

News in brief

S Korea finds no link between flu shot, boy's death as toll rises



◆ South Korea's forensic agency has found no links between a 17-year-old boy's death and a flu shot he had taken, the Yonhap news agency reported, amid rising concerns about the safety of the vaccines following the death of at least 32 people. The boy was among the first reported to have died as part of a government campaign to vaccinate about 30 million of a population of 52 million to prevent coronavirus complications.

◆ Alessandra Korap of the Mundurucu tribe

Brazilian indigenous leader wins Robert Kennedy rights award

in the Amazon was awarded the 2020 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights prize for her work defending the rights, ancestral lands and culture of indigenous people in Brazil. "This prize is not for me alone, it is for all of Brazil's indigenous peoples that are crying out for help," the 36-year-old said in a telephone interview. "It has strengthened our cause. We will cry out louder," she said.



Ivory Coast death toll rises to 11 after pre-election clashes



◆ At least 11 people died in intercommunal clashes in an Ivory Coast port town this week as tensions rise before an October election with President Alassane Ouattara seeking a contested third term. The killings in and around Dabou, west of Abidjan, have fuelled worries Ivory Coast may again slide into the kind of post-election violence that left 3,000 dead in a 2010-2011 crisis. Local officials had reported at least seven dead and 40 others injured this week, but said that toll had increased.

◆ Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan confirmed that Turkey had been testing the S-400 air defence systems that it bought from Russia and said US objections on the issue did not matter.

Erdogan says Turkey tested Russian S-400s

Washington says Ankara's purchase of the Russian systems compromises NATO defences, and has threatened sanctions. An apparent firing test of S-400s test last week prompted a furious response from the US State Department and the Pentagon.



US teen charged over child porn researched killing Biden: court

◆ A 19-year-old man charged with possession of child pornography and arrested over a van-load of weapons had conducted internet searches related to killing Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, according to court documents. Alexander Hillel Treisman was arrested in May after a search of his abandoned white Ford van in Kannapolis, North Carolina revealed several weapons including an AR-15 style semi-automatic rifle, and a canister of explosive material.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	8,699,988	228,814	42,340,697
2	India	7,810,405	117,908	
3	Brazil	5,332,634	155,996	Deaths
4	Russia	1,480,646	25,525	
5	Spain	1,110,372	34,752	1,146,805
6	Argentina	1,053,650	27,957	
7	France	1,041,075	34,508	Recovered:
8	Colombia	990,270	29,636	
9	Peru	879,876	33,984	31,341,802
10	Mexico	874,171	87,894	
11	UK	830,998	44,571	New cases
12	South Africa	710,515	18,843	
13	Iran	556,891	31,985	+371,494
14	Chile	498,906	13,844	
				New deaths
				+4,638

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	106,060		6,166		98,624	1,270
Saudi Arabia	344,157	+383	5,264	+14	330,578	8,315
UAE	122,273	+1,563	475	+1	115,068	6,730
Kuwait	120,232	+812	740	+10	111,440	8,052
Oman	111,837		1,147		97,949	12,741
Qatar	130,711	+249	229	+1	127,599	2,883

Sudan to normalise ties with Israel, Trump says

US President Donald Trump announces that Sudan and Israel have agreed to the normalisation of relations

● Trump sealed the agreement in a phone call with leaders of Sudan and Israel

Reuters | Washington

Israel and Sudan agreed yesterday to take steps to normalise relations in a deal brokered with the help of the United States, making Khartoum the third Arab government to set aside hostilities with Israel in the last two months.

US President Donald Trump, seeking re-election on Nov. 3, sealed the agreement in a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and Transitional Council Head Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, senior US officials



US President Donald Trump speaks about the agreement in the Oval Office

said.

Trump's decision this week to remove Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism paved the way for the accord with Israel, marking a foreign policy achievement for the Republican president as he seeks a second term trailing in opinion

polls behind Democratic rival Joe Biden.

"The leaders agreed to the normalization of relations between Sudan and Israel and to end the state of belligerence between their nations," according to a joint statement issued by the three countries.

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Israel and Sudan plan to begin by opening economic and trade relations, with an initial focus on agriculture, the joint statement said. A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said such issues as formal establishment of diplomatic ties would be resolved later.

Egypt upgrades visitor experience at Giza pyramids site

Reuters | London

Egypt has unveiled new visitor facilities on the plateau outside Cairo where the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Great Sphinx are situated, the country's most visited heritage site and the sole remaining wonder of the ancient world.

Developers opened a new restaurant, "9 Pyramids Lounge", which covers an area of 1,341 square meters and overlooks the Giza pyramids. There will also be a fleet of new environmentally-friendly buses to



guide tourists around the plateau.

"One of the problems always faced is that people say there are no special services for tourists, that there is no cafeteria, no restaurant, nothing that can be offered to visitors," an official said.

cial said.

The new facilities are all easily taken part and reassembled so as to protect the antiquities and the official said the open-air restaurant offered "a panorama view that cannot be matched anywhere in the world."

Tourism accounts for up to 15pc of Egypt's national output. However, officials have said previously the sector is losing around \$1 billion each month after largely shutting down for several months from March due to the spread of coronavirus.

US drone strike kills 14 jihadists in NW Syria

AFP | Washington

The US Army said it carried out a drone strike against Al-Qaeda leaders in northwest Syria near the border, killing 14 jihadists, according to a war monitor.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (OSDH) said the victims included five foreigners and six commanders.

Pompeo steps up efforts to end Nagorno-Karabakh fighting

Reuters | Washington

Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces clashed in several parts of Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday, as the United States stepped up diplomatic efforts to try to end the deadliest fighting in the mountain enclave for over a quarter of a century.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met separately with the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia in a new attempt to end nearly a month of bloodshed in which Russian President Vladimir Putin said 5,000 people may have been killed.

The collapse of two Russia-brokered ceasefires has dimmed hopes of a quick end to fighting that broke out on Sept. 27 over Nagorno-Karabakh, a breakaway territory which is within Azerbaijan but is controlled by ethnic Armenians.

A handful of protesters from both sides, holding Armenian and Azeri flags and banners, chanted outside the State Department yesterday.



Mike Pompeo meets with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov

Both ministers held separate meetings with Pompeo that lasted around 30 to 40 minutes. Asked how his talks went, Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan told reporters: "Very good" as he exited the State Department, and added that work on a ceasefire would

continue.

World powers want to prevent a wider war that draws in Turkey, which has voiced strong support for Azerbaijan, and Russia, which has a defense pact with Armenia.

Shortly before the Washington talks were due to start, Turkish President Tayyip Er-

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Two Russia-brokered ceasefires have collapsed since fighting broke out on September 27 over the territory, which is within Azerbaijan but is controlled by ethnic Armenians

dogan told reporters in Istanbul that he hoped Moscow and Ankara could work together on resolving the conflict.

Reiterating demands for a Turkish role in mediation which has long been led by the United States, Russia and France, he said: "Turkey believes it has just as much right as Russia to be involved here for peace."