

WORLD

UK PM in intensive care, given oxygen support

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the prime minister is still running the government

● **Trump said that he had tapped two US drug companies to liaise with Johnson's office about the prime minister's care**

● **Johnson's pregnant 32-year-old fiancée, Carrie Symonds, also had symptoms**

Reuters | London



played coronavirus symptoms. Before being rushed to intensive care, Johnson had said he was in good spirits and Raab had told a news conference that the prime minister was still running the government, although Raab also said he had not spoken to him directly since Saturday. Raab, the son of a Czech-born Jewish refugee who fled the Nazis in 1938, takes the helm at a pivotal time. Government scientists see the death toll rising until at least April 12 and Britain must ultimately decide when to lift the lockdown. "The government's business will continue," said Raab, a staunch Brexit supporter who has served as foreign

minister for less than a year. Johnson has faced criticism for initially approving a much more modest response to the coronavirus outbreak than other major European leaders, though he then imposed a lockdown as projections showed half a million people could die. He tested positive for the virus on March 26. After 10 days of isolation in an apartment at Downing Street, he was admitted to hospital. He was last seen in a video message posted on Twitter on

Friday when he looked weary. James Gill, a doctor and a clinical lecturer at Warwick Medical School, said the news of Johnson's admission to intensive care was "worrying" but not completely out of line with other people suffering complications. "Admission to ITU is worrying news, (but) this is not altogether uncommon with this disease, and may be looked at from a positive that the PM is getting the very best care that the NHS (Britain's state-run National Health Service) has to offer."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was stable in intensive care yesterday after receiving oxygen support to help him battle COVID-19, while his foreign minister led the government's response to the accelerating outbreak.

Johnson, 55, was admitted to St Thomas' Hospital across the River Thames from the House of Commons late on Sunday after suffering persistent coronavirus symptoms, including a high temperature and a cough, for more than 10 days.

But his condition rapidly deteriorated over the next 24 hours, and he was moved on Monday to an intensive care unit, where the most serious cases are treated, in case he needed to be put on a ventilator. He was still conscious, his office said.

"He is receiving standard oxygen treatment and breathing without any other assistance," Johnson's spokesman, who traditionally speaks without his name being published, told reporters.

"The prime minister has been stable overnight and remains in good spirits," the spokesman said. "He has not required mechanical ventilation, or non-invasive respiratory support."

While Britain has no formal succession plan should a prime minister become incapacitated, Johnson asked Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, 46, to deputise for him "where necessary", Downing Street said.

Who leads?

Raab yesterday chaired the government's COVID-19 emergency response meeting, though ministers refused to say who had ultimate control over the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons - a role held by the prime minister.

"There are well-developed protocols which are in place," said Gove, who himself went into self-isolation on Tuesday after a family member dis-

Americans are praying for Johnson: Trump

Reuters | Washington

President Donald Trump said that he was saddened to hear that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had been moved to an intensive care unit after his coronavirus symptoms worsened and that Americans were praying for his recovery. "I also want to send best wishes to a very good friend of mine, a



friend to our nation, Prime Minister Boris Johnson. We were very saddened to hear that he was taken into intensive care this afternoon," the president told a White House news conference. "Americans are all praying for his recovery. He's been a really good friend. He's been really something very special - strong, resolute, doesn't quit, doesn't give up," Trump said.



But when you get brought into intensive care, that gets very, very serious with this particular disease. So, the two companies are there. And with what they are talking about, and it is rather complex, and has had really incredible results. We are working with the FDA and everybody else, but we are working with London with respect to Boris Johnson

DONALD TRUMP



A general view of police officers outside the St Thomas' Hospital after Johnson was moved to intensive care



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab is Johnson's de facto deputy

