point five zero million only) or equivalent amount in other currency. Document submitted along with the tender must be issued in between publication date and submission date of the tender. Letter of Commitment for Bank's Undertaking for Line of Credit as described in Tender and Contract Forms section must be submitted for this purpose.
		(vi) The tenderer must enclose up-to-date (1) Trade licence, (2) Valid VAT registration certificate, (3) Valid income tax clearance certificate & (4) Electrical ABC license & supervisory licence from Electrical Licensing Board Govt. of Bangladesh (or equivalent documents for Tenderers of India) with the Tender.
		(vii) Attested of document mentioned in SL. No. 1. 2. 3. 4 to be submitted.
		(viii) Original money receipt must be enclosed with the tender.
		(ix) In case of participation through Joint Venture, Circular No. IMED/CPTU/ Nitinirharon/262/2011-1192 dated 26/07/2015 needs to be followed.
		(ix) Other required eligibility and condition of the tenderer are shown in tender data sheet (TDS) of tender documents.
		(x) All other conditions as mentioned in tender documents must be fulfilled.
16.	Brief description of works	As per BOQ.
17.	Price of tender document	USD 100 (USD one hundred) only (non-refundable).
18.	Tender security amount	USD 0.65 million (USD zero point six five million only).
19.	Work completion time	27 (twenty-seven) months.
20.	Name of official inviting	Md. Mubarak Hossain.
21.	Designation of official inviting tender with address	Executive Engineer, Jamalpur PWD Division, Jamalpur.
22.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. & Fax No. 0981-63666. E-mail: ee_jmlpr@pwd.gov.bd .
23.	Special instruction	a) If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the tender security may be forfeited. b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue. c) Rate must be quoted both in figures & in words for each item up to three digits beyond the decimal points. d) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. e) According to the minutes of the discussion meeting on Indian Line of Credit (LOC), (Reference: 45.185.024.00.00.012.2015-40) and LoC agreement, Tenderers only from India are allowed to participate in the tender process.

Md. Mubarak Hossain
Executive Engineer
Jamalpur PWD Division
Jamalpur

GD-1852