Spainish PM seeks 'flexible' lockdown

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has said he would ask parliament for a 15-day extension until May 9 of the lockdown imposed in one of the world's worst coronavirus' outbreaks, but said the restrictions would be more flexible.

"We have left behind the most extreme moments," Sanchez said at a press briefing. But he added: "These achievements are still insufficient and above all fragile. We cannot put them at risk with hasty solutions".

Spain's death toll from the coronavirus rose at a slower pace on Saturday but surpassed 20,000 fatalities, the Health Ministry said. It increased by 565 deaths, down from 585 on Friday, while the number of coronavirus cases rose to 191,726 from 188,068.

Spain began this week to ease a strict lockdown imposed on March 14 by opening up some sectors of the economy, including manufacturing. But most people are still confined to their homes except for essential outings such as food shopping, and not even children are allowed out for exercise.

The country with the third highest coronavirus death toll will move slowly, carefully and progressively towards the "new normality", Sanchez said.

But he warned it would be a complex task and that the economic consequences of the outbreak will be "very negative"

Asked if citizens would be able to have regular summer holidays, the Socialist leader said he hoped so but that he could not give an answer, signalling the uncertainty on the scope of any de-escalation phase.



Anti-lockdown protesters gather at the Texas State Capital building in Austin, Texas, on Saturday. Hundreds protested Saturday in cities across America against coronavirus-related lockdowns -- with encouragement from President Donald Trump -- as resentment grows against the crippling economic cost of confinement.

India's virus cases nears 16,000

Maharashtra allows some economic activity REUTERS, New Delhi/Mumbai

India's Maharashtra state, the country's largest regional economy, will allow a limited number of sectors to resume business today, after a weeks-long shutdown to slow the spread of coronavirus left millions

Maharashtra, home to financial centre Mumbai, has the biggest share of India's caseload of 15,713 infections, including a large number now ripping through its densely-packed slums.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray yesterday told a news conference on that some activity would be permitted in the least-affected parts of the state while observing a strict lockdown in the red zones that have the maximum number of cases.

"We need to start the economic wheels again. We are giving selective permissions from tomorrow, especially in orange zones and green zones," he said, referring to areas with lower levels of infection.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended the nationwide lockdown that began late last month until May 3, but the federal government has allowed states to restart activity as amid economic distress in rural areas.

MEGA-ONLINE CONCERT FOR HEALTH WORKERS

\$127M raised for WHO fund

Some of the world's top stars have helped to raise nearly \$128 million for the World Health Organization during the coronavirus pandemic by performing in a concert broadcast globally. Dozens

of celebrities and musicians, including Lady Gaga, Stevie Wonder and the Rolling Stones, took part in the 8-hour show called 'One World: Together At Home." Global Citizen, an international

advocacy group that organized the event, said early Sunday on Twitter that \$127.9 million had been pledged Following the live broadcast,

Global Citizen tweeted: "\$127.9 million for COVID-19 relief. That is the power and impact of One World: #TogetherAtHome.

Lady Gaga responded to this tweet,

saying: "I am so humbled to have been a part of this project.'

The proceeds will be given to the WHO's Covid-19 Solidarity Response



The concert was divided into two parts, a 6-hour "pre-show" and a main 2-hour show hosted by Jimmy Fallon,

Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert. "To all of our frontline healthcare workers, we are with you. Thank you for being there for us," an on-screen caption read at the start of the show.

Those who performed also

added their tributes, with Lady Gaga expressing her thanks for medical workers who are "putting their lives at risk for us right now. Other musicians also spoke about

the need for solidarity during the pandemic. Before performing "Lean on Me" in tribute to his late friend Bill Withers, Stevie Wonder said: "During hardships like this, we have to lean on each other for help."
Taylor Swift, Elton John, Paul

McCartney and Jennifer Lopez were among others who gave performances from their homes.

"Tonight, through the universal language of music, we salute the bravery and sacrifice of health heroes and others," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in a clip played during the broadcast. "And please join our call for a global ceasefire to focus on our common enemy -- the virus."

