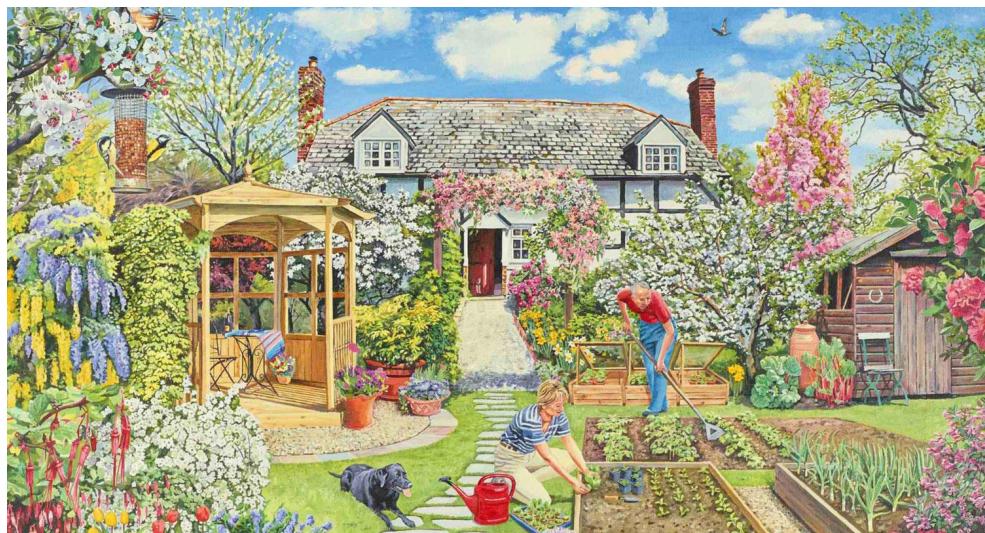


# THE WEEKLY DIGEST

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICS CLUSTER (IDP), IKRAM UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND (IKRAM UKE)



## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

**ISMAIL SABRI IS DEPUTY PM, HISHAM A SENIOR MINISTER**

**EGYPT UPHOLDS LIFE SENTENCES FOR 10 MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURES**

## WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY DIGEST

By IDP CLUSTER IKRAM UKE

IDP Cluster of IKRAM UKE are proud to present you this week's newsletter. We hope you continue to enjoy our newsletter and find it useful.

Stay tuned to this week's updates.



## **MALAYSIA**

### **ISMAIL SABRI IS DEPUTY PM, HISHAM A SENIOR MINISTER**

Senior minister for security Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been appointed deputy prime minister, the Prime Minister's Office announced today. Meanwhile, foreign minister Hishammuddin Hussein has been appointed a senior minister.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/>

### **STOP POLITICKING, FOCUS ON HELPING THE PEOPLE - DPM ISMAIL SABRI**

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has urged all parties, especially politicians, to stop playing politics and instead focus on helping people who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.astroawani.com/>

### **GPS SUPPORTS MUHYIDDIN, NOW NOT TIME FOR POLITICKING - ABANG JO**

Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) today expressed its support for Perikatan Nasional (PN) under the leadership of Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as the prime minister.

GPS chairman Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg said this is not the time for politicking as it would undermine the stability of the country.

<https://www.astroawani.com/>

## ASIA

### COVID VACCINE: THAILAND DECIDES TO MIX JABS AS CASES SPIKE

Thailand has changed its vaccine policy to mix China's Sinovac with the AstraZeneca vaccine in a bid to boost protection. The decision comes after hundreds of medical workers caught Covid despite being fully vaccinated with Sinovac.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/>



### NEPAL'S SUPREME COURT REINSTATES DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT

Nepal's Supreme Court has reinstated its parliament, which was dissolved by caretaker Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in May, and ordered that his rival Sher Bahadur Deuba be appointed as prime minister.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

### TALIBAN CLAIMS TO CONTROL MOST OF AFGHANISTAN AFTER RAPID GAINS

The Taliban said on Friday it has seized control of 85 percent of territory in Afghanistan, a declaration government officials dismissed as part of a propaganda campaign.



<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

## ASIA

### SRI LANKA'S RAJAPAKSA FAMILY TIGHTENS GRIP WITH MINISTERIAL PICKS

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed his younger brother Basil Rajapaksa as finance minister, in a move that further tightened the family's grip over the island nation.



<https://www.aljazeera.com/>



### INDIA GETS NEW MINISTERS FOR HEALTH, IT, OIL AMID COVID CRISIS

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed new federal ministers for health, IT and oil as part of a reshuffle aimed at refurbishing his government's image amid fierce criticism of its handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

### MOST UK TROOPS HAVE LEFT AFGHANISTAN: PM JOHNSON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has confirmed that most British troops have left Afghanistan, almost 20 years after the UK and other Western countries sent troops into the country to engage in what they described as a “war on terror”.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

## **MUSLIM WORLD**

### **EGYPT UPHOLDS LIFE SENTENCES FOR 10 MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURES**

Egypt's highest appeals court has upheld the life sentences of 10 leaders of Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, including the group's head, the state-owned MENA news agency reported.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/12/egypt-upholds-life-sentences-for-10-muslim-brotherhood-figures>

### **JORDAN JAILS TWO SENIOR FIGURES CONVICTED OF PLOTTING COUP**

A military court in Jordan has found a former royal court chief and a relative of King Abdullah guilty of sedition. Bassem Awadallah and Sharif Hassan bin Zaid, who had denied the charge, were sentenced to 15 years in prison after a trial that shocked Jordanians and embarrassed the monarchy.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/>

### **OMAN WILL NOT NORMALISE TIES WITH ISRAEL UNTIL 'TWO-STATE SOLUTION' REACHED**

Oman's foreign minister has shut down speculation that the kingdom is next in line to normalise relations with Israel and reaffirmed his country's commitment to a two-state solution in light of Israel's latest aggressions against Palestinians.

