

COVID-19 'TSUNAMI' IN INDIA

Unnecessary rush to hospitals a problem

Says WHO; relatives scramble for drugs

AGENCIES

People in India are rushing unnecessarily to hospital, exacerbating a crisis over surging Covid-19 infections caused by mass gatherings, more contagious variants and low vaccination rates, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday.

India's death toll is now pushing towards 200,000, and hospitals that do not have enough oxygen supplies and beds are turning away patients.

Less than 15% of people infected with Covid-19 actually need hospital care and even fewer will need oxygen, WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said.

"Currently, part of the problem is that many people rush to the hospital (also because they do not have access to information/advice), even though home-based care monitoring at home can be managed very safely," Jasarevic said.

Community-level centres should screen and triage patients and provide advice on safe home care, while information is also made available via hotlines or dashboards, he said.

India is also facing severe shortages of medical supplies, with hospitals and crematoriums overwhelmed.

Manish Aggarwal celebrates with weary relief after laying his hands on precious doses of Covid-19 medication for his sick father -- a victory where thousands across India have not been so lucky.

He has been waiting in line outside a small pharmacy in Delhi for eight hours to secure remdesivir, and is rewarded with just two of the recommended six doses.

In the same queue are more than 100 people with loved ones in hospital. Only 30 people receive the medicine. As evening falls and the medical supplier shuts up his shop, some people outside start crying.

"This government has failed us so much that those who can normally survive also die," says an exhausted Vinod Kumar, who has been waiting since 6 am but couldn't get the medicine.



Family members and relatives perform the last rites amid the funeral pyres of victims who died of the Covid-19 coronavirus during mass cremation held at a crematorium in New Delhi, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

313 identified as Hefajat's donors

FROM PAGE 1

through transforming Hefajat like the militant group -- Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan.

About Hefajat's funding and donor, Md Asaduzzaman, deputy commissioner (Motiheel division) of DB police, told The Daily Star that Hefajat leaders used to collect the funds from the donors for madrasa purpose. But they did not get any papers or documents where and how the funds were spent, he added.

He said, "We are now investigating to know how the funds were spent."

"We are also checking the background and sources of income of these donors and purpose of giving the funds to Hefajat," said the DC.

Regarding the transaction, DB Additional Commissioner Hafiz Akter said they have traced over Tk 6 crore transaction in two bank accounts of Mamunul, joint secretary general of the now defunct committee of the Qawmi madrasa-based organisation.

One of his account details shows that over 47 lakh has been transacted, he said while talking to reporters at his office yesterday.

Police are now verifying the source of the money, said the DB chief.

Mamunul is now in DB police custody on a 10-day remand in two cases.

DC Asaduzzaman, who is coordinating interrogation, said police queried about the funds and Mamunul replied that the funds were for madrasas and mosques. But he failed to show any proof or documents that the funds were spent for madrasas, he added.

The police officer said Mamunul was asked why madrasa funds came to his personal account when madrasas have separate accounts to receive the donation. "Mamunul failed to give any specific answer in the connection."

Sources said around 21 Hefajat leaders and supporters have been arrested by DB police so far. Eight of them are now on remand.

In another development, DMP Additional Commissioner (DB) Hafiz Akter said some Hefajat leaders, including Mamunul, former Dhaka city unit president Junaid Al Habib and Maulana Khaled Saifullah Ayubi, met at the wedding programme of then secretary general Junayed Babunagari's son and planned to remove its former Ameer Shah Ahmad Shafi.

Later, they created an anarchy at Hathazari madrasa in Chattogram, where the Hefajat is based, and drove away Hefajat leaders loyal to Shafi, said the DB chief.

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) also submitted an investigation report to the chief judicial magistrate court in Chattogram on April 12, accusing Babunagari and some other Hefajat leaders. But the PBI dropped Mamunul's name from the report, according to a copy The Daily Star obtained.

TARGET FOUR DISTRICTS
Following a crackdown against top leaders of Hefajat, law enforcers are now preparing a list of instigators of violence after analysing CCTV footage.

Anwar Hossain, deputy inspector general (DIG) of Chattogram range, told this paper yesterday that they were preparing a list, including students and teachers of different madrasas, who took part in the violence after analysing the footage.

"We have verified around 70 to 80 suspects' identities, whose names mentioned in the first information report (FIR) for violence in Chattogram. We may be able to say clearly about the list after the investigation," the DIG added.

On the other hand, a highly-placed source said police have now kept leaders of Hefajat's now defunct committee dealing with financial issues under surveillance and they would be arrested anytime over the misappropriation of funds that came from abroad.

A high official of an intelligence agency said they were now finalising the instigators' list in four districts -- Chattogram, Narayanganj, Brahmanbaria and Munshiganj. Once the list is completed, leaders and supporters of Hefajat from the four districts would face arrest, said the official.

Sources in Police Headquarters said around 142 cases were filed and over 879 people, mostly Hefajat supporters, were arrested for the violence that took place between March 26 and 28.

Meanwhile, police rescued Mamunul's "second wife" Jannat Ara Jhama from a house in the capital's Basila area yesterday.

