

News in brief

◆ **Pfizer Inc expects to deliver more than 13 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine per week to the United States by the middle of March, more than doubling its shipments from early February, a top Pfizer executive said in prepared testimony ahead of a Tuesday congressional hearing.** Pfizer is on track to deliver 120 million doses of its two-dose regimen by the end of March, said John Young, Pfizer's chief business officer. Pfizer is also prepared to provide a total of 300 million shots to the United States by the end of July and has raised global production expectations for 2021 to at least 2 billion doses, he said.



Pfizer to ship 13 million COVID-19 vaccine doses per week to US

◆ **Strict coronavirus restrictions imposed by North Korea could force the World Food Programme to suspend operations in the country, where chronic malnutrition is rife, a report on the UN organisation's website said Tuesday.** The impoverished country -- which is under international sanctions over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes -- has long struggled to feed itself, suffering chronic food shortages. The World Food Programme (WFP) has by far the largest international aid operation in the country and provides specialised foods to around a million pregnant women, nursing mothers and children every month, according to its website.

UN World Food Programme warns could suspend work in N. Korea



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◆ **Ten orangutans have been released back into the wild in the Indonesian portion of Borneo island, with helicopters used to ferry the critically endangered great apes deep into the forest from rehabilitation centres.** The Bornean orangutans that had all been in captivity before their rescue included Nenuah, a 19-year-old female who was repatriated from Thailand, according to the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF). In total, five males, a mother with two babies, and two other females were released with assistance from Indonesian conservation agencies.



Ten rescued orangutans returned to the wild in Indonesia

◆ **Iran expressed hope yesterday that South Korea and Japan would agree to release about \$1 billion of Iranian funds frozen in the two countries because of U.S. sanctions, but South Korea said it still needed to discuss the matter with the United States.** Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei said central bank governor Abdolnaser Hemmati had reached preliminary agreements with the ambassadors of Japan and South Korea on the fund releases.

Iran says it hopes South Korea, Japan will release \$1 billion in blocked funds

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	28,833,194	513,051
2 India	11,022,582	156,553
3 Brazil	10,197,531	247,276
4 Russia	4,189,153	84,047
5 UK	4,126,150	120,757
6 France	3,609,827	84,613
7 Spain	3,153,971	67,636
8 Italy	2,818,863	95,992
9 Turkey	2,646,526	28,138
10 Germany	2,400,848	68,875
11 Colombia	2,229,663	58,974
12 Argentina	2,069,751	51,359
13 Mexico	2,043,632	180,536
14 Poland	1,648,962	42,436

Global tally

112,391,323

Deaths

2,488,421

Recovered:

87,903,076

New cases

+124,910

New deaths

+3,445

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	New cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	178,774		10,404		138,183	30,187
Saudi Arabia	375,668	+335	6,470	+4	366,735	2,463
UAE	375,535	+3,005	1,145	+5	366,567	7,823
Kuwait	184,989		1,049		173,182	10,758
Oman	139,989	+297	1,557	+2	131,143	7,289
Qatar	161,344	+455	257		151,225	9,862

Azerbaijan demands Justice for Khojaly

SHAHIN ABDULLAYEV



29 years passed since the Khojaly genocide, one of the bloodiest chapters of Azerbaijan's history. Events in Khojaly town in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, on the night of February 25-26, 1992, was one of the worst tragedies of the 20th century.

Apart from the strategic objectives, Armenian aggressors wanted to destroy Khojaly as a settlement that reflects the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijani population. Armenian armed forces and mercenary units gave no qualms about the people of Khojaly, who had not managed to leave the city. Official figures prove that as a result of the genocidal act in Khojaly 613 people were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly. As a result of the massacre, 8 families were completely annihilated, 56 people were tortured to death, 27 families had only one surviving member, 25 children lost both parents, 130 children lost one parent, 230 families lost the breadwinner, 487 people became disabled, including 76 minors, 1,275 people were taken hostage, 1,165 people were released from captivity, fate of 150 people is still unknown.

The massacre in Khojaly was nothing less than criminal ethnic cleansing, a precursor of other similar crimes. The lawyers of the international organisation Human Rights Watch have classified the tragedy in Khojaly as a "massacre", and the bloodbath among the civilian population as a war crime. The Khojaly massacre matters because those civilians were in the process of fleeing their homes when they were killed. They had been warned of the consequence of staying, and they had been offered a safe corridor out. However, that promised safe passage turned into the killing fields of Khojaly.

It also matters because of the manner of the deaths of those 613. The fact that this was the biggest death toll in any one day of the conflict is obviously important, but it was the hideous nature of the attacks which made Khojaly the symbol of the more than thirty thousand people, who died between 1988 and 1994.

The Khojaly massacre matters most of all because the man who proudly boasted about the 'strategic' significance of this brutal attack, later become the President of Armenia. As reported by the British scholar and writer, Thomas de Waal in his acclaimed book Black Garden on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, the current Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, who was at the time one of the commanders of the ethnic Armenian forces, said: "Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that we were joking with them, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]. And that's what happened."

The Khojaly massacre and other war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by Armenia in the course of the aggression against Azerbaijan constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian law, in particular Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture, Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and so on.

The important role in international recognition of the Khojaly tragedy as the genocide, was played by the "Justice for Khojaly" international campaign. In order to bring the truth about the Khojaly genocide to the world community and to secure political and legal assessment to this bloody crime internationally Ms. Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, initiated on 8 May 2008 the International Awareness Campaign under the motto of "Justice for Khojaly". To date, more than 120,000 people and 115 organizations have joined this campaign, which functions successfully in dozens of countries. As result of efforts to increase the international awareness of the Khojaly genocide, more than 15 countries, as well as executive and legislative bodies of more than 20 US states, adopted a number of resolutions and declarations on condemning in strongest terms the massacre of civilian population in Khojaly and recognizing the tragedy of Khojaly as an act of genocide and crime against humanity.

Reports, photos and footage taken by Western journalists, such as Anatol Lieven (The Times) and Thomas Goltz (Washington Post) at the scene of the massacre, shed light on this war crime. Those killed were subjected to atrocities unimaginable in a civilized society. Coverage of Khojaly massacre by the renowned international media like The Washington Times, The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The Guardian, The Independent newspapers, Time and Newsweek magazines constitute testimony to those bloody days.

By telling the world the truth about Khojaly the Azerbaijani state does not intend to inculcate hostile sentiments against the Armenian people. They want the world community to know those criminals, who were representatives of the Armenian people and stayed in power for a long time. The Azerbaijani people want to convey the essence of the acts committed by them, so that such bloody tragedies will not recur. They demand, Justice for Khojaly.

Today, the souls of martyrs of the Khojaly Genocide have found peace. As under the leadership of the Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief, the brave Army of Azerbaijan liberated our territories from occupation, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is restored.

Independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan will be strengthened, and those who question these supreme principles forming the basis of statehood, and those who promote the revanchist ideas, will be faced with proper response, and all necessary steps will be taken to bring to justice those responsible for various crimes against the People and State of Azerbaijan.



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