

Pakistan should

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people of this subcontinent." The interviewers were Mazher Ali Khan, acting chief editor, Karachi Dawn and Syed Naziullah, a columnist of the same paper.

Bangabandhu told the Pakistani journalists that Pakistan has "quite unnecessarily and illegally injected bilateral problems into the deliberation of the United Nation in its attempt to block Bangladesh's admission." He also said, "Pakistan is vitiating the climate by its inhuman treatment of Bangalis and forcibly preventing them from returning to their homeland. The climate is also vitiated by the propaganda campaign which is being launched with regards to the political and economic situation in Bangladesh."

Pointing out the quick economic recovery that Bangladesh is making from a state of total devastation and also the political progress that the country was making by adopting a constitution soon and holding an election, the prime minister added, "While we are thus promoting the welfare of our people, we have also brought an equally constructive approach to the solution of the problems of the sub-continent. He asked the Pakistani journalists to apprise the people of their country with the reality so that some of them may "stop living with illusions".

The Pakistani journalists thought that it was a procedural wrangle which was holding back the settlement and asked if this "procedural wrangle was removed what would be the relationship of Pakistan and Bangladesh?" The prime minister in his reply said, "this is here I differ with you. There is no procedural wrangle. There is the simple question of accepting that meaningful negotiations can only be held on the basis of sovereign equality."

Continuing, Bangabandhu said, "Once negotiation starts there is no reason why we cannot settle all our problems and eventually move towards the establishment of friendly relations to the benefit of all the people of the sub-continent."

SOURCES: October 26, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

19 more die

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1,094 new infections were recorded during the same period, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 3,97,507.

Against a total of 10,998 tests in those 24 hours, the positivity rate was 9.95 percent.

With this, the overall positivity rate stands at 17.69 percent.

Meanwhile, 1,498 Covid-19 patients have recovered in those 24 hours.

The total number of recoveries stands at 3,13,563 and the recovery rate at 78.88 percent.

Among the 19 deceased, 17 were males and two were females. All of them died in hospitals.

One was aged between 21 and 30 years, one between 31 and 40, four between 41 and 50, three between 51 and 60, and the rest 10 were above 60 years old, added the release.

Nasa, Nokia

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robots, and streaming high-definition video.

Astronauts will be able to communicate via voice and video as well as exchange biometric data through the wireless communications, Nokia says.

Setting up a lunar network is more challenging than achieving the same task on Earth, but Nokia says that its equipment has been specifically designed to withstand both the difficult conditions of the launch and will continue to operate in space without an atmosphere.

Nokia also expects to upgrade from a 4G to a 5G system in time.

"Leveraging our rich and successful history in space technologies, from pioneering satellite communication to discovering the cosmic microwave background radiation produced by the Big Bang, we are now building the first ever cellular communications network on the Moon", Marcus Weldon, Chief Technology Officer at Nokia, said in a statement.

18 killed in Kabul

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He said the attack had left at least 18 people dead and 57 wounded.

"I was standing about 100 metres from the centre when a big blast knocked me down," said local resident Ali Reza, who had gone to hospital with his cousin who was wounded in the blast.

"Dust and smoke was all around me. All those killed and wounded were students who wanted to enter the centre."

Residents in several districts of western Kabul belong to the minority Shiite Hazara community, often targeted by Sunni extremists of the Islamic State group.

In the past, extremists have targeted several education centres and other facilities in the area.

In May, a group of gunmen launched a brazen daylight attack on a hospital in west Kabul that left several mothers dead. The gunmen were shot dead after hours of fighting with security forces.



Police officers use pepper spray during a rally against measures imposed by the Polish government to stem the spread of the coronavirus disease, in Warsaw, Poland, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Exponential' rise in cases globally

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223,998 deaths, followed by Brazil with 156,471, India with 117,956, Mexico with 88,312 and Britain with 44,571.

In the US, Covid-19 has become a central election issue ahead of a November 3 vote, with President Donald Trump on Friday promising attendees at a Florida rally that "we're going to quickly end this pandemic, this horrible plague."

Meanwhile challenger Joe Biden matched Trump's vow to make a vaccine available for free to all who want it "whether or not you're insured" and said the Republican incumbent has "given up" on controlling the outbreak.

Johns Hopkins University had earlier reported 79,963 new American cases in 24 hours, a new record.

France on Friday followed Spain past the milestone of one million cases, while the government extended

an overnight curfew designed to slow the spread to affect some 46 million people.

"Whatever we do in the coming days and weeks, the toll will grow heavier," Health Minister Olivier Veran told lawmakers.

And after Germany recorded its 10,000th death from the coronavirus, Chancellor Angela Merkel told citizens that "the order of the day is to reduce contacts, to meet as few people as possible" in a weekly video podcast.

In Poland, President Andrzej Duda tested positive for Covid-19, although an aide wrote on Twitter that he was "fine".

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had on Friday warned that "too many countries are seeing an exponential increase in Covid-19 cases and that is now leading to hospitals and intensive care units running close to or above capacity -- and we're still only in October."

"We urge leaders to take immediate action to prevent further unnecessary deaths."

That message was echoed by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), whose director Andrea Ammon warned of a "highly concerning epidemiological situation".

But moves to reintroduce restrictions were met with protest in parts of the continent.

In Naples, hundreds of demonstrators turned out after a call on social media to resist a new curfew in parts of Italy, throwing objects at police and setting rubbish bins on fire.

The country is reeling from its worst post-war recession after a gruelling two-month national lockdown prompted by one of Europe's worst outbreaks, and authorities have so far been reluctant to repeat the drastic quarantine restrictions seen then.

Wales entered a full lockdown on Friday evening, a day after Ireland shut down, while Poland adopted a nationwide "red zone" lockdown mandating the partial closure of primary schools and restaurants.

Only Sweden, which famously refused to lock down earlier this year, continued to stick to its guns despite a rise in cases.

After Spain became the first European country to officially record a million Covid-19 cases earlier in the week, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Friday the real number of infections was likely more than triple that number.

Work has continued on the international quest to find a vaccine for the disease, with clinical trials for one candidate developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University resuming in the United States on Friday, six weeks after a test subject became ill.

Trump casts early ballot in Florida

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But the president's efforts have been inescapably overshadowed by a grim reality seized on by Biden: the US set a daily record for new Covid-19 cases on Friday, at nearly 83,000, with a further surge expected as cold weather arrives.

"President Trump knew the severity of this virus and failed to tell the American people the truth," the former vice president said in a statement yesterday. He said Trump was "unwilling and unable to do the hard work to get it under control."

Biden, who has been more restrained -- and pandemic-conscious -- in his campaigning, planned two drive-in events in Pennsylvania, another key state.

The Biden campaign was also deploying a key surrogate, former president and former Biden boss Barack Obama, to speak later in the day in Miami.

With nearly 55 million people having already cast early ballots, Biden has a firm lead in national

polls, and narrower leads in many battleground states like Florida that typically decide the winner of US presidential elections.

The drama of the final Trump-Biden televised debate on Thursday was thought unlikely to move the needle significantly.

But Democrats are not about to forget the stunning upset Trump pulled off in 2016 when he defeated the favorite Hillary Clinton.

The president's current grueling travels aim to repeat that feat.

On Friday, Trump targeted the politically powerful seniors' vote in Florida, telling a crowd at the retirement community The Villages that all Biden talks about is "Covid, Covid, Covid" to "scare people."

"We're going to quickly end this pandemic, this horrible plague," he said.

In fact, the virus has claimed more than 224,000 American lives, with no end in sight.

Referring to Biden's warning of a

"dark winter" ahead, Trump insisted the country is instead "approaching the light at the end of the tunnel."

He then pivoted to his own scare tactics, claiming that Biden would let in hordes of illegal immigrants including "criminals and rapists and even murderers."

While Biden has waged a lower-key campaign, even the 77-year-old Democrat is ramping up activity in the final stretch.

