CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

WHO reports 20pc drop in deaths

Ghana gets world's first Covax vaccine doses; EU's vaccine woe continues

AGENCIES

Global deaths from the coronavirus fell by 20 percent last week compared with the week before, the World Health Organization said yesterday— part of a wider trend that also includes a decline in cases worldwide.

In another significant development, Ghana yesterday received the first shipment of Covid-19 vaccines from Covax, a global scheme to procure and distribute inoculations for free, as the world races to contain the pandemic.

According to the WHO, nearly 66,000 global deaths from coronavirus-related complications were reported last week — the third straight week that the figure has fallen. The number of new cases also dropped for the sixth consecutive week, falling by 11 percent, the agency said.

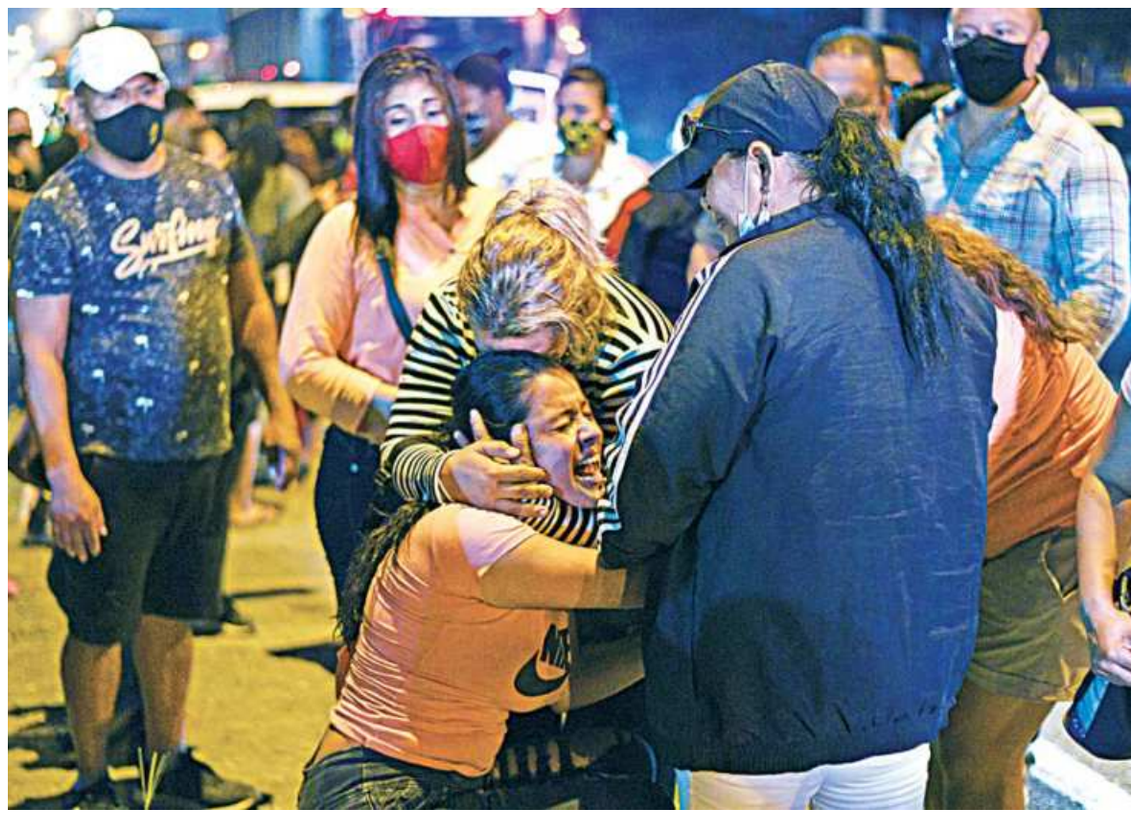
The total number of confirmed coronavirus cases stands at 112 million since the start of the pandemic; more than 2.4 million deaths have been reported worldwide.

Covax, led by Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, the WHO and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), said it would deliver two billion doses to its members by the end of the year.

Unicef said the 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine licensed by the Serum Institute of India are part of an initial tranche of deliveries "headed to several low and middle-income countries."

Meanwhile, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen yesterday insisted that new problems dogging the supply of AstraZeneca's vaccines can be resolved, after the group admitted it could deliver only half the expected amount to the bloc in the second quarter.

"The vaccine manufacturers are our partners in this pandemic and they have also never faced such a challenge," she told the German regional daily Augsburger Allgemeine.



PRISON RIOTS IN ECUADOR

Relatives reacts during prison riots in Guayaquil, Ecuador. At least 75 inmates died Tuesday and several were injured in riots blamed on gang rivalry at three jails in Ecuador's overcrowded prison system, authorities said. The prison authority described fierce fighting between organized gangs. They rely on drug trafficking and operate their criminal enterprises from prison. The military was deployed to help police quell the uprising.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran breaching uranium enrichment rules: IAEA

Iran is producing highly-enriched uranium faster than called for by the law under which it started the process of enriching to 20% fissile purity last month, diplomats and a report by the UN nuclear watchdog said. As part of a recent acceleration of its breaches of its 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, Iran has begun refining uranium to 20% at Fordow, a site that was built in secret inside a mountain where the deal says Iran cannot enrich at all. Until last month Iran had not enriched beyond 4.5% purity - above the deal's limit of 3.67% but still far below the 20% it achieved before the deal, or the 90% that is weapons-grade. Uranium is considered highly enriched as of 20%. "They are producing 15 kg a month of uranium enriched to 20%. That is their production rate," a senior diplomat said.

China targets Uighurs with more prosecutions: HRW

China has dramatically increased its prosecution of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang through the formal court system, handing out long prison terms for dubious charges such as "picking quarrels" and giving gifts to overseas relatives, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. These criminal convictions are in addition to the detention of an estimated one million Uighurs and other mainly Muslim minorities in "political education" camps in Xinjiang, it added. More than 250,000 people in the northwestern region have been formally sentenced and imprisoned since 2016, HRW said. The US State Department has said China's actions in Xinjiang amount to genocide, while Canadian lawmakers on Tuesday passed a similar declaration.

Worse fate than Trump awaits Modi: Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday stepped her attack on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party as the Indian state prepares for high-stake assembly elections due by April. "I will be the goalkeeper during the upcoming Assembly polls and the BJP will not be able to score a single goal," said the firebrand leader addressing a rally in Hoogly. In a vitriolic attack, she accused Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of spreading lies and hatred throughout the country. She said "a fate worse than" that of former US President Donald Trump awaits Modi.

41 migrants feared dead in Mediterranean

At least 41 migrants are feared dead following a weekend shipwreck on the Mediterranean Sea route from Libya to Italy, two United Nations agencies said yesterday. They were among the 120 passengers of a dinghy that left Libya on February 18, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said. The dinghy started taking in water after about 15 hours at sea, and eight people died before a merchant vessel came to help, a joint statement by the groups said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

BID TO RESOLVE POST-COUP MYANMAR CRISIS

Asean pushes diplomacy

Protesters fear 'legitimizing' junta as Indonesia holds talks with both sides

REUTERS

Indonesia is holding intensive talks with both the Myanmar military and representatives of the ousted elected government in a bid to end a crisis over a Feb. 1 military coup, Indonesia's foreign minister said yesterday.

Indonesia has taken the lead within the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) in efforts to resolve Myanmar's turmoil. Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi met Myanmar's military-appointed foreign minister, Wunna Maung Lwin, for talks in the Thai capital earlier on Wednesday.

The Myanmar army seized power after alleging fraud in a Nov. 8 election swept by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), detaining her and much of the party leadership.

Opponents of the coup have staged days of demonstrations in towns and cities across Myanmar and three protesters and one policeman have been killed in violence.

The Indonesian effort to resolve the crisis has raised suspicion among Myanmar democracy activists who fear dealing with the junta would confer legitimacy on it and its bid to scrap the November election.

They insist the election result should be respected.

Retno, speaking to reporters in Bangkok, said the wellbeing of the people of Myanmar was the number one priority.

