

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss voters reject curbs on EU immigration

Swiss voters have overwhelmingly rejected a right-wing party's attempt to scrap a pact allowing the free movement of people from the European Union, according to a projection of results by broadcaster SRF yesterday. The Swiss People's Party (SVP) had called a referendum on the EU agreement - a vote that was seen as an important test of attitudes towards foreigners who make up a quarter of the population. The broadcaster said its projection, based on partial results from Sunday's plebiscite, showed the motion was defeated 63%-37%. The SVP - the biggest party in parliament - has pushed to take back control of immigration, echoing some of the arguments pro-Brexit politicians used in the run-up to Britain's exit from the EU.

Yemen's warring parties agree largest prisoner swap

Yemen's warring parties have agreed to exchange around 1,000 prisoners, including 15 Saudis, as part of trust-building steps aimed at reviving a stalled peace process, the United Nations and sources said yesterday. The Yemeni government, backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, and the Houthi movement they have been battling for over five years, in late 2018 signed a deal to swap some 15,000 detainees split between both sides but the pact has been slowly and only partially implemented. The two sides will now free 1,081 detainees and prisoners, UN envoy Martin Griffiths said in a joint news briefing with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) after a nearly 10-day meeting of the prisoners' exchange committee held in the Swiss village of Gilon above Lake Geneva. Heads of the two sides of the committee hugged at the end of their meeting, with Griffiths telling them: "Well done, well done."

SA minister's pay docked over use of military plane



South Africa's president has reprimanded Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and docked her pay for three months for taking a delegation to Zimbabwe on an air force plane, his office said. The opposition Democratic Alliance had accused Mapisa-Nqakula of misusing state resources by letting the group from the ruling African National Congress travel with her to Harare in September. The presidency said late on Saturday Mapisa-Nqakula had been on an official trip. But her decision to let the delegation - who were travelling to Zimbabwe on unrelated business - join her on the flight had been an "error of judgement". The minister had been given a formal reprimand, a "salary sacrifice" had been imposed on her for three months from Nov. 1 and she would have to make sure the ANC reimbursed the state for the costs of the flight, the presidency added.

SOURCE: REUTERS



US President Donald Trump holds an event to announce his nominee of US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the Supreme Court seat left vacant by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on September 18, at the White House in Washington, on Saturday. Trump yesterday said the Senate will "easily" confirm his Supreme Court nominee Barrett before the election, despite furious Democratic opposition to his bid to steer the court rightward for years to come.

PHOTO: REUTERS

FALLOUT FROM CONTROVERSIAL FARM BILLS
BJP's oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal quits NDA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) oldest ally in Punjab and at the national level, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has quit the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the Narendra Modi government's controversial farm bills.

AKALI Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal announced on Saturday night that his party has decided to quit NDA, just days after his wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned from the Modi cabinet over the law passed by parliament recently.

The highest decision-making body of the SAD at its emergency meeting decided unanimously to pull out of the NDA alliance, he said.

SAD pulled out of the coalition in protest against a new law which critics allege could pave the way for the government to stop buying foodgrain at guaranteed prices and allow private players to step in. The Indian government has maintained that it would continue to buy grains at minimum support price from farmers and that the law would widen the options for farmers to sell their produce where they get a better price.

AKALI Dal became the third major NDA constituent to quit the alliance after Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, India's second most important state politically because of the number of Lok Sabha seats there after Uttar Pradesh, and Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh in the last two years.

AKALI Dal, ally of BJP for 24 years, had been under mounting pressure from its core support base, the farmers in Punjab, to snap its alliance with BJP ever since the farm legislation was cleared by parliament 11 days ago.

POST-POLLS UNREST IN BELARUS

Lukashenko has to go: Macron

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday said that Belarus's leader Alexander Lukashenko must step down, after the EU refused to recognise him as the legitimate president of the ex-Soviet country.

"It's clear he has to go," Macron told French weekly the Journal du Dimanche ahead of a trip to EU states Lithuania and Latvia, which border Belarus.

"It is a crisis of power, an authoritarian power that cannot accept the logic of democracy and which is hanging on by force. It is clear that Lukashenko has to go."