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



DEATH TOLL CROSSES 160,000 The worldwide death toll from the novel

coronavirus pandemic rose to 160,952 vesterday. according to a tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University at 1000 GMT. More than 2,331,099 declared cases have been registered in 193 countries and territories since the epidemic first emerged in China in December. In the United States, now the epicentre of the pandemic,

the death toll stood at 39,090 with 735,287 infections. Italy is the next most-affected country with 23,227 deaths from 175,925 infections. It is followed by Spain with 20,639 fatalities from 194,416 confirmed infections, France with 19,349 deaths and 152,978 infections and Britain with 15,498 deaths from 115,317 cases.

'LOWEST' DEATHS IN NY

New York state, the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, has experienced its lowest one-day death toll in two weeks, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday. Cuomo said 540 people had died in his state of 20 million inhabitants in the preceding 24 hours, and he suggested New York may now be on the downslope after a recent plateau in deaths.

ISRAEL EASES RESTRICTIONS

Israel on Saturday approved some easing to its tight coronavirus restrictions while pointedly avoiding announcing the first stage of an exit from lockdown. In a televised address, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu outlined "a responsible and gradual" plan which would allow the return of some workers to offices and industry. He also promised to reopen some high street shops and allow a return to school for children with special educational needs, in groups of up to three.

ONLY 8 CASES IN S KOREA

South Korea yesterday reported single digit new coronavirus cases for the first day in two months with eight new infections. Of the new cases, five were imported from overseas. The figure brings its total infections to 10,661.

'CAPTAIN TOM' RAISES \$31M

Captain Tom Moore, a 99-year-old British war veteran, has now raised more than 25 million pounds (\$31.3 million) for the health service by walking 100 laps of his garden. The World War Two veteran, who has used a walking frame with wheels since breaking his hip, set himself the target of walking the 25 metres around his garden 100 times before his 100th birthday on April 30. He completed his task on Thursday.



coronavirus, in Kathmandu, yesterday.

Several killed in Libya clashes

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Libya's internationally-recognised government has said its forces have killed eight fighters loyal to eastern-based renegade military commander Khalifa

The announcement by military spokesman Mohamed Gnunu on Saturday came as forces aligned with the United Nations-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) ramped up their offensive against Haftar's forward bases in western Libva.

GNA troops have in recent days retaken a string of strategic cities located west of Tripoli, including Sabratha, Surman and al-Ajaylat.

Libya, a large oil producer, has been engulfed in chaos since 2011 when longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi was killed in a NATO-backed uprising. It is now split between two rival

administrations: The Tripoli-based GNA, led by Prime Minister Favez al-Sarraj, and the House of Representatives allied to Haftar and his self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA).

Pakistan bows to clerics' pressure

Lifts limit on mosque congregations

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan has lifted restrictions on congregational prayers at mosques, but put in place a host of safety conditions to avert the further spread of the coronavirus in the country, a statement said on Saturday.

The South Asian nation, the second most populous Muslim country in the world, imposed the restrictions less than a month ago, allowing only three to five people at mosques for prayers.

"Mosques are given permission conditional to taking due precautions,"

mosque visitors to wear masks. Pakistan has registered 7,638 cases of the virus and 143 deaths and health experts warn that congregations pose the biggest threat to the limited healthcare infrastructure of a country of more than 200 million

According to the statement it was also decided worshippers would maintain a 6-foot (2-metre) distance from each other instead of the usual Muslim practice of praying shoulder-to-shoulder and that mosque

Case against two editors

In the case statement, Mominul said the authorities recovered 68 sacks of rice, meant to be sold among the low-income people at Tk 10 per kg, in the upazila's Palashbari a couple of days ago.

The next day, Upazila Food Controller Nikhil Chandra Barman filed a case with the same police station accusing six people, including local rice dealer Amirul Islam, his brother Jamirul Islam and wife Kulsum Akhter, in this regard. "I have no connection with the

accused and they are not my relatives. But the two news portals ran two stories linking me to the misappropriation and claiming that the accused were my relatives... I asked their local correspondents to run a rejoinder, which they did not," he said.

He said one of his brothers Aminul Islam, not Amirul, is the chairman of Boro Palashbari Union Parishad.

In the case statement, Mominul also said the two other accused, Shawan and Rahim, uploaded two posts on Facebook branding him a rice thief

He said the accused tarnished his image and that of his party and defamed him by spreading false and fabricated information involving him in the misappropriation.

