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# 'Exponential' rise in cases globally

WHO urges actions now to prevent 'unnecessary deaths'; Europe, US see record Covid infections

AFP, Paris

Grim data highlighted the struggle for authorities around the world to bring the coronavirus pandemic under control Saturday, as the US reported nearly 83,000 infections in a single day, France extended a curfew to two-thirds of citizens and Germany's death toll passed 10,000.

The World Health Organization had earlier warned of an "exponential" rise in infections threatening health systems' ability to cope.

But populations weary of social isolation and economic hardship have pushed back against fresh restrictions to slow the resurgent virus' spread, including overnight clashes in hard-hit Naples between Italian police and hundreds of protesters.

The virus has claimed at least 1,145,847 lives worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT yesterday. At least 42,262,299 cases have been registered across the globe.

On Friday, 6,366 new deaths and 482,954 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were United States with 880 new deaths, followed by India with 650 and Brazil with 571.

The United States is the worst-affected country with  
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The ports in Chattogram becomes busy after four days due to work abstention by workers and bad weather. Inset, food grains being put into sacks inside a vessel for storage in a warehouse. The photos were taken in the port city's Sadarghat area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## ROHINGYA ISSUE US comment on China's role inappropriate

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Beijing has sharply reacted to Washington's recent remarks regarding China's role in resolving the Rohingya crisis, China-India border tensions, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea and the Hong Kong national security legislation.

In a Facebook post on its verified page, the Chinese embassy in Dhaka yesterday said the US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun during a press briefing in Washington on October 20 commented that China "has unfortunately done very little to help resolve the Rohingya issue".

"His claim is inappropriate and not constructive at all," the Chinese embassy said.

Biegun visited Dhaka on October 14-16 after his tour to New Delhi as part of US efforts to advance its Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) at a time when US relations with China is at its lowest in years over trade and coronavirus pandemic.  
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## Stuck Bangladeshis will get new entry permits to Qatar

Says Qatari foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

Yousuf Mohamed Al Othman, foreign affairs minister of Qatar, has assured the Bangladesh envoy of issuing exceptional entry permits to stranded expatriate Bangladeshis in short time.

The minister came up with the assurance in a meeting with Md Jashim Uddin, ambassador of Bangladesh, on Thursday, said a press release.

The envoy requested the minister to take measures about the return of Bangladeshi workers by issuing exceptional entry permits.

He also handed a list of stranded expatriate Bangladeshis to Yousuf Mohamed.

The ambassador lauded the reformation programmes, including the wage protection system, dispute settlement system, initiated by the Qatar authorities. The Qatari minister praised the quality work of Bangladeshi workers.

Jashim Uddin also mentioned the contribution of Bangladeshi workers in the overall advancement of Qatar and discussed different aspects of changing the workers' sponsorship.

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Pakistan should seize historic opportunity: Mujib



A delegation of Bangladesh Communist Party led by Moni Singh calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban on October 25, 1972.

October 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has told two Pakistani journalists who met him recently in Dhaka that Pakistan is hindering progress towards solution to the humanitarian as well as political problems in the sub-continent by deferring recognition of Bangladesh. In written replies to a set of questions submitted by the Pakistani journalists, the prime minister said, "Pakistan should seize the historic opportunity for the settlement of outstanding problems for the well-being of the

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## Five bodies found after speedboat sinking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rescuers recovered the bodies of five people from the Agunmukha river in Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila yesterday morning, about 40 hours after a speedboat carrying 18 passengers, including the five, sank in rough weather.

The speedboat sank in the estuary of seven rivers, including the Agunmukha, Tetulia and Ramnabad, on Thursday evening. The vessel was on its way to Rangabali from Golachipa defying a ban on the operation of all kinds of vessels less than 65-feet long.

The authorities imposed the ban after a depression had formed over the Bay of Bengal, said officials.

Rangabali OC Ali Ahmed said Bangladesh Coast Guard, Fire Service and Civil Defence and

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## Nasa, Nokia to build internet on the moon



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has selected Nokia to build the first mobile phone network on the moon.

Last week, the space agency announced that it had selected 14 agencies to develop technology that would allow for sustainable moon missions by the end of the decade.

Over \$370 million was awarded to a number of companies, with \$14.1 million going to Nokia of America.

The network will provide communication for data transmission, including command and control functions, the remote navigation of lunar

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## 19 more die, 1,094 infected with Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen people have died from Covid-19 in the country in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths has reached at 5,780 which is around 1.45 percent of all confirmed cases.

Besides, a total of  
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### PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 25

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## SUICIDE BOMBING 18 killed in Kabul

AFP, Kabul

A suicide bomber struck near an education centre in the Afghan capital yesterday, killing at least 18 people in the latest attack to rock the conflict-racked country.

Islamic state group in a statement claimed responsibility of the attack.

Violence on the ground has spiked in recent weeks despite the Taliban and the Afghan government holding peace talks in Qatar to end the country's grinding war.

The suicide attack, which also wounded 57, happened late afternoon at the centre, which offers training and courses for students in higher education in a western district of Kabul.

"A suicide bomber wanted to enter the education centre," Tareq Arian, spokesman for the interior ministry, said in a statement.

"But he was identified by the centre's guards after which he detonated his explosives in an alley."

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A canal in Gobindopur Bazar area of the capital's Jatrabari is chocking on garbage of households and markets nearby. People of the area have to endure the bad odour from the dirty water and insects like mosquitoes that breed there. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## US ELECTION 2020

# Trump casts early ballot in Florida

Joins nearly 55m Americans who have already voted; Biden hammers him on Covid

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump cast his vote in Florida yesterday ahead of another punishing day with three campaign rallies as he works to close the gap with Joe Biden and pull off a 2016-style upset win on November 3.

"I voted for a guy named Trump," he said, flashing a smile after removing his black mask upon emerging from a polling station in balmy West Palm Beach, not far from the Mar-a-Lago resort he officially made his home last year.

He thus became one of nearly 55 million Americans to cast early ballots in a year when the coronavirus has made in-person voting problematic.

"It was a very secure vote. Much more secure than when you send in a ballot, I can tell you that," said Trump, who insists without giving evidence that mail-in voting leads to fraud.

Continuing his frenetic pace, the president was to hop-scotch later in the day from North Carolina to Ohio to Wisconsin -- returning to the White House only minutes before midnight -- as he works furiously to make up lost ground.  
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