

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

India okays use of remdesivir

REUTERS, Bengaluru

India's government yesterday said it has approved Gilead Sciences Inc's antiviral drug remdesivir for emergency use for five doses in treating COVID-19 patients.

Remdesivir, which is administered intravenously in hospital, is the first drug to show improvement in COVID-19 patients in formal clinical trials and is at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19, which has no approved treatment or vaccine.

The drug was granted emergency use authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration last month and has received approval by Japanese health regulators. The drug is being administered in some countries under compassionate use rules.

"(Remdesivir) approved on June 1 under emergency use with condition for five dose administration," the Drugs Controller General of India said in an email statement.

The approval comes a day after the US drugmaker reported that remdesivir showed modest benefit in patients with moderate COVID-19 given a five-day course, while those who received it for 10 days in the study did not fare as well.

The drug has been approved for the treatment of adults and children with severe COVID-19, the Indian Express newspaper reported yesterday, citing sources.

The regulator has decided against extending the use of the drug to 10 days, based on existing evidence presented to it at the time of approval, according to the paper.

As of Tuesday, India has 198,706 cases of coronavirus and has recorded 5,598 deaths, health ministry data showed. Governments are racing to bolster supplies of remdesivir, with European and South Korean authorities vying for the potential COVID-19 treatment.



A couple hold each other in downtown Las Vegas, while taking part in a "Black lives matter" rally in response to the recent death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died while in police custody, on Monday night.

PHOTO: AFP

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

KEY UPDATES

NEARLY 6.3M CASES

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 375,555 people since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday.

At least 6,279,390 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. The United States is the worst-hit country with 105,147 deaths from 1,811,277 cases. After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Britain with 39,045 deaths from 276,332 cases, Italy with 33,475 deaths from 233,197 cases, Brazil with 29,937 deaths and 526,447 cases and France with 28,833 deaths and 189,220 cases.

NO HAJJ FOR INDONESIANS

Indonesia has cancelled the hajj pilgrimage this year for people in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation due to concerns over the coronavirus, the religious affairs minister said yesterday. Saudi Arabia, where the hajj rituals are performed, has already said the hajj and umrah pilgrimages -- which attract millions of travellers from around the world -- will remain suspended until further notice.

FIRST ROHINGYA REFUGEE DIES

A 71-year-old man has become the first Rohingya living in vast refugee camps in Bangladesh to die from the coronavirus, an official said yesterday. Health experts have long warned that the deadly virus could race through the vast network of settlements housing almost a million refugees in the country's southeast.

SINGAPORE OPENS SCHOOLS

Pupils wearing face masks returned to school in Singapore yesterday and some workplaces re-opened as coronavirus restrictions were eased in the hard-hit city-state. The country has recorded over 35,000 cases -- the highest official tally in Southeast Asia -- with the vast majority among foreign workers. The death toll stands at 24.

THAIS RE-OPEN SOME BEACHES

People returned to some of Thailand's famed sandy beaches Monday, keeping well apart but enjoying the outdoors, as authorities eased some coronavirus restrictions for the first time in more than two months. In Pattaya, visitors marvelled at the clarity of the turquoise-blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand. Phuket, in the south, is still off-limits.

NO DEATHS IN SPAIN

Spain has recorded no coronavirus deaths over the past 24 hours for the first time since the beginning of March, a government source said Monday. It is one of the countries worst hit by the pandemic, having recorded 27,127 deaths from 239,638 cases notified.

PAKISTAN END CURBS

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan announced Monday his government would end restrictions. His announcement came shortly after a report was leaked to the media that showed cases of coronavirus in Lahore are estimated to be at about 670,800. Officially, about 72,000 people have tested positive, with 1,543 deaths, across all of Pakistan.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Friends and foes criticise US

AFP, Washington

With US cities in flames over outrage about police brutality, nations that are usually on the receiving end of Washington's criticism on human rights are gleefully turning the tables.

Condemnation of the US record on race came from China, which days earlier faced US counter-measures for tightening controls on Hong Kong, as well as Iran, where officials have been slapped with US sanctions for suppressing protests in November.

The United States is experiencing some of its worst riots in 50 years with dozens of cities under curfews following the killing in Minneapolis of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man who pleaded "I can't breathe" as a white police officer pinned him under his knee for nearly nine minutes.

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam yesterday accused the United States of applying "double standards" in its response to violent protests after US ended the city's special trading status.

VIOLENT RACE UNREST IN US



"Racism against ethnic minorities in the US is a chronic disease of American society," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi echoed the language frequently voiced by President Donald Trump's administration in its support for opponents of the clerical state.

"To the American people: the

world has heard your outcry over the state of oppression. The world is standing with you," Mousavi said.