Police rescued Jannat after her father filed a general diary with Kalabagan Police Station in this regard.

Jannat was handed over to her

father in the evening.

SIX MORE HELD

As part of the ongoing crackdown against Hefajat men involved in the three-day mayhem from March 26 in different parts of the country, especially in Brahmanbaria, police on Monday arrested six more Hefajat leaders and activists from the district.

Of the six arrestees, Md Obaidullah, secretary of the organisation's Ashuganj upazila unit, was held for his alleged involvement in violence in the upazila.

He is the principal of a madrasa in Ashuganj and the khatib of Boro Masjid in Ashuganj Bazar.

Ashuganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Javed Mahmud said Obaidullah was sent to jail yesterday through a local court.

20 STUDENTS EXPELLED
Al Jamia Al Islamia Al Eunusiya Madrasa on Monday expelled 20 students for allegedly taking part in March 26's mayhem in Brahmanbaria.

The madrasa, locally called "Boro Madrasa", took the action amid the ongoing drive being conducted by the law enforcers to arrest those involved in the incident, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

COVID-19 CRISIS

Army deployed in Pakistan to enforce rules

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistani troops have been deployed in 16 major cities to assist civilian authorities in enforcing measures meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus, including the wearing of masks in public and the closing of non-essential businesses after 6pm.

"Starting at 6am this (Monday) morning, troops have been sent to aid the civilian administration in each district," military spokesperson Major General Babar Ifukhar said.

Pakistan has recorded 17,187 deaths and 800,452 cases so far, and is in the midst of a third wave.

The federal government has opted not to impose nationwide lockdowns seen in some other countries, saying such measures could endanger the lives of many who rely on daily wages.

EU lawmakers debate Brexit accord before decisive vote

REUTERS, Brussels

EU lawmakers debated the post-Brexit trade agreement between the European Union and Britain for the last time yesterday, ahead of a vote that is expected to give the accord overwhelming approval.

That should be the final step towards ratification of the trade and cooperation deal, struck in December after more than four years of acrimonious negotiations and lingering mistrust as Britain ended 47 years of EU membership.

"This is a divorce. It is a warning, Brexit. It's a failure of the European Union and we have to learn lessons from it," the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, told lawmakers, who gave him a standing ovation for his work.

The accord crafted in the last days of 2020 only took force provisionally until the end of April, pending approval from the European Parliament. Lawmakers will vote late on Tuesday, with the outcome made public today morning.

There is no doubt that they will back

the deal, after assembly committees earlier cleared it by 108 votes to 1. If they did not, EU-UK ties would fall back to basic WTO terms, with quotas and tariffs.

Even with a trade deal, British exports to the EU fell by 47% in January-February and imports by 20%, far more than the declines for any other EU trading partner.

However, there had been some doubt the vote would go ahead as parliament protested against British changes to trading arrangements in Northern Ireland, a move that prompted Brussels to launch legal action.

Once parliament has given its consent, the 27 EU countries are expected to rubber-stamp the deal. The bloc will then inform Britain and the trade agreement will be formally concluded.

The lawmakers are also voting on a 17-page accompanying resolution that calls Brexit a "historic mistake". The text says parliament regrets the limited scope of the deal, which lacks cooperation on foreign policy or student exchanges, and notes that opportunities for Britain's largely service-based economy are "vastly reduced."

US SC to take up gun rights case

AFP, Washington

The US Supreme Court agreed on Monday to hear a challenge backed by the gun lobby to a New York law that restricts the carrying of firearms outside the home.

It will be the first major case involving the Second Amendment constitutional right to bear arms heard by the nation's highest court in more than a decade.

The case will be argued before a Supreme Court with a 6-3 conservative majority and comes amid a gun control push by President Joe Biden in the wake of several mass shootings.

A more than century-old New York law currently requires someone applying for a permit to carry a gun outside the home to establish "proper cause."

The suit to be heard by the Supreme Court was brought by two men who were denied permits to carry handguns for self-defense.

The SC agreed to hear the case in its October term.

The court said it would limit arguments to the question: "Whether the state's denial of petitioners' applications for concealed-carry licenses for self-defense violated the Second Amendment."

The Second Amendment to the Constitution is subject to various interpretations.

It reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

For the National Rifle Association and many gun owners, it guarantees the rights of citizens to carry weapons.

In a landmark case in 2008, the SC ruled that the Second Amendment ensured the right to have a gun at home and left it up to cities and states to set their own rules on carrying firearms outside the home.

