

US deaths near 200,000

- England warned is on course for about 50,000 coronavirus cases a day by mid-October
- The restrictions in Madrid will last for two weeks
- The United States remains the hardest-hit nation in the world



A mask-clad Palestinian worker disinfects supermarket carts

AFP News

Million people in and around the Spanish capital on Monday were under a new lockdown to contain another coronavirus surge, as the US death toll neared 200,000.

Top British advisors meanwhile warned that England was on course for about 50,000 coronavirus cases a day by mid-October and a rising death toll unless the public got serious about preventive action.

The global death toll stood at 961,531 at 1100 GMT on Monday, according to an AFP tally based

on official statistics, with more than 31 million infections.

The restrictions in Madrid will last for two weeks, affecting people living mainly in densely populated, low-income neighbourhoods who will be allowed only to travel for essential reasons such as work, medical care or taking children to school.

Police cars stopped vehicles at random on a main avenue in Puente de Vallecas, a working class neighbourhood in southern Madrid, to check if people had a valid reason to leave the area.

Most accepted the measures with resignation but some complained that the restrictions were not imposed across the affected region.

"You can't close one part of a neighbourhood and not another one, one street yes, and one street no. So, either you close everything, which will be catastrophic, or you close nothing," said Alejandro Campos, a 30-year-old travel agent.

"But first, I think that we should do something with the metro, for example. Here in Puente de Vallecas we have one of the most crowded stations in Madrid," he said.

But Gustavo Ojeda, 56, said "something had to be done" because of the new outbreaks.

Authorities in Spain -- among the worst-hit nations in the world -- have insisted the step is necessary because virus cases in those districts were much higher

than the national average.

African migrants were meanwhile still arriving en masse in Spain's Canary Islands.

Since January, more than 5,100 migrants have made the perilous crossing from the African coast, an increase of 500 percent from the same period in 2019.

In India, infections are surging with tens of thousands of new cases being reported every day.

In poorer, crisis-hit parts of the world, the pandemic has piled on even more suffering.

In Iraq tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims participated in the annual mourning ceremonies of Ashura despite the government urging citizens to not attend large gatherings.

'The pand-Emmys'

The United States remains the hardest-hit nation in the world, with more than 6.8 million cases and deaths approaching 200,000 people.

The pandemic has badly damaged the world's biggest economy, with millions left jobless, and President Donald Trump facing intense criticism of his handling of the virus.

The biggest TV awards show in America -- the Emmys ceremony -- was held in a mostly empty venue in Los Angeles on Sunday -- with host Jimmy Kimmel dubbing them "the pand-Emmys".

On a brighter note, New



People attend a demonstration at the Vallecas neighborhood in Madrid to protest new restrictive measures announced by regional authorities



The Emmys ceremony was held in a mostly empty venue in Los Angeles -- with host Jimmy Kimmel dubbing them "the pand-Emmys"



This combination photo shows tourists visiting the Taj Mahal on September 21, 2020 (top) and (bottom) a large crowd of tourists on October 20, 2018

Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern moved most of the country to its lowest virus alert setting on Monday, saying it was edging towards eliminating Covid-19.

The Pacific nation has recorded just 25 deaths in a population of five million and has been widely praised for its virus response.

News in brief

Trump says will nominate Supreme Court replacement at end of week



◆ **President Donald Trump said yesterday he will nominate a replacement for the late Ruth Bader**

Ginsburg on the Supreme Court at the end of this week and insisted that the Senate should vote before the coming election. "I will announce it either Friday or Saturday and then the work begins, but hopefully it won't be too much work," Trump told Fox News. He said he wants to wait until after memorial services are over.

◆ **A "People's Plaque" installed by protesters near Bangkok's Royal Palace was "planted in the hearts of the Thai people",** activists said Monday, vowing its removal marked only the beginning of their battle to reform the monarchy. Some 30,000 demonstrators turned out over the

Thais vow to fight after 'people's plaque' removed



weekend, the largest show of force since near-daily student-led rallies began two months ago. The most symbolic action was the installation of a "People's Plaque" -- a brass plater the size of a manhole cover -- in historic Sanam Luang park near Bangkok's Grand Palace, meant to replicate one installed decades ago that mysteriously vanished two years ago. By Monday the new plaque had also vanished, with police later telling reporters they had removed it to "use as evidence".



