

Coronavirus leaves more Americans dead than WWI

With 740 new coronavirus deaths in 24 hours, the United States has seen more people die from the pandemic than died in World War I, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The new figure, counted at 8:30 pm (0030 GMT) Tuesday, brought the country's total COVID-19 deaths up to 116,854, the tracker from the Baltimore-based university showed. The increase came after two days of death tolls under 400. And 23,351 new cases in the same 24-hour period brought the total US count up to 2,134,973, making it by far the hardest-hit of any country in the world. The country's pandemic death toll had already passed that of its soldiers in the Vietnam War in late April. The United States, where many businesses are reopening, continues to register around 20,000 new cases of the novel coronavirus each day.

India set to get non-permanent UNSC seat

India was expected to register a comfortable victory in the Security Council elections that will bring the country to the UN high-table as a non-permanent member for the 2021-22 term. The 193-member UN General Assembly will hold elections for President of the 75th session of the Assembly, five non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of the Economic and Social Council under special voting arrangements put in place at the UN headquarters due to COVID-19 related restrictions. India is all set to join the powerful 15-nation Security Council as a non-permanent member. India is a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term. India's victory is certain since it is the sole candidate vying for the lone seat from the grouping.

Trump gov't sues to block ex-aide Bolton's book



The Trump administration filed a lawsuit Tuesday seeking to prevent publication of former national security advisor John Bolton's book, which is expected to provide a damning insider portrait of the White House. The Department of Justice alleged in its suit, filed in federal court in Washington, that publication of the book risks "compromising national security" through revelation of classified information that Bolton had access to during his turbulent 17-month stint in the White House. The book, "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir," is due to hit the shelves next Tuesday. In the book, Bolton alleges that Trump committed a host of impeachable offenses beyond pressuring Ukraine to investigate his political rival, Democrat Joe Biden.

SOURCE: AFP, ANN

Trump signs order pushing to reduce US police violence

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump issued an order to improve policing Tuesday, calling for a ban on dangerous choke holds, but he stopped well short of demands made at nationwide protests against racism and police brutality. "We have to break old patterns of failure," Trump said in a Rose Garden ceremony attended by police and Republican congressional allies, though no black civil rights representatives or political opponents. His executive order encourages de-escalation training, better recruitment, sharing of data on police who have bad records, and money to support police in complicated duties related to people with mental or drug issues. A highlight of Trump's proposals, which he said could be complemented by legislation being negotiated in the Republican-controlled Senate, was ending choke holds "except if an officer's life is at risk," he said.

Taliban raids on Afghan posts kill 18

AFP, Mazar-i-Sharif

Taliban fighters killed at least 18 Afghan security personnel yesterday in two attacks on checkpoints in the north, officials said, the latest violence ahead of expected peace talks. In one pre-dawn raid, militants killed 12 Afghan security force members when they stormed a checkpoint in Jawezjan province, Maroof Azar, spokesman to the governor, told AFP. He said four security personnel were captured by the militants and five Taliban fighters were killed in the fighting. Separately, Taliban fighters were blamed for a raid on an army outpost in Kunduz. Six soldiers were killed in fighting that lasted about five hours, said Aminullah Iddin, a member of the provincial council. Army spokesman Hadi Jamal confirmed the attack, saying four Taliban fighters were also killed. Taliban did not comment on the Kunduz attack.

North Korea seeks crisis to force concessions: analysts

AGENCIES

North Korea's spectacular destruction of its liaison office with the South is part of a series of staged provocations aimed at forcing concessions from Seoul and Washington, analysts say. The South's President Moon Jae-in initially brokered a dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington, but the North now blames him for not persuading the US to relax sanctions. Inter-Korean relations have been in deep freeze for months, following the collapse of a summit in Hanoi between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump. That meeting foundered on what the nuclear-armed North would be willing to give up in exchange for a loosening of sanctions. North Korea yesterday said it had rejected a South Korean offer to send special envoys to ease escalating tension. On Monday, Moon offered to send his national security adviser Chung Eui-yong and spy chief Suh Hoon as special envoys, North's KCNA state news agency said. But Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and a senior ruling party official, "flatly rejected the tactless and sinister proposal". In a separate KCNA dispatch yesterday, a spokesman for the General Staff of the (North) Korean People's Army said it would