In his home state of Delaware on Friday, he gave a speech about economic recovery from the pandemic, slamming Trump's record and vowing -- as Trump has -- that he would provide a safe coronavirus vaccine to all who want it.

"We are more than eight months into the crisis and the president still doesn't have a plan," Biden claimed. "He's given up. He quit on you, on your family, on America."

Trump's campaign has been turned upside down by the coronavirus crisis, which a majority

of voters say he has handled poorly.

In addition to the national disaster, Trump's reelection bid has been hampered throughout by his own erratic and often bad tempered behavior.

At Thursday's final televised debate in Nashville, the president pivoted to the more even-keeled leader that aides have long been hoping Americans will see.

But whether this shift from the usually bruising diet of insults, grievances and conspiracy theories will be enough at this point is an open question.

Trump seized during the debate on Biden's vow to "transition" away from the heavily polluting oil industry -- potentially a wounding admission in petroleum-producing states like Pennsylvania and Texas.

But Biden himself scored points by raising questions about Trump's holding of a bank account in China and his failure to publish his tax returns.

Five bodies found

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the police conducted a joint rescue operation and recovered the floating bodies in the morning yesterday.

Thirteen other passengers, including the driver of the speedboat, managed to swim ashore.

A case was filed with the Marine Court yesterday over the incident accusing the driver and the owner of the speedboat.

The five dead are: Mahibullah, 45, a police constable from Jirail village in Barishal's Bakerganj upazila, Md Kabir, 30, a loan officer of ASA, an NGO, Mostafizur Rahman Sujon, 35, inspector at Baherchar branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Md Hasan, 25, a construction worker from Auliapur village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila, and Imran, 25, from Joygora village in Bauphal upazila.

The bodies were handed to the victims' families around noon yesterday.

Banker Mostafizur's body reached his village home in Patuakhali around 1:15pm. His family members, including parents, broke down in tears after the arrival of the body.

He was buried at the family graveyard after Asr prayers.

Constable Mahibullah's namaz-e-janaja was held at Patuakhali Police Lines after Asr prayers. Later, he was buried at a graveyard in his village in Barishal's Bakerganj upazila.

The Patuakhali district administration gave Tk 20,000 and 30-kg rice to each of the victim's families as primary assistance.

US comment

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During his visit, Dhaka expressed its deep concern over no progress on the Rohingya repatriation more than three years after some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017.

To resolve the crisis, Dhaka also sought assistance from the international community that has so far been focused on humanitarian crisis, but not creating real pressure on Myanmar for creating conducive conditions for the Rohingyas' return.

Dhaka, however, welcomed increased trade and investments from the US.

Biegun, at a telephonic press conference on October 20 night on his visit to Dhaka and Delhi, said the US will work closely with Bangladesh and other countries in the region for lasting solution to the Rohingya crisis.

"...we hope that we see the same level of generosity and the same level of clarity in messages to the Government of Myanmar from other partners or other nations in the Indo-Pacific, particularly China," he said.

Biegun also said China unfortunately has done very little to help resolve the Rohingya issue and for whom much more should be expected, considering the proximity to China of this humanitarian catastrophe.

In response to media queries at a press conference in Dhaka on October 15, the US deputy secretary of state had said there were a number of challenges and tensions in the region that alarmed the US and other countries in the Indo-Pacific.

He mentioned the Indo-China tension over the Line of Actual Control in Galwan Valley, tension in Taiwan, repression in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Tibet, and increasing economic hostility towards the people of Australia.

Biegun explained that the IPS is a vision for peace and stability and not directed at any specific country.

He expressed his country's willingness to take into cognisance the South Asian countries as far as IPS is concerned, saying that for long, South Asia has been left out of most Asian strategies where the US participates.

Sharply reacting to the remarks, the Chinese embassy in Dhaka yesterday said it was everybody's expectation that Biegun's visit should focus on Bangladesh-US relationship.