Greece says it's close to resuming maritime talks with Turkey

◆ **Greece is close to resuming talks with Turkey over maritime zones, government spokesman Stelios Petsas said on Monday,**

after Ankara this month recalled an oil and gas exploration vessel from disputed Mediterranean waters in a move welcomed by Athens. NATO members Turkey and Greece bitterly disagree over maritime jurisdiction and energy exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean. Turkey infuriated Greece last month when it sent the Oruc Reis seismic survey vessel to the area.

◆ **China ramped up its rhetoric over Taiwan on Monday, describing any support for its independence as "doomed to fail", and threatened retaliation**



against US diplomatic visits to the island. Taiwan has been ruled separately from China since the end of a civil war in 1949, but Beijing considers the island part of its territory awaiting reunification. The island is a flashpoint with Washington, which promises military support to the elected government and has sent two envoys to Taipei in as many months.

◆ **At least twenty-five whales have died and scientists are trying to rescue 250 more that are stranded in a remote bay on the Australian island of Tasmania, officials said yesterday.** Tasmania's environment department said the whales had become stuck on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbour, on the island's rugged and sparsely populated west coast. Mass whale strandings occur relatively often in Tasmania.



In Iraq tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims participated in the annual mourning ceremonies of Ashura despite the government urging citizens to not attend large gatherings.



Navalny says was sent naked!

Navalny tells Russia to return the clothes he was wearing

Reuters | Moscow

Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny told Russia yesterday to hand over the clothes he was wearing when he fell into a coma last month and accused Moscow of withholding an important piece of evidence in his case.

The outspoken opponent of President Vladimir Putin said his clothes were taken away from him before he was flown to Germany for treatment from Siberia after he fell violently ill on a domestic flight.

Germany says tests in three countries have determined he was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent and the West has demanded an explanation from Russia.

Moscow has said it is yet to see evidence of a crime and has declined to open an investigation. The Kremlin has denied any involvement.

"Before they allowed for me to be taken to Germany, they took off all my clothes and sent me completely naked," Navalny wrote on his website.

"Considering Novichok was found on my body, and that infection through contact is very likely, my clothes are a very important piece of evidence," he said.

"I demand that my clothes be carefully packed in a plastic bag and returned to me," he said.

Russia has said it needs to see more evidence



Russian opposition politician Navalny and his wife Navalnaya pose for a picture at Charite hospital in Berlin

before a formal criminal investigation is opened into the Navalny case and has asked Germany to hand over Navalny's medical data so it can be reviewed.

Instead, Russia has opened a pre-investigation probe into the case.

"The 30 days of 'pre-investigation probe' were used to hide this important evidence," Navalny said.

Global		Countries worst affected			
Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	
USA	7,014,816	+10,048	204,208	+90	
India	5,523,917	+38,305	88,345	+436	
Brazil	4,547,150	+2,521	136,997	+102	
Russia	1,109,595	+6,196	19,489	+71	
Peru	768,895		31,369		
Colombia	765,076		24,208		
Mexico	697,663	+3,542	73,493	+235	
South Africa	661,211		15,953		
Spain	659,334		30,495		
Argentina	631,365		13,053		
France	452,763		31,285		
Chile	447,468	+1,194	12,298	+12	
Iran	425,481	+3,341	24,478	+177	
UK	398,625	+4,368	41,788	+11	

Middle East								
Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	102,015		5,770		89,532	6,713	41	993
Saudi Arabia	330,246	+492	4,512	+27	311,499	14,235	1,133	9,454
UAE	85,595	+679	405	+1	75,086	10,104		8,631
Kuwait	99,964	+530	585	+1	90,930	8,449	93	23,332
Oman	94,051	+576	853	+7	85,781	7,417	180	18,318
Qatar	123,604	+228	211	+1	120,540	2,853	62	44,022

Figures as of closing