

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

LATEST UPDATES

GLOBAL DEATHS AND CASES

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 307,321 people since the outbreak first emerged last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday. At least 4,549,100 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. US has recorded 87,568 deaths. Britain has the second highest toll with 33,998 deaths. It is followed by Italy with 31,610 deaths, Spain with 27,563 fatalities and France with 27,529 deaths.

WHO'S 'SHARING PLATFORM'

The World Health Organization on Friday urged countries, companies and researchers to pull down the barriers and open up their findings on COVID-19 as it unveiled a global knowledge-sharing platform. The information pool is intended to be a voluntary worldwide repository of intellectual property and open-sourced data, allowing everyone involved to benefit from each other's advances in a common front against the new coronavirus. The platform will be officially launched on May 29.

STATINS MAY HELP FRAIL ELTERS

Widely-used cholesterol-lowering statin drugs may be associated with substantially fewer symptoms in older, frail COVID-19 patients, a small study suggests. Among 154 coronavirus patients at two nursing homes, those who took a statin, such as Lipitor, were nearly three times more likely to be free of symptoms during their infection than those who did not, researchers in Belgium found.

SURFACE COATING KILLS VIRUS

A specially formulated antimicrobial coating can keep surfaces clear of a human coronavirus for up to 90 days with just one application, a preliminary study said Friday. The paper by researchers at the University of Arizona (UA), which has not yet been peer-reviewed, found that the amount of virus on coated surfaces reduced by 90 percent in 10 minutes and by 99.9 percent in two hours.

RUSSIA'S HIGHEST DEATH TOLL

119 people died in coronavirus yesterday, Russia's highest daily death toll yet. Russia is in second place in the world to the United States with 272,043 cases, with 9,200 new cases announced yesterday. The total number of officially confirmed deaths is now 2,537.

LEOPARDS IN PAK CAPITAL'S PARK

Leopards, jackals and other creatures living in Islamabad's tree-covered hills have been enjoying a rare respite from the throngs of hikers and joggers that normally pack the trails. Islamabad's normally reclusive leopards have been roaming onto deserted pathways, and social networks are rife with talk of purported sightings.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A couple kisses along the Sainte Catherine street in Bordeaux yesterday, as the lockdown introduced two months ago to fight the spread of the Covid-19 disease caused by the novel coronavirus is progressively easing in France.

PHOTO: AFP

Virus cases cross 4.5 million

Europe moves to open up tourism, sports amid economic woes

AFP, Berlin

for "about a month", until the transition out of lockdown is completed.

In France, the first weekend after the most strict measures were lifted saw many venture out into the spring sunshine.

With the European summer fast approaching, governments are moving to help their key tourism industries to salvage something from the wreckage.

Italy announced it would reopen to European holidaymakers from June 3 and scrap quarantine requirements for arrivals.

Malls opened in the Philippines' capital Manila yesterday, but saw only a trickle of customers.

Since emerging in the China city of Wuhan late last year, the novel coronavirus has affected almost every country in the world. The WHO has warned Africa, which has so far been spared the worst, could have 231 million infection and up to 190,000 could die.

WEST BANK ANNEXATION PLAN

Jordan king warns Israel of 'massive conflict'

AGENCIES

Jordan's king warned Israel of a "massive conflict" if it proceeds with plans to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank, as European Union foreign ministers agreed to step up diplomatic efforts to try to head off such a move.

Israel has promised to annex Jewish settlements and the Jordan Valley, which could spell the end of the long-stalled peace process by making it virtually impossible to establish a viable Palestinian state.

Jordan's King Abdullah II, in an interview published by Der Spiegel on Friday, issued a stark warning over Israel's plans.

"Leaders who advocate a one-state solution do not understand what that would mean," he said.

"What would happen if the Palestinian National Authority collapsed? There would be more chaos and extremism in the region. If Israel really annexed the West Bank in July, it would lead to a massive conflict with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," he said.

Jordan is a close Western ally and one of only two Arab states to have signed a peace treaty with Israel. Abdullah declined to say whether annexation would threaten that agreement.

Jordan has been lobbying the EU to take "practical steps" to make sure annexation



does not happen.

