

SKorea: Jump in COVID-19 cases after outbreaks in Christian schools

SEOUL (Reuters) — South Korean authorities were scrambling on Wednesday to contain coronavirus outbreaks centered around Christian schools as the country reported a jump in infections, dampening hopes of a speedy exit from a third wave of the pandemic.

A total of 297 COVID-19 cases had been traced to six churches and mission schools run by a Christian organization, senior health official Yoon Tae-ho told a briefing.

More than 100 cases were confirmed overnight among people linked to a church and its mission school in Gwangju, about 270 km (168 miles) south of Seoul, officials said. Another 171 cases had been linked to an affiliated school in the city of Daejeon since Jan. 17.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said the Daejeon mission school outbreak appeared to have been spreading for some time before it was detected.

The Christian organization responsible for the facilities, International Mission, was ordered to test everyone linked to 32 of its 40 schools and churches around the country.

The group apologized for not taking early measures to prevent



SEOUL: Women wearing masks as a measure to prevent contracting the coronavirus disease walk under an umbrella as it snows in Seoul, South Korea, on Jan. 18. Kim Hong-Ji/Reuters

the outbreak. It said that while some infected students may have been asymptomatic, it had also failed to require students with cold-like symptoms to get tested.

"We deeply apologize for not responding earlier and for thinking the students could have had a cold when a student first developed fever," it said in a statement.

The organization said it would submit a full list of students and staff in its schools nationwide.

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun called on people affiliated with the affected facilities to get tested.

"The key is speed. I call on the authorities and local governments to make all-out efforts to identify related facilities and prevent further transmission," Chung told a government briefing.

The KDCA reported 559 new cases as of midnight on Tuesday, up from 354 a day before, bringing the national tally to 76,429 infections with 1,378 deaths.

India's farmers clash with police, swarm Delhi as protests mount

By Archana Chaudhary and Santosh Kumar
Bloomberg

Thousands of Indian farmers on Tuesday escalated protests to revoke controversial agricultural laws, clashing with police and storming key landmarks in New Delhi to pressure Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The farmers, who have camped at various border points around the capital for two months, had permission to demonstrate after the completion of an annual military parade to mark Republic Day, a major public holiday in India. But many gathered early in the day and broke through barricades on the outskirts of the city, prompting police to deploy tear gas in some areas.

Television footage showed thousands of protesters clashing with police in central Delhi before reaching the iconic Red Fort, where Indian prime ministers typically address the nation on the country's independence day in August. It remained unclear if the farmers, many of whom gathered peacefully, would camp out in the middle of Delhi or return to locations outside the city where they had been staying.

"We are talking to the farmers — we are convincing them to go back," said Dipender Pathak, special commissioner of police. "We have faith in farmers. This is an unprecedented situation."

India's federal home ministry suspended mobile internet services in some parts of the city where the protests were most tense. Several



INNER RING ROAD: Farmers travel along the Inner Ring Road in New Delhi in January. Anindito Mukherjee/Bloomberg

metro stations were also shut down.

Farmer leaders called on protesters to stay peaceful, warning that any violence could hurt their cause.

"For the last two months, the entire country and the world has been saying that the peaceful nature of these farmers protests is their strength," said Yogendra Yadav, leader of Sanyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella organization of several dozen farm groups leading the protests. "If this peace breaks down, our strength will take a hit."

Leaders of the protests have rejected Modi's offers to temporarily shelve the three laws passed in September that overhauled the way farm goods are sold in the country of more than 1.3 billion people, almost half of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The government has defended the legislation, saying they would eliminate middlemen in state-run wholesale markets, increase earnings for farmers and make India more self-reliant.



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INVITATION FOR BID GDOE IFB 018-2021

INDEFINITE QUANTITY BID PURCHASE OF PRE-ASSEMBLED ADJUSTABLE SNEEZE GUARDS

SUBMISSION DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. CHST

Note: It is solely the Bidder's responsibility to review the website on a daily basis for the issuance of Amendments/Clarifications for any possible changes to the IFB.

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/S/ CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR
For: JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



GUAM WATERWORKS AUTHORITY

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INVITATION TO BID

The GUAM WATERWORKS AUTHORITY, will receive sealed bids for **20 Cubic Yard Vacuum Roll Off Container**, in **GWA IFB. NO. 2021-03**. Bids will be accepted until **10:00 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time, **February 16, 2021** at the GWA Procurement Office, first floor located at the Gloria B. Nelson Public Services Building in Mangilao at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid/Performance Bond, in the amount of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price. Bid security may be Bid/Performance Bond, Surety Bond, certified check or cashier check made payable to Guam Waterworks Authority. A non-refundable amount of \$15.00 is required for the purchase price of every set of bidding documents which are available at the GWA Procurement Office. Bidders can download a bid package at www.guamwaterworks.org without charge, although vendors are strongly encouraged to contact via e-mail at psbids@guamwaterworks.org or visit GWA Procurement to register to ensure that updated information, notices or bid amendments are distributed to you.

GWA reserves the right to revise or reject any or all proposals and to waive any minor imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the Guam Waterworks Authority.

/s/ MIGUEL C. BORDALLO, P.E.
General Manager