

News in brief

◆ **Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi has denied a charge of incitement to cause public alarm, media reported yesterday**, in her first court testimony since a February coup plunged the country into chaos and ended a decade of democratic reform. Citing lawyers, BBC Burmese and Myanmar Now reported that Suu Kyi had denied incitement in connection with her party publishing a letter in February calling on international organisations not to cooperate with the junta. Suu Kyi is being held at an undisclosed location and attended Tuesday's hearings at a specially built court in the Southeast Asian country's capital, Naypyidaw.



Suu Kyi denies junta charge of incitement

◆ Switzerland said yesterday it was recommending COVID-19 booster shots for people over 65 but not for the general population. The vaccinations would start from mid-November and should be done at least six

Switzerland recommends COVID-19 booster shots for over 65s



months after the patients received their second dose, Switzerland's health ministry and vaccination commission (EKIF) said in a statement. The

recommendation is based on the Swiss medicine regulator's decision to approve booster vaccinations with mRNA vaccines from Pfizer/Biontech and Moderna for high-risk patients, the ministry and EKIF said.

◆ **South Korean former president Roh Tae-woo, a decorated war veteran who played a pivotal but controversial role in the transition to democratic elections from rule by authoritarian leaders, has died**, a Seoul hospital confirmed. The 88-year-old died on Tuesday, a Seoul National University Hospital official said, without citing the cause of death. Roh had been in poor health since 2002 when he received surgery for prostate cancer and he was repeatedly hospitalized in recent years.

South Korea's former president Roh Tae-woo dies at 88



◆ **Egypt's state of emergency will be lifted for the first time in years**, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said yesterday. Egypt imposed a state of emergency in April 2017 after deadly bombings of churches and has since routinely extended it at three-month intervals, despite an improved security situation. "Egypt has become ... an oasis of security and stability in the region," Sisi wrote in a Facebook post. "Hence it was decided, for the first time in years, to cancel the extension of the state of emergency in all areas of the country."

Sisi ends state of emergency

US to weigh authorizing Pfizer Covid vaccine for younger children

◆ A high-level medical panel of US government advisors will meet Tuesday to decide whether to authorize the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine for children aged five to 11 years old. If, as is widely expected, the independent experts convened by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) vote in favor, an emergency authorization could follow within weeks.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	46,417,525	757,849	245,025,101
2	India	34,213,644	455,663	Deaths
3	Brazil	21,735,560	605,884	4,974,361
4	UK	8,809,774	139,571	Recovered:
5	Russia	8,316,019	232,775	222,104,123
6	Turkey	7,879,468	69,344	New cases
7	France	7,127,163	117,508	+206,659
8	Iran	5,877,456	125,519	New deaths
9	Argentina	5,281,585	115,851	+4,318
10	Spain	5,002,217	87,186	
11	Colombia	4,992,586	127,099	
12	Italy	4,747,773	131,904	
13	Germany	4,491,277	95,794	
14	Indonesia	4,241,090	143,270	

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	325,508		18,333		274,762	32,413
Saudi Arabia	548,368	+65	8,782	+2	537,376	2,210
UAE	739,471	+90	2,134	+3	733,504	3,833
Kuwait	412,557		2,461		409,639	457
Oman	304,205	+22	4,111	+1	299,558	536
Qatar	238,742	+102	609		237,088	1,045

Biden imposes new travel vaccine rules, li

● **Children under 18 are exempt from the new vaccine requirements**

● **Non-tourist travellers from countries with vaccination rates of less than 10% are eligible for exemption from the rules**

Reuters | Washington



A Delta Airlines passenger jet approaches to land at LAX in Los Angeles, California

US President Joe Biden yesterday signed an order imposing new vaccine requirements for most foreign national air travellers and lifting severe travel restrictions on China, India and

much of Europe effective Nov. 8, the White House said.

The extraordinary US travel restrictions were first imposed in early 2020 to address the spread

of COVID-19. The rules bar most non-US citizens who within the last 14 days have been in Britain, the 26 Schengen countries in Europe without border controls, Ire-

land, China, India, South Africa, Iran and Brazil.