Habibul Haque Prodhan, officerin-charge of Baliadangi Police Station, told our local correspondent that the case was filed under section 25/29/31 of the Digital Security Act and that they were looking into the matter.

CMSD'S THREAT The Central Medical Stores Depot

sue those publishing reports and spreading information "defaming" the health minister, his son, the health services secretary and the director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) over the supply of ordinary masks in the name of N95 ones. In an advertisement published in

newspapers, CMSD said the persons were in no way involved in the purchase and that the propaganda was intentional" and had "vested interests". "It is being warned the perpetrators will be charged under the Digital

actions," said the advertisement published on April 17. Supply of the ordinary masks in the name of N95 masks stirred protest and condemnation, mostly from

Security Act if they do not stop such

doctors, on social media. Many doctors believed that the supply of substandard masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was leading to Covid-19 infection among healthcare service providers. DOCTOR SERVED SHOW-CAUSE

NOTICE A doctor at Noakhali 250-bed General Hospital has been served a showcause notice for one of his Facebook posts in which he criticised the health

and PPÉs to physicians. Farid Uddin Mohammad Chowdhury, deputy director of the hospital, issued the notice on Saturday asking Abu Taher, an assistant surgeon (anesthetist), to respond in writing

secretary for not providing N95 masks

within three days. In his Facebook post, Taher wrote the standard of PPEs and masks.

neither he nor his colleague got any N95, KN95 or FFP2 masks. "Then why the health secretary was lying that the masks have been distributed at hospitals?" he wrote.

He also alleged that only two sets of PPE were given to his department with eight employees in the last one month. During that period, he carried out more than 150 surgeries, he said. Talking to The Daily Star, the doctor

said, "I only wrote the facts... The health ministry's secretary was saying there was a reserve of N95 and KN95 masks at the hospitals. We haven't been given any. Where do those go?" Taher said as a citizen of the

country he has every right to express his opinion. He said he would reply to the notice. The issuance of the notice sparked protest among the medical

community. Many took to social media to criticise it. NURSES ASKED NOT TO TALK TO

Meanwhile, the government has asked nurses not to speak to the media after some nurses reported shortage of food for health workers at Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government

All the staffers under the Department of Nursing and Midwifery cannot even speak publicly without permission from the higher authorities in line with the Public Service Act, its Director General Siddika Akter said in an office order on Friday. The order came after a number of media outlets, quoting nurses, published reports on the shortage of food and questioning

The decision to lift restrictions, taken in a meeting between Pakistani President Arif Alvi and religious leaders, comes less than a week before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. a statement following the meeting said, adding that it was mandatory for

administrations will disinfect premises regularly.

The government had been under pressure to reverse the congregation restrictions, and clashes between mosque attendees and police had been reported in Karachi, the country's largest city.

Addendum-1

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Health Services Office of the Director, Stores & Supplies

Central Medical Stores Depot

30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharoni, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Corrigendum to the IFT

IFT No. CMSD/GR-1909/ICT/2019-2020/D-10/89 dated: 04-03-2020 Procurement of Patient Bed, Acrylic

The bidding document & Invitation for Tender IFT No. CMSD/GR-1909/ICT/2019-2020/D-10/89, dated: 04-03-2020 is hereby amended to read as under:

IFT Para No. 9-11

submission date

opening date

42.2:

Tender

Clause Reference	Existing entries	Amended entries
IFT Para No. 9: Tender last selling date	19-04-2020 (During office hours)	12-05-2020 (During office hours)
IFT Para No. 10: Tender closing date and time	Time: 11:00am 20-04-2020	Time: 11:00am 13-05-2020
IFT Para No. 11: Tender opening date and time	Time: 11:30am 20-04-2020	Time: 11:30am 13-05-2020
Section-2: Tender Data Sheet		
ITT 36.1: Tender 11:00 Hours	Bangladesh Standard Time	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard

Time (BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 13-05-2020 Brigadier General Md. Shahidullah

Time (BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 13-05-2020

11:30 Hours Bangladesh Standard

Americal autolog

Director, Stores & Supplies DGHS, CMSD, Tejgaon, Dhaka Tel: 9129231; Fax: 9126547 e-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net

(BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 20-04-2020

(BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 20-04-2020

11:30 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time