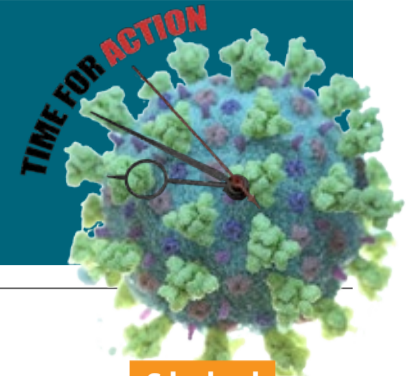


world



Saudi expands partial lockdown

● **Entry and exit bans in place on Jeddah**

● **Oman halts passenger flights**

● **UAE announces virus-related fines**

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi Arabia halted entry and exit into Jeddah governorate yesterday while hundreds of German tourists were repatriated from the United Arab Emirates.

The Gulf Arab region has taken drastic measures to try to combat the disease.

Oman, where a suspension of international passenger flights went into force yesterday, documented 15 more infections and Kuwait reported 20 new cases, taking the total in the six Gulf Arab states to over 3,100, with 11 deaths.

Saudi Arabia, which has the highest tally at over 1,200, imposed entry and exit bans on Jeddah, after doing so for Riyadh, Mecca and Medina last week, state news SPA reported. The kingdom late on Saturday extended indefinitely its suspension of international passenger flights and a bar on workplace attendance in both public and private sectors.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have imposed partial curfews and the UAE has put in place an overnight curfew until April 5 under a nationwide campaign to sterilise streets and public venues.

UAE Attorney-General Hamad Saif Al Shamsi issued a statement detailing coronavirus-related fines, including 50,000 dirhams (\$13,613) for non-compliance with home quarantine orders and 3,000 dirhams for

Saudi death toll doubles to eight

Reuters | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia recorded four new fatalities from the coronavirus, bringing its death toll to eight, the health ministry spokesman told a news conference yesterday.

The kingdom has also registered 96 new infections, taking its total to 1,299, the highest among the Gulf Arab states.

individuals violating curfew.

The UAE, the region's tourism and business hub, has also halted passenger flights at its main airports, except for evacuation trips. Kuwait has done the same.

The UAE emirate of Ras Al Khaimah said late on Saturday that hundreds of German tourists had been repatriated from its airport.

Qatar Airways, one of the few airlines maintaining scheduled commercial passenger services, will continue to fly, Chief Executive Akbar al-Baker said, but warned the carrier could soon run out of cash and seek state support.

Global

Covid-19 Cases:

702,998

Deaths

33,205

Recovered:

149,219

Active cases

520,574

Closed cases

182,424

Contingency plan



Medical vehicles to be used as field hospital, are seen at the parking of the King Fahad Medical City, amid fear of the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19), in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Modi seeks 'forgiveness' from India's poor over coronavirus lockdown

Reuters | Mumbai

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the nation's poor for forgiveness yesterday, as the economic and human toll from his 21-day nationwide lockdown deepens and criticism mounts about a lack of adequate planning ahead of the decision.

Modi announced a three week-lockdown on Tuesday to curb the spread of coronavirus. But the decision has stung millions of India's poor, leaving many hungry and forcing jobless migrant labourers to flee cities and walk hundreds of kilometres to their native villages.

"I would firstly like to seek forgiveness from all my countrymen," Modi said in a nationwide radio address.

The poor "would definitely be thinking what kind of prime minister is this, who has put us into so much trouble," he said, urging people to understand there was no other option.

"Steps taken so far... will give India victory over corona," he added.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in India rose to 979 on Sunday, with 25 deaths.

The government announced a \$22.6 billion economic stim-



A child wearing a mask waits to receive free food being distributed by Delhi government in a school



Migrant workers walk towards a bus station in Ghaziabad

ulus plan on Thursday to provide direct cash transfers and food handouts to India's poor.

In an opinion piece published yesterday, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo - two of the three winners of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2019 - said even more aid for the poor is needed.

"Without that, the demand crisis will snowball into an economic avalanche, and people will have no choice but to defy orders," they wrote in the Indian Express.

World's largest glove maker sees shortage



An epidemiologist holds gloves

Reuters | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's Top Glove Corporation Bhd, which makes one in every five gloves globally, expects a product shortage as demand from Europe and the United States spikes.

The company has extended shipping times to cope with the demand surge, Executive Chairman Lim Wee Chai said.

Lim said orders received in the past few weeks, mainly from Europe and the United States, were almost double the company's production capacity. Top Glove can produce 200 million natural and synthetic rubber gloves a day.

"Some customers panic order; normally they order 10 containers a month but now they suddenly increase to 20 containers," he said.

"Definitely there is a shortage. They order 100% more, we can only increase 20% so there is a shortage of about 50% to 80%," he said.

Things to get worse before they get better: UK's Johnson

Reuters | London

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is warning Britons in a letter to 30 million households that things will get worse before they get better, as he himself self-isolates in Downing Street to recover from the coronavirus.

Britain has reported 17,089 confirmed cases of the disease and 1,019 deaths and the peak of the epidemic in the country is expected to come in a few weeks.

In the letter to be delivered to homes, Johnson urges people to stick with the lockdown measures that his government has imposed to try to prevent the state National Health Service from being overwhelmed by a surge of cases.

"We know things will



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

get worse before they get better," Johnson writes. "At this moment of national emergency, I urge you, please, to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives."

Senior minister Michael Gove said yesterday the government is "very concerned" about the death toll.

He also said the country has boosted the amount of testing for the virus.

"The number of tests being carried out has hit 10,000 a day. We want to increase that to 25,000 a day."

Record virus deaths in Spain

Madrid

Spain broke another national record of daily coronavirus deaths yesterday as more than 40 per cent of the world's population was asked to say home in hopes of halting the deadly march of a disease that has claimed more than

32,000 lives. Worst-hit Italy and Spain, which together account for more than half of the world's deaths, are clinging to hope that they are nearing the peak of the crisis.

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Bahrain	499	+23	4		272	223	1	293
Saudi Arabia	1,299	+96	8	+4	66	1,225	12	37
UAE	570	+102	2		58	510	2	58
Kuwait	255	+20			67	188	12	60
Oman	167	+15			23	144		33
Jordan	246		1		18	227		24
Iraq	547	+41	42		143	362		14
Egypt	576		36		121	419		6

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
USA	131,833	+123	2,344
Italy	97,689	+756	10,779
China	81,439	+5	3,300
Spain	78,799	+624	6,606
Germany	60,887	+49	482
Iran	38,309	+123	2,640
France	37,575		2,314
UK	19,522	+209	1,228
Switzerland	14,829	+36	300
Netherlands	10,923	+132	772
Belgium	10,836	+78	431
S. Korea	9,583	+8	152
Turkey	9,217	+23	131
Austria	8,711	+18	86
Portugal	5,962	+19	119
Canada	5,886	+3	63
Australia	3,980	+2	16
Brazil	3,904	+3	117
Sweden	3,719	+5	121
Malaysia	2,470	+8	35
Japan	1,693		52
Russia	1,534	+4	8
Pakistan	1,526	+2	14
Philippines	1,418	+3	71
Thailand	1,388	+1	7
Indonesia	1,285	+12	114
India	1,024	+3	27
Afghanistan	120		4
Sri Lanka	117		1
Palestine	108		1
Bangladesh	48		5
Nepal	5		0