



Asylum-seeking migrants' families from Venezuela walk in the water while crossing the Rio Grande river into the United States from Mexico in Del Rio, Texas, US, on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## CYCLONE YAAS Thousands left homeless in India

AFP, Digha

Thousands of people were homeless Thursday after a cyclone battered Covid-ravaged India, killing 4 people.

Cyclones are a regular menace in the northern Indian Ocean but many scientists say they are becoming more frequent and severe as climate change warms sea temperatures.

Barely a week after Cyclone Tauktae claimed at least 155 lives in western India, Cyclone Yaas forced the evacuation of more than 1.5 million people in the eastern states of West Bengal and Odisha.

The storm hit on Wednesday with torrential rain and howling winds gusting up to 155 kilometres (96 miles) an hour, equivalent to a category two hurricane.

Waves the size of double-decker buses pounded the shore and swamped towns and villages along the coastline, exacerbated by a higher-than-normal tide because of a full moon. Two people died in West Bengal, two in Odisha, officials said.

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said more than 300,000 homes were destroyed.

"The water level in the sea and rivers started to swell to over three to four metres (nine to 12 feet) above the normal level and breached embankments in 135 places," Banerjee said.

"Thousands of people are still marooned. We have set up 14,000 cyclone centres to provide shelter to the homeless," she said.

Low-lying areas of state capital Kolkata were also flooded after the Hooghly river rose.

Yaas has since moved inland towards the state of Jharkhand, easing to a deep depression but bringing heavy rains.

## Hong Kong House passes 'patriots' law

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's opposition-devoid legislature yesterday approved Beijing's radical overhaul of the finance hub's political system which reduces the number of directly elected seats and will freeze out most China critics.

Beijing ordered sweeping changes to Hong Kong's electoral system back in March, the latest step in an ongoing crackdown on the city's democracy movement after massive and often violent protests.

The changes will ensure a large majority of lawmakers are selected by a reliably pro-Beijing committee and that every candidate must first be vetted by national security officers.

The legislature will be expanded from 70 to 90 seats, but only 20 of them will now be directly elected, down from 35.

Hong Kong has never been a democracy, but a vocal minority opposition was allowed in the city's legislature.

When Hong Kongers can vote they tend to do so overwhelmingly for pro-democracy candidates, something that has rattled authoritarian Beijing.

China's leaders moved to stamp out that opposition and dismantle Hong Kong's limited democratic pillars after massive protests broke out in 2019 followed by pro-democracy candidates taking local district council elections with a landslide.

Their first step was to impose a national security law last year that outlawed much dissent.

Beijing then turned its attention to the city's political system. Under the new political system it is unlikely many, if any, opposition figures will be allowed to stand.

### SEEKING A PILL TO CURE COVID

## Drugmakers eye alternative to vaccines

AFP, Washington

Prevention is better than cure -- but when it comes to Covid, what happens when people can't get the vaccine, don't want it, or they're immune suppressed and it fails to stop infection?

The hunt is on for a coronavirus treatment that can be taken as a pill soon after a confirmed positive, halting the disease in its tracks so that cases that might have been severe end up being nothing more than a bad cold.

Several companies are working on so-called oral antivirals, which would mimic what the drug Tamiflu does for influenza.

An easily storable and transportable pill would also offer practical advantages over existing treatments such as monoclonal antibodies, which are mainly injected by drips at hospital infusion centers.

One of the frontrunners in these efforts is a twice-a-day drug

called Molnupiravir, which is being developed by Merck in partnership with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics.

Early results from a Phase 3 trial showed that, among dozens of volunteers who tested positive at the start, none of those who received the drug had any detectable virus by day five; while a quarter of those who received a placebo did.

The numbers are promising but too small to draw firm conclusions from, and the company is now enrolling for a Phase 3 trial involving 1,850 people with results expected by fall.

Molnupiravir belongs to a class of antiviral called "polymerase inhibitors," which work by targeting an enzyme that viruses need to copy their genetic material, and introducing mutations that leave them unable to replicate.

Because antibodies target a surface protein of the coronavirus that is continually evolving, antivirals are expected to be more variant-proof.

Currently, there's just one antiviral approved by the FDA to treat Covid, which is Remdesivir by Gilead Sciences. Remdesivir's biggest disadvantage is that it was developed as an intravenous drug and targeted at hospitalized Covid patients, among whom it was shown to modestly reduce recovery time.

But by the time Covid has progressed to severe, much of the harm to patients' health comes from their own immune systems going into overdrive and damaging their organs, rather than viral replication. That's why the focus now is on oral formulations that can be taken within days of infection.

Roche and Atea have begun a 1,400 patient trial to study their own oral polymerase inhibitor, AT-527. Pfizer, which has developed one of pandemic's foremost vaccines, is also attracting significant attention for its oral drug PF-07321332, which has begun Phase 1 human trials in healthy patients.

