

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 15 August 2021

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Imports of medical supplies operate on public holidays



A cargo truck is carrying oxygen cylinder to be distributed to regions and states.

THE Ministry of Commerce is working hard to ensure people have access to essential medical supplies which are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, arranging the continuous

importation on public holidays.

Yesterday, 30 empty oxygen containers and 1,944 oxygen concentrators were imported via aviation service at the Yangon International Airport. In addition, 79 tonnes of liquid oxygen, five tonnes of oxygen cylinders,

one gas oxygen containers, three storage containers, 9,738 empty oxygen cylinders, 1,175 home oxygen concentrators, 40,680 PPE suits and 37 tonnes of masks were imported through border trade points.

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Vegetable seeds, natural insecticides provided to farmers of home gardens in ChaungU

THE Forest Department of ChaungU Township in Monywa District of Sagaing Region provided 27 kinds of crop seeds and natural insecticides to the farmers for their manageable scale home gardens on 12 August. The officials gave 108 packages containing 27 kinds of seeds and insecticides to 15 farmers of five village-tracts of ChaungU Township.

“For home gardens, we provided vegetable seeds and homemade insecticides to reduce the use of chemicals to the farmers in five village-tracts. Then, we also gave them to Aye Yeik Mon, home for the women. We will continue to cooperate with the farmers

in conducting educating programmes regarding with agro-tech,” said township department head Daw Khin Myat Myat Oo.

The township Forest Department is providing the needed vegetable seeds and natural insecticide to the local farmers to develop a home garden for earning extra incomes, and as eating the fresh vegetables provides health benefits. Moreover, there is a home garden in office compound in accordance with the instruction of the head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department and arrangements are being made to start a home garden in Khin Mon technology dissemination centre.—Lu Lay/GNLM



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Farmers urged to prepare cultivation of summer paddy now, make natural fertilizers for their farms : Yangon Region Chief Minister

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and officials yesterday viewed vaccination process of COVID-19 and provided protective equipment in Taikkyi Township before viewing monsoon paddy model plot and private breeding farms.

Vaccination for COVID-19 prevention was held at Myoma Basic Education High School in Taikkyi where the region government and township administration body presented PPE suits, hand gel bottles, masks and other equipment to the charity associations.

The Chief Minister and party viewed monsoon paddy

model research farms in Yin-taikkwin Village where the head of Yangon Region Agriculture Department reported on cultivation of 120,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 41,977 acres of beans, more than 6,000 acres of edible oil crops, over 300 acres of maize and over 3,800 acres of sugarcane plantations in the township. The Chief Minister of the region urged farmers to prepare cultivation of summer paddy now and make natural fertilizers for their farms.

During the visits, they viewed round the broiler and layer farms in Uto Village and breeding of over 100 oxen in Myaungdakar Model Village.— Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/GNLM



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe views raising of layers in the farm.

Imports of medical supplies operate on public holidays

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A total of 743 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 171 tonnes of oxygen cylinders, 72 oxygen containers, seven liquid oxygen storage containers, six liquid oxygen distributors, 99,601 empty oxygen containers, 22 oxygen plants, 10 oxygen generators, 70,504 oxygen concentrators, 150,268 test kits, 473,012 PPE suits, 72 tonnes of gloves and 983 tonnes of masks have been imported to date in August.

From 1 July to 14 August, 1,570 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 738



Cargo trucks transports medical supplies and necessary equipment to major cities from regions and states.

tonnes of oxygen cylinders, nine tonnes of oxygen gas, 186 tonnes of oxygen cylinders, seven storage containers, six oxygen distributors, 140,092 empty oxygen cylinders, 30 oxygen plants,

four oxygen filling machines, 2 pairs of oxygen refilling, 21 oxygen generators, 139,650 oxygen concentrators, 473,146 test kits, 656,037 PPE suits, 88 tonnes of gloves and 2,261 tonnes of masks



were imported.

Of 76 liquid oxygen bowsers imported between 1 July and 14 August, 58 of them were distributed to Yangon, 11 to Mandalay, 2 to Bago, 4 to Mawlamyine

and 1 to Thaton respectively. Among 30 oxygen plants, 5 were transported to Lashio, 4 to Yangon, 4 to Bago, 3 to Mandalay, 2 to Pakokku, 2 to Hpa-an, 2 to Mawlamyine, one each to

Taunggyi, Thanbyuzayat, Magway, Dawei, Wakema, Myittha, Kyaukpadaung and Mogaung respectively.