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets in Belarus since August 9 elections which opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya says she won, despite Lukashenko's insistence he took a landslide victory.

The embattled leader has launched a brutal crackdown against the protesters -- drawing condemnation from the West, but support from Moscow.

This week he triggered new demonstrations and fresh Western criticism when he held a secret inauguration for himself for the sixth term.

Macron yesterday said he had been "impressed by the courage of the protesters". More than 90 people -- most of them women -- were arrested on Saturday at opposition rallies, according to one NGO.

EU ministers decided in principle last month to impose sanctions against the regime.

Russia is Lukashenko's biggest financial and diplomatic backer, and President Vladimir Putin has promised Belarus law enforcement backup if needed, as well as a \$1.5-billion loan.

'Second wave arriving faster'

France's top doctor warns as global Covid-19 deaths near 1m

AGENCIES

France will face a months-long coronavirus epidemic that will overwhelm its health system if something does not change, one of the country's top medical figures warned yesterday, as the global death toll inched towards one million.

In more positive news, residents of the Chinese city of Wuhan -- where the virus emerged last year -- reported a hesitant return to normalcy, while the French Open got underway at Roland Garros in Paris.

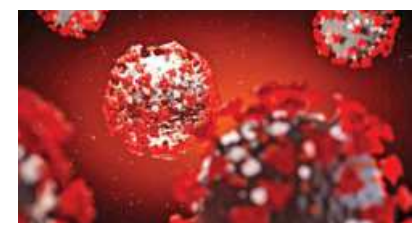
"The second wave is arriving faster than we thought," Patrick Bouet, head of National Council of the Order of Doctors in France, told the weekly Journal du Dimanche.

Fresh restrictions to slow the spread of the disease in France's worst-hit areas, including the Mediterranean city of Marseille and the Paris region, have run into local resistance.

Bouet told the paper that warnings delivered this week by Health Minister Olivier Veran had not gone far enough.

"He didn't say that in three to four weeks, if nothing changes, France will face a widespread outbreak across its whole territory, for several long autumn and winter months," Bouet said.

France's health service on Saturday recorded 14,412 new cases over the previous 24 hours -- slightly lower than



the record 16,000 registered on both Thursday and Friday.

Despite the number of infections worldwide passing 32 million, more than 10,000 anti-lockdown protesters demonstrated in central London ahead of the re-imposition of restrictions there.

In Spain, hundreds of people protested in Madrid yesterday against

partial lockdown measures imposed on parts of the region, mainly in densely populated low-income neighbourhoods, to curb a surge in cases.

In New York state -- once the epicentre of the US outbreak -- new infections rose for the first time since June to above 1,000 a day.

In India, meanwhile, infections closed in on six million yesterday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on people to keep wearing face masks in public. India is expected to take over the US -- which has reported more than seven million cases so far -- as the worst-hit country in the next few weeks.

In Australia, Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said Melbourne residents are free from today to leave their homes for work, exercise, shop for essentials, or provide care after active cases in the state fell below 400 for the first time since June 30. The relaxation of the curfew, imposed August 2, comes after 16 new infections and two deaths were reported yesterday.



Farmers shout slogans as they block railway tracks during a protest against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government following the recent passing of new farm bills in parliament, on the outskirts of Amritsar, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

DRUGS PROBE

NCB seizes mobile phones of Deepika, Sara, Shraddha

THE STATESMAN/ANN

Indian Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized the phones of Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, and Shraddha Kapoor among others in an escalating drugs probe following the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Deepika Padukone, who was questioned by NCB for nearly six hours by NCB Special Investigation Team in Mumbai on Saturday. Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor were also questioned separately for four to five hours by anti drug agency office in Ballard Estate.

Rhea Chakraborty, girlfriend of Sushant who has been arrested, mentioned that Sushant developed the drugs habit while shooting the film 'Kedarnath' in which his co-star was Sara Ali Khan.

US PRESIDENTIAL RACE 2020

Biden likens Trump to Nazi Goebbels

Says ready for 'lies' ahead of first debate; Trump demands drug test of 'sleepy Joe'

AFP, Washington

US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said he expects "personal attacks and lies" from Donald Trump in their first televised debate tomorrow, comparing the Republican president to Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels.

