

## News in brief

### New Zealand's Ardern set to declare climate emergency



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's government is to declare a climate emergency in a symbolic step to increase pressure for action to combat global warming. The government will put forward a motion to declare the emergency next Wednesday, the government said as parliament reconvened after a general election won by Ardern's party. "We've always considered climate change to be a huge threat to our region, and it is something we must take immediate action on," Ardern said.

### Australia has issued termination notices to at least 10 special forces soldiers after the release of a report that found credible evidence of unlawful killings in Afghanistan, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) said.

An independent report published last week in redacted form said there was evidence that 39 unarmed Afghan prisoners and civilians were killed by 19 Australian soldiers.

### Australia to dismiss at least 10 soldiers over Afghan killings



### South Korea sex abuse group leader jailed for 40 years



The mastermind of a notorious online sex abuse ring was jailed for 40 years in South Korea. Cho Ju-bin, a 25-year-old college graduate, ran a group that blackmailed women and girls, including minors, into filming and sending sexual content. This was then posted in pay-to-view chatrooms on messaging app Telegram. Cho was in charge of the group from last May to February this year, blackmailing 74 people, 16 of whom were underage.

### A mass trial of more than 120 Cambodian opposition figures kicked off in Phnom Penh, amid UN concerns the proceedings were politically motivated and violated due process.

The case is linked to attempts by exiled opposition figurehead Sam Rainsy to return to Cambodia last year from France, where he has lived since 2015 to avoid jail for convictions that he says are bogus.

### Cambodia begins mass trial of 120 opposition figures



### Zimbabwe mine shaft collapse leaves dozens trapped

At least 40 informal miners in Zimbabwe have been trapped underground after a shaft in a disused gold mine collapsed, the country's miners' federation. The incident occurred late Wednesday in the town of Bindura, around 70 kilometres (43 miles) north of the capital Harare, said Wellington Takavarasha, head of the Zimbabwe Miners Federation. Takavarasha said the miners were working inside the disused Ran Gold Mine when a shaft caved in. Six miners have since been pulled from the rubble and taken to hospital.

## COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	13,197,307	268,949
2 India	9,308,751	135,734
3 Brazil	6,170,827	170,832
4 Russia	2,187,990	38,062
5 France	2,183,660	50,957
6 Spain	1,622,632	44,037
7 UK	1,574,562	57,031
8 Italy	1,509,875	52,850
9 Argentina	1,390,388	37,714
10 Colombia	1,270,991	35,860
11 Mexico	1,070,487	103,597
12 Germany	987,124	15,425
13 Peru	954,459	35,727
14 Poland	941,112	15,568

### Global tally

61,126,556

### Deaths

1,433,866

### Recovered:

42,292,144

### New cases

+385,213

### New deaths

+7,870

Figures as of closing

## Middle East

Country	Total cases	New cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	114,107		6,585		102,201	5,321
Saudi Arabia	356,389	+322	5,840	+15	345,215	5,334
UAE	163,967	+1,305	564	+1	151,870	11,533
Kuwait	141,547	+330	872	+1	134,750	5,925
Oman	122,579		1,391		113,856	7,332
Qatar	138,066	+215	237		135,198	2,631

# Jaishankar assures Indians in UAE of Government's responsiveness on post-Covid normalcy

The visit to UAE is seen as important as it comes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the world

● The minister interacted virtually with the members of the Indian community

PTI | Abu Dhabi

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday interacted virtually with the members of the Indian community in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and assured them of the government's responsiveness on issues pertaining to post-COVID normalcy.

Jaishankar is currently visiting the UAE. He arrived here on Wednesday night on the second leg of his six-day three-nation tour to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Seychelles, which began on Tuesday.

The visit is seen as important as it comes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the world.

'Welcomed the interaction with members of the Indian community in Abu Dhabi,' Jaishankar said in a tweet.

'Appreciated their stepping forward to work with the Embassy @IndembAbuDhabi to meet the



S Jaishankar during his meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

COVID challenge. Assured them of Government's responsiveness on issues pertaining to post-COVID normalcy,' he wrote.

Indian Ambassador to the UAE Pavan Kapoor expressed his gratitude to Jaishankar for interacting with the Indian community.

'Thank EAM @DrSJaishankar for listening carefully to the concerns and achievements of the Indian community in Abu Dhabi,' he said in a tweet.

The coronavirus has infected over 163,000 people and claimed 563 lives in the UAE.

More than 3 million Indians live and work in the UAE, the MEA had said in a statement before the

commencement of the minister's visit.