"We ask for everybody to use restraint and not resort to violence ... to avoid casualties and bloodshed," Retno said after her talks with the Myanmar minister and her Thai counterpart, Don Pramudwinai.

Retno said she had "intensive" communications with both sides, including ousted lawmakers from the parliament, known as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Members of the lawmakers' group, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), were not immediately available for comment.

A Reuters report this week cited sources as saying Indonesia was proposing that Asean members send monitors to ensure the generals stick to their promise of fair new elections. That added to suspicion among some pro-democracy activists that Indonesia's intervention would undermine their demand that last year's election must stand.

The crisis has restored Myanmar's reputation as the problem member of the 10-country Asean and the diplomatic scramble by its neighbours comes as wider international concern is growing.

The Group of Seven (G7) rich nations on Tuesday condemned intimidation and oppression of those opposing the coup. The United States, Britain and others have imposed limited sanctions, aimed at members of the junta and military businesses.

China has traditionally taken a softer line on Myanmar as have Asean neighbours.

Nepal PM won't quit despite court defeat

REUTERS, *Kathmandu*

Nepal's embattled prime minister, KP Sharma Oli, will not resign but let parliament decide his fate instead, an aide said yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court rejected his decision to dissolve the legislature and call early elections.

The Himalayan nation has been in political turmoil since December, when Oli suddenly dissolved parliament and announced the elections, citing a lack of cooperation on key policy issues by leaders of a rival faction of his ruling party.

Oli, 69, has begun meeting allies in the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to review the situation after the court held parliament's abrupt dissolution unconstitutional and ordered it to be called into session before March 8.

"The prime minister will not resign now. There is no question about that," Surya Thapa, the aide, told Reuters.

"He will face parliament," Thapa added.

Thousands of people opposing Oli waved red and white flags bearing the Communist hammer and sickle as they took to the streets in the capital, Kathmandu, for a rally to celebrate the court decision and press the prime minister to resign.

"Oli should pack up his bags and go to Balkot," said 25-year-old Purna Khadka, a protester whose face was painted in the colours of the party flag, referring to the site of the prime minister's home.

Members of the anti-Oli faction said they rejected his autocratic style of functioning and the latest court order proved his inability to govern.

Lawmakers opposed to the prime minister are holding talks to decide their next move, said Narayan Kaji Shrestha, a senior NCP leader.

Analysts said a power struggle was imminent among Nepal's Communist leaders and uncertainty could last for weeks.

China court orders man to pay ex-wife for housework

AFP, *Beijing*

A Chinese man has been ordered to pay his ex-wife almost $8,000 for years of unpaid housework, in a landmark divorce case that has sparked furious debate in China.

Under the country's new civil code, which came into effect this year, divorcing spouses have the right for the first time to request compensation if they bore more responsibilities at home.

Ex-wife Wang told the Beijing court that during five years of marriage she "looked after the child and managed household chores, while (her husband) Chen did not care about or participate in any other household affairs besides going to work".

She filed a claim for extra compensation for housework and childcare duties, according to a February 4 court statement.

The court ruled that Wang had indeed taken on more household responsibilities and should receive 50,000 yuan ($7,700) plus sole child custody and an additional 2,000 yuan in alimony per month.

The news gained over 570 million views on Weibo by yesterday. "A full-time nanny could cost more than this for half a year, are women's youth and feelings this cheap?" read a comment.

A trucker, not drug dealer

FROM PAGE 12

The officials did not give any further details of the deceased.

Later, Lt Col Ashique, director (legal and media wing) of Rab, said, "A team of Rab-10 raided Swapnadhara area acting on information that a group of drug peddlers would gather there."

"During the raid, the criminals started shooting at the Rab men, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate by firing back. At one point of the gunfight, the gang members left. The Rab men then found a critically wounded man at the spot," he said.

He claimed that two Rab members were also injured and took primary treatment. He, however, did not mention the nature of the injuries and the names of the "injured".

Rab also claimed to have recovered a gun, three bullets and 32 yaba pills from the spot.

Lt Col Ashique said officials were trying to identify the man through his finger print.

