

world

Malaria can be eradicated by 2050, say global experts

Reuters

Malaria can be eradicated within a generation, global health experts have said.

In a major report on Sunday, 41 specialists said a future free of malaria - one of the world's oldest and deadliest diseases - can be achieved as early as 2050. This contradicted the conclusions last month of a malaria review by the World

Health Organization and the experts urged the WHO not to shy away from this "goal of epic proportions".

To meet that target, however, governments, scientists and public health leaders need to inject more money and innovation into fighting the disease and the mosquitoes that carry it, the report said -- something that will require "ambition, commitment and partnership like never before".

UK intercepts 21 migrants in Channel



Channel crossings have intensified this summer as migrants take advantage of mild weather to try to reach Britain

London

British authorities yesterday intercepted two small boats in the English Channel carrying 21 migrants, one of whom required hospital treatment, the latest in a spate of attempted crossings.

The operation follows the interception on Tuesday of 86 migrants arriving on such vessels from France -- thought to be one of the largest number of apprehensions in a single day.

Yesterday, Britain's Border Force was alerted to the first boat at 1:30am (0030 GMT), finding eight males on board presenting themselves as Iranian nationals, the interior ministry said in a statement.

The second vessel was reported at 7:40am, and 13 migrants -- 12 men and one

woman -- were discovered on board.

One of the men was unwell and was helicoptered to hospital.

"Crossing the Channel in a small boat is a huge risk," said the ministry.

"The criminal gangs who perpetuate this are ruthless and do not care about loss of life."

Such Channel crossings have intensified this summer as migrants take advantage of mild weather to try to reach Britain via the world's busiest shipping lane.

Since January, 1,450 migrants have been rescued either by British or French coastguards -- more than double the number who tried to cross in 2018 -- according to official French figures released last month.

Sex assault claims rock Ardern's government

● A Labour Party volunteer accused a senior party staffer of assault last year

Wellington

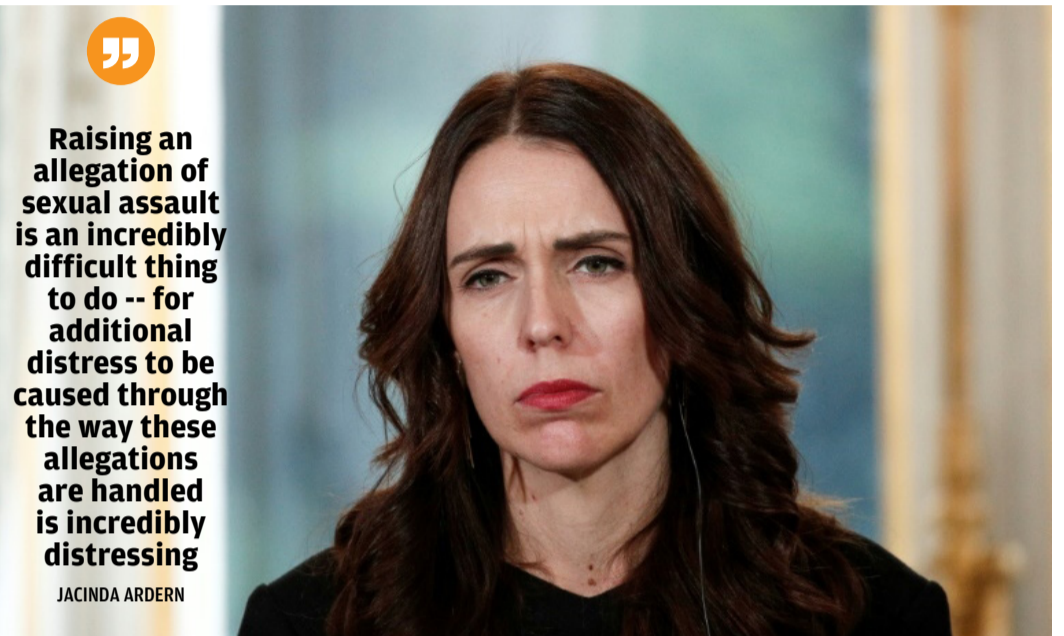
New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern apologised yesterday for her party's handling of an alleged sexual assault, as a top ally was forced to resign.

