

ALGIERS (Reuters) -- Algeria has recalled its ambassador to France for consultations, the presidency said on Saturday, without immediately giving a reason for the move.

It said a statement would be issued later. On Thursday, the government said it had summoned the French ambassador to Algiers after Paris decided to slash the number of visas it issues to nationals of Algeria and other countries in North African's Maghreb region. Algeria's foreign ministry described the move, which France said was in response to Maghreb governments' refusal to take back illegal migrants sent home by Paris, as a "unilateral decision of the French government".

LONDON (Reuters) -- Worldwide deaths related to COVID-19 surpassed 5 million, according to a Reuters tally, with unvaccinated people particularly exposed to the virulent Delta strain.

The variant has exposed the wide disparities in vaccination rates between rich and poor nations, and the upshot of vaccine hesitancy in some western nations. More than half of all global deaths reported on a seven-day average were in the United States, Russia, Brazil, Mexico and India.

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Sunday, October 3, 2021, Mehr 11, 1400, Safar 26, 1443, Price 50,000 Rials

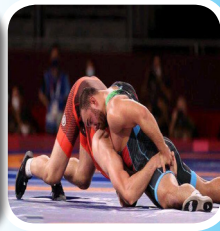
Viewpoint

Zionists Become the New Masters of Bahrain

Exemption of Humanitarian Goods From Sanctions 'a Tragic Lie'



Yazdani, Zare Qualify for Final in World Wrestling Championship



240 Bahraini Scholars Reject Normalization With Zionist Regime



U.S. Hits Grim Milestone of 700,000 COVID Deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) -- It's a milestone that by all accounts didn't have to happen this soon.

The U.S. death toll from COVID-19 eclipsed 700,000 late Friday — a number greater than the population of Boston. The last 100,000 deaths occurred during a time when vaccines — which overwhelmingly prevent deaths, hospitalizations and serious illness — were available to any American over the age of 12.

The milestone is deeply frustrating to doctors, public health officials and the American public, who watched a pandemic that had been easing earlier in the summer take a dark turn. Tens of millions of Americans have refused to get vaccinated, allowing the highly contagious delta variant to tear through the country and send the death toll from 600,000 to 700,000 in 3 1/2 months.

Florida suffered by far the most death of any state during that period, with the virus killing about 17,000 residents since the middle of June. Texas was second with 13,000 deaths. The two states account for 15% of the country's population, but more than 30% of the nation's deaths since the nation crossed the 600,000 threshold.

Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health who has analyzed publicly reported state data, said it's safe to say at least 70,000 of the last 100,000 deaths were in unvaccinated people. And of those vaccinated people who died with breakthrough infections, most caught the virus from an unvaccinated person, he said.

"If we had been more effective in our vaccination, then I think it's fair to say, we could have prevented 90% of those deaths," since mid-June, Dowdy said. "It's not just a number on a screen," Dowdy said. "It's tens of thousands of these tragic stories of people whose families have lost someone who means the world to them."

Danny Baker is one of them. The 28-year-old seed hauler from Riley, Kansas, contracted COVID-19 over the summer, spent more than a month in the hospital and died Sept. 14. He left behind a wife and a 7-month-old baby girl.

"This thing has taken a grown man, 28-year-old young man, 6'2", 300-pound man, and took him down like it was nothing," said his father, 56-year-old J.D. Baker, of Milford, Kansas. "And so if young people think that they're still ... protected because of their youth and their strength, it's not there anymore."

In the early days of the pandemic, Danny Baker, who was

a championship trap shooter in high school and loved hunting and fishing, insisted he would be first in line for a vaccine, recalled his mother.

But just as vaccinations opened up to his age group, the U.S. recommended a pause in use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to investigate reports of rare but potentially dangerous blood clots. The news frightened him, as did information swirling online that the vaccine could harm fertility, though medical experts say there's no biological reason the shots would affect fertility.

His wife also was breastfeeding, so they decided to wait. Health experts now say breastfeeding mothers should get the vaccine for their own protection and that it may even provide some protection for their babies through antibodies passed along in breastmilk.

"There's just a lot of miscommunication about the vaccine," said his wife, 27-year-old Aubrea Baker, a labor and delivery nurse, adding that her husband's death inspired a Facebook page and at least 100 people to get vaccinated. "It's not that we weren't going to get it. We just hadn't gotten it yet."

When deaths surpassed 600,000 in mid-June, vaccinations already were driving down caseloads, restrictions were being lifted and people looked forward to life returning to normal over the summer. Deaths per day in the U.S. had plummeted to an average of around 340, from a high of over 3,000 in mid-January. Soon afterward, health officials declared it a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

But as the delta variant swept the country, caseloads and deaths soared — especially among the unvaccinated and younger people, with hospitals around the country reporting dramatic increases in admissions and deaths among people under 65. They also reported breakthrough infections and deaths, though at far lower rates, prompting efforts to provide booster shots to vulnerable Americans.

Now, daily deaths are averaging about 1,900 a day. Cases have started to fall from their highs in September but there is fear that the situation could worsen in the winter months when colder weather drives people inside.