The Ministry on 13 August announced that the border trade points will not be suspended from work on declared public holidays, from 16 to 22 August, and import operations will be conducted as usual.

The importation of COVID-19 devices will be allowed in accordance with the SOP priority, negotiated by relevant departments, and online import licence application will also be allowed as usual during the office hours.—MNA

3,419 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 August, total figure rises to 351,605

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 351,605 after 3,419 new cases were reported on 14 August 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 267,740 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 13,078 after 199 died. —MNA

Emphasis must be placed on development tasks while prioritizing peace and stability, especially political stability

THEY are carrying out the government tasks in a smooth process. It is necessary to consider extension of new sectors. The unrests and terror acts based on vote-rigging in the 2020 election are being combated. Emphasis must be placed on development tasks while prioritizing the peace and stability, especially political stability. The provisional government temporarily takes the responsibility of the country, and when the emergency period runs out, the election will be held under the law. Undertakings will be carried out to hand over the State duty to the government emerged by the election in accord with the Constitution.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 13/2021 of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 8 August 2021)

Pan Khin project important for socio-economic lives of citizens: I & P Union Minister

THE Ministry of Immigration and Population organized a meeting on e-ID system for granting household list and citizenship scrutiny cards on 13 August.

Firstly, Director Daw Hmon Shwe Yi of National Registration and Citizenship Department reported on the e-ID system, current e-ID systems of world countries and other related matters.

Then, Union Minister U Khin Yi stressed the need to study the nature of e-ID system in granting CSC cards and make plans to offer many services with that system which is the most fundamental one in e-government system.

He also said the department is related to the national security and prosperity and so

all should emphasize this matter and discuss improvement the e-ID system in detail.

Moreover, the Union Minister joined a coordination meeting on duties of media for public participation in implementing Pan Khin project yesterday and the deputy director general explained the work plans.

During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the importance of Pan Khin project for the socio-economic lives of citizens, ways to seek public cooperation in the project, online and offline media, education programmes via social network and other work plans to present the project for the region/state authorities, ethnic people organizations and other social organizations.—MNA



Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi hears reports on implementation of Pan Khin project by officials.

Magway Region provides health insurance premium to volunteers



MAGWAY Region COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee presented health insurance documents and aid to volunteers from the region in Magway on 13 August.

Assistant Manager U Soe Nyein of Myanma Insurance explained the procedures for signing of the health insurance premiums.

Chief Minister of Magway Region U Tint Lwin praised the volunteers comprising those from Red Cross Brigade, Parahita and funeral service associations for their efforts in participating in the prevention, control and treatment

of COVID-19 without political colours. He said that volunteers were provided K 2,500 as daily allowance.

He added non-governmental organizations carrying out philanthropic tasks need to contact each other for seeking help to overcome challenges of COVID-19 and the region government pledges to provide necessary assistance to them.

The Chief Minister presented insurance premiums to 576 volunteers from five districts of the region and region ministers, PPE suits, gloves, masks, hand gel and body bags.—Maung Nyi Nyar (Magway)/GNLM

Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin presents documents of health insurance to an official.

Irrawaddy dolphin found dead in Pakokku

AN Irrawaddy dolphin was found dead in the Ayeyawady river conservation areas near Hnawgon Village in Magyipinpu Village-tract of Pakokku Township in Magway Region yesterday.

U Pho Pyone from Natkyun Village-tract found the body and took it to his village. Village administrator U Sein Hlaing reported it to the township administrative officials. Then, seven officials including the deputy township administrator and police officer went to the scene and inspected the dead dolphin. It measured six feet and nine inches long with a girth of four feet. It died three days ago with an injury on its head. According to the inspection, it was found to have died from old age.

The endangered Irrawaddy dolphins were found in October 2020 in the Ayeyawady River in Pakokku Township and local journalists and fishermen took photos of them.

The relevant departments, local residents and fishermen should cooperate with each other to protect the critically endangered and rare Irrawaddy dolphins, said U Ye Lwin Thein, head of district Fisheries Department.—Salai Ko Kee (IPRD)/GNLM



Officials check body of Irrawaddy dolphin by measuring the body.

Armed terrorists brutally kill innocent people



Innocent people are dead and injured in attacks of armed terrorists.

THE armed terrorists brutally killed the township administrative officials, government employees and innocent civilians in some townships of regions and states.

