



India ramps up coronavirus tests

More than 16,000 tests detects 320 cases, lockdown extension likely

REUTERS, New Delhi/Islamabad

Virus threat for global peace: UN

Al JAZEERA ONLINE

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned the UN Security Council that the coronavirus pandemic threatens international peace and security - "potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the disease."

Guterres, who called for a ceasefire in all global conflicts on March 23, said the coronavirus pandemic had hindered all regional, national and international conflict resolution efforts "exactly when they are needed most."

"A signal of unity and resolve from the Council would count for a lot at this anxious time," Guterres told the divided body holding its first meeting on the crisis.

"The engagement of the Security Council will be critical to mitigate the peace and security implications of the COVID-19 pandemic," Guterres added.

He cited other pressing risks to global security from the pandemic: armed groups seeing an opportunity to strike, potentially with a biological attack; the erosion of trust in public institutions; economic instability; political tensions from postponing elections; uncertainty sparking further division and turmoil in some countries; and COVID-19 "triggering or exacerbating various human rights challenges."

CASES AND DEATHS IN SOUTH ASIA

India has 6761 cases, 206 deaths

Pakistan has 4,601 cases, 66 deaths

Afghanistan has 521 cases, 15 deaths

Sri Lanka has 190 cases, 7 deaths

Maldives has 19 cases and no deaths

Nepal has 9 cases and no deaths

Bhutan has 5 cases and no deaths

In neighbouring Pakistan, where the official tally climbed to 4,601 cases and 66 deaths, a crowd of worshippers attacked police enforcing lockdown rules outside a Karachi mosque when the officials tried to stop them from offering a congregational prayer, said city police chief Ghulam Nabi Memon.

Authorities earlier warned of tough penalties if people went to mosques for Friday prayers. The lockdown rules allow only five people to pray at a time.

Pakistan announced a cash transfer scheme worth \$900 million for 12 million families to receive 12,000 rupees a month for the next three months, in the largest such scheme in its history.

India's lockdown of 1.3 billion people has left millions out of work and forced an exodus of migrant workers from the cities to their homes in the hinterland.

The concern is especially grave in Mumbai, where more than 1,100 people have tested positive for the virus, including a growing number from the slums, where a total lockdown is impossible to enforce.



The government yesterday said it had increased daily tests for COVID-19 on

Thursday to more than 16,000 people - from a previous daily average of 5,000-6,000 - but only 320 people were found to be carrying the disease.

"We are not finding many positives," senior health ministry official Lav Agarwal told reporters.

An internal assessment by a government body, the Indian Council of Medical Research, forecast the number

of virus cases would have hit 820,000 by mid-April without the 21-day lockdown.

Meanwhile, The World Health Organisation (WHO) yesterday admitted an error in its "situation report" on the coronavirus spread in countries that showed India at the stage of community transmission. The organization has told NDTV that the error has been fixed. India has a cluster of cases and not community transmission, WHO has said.

'You can't relax'

Vigilance urged as NY sees signs of progress

REUTERS, New York

Americans must resist the impulse to ease social-separation measures at the first glimpse of progress now being seen in the coronavirus battle, state government and public health leaders warned on Thursday, as the US death toll surpassed 16,500.

Calls for heightened vigilance, countering talk from the Trump administration of reopening the economy next month, came as new evidence emerged that stay-at-home restrictions were working to flatten the arc of infections in New York state, the US epicenter of the pandemic.

The number of newly hospitalized patients in New York dropped for a second day, to 200. Governor Andrew Cuomo said it was a sign that social distancing was succeeding, even though the number of coronavirus-related deaths in the state rose by 799 on Wednesday, a record high for a third day.

"You can't relax. The flattening of the curve last night happened because of what we did yesterday," Cuomo said, referring to the slope of data when plotted on a graph.

The apparent progress in efforts to slow the spread of the highly contagious virus were also reflected in fresh computer models scaling back the projected nationwide death toll to 60,000, down from earlier forecasts of at least 100,000.

New York state has now recorded more than 7,000 deaths from COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the virus.

New York state alone has accounted for nearly half the total loss of life in recent days across the United States, which leads the world in total number of known infections at more than 465,000.

Recovered patients testing positive again in S Korea

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korean officials yesterday reported 91 patients thought cleared of the new coronavirus had tested positive again.

Jeong Eun-kyeong, director of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC), told a briefing that the virus may have been "reactivated" rather than the patients being re-infected.

South Korean health officials said it remains unclear what is behind the trend, with epidemiological investigations still under way.

The prospect of people being re-infected with the virus is of international concern, as many countries are hoping that infected populations will develop sufficient immunity to prevent a resurgence of the pandemic.

"The number will only increase, 91 is just the beginning now," said Kim Woo-

joo, professor of infectious diseases at Korea University Guro Hospital.

South Korea on Friday reported 27 new cases, its lowest after daily cases peaked at more than 900 in late February, according to KCDC, adding the total stood at 10,450 cases. The death toll rose by seven to 211, it said.

WUHAN TO KEEP TESTING RESIDENTS

Meanwhile, China's Wuhan city, where the global coronavirus pandemic began, is still testing residents regularly despite relaxing its tough two-month lockdown, with the country wary of a rebound in cases even as it sets its sights on normalising the economy.