Almost 65% of Americans have had at least one dose of vaccine, while about 56% are fully vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But millions are either refusing or still on the fence because of fear, misinformation and political beliefs. Health care workers report

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Hormuz, Shams Join Iran's Defense Inventory



Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard, right, observes the operation of Iran's newly-unveiled Hormuz tactical radar on Oct. 2, 2021.

TEHRAN — The Iranian Army on Saturday unveiled a new indigenous-built tactical radar system capable of highly accurate detection of targets, and a long-range simulator used to intercept and track ballistic missiles and a wide range of projectiles and flying objects.

During a ceremony here, commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard unveiled medium-range Hormuz tactical radar.

The radar system can precisely

determine the speed and distance of objects, and send accurate information to the command center of air defense missile units.

Hormuz is also capable of enhancing combat capabilities of armed forces, has long endurance, requires shorter time for repair and maintenance, enjoys higher precision for detecting the direction and altitude of aerial targets, with its antennas having better reception quality that can identify targets faster than other radar systems.

Meanwhile, the strategic long-range Shams simulator can be used against ballistic missiles and a range of other targets.

The system is capable of simulating actions against various aerial targets, and can swiftly develop and enact modern combat scenarios.

Last month, the Iranian Army unveiled the three-dimensional and phased-array Alborz radar capable of detecting and tracking various aerial targets.

The radar has a range of 450 kilo-

meters (248 miles), and is capable of intercepting and detecting long-range stealth flying targets with low radar cross-section.

A low-range and low-altitude command-and-control center called Borhan was also put on display.

After receiving and analyzing data from all sources, Borhan transmits them to the highest levels of command to make decisions in the shortest possible time.

The command could then take necessary decisions regarding the potential launch of any required operations and destruction of perceived targets.

On Saturday, Navy commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said Iran's naval forces will strongly stand up to the enemies and give a harsh and crushing response to any threat and wrong move against the country's territorial waters.

Iran, he said, will respond to threats and hostile measures "so firmly, harshly and decisively" that it will make the enemies regret their wrong moves, Tasnim news agency reported.

The commander also said the Iranian Navy protects the country's territorial waters, adding that the naval forces work round the clock to ensure the country's maritime security.

The senior commander emphasized that despite constant sanctions and threats against Iran, the country's youths have been successful in manufacturing the best

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University of California Survey Finds: Most U.S. Muslims Have Experienced Islamophobia

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- More than two-thirds of Muslim Americans say they have experienced Islamophobia, with Muslim women experiencing it at a higher rate, according to a new poll released this week.

The survey, conducted by the Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, found that 67.5 percent of respondents said they had experienced Islamophobia, which it defined as an "individual verbal and/or physical attack, public policy, or the collective dehumanization of Muslims".

Of the 1,123 Muslims that were polled, 76.7 percent of females said they had experienced Islamophobia, compared to 58.6 percent of men.

An even larger percent of those surveyed, 93.7 percent, said that anti-Muslim hatred had affected their mental or emotional well-being to some degree.

"This may suggest that even if a Muslim is not directly targeted by

an Islamophobic act, the ubiquity of Islamophobia in our media and culture after 9/11 has created an atmosphere in which Muslims feel they are being monitored, judged, or excluded in some form," Elsadiq Elsheitik, the director of the Institute's global justice program, said in a press release.

"As our survey demonstrates, Islamophobia has deep implications for how US Muslims engage with society, and the barriers they face to achieve belonging," he added.

The poll also found that people aged between 18 and 29 experienced the most Islamophobia compared with any other age group, and were more likely to hide their religion as a result of this discrimination, with 45 percent of them saying they would do so.

The results of the survey were published just a few weeks after the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the aftermath of which had led to increased hostilities towards

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Three Years Later, Khashoggi's Killers Are Still U.S. Darlings

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi's widow has questioned U.S. President Joe Biden's commitment to hold the kingdom accountable three years after the writer's brutal murder.

Marking the anniversary, Hatice Cengiz traveled to Washington for a demonstration outside the Saudi embassy and an evening vigil near the U.S. Capitol where she unveiled a portrait of Khashoggi made out of newspaper columns.

She voiced dismay that days ahead of the anniversary, Biden's national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, met with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman who US intelligence says ordered the killing.

"Is this what the accountability that Biden promised looks like?" she asked at the candlelight vigil organized by rights groups.

"MBS took Jamal from me and the entire world. Will you hold him accountable or will you reward these murderers?" she said, referring to the 36-year-old heir apparent by his initials.

Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi who lived in self-exile in the United States, wrote critically about MBS in columns in The Washington Post.

On October 2, 2018, he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to file paperwork to marry Cengiz, who is Turkish. According to U.S. and Turkish officials, a waiting Saudi hit squad strangled him and dismembered his body, which has never been retrieved.

U.S. president at the time Donald Trump played down the episode, saying it was more important that Saudi Arabia buys U.S. weapons and shares hostility toward Iran.

Biden vowed a tougher approach, declassifying intelligence and imposing sanctions on Saudis although not on the crown prince himself.

U.S. officials said Sullivan traveled to Saudi Arabia, where MBS is also defense minister, largely to discuss the crisis in Yemen where the kingdom has led a devastating air campaign against the impoverished country.

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