

More than 50 prisoners starve to death in east Congo prison

● The Bunia prison operates at nearly 500pc of capacity

Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo

Fifty-two inmates at a prison in the northeastern Congo city of Bunia have starved to death this year because of insufficient government funding, the United Nations and local authorities said.

The Democratic Republic of Congo's jails are among the world's most overcrowded, according to the UN, with inmates living in squalid conditions on meagre rations. The Bunia prison operates at nearly 500% of capacity, UN figures show.

"This situation is really worrying," said Bunia mayor Ferdinand Fimbo, blaming sporadic government support for malnutrition in the prison. President Felix Tshisekedi told his cabinet this month he would personally ensure prisons across the country did not run out of food or medicine.

But the head of the Bunia prison, Camille Zonzi, was quoted in a report by the UN peacekeeping force in Congo as saying that the government had still only promised at a meeting last week to cover three months of the prison's expenses.

Malnutrition is common in jails because food portions are allotted based on nominal capacity, rather than real populations.

India doubles budget for border roads, bridges

● Troops of the two countries are locked in their most serious face-offs for years

● India and China

Reuters | New Delhi

India has doubled the budget for vital roads and bridges along the un-demarcated border with China in recent years in response to Beijing's rapid infrastructure development on its side, the Indian defence minister said yesterday.

Troops of the two countries are locked in their most serious face-offs for years along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) or informal border in the western Himalayas, raising fears of a broader conflict.

One of the reasons for the tensions has been India's recent construction of roads and airfields near the border in the Ladakh region bordering Tibet, the Chinese side has said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told parliament that China had been building up its infrastructure in the remote mountains for decades and the government was trying to close the gap.

"Our government too has stepped up the budget for border infrastructure development to about double the previous levels. As a result, more roads and bridges have been completed in the border areas," he said. He provided no figure.

Military officials say the



An Indian Central Reserve Police Force personnel stands guard at a checkpoint along a highway leading to Ladakh, at Gagangeer



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DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH

development of roads and airfields on both sides of the border has also helped troops mobilise quickly in large numbers and in close proximity at some points in the Ladakh area.

Singh said Indian and Chinese troops have had face-offs on the unsettled border in the past, but the scale of deployment of troops and the number of disputed areas was much more than the past.

"As of now, the Chinese side has mobilized a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas," he said, listing Gogra, Kongka La and the north and south banks of the Pangong lake as "friction points."

"In response to China's actions, our armed forces have also made appropriate counter deployments in these areas to ensure that India's security interests are fully protected," he said to thumping of desks in parliament.

News in brief

Bipartisan US lawmakers to unveil \$1.5 trln COVID-19 aid bill



◆ A group of 50 Democratic and Republican members of Congress are due to unveil a \$1.5 trillion

bipartisan coronavirus relief

legislation yesterday, in an election year effort to break a month-long impasse in COVID-19 talks between the White House and top Democrats. The Problem Solvers Caucus, which includes members of both parties in the House of Representatives, was set to outline the legislative package at an 11 a.m. (1500 GMT) press conference at the US Capitol.

◆ Britain's testing system for COVID-19 was creaking on Tuesday as a bottleneck prevented people including medics

UK's creaking COVID-19 test system puts health services at risk

from getting a test in a potential threat to key health services, health sector organisations said.



Attempts to get a COVID-19 test on Tuesday were greeted with a notice on the government's website saying: "This service is currently very busy. More tests should be available later."

◆ Millions of students in Pakistan returned to classes yesterday after a break of six months, as schools and colleges



Pakistani students back in school after more than six months

begin to reopen for the first time since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. Educational institutes were closed in March as the coronavirus began to spread in Pakistan, but, with daily infection numbers falling, the government last week announced a staggered resumption of classes. Senior schools were the first to restart, with middle school set to go back next week and primary school the week after.

◆ Germany to take in around 1,500 migrants from Greek islands Germany wants to take in about 1,500 migrants stranded on Greek islands after a fire destroyed an overcrowded camp, government sources said on Tuesday, in a gesture of solidarity with its fellow European Union member state.

The decision by Chancellor Angela Merkel follows a rise in opinion polls by her conservative party, at the expense of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, after what is widely seen as her steady handling of the coronavirus crisis.

◆ Australia recorded zero new coronavirus deaths for the first time in two months yesterday, as a slowdown in new cases allowed a crippling lockdown in its second-biggest city to be eased. Just 50 fresh virus cases were reported nationwide -- down from peaks above 700 in late July and early August -- while no fatalities were registered for the first time since July 13, according to an AFP tally.



Navalny says 'able to breathe' unaided after suspected poisoning

AFP News

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said yesterday he was able to breathe unaided, in his first public comments after his alleged poisoning in Siberia last month.

"Hello, this is Navalny," he said in a post on Instagram, appearing with his wife Yulia and two children in the Berlin hospital where he was flown for treatment after falling ill.

Wearing a hospital gown, he looked gaunt and barely smiled while his wife next to him beamed.

"Yesterday I was able to breathe on my own all day," he said in his first social media post since he was poisoned with what Germany says was a Novichok nerve agent.

"I really liked it. It's an amazing process and underestimated by many. I recommend it," he joked, telling followers, "I miss



Wearing a hospital gown, he looked gaunt and barely smiled while his wife next to him beamed.

Yesterday I was able to breathe on my own all day. I really liked it. It's an amazing process and underestimated by many. I recommend it

ALEXEI NAVALNY

you".

The 44-year-old lawyer and outspoken Kremlin critic fell ill on a flight from the Siberian city of Tomsk to Moscow after a trip to support opposition candidates in local elections.



Global

Covid-19 Cases:

29,528,057

Deaths

934,230

Recovered:

21,349,379

New cases

+91,510

New deaths

+1,784

Middle East

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths
1 USA	6,754,131	+4,842	199,224	+224
2 India	4,963,097	+36,183	81,168	+360
3 Brazil	4,349,544		132,117	
4 Russia	1,073,849	+5,529	18,785	+150
5 Peru	733,860		30,812	
6 Colombia	721,892		23,123	
7 Mexico	671,716	+3,335	71,049	+228
8 South Africa	650,749		15,499	
9 Spain	593,730		29,848	
10 Argentina	565,446		11,710	+43
11 Chile	437,983	+1,536	12,040	+27
12 Iran	407,353	+2,705	23,453	+140
13 France	387,252		30,950	
14 UK	374,228	+3,105	41,664	+27

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	101,177		5,661		84,969	10,547	41	985
Saudi Arabia	326,930	+672	4,338	+33	305,022	17,570	1,286	9,361
UAE	80,940	+674	401	+2	70,635	9,904		8,164
Kuwait	96,301	+829	568	+5	86,219	9,514	84	22,482
Oman	90,660	+438	797	+7	84,113	5,750	184	17,664
Qatar	122,214	+239	208	+1	119,144	2,862	55	43,527