Children under 18

The White House confirmed that children under 18 are exempt from the new vaccine requirements as are people with some medical issues. Non-tourist travellers from nearly 50 countries with nationwide vaccination rates of less than 10% will also be eligible for exemption from the rules. Those receiving an exemption will generally need to be vaccinated within 60 days after arriving in the United States.

The Biden administration also detailed requirements airlines must follow to confirm foreign travellers have been vaccinated before boarding US-bound flights.

US envoy says Iran nuclear deal effort is at 'critical phase'



US Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley

Reuters | Washington

Efforts to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal are at a "critical phase" and Tehran's reasons for avoiding talks are wearing thin, a US official said yesterday while raising the possibility of further diplomacy even if the deal cannot be resuscitated.

US Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley told reporters Washington was increasingly worried Tehran would keep delaying a return to talks, but said it had other tools to keep Iran from developing a nuclear weapon and would use them if need be.

"We're in a critical phase of the efforts to see whether we can revive the JCPOA," Malley said, referring to the deal formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. "We've had a hiatus of many months and the official reasons given by Iran for why we're in this hiatus are wearing very thin."

While saying that the window for both the United States

and Iran to resume compliance with the agreement would eventually close, Malley said the United States would still be willing to engage in diplomacy with Iran even as it weighed other options to prevent Tehran from getting the bomb.

He also hinted at the economic benefits that might flow from Iran's return to the agreement, under which Tehran took steps to limit its nuclear program in return for relief from US, European Union and UN economic sanctions.

While saying the window for returning to the JCPOA will not be open forever because eventually Iran's nuclear advances will have overtaken it, Malley said Washington would continue to look for diplomatic arrangements with Tehran.

"You can't revive a dead corpse," he said, stressing that the United States had not reached that point yet. "We will continue to pursue diplomacy, even as we pursue other steps if we face a world in which we need to do that."

UK's Queen Elizabeth carries out first duty since hospital stay



Reuters | London

Britain's Queen Elizabeth carried out her first official engagement yesterday since spending a night in hospital and being ordered to rest by her doctors.

The 95-year-old queen, the world's oldest and longest-reigning monarch, stayed overnight at London's King Edward VII private hospital last Wednesday after undergoing "preliminary investigations" for an unspecified but not COVID-19 related ailment.

It was Elizabeth's first overnight hospital stay for years, but royal officials said she was in good spirits and she returned to her Windsor Castle home the following day where she got back to carrying out light duties.

On Tuesday, she carried out two virtual audiences to welcome the new ambassadors to Britain from South Korea and Switzerland. Pictures showed the monarch, wearing a yellow dress, smiling and looking her usual self during the engagement.

Sudan co

● **Hamdok, ministers still held at undisclosed location**

● **Takeover leader says military must act to protect security**

● **Western countries have denounced coup**

● **Activist group calls for general strike**

Reuters | Khartoum

Roads were blocked, shops were shut, phones were down and mosque loudspeakers blared calls for a general strike in Sudan yesterday, a day after the army seized power in a coup.

At least seven people were killed in unrest triggered by the military takeover, which brought a halt to Sudan's transition to democracy two years after a popular uprising ended decades of authoritarian rule.

Plumes of smoke rose over Khartoum from tyres set ablaze by protesters. Life came to a halt in the capital and in its twin city Omdurman across the Nile, with roads blocked either by soldiers or by protester barricades.

The night appeared to have passed comparatively quietly after Monday's unrest, when protesters took to the streets after soldiers arrested Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and other civilians in the cabinet. A health ministry official

Myanmar's Junta rebuked by SE Asian leader

● **Myanmar a test for ASEAN's credibility - Thai PM**

● **Junta showed "unwelcome attitude" - Indonesia president**

● **Myanmar rejects ASEAN exclusion move**

Reuters | Bandar Seri Begawan

Southeast Asian leaders sharply criticised Myanmar's junta as a regional summit opened yesterday without a representative from the country, following its top general's exclusion for ignoring a peace roadmap agreed six months ago. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had said it would accept a non-political figure from Myanmar, but the junta on Monday rejected that, saying it would only agree to its leader or a minister attending.

In an unprecedented snub to the leader of a member state, ASEAN had decided to sideline junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, who led a Feb. 1 coup that spiralled into violence and nationwide



A view shows virtual 38th ASEAN Summit, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei