South Korea fire kills 25

A fire at a warehouse in South Korea killed 25 people yesterday, it was reported, while "all necessary" resources were being mobilised to save those still trapped inside. The blaze at the unfinished four-storey building in Icheon, east of Seoul, also left seven injured, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported. The blaze was reportedly started by an explosion during construction work involving combustible urethane used for insulation in a basement floor. Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun ordered the mobilisation of "all necessary personnel and resources" to find and rescue those trapped inside and extinguish remaining flames.

British PM's partner gives birth to baby boy



Carrie Symonds on Wednesday gave birth to a "healthy baby boy" in a London hospital, a spokesman for the couple said. The news came as a surprise, as Symonds, 32, was not thought to be due for several weeks, but she was said to be doing "very well". The birth comes just days after Johnson, 55, returned to work after being admitted to hospital with coronavirus, including three nights in intensive care. "Both mother and baby are doing very well. Johnson is believed to have at least five children, including four with his second wife, Marina Wheeler, from whom he split in 2018. He has been publicly dating Symonds, a former head of communications for the Conservative party, since early 2019.

Hillary Clinton endorses Biden's White House bid

Hillary Clinton endorsed Joe Biden's White House bid on Tuesday, saying the United States needs a "real president" and not just "somebody who plays one on TV." "I want to add my voice to the many who have endorsed you to be our president," Clinton told Biden during a live video linkup from their respective homes. "I wish you were president right now," said Clinton, who headed the Democratic ticket in 2016 but lost to Republican Donald Trump. "I've had the privilege to work with him," said Clinton, who served in the US Senate with Biden and was Secretary of State for four years when he was former president Barack Obama's vice president.





A man in protective gear offers funeral prayers for a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who died from the COVID-19 coronavirus before his burial, at a graveyard in New Delhi, yesterday. India's most deadly coronavirus day took its overall death toll past 1,000 on April 29 but the giant country of 1.3 billion people is still under intense scrutiny over how it has managed to limit the pandemic's rampage.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

1.6b workers risk losing livelihoods

Some 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy, representing nearly half of the global labour force, are in immediate danger of losing their livelihoods due to the coronavirus pandemic, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said yesterday.

The UN agency's latest report sharply raised its forecast for the devastating impact on jobs and incomes of the COVID-19 disease, which has infected more than 3.1 million people globally, killed nearly 220,000 and shut down economies.

"It shows I think in the starkest possible terms that the jobs employment crisis and all of its consequences is deepening by comparison with our estimates of 3 weeks ago," ILO Director-General Guy Ryder told a briefing, foreseeing a "massive" poverty impact.

Already, wages of the world's 2 billion informal workers plunged by an estimated global average of 60% in the first month that the crisis unfolded in each region, the ILO said.

Informal workers are the most vulnerable of the 3.3 billion global workforce, lacking welfare protection, access to good healthcare, or the means to work from Religious freedom

US panel urges targeted sanctions on India

AFP, Washington

A US government panel yesterday called for India to be put on a religious freedom blacklist over a "drastic" downturn under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, triggering a sharp rebuttal from New Delhi.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom recommends but does not set policy, and there is virtually no chance the State Department will follow its lead on India, an increasingly close US ally.

In an annual report, the bipartisan panel narrowly agreed that India should join the ranks of "countries of particular concern" that would be subject to sanctions if they do not improve their records. "In 2019, religious freedom conditions

in India experienced a drastic turn downward, with religious minorities under increasing assault," the report said.

It called on the United States to impose punitive measures, including visa bans, on

Indian officials believed responsible and grant funding to civil society groups that monitor hate speech.

The commission said that Modi's Hindu nationalist government, which won a convincing election victory last year, "allowed violence against minorities and their houses of worship to continue with impunity, and also engaged in and tolerated hate speech and incitement to

It pointed to comments by Home Minister Amit Shah, who notoriously referred to mostly Muslim migrants as "termites," and to a citizenship law that has triggered nationwide protests.

It also highlighted the revocation of the autonomy of Kashmir.