There were more than 43,000 gun-related deaths in the United States last year, including suicides, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.
BANGLADESH MARINE ACADEMY, RANGPUR.
PIRGANJ, RANGPUR.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping			
02.	Agency	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.			
03.	Procuring Entity Name	Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.			
04.	Procuring Entity Code	-			
05.	Procuring Entity District	Rangpur.			
06.	Invitation For	Supply of Boson Store Goods -Lot:1 Supply of Cookeries, Cutleries and Other Items for Cadet Mess-Lot:2 Supply of Sports and Misc Items-Lot:3 Supply of Stationery Items for Cadet and Office-Lot:4 Supply of Materials for Demonstration Hall (For Practical classes of Cadet) -Lot: 5			
07.	Invitation Ref. No.	18.26.8576.001.99.001.2020-21			
08.	Date	29-04-2021			
09.	Procurement Method	National Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
10.	Budget & Source of Fund	GOB			
11.	Development Partner(if applicable)	N/A			
12.	Project/ Programme Code	N/A			
13.	Project/ Programme Name	N/A			
14.	Tender Package No.	Package No-OTM- 01/2020-21			
15.	Tender Package Name	As mentioned at Serial No. 6 and in the Tender Schedule.			
16.	Tender Publication Date	On 29-04-2021 or before.			
17.	Tender Last Selling Date	18-05-2021 (1200 hrs).			
18.	Tender Closing date and time.	19-05-2021 on 12.00 Noon.			
19.	Tender Opening date and time	19-05-2021 on or after 12.30 pm.			
20.	Name and Address of the office for Selling tender documents	1. Office of the Executive Engineer PWD, Rangpur. 2. Office of Project Director (4 Marine Academy), Jatiya Mohila Sangsta Vaban, 145 New Baily Road, Dhaka.			
21.	Name and Address of the office for Opening tender documents	Chairman, Tender Opening Committee Office of the Executive Engineer PWD, Rangpur.			
22.	Name and Address of the office for receiving tender documents	1. Office of the DC, Rangpur. 2. Office of the Executive Engineer PWD, Rangpur.			
23.	Place/Date/Time of pre-tender Meeting	Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD, Rangpur. Date: 06-05-2021 Time- 11:00 A.M.			
24.	Eligibility of tendered	All eligible persons/Contractors/ Firms who have fulfilled the qualification criteria stipulated in the tender data sheet and other conditions of the tender documents with experience.			
25.	Brief Description of goods or works	As mentioned at Serial No. 6 and in the Tender Schedule.			
26.	Brief Description of Related Services	As mentioned at Serial No. 6 and in the Tender Schedule.			
27.	Tender Document Price	Taka 2000.00 (Two Thousand) Non-refundable DD/PO in favour of the Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur (Drawable from Sonali Bank, Pirganj Branch) Pirganj, Rangpur, is to be submitted.			
27.	Lot	Identifications of Lot	Location	Tender Security (DD/PO, Re-fundable)	Completion Time in days/months
	Lot-1	Supply of Boson Store Goods	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.	TK. 20,000.00	30 Days
	Lot-2	Supply of Cookeries, Cutleries and Other Items for Cadet Mess	-Do-	TK. 25,000.00	30 Days
	Lot-3	Supply of Sports and Misc Items	-Do-	TK. 10,000.00	30 Days
	Lot-4	Supply of Stationery Items for Cadet and Office	-Do-	TK. 10,000.00	30 Days
	Lot-5	Supply of Materials for Demonstration Hall (For Practical Classes of Cadet)	-Do-	TK. 10,000.00	30 Days
28.	Name of official Inviting Tender	Capt Md Shafiqul Islam Sarker DN			
29.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Commandant			
30.	Address of official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.			
31.	Contact details of official Inviting Tender	Commandant Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur. Pirganj, Rangpur, Ph-01711-121732, Email: shafiq947@yahoo.com			
32.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

GD-838

Sd/-
Officer In-charge Store
Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.



Board & Company Affairs Wing
Share & Bond Division
Head Office
63 Dilkusha C/A (5th Floor), Dhaka

Price Sensitive Information

This is for further information of all concerned that the Board of Directors has also taken the decision in its 299th Meeting held on 27th April, 2021 at 3.00 P.M. through virtual platform for issuance of Floating rate Unsecured, Contingent Convertible on pre-specified trigger point (as fixed by the Bangladesh Bank), Coupon/Profit Discretion, Subordinated, Non-Cumulative, IBBL 2nd Perpetual Mudaraba Bond of BDT 8,000 million through private placement for inclusion in Additional Tier-1 Capital of the Bank under Basel-III norms subject to approval of the Regulatory Authorities as well as approval of the Shareholders of the company in its 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held as under:

01	Record Date	Thursday, 20th May, 2021
02	Date & Time of 38th AGM	Sunday, 27th June, 2021 at 11.30 a.m.
03	Venue of 38th AGM	Through Digital Platform

By Order

Sd/-

(J Q M Habibullah, FCS)

DMD & Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka, 27th April, 2021.

www.islambankbd.com

Study: 1 in 10 women experience miscarriage

AFP

One in seven pregnancies worldwide ends in miscarriage, and eleven percent of women endure a failed pregnancy at least once in their lifetime, experts said yesterday.

Some 23 million miscarriages occur every year, according to data pieced together from around the globe by an international team of 31 researchers.

But the actual tally is sure to be "substantially higher" due to underreporting, they said in a trio of studies published in The Lancet.

Two percent of women -- one in 50 -- have experienced two miscarriages, while less than one percent have been through three or more.