

Bandits kill 47 people in north of Nigeria: police

Bandits riding more than 100 motorbikes killed 47 people in coordinated attacks against several farming villages in Katsina State, northern Nigeria, the president’s office and local police said Sunday. The mounted raiders carried out “organised and simultaneous attacks” on the villages, Katsina state police spokesman Gambo Isah said in a statement. The predawn raids Saturday targeted villages in the Dutsema, Danmusa and Safana districts, he added. The bandits were thought to be members of criminal gangs specialising in cattle theft and kidnap for ransom in the area. Villagers had put up stiff resistance fighting off an earlier attack, said the police statement. But the gang returned at around 0230 GMT on around 150 motorbikes. They went on a shooting spree in the villages, setting fire to homes, residents had told police.

Google, Facebook to pay for news content!

Australia will force Google and Facebook to pay media outlets for their content, the government announced yesterday, vowing to lead the world in making the tech giants share lucrative advertising revenues with traditional media. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said a mandatory code of conduct — to be fully unveiled by July and made law soon after — will require the US-based firms to reimburse Australian media companies for using their news and other content. “It is about holding these tech titans to account, about ensuring genuine competition, (and) it is about delivering a level playing field,” Frydenberg said. “It is about keeping jobs in journalism and it is about ensuring a fair outcome for all.” Google and Facebook have had a huge impact on Australia’s news industry, capturing two-thirds of online advertising spending. In response to falling revenues, Australian news outlets have slashed 20 percent of jobs in the last six years.

800 freed Rohingya inmates sent back to Rakhine

Myanmar shipped hundreds of recently released Rohingya inmates back to the country’s restive western borderlands yesterday, after fears that its overcrowded prisons could become hotbeds for runaway coronavirus outbreaks. Men, women and children belonging to the stateless and long-persecuted Muslim minority were among nearly 25,000 prisoners freed last week by a presidential pardon to mark the country’s April New Year celebrations. A Navy vessel transported the group from Yangon to western Rakhine state, where most Rohingya live under tight movement restrictions and in conditions Amnesty International has condemned as “apartheid”. More than 600 disembarked near state capital Sittwe, while another 200 were taken further north to townships on the border with Bangladesh, state immigration department chief Soe Lwin told AFP.



Carola Pessina (foreground) plays tennis with Vittoria Oliveri on the rooftops of their house in Finale Ligure, Liguria Region, northwestern Italy yesterday, during the country’s lockdown aimed at stopping the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTO: AFP

Dozens killed in fresh wave of Taliban violence

23 Afghan troops, 9 civilians among dead

AFP, Kunduz

The Taliban have killed at least 23 Afghan troops and nine civilians, officials said Monday, as a fresh wave of violence grips Afghanistan despite a deal with the US and a worsening coronavirus crisis.

Under the terms of the US-Taliban deal, the Afghan government and the insurgents were by now supposed to have concluded a prisoner exchange and started talks aimed at bringing about a comprehensive ceasefire.

But the stalled prisoner swap has been beset with problems -- with Kabul claiming the Taliban are demanding the release of some of the group’s most notorious warriors -- and peace talks seem as elusive ever amid ongoing attacks.

Late Sunday night in Takhar province in northeast Afghanistan, the Taliban struck an Afghan army base, killing 16 soldiers and two policemen, provincial police spokesman Khalil Asir told AFP.

The governor’s spokesman, Mohammad Jawad Hejri, confirmed the attack and also blamed the Taliban, putting the death toll at 19.

In the south, the Taliban attacked a police checkpoint near Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province. “Five Afghan policemen were killed and three others were wounded,” Zilgai Ebadi, the provincial governor’s spokesman, told AFP.

In the northern province of Balkh, the Taliban killed nine civilians after they resisted when insurgents tried to extort money from them, district governor Sayed Arif Iqbal told AFP.

The violence has mostly been limited to rural areas and small towns. Under the framework of the US-Taliban deal, the insurgents have agreed not to attack cities.

Under the US-Taliban deal, American and other foreign forces are meant to quit Afghanistan by July 2021, provided the Taliban stick to several security guarantees and hold talks with the Afghan government.

Fighting has continued even as coronavirus spreads throughout Afghanistan.

It has so far seen 1,026 cases of coronavirus and 36 deaths, though real numbers are feared to be much higher as the impoverished country has only limited testing capabilities.

Situation grim in Mumbai, Kolkata

India reports 1,600 new cases

PTI, NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 situation is “especially serious” in Mumbai, Pune, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata and a few other places in West Bengal, and violation of lockdown measures risk the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Centre said yesterday.

In a communication to state governments, the home ministry said there have been several incidents of violence against Covid-19 frontline healthcare professionals, complete violation of social distancing norms and movement of vehicles in urban areas. These should be stopped, it said.