India's citizenship law fast-tracks naturalization for minorities from neighboring countries -- but not if they are

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

LATEST UPDATES

MORE THAN 217,000 DEATHS

More than 217,439 people have died worldwide since the epidemic surfaced in China in December, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT yesterday based on official sources. In total, 3,104,331 cases have now been reported. In the United States, which has now passed the one-million-case mark, 58,355 people have died, the most of any country. Italy is the second hardest-hit country, with 27,359 dead. Spain follows with 24,275, then France with 23,660 and the United Kingdom with 21,678.

EMERGING FROM LOCKDOWNS

France's Prime Minister Edouard Philippe says the country will begin a gradual return to normality on May 11, with shops, markets and some schools reopening and the wearing of masks compulsory on public transport. Spain will transition out of its strict lockdown in four phases from May 9 through the end of June, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez says. Schools will remain closed until September.

MASKS ACROSS GERMANY Face masks are now mandatory in shops across Germany. Nose and mouth coverings are also compulsory on buses, trains and trams. Germany extends its warning against worldwide travel until June 14.

OSCARS TWEAK ENTRY RULES

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences breaks with its tradition of requiring at least a seven-day run in Los Angeles theatres for films to be eligible for the Oscars. For the 2021 ceremony, scheduled on February 28, the Academy says films without cinema releases -- the fate of many as the pandemic has shuttered movie theatres -- will be allowed to contend for the coveted awards.

FACE MASKS INEFFECTIVE!

British scientists advising the government have concluded that wearing a face mask has a small effect on stopping a coronavirus carrier from infecting someone else, and the evidence is weak, Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser Angela McLean said on Tuesday. "There is weak

evidence of a small effect in which a face mask can prevent a source of infection going from somebody who is infected to the people around them," she said.

BRAZIL PASSES 5,000 DEATHS Brazil, the South American country worst-

hit by the coronavirus pandemic, has registered more than 5,000 deaths from COVID-19, the health ministry announced, pushing the toll above that of China. A record 474 deaths were recorded in the last 24 hours, with the number of infections rising to 71,886, the ministry said. Experts believe the overall number of COVID-19 cases could be 12 to 15 times higher, due to a large number of undetected cases given the lack of testing availability across the country's 210 million population.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

UN fears 20pc rise in domestic abuse

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, London

The coronavirus lockdown could lead to a 20% surge in domestic violence as victims remain trapped at home with their abusers, the United Nations predicted on Tuesday, warning the pandemic will have a "catastrophic impact" on women.

Tens of millions of women may be unable to access contraception and millions more girls could be married off or subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) as a result of the pandemic, researchers said.

Every three months of lockdown could result in 15 million more cases of domestic abuse than would normally be expected, according to the UNFPA, the UN sexual and reproductive health agency which spearheaded the research.

The projections underscore what the United Nations has described as a "shadow pandemic" alongside COVID-19.

Many countries have already reported spikes in calls to domestic abuse hotlines. At the same time the lockdowns are making it far harder for services and charities to reach women isolated at home.

The researchers predicted that 44 million women in 114 low and middleincome countries could lose access to

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मरनदेशक गाउ

নবপত্র সাজন পদ্ধতি

সংশান বাস্তু উন্মুক্তকাশের সমা সংশান ভূমারান কমিনির সরা সন্ধানের ক্লম, তারিপ ও সমা দবশার কমিসের ভূম। (তারিনির

বাহবর ক্ষমান্তরর পরিসে

रगदकावडी वालासन महकार দিনিয়ন জেল মুপারের কার্যালয় চাঁগ্রাম কেন্দ্রীয় কারগার

E-mail- Stjallaupershittagong@yahoo.com

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দিনিকা কো পুশার, চেইয়ার কেন্দ্রীর কারণের। ১। কারা অধিনারের আরক বং ৪৪,৮৭,৮০০,৮৪০,১৪,৮০১,১৫-৯২

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ধাপর ভতুতােই উপ্রেখিত পর্যানুধারী। জাতীয় প্রজন কর্মনি।

১। করে উপ-নয়পতিদৰ্শকের কর্মানয়, চাইচায় ২। করে উপ-হয়পতিদৰ্শকের কর্মানয়, চারা।

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২। রখন কবল, মইনাম কেন্দ্রীয় করেবার

উনুক নবগর পদ্ধবি

contraception, leading to 1 million unintended pregnancies, if the lockdown lasts three months and causes major disruption to services.