"He, however, had started making groundless accusations against China on October 15 even before he left Bangladesh, with reference to China-India border conflicts, tension in the Taiwan Strait, issues in the South China Sea and the Hong Kong national security legislation, which have nothing to do with Bangladesh," the Chinese embassy said.

Such behaviour is not only a severe breach of diplomatic protocols, but also a huge disrespect for Bangladesh, the host of his visit, a peace-loving nation who believes "friendship to all and malice to none" should be the way to do diplomacy, it said.

Biegun's remarks on October 20 is simply a continuation of such behaviour, using the Rohingya issue, the gravest concern of Bangladesh, to criticise China and promulgate his own bias, the Chinese mission said.

It said since China and the US have plenty of bilateral channels to solve their problems, Biegun should not have dragged any third party in without prior consent.

On October 11, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming expressed frustration over the delay in starting the Rohingya repatriation.

Pandemic halts bullfighting where animal rights activists couldn't

LIMA, Peru

In a matter of months, the novel coronavirus achieved something that animal rights activists failed to do in decades: put a halt to bullfighting in Peru.

The annual *Senor de los Milagros* (lord of the miracles) festival at Lima's Acho Bullring that usually takes place in October or November was cancelled this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The 14,000 capacity Acho Bullring is currently being used to provide shelter for homeless pensioners affected by the pandemic.

"There will be no bulls this year," Rafael Puga, a retired bullfighter who also rears bulls, told AFP.

In 1973, he won the *Senor de los Milagros* festival's top prize, the *Escapulario de Oro*.

It's the first time since the festival began in 1946 that it's been cancelled.

"But it's also the first time that the *San Isidro* festival in Madrid hasn't been held. It's due to a force majeure," sighed Juan Manuel Roca

Rey, who organizes bullfights in the Acho ring and also rears bulls, using a legal term referring to events beyond anyone's control.

Bullfighting -- known as a *corrida* in the Hispanic world -- was brought to the Americas by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century and has since become hugely popular among Peruvians of all social classes.

Peru has more bullfighting arenas than football stadiums.

The Acho arena in the Rimac neighborhood of Lima, built in 1766, is one of the oldest in the world and the oldest in the Americas.

In Peru, "there must be 700 bullfights a year with 2,500 bulls killed," said Puga.

But they have all been banned due to the pandemic that has killed 34,000 people and infected 875,000 in the country.

Football, on the other hand, restarted in August after a five-month hiatus, although without fans.

"The fact that there aren't any bullfights in the provinces is like death for breeders. Some won't be

able to survive because the cattle eat every day," said Rey.

"This doesn't just affect us artists but everyone that works around a bullfight," said bullfighter Fernando Villavicencio, 34.

He said the ban has also affected bullfighter assistants, those who make the heavily-embroidered suits, stable owners of horses used in the corridas and cattle transporters.

In Puga's ranch 140-kilometers northeast of Lima, he has 400 fighting bulls and 140 "mother cows." There's also a small square where novice bullfighters can practice.

"We ranchers now have to live off other businesses. Some have even sent their cattle to the slaughterhouse, that is to reduce their livestock to a minimum to cut costs," said Puga, 72.

Animal rights activists are celebrating though.

"It's good news. There's no reason for the bull festival to go ahead," Luis Berrospi, an activist also campaigning against cockfighting, told AFP.

In February, Peru's top court

rejected a lawsuit brought by animal rights activists hoping to ban cock and bullfighting on the grounds they were unconstitutional.

More than 5,000 people had signed a petition, submitted in 2018, demanding that "all cruel shows using animals" be banned.

But the Constitutional Court ruled that "there is no universal declaration of animal rights that has been adopted by either the UN or UNESCO."

Peru has 199 bullrings, according to official statistics, far more than its 80 football stadiums.

Bullfighting websites claim that twice as many Peruvians pay to watch corridas than professional football.

Tickets for the Acho Bullring also cost more than those for the national football stadium. Last year, a ticket for all five Sunday corridas during the *Senor de los Milagros* festival cost up to \$1,600.

By comparison, the most expensive ticket for all nine of Peru's World Cup qualifying home matches was \$1,200.