

1 m deaths 'a very sad milestone', but virus suppressable: WHO

AFP News

The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday that one million deaths from COVID-19 was "a very sad milestone", after many victims suffered "a terribly difficult and lonely death" and their families were unable to say goodbye.

The global coronavirus death toll rose past a million on Tuesday, according to a Reuters tally, a grim statistic in a pandemic that has devastated the global economy, overloaded health systems and changed the way people live.

"So many people have lost so many people and haven't had the chance to say goodbye. Many people who died died alone... It's a terribly difficult and lonely death," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told a U.N. briefing in Geneva. "The one positive thing about this virus is it is suppressable, it is not the flu."

Pompeo says violence must stop in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict



Pompeo visits Greece

Reuters | Athens

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged Armenia and Azerbaijan yesterday to cease hostilities as clashes continued over the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Pompeo said during a visit to Crete that he had discussed the clashes in talks earlier with Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias.

"The foreign minister and I addressed the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh where both sides need to stop the violence and work with the Minsk Group co-chairs and return to substantive negotiations as quickly as possible," he said.

Greece-Turkey

Pompeo also urged NATO allies Greece and Turkey on Tuesday to press ahead with talks to resolve their dispute over maritime boundaries as soon as possible.

"We hope that these talks can continue in a serious way," Pompeo said after meeting Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on the island of Crete. "(We) encourage them to resume discussion of these issues as soon as possible."

Pompeo was on a two-day trip to Greece following an increase in regional strains over energy resources.

9 recovered COVID-19 patients experience 10 side-effects - study

● The research comes as the global death toll from COVID-19 passed 1 million

Reuters | Seoul

Nine in ten coronavirus patients reported experiencing side-effects such as fatigue, psychological after-effects and loss of smell and taste after they recovered from the disease, according to a preliminary study by South Korea.

The research comes as the global death toll from COVID-19 passed 1 million on Tuesday, a grim milestone in a pandemic that has devastated the global economy, overloaded health systems and changed the way people live.

In an online survey of 965 recovered COVID-19 patients, 879 people or 91.1 per cent responded they were suffering at least one side-effect from the disease, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency



A medical staff member in protective gear prepares to take samples from a visitor in a car at a 'drive-thru' testing center for the novel coronavirus disease of COVID-19 in Yeungnam University Medical Center in Daegu

(KDCA) official Kwon Jun-wook told a briefing.

Fatigue was the most common side-effect with 26.2pc reading, followed by difficulty in concentration which had 24.6pc, Kwon said.

Other after-effects included psychological or mental side-effects and loss of taste or smell.

Kim Shin-woo, professor of internal medicine at Kyungpook National University School of Medicine in Daegu, sought comments from 5,762

recovered patients in South Korea and 16.7pc of them participated in the survey, said Kwon.

While the research was done online for now, lead researcher Kim will soon publish the study with detailed analysis, he said.

South Korea is also conducting a separate study with some 16 medical organisations on potential complications of the disease through a detailed analysis involving CT scans on recovered patients next year, Kwon told the briefing.

The country reported 38 new infections by midnight on Monday, for a fifth day of double-digit increases, taking the national tally to 23,699 cases, with 407 deaths.

91.1%

In an online survey of 965 recovered COVID-19 patients, 879 people or 91.1 per cent responded they were suffering at least one side-effect

Sri Lanka to ban cattle slaughter

AFP

The slaughter of cattle will soon be banned in Sri Lanka, the government said yesterday, in a move widely viewed as a concession to increasingly influential Buddhists in the ruling party.

The government said it would push through the ban after finalising a scheme to care for cattle too old to plough fields.

Sri Lanka has experienced a decline in beef consumption in recent years, with Buddhists and Hindus shunning it for religious reasons.

The industry has shrunk in

recent years, with just 29,870 tonnes of beef produced last year, compared with 38,700 tonnes a decade earlier.

Muslims make up 10 percent of Sri Lanka's 21 million population. Some 70 per cent of Sri Lankans identify as Buddhists, and 12.5 percent as Hindus.

"As soon as such a scheme is implemented, cattle slaughter will be banned in the country," Media and Information Minister and government spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said.

Beef imports, which amounted to just 116 tonnes last year, would be allowed to continue, officials said.



UK's Duchess toasts new scout appointment with marshmallows

Reuters | London

Kate, Britain's Duchess of Cambridge, marked her appointment as joint president of Britain's Scout Association yesterday by joining scouts in north London for their traditional activity of toasting marshmallows over a camp fire.

