

News in brief

◆ **The Philippines received 600,000 vaccine doses from China Sunday, kickstarting the country's inoculation drive despite concerns over the Sinovac jab's effectiveness.** Top government officials and health workers will be the first on Monday to receive the Chinese-made vaccine -- called CoronaVac -- just days after the drug regulator approved it for emergency use. Around 525,000 doses of the AstraZeneca jab were also due to arrive Monday as part of the COVAX global inoculation programme and will also be offered to healthcare workers.



Philippines receives first Covid-19 vaccines from China

◆ **The US government on Saturday** authorized Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine, enabling millions more Americans to be vaccinated in the coming weeks and setting the vaccine up for additional approvals around the world. The J&J vaccine is the third authorized in the United States, following ones from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, both of



which require two doses. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced the emergency use authorization of the J&J vaccine for adults aged 18 and older following Friday's unanimous endorsement by the agency's panel of outside experts. Shipments to vaccination sites are expected to begin Sunday or Monday.

◆ **Unidentified gunmen riding in a truck opened fire with rifles on Saturday to kill 11 people** in Mexico's western state of Jalisco, causing injuries to a woman and a youth as well, authorities said. Jalisco, where a former governor was shot dead in December, is one of the epicenters of Mexico's drug-related warfare, and home to the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG).

Truck-borne gunmen kill 11 in Mexico's western state of Jalisco



◆ **Myanmar's United Nations envoy in New York vowed to fight on Saturday** after the junta fired him for urging countries to use "any means necessary" to reverse a Feb. 1 coup that ousted the nation's elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi. "I decided to fight back as long as I can," Kyaw Moe Tun told Reuters on Saturday. Myanmar state television announced on Saturday that Kyaw Moe Tun had been fired for betraying the country. However, the United Nations does not officially recognise the junta as Myanmar's new government as it has received no official notification of any change, said a U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, and so Kyaw Moe Tun remains Myanmar's U.N. ambassador, for now. "We have not received any communication concerning changes to the representation of Myanmar at the United Nations in New York," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.



Myanmar's U.N. ambassador vows to fight after junta fired him

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	
				Global tally
1	USA	29,202,966		114,468,838
2	India	11,097,134		Deaths
3	Brazil	10,517,232		2,539,109
4	Russia	4,246,079		Recovered:
5	UK	4,170,519		90,009,083
6	France	3,736,016		New cases
7	Spain	3,188,553		+103,208
8	Italy	2,907,825		New deaths
9	Turkey	2,693,164		+2,347
10	Germany	2,444,303		
11	Colombia	2,248,135		
12	Argentina	2,104,197		
13	Mexico	2,084,128		
14	Poland	1,706,986		

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	181,829		10,639		140,460	30,730
Saudi Arabia	377,383	+322	6,494	+6	368,305	2,584
UAE	391,524	+2,930	1,221	+8	381,225	9,078
Kuwait	189,890		1,078		178,197	10,615
Oman	141,496	+908	1,570	+8	132,459	7,467
Qatar	163,664	+467	258	+1	153,621	9,785

Kremlin critic Navalny arrives in penal colony: RIA

Reuters | Moscow

Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny has arrived in a penal colony to the east of Moscow to serve his prison term, Russia's RIA news agency said on Sunday citing a public commission that defends the rights of Russian prisoners.

Navalny, who sentenced to over two and a half years in jail for parole violations he said were trumped up, was transferred to a colony in the Vladimir region, Alexei Melnikov, the secretary of the Moscow's Public Monitoring Commission, was quoted as saying by RIA.

The commission works close-



ly with Russian prison authorities and has access to people in custody.

Navalny will be quarantined before joining other prisoners in the colony, Melnikov said, according to RIA.

Navalny's ally Leonid Volkov

wrote on social media earlier on Sunday that Navalny's family and lawyers had not been officially informed about his whereabouts since Thursday when they learned he had been moved from a Moscow jail.

Israeli team ship suspect

● Israel did not provide details of the ship

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israel has sent investigators to Greece to inspect a ship suspected of causing an oil spill that has covered much of Israel's shoreline with tar, the Environment Protection Ministry said on Saturday.

Israel has been looking at a spill from a ship that passed about 50 km (30 miles) offshore on Feb. 11 as the possible source of what environmental groups are calling a disaster for wildlife.



At least 18 dead on bloodiest day of Myanmar

Reuters

Myanmar police fired on protesters around the country on Sunday in the bloodiest day of weeks of demonstrations against a military coup and at least 18 people were killed, the UN human rights office said, sources, residents and media said.

Police were out in force early and opened fire in different parts of the biggest city of Yangon after stun grenades, tear gas and shots in the air failed to break up crowds. Soldiers also reinforced police.

Several wounded people were hauled away by fellow protesters, leaving bloody smears on pave-

ments, media images showed. One man died after being brought to a hospital with a bullet in the chest, said a doctor who asked not to be identified.

"Police and military forces have confronted peaceful demonstrations, using lethal force and less-than-lethal force that -- according to credible information received by the UN Human Rights Office -- has left at least 18 people dead and over 30 wounded," the U.N. human rights office said.

Myanmar has been in chaos since the army seized power and detained elected government leader Aung San Suu Kyi and much of her party leadership on Feb. 1, alleging fraud in a Novem-

ber election her party won in a landslide.

The coup, which brought a halt to tentative steps towards democracy after nearly 50 years of military rule, has drawn hundreds of thousands onto the streets and the condemnation of Western countries.

Among the dead were three people in Dawei in the south, politician Kyaw Min Htike told Reuters from the town.

The Myanmar Now media outlet reported two people had been killed in a protest in the second city of Mandalay. Security forces fired again later in the day and one woman was killed, Mandalay resident Sai Tun told Reuters.

"The medical team checked her

and confirmed she didn't make it. She was shot in the head," Sai Tun said.

Police and the spokesman for the ruling military council did not respond to phone calls seeking comment.

The dead in Yangon included a teacher, Tin New Yee, who died after police swooped to disperse a teachers' protest with stun grenades, sending the crowd fleeing, her daughter and a fellow teacher said.

Police also hurled stun grenades outside a Yangon medical school, sending doctors and students in white lab coats scattering. A group called the Whitecoat Alliance of medics said more than 50 medical staff had been arrest-