The death toll due to Covid-19 rose to 543 and the number of cases climbed to 17,265 in the country yesterday. 1,600 new cases reported in last 24 hours.

The situation is “especially serious” in Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, Jaipur in Rajasthan, and Kolkata, Howrah, East Medinipur, North 24 Parganas, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, the ministry said.

There are 4,203 confirmed coronavirus cases in Maharashtra of which 223 people lost their lives.

In Madhya Pradesh, out of the 1,407 cases, 70 people have succumbed to the disease. In West Bengal, there are 339 confirmed cases of which 12 people died due to the infection, according to health ministry data.

Healthcare on verge of collapse

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese medics are warning more must be done to prevent the coronavirus from overwhelming the country’s healthcare system as confirmed cases passed 10,000, despite a nationwide state of emergency.

Experts have been alarmed by a recent spike in COVID-19 infections, with hundreds detected daily.

Japan’s outbreak remains less severe than in hard-hit European countries, but its caseload is one of Asia’s highest after China and India, and is roughly on par with South Korea.

There have been 171 deaths recorded so far in Japan and 10,751 cases, with

the country under a month-long state of emergency, initially covering seven regions but now in place nationwide.

But the measures do not prevent people from going out, and many shops and even restaurants remain open, even as medical associations warn the country’s healthcare system is struggling to cope.

“The system is on the verge of collapse in many places in Japan,” said Kentaro Iwata, an infectious diseases specialist from Kobe University who has repeatedly criticised the government’s response to the crisis.

Speaking at a press briefing yesterday, Iwata said Japan’s strategy of limited testing and intensive contact-tracing

worked well in the initial phase of the local outbreak, when numbers were small. But he charged that Japan failed to adapt as the outbreak grew.

Japan’s government argues it has adjusted its strategy, boosting testing capacity, changing rules that required all positive cases to remain in hospitals.

But medical experts have called the measures insufficient.

“Beds for novel coronavirus patients continue to be almost full,” Haruo Ozaki, president of the Tokyo Medical Association, warned last week.

The health minister has acknowledged that hospitals have in some cases turned away suspected coronavirus patients in ambulances.

PM warns of global food shortage

FROM PAGE 1

The districts are Manikganj, Gazipur, Tangail and Kishoreganj under Dhaka division and Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona and Mymensingh under Mymensingh division.

Hasina stressed the need for producing and preserving food to face any possible food crisis in the post-coronavirus world. “If we can produce food and preserve it, then we won’t fall into that famine. Rather, we will be able to help many others. We have to take those steps from now on.”

She said the land of Bangladesh is fertile and its people are laborious. The country is now self-sufficient in food, the PM added.

“Let there not be an inch of land left without farming. We have to keep our eyes on that and that’s what I want.”

Referring to harvesting paddy, the premier asked the law enforcement agencies to cooperate in this regard.

Speaking to the officials and public representatives from Gazipur, the PM said the government has a plan to allow the reopening of some export-oriented industries on a limited scale if the guidelines on health and safety are properly maintained and protective measures are taken for their workers.

“The month of Ramadan is approaching. We can’t keep everything shut down. We will have to reopen some areas gradually,” she said.

Hasina, however, expressed doubt whether the factories in Gazipur should be reopened on April 24-25 as coronavirus was spreading in the district.

She said the factory authorities would have to arrange transportation

for the workers to carry them to and from workplaces as they suffered a lot early this month after some factories asked them to join work. “It was a wrong decision.”

The PM said the factories have to arrange transportation, accommodation and protection for the workers. A limited number of workers can join the work, she added.

The premier directed the district administration to discuss with those who want to reopen their factories on these conditions.

The government is to keep open some pharmaceutical factories and some other industries which are producing personal protective equipment, she said.

Hasina said the government has taken special measures for the upcoming Ramadan to make sure that there is no crisis of food.

She said harvesting of paddy has started and more food grains would be produced in the coming days.

About the government’s procurement of food grains, she said the government would buy 8 lakh tonnes of paddy, 10 lakh tonnes of rice, 2,20,000 tonnes of atap (fine rice) and 80,000 tonnes of wheat.

Hasina said the government has taken the measures to save the country from any possible food crisis and economic recession.

Regarding the use of protective gears, like PPEs by doctors and nurses, the premier said only those who would look after patients would use those. “If all start using these, then how will we provide those to doctors and nurses?”

She said some 14,63,840 PPEs have been imported while 10,80,069

distributed and 3,83,771 are in stock.

She directed the authorities concerned to strengthen monitoring so that genuine masks and PPEs are supplied to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The PM thanked doctors, nurses, health workers, members of police, and armed forces for their tireless efforts to serve people.

Hasina said the Covid-19 situation is still better in Bangladesh than in many developed countries due to effective steps taken by the government.

She said she has assigned secretaries to look after the relief and health safety at the district level and they would submit reports to her.