## Spare us Corona Devi!

AFP, Coimbatore

Hindu priests at an Indian temple are saying daily prayers to two coronavirus goddesses in an effort to tame the pandemic as the country battles a new infection surge.

Two "Corona Devi" idols have been set up in the southern city of Coimbatore, badly hit in an outbreak that has killed 100,000 people nationwide in the past four weeks.

The Kamatchipuri Adhinam temple is closed to worshippers because of the city's high infection rates but priests are paying tribute in front of the goddesses, one made of sandalwood and the other from stone.

They leave food and other offerings, chant prayers urging an end to the pandemic and bathe the idols in turmeric water and milk.

"We have had similar temples for

smallpox, chicken pox and plague in the past," said temple manager Anandharathi K.

"We are worshipping the virus in the form of a Goddess and praying to her every day to reduce the impacts of this disease," he added.

While case numbers are easing in much of India, the country of 1.3 billion people has been shocked by the severity of the latest wave of the pandemic, which overwhelmed hospitals and led to critical shortages of oxygen and medicines.

"Even doctors are unable to deal with the enormity of the situation. So, we turn to faith and God as a last resort," Anandharathi said.

The priests plan to continue their prayers to the "Corona Devi" idols for another seven weeks.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Director Chattogram Medical College Hospital. www.cmch.gov.bd

Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2021-2022/Electro-medical Equipment/5054

Date: 27-05-2021.

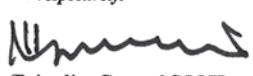
#### INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced Importers / Contractors / Suppliers / Distributors to supply Electro-medical Equipment in the fiscal year 2021-2022. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (Including all corrigendum); Terms and conditions are as follow(s):


KEY INFORMATION			
1 Ministry / Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
2 Agency	Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Chattogram.		
3 PE Name, Designation & Contact details	Brigadier General S M Humayun Kabir, Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Telephone: +88031630179, Fax No.: 88-031-610022, E-mail address: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd		
4 Procuring Entity Code & District	GOB, Chattogram.		
5 Invitation for	Procurement of Electro-Medical Equipment for Chattogram Medical College Hospital in the fiscal year 2021-2022.		
6 Tender Ref. No & date	CMCH/Tender/2021-2022/Electro-medical Equipment/5054 Date: 27-05-2021.		
7 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National). Bidders will bid Item-by-item.		
8 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Bangladeshi Taka).		
9 Tender Publication Date	28-05-2021.		
10 Tender Schedule Selling Starting Date and Time	10-06-2021 During office hours.		
11 Pre-Tender Meeting	26-06-2021, 11:00 A. M.		
12 Tender Last Selling Date and Time	10-07-2021, 12:00 P. M.		
13 Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	Dropping date: 11-07-2021, Dropping time: from 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Closing time: 12:01 P. M.		
14 Tender Opening Date and Time	11-07-2021 at 01:00 P.M.		
<b>Name and address of the Office's</b>			
(a) Selling Tender Documents	1 Cashier, Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2 Cashier, Office of the Civil Surgeon, Chattogram District.		
(b) Receiving Tender Documents	1 Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2 Officer In-charge, Panchlaih Model Police Station, Chattogram Metropolitan Police.		
(c) Tender Documents Opening Place	Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital, KB Fazlul Kader Road, Chattogram-4203.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
16 Bidders Eligibility	Details in Tender Booklet.		
Description of groups, Price of tender document, Tender security etc.			
17 Group No.	Description of Group	Price of Tender Document in BDT (Only in Cash, Non Refundable)	Tender security in BDT (In the form of Pay Order / Demand Draft) in favor of The Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. <b>Bank guarantee is not acceptable.</b>
1	Procurement of Electro-Medical equipment	BDT 5,000.00 (Five Thousand only)	BDT 5,000,000.00 (Five Lac only)
18	Description of Related Services	Details in Tender Booklet.	

Note:

- (a) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.  
(b) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

  
(Brigadier General S M Humayun Kabir)  
Director  
Chattogram Medical College Hospital.  
Telephone: 880-31-630179, Fax No.: 88-031-610022.  
E-mail: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

GD-1079



### Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project

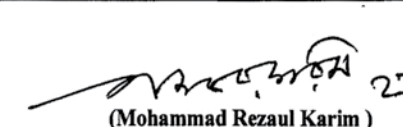
EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU

#### Invitation for Re-Tender (OTM)

**Procurement of works for Construction of Boundary Wall/Fence and Gates around three sides of the 6.1 acres land of Project Site at Purbachal New Town, Rugganj, Narayanganj.**

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed firms/organizations as per the Public Procurement Rules (PPR), 2008 for following works of Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project as per terms and conditions stated below:

