

OMICRON SURGE
India in
community
transmission
stage: report
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

Omicron, the highly-transmissible Covid 19 strain driving the ongoing third wave of the pandemic across India, is in “community transmission stage” in the country, said a report released yesterday by a consortium of labs of the Indian government.

The government’s Covid research lab, which tracks genome sequencing of various strains of the disease, also said BA.2 lineage, an infectious sub-variant of Omicron, has been detected in India.”

“Omicron is now in community transmission in India and has become dominant in multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially,” said the January 10 bulletin of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics or Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genetics Consortium (INSACOG). The bulletin was made public yesterday.

“Further spread of Omicron in India is now expected to be through internal transmission,” the INSACOG under the Indian Health Ministry said.

India yesterday reported 333,533 new Covid-19 infections over the past 24 hours with 525 dead. On Saturday, India had reported 337,704 new cases and 488 dead.

The government in the statement said the recovery rate for infected people currently stands at 93.18%.

India said it tested 1.87 million people in the last 24 hours and it planned to continue to expand its testing through the country.



This handout photograph released by the Afghan Taliban and taken on Saturday shows Afghanistan’s Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi (L), Taliban spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign affairs, Abdul Qahar Balkhi (C) and delegates sitting on a plane before departing to Oslo, at the Kabul airport in Kabul. The first Taliban delegation to visit Europe since returning to power in Afghanistan began talks yesterday in Oslo with Afghan civil society members focused on human rights, ahead of highly-anticipated meetings with Western officials. The talks, facilitated by Norway to avert a humanitarian crisis, were taking place behind closed doors at the Soria Moria Hotel on the outskirts of Oslo.

PHOTO: AFP

‘Puppet regime’ in Ukraine!

Moscow denounce ‘disinformation’ as UK says Kremlin trying to install pro-Russian leader; German navy chief quits over Putin comments

REUTERS, London/Kyiv

Russia will face severe economic sanctions if it installs a puppet regime in Ukraine, a senior UK minister said yesterday after Britain accused the Kremlin of seeking to install a pro-Russian leader there.

Britain made the accusation late on Saturday, also saying Russian intelligence officers had been in contact with a number of former Ukrainian politicians as part of plans for an invasion.

The Russian Foreign Ministry dismissed the comments as “disinformation”, accusing Britain and Nato of “escalating tensions” over Ukraine.

Mykhailo Podolyak, a Ukrainian adviser to the presidential office, said the allegations should be taken seriously.

“There’ll be very serious consequences if Russia takes this move to try and invade

but also install a puppet regime,” British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab told Sky News yesterday.

The British accusations, first made in a statement late on Saturday by the foreign ministry, come at a time of high tensions between Russia and the West over Russia’s massing of troops near its border with Ukraine. Moscow has insisted it has no plans to invade.

The foreign ministry said it had information the Russian government was considering former Ukrainian lawmaker Yevhen Murayev as a potential candidate to head a pro-Russian leadership.

The British foreign ministry declined to provide evidence to back its accusations.

The British claims came after the top US and Russian diplomats failed on Friday to make a major breakthrough in talks to

resolve the crisis over Ukraine, although they agreed to keep talking.

Russia has made security demands on the United States including a halt to Nato’s eastward expansion and a pledge that Ukraine will never be allowed to join the Western military alliance.

Meanwhile, Germany’s new government was facing pressure to get tough on Russia, after a German navy chief’s pro-Moscow remarks angered Kyiv.

The spat was triggered by German navy chief Kay-Achim Schoenbach’s musings that it was “nonsense” to think Russia was about to march on Ukraine and that President Vladimir Putin deserves respect.

In New Delhi, Schoenbach, speaking in English, said Putin seeks to be treated as an equal by the West. Schoenbach resigned late Saturday but the damage was done.

IS-Kurds battle toll in Syria crosses 120

AFP, Hasakeh

At least 120 people have been killed in Syria including seven civilians as battles between US-backed Kurdish forces and Islamic State group fighters raged for a fourth day, a war monitor said yesterday. Fighting began late Thursday with an assault by more than 100 IS insurgents on the Kurdish-run Ghwayran jail in Hasakeh city – which housed the largest number of jihadists in the country – marking the group’s most significant operation since its “caliphate” was declared defeated in Syria nearly three years ago. According to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights at least 77 IS members and 39 Kurdish fighters, including internal security forces, prison guards and counter-terrorism forces have been killed so far.

Covid curbs: NZ PM cancels her wedding

REUTERS, Sydney

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden has cancelled her wedding as the nation imposes new restrictions to slow the community spread of the Covid-19 Omicron variant, she told reporters yesterday. “My wedding will not be going ahead,” she told reporters, adding she was sorry for anyone caught up in a similar scenario. Arden had not disclosed her wedding date, but it was rumored to be imminent. New Zealand imposed mask rules and limit gathering from midnight yesterday after a cluster of nine Covid-19 Omicron cases showed community spread from the North to South islands after a wedding.