The country reported 42 new cases on Thursday, down from 63 a day earlier. Of the daily total, 38 were imported, down from 61 on Wednesday.

Yemen reports first case

REUTERS, Aden

Yemen reported its first case of the novel coronavirus yesterday as aid groups try to prepare for an outbreak in a country where war has shattered the health system and spread hunger and disease.

The news came after a nationwide ceasefire prompted by the virus pandemic began on Thursday. A Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthi movement announced it would halt military operations for two weeks, though the Houthis have yet to agree.

The case was diagnosed in the southern oil-producing region of Hadhramaut.

If the virus spreads in Yemen, the impact would be "catastrophic," as the health status of at least half the population is "very degraded" and the country does not have sufficient supplies, capabilities or facilities, its UN humanitarian coordinator, Lise Grande, told Reuters.



A distribution volunteer gestures as people in need queue to receive free food packets during a nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of new coronavirus, in Bangalore, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Around 150 Saudi Royals infected with coronavirus

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

round Umrah pilgrimage and sealed off the areas in early March.

Travel in and out of the country, as well as between provinces, has since been largely restricted, and four governors and five major cities have been placed under 24-hour lockdown.

Authorities have yet to announce whether they will proceed with this year's Hajj, scheduled for the end of July. Last year, about 2.5 million people travelled to Saudi Arabia to take part in the Hajj, which all Muslims must perform at least once in their lives if able.

So far, mostly members of lower branches of the royal family have been infected, a source familiar with the situation told the Times. The vast majority of cases in the country have been in migrant labour camps and slums around Makkah and Madina.

A Saudi health minister on Tuesday warned the outbreak in the country may only be beginning.

"Within the next few weeks, studies predict the number of infections will range from a minimum of 10,000 to a maximum of 200,000," Tawfiq al-Rabiah said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

The Saudi royal family is estimated to have about 15,000 members.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

LATEST UPDATES

MORE THAN 97,000 DEATHS

Officials have recorded more than 1.6 million cases and more than 97,200 deaths in 193 countries, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally at 1400 GMT yesterday. The United States with 466,396 is the hardest-hit country in terms of cases, of whom 16,703 have died. Italy has the highest death toll at 18,279 followed by Spain with 15,843. France has 12,228 deaths and Britain 7,993.

EU AGREES ON ECONOMIC RESPONSE
The European Union agrees to a 500 billion-euro (\$550 billion) rescue package aimed at reducing pain across the 27-nation bloc, especially hardest-hit Italy and Spain. However, they do not agree on proposals for pooled borrowing, which divide north and south.

OIL PRODUCTION CUT ACCORD
Top oil producers except Mexico agree to cut output in May and June by 10 million barrels per day, OPEC says, after marathon talks at a videoconference, as they seek to deal with a collapse in demand due to the coronavirus and a Saudi-Russian price war.

'GREAT DEPRESSION': IMF

International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Kristalina Georgieva anticipates "the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression" from the pandemic.

JOHNSON OUT OF INTENSIVE CARE
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is recovering in hospital after ending three days in intensive care for COVID-19.

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE OFFER

French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi says it will offer 100 million doses of hydroxychloroquine, a treatment for rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, to governments worldwide if studies show it can safely be used to treat COVID-19 patients.

SPAIN SEES LOWEST DAILY TOLL
Spain has recorded its lowest daily death toll from the new coronavirus in 17 days, with 605 people dying, the government said. The figures showed the death rate slowing to four percent, down from just under four percent on Thursday in line with a trend which began on March 25 when it stood at over 27 percent.

FRANCE SEES LESS ICU PATIENTS

The number of people in intensive care units (ICU) for coronavirus infection in France fell slightly for the first time since the start of the epidemic. An official said that the number of people in ICU fell by 82 or 1.1% to 7,066, five days after that number started falling in Italy, which now has 3,605 people in ICU, down from a peak of more than 4,000 six days ago.

SOURCE: AFP

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এবং প্রেরিতিম ইউনিট

বাড়ি নং-৩৫, সোহরাওয়ার্দী পার্সিনিট, বুক-কে, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২১২

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উন্নত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ-০৮/০৪/২০২০ক্রি

"The Public Procurement Act-2006" & "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" এবং এর তাত্ত্বিক সম্পূর্ণ পরিয়াকারে এবং প্রেরিতিম ইউনিট বাড়ি নং-৩৫, সোহরাওয়ার্দী পার্সিনিট, বুক-কে, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২১২

১. মুক্তালিম/বিদ্যুৎ পরিয়াকার বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

২. প্রেরিতিম ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ পুরুষ, ঢাকা।

৩. সুলিল সুলার (প্রেসেন্স), প্রেরিতিম ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ পুরুষ এবং বারিধারা সরকারী প্রতিবেদন প্রক্রিয়া।

৪. মুক্তালিম প্রিন্টিং কার্যালয়।

৫. মুক্তালিম প্রিন্টিং কার্যালয়, ১০০০, ১৯৪৫, ০৬.০৪.১৯/০৮.০৪.১৯/০৪/২০২০ক্রি।

৬. মুক্তালিম প্রিন্টিং কার্যালয়, প্রেরিতিম ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ পুরুষ।

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