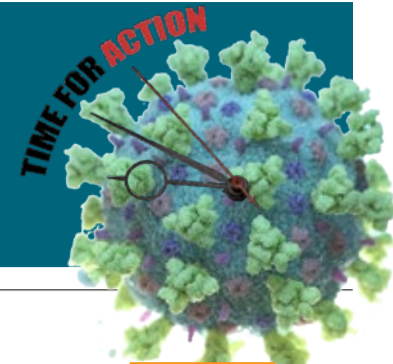


world



Prince Charles, 71, out of self-isolation



Britain's Prince Charles
Reuters | London

British heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, who had tested positive for coronavirus, is out of self-isolation after seven days and is in good health, his spokesman said yesterday.

Last week, his Clarence House office revealed that Charles, 71, had been tested after displaying mild symptoms of the virus and had been in self-isolation at his Birkhall home in Scotland where he had continued to work.

However, his wife Camilla, who tested negative for coronavirus, will remain in self-isolation until the end of the week in case she too develops symptoms.

UK PM Johnson's adviser Cummings isolates



Dominic Cummings, special adviser for Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, leaves his home
Reuters | London

The coronavirus outbreak at the heart of the UK government spread on Monday with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's senior adviser, Dominic Cummings, self-isolating with symptoms just days after the British leader himself tested positive.

A Downing Street spokesman said Cummings, one of the most powerful men in the government, had developed symptoms of COVID-19 over the weekend.

Johnson on Friday became the first leader of a major world power to announce he had tested positive for the virus. His health minister, Matt Hancock, also tested positive and the government's chief medical adviser, Chris Whitty, is self-isolating.

Cummings was seen sprinting out of Downing Street shortly after Johnson revealed he had tested positive.

Modi talks with heads of Indian missions

The Hindu

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday held a video conference with the heads of India's diplomatic missions and urged them to assist Indian nationals who are stranded in various countries that are severely affected by the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Addressing 130 Indian envoys, Modi urged them to help in containing the economic fallout of the viral pandemic by ensuring continuity of trade and commercial channels between India and the rest of the world.

"He called on Heads of Indian Missions to help boost the morale of such compatriots abroad, and to help them address issues arising from their unplanned



Narendra Modi

stay abroad with their host Governments, and also to address other problems Indians might face abroad, including arranging shelter, where necessary and feasible," stated a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs summing up the

video conference.

Indian envoys in several of the worst affected countries, like China, Iran, Italy, United States and South Korea, were selected to brief the Prime Minister on the steps they had taken to deal with the needs of Indians in those countries.

Modi briefed the Indian envoys about the lockdown and quarantine measures currently under way in various countries, including India. "Extraordinary times require extraordinary solutions," he told them. He asked the envoys to focus on the countries of their posting and identify "best practices, innovations, scientific breakthroughs and sources to procure medical equipment" to help India fight the pandemic at home

and abroad.

The envoys reported to Modi about the steps they have taken to help Indian workers and students who were assisted by the Indian diplomats in recent past. Sources informed that Modi was briefed about the steps being taken to look after the condition of the stranded Indians in Iran which has been hit hard by the pandemic. The German and South Korean conditions also received special attention during the briefing especially since the Prime Minister wanted to know about the steps these two countries took to reduce mortality among the coronavirus-affected patients. Necessary items for export from the west to help India fight the crisis were also discussed.

Peak US death rate likely in two weeks: Trump

Washington

President Donald Trump said Sunday that the peak death rate in the United States from the coronavirus pandemic was likely to hit in two weeks and extended "social distancing" guidelines until April 30.

"Easter should be the peak number," Trump said of the Christian holiday which falls on April 12.

"The modelling estimates that the peak in death rate is likely to hit in two weeks," the president said during a televised briefing in the Rose Garden of the White House.

"It should start coming down -- and hopefully very substantially -- from that point," he said.

Trump also addressed statements by one of his top medical advisors, Anthony Fauci, who estimated on Sunday that the virus could possibly result in 100,000 to 200,000 deaths in the United States.

Trump characterized that as a "horrible number" but said it would have been worse without the lockdown orders and other efforts taken so far to prevent the spread of the highly infectious virus.