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/>

## MUSLIM WORLD

### ISRAELI PM SUFFERS SETBACK IN VOTE ON ARAB CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS LAW

The Israeli parliament has voted down an extension to controversial legislation that bars Arab Israelis from extending residency or citizenship rights to Palestinian spouses, in an early blow to the country's new coalition government.

<https://www.theguardian.com/>



### JORDAN, ISRAEL AGREE TO WATER DEAL; MORE WEST BANK TRADE

Israel and Jordan reached a deal on Thursday for the Jewish state to sell an unprecedented amount of water to the kingdom, while significantly boosting Jordanian exports to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/8/>

### SAUDI ARABIA INCLUDES SINOVAC ON LIST OF COVID-19 VACCINES ACCEPTED FOR ENTRY

The Saudi Arabian government has included the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine on the list of vaccines accepted for entry into the country, says Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri. The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) said that this was good news for those who wanted to observe the Haj and umrah in future.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/>

## AFRICA

### ETHIOPIA ELECTION: ABIY AHMED WINS WITH HUGE MAJORITY

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has won the country's delayed elections with an overwhelming majority, the election board said on Saturday.

The board said Mr Abiy's Prosperity Party won 410 out of 436 seats, giving him another five-year term in office.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/>



### RWANDA DEPLOYS 1,000 SOLDIERS TO MOZAMBIQUE'S CABO DELGADO

Rwanda has started deploying 1,000-strong forces to Mozambique to help it combat worsening violence in the gas-rich northern Cabo Delgado province. The announcement came on Friday after the 16-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) approved last month the deployment of joint forces to help Mozambique respond to the nearly four-year-old conflict, which has killed some 3,000 people and displaced almost 800,000, half of whom are children.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

### SOUTH AFRICA VIOLENCE SPREADS AFTER JAILING OF JACOB ZUMA

Shops were looted overnight and a section of the M2 highway was closed in Johannesburg on Sunday as violence following the jailing of the former South African president Jacob Zuma spread to the country's main economic hub.

<https://www.theguardian.com>

## UK



### FA CONDEMNS RACIST ABUSE OF ENGLAND PLAYERS AFTER EURO 2020 FINAL

England's Football Association and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson have condemned the online racist abuse of players following the team's penalty shoot-out loss to Italy in the Euro 2020 final.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

### TORY REBELS THREATEN TO VOTE DOWN RISHI SUNAK'S FOREIGN AID CUTS

Rishi Sunak is facing a tight vote on his £4bn cut to the foreign aid budget on Tuesday, with rebel Tories threatening to join with Labour to vote down the change.

<https://www.theguardian.com>



### COVID: ENGLAND LOCKDOWN RULES TO END ON 19 JULY, PM CONFIRMS

England will move to the final stage of easing Covid restrictions on 19 July, ministers have confirmed. It means almost all legal restrictions on social contact will be removed. But the prime minister said it was vital to proceed with "caution", warning "this pandemic is not over".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/>

## US & CANADA

### TEXAS DEMOCRATS AIM TO BLOCK VOTING BILL, FLEE TO WASHINGTON

Democratic legislators in Texas are fleeing the state in a bid to block Republicans from passing an elections bill that would impose new restrictions on voting. Most of the 67 Democratic members of the Texas House of Representatives are flying to Washington, DC, on two chartered aeroplanes, a Texas Democratic legislator said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com>



### G20 FINANCE MINISTERS IN VENICE TAKE UP GLOBAL TAX PROPOSAL

Finance ministers from the Group of 20 (G20) countries will push for agreement on proposals backed by United States President Joe Biden to deter tax dodging by multinational companies.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

### US SET TO ADD MORE CHINESE COMPANIES TO BLACKLIST OVER XINJIANG

The Biden administration is set to add more than 10 Chinese companies to its economic blacklist as early as Friday for alleged human rights abuses and high-tech surveillance in Xinjiang, two sources told the Reuters news agency.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

## EUROPE

### BOSNIA MARKS 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

Thousands of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina have gathered to commemorate the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, Europe's only acknowledged genocide since World War II, and bury 19 newly identified victims.

<https://www.aljazeera.com>

### BULGARIA'S GERB PARTY NARROWLY AHEAD IN NATIONAL VOTE: EXIT POLLS

No clear winner emerged from Bulgaria's parliamentary election on Sunday, exit polls showed, with the centre-right GERB party of former Prime Minister Boyko Borissov narrowly ahead of the new anti-elite party There Is Such a People (ITN).

<https://www.aljazeera.com/>

### MOLDOVA VOTES IN SNAP ELECTION AMID CORRUPTION CONCERNS

Voters in Moldova have cast ballots in an early parliamentary election that featured sharp choices between pro-Western and pro-Russian factions. Sunday's vote was called by President Maia Sandu, who aims to gain a parliament made up of pro-Western reformists who have pledged to tackle corruption in the former Soviet republic and forge closer ties with the European Union.

<https://www.aljazeera.com>

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