

News in brief

◆ **Prince Philip, the husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, is "OK", Prince William said on Monday after his 99-year-old grandfather spent a sixth night in hospital.** Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, was admitted to hospital on Tuesday as a precautionary measure after feeling ill with an ailment that was not related to COVID-19. "Yes, he's OK, they're keeping an eye on him," William said on a visit to a vaccination centre in eastern England. Royal reporters said he delivered his message with a wink.



UK's Prince Philip is 'OK', says grandson Prince William

◆ **Italy's ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo and two other people were killed yesterday in an attack on a United Nations convoy in eastern Congo, Italy's foreign ministry and park authorities said.** The convoy was attacked at around 10:15 a.m. (0815 GMT) during an attempted kidnap by assailants near

Italian envoy and two others killed in attack on UN convoy in Congo



the town of Kanyamahoro, a few kilometres (miles) north of the regional capital Goma, the Virunga National Park told Reuters.

◆ **Alphabet Inc's Google will resume accepting political advertisements in the United States from Feb. 24,** according to an email to advertisers seen by Reuters. Google paused such advertisements in January following the violence at U.S. Capitol and in the run up to the presidential inauguration. "We will continue to rigorously enforce our ads policies, which strictly prohibit demonstrably false information that could significantly undermine trust in elections or the democratic process," a company spokeswoman said, confirming the move.

Google to resume accepting political ads in US



◆ **The World Health Organization has agreed a no-fault compensation plan for claims of serious side effects in people in 92 poorer countries due to get COVID-19 vaccines via the COVAX sharing scheme, resolving a big concern among recipient governments.** The programme, which the WHO said was the first and only vaccine injury compensation mechanism operating on an international scale, will offer eligible people "a fast, fair, robust and transparent process", the WHO said in a statement. "By providing a no-fault lump-sum compensation in full and final settlement of any claims, the COVAX programme aims to significantly reduce the need for recourse to the law courts, a potentially lengthy and costly process," the statement said.

WHO agrees compensation fund for serious COVAX vaccine side effects

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	28,771,534		112,102,423
2 India	11,009,784		Deaths
3 Brazil	10,168,174		2,480,696
4 Brazil	10,168,174		Recovered:
5 UK	4,126,150		87,496,047
6 France	3,605,181		New cases
7 Spain	3,133,122		+148,171
8 Italy	2,818,863		New deaths
9 Turkey	2,646,526		+2,817
10 Germany	2,396,241		
11 Colombia	2,226,262		
12 Argentina	2,064,334		
13 Mexico	2,041,380		
14 Poland	1,642,658		

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	178,151		10,353		137,837	29,961
Saudi Arabia	375,333	+327	6,466	+5	366,412	2,455
UAE	372,530	+2,105	1,140	+15	363,052	8,338
Kuwait	184,090		1,044		172,227	10,819
Oman	139,692	+330	1,555	+3	130,653	7,484
Qatar	160,889	+463	257	+1	150,715	9,917

Libyan interior minister's convoy in shootout he calls assassination attempt

Reuters | Tripoli

Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha said he escaped a "well-planned" assassination attempt on Sunday in which gunmen fired on his motorcade in the capital Tripoli, though an armed force that said its members were involved disputed his account.



Fathi Bashagha

Speaking to Reuters, Bashagha said a vehicle started encroaching on his convoy and people inside the vehicle opened fire, leading to an exchange of fire in which one of his guards and one of the

attackers were killed. "It is not an incident that came by chance, but was well-planned," Bashagha said.

Bolsonaro popularity tumbles

Reuters | Brasilia

Brazilian right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro's approval rating slumped to 32.9% in February, from 41.2% in October, according to a poll published on Monday by transport association CNT.

The poll was conducted between Thursday and Saturday last week and so partially includes reaction to Bolsonaro's Friday decision to install a retired general with no oil and gas experience as chief executive of state oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA.

