

TRUMP'S HIGH-COURT NOMINEE

Pandemic sharpens Senate struggle

AFP, WASHINGTON

While Donald Trump is intent on getting his recent Supreme Court nominee confirmed before the November 3 presidential election, the eruption of Covid-19 into the Senate and the innermost circles of the White House has complicated the calendar.

A week ago, in the midst of his re-election campaign, the president summoned 150 invitees to a pomp-filled ceremony on the White House lawn -- with few masks in evidence -- to announce his nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to fill the now-vacant ninth seat on the US Supreme Court.

Trump is counting on his choice of the conservative judge, who opposes abortion rights, to galvanize voters on the religious right.

If confirmed as expected, Barrett will replace feminist and progressive icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died September 18.

But at least seven participants, including three Republicans, invited in the White House ceremony have since tested positive for the coronavirus, beginning with the president.

Barrett, who may have gained immunity from an earlier bout of Covid-19, has since tested negative.

Their illness complicates matters: the US Constitution charges the upper house of Congress with vetting and confirming a president's judicial appointees.

Republicans control 53 of the 100 seats in the Senate, but two of them -- Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski -- have said they oppose any vote before the election.

If the three ill senators were unable to return soon, their absence could deprive the party of its majority.

Meantime, Democrats are insisting on an in-person vote and demanding that the process be delayed.



US President Donald Trump rides by in the presidential motorcade in front of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he is being treated for the coronavirus disease in Bethesda, Maryland, US on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY

FIR against Nawaz, other leaders filed

DAWN ONLINE

A case was registered yesterday against Pakistan PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and other party leaders at the Shahdara Police Station in Lahore for 'conspiring' against the country and state institutions.

The case was registered by a citizen, Sadar Rasheed, under Section 10 (cyberterrorism) of the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (2016), and sections 120-A (definition of criminal conspiracy), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Pakistan), 123-A (condemning the creation of the country and advocating the abolishment of its sovereignty), 124-A (sedition) and 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) of the Pakistan Penal Code.



The FIR also names party leaders Maryam Nawaz, Rana Sanaullah, Ahsan Iqbal, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Pervez Rashid, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Ataullah Tarar and others that participated in the PML-N's Central Executive Committee and Central Working Committee meetings held last week.

The complainant states that Nawaz has several corruption cases against him that are currently under trial in the courts. "Instead of availing medical treatment in London, Nawaz is carrying out a planned conspiracy to defame the country and its institutions by making inflammatory speeches," says the FIR, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com.

WHO believes 10pc of world has had Covid-19

Mulls speeding up internal reforms

AFP, GENEVA

The WHO estimated yesterday that 10 percent of the world has been infected by the new coronavirus -- way more than has been recorded -- as it mulled speeding up internal reforms.

To date, more than 35 million cases of Covid-19 have been registered worldwide, including some 1.04 million who have died, according to an AFP tally based on official sources.

But the World Health Organization now estimates that around a tenth of the planet's 7.8 billion or so people have already been infected since the virus first surfaced in China late last year -- more than 20 times the official count.

"Our current best estimate tells us that about 10 percent of the global population may have been infected by this virus," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a special meeting of the agency's executive board.

He stressed that infection levels varied "from urban to rural, it varies between

different groups."

"But what it does mean is that the vast majority of the world remains at risk," he warned.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus meanwhile told yesterday's meeting that the pandemic should serve as a "wake-up call for all of us."

"We must all look in the mirror and ask what we can do better," he said.

Tedros pushed back at criticism of the UN agency's handling of the pandemic, insisting it from the start had "worked around the clock to support countries to prepare and respond to this new virus."

Tedros, wearing a black face mask with a colourful pattern on the sides, also vigorously defended the reform process at the organisation over the past three years, but acknowledged it should be sped up.

"We're not on the wrong path. We're on the right path, but we need to go faster," he said. The executive board is meeting for two days this week for only its fifth-ever special session.

Biden campaign aims to keep focus on Covid-19 response

REUTERS, WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's campaign strove on Sunday to keep its focus on the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic, as President Donald Trump received treatment for Covid-19 at a military hospital.