dispatch troops to Mount Kumgang and Kaesong near the border, where the two Koreas had carried out joint economic projects in the past. "Internally, North Korea is deeply disappointed in Moon and appears determined to end inter-Korean ties," said Kim Keun-sik, professor of political science at Kyungnam University. "By doing so, it is sending a message in its brinkmanship tactics to Trump that he should resume talks or lift economic sanctions as it has demanded so long." The North's actions appear to be carefully calibrated, with Pyongyang drawing out the process by issuing multiple incremental warnings from different official sources -- leadership, government departments and the military -- ahead of each step it takes. The US could be next in North Korea's sights: Pyongyang has warned Washington to stay out of inter-Korean affairs if it wants to ensure a smooth presidential election in November. But such a move would be fraught with risk for Pyongyang. "The North should realise its brinkmanship tactic will not work this time, neither with Washington nor Seoul", said Kyungnam's Kim. "If it needs a change in status quo so desperately, then it must change its calculations instead of expecting the US to do so."



(From left, clockwise) Police officers detain an activist from Swadeshi Jagran Manch, a wing of the Hindu nationalist organisation Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), during a protest against China, in New Delhi; Supporters of India's ruling Bharatiya Jayanta Party (BJP) burn posters of Chinese President Xi Jinping in Ahmedabad; and a supporter of India's main opposition Congress party displays a placard during a protest after the killing of Indian soldiers in a border clash with Chinese troops in Ladakh region, in Kolkata, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MEDIA REACTIONS ON BORDER TENSIONS

India for strong response, China mute

REUTERS, Mumbai/Beijing

Indian media commentators yesterday called for a strong response to a border clash with Chinese troops that led to the deaths of at least 20 Indian soldiers, with some questioning the Indian government's silence on the issue. Chinese media largely refrained from commentary on the incident, though the editor of a paper linked to the ruling Communist Party warned India that China did not fear a clash. Here is a round-up of commentary from both countries: **India demands befitting response** "The timing of the Chinese aggression and Beijing's assertive claims in the Galwan valley appear to be part of a strategy to remind India of its vulnerabilities," said an editorial in the Times of India, the country's best-selling English-language newspaper. "If this is the case then India, as a proud nation, should do exactly what the Chinese don't want and undertake diplomatic countermeasures against Beijing." Others went further. "We're dealing with medieval brutes," said Arnab Goswami, Editor-in-Chief of Republic Media Network. "We'll have to go out and give them (China) a very bloody nose. We'll have to hit them where it will really hurt the Chinese. And trust me, we know where that is."



"The Chinese army reneged on the promise of pulling its troops back from forward posts," said Sudhir Chaudhary, Editor-in-Chief, Zee News. "By attacking the Indian army without any provocation, they have challenged the might of our nation which must give a befitting response to China. We cannot talk about peace any longer. The killing of our soldiers has to be avenged." Shishir Gupta, editor of the Hindustan Times, said the answer to

the skirmish "does not lie in mere economic retaliation". "While a section within the Indian government advises diplomatic resolution of the June 15 face-off, the only answer to the PLA's (Chinese army) belligerence is standing up to them and holding the territory," he said. "The PLA must learn to respect the Indian army." **Indian opinion needs to be sober** In China, the incident has not been given wall-to-wall coverage. Official media have stuck largely to Tuesday's statement from the Chinese army's Western Command about the incident. On social media, bloggers and media-aggregating platforms shared Indian media reports, such as the Indian army's announcement acknowledging that the death toll had risen to 20. Most vocal was the Global Times, a paper published by the official paper of the ruling Communist Party. Its editor-in-chief, Hu Xijin, took to domestic and global social media platforms to scold India, saying "Indian public opinion needs to stay sober" and to warn that China did not fear a clash.

Self-cleaning mask can kill viruses!

REUTERS, Haifa

Israeli researchers say they have invented a reusable face mask that can kill the coronavirus with heat by drawing power from a mobile phone charger. The disinfecting process takes about 30 minutes - and users should not wear the mask while it is plugged in, said Professor Yair Ein-Eli, who led the research team at Technion University in Haifa. The new mask has a USB port that connects to a power source such as a standard cellphone charger that heats an inner layer of carbon fibers to up to 70 degrees Celsius, high enough to kill viruses. He said disposable masks were not economically or environmentally friendly. "You have to make it reusable and friendly, and this is our solution," he said about the invention.

