

Battle on amid vaccine hope

AFP, The Hague

The world yesterday marked one year since the coronavirus threat was declared a pandemic, with vaccinations offering hope but much of humanity still enduring highly restricted lives and no clear path back to normality.

The enormity of the continuing global challenge was reflected in a stark warning by the International Council of Nurses that an exodus is looming of healthcare workers traumatised by the pandemic.

At least 3,000 nurses have been killed by Covid-19, the global nurses' federation said.

While restrictions are easing in many parts of the world, hotspots persist such as Brazil, which on Wednesday reported a record 2,286 deaths in a single day as more contagious new variants fuel a surge there.

Germany yesterday recorded a sharp rise in coronavirus infections, as disease control agency chief Robert Wieler warned that a third wave of the pandemic has begun in Europe's biggest economy.

New infections over the last 24 hours shot up to 14,356, a level not seen since February 4, latest data from

COVID PANDEMIC'S ONE YEAR

EU approves Johnson & Johnson Covid vaccine

Denmark, Norway, Iceland suspend use of AstraZeneca vaccine

Brazil sees record deaths; Germany sees jump in infections

disease control agency Robert Koch Institute showed.

On the economic front, the US Congress passed one of its biggest stimulus efforts ever -- a \$1.9 trillion package that President Joe Biden said would give struggling American families a "fighting chance".

Since first emerging in China at the end of 2019, the coronavirus has killed more than 2.6 million people and forced unprecedented curbs on movement that eviscerated economies.

The World Health Organization officially declared Covid-19 a pandemic on March 11 last year as

infection numbers were beginning to explode across Asia and Europe.

Global aviation came to a standstill and governments imposed deeply unpopular restrictions, forcing billions of fearful people into some form of lockdown.

A year on, at unprecedented pace, several vaccines have been made and are being rolled out, giving hope to mankind. More than 300 million vaccine doses have been administered in 140 countries, according to AFP.

But the vaccination hasn't been without controversy.

Denmark, Norway and Iceland yesterday temporarily suspended the use of AstraZeneca's vaccine over concerns about patients developing post-jab blood clots, as the manufacturer and Europe's medicines watchdog insisted the vaccine was safe.

As of March 9, 22 cases of blood clots had been reported among more than three million people vaccinated in the European Economic Area, the European Medicines Agency said.

The European Union's medical regulator yesterday authorised the J&J vaccine, which has already been approved by Canada and the US.



A Naga Sadhu waves the Indian flag as he takes a dip in the Ganges river during the first Shahi Snan at "Kumbh Mela", or the Pitcher Festival, in Haridwar, India, yesterday. Naked, dreadlocked holymen were among hundreds of thousands of jubilant Hindu pilgrims who thronged the banks of India's Ganges river yesterday to take a dip in the water, ignoring any coronavirus threat, for one of the nation's most colourful religious festivals. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

China okays plan to veto HK election candidates

China's rubber-stamp parliament yesterday voted for sweeping changes to Hong Kong's electoral system -- including powers to veto candidates -- as Beijing moves to ensure only "patriots" run the city following huge pro-democracy rallies. Beijing has acted decisively to dismantle Hong Kong's limited democratic pillars after massive and sometimes violent protests coursed through the financial hub in 2019. The decision aims to place responsibility for running the city in the hands of "patriots governing Hong Kong", Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told reporters after the vote. Senior Chinese officials have made clear loyalty to the Communist Party will be key to deciding if a Hong Konger is a "patriot".

Prince William denies British royal family is 'racist'

Prince William yesterday defended the British royal family after his younger brother Harry and wife Meghan accused them of racism in a bombshell interview watched around the world. "We're very much not a racist family," William told reporters during a visit to a multi-racial school in a deprived area of east London.

The Duke of Cambridge, son of heir-to-the throne Prince Charles, added that he had yet to speak to Harry in California since the interview first aired in the United States on Sunday. Harry and Meghan moved to California with their young son Archie last year after their shock announcement to step down as working royals.

