

DENGUE FEVER Brazil launches mass vaccination

AFP, Brasilia

Brazil launched a dengue fever immunisation campaign Friday, becoming the first country in the world to provide the vaccine through its public health system as it deals with a surge in cases.

Health authorities registered more than 395,000 likely cases of the mosquito-borne disease in the first five weeks of the year. At least 53 people have died in the current outbreak.

"Even without the current epidemic we would have started this vaccination campaign, because dengue is a long-standing health problem," health minister Nisia Trindade told journalists.

The vaccine, known as Qdenga, is produced by Japanese pharmaceutical firm Takeda.



Palestinians mourn after identifying the bodies of relatives killed in overnight Israeli bombardment on the southern Gaza Strip, at Al-Najjar hospital in Rafah yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Imran Khan granted bail in 12 cases

AGENCIES

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) of Pakistan yesterday granted bail to jailed former Pakistan premier Imran Khan in 12 cases linked to the May 9 attacks on military installations.



ATC Judge Malik Ejaz Asif granted the bail after fulfilling a surety bond of Rs 1 lakh in all 12 cases, including the General Headquarters (Pakistan Army) and Army Museum attack, reports The Express Tribune Pakistan. The court said there was no justification to keep Khan, 71, under arrest as all accused in May 9 cases were on bail. But Khan will remain in jail as he is convicted in many other cases, adds the Indian Express. The court's order came a day after independents backed by Khan's party won nearly 100 seats in the National Assembly. Former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was also granted bail in 13 cases in the same case. Khan was convicted last week of treason, graft and having an un-Islamic marriage in three separate trials -- among nearly 200 cases brought against him since being ousted.

Can Pakistan form govt on split election results?

AGENCIES

Two days after Pakistan's general elections were held, a split mandate has emerged among the big three parties and there is little clarity about who will be able to form a government.

According to the latest tally by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) last night, results from 253 National Assembly constituencies had been announced as of Saturday afternoon, out of a total of 266, reports Al Jazeera.

In a shock result, the largest number of seats have gone to independent candidates, of which at least 93 are backed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In December last year, the party was stripped of its electoral symbol, the cricket bat, accused of violating laws about holding internal party elections, forcing it to field its candidates as independents.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN), which entered the election as the expected frontrunner, has emerged with the second-largest mandate, with only 71 seats.

In third place is the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which managed to secure 54 seats, 11 more than it gained in the 2018 elections.

HOW IS A MAJORITY DETERMINED? With 266 seats up for grabs in the general elections, a simple majority of 134 is required for any one political party to be able to form

a government.

Theoretically, however, members of parliament can form a government regardless of their party affiliation.

In the PTI's case, their affiliated candidates can choose to avoid joining other parties and, instead, band together as independents. This would allow them to form a government if they collectively cross the required threshold of 134 seats.

However, doing this could result in a weak government, perpetually vulnerable to the whims of individuals who can choose to desert the governing coalition -- something which is much harder when tied to a formally organised political party.

If PTI-backed candidates do decide to join other parties to form a government, they must announce their decision within three days of the official notification issued by the ECP after the completion of the vote counting, expected by late yesterday.

HOW HAVE OTHER PARTIES REACTED?

Leaders of the other two parties with the largest number of votes -- the PMLN and the PPP -- held a meeting late on Friday night in Lahore, after PMLN leader Nawaz Sharif declared his party "victors" in the parliamentary election.

Sharif's claim that his PMLN had emerged as the party with the largest mandate is technically correct since the PTI-backed

legislators are independent.

However, he also acknowledged that his party had failed in its objective to achieve a simple majority, and is therefore now reaching out to other parties to discuss forming a coalition to be able to form a government.

WHAT WILL PTI CANDIDATES DO NOW?

The PTI, unwilling to enter into any formal alliance with another party, is considering joining the opposition benches "under the banner" of another party to gain access to the government. In the meantime, it will also pursue legal avenues to overturn seats it alleges have been stolen from its candidates.

"We'll be merging with a small party so that we go into parliament under a symbol, and that means our candidates will not be independents any more. We will join a political party of the choice of our leader, Imran Khan," Syed Zulfikar Bukhari, a senior PTI member, told Al Jazeera.

However, another prominent PTI member, Gohar Khan, the chairman of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party who also acts as the former prime minister's lawyer, called on "all institutions" in Pakistan to respect his party's mandate, reports Reuters.

At a press conference, he said if complete results of the polls were not released by last night, the party would hold peaceful protests today outside government offices returning election results around the

country, Reuters added.

"We will not be aligning with any major party to set up a hodgepodge government in the centre. We have learned from our previous tenure that having a compromised government with allies means being blackmailed daily," he said.

He further added that he does not believe a government formed via an alliance of other parties would last long.

"We intend to merge with a party for the sake of putting all our candidates under one banner, and we will be the strongest opposition this country has ever seen," Bukhari said.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Amid so much uncertainty, analysts believe that the split result means that no party will be able to form a government on its own -- two out of the three big parties will be forced to form an alliance.

Basit of S Rajaratnam School told Al Jazeera he foresees a return of the ruling alliance that governed the country after April 2022, when Khan's PTI government was removed following a vote of no confidence.

"From the fact that PPP and PMLN have already held a meeting and Sharif in his speech said he wants to reach out to other political parties, it appears we are going to see the emergence of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) version 2.0 from this result," he said, referring to the ruling alliance that

managed to remove Khan.