The figure would rise to 7 million



pregnancies if unplanned continue for six months, according to the study carried out with Johns Hopkins University, Victoria University in Australia and global health organisation Avenir Health.

Researchers also predicted there could be an extra 13 million child marriages and another 2 million cases of FGM in the next decade as the pandemic stymies global efforts to end both practices. Deepening poverty caused by a global

recession could also drive more families to marry off their daughters early, they said.

Blast kills 3 in Kabul

AFP, Kabul

A suicide bomber killed at least three people and wounded 15 others after detonating explosives near a military outpost in Kabul yesterday, an official confirmed.

Interior ministry spokesman Tareg Árian confirmed the toll, calling the blast "a crime by the enemy of Afghanistan against civilians during the month of Ramadan".

The attack appeared to target an Afghan special forces camp on the outskirts of Kabul, a security source told AFP. No group has claimed responsibility for

the incident. The blast comes as violence has surged across Afghanistan, with the UN reporting earlier this week that attacks spiked in the country following the signing of a US and Taliban agreement in late February that was supposed to lay the groundwork for a peace



People wearing face masks following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak walk past flower installations set up to mark the upcoming Labour Day holiday, at **Tiananmen Square in** Beijing, China, yesterday. China's top legislature will hold its annual session next month after postponing the meeting for the first time in decades due to the coronavirus outbreak, Xinhua said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

e-Tender Notice

ম্মাকর নং- সিএসএস/সংগ্রহ/হিসাব/২০১৯-২০২০/৩৫৪২

তাং ২৮/০৪/২০২০

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal

(https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contract support desk contact numbers. e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Dr. Premananda Mondol, Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet for the procurement of:

Tender ID	Name of goods	Tender/proposal publication date & time	Last date of tender submission
455226	Supply of Medicine for the FY 19- 20 in Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet.	23-Apr-2020 23:00	10-May-2020 14:00
455227	Supply of Medical Equipments for the FY 19-20 in Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet.	23-Apr-2020 23:00	10-May-2020 14:00
455228	Supply of Gauge Bandage & Cotton for the FY 19-20 in Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet.	23-Apr-2020 23:00	10-May-2020 14:00
455229	Supply of Medical Furniture for the FY 19-20 in Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet.	23-Apr-2020 23:00	10-May-2020 14:00
455230	Supply of Chemical Reagent for the FY 19-20 in Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet.	23-Apr-2020 23:00	10-May-2020 14:00
455231	Supply of Linen for the FY 19-20 in Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet.	23-Apr-2020 23:00	10-May-2020 14:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for

e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

Dr. Premananda Mondol Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office Sylhet

UNSC eyes 3-month 'humanitarian pause' in global conflicts AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council plans to call for a 90-day "humanitarian pause" in conflicts worldwide as part of the ongoing struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a draft resolution obtained by AFP Tuesday. An initial version last week -- co-authored by France

and Tunisia -- only asked for a 30-day pause, along with a call to end all hostilities in the involved countries and to increase international cooperation to counter the virus. The new draft, which was revised on Monday, now "calls

upon all parties to armed conflicts to engage immediately in a durable humanitarian pause for at least 90 consecutive days." The stoppage would be "in order to enable the safe, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance, provisions of related services by impartial humanitarian actors," according to the draft.

issue of the resolution -- how to address the role of the World Health Organization, which has been sharply criticized by the United States -- has yet to be settled.

countries whose conflicts are already currently under scrutiny by Security Council, including Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Mali, Central African Republic, Libya,

So far no date has been set for a vote, as the thorniest United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on March 23 called for an immediate global cease-fire.

The new draft resolution however would only cover Colombia and Sudan.

GD-775