China has dialled up measures to stop COVID after a quadrupling of its case load in recent weeks. The city of 21 million people reported 18 new locally transmitted cases, bringing the tally for the past 10 days to 197. That is four times more than the 49 in infections detected in the previous 10-day period, according to Reuters. While the number of cases is very small compared with other countries, China’s zero-COVID policy has compelled the capital to lead the way in managing the virus.

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More than two million visas have been issued for Umrah from a total of 176 countries around the world during the current Umrah season that started on Muharram 1, 1444 (July 30, 2022). Hani Al-Omairi, member of the National Committee for Hajj, Umrah, and Visit, said that around 150 Umrah service companies and establishments are providing the best ever services for the pilgrims from the time of their arrival in the Kingdom until their departure to their countries after their performance of the Umrah rituals in a safe and comfortable manner. He noted that the coming period will witness an increase in the influx of Umrah pilgrims from different countries of the world.

Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Saudi Green Initiative, announced the second edition of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit and the Saudi Green Initiative (SGI) Forum to be held next month in tandem with COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Held under the theme ‘From ambition to action’, the MGI Summit will take place on 7 November and the SGI Forum on 11-12 November. The Crown Prince said: “I would like to thank President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and the Egyptian government for hosting the MGI Summit and SGI Forum in Egypt this year. We are holding them in tandem with COP27, an event bringing nations from around the world together under one roof, to advance global climate ambitions by inspiring joint action at local, regional, and international levels. Our partnership with Egypt reflects a shared belief in the importance of collaborative actions to address the environmental and climate challenges facing the region and the world today.”

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