INDIA-CHINA BORDER TENSIONS KEY DATES

Asian regional superpowers India and China share a long history of mistrust and conflict along their lengthy border, and tensions flared this week in their first deadly clash in more than four decades. Here are some key dates when the neighbours clashed over territorial disputes: **NEHRU'S 1959 BEIJING VISIT** India inherited its border dispute with China from its British colonial rulers, who hosted a 1914 conference with the Tibetan and Chinese governments to set the border. Beijing has never recognised the 1914 boundary, known as the McMahon Line, and currently claims 90,000 square kilometres of territory -- nearly all of what constitutes India's Arunachal Pradesh state. The border dispute first flared up during a visit by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru to Beijing in 1959. Nehru questioned the boundaries shown on official Chinese maps, prompting Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai to reply that his government did not accept the colonial frontier. **1962 SINO-INDIAN WAR** Chinese troops poured over the disputed frontier with India in 1962 during a row over the border's demarcation. It sparked a four-week war that left thousands dead on the Indian side before China's forces withdrew. Beijing retained Aksai Chin, a strategic corridor linking Tibet to western China. India still claims the entire Aksai Chin region as its own, as well as the nearby China-controlled Shaksam valley in northern Kashmir. **1967 NATHU LA CONFLICT** Another flashpoint was Nathu La, India's highest mountain pass in northeastern Sikkim state, which is sandwiched between Bhutan, Chinese-ruled Tibet and Nepal. During a series of clashes, including the exchange of artillery fire, New Delhi said some 80 Indian soldiers died and counted up to 400 Chinese casualties. **1975 TULUNG LA AMBUSH** This skirmish was the last time shots were officially reported to have been fired across the disputed border. Four Indian soldiers were ambushed and killed along the dividing line in Arunachal Pradesh. New Delhi blamed Beijing for crossing into Indian territory, a claim dismissed by China. **2017 DOKLAM PLATEAU STAND-OFF** India and China had a months-long high-altitude standoff in Bhutan's Doklam region after the Indian army sent troops to stop China constructing a road in the area. The Doklam plateau is strategically significant as it gives China access to the so-called "chicken's neck" -- a thin strip of land connecting India's northeastern states with the rest of the country. It is claimed by both China and Bhutan, an ally of India. The issue was resolved after talks. **2020 LADAKH CONFRONTATION** India said Tuesday that 20 of its soldiers were killed after a violent clash with Chinese forces a day earlier in the strategically important Galwan Valley on the Himalayan frontier, a dramatic escalation that represents the first combat fatalities between the Asian powers since 1975.

SOURCE: AFP

ARREST OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION STUFF

Pakistan denies harassing officials

AFP, Islamabad

A day after two Indian High Commission officials in Islamabad were arrested and interrogated over a road accident, Pakistan on Tuesday rejected New Delhi's accusation that the officials were harassed and tortured. According to Pakistani authorities, Monday's incident saw the two Indian high commission officials crash a speeding car into a pedestrian, causing serious injuries. They allegedly then tried to flee the scene but were arrested and detained for several hours. On Tuesday, India's external affairs ministry said the men had been held on "coerced" charges and had been subjected to "torture and physical assault". Islamabad reacted furiously, saying it "categorically rejects" New Delhi's claims. The two Indian men were eventually released after asserting diplomatic immunity, but only after India protested to Pakistan's envoy in New Delhi. The latest fracas comes after New Delhi expelled two officials from Pakistan's high commission on June 1 for alleged "espionage activities" -- claims Islamabad rejected.



People attend a vigil for slain black activist Oluwatoyin Salau, in Downtown Miami, Florida, US, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Pabna University of Science & Technology
Office of the Project Director, PUST, Pabna
Memo No. PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/19
Date: 17/06/2020

e-Tender Notice (FY/2019-20)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works under "Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project", PUST, Pabna.

Sl No.	e-Tender ID	APP ID	Package No. & Invitation Ref. No.	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender closing date & time	Method
01.	471119	158695	PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/19	Construction of Temple work under Pabna University of Science and Technology Development Project, PUST. FY 2019-20	17 June, 2020 11:00	16 July, 2020 16:00	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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