

COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh reach 1 million, causing major concern for Rohingya refugees

Dhaka, Bangladesh, July 13, 2021 — Cases of COVID-19 in Bangladesh reached 1 million last night, as the province of case counts of the virus accelerated its spread in recent days. Bangladesh's vaccine rollout has not been reached, sparking concern among NGOs supporting those who live in the most densely populated refugee camp in the world.

Case numbers in the last 24 hours have broken records with 13,780 cases confirmed in a single day, bringing the total number of deaths to 10,645. Despite the dramatic rise in case numbers, Bangladesh has only administered enough vaccines to protect around 3% of the population, but in data no Rohingya have received a vaccination.

Among 960,000 Rohingya refugees continue to live within the overcrowded confines of Cox's Bazar with little access to healthcare, and due to the density of camp populations, unable to maintain COVID-19 prevention methods such as social distancing, reg-

ular handwashing and isolation. The IRC has set up a 60-bed isolation and treatment centre, the largest of its kind in Cox's Bazar, where COVID-19 patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome are treated. Teams are also helping to address misinformation about the virus, travelling door-to-door to teach families about COVID-19 prevention methods. However, the weak means of treatment and the risks to refugees high if they are not vaccinated.

Speaking from Cox's Bazar, also known as Shalib, IRC Deputy Health Coordinator said, "We are extremely worried by the impact of COVID-19 cases. The virus does not discriminate, a mass infection in Cox's Bazar will likely result in an outbreak among the Rohingya population, who remain in cramped conditions and are at a very high risk of infection. Bangladesh will only be protected when all those at risk are vaccinated."

"Given our understanding of the humanitarian response, combined with refugee confinement to the camps, means Rohingya refugees are reliant on health services provided by national and international actors in the camps. Even before the pandemic, there were shortages of medical supplies, and the situation is not expected to improve in the near future. The IRC is particularly concerned that the number of vaccines available in Bangladesh will mean more, including highly vulnerable Rohingya refugees, will remain unprotected, risking a serious spike in infections, hospitalization and deaths.

Our teams are prepared to begin administering vaccines to people living in the Cox's Bazar camps, with two IRC health centres designated as official vaccine sites and staff members fully trained as vaccinators to lead distribution efforts. Access to vaccines will prove crucial to halting the spread of the virus in Cox's Bazar and it is critical that the international community support the government of Bangladesh to ensure access and distribute vaccines to Bangladeshis and the Rohingya.

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan said in a statement that "a certain project of a Chinese firm in Pakistan suffered an attack, which caused the deaths of Chinese citizens." The Pakistani Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the attack was caused by mechanical failure

Pakistan: Bus explosion kills Chinese nationals



Not Chinese nationals, two Pakistani soldiers and two locals were killed in an explosion that destroyed a bus on Wednesday in Pakistan.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian expressed his "shock and condemnation over the bombing." He called on Pakistan to "seriously pursue" the attack. China's foreign ministry said it asked Pakistan to probe the incident and to "seriously" protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects.

Beijing also urged Chinese firms to strengthen their security procedures in Pakistan following the blast.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Chinese officials linked it to the Pakistan Taliban and previously argued Chinese interests in Pakistan. What are Chinese projects in Pakistan? The security of Chinese workers has long been a concern in Pakistan. Engineers and construction workers from China are helping the country build a dam in Kalam, Chinese and Pakistani construction workers, engineers, surveyors and mechanical staff were on their way to the site when the incident occurred.

The hydroelectric project is part of the \$2 billion C33 bilateral China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, a series of infrastructure projects in Pakistan funded by China.



Moderate earthquake of magnitude 4.9 just reported 19 km northwest of Ishqoshim, Tajikistan

An earthquake of magnitude 4.9 occurred only 16 minutes ago, 19 km northwest of Ishqoshim, Tajikistan, India's National Centre for Seismology (NCS) reported.

The quake hit at a shallow depth of 13 km beneath the epicenter near Ishqoshim, Tajikistan, in the morning on Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 10:47 am local time. The exact magnitude, epicenter, and depth of the quake might be revised within the next few hours as minutes in seismicity review data and refine their calculations in a further agency issue their report.

Based on the preliminary magnitude data, the quake was probably felt by many people in the area of the epicenter. It should not have caused significant damage, other than objects falling from shelves, broken windows, etc.

In Ishqoshim (pop. 26,000) located 19 km from the epicenter, and Ashkhabad (pop. 12,100) 21 km away, the quake should have been felt as light shaking.

Black-shaking might have been felt in Jann (pop. 12,100) located 62 km from the epicenter.

VolcanoDiscovery will automatically update magnitude and depth if these change and follow up if other significant news about the quake become available. If you're in the area, please send us your experience through our reporting mechanism, either online or via our mobile app. This will help us provide more frequent updates to anyone around the globe who wants to know more about the quake.

volcanodiscovery

4.9 earthquake 14 Jul 10:47 am, 19 km northwest of Ishqoshim, Tajikistan

India's central bank has barred Mastercard indefinitely from issuing new debit or credit cards to domestic customers.