1 Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Commerce.
2 Procuring Agency	: Export Promotion Bureau
3 Procuring Entity Name	: Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project
4 Procuring Entity code	: -----
5 Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka
6 Invitation for (Name of Works/Services and Tender package)	: Construction works of boundary wall and Gates around the 6.1 acres land of Project Site at Purbachal New Town, Plot-02, Sector-04, Rugganj, Narayanganj.
7 Invitation Reference No	: 26.02.0000.006.14.119.20/1282
8 Date	: 27-05-2021
9 Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (OTM)
Procurement Sub-Method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)/Past performance Evaluation Matrix Method(Which is applicable)
10 Budget and Source of Funds	: Own Fund of Project.
11 Development Partners	: China Government
12 Project/Programme Code	: 170101-224004100
13 Project/Programme Name	: Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center Project
14 Tender Package No	: Not Applicable
15 Tender Package Name	: As mentioned above
16 Tender Publication Date	: From 28-05-2021 to 02-06-2021
17 Tender Schedule Selling/Buying Date & Time	: From 02-06-2021 to 15-06-2021 (during office hours).
18 Tender Submission Date and Time (Last/Closing Date and Time)	: From 03-06-2021 to 16-06-2021, Closing time at 1:00 pm on 16-06-2021
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	: 16-06-2021 at 3:00 PM
20 Name & Address of the Offices/ Places for:	
(a) Selling/Buying Tender Documents	(a) Project Office, Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban (14 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215; (b) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, 1st 12-Stroried Government Building (2nd Floor), Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.
(b) Receiving/Submission/Tender Documents	(a) Project Office, Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban (14 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215; (b) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, 1st 12-Stroried Government Building (2nd Floor), Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.
(c) Place of Opening Tender Document	Conference Room, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban (4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215;
21 Place and Date of Pre-Tender Meeting	: Not Applicable
22 Eligibility of Tenderer and Documents to be submitted	(a) The tenderer must have practical experience of at least 4(Four) years as contractor in performing construction works. (b) Tenderers shall submit attested copy of (1) Updated Trade license (2) VAT registration certificate, (3) Up to date Income Tax Certificate (4) Experience certificate for same nature of work during last 03(Three) years from any Govt./Autonomous/Govt. owned organization (5) Bank solvency certificate (6) Bank account statement of last 2(Two) years in favour of average transactions/turn-over of at least BDT.50,00,000/- (Taka Fifty Lacs) yearly from the same nature of business (In this regard, cash deposit/deposits in the bank accounts is/are not acceptable). (7) Original copies of all documents shall be submitted before Tender Evaluation.
23 Brief Description of Works/Services/ Goods	: Construction works of boundary wall/Fence and Gates around the 6.1 acres area land in project site at Purbachal New Town, Plot-02, Sector-04, Rugganj, Narayanganj. Details of Works/Services have been described in the tender schedule/document.
24 Brief Description of Related Services/Submission of other documents/details	: Tenderers will provide information and submit documents indicating their competence to perform the expected/said works. These documents/particulars may be brochures, printed descriptions regarding conducting similar types of works/services by the tenderer in last 03 years.
25 Price of Tender Document	: Tk.1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only
26 Period for Completion	: 60(Sixty) days
27 Tender security money(Refundable)	: Tk.3,00,000/-(Taka Three Lacs) only in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of Project Director, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center.
28 Name of Official Inviting Tender	: Mohammad Rezaul Karim
29 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	: Project Director, Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).
30 Address of Official Inviting Tender	: TCB Bhaban (14 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 01, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
31 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	: Tel. No- 02-55013884, 01718532976, E-mail Address : rezatax65@yahoo.com
32 Other Terms/Special Conditions to follow and more documents to be submitted by the tenderer	(1) Experience Certificate from concerned organizations for completion of works of same nature successfully as prime contractor/Organizer during last 03(Three) years with a value of single work order, of not less than of Tk.50,00,000/-(Tk.Fifty Lacs) shall be submitted. (2) All other relevant and necessary forms and papers/documents shall be enclosed with the tender documents. (3) Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives may be present during opening of submitted tenders. (4) If selected tenderer fails to perform the assigned jobs, in that case, the project authority reserves the right to cancel the work order and to forfeit the money deposited to BCFEC Project fund as tender security as well as reserves the right to take appropriate legal action against that/those. (5) All the rules, regulations, terms & conditions and General conditions of Contract, which have been described in PPA-2006 and in PPR-2008, are applicable for this Tender and all of those, shall be complied/ followed by all concerned parties/Organizations. (6) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders as well as reserves rights to change, amend or impose any condition

  
(Mohammad Rezaul Karim)  
Project Director, Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project, Export Promotion Bureau  
1, Karwan Bazar, TCB Bhaban (14<sup>th</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1215.  
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