Carrie Symonds is banned from being at Boris Johnson's side

London

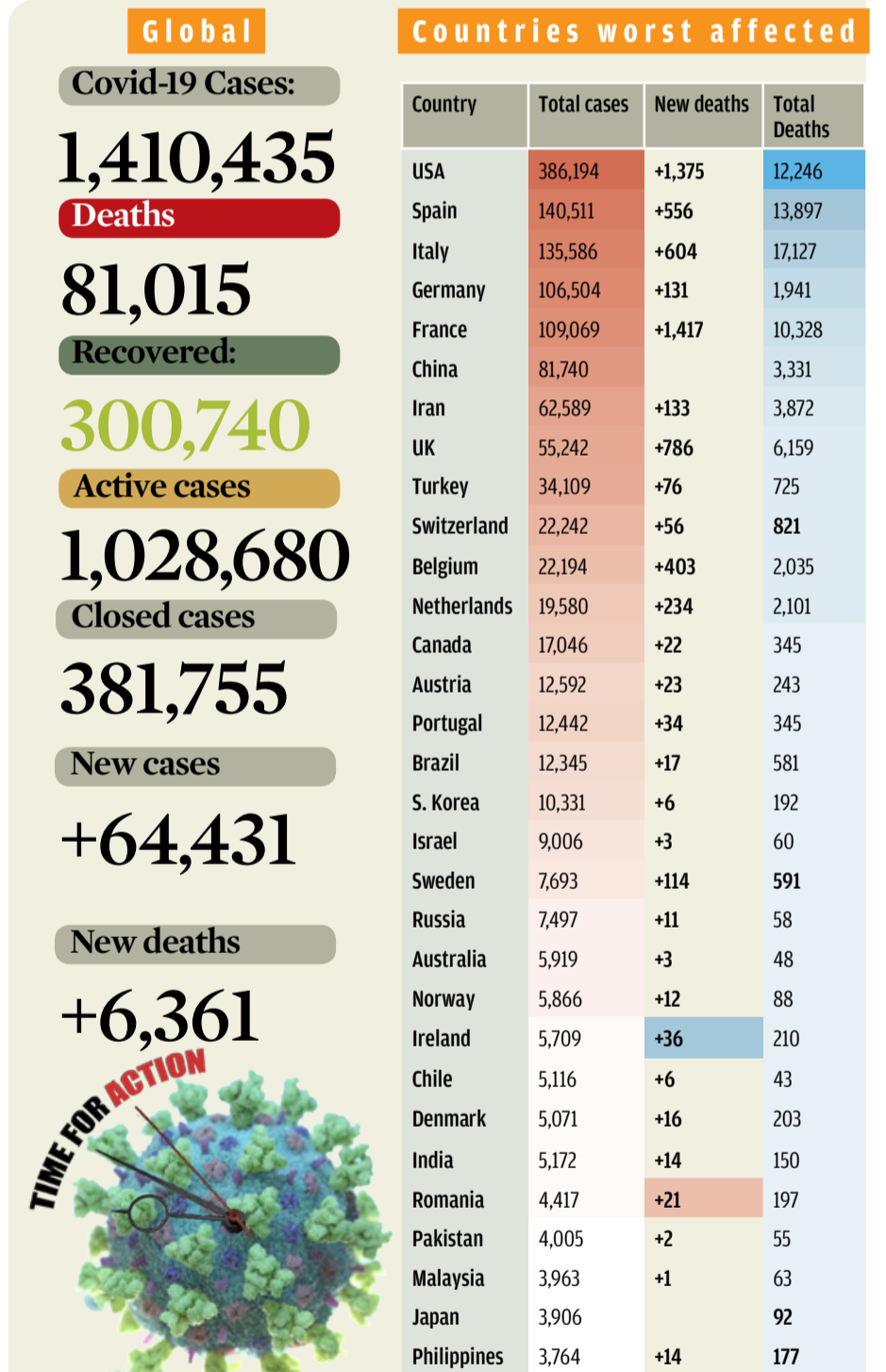
Carrie Symonds, Boris Johnson's heavily pregnant fiancée, is barred from seeing the prime minister as he battles coronavirus in intensive care, said a *Daily Mail* report. The couple have not seen each other for a fortnight after Johnson, 55, first fell ill on March 27 and Symonds, 32, have come down with similar symptoms over the weekend.

On March 27 - the day Boris tested positive for coronavirus - Carrie shared a photograph of herself self-isolating with their dog Dilyn at the Camberwell house she bought with Johnson last year.

Last week she is understood to have moved to stay with her mother Josephine McAfee in East Sheen, south-west London, more than seven miles from her



Carrie Symonds is self isolating with the couple's rescue dog Dilyn (Courtesy of Daily Mail) partner's intensive care bed in St Thomas' Hospital.



Middle East Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Bahrain	811	+55	4		458	349	4	477
Saudi Arabia	2,795	+190	41	+3	615	2,139	41	80
UAE	2,076		11		167	1,898	1	210
Kuwait	743	+78	1		105	637	23	174
Oman	371	+40	2		67	302	3	73
Jordan	349		6		126	217	5	34
Iraq	1,122	+91	65	+1	373	684		28
Egypt	1,322		85		259	978		13