On 13 August, U Han Thar, chairman of National Democratic Front (NDF), was killed at Nyein Chan Yay electronic equipment shop in Mingalar

Ward of Loikaw Township in Kayah State. According to the inspection, four men riding two motorcycles arrived there and two of them stabbed him to death. The victim died on the spot.

Similarly, another victim Maung Htein got gunshot wound in Ywathit Village of Ye Township of Mon State on

the same day. According to the investigation, one man riding motorcycle shot him while he was working in front of his house, and he ran away. The victim was taken to Lamaing public hospital.

The security forces conduct investigation to arrest the suspects for legal action.—MNA

Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They must be placed at well-ventilated sites.
4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.
8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

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Rubber latex collection business in Mongyu earns annual income

THE local farmers from Mongyu of Mongyawng Township, Shan State (East) are growing perennial rubber plants and they are earning extra income for their families annually.

The local people from Mongyu mainly cultivated in perennial rubber trees and paddy. Currently, they have already grown the paddy in their farmland. And, they are resuming their rubber latex collection business and the wet rubber latex is being sold to the local rubber traders.

The rubber latex collection businesses started in the third week of April to November. In the remaining months, the weeding and feeding fertilizers are carried out in the rubber farms. Many acres of perennial rubber trees are being cultivated in Mongyu, according to the local rubber growers.

Some growers are selling

these fresh rubber and rubber sheets to the local traders and small-scale rubber mills. Most of the growers exported them to China. However, the Mongyu-Keinyeng border bridge is temporarily closed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the rubber growers are selling them to the local traders and small-scale rubber mills.

The fresh rubber are priced at K1,000 per kilo while the rubber sheets are ranging between K 1,300 and K 1,500 per kilo, said a small-scale rubber mill owner.

About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber made in Myanmar goes to China.

Myanmar annually exports over 200,000 tonnes of raw rubber to foreign countries generating over \$200 million.—Ko Ko Naing (Mongyu)/GNLM



Buckets of rubber latex are gathered before sending them to the market.

Rice price in domestic market rises to over K 5,000 per bag



A combine harvester is in operation for winnowing paddy.

THE rice price in domestic market has climbed to over K5,000 per bag (containing 108 pounds), according to the data of Mawlamyine Commodity Depot.

The rice price on 1 July for Pawsan (80 marks) fetched K 37,200 per bag while Pawsan (90 marks) was K 39,400 per bag. Pawkywe (80 marks) rice was priced at K 32,200 per bag while Pawkywe (90 marks) hit K 33,700 per bag. The price of Emahta rice (80 marks) was sold at K 25,300 per bag while Emahta rice (90 marks) was priced at K27,300 per bag.

On 14 August, the price of Pawsan (80 marks) rice reached K 42,400 per bag while Pawsan (90 marks) fetched K 44,600 per bag. Pawkywe (80 marks) was priced at K 34,600 per bag while Pawkywe (90 marks) was sold at K 36,100 per bag. The price of Emahta rice (80 marks) was priced at K 26,800 per bag while Emahta rice (90 marks) fetched K28,800 per bag.

As a result, the price of rice bag containing 108 pounds has risen from K1,500 to K5,200 depending upon the rice quality, respectively.

The price of rice, a staple

food for the people, has gradually risen since July. These rice prices have been rising steadily since the monsoon paddy is started cultivating season in May. Each type of rice variety has increased by K2,500.

Although the rice prices are rising continuously this year, the price is not much different from last year.

Mawlamyine Commodity Depot expected that the rice prices are likely to rise continuously next month because COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters are also affecting the rice market.—NN/GNLM

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade decreases \$16 mln this FY

THE bilateral border trade stood at over US\$35 million as of 30 July in the current 2020-21 financial year which saw a slight decrease of \$16 million, from the corresponding period of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's trade report.

The Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade during the period included Myanmar's export of \$16.98 million and its imports of \$18.4 million.

At corresponding time last FY, the Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border gates was touched at \$51 million, with exports worth \$26.5 million and imports amounting to \$24.89 million.

When compared with last FY, this FY saw a decrease

in value of exports by \$9.5 million and the bilateral imports dropped by nearly \$6.47 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sit-tway and Maungtau points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages, according to the Ministry.—ACM/GNLM

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Australia clamps down on 'most concerning day of the pandemic'

AUSTRALIA'S biggest city announced tighter Covid restrictions including heavier fines and tighter policing on Saturday as authorities battled to contain a Delta outbreak and said they were seeing the "most concerning day of the pandemic" so far.

