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Covid cases top 40m globally

More European countries impose new curbs; UN to stockpile syringes for vaccine

AGENCIES

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases worldwide passed 40 million yesterday, as fresh measures to combat the spread of the virus came into effect in several European countries.

The latest global milestone came just hours after the number of people who have died from Covid-19 passed 250,000 in Europe, as the pandemic rampages across much of the continent.

Worldwide, the virus has claimed 1,114,860 lives since it first emerged in China late last year. Since then, at least 40,064,580 cases of coronavirus have been registered, of whom at least 27,549,400 are now considered recovered, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 11:00 GMT yesterday.

On Sunday, 4,198 new deaths and 323,553 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were India with 579 new deaths, followed by United States with 509 and Iran with 337.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 219,676 deaths, followed by Brazil with 153,905, India with 114,610, Mexico 86,167 and Britain 43,646.

A raft of European nations including Italy, Switzerland and Belgium took desperate new measures to try to combat a second wave of coronavirus infections.

Many governments are seeking to avoid the full-on lockdowns imposed in the first wave as they battle to keep their economies going but in some countries, people are chafing against the new restrictions on daily life.

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Gas bubbles in open sewer-water in Karwan Bazar. Locals allege that gas has been leaking there for over a year. They informed Titas gas authorities about the leak at different times, but to no avail. The Titas headquarters in only a few buildings away. Recently, a gas leak explosion killed around 30 people in Narayanganj.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE 4,315 women, children suffered in 2 months: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 4,315 women and children in the country became victims of violence during the months of August and September, said a new report of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Of them, 99 percent were victims of domestic violence -- 56 percent of whom were abused by close family members, the report said.

It found that among perpetrators of this violence, 89 were addicts, 72 miscreants, and 53 employers. Political party activists, students, supervisors, and socially powerful people were also among the perpetrators.

MJF interviewed 72,645 people in 174 upazilas of 59 districts over August and September to find out how women and children were faring in the current Covid-19 situation, said a press release sent yesterday.

Of the respondents, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Early voting begins in crucial Florida

28m Americans already cast ballots

AGENCIES

Early voting for the Nov. 3 presidential election began in the crucial battleground state of Florida yesterday as a record 28 million Americans have already cast ballots with barely two weeks remaining in the campaign.

President Donald Trump, running out of time to change the dynamics of a race that polls show him losing, was scheduled to visit Arizona yesterday after holding a rally in Nevada on Sunday and urging his supporters to vote amid signs that Democrats are leading the surge in early voting.

His Democratic challenger Joe Biden, who campaigned in another key state of North Carolina on Sunday, will spend the day at his home base in Delaware, while his running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, heads to Florida to encourage supporters to vote early.

Florida is widely seen as a must-win for Trump, whose path to victory becomes razor-thin if he loses the southern state.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu felicitated



Students of Dhaka Medical College congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his being awarded the Joliot-Curie Peace Medal on October 20, 1972.

October 20, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

STUDENT BODIES GREET BANGABANDHU

Representatives of different hall unions of the Engineering University today call on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to felicitate him on being awarded the Joliot-Curie medal of the World Peace Council. They garland him at the Gono Bhaban. They also hand over to Bangabandhu a memorandum containing their problems and grievances.

A group of students of Dhaka Medical College also calls on the prime minister today to congratulate him.

BHASHANI DEMANDS REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION National Awami Party (Bhashani) Chief Maulana Bhashani says

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Condemned Azhar sued in bomb case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday took cognisance of charges against Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam and 149 others in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka passed the order after scrutinising case dockets and other documents.

The tribunal issued arrest warrants against 14 accused who were mentioned as fugitives in the chargesheet.

The tribunal also directed the officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station to submit the report on execution of arrest warrants by January 20 next year.

On December 30, 2014, International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Azharul, an assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, to death for committing crimes against

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Restaurant reinvents ferris wheel in pandemic



REUTERS, Budapest

Hit by a plunge in turnover after foreign tourists vanished, Michelin-starred Hungarian restaurant Costes has staged a skyline dining event on the Budapest Eye ferris wheel to generate sales in a coronavirus-proof environment.

Costes owner Karoly Gerendai said that turnover at one of his reopened restaurants is down to about a tenth of pre-lockdown levels, forcing him to look for new ways to do business.

"Now that there are not many people either on the wheel or in the restaurant because there are no tourists, the opportunity arose that we could do this," he said of the event at the landmark

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

21 more die, 1,637 infected with Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one people have died from Covid-19 in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services.

With this, the total number of deaths to Covid-19 rose to 5,681, which is 1.46 percent of all confirmed cases in the country since March 8 this year.

In the same period, a total of 1,637 people tested positive for the virus taking the total number of confirmed cases to 3,90,206, added the release.

With this, Bangladesh is currently 17th on the list of worst affected countries in the world in terms of the total number of conformed cases.

The country's position is one step behind Italy and one step ahead of Germany, according to worldometers. info.

The positivity rate of SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Murder case plaintiff 'abducted, tortured'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The plaintiff of a murder case was allegedly abducted on Saturday, tortured overnight and forced to sign on a blank paper in Kurigram's Rowmari upazila.

Sheikh Farid, 23, son of Rafiqul Islam of Jhagrachar area in Showmari union of the upazila, filed the case with Rowmari Police Station following the death of his father.

The perpetrators picked up Farid from Jhagrachar area of the Rowmari-Dhaka highway around 7:30pm on Saturday and confined

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Two buses trying to overtake one another on a narrow bridge to stop and pick up passengers at Amin Bazar. Across the country, buses are often seen locked into such races, risking the lives of people.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MYANMAR'S ACCOUNTABILITY The Netherlands commits to ensuring it

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Netherlands has expressed its strong commitment to ensuring accountability of Myanmar, which is accused of committing genocide against the Rohingyas, at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Dutch Ambassador Harry Verweij handed a letter, written in this regard by their Foreign Minister Stef Blok, to Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen during a call on at the state guesthouse Padma in the capital on Sunday.

It comes just before the Gambia is scheduled to file its full submission of memorial on the Rohingya genocide case to the ICJ, the top UN court headquartered at The Hague.

In a joint statement on September 2, Canada and the Netherlands had made a commitment to providing overall cooperation supporting the Gambia's case against Myanmar at the ICJ.

They also expressed their joint intention to intervene in the matter of The Gambia versus Myanmar, a contentious case alleging violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention).

The case was filed against Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingyas, including mass killings, rapes, and destruction of their homes that forced some 750,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh in 2017.

The Rohingyas, who were denied citizenship in Myanmar since 1982, faced many other basic rights violations and

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:15
JAMAT 5:25	1:15	4:15	5:39	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION