

## 'It's all fake'

Sr Chinese official heckled by Wuhan residents for handling crisis

AFP, Beijing

Videos showing residents at the centre of China's coronavirus epidemic haranguing a top Chinese official have highlighted persistent anger at how authorities have handled the crisis.

The clips, which have been circulating online since Thursday, show occupants of an apartment block in the city of Wuhan yelling "it's all fake" from windows during an official neighbourhood inspection by Vice Premier Sun Chunlan.

According to Chinese media, the complaints were an outcry against the community's property management, who were allegedly only pretending to have volunteers deliver vegetables and meat to inhabitants of the towers in the lockdown city.

Surprisingly, China's censors, usually quick to scrub any criticism of government officials, have allowed the homemade videos to remain on Weibo, the country's Twitter-like social media platform.

But the central government appears to be seizing on the videos to craft a narrative that Beijing is listening to the demands of its people and that local authorities are to blame for the mistakes.

State news agency Xinhua reported late Thursday that Sun has asked for "in-depth investigations" to address problems raised by Wuhan residents, although there is no mention of the video.

The People's Daily, the Communist Party mouthpiece, shared an edited version of one clip on Twitter, though it deleted the post on its English account while the Chinese version was still online.

With no end in sight to the quarantine, which began in the city of 11 million people on January 23, many residents are depending on online group-buying services to get food.



People walk through an 'EM Auto Sanitizing Gate', amid concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, outside a shopping centre in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. Inset, students wearing protective masks attend a lecture as part of a coronavirus awareness campaign at a school in Kolkata, India. PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

## Virus emptying famed sites

Aerial images reveal normally bustling spots from Makkah to Tiananmen Square in Beijing thinned of people

AFP, Beijing

Empty public squares, a ghostly train station and deserted holy sites -- a series of striking satellite images have revealed the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on some of the world's busiest spaces.

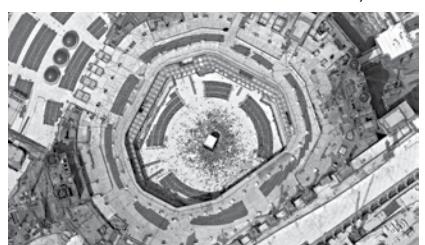
The aerial photographs, released by Colorado-based space technology firm Maxar, show normally bustling spots from Makkah to Beijing thinned of people.

One image shows a handful of pilgrims circling the granite Kaaba at Makkah's Grand Mosque -- a sacred site usually thronged with worshippers from every corner of the Muslim world.

Saudi Arabian authorities have suspended the year-round "umrah" pilgrimage to Islam's holiest place, in a bid to stop the spread of the virus which has killed more than 3,000 people worldwide.

An image above the Hazrat Masumeh Shrine in Qom shows one of Iran's most hallowed places virtually empty as its famed golden dome shimmers in the sunlight.

Streets and courtyards around the shrine are similarly vacant.



Photos above Wuhan, China -- the epicentre of the global outbreak -- show dozens of trains parked up at the city's deserted Dongdamen Station.

With the city under lockdown and virtually cut off from the outside world since January 23, the usually bustling station has been transformed into a make-shift depot.

Elsewhere, Tiananmen Square lives up to its name as the Gate of Heavenly Peace, with only a couple of dozen cars passing by and no pedestrians to be seen.

The UN rights chief said yesterday governments using lockdowns and quarantines to fight the deadly new coronavirus must ensure people's rights are respected and avoid unintended consequences.

Michelle Bachelet said the response to the COVID-19 disease caused by the virus must place human dignity and rights at its centre.

Her office said lockdowns, quarantines and similar measures "should always be carried out in strict accordance with human rights standards and in a way that is necessary and proportionate".



Police and firefighters gather at the scene of an explosion near the US embassy in the Tunisian capital Tunis yesterday. A blast that rocked Tunis was an attack that targeted the US embassy and caused injuries among policemen, police said.

| Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  |  |  |  |
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| College Education Development Project (CEDP)   |  |  |  |
| Satkhira Govt. College, Rajarbagan, Sadar, Satkhira  |  |  |  |
| <b>Invitation for Tenders</b>  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>1</b> Ministry/Division</p> <p><b>2</b> Agency</p> <p><b>3</b> Procuring Entity Name</p> <p><b>4</b> Procuring Entity Code</p> <p><b>5</b> Procuring Entity District</p> <p><b>6</b> Invitation for</p> <p><b>7</b> Invitation Ref No.</p> <p><b>8</b> Date</p> <p><b>9</b> Procurement Method</p> <p><b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>10</b> Budget and Source of Funds</p> <p><b>11</b> Development Partners</p> <p><b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>12</b> Project Code</p> <p><b>13</b> Project Name</p> <p><b>14</b> Tender Package No.</p> <p><b>15</b> Tender Package Name</p> <p><b>16</b> Tender Publication Date</p> <p><b>17</b> Tender Last Selling Date</p> <p><b>18</b> Tender Closing Date and Time</p> <p><b>19</b> Tender Opening Date and Time</p> <p><b>20</b> Name &amp; Address of the office</p> <p>Selling Tender Document</p> <p>Receiving Tender Document</p> <p>Opening Tender Document</p> <p><b>21</b> Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)</p> <p><b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b></p> <p><b>22</b> Eligibility of Tenderer</p> <p><b>23</b> Brief Description of Goods or Works</p> <p><b>24</b> Brief Description of Related Services</p> <p><b>25</b> Tender Document Price</p> <p><b>26</b> Tender Name</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Tender security amount (Tk)</p> <p>Completion time in weeks</p> <p><b>27</b> Name of Official Inviting Tender</p> <p>Prof. S.M. Afzal Hossain</p> <p>Principal</p> <p><b>28</b> Designation of Official Inviting Tender</p> <p><b>29</b> Address of Official Inviting Tender</p> <p>Satkhira Govt. College, Rajarbagan, Sadar, Satkhira-9400</p> <p><b>30</b> Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender</p> <p>Tel: 0471-63227</p> <p>Tel: 0471-65601</p> <p>Tel: 01711-380413</p> <p><b>31</b> The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.</p> |  |  |  |

GD-439

## NEWS IN brief

Saudi king relieves economy minister

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's King Salman has relieved the economy minister in the latest cabinet reshuffle, official media reported citing a royal decree, as the kingdom grapples with plunging oil prices. Saudi Press Agency said late Thursday that the king "relieved" Mohammed al-Tuwaijri from his position as economy minister and tasked Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan with overseeing the ministry. Tuwaijri was appointed as advisor to the royal court with the rank of minister, the agency said.

US man executed for triple police murder

AFP, Washington

The US state of Alabama on Thursday executed a man found guilty of murdering of three police officers, despite a campaign to save him by activists including celebrity Kim Kardashian. Nathaniel Woods, 44, was accused of being the "mastermind" behind the 2004 deaths of police officers allegedly lured into an ambush when they tried to arrest him on drug charges. Woods did not pull the trigger but was given the same sentence as the gunman, Kerry Spencer.

Nasa names next Mars rover 'Perseverance'

AFP, Washington

Nasa on Thursday announced the name of its next Mars rover, Perseverance. It will be the fifth exploratory vehicle on the Red Planet following in the tire tracks of the similarly augustin titled Sojourner, Spirit, Opportunity, and Curiosity. The name was announced at an event at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Virginia, to congratulate Alex Mather, the seventh grade student who picked it. "Alex's entry captured the spirit of exploration," said Thomas Zurbuchen of Nasa's Science Mission Directorate.

Warren drops out of race for White House

AFP, Cambridge

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, once a favourite to win the Democratic presidential nomination, dropped out of the race on Thursday, setting up a two-man duel between Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders.

"I am suspending my campaign for president," the 70-year-old progressive lawmaker announced following her disappointing performance in the Super Tuesday primaries.

"But I guarantee I will stay in the fight for the hardworking folks across the country who have gotten the short end of the stick," Warren told reporters outside her home in Massachusetts.

Warren said she was not ready to endorse either of the two remaining major candidates.

## Dubai's ruler ordered abduction of daughters

Says a damning UK family court judgment

AFP, London

Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum ordered the abduction of two of his daughters and subjected his former wife to a "campaign of fear and intimidation", forcing her to flee to London with their two children, according to a British court ruling made public on Thursday.

Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, 45, fled the United Arab Emirates last April having become "terrified" of her husband, who is also the vice-president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates.

Soon afterwards, the 70-year-old sheikh applied for their two children -- a son aged eight and a 12-year-old daughter -- to be returned to the Gulf kingdom.

But Princess Haya, a half-sister of Jordan's King Abdullah II, applied for the children to be made wards of court and filed a non-molestation order for herself.

She asked during a London hearing for a judge to make findings of fact about

the kidnapping and forced detention of two of the sheikh's adult daughters from a previous marriage.

She also alleged she had faced a "campaign of fear and intimidation" since she left last year.

Sheikh Mohammed, who owns the Godolphin horse racing stable, tried to prevent two of the court rulings being made public.

But the Supreme Court rejected his application on Thursday morning, allowing them to be published.

Judge Andrew McFarlane, found Mohammed "ordered and orchestrated" the abduction of Sheikha Shamsa from the UK city of Cambridge when she was 19 in August 2000.

She was forcibly returned to Dubai and "has been deprived of her liberty for much, if not all, of the past two decades", he said.

He also found Shamsa's sister, Latifa, 35, was seized and returned to Dubai twice, in 2002 and again in 2018.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai, has ordered the abduction of his two daughters and subjected his former wife to a "campaign of fear and intimidation", forcing her to flee to London with their two children, according to a British court ruling made public on Thursday.

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