South Korea pays Iran’s UN dues

REUTERS, Seoul

Iran is expected to regain its vote in the UN General Assembly after South Korea paid Tehran’s delinquent dues to the world body with frozen Iranian funds in the country, South Korea said yesterday. Iran had regained its UN voting rights in June after a similar payment, but said this month it had lost them again because it could not transfer the funds to pay its dues as a result of US sanctions. Release of Iran’s frozen funds requires the approval of the United States, which joined its European allies this week in saying only weeks remain to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

It’s easy to give him (Putin) the respect he really demands.
German navy chief
Kay-Achim Schoenbach

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Health Services Division
Health Economics Unit
14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for
Recruiting Research firm for the Study on Retention of Medical Doctors in Rural Area in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way out

1.	Ministry / Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2.	Agency	Health Economics Unit (HEU)
3.	Name of The Procuring Entity	Director General, HEU
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5.	Type of Organization	Research Organization
5.	EOI Ref No	45.05.0000.007.31.004.22.116
6.	Date	23/01/2022
Key Information		
7.	Procurement Sub-Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Funding Information		
8.	Budget and Source of Funds	Funds of Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) under 4 th Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HPNSP)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
9.	Project / Program Name (If Applicable)	Study on Retention of Medical Doctors in Rural Area in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way out
10.	EOI closing date and time	Date: 09/02/2022 Time: 14:00
11.	Brief Description of the Assignment	The effective distribution of the healthcare providers is essential to provide quality healthcare services. World Health Organization (WHO) prescribes 10 doctors per 10,000 population of a country. There are an estimated 5.26 medical doctors per 10,000 population in Bangladesh. Although making progress, shortage and maldistribution of doctors is critical. There are only 1.1 doctors per 10 000 population in rural areas, compared to 18.2 per 10 000 in urban areas. The trained medical doctors are concentrated in urban areas. Unqualified or semi-qualified healthcare providers are serving the majority of the population in the country. Hence, people of most needed and underserved areas are deprived of quality healthcare in Bangladesh. Owing to the above, Health Economics Unit planned to conduct a study titled “Retention of Medical Doctors in Rural Area in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way out” to know the present scenario of retention of medical doctors in rural areas of Bangladesh; challenges to the retention; and potential solution to that.
12.	Experience, Resource and Delivery Capacity Required	To be selected, the organization must have the following: - Familiarity with the Government’s budgeting system; Health, Nutrition, and Population Sector Program (HPNSP) - Proven ability to manage and conduct large data set - Expertise in use of STATA/SPSS statistical software for data analysis - Proven expertise in quality report writing & policy recommendations in English
13.	Other details (if applicable)	EOI should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked “Request for EOI for the Study on Retention of Medical Doctors in Rural Area in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way out.” to the undersigned
14.	Association with external firm	Not Applicable
15.	Indicative start date (month/year)	28/04/2022
16.	Indicative completion date (month/year)	29/09/2022
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
17.	Name of Official Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahadt Hossain Mahmud
18.	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director General (Additional Secretary), Health Economics Unit, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)
19.	Address of Official Inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3 rd Floor), Dhaka 1000.
20.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone-9586822, Fax: 9582207 e-mail: dg@heu.gov.bd
21.	Detail information available in the website	www.heu.gov.bd; www.cptu.gov.bd
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.		

Director General (Additional Secretary)
Health Economics Unit, Health Services Division,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)

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Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Mymensingh
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.6100.000.07.001.22-284

e-Tender Notice: 42/2021-22

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

Sl No.	Package No. & scheme name	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time	Tendering method
1	IRIDP-3/MYM/SDW-95 a) Improvement of Rajoi Bazar-Urahati Road (Ch. 1000-2420m & Ch.2770-4150m) [Road ID No: 361134028] under Bhaluka Upazila, District: Mymensingh. b) Construction of 15 Nos. 0.625mx0.600m Culvert on same Road at Ch.1300m, 1500m, 1580m, 1670m, 1760m, 2020m, 2410m, 2500m, 3140m, 3230m, 3570m, 3610m, 3730m, 4145m under Bhaluka Upazila, District: Mymensingh.	648217	Date: 16-Feb-2022 Time: 16:00	Date: 17-Feb-2022 Time: 14:00	OTM

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 e-Tender security submitted last date & time from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd) also from E-mail: xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd or Cell to 091-66376, 091-66110, 091-64365. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Md. Shahiduzzaman Khan
Executive Engineer
LGED, Mymensingh
Phone: 091-64365
xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd

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বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা
গাজীপুর

Memo No. 12.21.0000.073.01.632.21.3907

e-GP: Tender Notice No. 21 (2021-2022)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

Sl No.	Package No.	Tender ID & Ref No.	Description of goods	Tender documents last selling (date & time)	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
1.	PN: GD-03 Lot-A	649200 & IRN: 632	Lab Equipment 17 items	06.02.2022 17:00	07.02.2022 12:00	07.02.2022 12:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). Project Name: “Research, Development and Extension of Cashew nut & Coffee” Project.

Md. Younus Ali
Deputy Director (In-Charge)
On behalf of Director General

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