At a video conference, EU foreign ministers reaffirmed their support for a two-state solution and opposition to any annexation. The ministers, whose countries are deeply divided in their approach to Israel, agreed to ramp up diplomatic efforts in the coming days with Israel, the Palestinians, the US and Arab countries.

The new Israeli agreement says the Israeli government can, from July 1, begin considering implementing the West Bank annexations detailed in US President Donald Trump's Middle East plan.

Unveiled in January, the controversial plan gives a green light for Israel to annex about a third of the occupied West Bank, leaving the Palestinians with heavily conditioned statehood in scattered territorial enclaves surrounded by Israel.

The EU has rejected Trump's plan.

China calls on US to pay UN debts

AFP, United Nations

China on Friday issued a statement calling on all UN member states to "actively fulfill their financial obligations to the United Nations," stressing that Washington owes the organization more than \$2 billion.

"As of May 14, the total unpaid assessments under the UN regular budget and peacekeeping budget amount to 1.63 billion and 2.14 billion US dollars respectively," the Chinese statement said, citing a report from the UN Secretary-General's office.

The US is the biggest contributor to the UN budget, paying 22 percent of its annual running costs, a bill which adds up to around \$3 billion; and 25 percent of its peacekeeping operations, which amount to some \$6 billion a year.

China pays around 12 percent of the UN's running costs and around 15 percent of the peacekeeping budget.



An anti lockdown protester is detained by police officers during a demonstration in Hyde Park, following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), London, Britain, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ROAD ACCIDENTS DURING LOCKDOWN

30 migrant workers killed in India

India's infections surpass China

AGENCIES

At least 30 Indian migrant workers were killed yesterday in road accidents as they tried to return to their home villages during a nationwide coronavirus lockdown, officials said.

The accidents, in central and northern India, were the latest involving some of the millions of labourers left stranded and jobless by the seven-week shutdown.

In the most deadly incident, a truck carrying about 40 labourers struck another vehicle also carrying workers and their families that was parked at a roadside cafe in Uttar Pradesh, local magistrate Abhishek Singh told AFP.

At least 25 were killed and 30 injured.

It is thought the driver of the truck had fallen asleep, Singh said. The vehicle was carrying lime powder which suffocated many of those who died, all of whom were men, he added.

A drunk driver was blamed for the second accident, in Madhya Pradesh, when a truck bringing labourers back from neighbouring Maharashtra state overturned, local official Shashi Mishra said. Four of the five dead were women and 17 people were injured, he added.

The incidents came after sixteen were killed this month when a train ran over them as they slept on a railway track.

The government is also battling a surge in coronavirus cases in major cities such as Mumbai and New Delhi as it prepares to ease the lockdown.

Cases in India rose by nearly 4,000 overnight to 85,940, eclipsing the number officially registered in China -- where the pandemic started late last year. India's death toll is 2,752, while China's stands at 4,633.

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Date: 17 May 2020

Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Not Applicable
2	Agency	Not Applicable
3	Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Bank
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	The Procurement of IT items for Bangladesh Bank Offices
7	Invitation Ref No	ISDSD-12(71)/2020
8	Date	17 May 2020
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Source
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not Applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	
14	Tender Package No.	ISDSD-12(71)/2020
15	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Cisco Software, Application Load Balancer and Network Bandwidth Manager including subscription and related services for Bangladesh Bank
16	Date	17 May 2020
17	Time	
18	Tender Last Selling Date	Not Applicable
19	Date	
20	Time	
Tender Closing Date and Time		
18	Tender Opening Date and Time	07 June 2020 03:00PM
19	Date	07 June 2020
20	Time	03:15PM
Name & Address of the office(s)		
Address		

NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

- Receiving Tender Document	BB eTender System (etender.bb.org.bd) and one Hard Copy document			
- Opening Tender Document	Information Systems Development and Support Department (ISDSD), Bangladesh Bank, 28 th Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka			
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)			
Date	None			
Not Applicable				
22	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer			
23	Brief Description of Goods			
24	Brief Description of Related Services			
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)			
Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
1	Information Technology items	ISDSD	20,00,000/-	02 Weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Amir Hossain Pathan		
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Systems Manager		
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Information Systems Development and Support Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka		
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	9530161 9530481 amir.pathan@bb.org.bd		
30	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings			

sd-
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Systems Manager
Phone: 9530161, E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd

GD-855