After months of pursuing a "Covid zero" strategy, Australia has been struggling to bring a resurgence of coronavirus cases under control, with more than 10 million people under lockdown in its two largest cities and the capital Canberra.

Residents of Sydney, going into an eighth week under stay-at-home orders, will now face heavier fines for flouting rules or lying to contact tracers, with current restrictions proving in-



Residents of Sydney will face heavier fines from Monday for flouting stay-at-home rules or lying to contact tracers. **PHOTO: AFP**

sufficient to stop the spread.

Police would boost patrols

and checkpoints while hundreds more defence force personnel

will help enforce stay-at-home orders as the outbreak in the

most populous state of New South Wales hit another daily record of 466 community cases.

Residents are still allowed to leave their homes for exercise, shopping, health care and essential work.

Rules for leaving Sydney were also tightened to prevent the outbreak from spreading further into other regions.

The nation's capital, which is surrounded by New South Wales, was sent into lockdown earlier this week while the second-largest city of Melbourne is battling its own outbreak. The resurgence has increased criticism of the country's sluggish vaccine rollout, with just a quarter of eligible Australians so far fully vaccinated. —AFP ■

Guatemala declares state of emergency over Delta Covid surge

GUATEMALA has declared a new state of emergency and will impose an overnight curfew from Sunday to contain a surge in Covid infections due to the Delta variant, President Alejandro Giammattei said.

The 30-day state of emergency is being implemented due to a rebound in cases attributed to the "more aggressive" Delta variant, Giammattei said in a televised address on Friday.

"The Delta variant is highly

contagious. It is causing new outbreaks and many governments have had to impose new restrictions on their populations as a mitigation measure. Guatemala cannot be the exception," he said.

Guatemala, with about 17 million inhabitants, has been recording more than 4,000 new infections a day, with 407,564 cases and 11,006 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Under the state of emer-

gency, which must be ratified by Congress, an overnight curfew will be imposed from Sunday, running from 10pm to 4am.

It also provides for speeding up the purchase of supplies to deal with the pandemic, establishes minimum and maximum prices for essential goods and bans mass meetings, although demonstrations that comply with social distancing measures will be allowed. —AFP ■

Bangladesh to sign COVID-19 vaccine co-production agreement with China: FM



Bangladesh's Health Ministry also confirmed that 1.7 million Chinese Sinopharm vaccines, under the UN's COVAX facility, has arrived in Dhaka. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

TO strengthen its campaign against the alarming spike in the COVID-19 spread in the country, Bangladesh has planned to sign an agreement with China for vaccine co-production, reported Pakistani daily The Nation, citing Bangladeshi Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

The agreement would be signed very soon and the co-production will start in a few weeks, the foreign minister was quoted as saying in a recent report.

Earlier on Tuesday, Minister-Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka Yan Hualong also confirmed in a Facebook post the planned cooperation between the two countries.

"We shall soon be coming for vaccine co-producing,"

said Yan.

Bangladesh's Health Ministry also confirmed that 1.7 million Chinese Sinopharm vaccines, under the UN's COVAX facility, has arrived in Dhaka.

On Wednesday, Bangladeshi Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told media the government needs around 276 million vaccine doses to achieve its target to inoculate over 138 million people.

Bangladesh has so far fully vaccinated only 5 million people while 15 million people have taken the first dose of the two-jab vaccines, the paper reported.

Bangladesh has registered 1.4 million COVID-19 cases with over 23,000 deaths and more than 1.2 million recoveries. —Xinhua ■

Canada to mandate Covid vaccine for government workers

THE Canadian government announced Friday it will require all federal workers and most commercial rail, air and ship passengers to get vaccinated against Covid-19, amid a surge in virus cases due to the Delta variant.

A deadline for inoculations for some 300,000 public servants will be announced in the coming

weeks.

The federal government is Canada's largest employer and Dominic LeBlanc, a government minister in charge of Canada's federal bureaucracy, said the vaccine mandate is "aimed at helping Canada reach a minimum level of coverage needed to fully reopen the economy, and keep it open as well as to protect

thousands of workers."

The vaccination requirement for the transport sector should be applied by the end of October at the latest, LeBlanc said at a press briefing.

It includes all commercial air passengers, as well as people traveling by rail between provinces and on large vessels such as cruise ships, local media cited Transport Minister Omar Alghabra as saying.

The country's largest carrier, Air Canada, said mandatory vaccinations was "a welcome step forward in the evolving measures to protect the health and safety of airline employees, customers and all Canadians."