The Reserve Bank of India has accused the company of violating data storage laws.

Last year, Mastercard accused the company of failing to comply with rules requiring foreign and network to store data on Indian payments exclusively in India.

There has been no response from the global payments service provider.

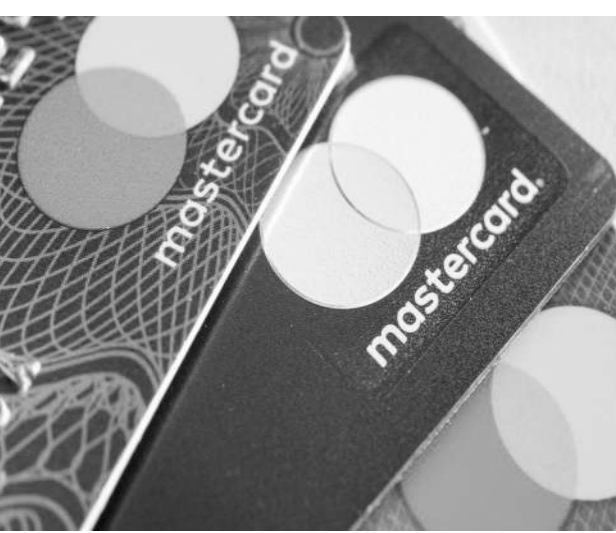
Mastercard will be prohibited from issuing debit, credit or prepaid cards to customers in India from 22 July.

The Reserve Bank's decision will not have any impact on Mastercard's existing customers.

The central bank said the payments service provider had violated a 2011 order directing payments data to be stored in India. This would allow the regulator "unfettered supervisory access" to payment details.

"Notwithstanding the lapse of time, this will be the fifth time he

Mastercard: India stops payment service provider from issuing cards



of considerable time and adequate opportunities being given, the entity (Mastercard) has been found to be non-compliant with the directions of Foreign Payment System Data, the RBI said in a notification.

Last year, Mastercard accused the company of failing to comply with rules requiring foreign and network to store data on Indian payments exclusively in India.

There has been no response from the global payments service provider.

Mastercard will be prohibited from issuing debit, credit or prepaid cards to customers in India from 22 July.

The Reserve Bank's decision will not have any impact on Mastercard's existing customers.

The central bank said the payments service provider had violated a 2011 order directing payments data to be stored in India. This would allow the regulator "unfettered supervisory access" to payment details.

"Notwithstanding the lapse of time, this will be the fifth time he

Nepal Court Replaces Prime Minister After Months of Turbulence

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Nepal's highest court on Monday replaced the prime minister of the country and ordered the Parliament to elect a new prime minister within two days, but he would then need to allow his previous charges to be confirmed on the floor of the Parliament.

Most of the trouble for Mr. Oli, who began his second term as prime minister in 2018, started over the past year when fissures in his Communist Party of Nepal emerged. He had won a sweeping election by ousting his former Maoist rebels. But his partners saw Mr. Oli as a dangerous man, demanding that they would lead the government by rotation, so they tried to rally against him.

Unsettled during a second wave of the pandemic this spring, Prime Minister Oli, who is already supported by the dire economy of one of the poorest nations in Asia, has been in short supply. As the crisis has continued, regional rivals India and China, who have been competing for influence in Nepal, have also stepped in.

The court's intervention came in a surprise move on Monday, when a duration of 13 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrived from the United States. Nepal has fully vaccinated only 14 percent of its population of 30 million so far, despite the court's decision was a clear sign of how disunity the country's politics had become in recent years. "If the court decision is not a watershed, it will lead to a constitutional crisis," he said.

Mr. Oli, the 75-year-old leader of the Nepal Congress party, emerged to become prime minister, this will be the fifth time he

will have held the position since the country restored multiparty politics in 1990. The court called for him to be reported to the job within two days, but he would then need to allow his previous charges to be confirmed on the floor of the Parliament.

Most of the trouble for Mr. Oli, who began his second term as prime minister in 2018, started over the past year when fissures in his Communist Party of Nepal emerged. He had won a sweeping election by ousting his former Maoist rebels. But his partners saw Mr. Oli as a dangerous man, demanding that they would lead the government by rotation, so they tried to rally against him.

Unsettled during a second wave of the pandemic this spring, Prime Minister Oli, who is already supported by the dire economy of one of the poorest nations in Asia, has been in short supply. As the crisis has continued, regional rivals India and China, who have been competing for influence in Nepal, have also stepped in.

The court's intervention came in a surprise move on Monday, when a duration of 13 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrived from the United States. Nepal has fully vaccinated only 14 percent of its population of 30 million so far, despite the court's decision was a clear sign of how disunity the country's politics had become in recent years. "If the court decision is not a watershed, it will lead to a constitutional crisis," he said.

Mr. Oli, the 75-year-old leader of the Nepal Congress party, emerged to become prime minister, this will be the fifth time he