"Shafiq was not a drug peddler. He had been traceless since the accident," said Manik.

Later, a case was filed over the "gunfight" with South Keraniganj police station.

Contacted, Istiaq Ashfaq Rasel, inspector (investigation) of the police station, told The Daily Star yesterday that they learnt the identity of the deceased and that they were working to find out what his profession was.

"We are investigating the case," he said.

Asked about the "gunfight" with Rab, he declined to make any comments.

Talking to this daily last evening, Rab-10 Commanding Officer Mahfuzur Rahman said the body had been identified.

"As far as I know, he was the driver of the truck [which ran over and killed the Rab man]," he said, without going into details.

Rab claimed the truck was carrying cannabis.

The deceased Rab man -- Idris Molla, 28, a constable of Bangladesh Police -- was deputed to the elite force in May 2019.

Ran said a team of Rab-1 set up a checkpoint in Gazipur's Porabari area around 5:30am on February 14 on information that a consignment of 30kgs cannabis was being transported to Mymensingh.

At one point of the search, the truck crossed the checkpoint refusing to follow Rab's signal to stop, sped up and tried to flee. Constable Idris and Deputy Assistant Director Golam Mostafa started chasing the truck on a motorcycle, added Rab officials.

The "drug peddlers" then attempted to kill the Rab members, throwing a sack of cannabis at their moving motorcycle from the truck.

The Rab men, however, remained unhurt and pillion rider Mostafa got down and seized the sack.

Idris then alone continued the chase. As he drove past the truck and tried to intercept its way near Coca-Cola factory in Mymensingh's Bhaluka, the truck ran him over and fled.

Idris died on the spot, Rab officials said.

Law enforcers later seized the truck from Bhaluka, but the driver and others in it escaped, they added.

Relatives claimed that Shafiq had actually given another man, carrying a sack, a lift. The man told Shafiq that there were vegetables inside the sack, the relatives said, quoting some witnesses.

Shafiq's truck stopped at a checkpost when all of a sudden someone inside the truck shouted "run".

Frightened, Shafiq started driving and "accidentally" hit a motorcycle, they claimed, without naming the witnesses.

The Daily Star could not verify this claim.

Md Mainuddin, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station, said a murder case was filed with the police station after the incident. "We are investigating it," he added.

Dogs came to North America

FROM PAGE 12

settlement.

A new study led by the University at Buffalo analysed the mitochondrial DNA of a bone fragment found in Southeast Alaska.

The team initially thought the fragment belonged to a bear.

But closer examination revealed it to be part of a femur of a dog that lived in the region around 10,150 years ago, and that shared a genetic lineage with American dogs that lived before the arrival of European breeds.

"Because dogs are a proxy for human occupation, our data help provide not only a timing but also a location for the entry of dogs and people into the Americas," said Charlotte Lindqvist, an evolutionary biologist from the University at Buffalo and the University of South Dakota.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়
প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা ।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর: ৩৫ /২০২১

তারিখ: ১০ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৭ / ২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০২১

জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ 'এসিস্ট্যান্ট এক্সিকিউটিভ অফিসার (এইও-টেলর)' এর ২০১৫ সাল ভিত্তিক ৫৩৬টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগ প্রসঙ্গে।

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ 'এসিস্ট্যান্ট এক্সিকিউটিভ অফিসার (এইও-টেলর)' -এর ২০১৫ সাল ভিত্তিক ৫৩৬টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বিগত ০১ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০ তারিখে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর-৮৫/২০২০ এর প্রেক্ষিতে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের সমন্বয়ে প্রণীত তালিকা হতে নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সরকারী নির্দেশনা অনুসরণপূর্বক নিম্নবর্ণিত ৫৩৬ জন প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচন করা হয়েছে :

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নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সকল কার্যক্রম সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হবে।

বি: দ্র : প্রকাশিত ফলাফল সংশোধনের অধিকার বিএসসিএস সংরক্ষণ করে।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
(মো: কাওছার মতিন)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (চলতি দায়িত্ব)
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

ডিসিপি ঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৭১৮
তারিখ ঃ ২৪/০২/২০২১

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