

CORONAVIRUS

Britain's daily COVID-19 cases hit four-month high

LONDON: The number of people who have tested positive for coronavirus in Britain rose by 4,422, the highest daily increase since May 8, official statistics showed Saturday.

The total number of coronavirus cases hit 390,358 while the total number of coronavirus-related deaths rose by 27 to 41,759, according to the official figures.

The latest figures were revealed



as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned that a second wave of COVID-19 in Britain is "coming in", and his government may need to "intensify things to help bring the rate of infections down." Countries such as Britain, China, Russia and the United States are racing against time to develop coronavirus vaccines.

Also on Saturday, hundreds of people attended a rally in Trafal-

gar Square during a protest against coronavirus lockdown measures. Some of them became involved in "outbreaks of violence towards officers", the Metropolitan Police said. Traffic was brought to a halt as protesters erected a blockade in a bid to prevent police officers from making arrests. Among the demonstrators are coronavirus conspiracy theorists who claim that COVID-19 was a hoax. **Xinhua**

Trump urges Republicans to confirm new SC nominee

US media cited presidential aides as saying that Trump was considering a woman for his latest Supreme Court nominee



NEW SUPREME COURT NOMINEE: The number of justices on the bench was reduced to eight following the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged Republicans to confirm "without delay" a replacement for late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died the previous evening at the age of 87.

"We were put in this position of power and importance to make decisions for the people who so proudly elected us, the most important of which has long been considered to be the selection of United States Supreme Court Justices. We have this obligation, without delay!" the president tweeted.

U.S. media cited presidential aides and advisers as saying

that Trump was considering a woman for his latest Supreme Court nominee, who would also be the third appointee during his presidency. Assessment of possible options began on Saturday, according to reports.

Ginsburg died of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer, the Supreme Court said in a news release, adding that a private interment will be held at the Arlington National Cem-

etry, without revealing the specific date for the ceremony.

The second female Supreme Court justice in US history and a champion for equal protection under law for women, Ginsburg was nominated to the bench by then President Bill Clinton in 1993 and over the years became the most senior liberal justice on the nation's highest court.

The death of Ginsburg set up a fierce partisan fight on Capitol Hill

over whether to confirm a nominee less than 50 days away from the presidential election.

Democratic lawmakers led by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden as well as former President Barack Obama, all maintained that Ginsburg's replacement be nominated by the next president to be chosen by voters in the November 3 election. **Xinhua**

UNPRECEDENTED SCENES

Ruckus in India's Rajya Sabha as opposition protests agriculture bills

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha witnessed unprecedented scenes on Sunday during the debate on agriculture bills as opposition members trooped into the well of the House in protest during a reply by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and an attempt was made to snatch the mike at the Chairman's podium.

The rule book was also shown to Deputy Chairman Harivansh from the well of the House by an opposition member. The protest erupted after the Deputy Chairman sought a sense of the House and said that the sitting of the House is being extended beyond 1 pm till the completion of the Minister's reply.

Opposition members protested over the decision. Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said that the opposition members want that the House should be adjourned for the day and the minister may resume his reply tomorrow. He said that sense of the House means the opinion of all parties and not of the ruling party only.

Opposition parties contin-



ued their protest and the Deputy Chairman ruled that only minister's reply will go on record.

The Minister, whose voice could hardly be heard amid the din, concluded his reply within a few minutes.

As the Deputy Chairman took the Bills for the passage, the protest by opposition members became louder and they started raising slogans against the government and against the bills.

Derek O'Brien of Trinamool Congress came near the podium and tried to show the rule book to the Deputy Chairman. An attempt was also made to snatch the mike and the marshals tried to prevent it. **ANI**

MUNDAMAN GANGA PARIKRAMA

Indian army veterans plan 5,000 km trek to revive Ganga glory

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The river Ganga is a sacred but one of the most polluted rivers of India. Considered as the lifeline of the Indo-Gangetic basin, the pollution levels in the river has reached to dangerous levels. To clean the river, the government has initiated Ganga Action Plan which is showing positive results.

Army veterans, who are at the forefront of many noble missions, have decided to take a long trek to revive the pristine glory of the river.

Under the banner of Atulya Ganga, the veterans would take the first-ever 5,000km long Ganga Parikrama in the Indian history on foot in 7 seven months across five states along the banks of river to usher in a mass awareness about its revival.

To make Ganga pure and pious, a team of die-hard army veterans have prepared the blueprint of a gigantic movement through a walk - the 'Mundaman Ganga Parikrama'. They have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking and appointment regarding inauguration of their mission by handing over a baton to become a fountainhead in their drive.

Lt.Col. Anil Dubey, who had served in the Indian Army for 22 years and has been working with Bahwan Engineering Group since 2007, is also planning to join the Atulya Ganga trek.

Lt. Col. Hem Lohumi, a Sena Medal recipient is leading the team along with Gopal Sharma and Col. Manoj Keshwar. They also plan to meet union minister Nitin Gadkari to discuss their daring mission from Gomukh to Gangasagar and back.

The team has planned to visit many schools situated along the Ganga banks and organise public meetings during the Parikrama



to motivate children and locals to take the responsibility for the revival of Ganga. Along the route, they will measure the pollution levels and a final report will be submitted to Prime Minister's office and concerned ministry once the Parikrama ends.

The Parikrama has some well-defined set of rules which shall be followed. It is an extremely tough call to circumnavigate Ganga on foot, walking along its banks from its origin in the Himalayas at Gomukh to its merger into the Indian Ocean at Gangasagar. The pedestrian is constrained as per the rules - not to cross over from one bank to another except at Gomukh and Gangasagar and can go only a maximum of 13 kms away from banks, and must see Ganga once in 24hours.

This journey seeks to take a rigorous path which no one has attempted before. Starting from Haridwar, this journey will be taken by approximately 100 people on a round trip from Gangasagar to Gomukh and then back from Gangasagar to Gomukh. The expedition seeks to inculcate a sense of awe in the people vis-a-

vis the ecosystem being sustained by one of the largest river basin systems in the world and the devastation that's waiting to happen lest this fragile ecosystem is revived on a war-footing.

The population along the entire Gangetic plain shall be sensitised about the importance and fragility of this riverine ecosystem and the impact it has on our economy, lifestyle and livelihood. So far efforts have been made to achieve this by appealing to the religious sanctity of the river.

But appealing to faith is one thing, its impact on actions is another. By leveraging this faith with a sense of adventure, army veterans aim to appeal to youth to take the ownership of revival of our life giving resources. Idea is to make saving Ganga a definite, positive quest and not just another arrow in the dark, alluding solely to abstracts.

Starting on 25 November 2020, the team is calling on people across India and the Indian community abroad - to be a part of this noble and holy mission.

Details on <https://www.atulya-ganga.com>.



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