Political analyst Arifa Noor, however, said the PTI must focus on forming a government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where it has swept the provincial assembly, winning 90 out of 115 seats.

"Forming government there should be their focus right now. They should be aware of the ground realities that the military establishment is not going to give PTI any space, so it would make sense to settle on their stronghold there," she told Al Jazeera.

Basit, though, said the results have shown that the election did not deliver the required stability that the country "desperately" needs.

"The objective of these elections was to secure some stability in the country that is mired in crises, such as the political instability, weak economy or the security concerns. But with these results, only a messy set-up will come up, and stability will continue to remain elusive," he said.

Noor added that, considering the sorts of allegations the PTI is making regarding results tampering, many of its legislators may now end up spending precious resources, time and energy on fighting out these battles in court.

"It requires time and effort, and while some are definitely going to pursue that, many other politicians seem to question if it is worth doing this. However, I do think there is going to be a legal battle ahead of the results," she added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning officer

Upazila Health Complex
Rajoir, Madaripur.

Memo No. UHC/RAJOIR/MADARI/TENDER/MSR/2023-2024/

Date: 10-Feb-2024

e-Tender Notice (NCT)

e-Tender is in the e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procuring of following goods.

Tender ID	Name of Tender	Package No	Last Selling Date	Closing & Opening Date	Remarks
934088	Procurement of Medicine (Non-EDCL) for the F.Y 2023-2024 at RajoirUpazila Health Complex, Madaripur	UHC/RAJOIR/MADARI/TENDER/MSR/2023-2024/GD-1	25-Feb-2024 15:00 pm	26-Feb-2024 11:00 am	OTM
934089	Procurement of Gauze, Bandage & Cotton for the F.Y 2023-2024 at RajoirUpazila Health Complex, Madaripur	UHC/RAJOIR/MADARI/TENDER/MSR/2023-2024/GD-4	25-Feb-2024 15:00 pm	26-Feb-2024 11:00 am	OTM
934090	Procurement of MSR Furniture for the F.Y 2023-2024 at RajoirUpazila Health Complex, Madaripur	UHC/RAJOIR/MADARI/TENDER/MSR/2023-2024/GD-6	25-Feb-2024 15:00 pm	26-Feb-2024 11:00 am	OTM
934091	Procurement of Chemical Re-Agent for the F.Y 2023-2024 at RajoirUpazila Health Complex, Madaripur	UHC/RAJOIR/MADARI/TENDER/MSR/2023-2024/GD-5	25-Feb-2024 15:00 pm	26-Feb-2024 11:00 am	OTM
934092	Procurement of MSR Linen Items for the F.Y 2023-2024 at RajoirUpazila Health Complex, Madaripur	UHC/RAJOIR/MADARI/TENDER/MSR/2023-2024/GD-3	25-Feb-2024 15:00 pm	26-Feb-2024 11:00 am	OTM
934093	Procurement of MSR Instrument for the F.Y 2023-2024 at RajoirUpazila Health Complex, Madaripur	UHC/RAJOIR/MADARI/TENDER/MSR/2023-2024/GD-2	25-Feb-2024 15:00 pm	26-Feb-2024 11:00 am	OTM

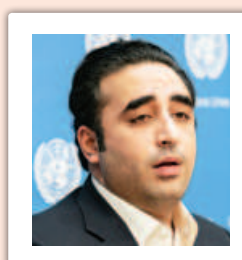
- This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- Detail about the Tender have shown in e-Tender notice and e-Tender document. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Dr. Mohammad Mohiuddin Hasan
UH&FPO
Upazila Health Complex
Rajoir, Madaripur.

GD-246

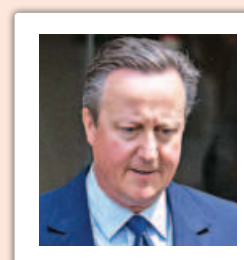
No government will be able to solve the public's problems without addressing the political toxicity.

Pakistan People's Party chief
BILAWAL BHUTTO-ZARDARI



We recognise serious concerns raised about the fairness and lack of inclusivity of the elections. We regret that not all parties were formally permitted to contest the elections.

Britain's Foreign Secretary
DAVID CAMERON



Moody's downgrades Israel's credit rating

AFP, Washington

The US ratings agency Moody's downgraded Israel's credit rating Friday due to the impact of its ongoing conflict with Hamas in Gaza, lowering it by one notch from A1 to A2.

In a statement, Moody's said it had done so after assessing that "the ongoing military conflict with Hamas, its aftermath and wider consequences materially raise political risk for Israel as well as weaken its executive and legislative institutions and its fiscal strength, for the foreseeable future."

It was the first time Israel has been downgraded, Bloomberg reported.

Moody's also lowered its outlook for Israel's debt to "negative" due to "the risk of an escalation" with Hezbollah.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Pubali Bank PLC. a leading largest private commercial Bank with **504 online Branches, 19 Islamic Banking Windows and 193 Sub-branches** with a diverse and motivated workforce is inviting applications for the following position from the Bangladeshi citizens who are willing to build a career in Banking.

Name of the post: Deputy Junior Officer (cash)

No. of Posts : 540

Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should apply online by **06:00 p.m. of 29 February, 2024.**

Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. No TA/DA will be applicable for this purpose.

Management of the Bank reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

For details, please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/career.asp>

Human Resources Division
Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka

পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
PUBALI BANK PLC.