



### US indicts Maduro for 'narco-terrorism'

The United States indicted Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and several top aides on Thursday for "narco-terrorism" and offered a \$15 million reward for information leading to his capture.

### Prince Harry, Meghan now based in California: report

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan have permanently relocated to California amid the coronavirus pandemic, media reports said yesterday.

### Bob Dylan releases first original song in 8 years

Bob Dylan has released his first track in eight years -- a 17-minute song about the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy.

SOURCE: AFP

# China bans foreigners as imported cases rise

AFP, Beijing

China reported 54 imported cases of the coronavirus yesterday, hours after announcing a ban on foreigners entering the country.

In recent weeks China's tally of infections has dwindled dramatically, with only a handful of domestic patients each day.

But just as the country appears to be bringing the outbreak under control, nations around the globe are battling to control soaring numbers of infections in new hotspots.

There were another 55 new infections in China yesterday, the National Health Commission said, with one local infection and 54 imported cases from overseas.

Beijing has been racing to control the number of infections being brought into the country -- mostly Chinese nationals returning home from overseas, including large numbers of students abroad.

On Thursday Beijing announced dramatic measures to curb arrivals into the country, including reducing the number of international flights, limiting the capacity on board to 75 percent, and imposing a ban on foreigners entering China.

Non-nationals living in China with valid visas and resident permits will be blocked from returning to the country after midnight on Friday night, the foreign ministry said.

Diplomats and the crew of international airlines and vessels will still be permitted to enter.

A series of strict measures had already been put in place to try and stem the wave of infections coming in. All Beijing-bound international flights have been diverted to other urban centres, where passengers will first be screened for the virus.

In total 81,340 people have been infected in China, and the outbreak has claimed 3,292 lives.

# 'Difficult' days ahead Warns French PM as cases surge

AFP, Paris

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe yesterday raised the alarm over an "extremely high" surge in coronavirus cases in the country and warned things will be "difficult" in the coming days.

After 365 people died and more than 2,300 people were hospitalised in France in a single day, the military sent a plane yesterday to evacuate six patients from the hard-hit east of the country where hospitals are overstretched.

"We find ourselves in a crisis that will last, in a health situation that will not improve any time soon," Philippe said.

The premier warned the country must "remain extremely mobilised" in the fight against the epidemic that has so far officially claimed 1,696 lives. The toll is only for people who were hospitalised, not those who died at home or in old age facilities, which are badly affected by the outbreak.

Among the recent deaths was that of a 16-year-old girl, France's youngest coronavirus victim to date.

The country has some 14,000 coronavirus patients in hospital, with 548 placed in intensive care just Thursday. Over 3,375 are in a critical condition.

"The situation will be difficult in the days to come," the PM added.

Migrant workers and their family members walk with their belongings on a highway towards Uttar Pradesh as they leave for their villages during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus, in Faridabad, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

### LATEST UPDATES

#### DEATH TOLL CROSSES 25,000

At least 25,066 deaths have been recorded, more than 17,000 of which are in Europe, according to an AFP tally compiled at 1100 GMT Friday based on official sources. More than 547,034 cases have been declared in 183 countries and territories of which nearly 295,000 are in Europe, the worst affected continent. The true numbers are likely much higher, however.

#### UK PM JOHNSON INFECTED

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced he has tested positive for COVID-19, having developed mild symptoms. "I am now self-isolating, but I will continue to lead the government's response via video-conference as we fight this virus," he wrote on Twitter.

#### 81,000 COULD DIE IN US

The coronavirus pandemic could kill more than 81,000 people in the United States in the next four months and may not subside until June, according to a data analysis done by University of Washington School of Medicine.

#### TOURISM TO PLUNGE UP TO 30%

The number of international tourist arrivals will fall by 20-30 percent in 2020 due to the novel coronavirus, putting millions of jobs at risk, the World Tourism Organization said.

#### 10-MINUTE CORONAVIRUS TEST!

Researchers in Senegal this week began validation trials on a COVID-19 diagnostic test that can be done at home and produce results in as little as 10 minutes - all for \$1.

SOURCE: AFP

# Virus cases swamp hospitals in New York

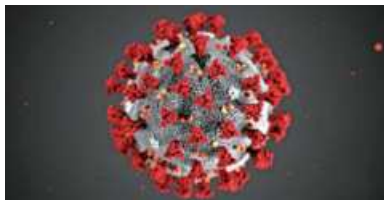
AFP, New York

In New York hospitals, staff are working extra shifts and searching desperately for more bed space as they battle a surging toll of dead and infected at the US epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, which has so far claimed 385 lives across the state, patients were mostly elderly or sick, according to one respiratory therapist, who works in the New York City borough of Queens.

"Now it's 50-year-olds, 40-year-olds, 30-year-olds," said the employee at the Jewish Medical Center, who declined to give his name.

They "didn't listen about not



going out or protecting themselves and washing their hands," he added.

"To watch somebody in their thirties die, it's hard. You can't have visitors. They're in the room by themselves on a ventilator. It's very depressing."