"Potentially 2.2 million people if we did nothing, if we didn't do the distancing," he said. "If we didn't do all the things we're doing."

Trump said he was extending the government's "social distancing" guidelines until April 30 to "slow the spread" of the virus.

"It's very important that everyone strongly follow the guidelines," the president said.

"Nothing would be worse than declaring victory before the victory is won," he said at a briefing that saw him lash out several times at reporters and criticize the CNN network and The New York Times.



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US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

June 1 target

Trump said he expects the country "will be well on our way to recovery" by June 1 -- dropping his previous target of Easter.

"June 1," he said. "That's aspirational but I think we're gonna hit it."

The president said there would be an "important" announcement on Tuesday about the government's plans and strategy going forward.

Trump was also asked if he would support another massive economic relief package such as the \$2.2 trillion spending bill passed by Congress last week.

"I'm prepared to do whatever's necessary to number one, save lives and number two, bring our economy back strong, just like it was before," he said. "I think our economy has a chance to be just as good and even better than it was before."

US regulator approves limited use of malaria drugs for virus

Washington

A limited emergency-use authorisation for two antimalarial drugs touted as game-changers by President Donald Trump has been issued by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat coronavirus patients.

In a statement published Sunday, the US Department of Health and Human Services detailed recent donations of medicine to a national stockpile -- including chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, both being investigated as potential COVID-19 treatments.

It said the FDA had allowed them "to be distributed and prescribed by doctors to hospitalised teen and adult patients with COVID-19, as appropriate, when a clinical trial is not available or feasible."

Many researchers including Anthony Fauci, the United States' leading infectious disease expert, have urged the public to remain cautious until larger clinical trials validate smaller studies.

Two US medical bodies -- the National Institutes of Health and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority -- are currently working to plan such trials.

Some in the scientific community fear Trump's endorsement of the medicines could create shortages for patients who need them to treat lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, diseases for which they are approved.

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
USA	152,631	+234	2,817
Italy	101,739	+812	11,591
Spain	85,195	+537	7,340
China	81,470	+4	3,304
Germany	63,929	+19	560
Iran	41,495	+117	2,757
France	40,174	+418	3,024
UK	22,141	+180	1,408
Switzerland	15,760	+48	348
Belgium	11,899	+82	513
Netherlands	11,750	+93	864
Turkey	10,827	+37	168
S. Korea	9,661	+6	158
Austria	9,541	+22	108
Canada	6,671	+2	67
Portugal	6,408	+21	140
Brazil	4,371	+5	141
Australia	4,245	+1	18
Sweden	4,028	+36	146
Malaysia	2,626	+2	37
Japan	1,866		54
Russia	1,836	+1	9
Pakistan	1,690	+7	21
Philippines	1,546	+7	78
Thailand	1,524	+2	9
Indonesia	1,414	+8	122
India	1,071	+2	29
Mexico	993	+4	20
Panama	989		24
Singapore	879		3
Argentina	820	+2	22
Serbia	785	+3	16

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Bahrain	515	+16	4		287	224	2	303
Saudi Arabia	1,453	+154	8		115	1,330	12	42
UAE	611	+41	5	+2	61	545	2	62
Kuwait	266	+11			72	194	13	62
Oman	179	+12			29	150	3	35
Jordan	259		4	+1	18	237	3	25
Iraq	630	+83	46	+4	152	432		16
Egypt	609		40		132	437		6

Britain names new MI5 chief

Reuters | London

Britain yesterday named Ken McCallum, a career spy who led the response to the attempted murder of Russian former double agent Sergei Skripal, as the new head of its MI5 domestic intelligence agency.

McCallum, who has

worked in MI5 for 25 years, rose through the ranks working across the agency's main fronts from Northern Ireland to countering Islamist militants and ensuring the safety of the 2012 London Olympics.

Then, after former Russian double agent Skripal and his daughter Yulia

were found poisoned with a Soviet-developed nerve agent known as "Novichok" in 2018, McCallum led the agency's response to the attempted murder, MI5 said.

"Our people - with our partners - strive to keep the country safe, and they always want to go the extra mile," McCallum said.