Indonesia bus plunge kills two dozen pilgrims

A bus carrying dozens of pilgrims plunged down a steep ravine on Indonesia's Java island, killing at least 27 people including junior high school students, authorities said yesterday. Rescuers worked through the night using cranes to pluck injured survivors from the wreckage after the fatal crash late Wednesday in West Java's Sumedang district. The bus carrying 66 passengers was travelling on a winding, poorly lit road when it plunged down the 20-metre (65 foot) ravine, authorities said. The driver and teenage passengers were among the dead, while 39 survived the accident. Authorities said they were probing the accident's cause. The bus was returning to the town of Subang from a religious pilgrimage site in West Java.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

A generation threatened

Says Unicef as pandemic sets back childhood development around the globe

AFP, New York

Closed schools, surging poverty, forced marriages and depression -- after a year of the pandemic, indicators measuring child and adolescent development have all regressed, a setback that heralds lasting stigma for an entire generation, Unicef warned yesterday.

"The number of children who are hungry, isolated, abused, anxious, living in poverty and forced into marriage has increased," Henrietta Fore, executive director of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, said in a statement.

"Their access to education, socialization and essential services including health, nutrition and protection has decreased. The signs that children will bear the scars of the pandemic for years to come are unmistakable," Fore said in the statement.

Faced with such "devastating" effects, Fore urged for children to be placed "at the

Children, adolescents under 20 make up 13 percent of 71m cases
Pandemic may force early marriage of additional 10 million children by 2030
Six to seven million more children suffered from malnourishment in 2020
For 168m students around the world, schools have been closed for nearly a year

heart of recovery efforts," particularly by "prioritizing schools in reopening plans."

Unicef cited a series of worrying figures in support of Fore's words.

While the pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the elderly, pulation under 20 make up 13 percent of the 71 million coronavirus cases reported in the 107 countries that

provided age-specific data.

In developing countries, projections show a 15 percent increase in child poverty.

Six to seven million more children could suffer from malnourishment in 2020, an increase of 14 percent mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

For 168 million students around the world, schools have been closed for nearly a year. A third of those students do not have access to online education.

As a result of the shuttered schools and worsening economic situation, the pandemic could also lead to the marriage of 10 million children by 2030, adding to the 100 million girls already considered at risk of marriage by then.

At least one in seven children or adolescents has spent the majority of the past year under lockdown orders, increasing anxiety, depression and isolation.

Will return to polls campaign soon: Mamata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Injured West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in a video message from hospital bed, said that she would return to the campaign trail in two to three days and also urged her supporters to maintain peace and restraint.

Mamata said she came under attack around 6:15pm on Wednesday in Nandigram, from where she filed her nomination for the upcoming state assembly polls.

West Bengal police has registered a case over the incident. Mamta will face Suwendu Adhikari, her former protégé and now senior BJP leader, in the poll from Nandigram.



A local resident pays his respects to earthquake and tsunami victims on a beach in Sendai, Miyagi prefecture yesterday, the 10th anniversary of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake which triggered a tsunami and nuclear disaster. A minute's silence was observed across the country at 2.46 pm local time, the precise moment a 9.0 magnitude quake hit off the northeast coast on March 11, 2011, triggering a disaster that left some 18,500 dead or missing. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar removes Arakan Army from terrorist list

REUTERS

Myanmar's military junta has removed Arakan Army (AA) insurgents from its list of terrorist groups because the faction has stopped attacks and in order to help establish peace across the country, state media said yesterday.

The move comes at a time the army is struggling to contain daily protests against its Feb. 1 coup in which elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi was overthrown.

An AA spokesman welcomed the news.

The AA is fighting for greater autonomy in the western Rakhine state and over the past two years had become one of the most formidable forces in challenging an army that has been fighting various ethnic wars for some seven decades.

The AA had been placed on the list of terrorist groups last year under Suu Kyi's government.

"The designation of this group as a terrorist group is terminated from March 11, 2021," The state-run Mirror Daily said, citing the end of attacks and the junta's vision of building "nationwide eternal peace".

AA spokesman Khine Thu Kha said Rakhine had suffered years of violence and decline and the removal of its designation as a terrorist group was positive.

"This announcement might not solve the whole country's problems but it will be a start to solve problems in Rakhine state. So we welcome it," he said in an audio message to Reuters.

Some of Myanmar's more than two dozen ethnic armed groups have criticised the coup and even shown support for anti-coup protesters, but have not significantly stepped up military action or abandoned ceasefire deals.