Governor Andrew Cuomo has ordered New York hospitals to increase their capacity by 50 percent, or even double it if possible, as the

state's coronavirus death tally soars.

"You have certain floors that will go COVID overnight," said an administrative worker at the same hospital.

"They're dedicating that whole floor to COVID patients and just seal that off and that's it."

Despite occasional shortages, the equipment nurses need to battle the virus -- masks, gloves, scrubs -- is still available, staff say.

There is also no shortage of artificial respirators and doctors have not been forced -- as they have been elsewhere in the world -- into choosing which patients to save.

But that hasn't stopped the dead piling up. "We have a lot of deceased

patients," said a nurse at Mount Sinai Morningside hospital in Manhattan who wished to remain anonymous.

"It's mostly cardiac arrests. It's getting rough."

Officials have warned that the peak of the pandemic in New York is unlikely to occur for another two or three weeks, spelling more anxiety and stress for responders who are already at maximum capacity.

Anthony Almojeria, a leader in the emergency medical services union, said they were receiving "over 6,000" calls every day.

It is "breaking records. We didn't have this many calls on 9/11," he said, referring to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks.

# Can dogs sniff out COVID-19?

AFP, London

A British charity has teamed up with scientists to see whether dogs could help detect COVID-19 through their keen sense of smell, they said on Friday.

Medical Detection Dogs will work with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Durham University in northeast England to determine whether canines could help diagnoses.

It follows previous research into dogs' ability to sniff out malaria and is based on a belief that each disease triggers a distinct odour.

The organisations said they had begun preparations to train dogs in six weeks "to help provide a rapid, non-invasive diagnosis towards the tail end of the epidemic."

The charity has previously trained dogs to detect diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's

and bacterial infections by sniffing samples taken from patients.

They can also detect subtle changes in skin temperature, potentially making them useful to determining if a person has a fever.

"In principle, we're sure that dogs could detect COVID-19," said Claire Guest, founder and chief executive of Medical Detection Dogs.

"We are now looking into how we can safely catch the odour of the virus from patients and present it to the dogs. The aim is that dogs will be able to screen anyone, including those who are asymptomatic, and tell us whether they need to be tested."

"This would be fast, effective and non-invasive and make sure the limited NHS (National Health Service) testing resources are only used where they are really needed."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department. Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice No. 04/2019-20. This is the information of all concerned that due to an unavoidable circumstance the following changes have been made to the tender which was published in The Daily Zai Zai Din, The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom Alo, Date: 06/03/2020.



# 'Printing money'

## China, S Korea step up mask, test kit production

AFP, Beijing/ Cheongju

As the coronavirus pandemic that originated in a central Chinese city has gone global, factories in China and South Korea have nimbly turned to new and very profitable markets -- face masks and test kits for export.

At the height of China's outbreak in early February, Guan Kunze's company created a new mask factory in just eleven days. The factory, with five production lines in northeastern China, made the much-needed N95 face masks which were in huge demand as infection numbers surged.

As cases in the country have dwindled, the 34-year-old -- who was previously in pharmaceuticals -- is now profiting from new markets and exporting masks to Italy.

In the first two months of the year, a staggering 8,950 new manufacturers started producing masks in China, according to business data platform Tianyancha -- racing to fill the huge gap in demand.

But after the virus epicentre of Hubei province was placed on lockdown and the initial frenzy began to die down in China, virus outbreaks emerged in new hotspots elsewhere in the world. Globally more than 400,000 have been

infected with the deadly coronavirus, and demand for protective equipment is still soaring as nations across the globe battle the outbreak.

"A mask machine is a real cash printer," said Shi Xinghui, sales manager of an N95 mask machine company in Dongguan city, southeastern Guangdong province. "Printing 60,000 or 70,000 masks a day is equivalent to printing money."

According to China's official figures, China's daily mask production has passed 116 million now, with many meeting overseas demand.

In South Korea, production of coronavirus test kits destined for export around the world has spiked as the global pandemic sends demand soaring. SD Biosensor is one of five South Korean companies whose Covid-19 diagnostic tests are being used in the country, where a huge "trace, test and treat" effort appears to have brought the epidemic under control.

The company is now making 350,000 test kits a day and already exporting to eight countries including Germany, Iran, India and Italy, and is in discussions with around 60 more, led by the US.

Nearly 120 countries are now seeking to secure South Korean-made test kits, a foreign ministry official told Yonhap news agency yesterday.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh College Education Development Project (CEDP). Corrigendum of Invitation for Tender. Reference No. GDC.2020.CEDP-1157/G-07/45. Date: 25-03-2020. The undersigned has to inform that due to unavoidable circumstances tender last selling, closing and opening dates & time of Package No. G-07 (Package Name: Procurement of Air Conditioner (AC) for Departments, Teachers Auditorium and Sub-project Office are revised as follows:

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পুষ্টি কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল. বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিষয়ঃ দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিল ও দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলার তারিখ সাময়িকভাবে স্থগিতকরণ প্রসংগে।