"It is going to be difficult," the former vice president acknowledged in an interview broadcast Saturday on MSNBC.

"My guess is, it's going to be just straight attack. They're going to be mostly personal. That's the only thing he knows how to do," he said of Trump.

The debate Tuesday in Cleveland, Ohio will be the first time the 77-year-old veteran politician has faced the president he has promised to unseat. The men will meet again for two more debates before the November 3 election.

But some of his supporters fear that Biden, who is prone to blunders and

slip-ups, may waver in these televised duels under the rhetorical blows of the Republican billionaire -- who is also prone to blunders and slip-ups, but who is far more aggressive.

"He doesn't know how to debate the facts. He's not that smart," Biden also claimed. "He doesn't know much about foreign policy, he doesn't know much about domestic policy. He doesn't know much about the detail."

As a result, Biden predicted, "it'll be mostly personal attacks and lies; but I think the American people are on to him."

"He's sort of like Goebbels," Biden said. "You say the lie long enough, keep repeating it, repeating it, repeating it, it becomes common knowledge."

Meanwhile Trump yesterday demanded that Biden take a drug test either before or after the pair's first debate.

"I will be strongly demanding a Drug Test of Sleepy Joe Biden prior to, or after, the Debate on Tuesday night," Trump tweeted.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance, Economic Relations Division
Japan-3 Branch, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
www.erd.gov.bd

Scholarship for study in Master Degree Program in JAPAN

Applications for Master degree program are invited from confirmed members of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) cadres, Bangladesh Bank Class-1 officials and Bangladesh Judicial Service (BJS) Officials for JDS 20th Batch under "The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) 2020" as below:

General Information about the Scholarship:

- Degree: Master's Degree (One year / Two years courses) at universities in Japan (see below)
- Language of Instruction: English
- Maximum number of Scholarships: Master's 30 (thirty)
- Benefits: JDS covers the cost for full tuition fees, living expenses, air ticket, research, other expenses as per JDS Rules and Guidelines
- Expected date of Departure to Japan: August 2021

Areas of Study:

Component (Development Issues)	Accepting University / Graduate School	Slot
1. Enhancement of Capacity for Public Administrative Government Degree Offered : • Master of Public Policy • Master of Economics (with certificate of completion of Public Administration Course) • Master of Political Science • Master of International Studies	Meiji University Graduate School of Governance Studies	5
	Yamaguchi University Graduate School of Economics	5
	Kobe University Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies	2
2. Enhancement of Legal Capacity and Policy Degree Offered : Master of Laws (LL.M.)	Keio University [1 year course] Law School	2
	University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Science and Technology	4
3. Enhancement of Capacity for Urban and Regional Development Planning and Policy Degree Offered : • Master of Environmental Sciences • Master of Engineering • Master of Philosophy • Master of International Cooperation Studies	Yokohama National University Graduate School of Urban Innovation	2
	Hiroshima University (1)GS of Advanced Science and Engineering (2)GS of Humanities and Social Sciences	4
	Kobe University Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies	2
4. Enhancement of Capacity for Policy and Planning of Public Finance, Investment Management and Economic Growth Degree Offered : • Master of Economics • Master of International Studies • Master of Arts in International Development or Economics • Master of Philosophy • Master of International Cooperation Studies • Master of Business Administration	International University of Japan Graduate School of International Relation	2
	Hiroshima University Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences	2
	Total	30

Applicants' Qualifications:

- Bangladeshi nationals having a good command of both written and spoken English
- Below 40 years of age as on April 1, 2021 (Born on/after April 2, 1981)
- Should have 2 years of work experience at the time of application. Applications from Female officers are encouraged.
- Completed 16 years education with at least Bachelor's Degree (no Third Division/Class and at least two First Divisions/Classes or equivalent)

<http://jds-scholarship.org/>

Closing date for Application is 17:00 on 15 October 2020

Application to be submitted to:
JICE JDS Project Office in Bangladesh
Address: L-261, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
Telephone: (02)5502-8008, 912-8008(ext.4261, 4973)(Sunday to Thursday 09:00 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 17:00)

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