

Taliban kill 5 Afghan troops

The Taliban yesterday claimed responsibility for a truck bomb in southern Helmand province that killed at least five Afghan security force members, an Afghan official said, adding to weeks of rising violence in the country.

Venezuela foils incursion

Venezuela's leftist government said Sunday it foiled an incursion from the sea, killing eight members of a group of alleged mercenaries bent on "terrorist acts" aimed at overthrowing President Nicolas Maduro.

Top US diplomat for South Asia retires



The acting top US diplomat for South Asia announced her retirement Sunday, as President Donald Trump looks increasingly likely to go a full term without a Senate-confirmed State Department official focused on the subcontinent.

SOURCE: AFP



Traditional Thai dancers wearing protective face shields perform at the Erawan Shrine, which was reopened after the Thai government relaxed measures to combat the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Bangkok, yesterday. Thailand began easing restrictions related to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus on May 3 by allowing various businesses to reopen, but warned that the stricter measures would be re-imposed again.

PHOTO: AFP

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC LATEST UPDATES

MORE THAN 3.5 MILLION CASES

More than 3.5 million cases of the novel coronavirus have been recorded in the world since the epidemic surfaced in China in December, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT.

JAPAN EXTENDS EMERGENCY

Japan's prime minister Shinzo Abe extends a nationwide state of emergency over the pandemic until May 31.

VACCINE DISAGREEMENT

Germany's health minister Jens Spahn says developing a vaccine for the coronavirus could take "years", after US President Donald Trump predicted it could be achieved by the end of 2020.

EQUITIES TUMBLE

Asian markets suffered steep losses, tracking a selloff in New York after Trump sparked fears of a renewed trade war with China over its role in the coronavirus pandemic.

ZERO CASES IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand reported no new cases of the coronavirus yesterday, marking the first time the country recorded zero cases since its outbreak took hold in mid-March.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Europe stirs back to life

AFP, Rome

Millions of Europeans emerged with relief from coronavirus confinement yesterday, with hard-hit Italy leading the way out of the world's longest lockdown.

At least 3.5 million people are now known to have been infected, but US President Donald Trump offered hope for an end to the pandemic, saying he believed there would be a vaccine by year's end.

Around 248,000 people have died since the coronavirus emerged in China late last year and swept across the globe, given wings by the network of air routes that in normal times keep the modern world ticking.

Lockdowns imposed on half of the planet have derailed economies, and politicians are now grappling with how to get the wheels turning again without sparking a second wave of infections.

Italy -- second only to the United States in

its COVID-19 death toll and the first to impose a national lockdown -- was gingerly emerging into the spring sunshine on Monday, with construction sites and factories resuming work.

Restaurants reopened for takeaway orders, but bars and ice cream parlours will remain shut. The use of public transport is being discouraged and everyone will have to wear masks in indoor public spaces.

"We are feeling a mix of joy and fear," 40-year-old Stefano Milano said in Rome.

Italy reported its lowest death toll on Sunday since the first day of the lockdown on March 9 with 174 fatalities, compared with 969 at the peak. In all, 28,884 people have died in Italy.

Many other European countries are also relaxing lockdowns, even as they continue to advocate social distancing, masks and more testing to try to track infections.

Spain made face masks mandatory on public transport starting yesterday, two days after finally

allowing people out to exercise freely after a 48-day lockdown.

Neighbouring Portugal allowed small shops, hair salons and car dealers to resume business from Monday, but ordered face masks to be worn in stores and on public transport.

Slovenia, Poland and Hungary joined Germany in allowing public spaces and businesses to partially reopen.

Meanwhile, Germany's health minister yesterday poured cold water on that optimism, saying vaccines can "take years".

Many parts of Asia have, however, begun to inch towards a post-pandemic life, with schools in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi reopening yesterday after two weeks without new infections anywhere in the country.

Malaysians headed back to work, while Australia and New Zealand discussed creating a "trans-Tasman bubble" that would allow travel between the two countries.



The Christ the Redeemer statue is seen illuminated Sunday wearing a face mask in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The number of confirmed COVID-19 infections in Brazil passed 100,000, including 7,000 deaths. Experts believe the overall number of cases could be 12 to 15 times higher, with little testing among the country's 210 million population.

PHOTO: AFP

US-China crisis deepens

Sanctions, other punitive measures on the cards as report says Beijing concealed severity of coronavirus

AGENCIES

The Chinese government intentionally concealed the severity of the coronavirus from the international community while it stockpiled imports and decreased exports, a Department of Homeland Security report found, according to an administration official familiar with the report.

"China likely cut its exports of medical supplies prior to its January WHO (World Health Organization) notification that COVID-19 is a contagion," the report reads, according to the source.

The report, which assessed export and import data earlier this year, was circulated within the federal government on Friday, the source said. ABC first reported its existence.

Earlier Sunday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stepped up administration claims that China mounted efforts to hide the extent of the coronavirus spread, including concealing the severity while stockpiling medical supplies.

"You've got the facts just about right," Pompeo told ABC's "This Week" when asked if China intentionally stockpiled medical supplies in early January while it concealed the severity of Covid-19. "We can confirm that the Chinese Communist Party did all that it could to make sure that the world didn't learn in a timely fashion about what was taking place."

Pompeo's comments come as the Trump administration is formulating a long-term



Pompeo says 'significant' evidence that virus emerged from Chinese lab

UK says China has questions to answer over outbreak

plan to punish China on multiple fronts for the pandemic, injecting a rancorous new element into a critical relationship already on a steep downward slide.

Multiple sources inside the administration say that there is an appetite to use various tools, including sanctions, canceling US debt obligations and drawing up new trade policies, to make clear to China, and to everyone else, where they feel the responsibility lies.

The US-China clash is brewing amid growing suspicion inside the administration over China's rising strategic challenge and fury that the virus destroyed an economy seen as Trump's passport to a second term.

The president on Thursday contradicted the intelligence community and claimed he has seen evidence that gives him a "high degree of confidence" Covid-19 originated in a laboratory in Wuhan, China, but declined to provide details to back up his assertion.

Asked about the belief expressed by Trump and if he had seen evidence backing that claim, Pompeo said, "There's enormous evidence that that's where this began."

China's Global Times, run by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, said in an editorial responding to Pompeo's Sunday interview that he did not have any evidence the virus came from the lab in Wuhan and that he was "bluffing," calling on the United States to present the evidence.

Migrant workers in Malaysia to undergo tests

REUTERS, KUALA LUMPUR

Migrant workers in Malaysia are now required to be tested for the new coronavirus, a senior minister said, as the government eased six-week long curbs on movement and businesses.

Thousands of Malaysians joined Monday's morning rush hour as businesses resumed for the first time since the imposition on March 18 of restrictions to contain the spread of the virus.

Senior security minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob told reporters foreign workers in all sectors must now undergo mandatory screening for COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus, after an outbreak was reported among migrants working at a Kuala Lumpur construction site last week.

The announcement comes after Malaysia detained hundreds of undocumented migrants over the weekend, sparking criticism from the UN and rights groups. Ismail Sabri had earlier defended the arrests, saying that all of those detained had tested negative for the virus.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
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পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এবং সংশোধিত ২০১০ এর আলোকে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য এম এস আর সামগ্রী (মেডিক্যাল এন্ড সার্জিক্যাল রিকুইজিটস) ক্রয়/সমগ্র্যের নিমিত্তে এম এস আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিভুক্তসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী কর্তৃক সীলপালাকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।