Solidarity protests have taken place in US friends including UK, Ireland and New Zealand. Allied governments have spoken in general terms about US police brutality, without criticizing Trump.

EU High Representative Josep Borrell yesterday urged US authorities to rein in the "excessive use of force", and said the 27-nation bloc supports the right to peaceful protest.

Europe is "shocked and appalled" by the police killing, the EU's diplomatic chief said, condemning an "abuse of power".

A spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that US police should show restraint "as in any other country in the world" and that police worldwide need human rights training.

Germany's foreign minister yesterday said the peaceful demonstrations in the United States are "more than legitimate".

Autopsy finds cop suffocated George floyd

Victim's brother says violence must stop

AGENCIES

An autopsy found Monday that an African-American man whose death has set off nationwide unrest was suffocated by a police officer, contradicting a preliminary ruling.

"The evidence is consistent with mechanical asphyxia as the cause of death, and homicide as the manner of death," Aleccia Wilson, a University of Michigan expert who examined his body at the family's request, told a news conference.

An initial finding cited in a criminal complaint pointed to pre-existing conditions, outraging the family.

Shortly after the independent report, Hennepin County's medical examiner released its official autopsy that called his death a homicide caused by "neck compression," although it also said he was intoxicated and pointed to heart disease.

The autopsy revived demands for the arrest of three other police officers who stood guard for Derek Chauvin as Floyd pleaded for his life.

Meanwhile, an emotional Terrence Floyd, brother of George, demanded that rioters stop violence and protest his brother's killing peacefully.

"I understand you're upset ... but if I'm not over here wildin' out, if I'm not over here blowing up stuff, if I'm not over here messing up my community - then what are y'all doing? Nothing, because that's not going to bring my brother back at all," Floyd said angrily over a loudspeaker.

"So let's do this another way. Let's stop thinking that our voice don't matter and vote ... because it's a lot of us and we still going to do this peacefully."



A waiter serves customers on a restaurant's terrace in Strasbourg, France, yesterday. Cafes and restaurants reopened in France yesterday as the country began to ease lockdown measures which were taken to prevent spread of coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

Rainforests disappearing at an alarming rate: report

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Tropical rainforests disappeared at a rate of one football pitch every six seconds last year, researchers said yesterday, urging countries to include forest protection in post-pandemic plans.

The loss in 2019 of 3.8 million hectares (9.3 million acres) of tropical primary forest - which means intact areas of old-growth trees - was the third biggest decline since the turn of the century, according to data from Global Forest Watch (GFW).

"Primary forests are the areas we are the most concerned about - they have the biggest implications for carbon and biodiversity," said Mikaela Weiss, a project manager at the GFW forest monitoring service, run by the World Resources Institute.

"The fact that we are losing them so rapidly is really concerning," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Loss of primary forest, which hit a record high in 2016 and 2017, was 2.8% higher in 2019 than the year before.

Agricultural expansion, wildfires, logging, mining and population growth all contribute to deforestation, according to GFW researchers.

Cutting down forests has major implications for global goals to curb climate change, as trees absorb about a third of the planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions produced worldwide.

Forests also provide food and livelihoods for people who live in or near them, are an essential habitat for wildlife, and aid tropical rainfall.

The top three countries for primary forest loss last year - Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Indonesia - have remained largely the same this century, GFW researchers said.



Brazil accounted for more than a third of all primary forest loss in 2019 at 1.36 million hectares. Neighbouring Bolivia, however, experienced record-breaking primary forest loss at 290,000 hectares, due to fires in both forests and surrounding woodlands, GFW said.

And Australia experienced a 560% jump in tree cover loss from 2018, driven by unprecedented bushfires, making it easily the country's worst year on record.

NEWSIN brief

Landslides kill 20 in Assam

AFP, Guwahati

At least 20 villagers, including 10 children, were killed in landslides Tuesday after three days of incessant pre-monsoon rains in northeastern India, officials said. The landslides took place in the Barak Valley of southern Assam state, Forests Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said, adding that several homes were destroyed. Officials said rescue workers feared they may find more bodies trapped by the landslides and the toll could rise.

Roadside bomb kills 7 in Afghanistan

AFP, Kunduz

Seven civilians were killed by a roadside bomb linked to the Taliban in northern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, even as authorities pressed for peace talks with the militants. The latest blast struck a small truck carrying a group of labourers late Monday in the volatile district of Khan Abad, in the province of Kunduz. No group claimed responsibility.

Libya rivals agree to ceasefire talks

AFP, Tripoli

The United Nations' Libya mission yesterday said the country's warring parties had agreed to restart talks aimed at reaching a lasting ceasefire, after a three-month suspension. In a statement, UNSMIL "welcomed" moves by the Government of National Accord and forces backing eastern-based military commander Khalifa Haftar to accept "restarting negotiations on a ceasefire and the related security arrangements".

রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ

শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

স্মারক : রবিবা/পওউ/যানবাহন ক্রম/৭৪/২০১৯/২৪৯

তারিখ : ৩১.০৫.২০২০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা পিপিএন ২০০৮ অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত দরপত্রের যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে সিলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ	শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
২.	এজেন্সি	বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন
৩.	সম্প্রদায়িক স্বত্তার নাম	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ
৪.	সম্প্রদায়িক স্বত্তার কোড	বর্তমান ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছেনা
৫.	সম্প্রদায়িক স্বত্তার জেলা	সিরাজগঞ্জ
৬.	কি কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর জন্য বাস (৫২ সিট) এক মিনিবাস (এসি) ক্রয়
৭.	আহ্বানের সূত্র	স্মারক: রবিবা/পওউ/যানবাহন ক্রম/৭৪/২০১৯/
৮.	তারিখ	৩১.০৫.২০২০
৯.	সম্প্রদায়িক স্বত্তার	উল্লিখিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
১০.	বাসেট এন্ড পোর্ট অফ ফ্রাট	জিওবি
১১.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর	০১/২০১৯-২০
১২.	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	৩১.০৫.২০২০
১৩.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১৩.০৬.২০২০ (অফিস সময় পর্যন্ত)।
১৪.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	১৪.০৬.২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ টারপর।
১৫.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৪.০৬.২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ টা।
১৬.	দরপত্র লিপির বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	সহকারী পরিচালক (পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন)-এর কার্যালয়, অস্থায়ী অফিস (ফাহিম ম্যানসন, বাড়ি ৭৮/১, কামাপাড়া, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ)। লিয়ার্সের অফিস : বাড়ি ৬৫/এ, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, মাদমরি, ঢাকা ১২০৯
১৭.	দরপত্র লিপির গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন সেক্টর, রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, লিয়ার্সের অফিস : বাড়ি ৬৫/এ, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, মাদমরি, ঢাকা ১২০৯
১৮.	দরপত্র লিপির খোলার সেক্টর	পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন সেক্টর, রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, লিয়ার্সের অফিস : বাড়ি ৬৫/এ, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, মাদমরি, ঢাকা ১২০৯
১৯.	দরপত্র দাখিলের যোগ্যতা	১. যে-কোন সরকারীকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান বাসের হালদালাল ট্রেন লাইসেন্স, মূল্য সংযোজন কর নিবন্ধীকরণ, টিআইএন ও ব্যাক সলভেন্সি সনদপত্র রয়েছে। ২. লিয়ার্স ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরে ৩,৫০,০০,০০০.০০ (তিন কোটি পঞ্চাশ লাখ) টাকার একক কার্যাবলী সম্প্রতি কাজের সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/খ্যাতশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ৩. কমপক্ষে ২,০০,০০০০০.০০ (দুই কোটি) টাকার ব্যাক সলভেন্সি থাকতে হবে। ৪. দরপত্রের সঙ্গে কোনরূপ মিথ্যা সনদপত্র লিপির কর্তৃপক্ষ এবং প্রমাণিত হলে জামানতের অর্থ বাতিলসহ ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে Debarred করার জন্য সুপারিশ করা হইবে।
২০.	কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা	সিফিউল মোহরযুক্ত
২১.	কাজের সাংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণী	--
	প্যাকেজ নম্বর	কাজের নাম
	প্যাকেজ ০১	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর কর্মচারী ও কর্মচারীদের ব্যবহারের জন্য ১টি বাস (৫২ সিট) এবং ১টি মিনিবাস (এসি) সংগ্রহ
		অবস্থান
		রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ
		জামানতের পরিমাণ (টাকা)
		৪,৫০,০০০/৯ (চার লাখ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা
		দরপত্র লিপিসের মূল্য (টাকা)
		৫,০০০/- (অফেরতযোগ্য)
		কাজ সমাপ্তির সময় দিন/সপ্তাহ
		৬০ (ষাট) দিন
২২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম ও পদবি :	মোঃ শিকলী মাহবুব, সহকারী পরিচালক (পওউ), রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ
২৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর বিস্তারিত যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা :	টেলিফোন/মোবাইল : ০১৭৯১-৬০৬৮১৫, ইমেইল : riad2092@gmail.com
২৪.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হইতে পরবর্তী ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বহাল থাকবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে-কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

স্বাক্ষরিত/

(মোঃ শিকলী মাহবুব)

সহকারী পরিচালক (পওউ)

রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ

GD-931