



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport
Department of Roads
Development Cooperation Implementation Division

Strategic Road Connectivity & Trade Improvement Project (SRCTIP)

Notice No. SRCTIP/02/077-78

Notice on Extension of REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

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In reference to REOI Notice published for **Short Listing of Consulting Firms for Detailed Design and Technical Support Consultant for Research and Training Centre at Gajuri (contract identification number. SRCTIP-DOR-CS-QCBS-7)**; due to ongoing prohibitory order from Government, it is notified to all concerned that the deadline for the submission of REOI has been further extended up to **20th September, 2020 during office hours**. For more information about extended time and any other changes please always visit the www.dor.gov.np/home/notices.

The other terms and conditions remains the same.

Program Coordinator

WORLD

BRIEFING

Typhoon slams Japan with violent winds, heavy rain

TOKYO: A powerful typhoon began to lash southern Japan on Sunday, with officials warning it could bring record rainfall and winds strong enough to snap power line poles and flip cars. Typhoon Haishen, categorised as “large” and “extremely strong”, has prompted evacuation advisories for more than three million residents, particularly in Kyushu—one of Japan’s main islands—which the storm is expected to affect overnight. The storm has weakened somewhat, shifting west from earlier forecasts, away from the mainland, and Japan’s weather agency said it was no longer likely to issue its top-level typhoon warning. But it urged residents to exercise “most serious caution” for possible record rain, violent winds, high waves and surging tides. “Record-level rainfall is expected (where the typhoon approaches).”

Costa Rica to trial treatment from horse antibodies

SAN JOSE: Researchers in Costa Rica are due to begin trials of an inexpensive coronavirus treatment based on antibodies taken from horses injected with the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, according to scientists. Developed by University of Costa Rica’s Clodomiro Picado Institute (ICP), the equine antibodies medication is to be tested on 26 patients from mid-September. Roman Macaya, president of the Social Security Fund that manages public health centers, told Reuters. Costa Rican authorities hope to be able to begin applying the treatment more widely in hospitals if the results from the phase 2 study are encouraging.

Hunt for man after stabbings leave one dead

BIRMINGHAM: Police said they were searching for a man in relation to a two-hour stabbing spree in the city of Birmingham, central England, early on Sunday, that left one man dead and seven people injured, two of them critically. The knife attacks happened in four locations in the city centre starting from 00:30, police said. “We are treating all four of those incidents as a linked series,” West Midlands Police Chief Superintendent Steve Graham said. “We are searching for one suspect and inquiries to identify and then trace that suspect are ongoing.” He said there was no suggestion that the attacks were targeted at any section of the community or were gang related. (AGENCIES)



LGBT activists stand together with an old Belarusian national flag in front of a police barricade during an opposition rally to protest the official presidential election results in Minsk, Belarus, on Sunday.

India sees yet another record surge in Covid-19 cases, but fatality rate declines

Six of India’s 28 states remain the worst-hit, accounting for 75 percent of fatalities and nearly 65 percent of total cases.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW DELHI, SEPT 6

India saw yet another record surge of 90,632 cases in the past 24 hours, as infections spread to smaller cities and parts of rural India.

According to the Health Ministry, India’s caseload reached 4,113,811, slightly short of Brazil’s confirmed 4,123,000 infections. The ministry on Sunday also reported 1,065 deaths for a total of 70,626. More than 1.4 million cases have been detected in India in less than two weeks.

Authorities say India’s daily testing exceeds 1 million now. Dr Randeep Guleria, a government health expert, said India is seeing a resurgence with over 70 percent of its nearly 1.4 billion people still susceptible to infections. “We could say that we are seeing some sort of a second wave in certain parts of the country,” India’s recovery rate was 77.23 percent, leading to a decline in fatality rate to around 1.73 percent,

the ministry said. Six of India’s 28 states—Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi—remain the worst-hit, accounting for 75 percent of fatalities and nearly 65 percent of total cases.

Meanwhile, the premier of Australia’s Victoria state announced a slight easing of restrictions in Melbourne but the country’s second-largest city will remain in lockdown until at least Oct 26.

State police charged a protester with assault after an officer suffered cuts to the head during an anti-lockdown rally in Melbourne on Saturday.

Police said that seven others have been charged with breaching Covid-19 restrictions after about 200 gathered at the Shrine of Remembrance and Albert Park. Scuffles between protesters and police resulted in more than 160 fines for contravening lockdown measures or not wearing a mask.

“Despite all the warnings, it was

disappointing to see individuals turn out to protest in the city, putting the lives of Victorians at risk,” a police statement said. On Sunday, health officials said Victoria recorded 63 new cases and five more deaths. It takes the state’s total fatalities to 666 and the national death toll to 753.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said that from Sept 13, the nightly curfew will start an hour later at 9 pm and run until 5 a.m. People living alone can nominate a friend or family member who can visit them. Two hours of daily exercise will be allowed, including social interactions such as a picnic at a park or reading a book at the beach.

He said further restrictions could be eased from Sept. 28 and the government will consider lifting the curfew entirely from Oct 26.

“We can’t run out of lockdown. We have to take steady and safe steps out of lockdown to find that Covid normal,” Andrews said.

South Korea confirmed 167 additional cases of the coronavirus, a gradual downward trend in new infections. The figures announced Sunday by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention raised the country’s tally to 21,177 with 334 deaths. It’s the fourth straight day the daily jump has come below 200. The agency says 117 of the newly reported cases were found in the greater Seoul area. South Korea’s caseload had risen sharply since early August, with many cases associated with churches, restaurants, schools and an anti-government rally in Seoul. Authorities in the Seoul area have subsequently imposed tougher social distancing guidelines, restricted dining at restaurants and ordering the shutdowns of churches, indoor gyms, night establishments and after-school academies.