Biden, who shared a debate stage with Trump last Tuesday, tested negative for the coronavirus again on Sunday, following two negative tests on Friday, the day Trump disclosed his Covid-19 infection.

Biden and his wife, Jill, were due to resume in-person campaigning yesterday in Florida, where opinion polls show a tight race for the state's crucial 29 electoral college votes less than a month before the November 3 election.

Biden has repeatedly wished the president a speedy recovery. But the former vice president and his aides have used his Republican rival's positive test to underline a consistent

US PRESIDENTIAL POLLS



campaign message: Biden would handle the pandemic better than Trump.

In a video posted on Twitter, Trump said he had "learned a lot about COVID" during his stay at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center outside Washington.

"I learned it by really going to school -- this is the real school, this isn't the let's read the book school -- and I get it. And I understand it."

Tony Blinken, the Biden campaign's foreign policy adviser, shot back on Twitter that Trump's realizations about Covid-19 were "devastating" at this late stage.

"The time to do that was 200K deaths ago, not when it affected you. We all wish you well but also wish you had done your job. Please do it now," Blinken said.

Trump's campaign has begun describing the 74-year-old president as a "warrior" in messages to supporters that call for donations. On Sunday, Trump briefly rode in a motorcade outside his hospital to wave to supporters, igniting criticism he was putting others at risk.

Trump aides have continued to criticize Biden's cautious approach to the virus.

Jason Miller, a Trump campaign senior adviser, mocked Biden on Sunday for consistently wearing a face mask, telling "This Week" that the 77-year-old Democratic presidential nominee was using masks "as a prop."

W Bengal BJP leader shot dead; party blames TMC

BJP leader Manish Shukla was shot dead on Sunday evening, about 20 km from north Kolkata, when he was speaking with some locals and party workers near a local police station. The BJP had called for a 12-hour bandh (shutdown) in the Barrackpore area yesterday, blaming the ruling Trinamool Congress for the killing. The Trinamool Congress has denied the charge and blamed the incident on an internal feud within the BJP. Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, who condemned the incident in a late night tweet, has summoned the DGP (Director general of police) and home secretary to the Raj Bhavan at 10:00 am.

8 killed in attack targeting Afghan governor

A suicide attack targeting an Afghan provincial governor killed at least eight people yesterday, officials said, as the president travelled to Qatar where peace talks with the Taliban have stalled. Twenty eight people were wounded when the attacker rammed his explosives-filled vehicle into the convoy of Rahmatullah Yarmal, the governor of eastern Laghman province. "The governor was driving to his office when



Political activists hang effigies of rapists to condemn the gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh state, in Mumbai, India yesterday. India's federal investigators took over the probe into the alleged gang-rape and murder of the low-caste woman that has sparked nationwide outrage.

PHOTO: AFP

ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN FIGHTING

Civilian areas attacked, Nato seeks truce

REUTERS, YEREVAN

Armenia and Azerbaijan yesterday accused each other of attacking civilian areas on the ninth day of the deadliest fighting in the South Caucasus region for more than 25 years.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg added his voice to calls for an immediate end to the clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountain enclave that belongs to Azerbaijan under international law but is populated and governed by ethnic Armenians.

But prospects for a ceasefire appeared remote after the fighting intensified over the weekend and following uncompromising comments by Azeri President Ilham Aliyev.

In an address to the nation on Sunday, Aliyev said Azeri forces were advancing and retaking lands that had been in the hands of ethnic Armenians since a war in the 1990s.

He said Armenia must set a timetable for withdrawing from Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding Azeri territories, and that Azerbaijan would not cease military action until that happened. "Azerbaijan has one condition, and that is the liberation of its territories," he said. Aliyev said in an interview with Turkish state broadcaster TRT Haber yesterday that Ankara must be involved in any moves to end the conflict.

Europe's pushback of migrants 'shameful': UN refugee chief

AFP, GENEVA

The UN refugee chief yesterday lambasted countries which close their doors to desperate migrants and Europe's "shameful" refusal to allow migrants stranded at sea to disembark quickly.