The announced shakeup and his criticism of the company's pricing policy sent Petrobras shares tumbling on Friday and they continued to fall on Monday,



Protestors defy Junta's

● **Junta cautioned protesters against inciting "riot and anarchy"**

● **But protesters appeared undeterred Monday**

● **Junta has also severely curbed internet access overnight for eight straight days**

AFP News

The Myanmar junta warned anti-coup protesters they could die but thousands of people took to the streets again on Monday, with tensions soaring over the deaths of four demonstrators.

Much of Myanmar has been in uproar over the generals ousting and detaining civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi three weeks ago.

Massive street demonstrations have taken place across the country, while a civil disobedience campaign has choked many government operations as well as businesses.

"Protesters are now inciting the people, especially emotional teenagers and youths, to a confrontation path where they will suffer the loss of life," said a statement on state-run broadcaster MRTV on Sunday.

The statement, read out in Burmese with text of the English version on the screen, cautioned protesters against inciting "riot



A young woman who died after being shot at a protest in Myanmar's capital has become a potent symbol of the pro-democracy movement

Myanmar: from coup to protests

FEB 1 Generals stage a coup, detain elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, other leaders of her NLD party

FEB 2 Junta also declares one year state of emergency, pledges to hold new elections

FEB 3 NLD demands Suu Kyi's release

FEB 3 Suu Kyi is charged under obscure import-export law over unapproved walkie-talkies at her home

FEB 4 National League for Democracy

FEB 5 Start of protests calling for Suu Kyi's release. NLD says Suu Kyi is under house arrest, "in good health"

FEB 5 Junta imposes nationwide internet shutdown, lifted a day later

FEB 5 News campaign in Yangon, Feb 5

FEB 6 Anti-coup protesters return to the streets in force despite military build-up

FEB 6 Suu Kyi is charged for breaching Covid-19 regulations in 2020

FEB 7 Suu Kyi at "safer place" and "in good health"

FEB 7 Anti-coup protesters return to the streets in force despite military build-up

FEB 8 Students attack government websites

FEB 8 Internet access severely curtailed

FEB 9 First deaths: Mya Thea and Thawtar Khin, 20, shot in the head during protest, dies

FEB 9 Martial law is declared in 7 districts in Mandalay, nationwide night-time curfew

FEB 9 Soldiers raid NLD headquarters

FEB 10 Temporary shutdown of internet during night-time curfew

FEB 10 Fresh protests in Yangon as junta deploys troops

FEB 20 Two people killed after police fire on protesters in Mandalay. Third person, killed in Yangon

FEB 21 Funeral of Thea Thea Khin in Naypyi Taw Feb 21

and anarchy". The warning followed the deadliest weekend since the coup -- two people were killed when security forces fired at protesters in the city of Mandalay, and a third man was shot dead in Yangon.

A young woman also died on Friday after being shot in the head at a protest and spending almost a fortnight on life support.

They, woman whose funeral was held on Sunday, was the first confirmed fatality of the protests, and she has emerged as a potent symbol of the anti-junta movement.

United Nations special rapporteur Tom Andrews said he was

Oil spill off Israel reaches S. Lebanese beaches

Reuters | Beirut

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister Hassan Diab said yesterday he was following up on an oil spill that may have originated from a ship passing near the Israeli coast and has now reached the southern shores of Lebanon.

Israeli officials said on Sunday they were trying to find the ship responsible for the spill that drenched much of its Mediterranean shoreline with



A man walks along a beach in the aftermath of an oil spill that drenched much of the Mediterranean shoreline, in Tyre nature reserve

tar, an environmental blow that will take months or years to clean up.

Lebanon's Diab has tasked the defence minister, environment minister and the National Council for Scientific Research with the follow-up, a statement from his office said.

The sticky black deposits that showed up on Israeli beaches were visible on Monday on beaches in a nature reserve in Tyre, south Lebanon.

UK royals i

Reuters | London

Queen Elizabeth and other senior British royals will appear in a TV programme to discuss the importance of the Commonwealth on the same day that Oprah Winfrey's interview of her grandson Prince Harry and his wife Meghan is aired.

For almost 50 years, the royal family have attended an annual Commonwealth Day service at London's Westminster Abbey in