In the most serious scandal Ardern has faced since she took office in late 2017, the centre-left leader admitted "mistakes were made" after a Labour Party volunteer accused a senior party staffer of assault last year.

"Raising an allegation of sexual assault is an incredibly difficult thing to do -- for additional distress to be caused through the way these allegations are handled is incredibly distressing," Ardern said in a statement.

The 19-year-old woman alleges the staffer sexually assaulted her at his home in February last year and she reported it to Labour Party president Nigel Haworth in October that year.

An internal party investigation recommended no action against the man and Haworth argued as recently as Tuesday that the complainant did not inform him about the seriousness



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JACINDA ARDERN

of the allegations.

The woman, who has not been publicly named, disputed this, providing media with emails and documents she said supported her version of events.

Other volunteers also backed the woman and said their complaints to the party were not taken seriously.

Ardern said she discussed the woman's documents with Haworth on Wednesday morning, as she tried to address the scandal.

"Whilst he stands by the statements he made on this matter, I believe mistakes were made," she said.

Ardern added: "On behalf of the Labour Party, I apologise to the complainants for the way this matter has been dealt with."

In a separate statement, Labour said that Haworth -- who has been credited as an unsung hero of Ardern's electoral victory -- had resigned.

Ardern said she never knew about the nature of the allegations.

"I was informed in the very beginning that the allegations made were not sexual in nature," she said. "That is obviously directly counter to what is now being reported."

A barrister, Maria Dew, has

been appointed to review the Labour Party's handling of the case and is due to report directly to Ardern next month.

Ardern said she was willing to meet with the complainants and would ensure they were receiving appropriate support.

"I want a justice system in New Zealand where people feel comfortable coming forward and are listened to," she said.

"But I also need to ensure the Labour Party lives up to that expectation too."

New Zealand's next general election is scheduled for late 2020.

Thai court declines to hear case of PM's incomplete oath

AP | Bangkok

Thailand's Constitutional Court announced yesterday it has declined to hear a case accusing the country's prime minister of violating the constitution by omitting a sentence from the oath of office he and his government took before



Thailand's PM Prayuth Chan-ocha

King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

The issue raised questions about the legitimacy of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government, which took office in July.

Prayuth failed to include the phrase "I will also uphold and comply with the constitu-

tion of the kingdom in every aspect." It was unclear if the omission was accidental or intentional.

A statement from the court Wednesday said it lacked jurisdiction because the oath was a matter between the executive branch and the king.

Mugabe's burial place still a mystery

Reuters | Harare

The body of Zimbabwe's founder Robert Mugabe arrived at the country's main airport yesterday, but his final resting place remained a source of mystery amid a dispute between some family members and the government.

Mugabe, one of the last "Big Men" of African politics who ruled the southern African nation for 37 years until he was ousted by his own army in November 2017, died in a Singapore hospital five days ago.

The former president's body arrived at Harare's Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport shortly after 1330 GMT, a Reuters witness said.

A convoy of 4x4 vehicles with number plates bearing the



A hearse carrying the body of Mugabe leaves the funeral parlour for the airport in Singapore

letters "RG Mugabe" and the former leader's signature were also on the runway.

Mugabe's wife Grace and Zimbabwean Vice President Kembo Mohadi were among those accompanying the body of the former leader on the plane, Leo Mugabe, a nephew and family spokesman, said.

Mnangagwa, top officials and other Mugabe family members were at the airport to receive the body.

Leo Mugabe declined to say where Mugabe would be buried, saying only that on arrival his body would be taken to his palatial home in the capital, known as Blue Roof.



NOTICE OF BRANCH CLOSURE

This is to notify the Public that AXA Insurance (Gulf) B.S.C.(c) will be closing its branch located in Lulu Center, Ground floor, Shop 18, Bldg. 166, Road 3, Block 109, Hidd

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