According to the website of the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Indian expatriate community of approximately 30.4 lakh is reportedly the largest ethnic community in the UAE, constituting roughly about 30 per cent of the country's population.

Among the Indian states, Kerala is the most represented, followed by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. However, Indians from the northern states, all put together, also form a significant portion of the UAE Indian population, it noted.

During his meeting with Abu

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During his meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Jaishankar discussed advancing India's strategic cooperation in the post-COVID era and exchanged views on important regional and international matters

Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Jaishankar discussed advancing India's strategic cooperation in the post-COVID era and exchanged views on important regional and international matters.

The Indian government has organised several flights under the Vande Bharat mission, allowing thousands of Indian expatriates to leave the UAE amidst the pandemic.

## China's largest wholesale market suspends sales, storage of frozen goods as COVID precaution

Reuters | Beijing

China's biggest wholesale food market has suspended the sale and storage of chilled and frozen meat and seafood as the government ramps up inspections of cold-chain goods after several new cases of coronavirus infections.



Xinfadi market in Beijing

The Xinfadi market in Beijing, which was at the centre of an outbreak of COVID-19 cases in the Chinese capital in June, has disposed of products and disinfected over a hundred cold storage units and shut down their power, Beijing News has reported.

Although Beijing has had no recent locally transmitted infections

involving the market or cold-chain food products, the move comes after several handlers of imported frozen food in the cities of Qingdao and Tianjin contracted the virus in recent months.

Tianjin is some 132 kilometres south of Beijing while Qingdao is 550 kilometres south of the capital.

## Sudan's former PM Sadiq al-Mahdi dies from coronavirus in UAE

Reuters | Khartoum

Leading Sudanese politician and former prime minister Sadiq al-Mahdi died from a coronavirus infection three weeks after being hospitalised in the United Arab Emirates, according to family sources and a party statement early yesterday.

Mahdi, 84, was Sudan's last democratically elected prime minister and was overthrown in 1989 in the military coup that brought former president Omar al-Bashir to power.

The moderate Umma Party was one of the largest opposition parties under Bashir, and Mahdi remained an influential figure even after Bashir was toppled in April 2019.

## Pandemic or not, people must stay active: WHO

AFP | London

The coronavirus pandemic is no excuse for not getting enough exercise, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, warning that even before the crisis many were getting too little physical activity.

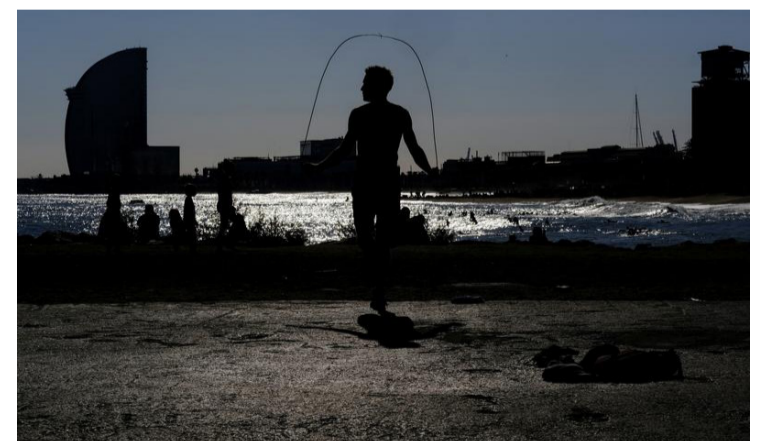
In an update of its physical activity guidelines, the UN health agency stressed that exercise was vital to physical and mental health, while sedentary behaviour can have serious repercussions.

"WHO urges everyone to continue to stay active through the Covid-19 pandemic," the agency's head of health promotion Ruediger Krech told reporters.

"If we do not remain active, we run the risk of creating another pandemic of ill-health as a result of sedentary behaviour."

There are still no clear statistics on what impact the pandemic has had on physical activity, but lockdowns, movement restrictions, gym closures and other measures have clearly forced many people to stay home and have disrupted regular activities and exercise routines.

This is worrying considering



A man skips rope as he exercises at Barceloneta beach

**150**  
150 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week is vital for well-being and mental health in the COVID-19 era

sions for global health. The WHO estimates that pushing more people to get off the sofa or office chair to move about more could avert up to five million deaths each year.

"Being physically active is critical for health and well-being -- it can help to add years to life, and life to years," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

"Every move counts." Regular physical activity is key to preventing and helping to manage heart disease, type-2 diabetes, and cancer.

that even before the crisis, data shows the vast majority of young people and many adults were not active enough, with dire reper-