“There is nothing to be upset when a crisis comes. This has to be faced with courage... we did it in 1971 with our united efforts and we will also be able to get rid of this calamity very soon.”

She asked the authorities concerned of Mymensingh to arrange training for physicians, nurses and other health workers who deal the coronavirus patients to keep them and their families protected.

Hasina called upon the local lawmakers and other public representatives to pay attention to the protection of physicians, nurses and other health workers in their respective areas.

PM’s Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus, the programme was also attended by Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, PM’s Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim, PMO Secretary Tofazzel Hossain Miah and other high officials were present.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়	
চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার	
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খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন (২০০৬), পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা (২০০৮) ও তৎপরবর্তী সংশ্লিষ্ট সংশোধনিসমূহ এবং সংগ্রাহক সংস্থা কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্তাবলীর আলোকে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর নিম্নলিখিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের জন্য নিয়মিত সরবরাহ কার্যের এমএসআর সামগ্রী (মেডিকেল এন্ড সার্জিক্যাল রিকুইজিটস) ক্রয়/সংগ্রাহকের নিমিত্ত এমএসআর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অধিকৃতসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত বাবাসাধী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নোক্ত ছক মোতাবেক প্রাপ্তিস্বত্বের পৃথকভাবে সীলপালাকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।	
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ভিত্তিশন
২	সংগ্রাহক সংস্থার নাম
৩	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি
৪	আহ্বানকৃত কাজের ধরণ
৫	বাজেট/তহবিলের উৎস
৬	কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত
৮	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা
৯	প্রাপ্তিস্বত্বের বিবরণ ও দরপত্রের প্রতি সেট এর মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)
১০	দরপত্র
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান, ঠিকানা, সময় ও শেষ তারিখ
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, সময় ও শেষ তারিখ
১৩	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়
১৪	এমএসআর সামগ্রী ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী
বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ	
○ দরপত্রের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কেবল নং ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২০৬৬ সোলারী বাকে লিমিটেড এর চকরিয়া শাখায় জমাদানপূর্বক চালানোর মূলকপি আবেদনপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিয়া দরপত্র সমগ্র করিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সরবরাহ করা হইবে। দরপত্রের জামানতের টাকা উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর অনুকূলে সরকারি তফসীলভুক্ত যে কোন ব্যাংক হতে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখের মধ্যে স্বাক্ষরিত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের বিষয়ে যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর হিসাব শাখা হতে জানা যাবে। দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি/কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক যাচাইকালে ট্রেজারী চালান বা জামানতের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার ভুল/ত্রুটিগ্রস্ত প্রমাণিত হইলে সাথে সাথে ঐ দরপত্র বাতিল হিসেবে গণ্য হইবে এবং তাহার/তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইবে।	
○ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র নোটিশে উল্লেখিত দরপত্র বিষয়ে কোন সংশোধনী অত্র দস্তবের নোটিশ বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে জানানো হইবে। দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার নির্দিষ্ট তারিখে সম্পন্ন না হইলে পরবর্তী কর্মসিবেসে যথাক্রমে দরপত্র খোলার গ্রহণযোগ্য তারিখ বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে। তবে সময় ও স্থান অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।	
○ স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর/পাঃ ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় হইতে ব্যয় মঞ্জুরী সাপেক্ষে বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে এবং প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে নির্ধারিত ভ্যাট ও ট্যাক্স কর্তন করা হইবে।	
○ ঐচ্ছিক সামগ্রী দাল-সবুজ রঙের মোড়কে এবং সকল সামগ্রীতে “সরকারি সম্পত্তি, বিক্রয়ের জন্য নহে” লেখা সহ কোয়ালিটি এন্সুরেন্স সার্টিফিকেট/সার্টিফিকেট অব এ্যানালাইসিস দাখিল করিতে হইবে। সরবরাহকৃত ঐচ্ছিক ও রি-এজেন্টসমূহের মোদার সরবরাহের তারিখ হইতে কমপক্ষে দুই বৎসর থাকিতে হইবে।	
○ ক্রয়কারী চাহিদা অনুসারে কার্যসেবা প্রদান করিবেন এবং চাহিদার অতিরিক্ত কোন প্রকার মাল্যমান (উৎসহীন) ক্রয় করিতে বাধ্য নহেন এবং সকল মাল্যমান একত্রে ক্রয় করিতে বাধ্য নহেন এবং বিজয়ী দরদাতাদ্বয়কে বিভিন্ন মেয়াদে মাল্যমান/ঐচ্ছিক সরবরাহ করার কার্যসেবা প্রদান করিতে পারিবেন।	
ডাঃ মোহাম্মদ শাহবাজ	
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা	
চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার	
জিডি-৭৪৭	