The AA had not voiced support for the protesters and there have been very few protests in Rakhine state.

The AA's ranks are largely drawn from the ethnic Rakhine and Buddhist majority in what was an independent kingdom until the 18th century.

Obituary

Kazi Shafiqul Karim, ex-General Manager of Marubeni Corporation Dhaka Office, has passed away on March 06, 2021 due to Covid-19 complications. He was laid to rest at his family grave in Banani graveyard. He is survived by his wife and two sons. He left behind a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. His first namaz-e-janaza was held at his family home in Bakshi Bazar. The second namaz-e-janaza was held at Banani graveyard. Hikari Kawai, General Manager of Marubeni Corporation Dhaka was deeply shocked by the sudden passing and offered deepest condolences on behalf of the Dhaka office. His relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director

Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control & Research
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Memo. No. IEDCR/GHSA/MSR & Others/E-tender/2020-21/

Date : 11.03.2021.

E-Tender Notice : 04/2020-21.

E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following goods :

Sl.No	Package No.	Name of the Items	Tender ID NO.
1.	IEDCR/GHSA/MSR & Others/E-tender/2020-21/ P-1, P-2, P-3, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6, P-7, P-8, P-9 & P-10	MSR Items (AMR), MSR Items (Anthrax), MSR Items (Leptospira), Tab (Leptospira) & Laptop (FETP,B)	557032, 557095, 557098, 557117, 557126, 557128, 557401, 557409, 557415, 557441.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to 2.00 PM on 04.04.2021.

The Closing & Opening Time of Tenders are Shown Below :-

Sl. No	Description	Date	Time	
			Closing	Opening
1.	IEDCR/GHSA/MSR & Others/E-tender/2020-21/ P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9 & P10	04.04.2021	3:00 PM	3:00 PM

Further Information and Guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

NB: Funding for this Procurement under GHSA Project NOA will be issues based on availability of fund.

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(স্বাক্ষরিক ডাঃ তাহমিনা শিরীন পিএইচডি)
পরিচালক
ফোন নম্বর ৮৮০২-২২২২৬২২৯০

GD-510

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Bhola
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.09.00.000.14.020.21.621

e-Tender Notice No. 20/2020-21

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Upazila	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Name of scheme	Method	Last date of receiving
IRIDP-3						
1.	Charfassion	IRIDP-3/BHL/MW-18	556382	Maintenance of Shashibhussion-Anjurhat Road (Iqbal Patwary Dokan) to Bazlur Bazar Road from (Ch. 00-800m). Road [ID-509254183] under Charfassion Upazila, District-Bhola.	LTM	31.03.2021 till 12:00pm
2.	Charfassion	IRIDP-3/BHL/MW-19	556383	Maintenance of Shashibhussion-Anjurhat Road (Iqbal Patwary Dokan) to Bazlur Bazar Road from (Ch. 2000m-4300m). Road [ID-509254183] under Charfassion Upazila, District-Bhola.	LTM	31.03.2021 till 12:00pm
GOBM						
3.	Borhanuddin	e-Tender/LGED/Bhola/GOBM/20-21/W-45	556385	Periodic Maintenance of Borhanuddin RHD-Sayed Bapari Bari- Choto Manika Boro Bari Road from Ch. 00m-300m under Borhanuddin Upazila District-Bhola. Road ID-509214085	LTM	31.03.2021 till 12:00pm
4.	Daulatkhan	e-Tender/LGED/Bhola/GOBM/20-21/W-46	556386	Periodic Maintenance of North Joyngar Bayati Bari- S.P Bari Road from Ch. 00m-317m under Daulatkhan Upazila, District-Bhola. Road (ID-509295039)	LTM	31.03.2021 till 12:00pm
SSSWRDP						
5.	Charfassion	LGED/SSSWRDP/WD-08/20-21-Tender	556398	Part-A- Construction of WMCA office building of Abdullahpur new Sub-project under Charfassion Upazila, District-Bhola. Part-B- Office furniture for WMCA Office. Part-C- Electrification works for WMCA office.	OTM	19.04.2021 till 12:00pm

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to Sl.No-1, 2, 3, 4 Date: 30/03/2021 & SL No. 5 Date: 18/04/2021. Further information and guidelines and available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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GD-505