The duchess, wife of Queen Elizabeth's grandson Prince William, joins the monarch's cousin, the Duke of Kent, as president of the organisation which works with about half a million people aged 6 to 25. The queen herself remains its patron.

"For many children and young people, The Scout Association plays a key role as they build relationships and develop the skills they need to succeed in later life," Kate said in a statement.



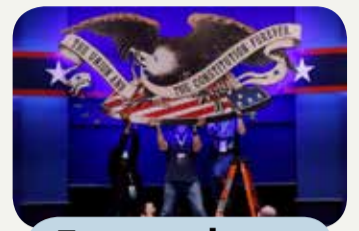
Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge

To mark the occasion, the duchess visited youngsters from the 12th Northolt Scout Group to hear how they had coped during the coronavirus pandemic and to join in with some of their sessions.

She will also be presented with the Silver Wolf Award, the association's highest award.

News in brief

◆ **Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden will square off for the first time on Tuesday in a pivotal debate that will provide a stark clash of styles and the prospect of a fiery and brutally personal grudge match.** With more than a million Americans already casting early ballots and time running out to change minds or influence the small sliver of undecided voters, the stakes are enormous as the two White House candidates take the



Trump and Biden to meet in pivotal first presidential debate

◆ **Zimbabwe plans to send dead elephants' brain tissue to U.S. for toxin tests**

stage five weeks before the Nov. 3 election.

◆ **Zimbabwe plans to send brain tissue samples from dead elephants to the United States to test for toxic micro-organisms blamed for**



hundreds of elephant deaths in neighbouring Botswana, the parks authority said. Thirty-four elephants have died in western Zimbabwe since Aug. 24, Parks and Wildlife Management Authority director general Fulton Mangwanya told a parliamentary committee in a statement on Monday.

◆ **Israeli Health Minister Yuli Edelstein said Tuesday that there was "no way" the country's second nationwide coronavirus lockdown would be lifted after three weeks as originally planned.** "There's no way that in 10 days we'll be lifting all the restrictions and saying it's all over, everything is fine," he told public broadcaster Kan.



Israel minister says 'no way' virus lockdown will end soon

Israel imposed its second lockdown on September 18 after the coronavirus infection rate soared. It was originally scheduled to end on October 10. On Friday, the measures were tightened after the initial eight days failed to bring down the world's highest infection rate per capita.

◆ **Spain yesterday agreed a last-minute extension of a scheme supporting hundreds of thousands of workers furloughed due to COVID-19, as part of a broader social protection package.** Spain is the European country with the highest number of



Spain extends COVID furlough scheme to January

coronavirus cases and its economy, the euro zone's fourth-largest, is in its deepest recession on record. In a deal reached hours before the ERTE furlough

scheme was due to expire, the government agreed with unions and businesses to extend it until Jan. 31.

◆ **Passengers aboard the first cruise ship to sail to Greece since the coronavirus lockdown underwent follow-up coronavirus tests on Tuesday, with early results negative, a day after a dozen infections were reported, a health ministry source said.** The Maltese-flagged Mein Schiff 6, operated by Anglo-German travel giant TUI, is carrying 922 passengers and 666 crew.



Global		Countries worst affected			
Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	
USA	7,373,784	+12,173	210,102	+294	
India	6,193,966	+50,947	96,854	+503	
Brazil	4,748,327		142,161		
Russia	1,167,805	+8,232	20,545	+160	
Colombia	818,203		25,641		
Peru	808,714		32,324		
Spain	748,266		31,411		
Mexico	733,717	+3,400	76,603	+173	
Argentina	723,132		16,113		
South Africa	671,669		16,586		
France	542,639		31,808		
Chile	461,300	+1,629	12,725	+27	
Iran	453,637	+3,677	25,986	+207	
UK	446,156	+7,143	42,072	+71	

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	102,955		5,901		95,586	1,468	41	1,002
Saudi Arabia	334,187	+539	4,739	+27	318,542	10,906	1,005	9,563
UAE	93,090	+995	416	+3	82,538	10,136		9,385
Kuwait	104,568	+587	607	+2	96,049	7,912	127	24,399
Oman	98,585	+528	935	+11	88,528	9,122	190	19,190
Qatar	125,533	+222	214		122,448	2,871	53	44,709

Figures as of closing