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said migrants and refugees around the world were continuing to take dangerous routes towards safety and opportunity.

The solution for their destination countries, Grandi told the opening of the United Nations Refugee Agency's main annual meeting, "cannot be to close the door."

"We cannot allow xenophobic reactions, only meant to draw facile consensus and electoral votes, to shape responses to challenges that are complex, but manageable."

He warned of "the dangerous lines of thinking emerging in some of the world's richest countries -- 'externalising' asylum beyond a country's borders -- violate international law, put the lives of the most

vulnerable in jeopardy and constitute precedents which threaten asylum globally."

In particular, he highlighted the case of 27 migrants stranded in the Mediterranean Sea for nearly 40 days on a Danish freighter before it was finally permitted to dock in Italy earlier this month.

"States failed to live up to their responsibilities. As a European, I find it shameful that it took more than one month to disembark just 27 people."

The Italian stressed that "people will continue to flee unless the root causes of their flight are solved."

"Reducing search and rescue capacity, or impeding those who engage to save others, or pushing back people without due process, will not stop people from moving; it will only lead to more deaths and the further erosion of refugee protection."


Grandi meanwhile welcomed the European Commission's recent proposal for a new Pact on Migration and Asylum.



Wildfires raze dozens of homes in New Zealand

Wildfires have destroyed up to 50 homes in New Zealand, authorities announced yesterday, saying it was a miracle no one was hurt as "a wall of orange" razed most of a remote South Island village. The blaze began in a mountain forest early Sunday morning and, fanned by strong winds, swept through the village of Lake Ohau, forcing residents to flee for their lives. Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) said the unpredictable winds made fighting the fire "challenging" and by yesterday afternoon it had burned 4,600 hectares of land.

SOURCE: AFP, NDTV

বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন		
বিটিএমসি ভবন		
৭-৯, কাগরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।		
সূত্রঃ ২৪.০৩.০০০০.১০১.১৫(৭).১০৬.২০-৮৪		তারিখঃ ০৫.১০.২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ
পুনঃদরপত্র আহ্বান		
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিভিশন	বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	সময়	বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন (বিটিএমসি)।
৩.	প্রকিউরিং এন্টিটির নাম	বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন (বিটিএমসি)।
৪.	কাজের বিবরণ	বিটিএমসি ভবনের ২টি নতুন লিফট পরিচালনা, রক্ষাবেক্ষণ ও মালিক সার্ভিসিং।
৫.	দরপত্র সূত্র ও তারিখ	২৪.০৩.০০০০.১০১.১৫(৭).১০৬.২০-৮৪ তারিখঃ ০৫.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ।
৬.	প্রকিউরমেন্ট মেথড	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
৭.	অর্থের উৎস	নিজস্ব অর্থায়নে।
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফসেরতযোগ্য)।
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	হিসাব বিভাগ, বিটিএমসি, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৩য় তলা), ৭-৯ কাগরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৫.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১৮.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১১-১৩ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	ইনচার্জ, উন্নয়ন বিভাগের অফিস কক্ষ, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৩য় তলা), ৭-৯ কাগরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১৩.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৮.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪.	দরপত্র গ্রহীতাদের যোগাযোগ নিরূপক কাজপ্রক্রিয়া	ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ড্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র, আয়কর সনদপত্র ও ব্যাংক প্রত্যয়ন পত্র। এছাড়া সরকারী / আধা-সরকারী / স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থায় / প্রতিষ্ঠানে অনুরূপ লিফট পরিচালনা, রক্ষাবেক্ষণ, সার্ভিসিং ও ট্রাবল স্যুটিং কাজকরণে কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের বাধার অভিজ্ঞতা। বিস্তারিত শর্ত সিডিউল মোতাবেক।
১৫.	দরপত্র জামানত	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা পে-অর্ডার আকারে 'বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন' এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। জামানত ছাড়া দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
১৬.	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন অর্থবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
 (সাকির আহমেদ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (সম্পাদনায়িত্ব)		