China’s government on Sunday reported 10 new coronavirus infections, all believed to have been acquired abroad, and no deaths.

Kamala Harris says Trump not credible on possible Covid-19 vaccine

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPT 6

Democratic US vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris said she would not take President Donald Trump’s word alone on any potential coronavirus vaccine.

In an interview excerpt broadcast by CNN on Saturday, Harris said Trump had a track record of suppressing expert opinion about the coronavirus pandemic and that she worried that might happen again in the case of a prospective vaccine.

“I would not trust Donald Trump,” Harris said, saying she would be convinced of the efficacy of a vaccine only if someone credible were vouching for it as well.

“I will not take his word for it.”

At least 6.2 million people have been infected in the US coronavirus outbreak, which has taken 187,833 lives, according to a Reuters tally.

With the government’s handling of the world’s worst outbreak of the disease under close scrutiny, Trump has dangled the possibility that a vaccine might be ready ahead of the Nov. 3 U.S. presidential election.

But Trump has a track record of flouting scientific advice and some experts are skeptical that vaccine trials, which have to study potential side effects on a wide range of people before they can deliver a verdict, can be completed by late this year or even early next year. Harris suggested to CNN that Trump might seize on a vaccine - no matter how untested - to burnish his image.

“He’s looking at an election coming up in less than 60 days and he’s grasping for whatever he can get to pretend he can be a leader on this issue when he’s not,” she said.

In a written statement, the White House said Harris’ suggestion that politics is influencing vaccine approvals “is not only false but is a danger to the American public.”

Harris’ comments come as several drugmakers developing vaccines are working on a joint pledge not to seek government approval for the shots until they have been proven safe and effective. The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday. The unusual move comes amid widespread concern that Trump could seek to prod companies into making any prospective vaccine available before it is ready.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Experts warn China-India standoff could slide into unintentional war

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SRINAGAR, SEPT 6

As a monthslong military standoff between India and China along their disputed mountain border protracts, experts warn that the nuclear-armed countries—which have engaged in their bloodiest clash in decades—could unintentionally slide into war.

“The situation is very dangerous on the ground and can spiral out of control,” said Lt Gen DS Hooda, who was head of the Indian military’s Northern Command from 2014 to 2016. “A lot will depend on whether the two sides are able to control the volatile situation and make sure it doesn’t spread to other areas.”

The two Asian giants have held several rounds of talks, mainly involving military commanders, without success. In a sign that the talks are now shifting to the political level, their defense ministers met in the Russian capital on Friday to try to end the impasse. It was the first high-level direct contact between the sides since the standoff erupted in the Ladakh region four months ago.

Last week, the world’s two most populous nations, which share thousands of kilometers (miles) of disputed border, accused each

another of fresh provocations, including allegations of soldiers crossing into each other’s territory. India said its soldiers thwarted “provocative” movements by China’s military twice last week. In turn, China’s Defense Ministry accused Indian troops of crossing established lines of control and creating provocations along the border.

Tensions first erupted in early May with a brawl between soldiers from the two sides. The situation escalated dramatically in June when they fought with clubs, stones and fists, leaving 20 Indian soldiers dead and dozens wounded. China did not report any casualties.

Hooda said that while he doesn’t think either side is looking for full-scale war, the “real calamity” is the breakdown of existing agreements and protocols.

Wang Lian, a professor of international relations at Peking University in Beijing, said the possibility of open warfare is unlikely because both sides have shown restraint in recent encounters. But he also said that New Delhi is under pressure from domestic anti-China sentiment and has been emboldened by tougher US measures against Beijing.

Another area of concern for India’s military is the country’s



In this Wednesday, June 17, 2020, file photo, activists of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal shout slogans during a protest against the Chinese government in Jammu, India.

decades-old territorial dispute over Kashmir with archrival Pakistan, a key ally of China. Indian military policymakers say that if a full-scale conflict erupts between India and China, Islamabad could throw its support behind Beijing, creating an even more dangerous situation for New Delhi.

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory and separated it from Kashmir in August 2019, ending its semi-autonomous

status and straining the already prickly relationship between New Delhi and Beijing. China was among the countries to strongly condemn the move, raising it at international forums including the UN Security Council.

According to some Indian and Chinese strategic experts, India’s move in Kashmir and Ladakh exacerbated existing tensions with China, leading to the June border clash.

Chinese employees take coronavirus vaccine

REUTERS
BEIJING, SEPT 6

About 90 percent of Sinovac Biotech Ltd and their families have taken an experimental coronavirus vaccine developed by the Chinese firm under the country’s emergency use programme, its chief executive said on Sunday.

The extent of inoculations under the emergency programme, which China launched in July but has released few details about, points to how actively it is using experimental vaccines in the hopes of protecting essential workers against a potential

Covid-19 resurgence, even as trials are still underway.

The programme is intended for specific groups, including medical staff and those who work at food markets and in the transportation and service sectors.

Sinovac, whose CoronaVac is in Phase 3 clinical trials and has been included in the emergency scheme, offered the candidate vaccine to approximately 2,000 to 3,000 employees and their families on a voluntary basis, CEO Yin Weidong told Reuters.

Data gathered from the programme could offer evidence of the vaccine’s safety, but such data, which is not part

of the registered clinical trial protocols, will not be used as main materials that regulators review in judging whether to approve the vaccine for commercial use, Yin said.

He said those who chose to be inoculated, including his wife and parents, had been informed of the potential side effects prior to taking the shot, and that its vaccine completing only early and mid-stage trials.

Yin, who also took the shot, said doctors asked about their health conditions before the vaccination, and the occurrence rate of adverse reaction among those vaccinated has been “very low”.



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