As of Friday, 71 percent of Canada's 38 million population had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, while nearly 62 percent were fully vaccinated. —AFP ■



A woman receives a Covid-19 vaccine in the Canadian city of Mississauga in May 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Weapon seizures 'massive boon' for Taliban as cities fall

THE United States spent billions supplying the Afghan military with the tools to defeat the Taliban, but the rapid capitulation of the armed forces means that weaponry is now fuelling the insurgents' astonishing battlefield successes. "We provided our Afghan partners with all the tools—let me emphasise: all the tools," US President Joe Biden said when defending his decision to withdraw American forces and leave the fight to the locals. But Afghan defence forces have shown little appetite for that fight and, in their tens of thousands, have been laying down their arms—only

for the Taliban to immediately pick them up. The Taliban's social media is awash with videos of Taliban fighters seizing weapons caches—the majority supplied by Western powers.

Footage of Afghan soldiers surrendering in the northern city of Kunduz shows army vehicles loaded with heavy weapons and mounted with artillery guns safely in the hands of the insurgent rank and file. In the western city of Farah, fighters patrolled in a car marked with an eagle swooping on a snake—the official insignia of the country's intelligence service.— AFP ■



Taliban fighters stand on a vehicle along the roadside in Herat, Afghanistan's third biggest city. PHOTO: AFP

China, Russia conclude joint military exercise



A joint military exercise between China and Russia, named ZAPAD/INTERACTION-2021, concluded Friday in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. PHOTO: XINHUA

A JOINT military exercise between China and Russia, named ZAPAD/INTERACTION-2021, concluded Friday in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

A four-phase exercise was held on Friday morning and attended by more than 10,000 service personnel and main battle armaments, including aircraft, artillery and armored vehicles of various models. Chinese Min-

ister of National Defense Wei Fenghe and his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu observed the exercise and held talks later in the day. Wei said that the Chinese and Russian armed forces have supported each other in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the high-level development of relations between the two militaries.

The two militaries should enhance strategic coordination

and comprehensive and practical cooperation, so as to make greater contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, and safeguarding world peace and stability, Wei said. Russia is willing to enhance strategic communication with China, deepen cooperation in areas such as counterterrorism and work together to safeguard regional peace and stability, Shoigu said.— Xinhua ■

N E W S I N B R I E F

NATO says to support Afghan govt 'as much as possible'

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Friday the alliance would keep its civilian diplomatic presence in Afghanistan as it tries to support the Afghan government and security forces in the face of the Taliban's offensive. "Our aim remains to support the Afghan government and security forces as much as possible. The security of our personnel is paramount.

NATO will maintain our diplomatic presence in Kabul, and continue to adjust as necessary," Stoltenberg said, in a statement following a meeting of NATO envoys. The Taliban has overrun a string of regional capitals in a lightning offensive since NATO troops largely pulled out of the country on the back of US President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw.— AFP ■

Japan to give public employees paid leave for fertility treatment

JAPAN will give national public employees up to 10 days of paid leave a year to receive fertility treatments starting next January, in a bid to support couples hoping to have a baby as the country grapples with a rapidly declining birth rate. "The public sector will take the initiative," Yuko Kawamoto, president of the National Personnel Authority, said Tuesday at a press conference, indi-

cating she hopes the move will encourage the private sector to follow suit. An online survey, conducted in January and February, receiving responses from roughly 47,000 national public employees, showed 1.8 percent were undergoing fertility treatment while 10.1 percent said they have experience with it and 3.7 percent said they had considered it.— Kyodo ■



A landslide destroyed two houses in Unzen, Nagasaki prefecture. PHOTO: NAGASAKI KENOU FIRE DEPARTMENT/AFP

Heavy rain triggers floods, landslides in Japan

MORE than a million people were urged to seek shelter as torrential rain triggered floods and landslides in western Japan on Saturday, leaving at least one dead and two missing. Authorities in Hiroshima and the northern part of Kyushu issued their highest evacuation alert as the weather agency reported unprecedented levels of rain in the area. Under the non-compulsory alert, around 1.4 million residents have been asked to leave their homes immediately, public broadcaster NHK reported.

TV footage showed rescuers towing residents through submerged streets on a lifeboat in the town of Kurume in Fukuoka,

while a muddy stream began to overflow in neighbouring Saga prefecture.

A 59-year-old woman died and two of her family members were missing after a landslide destroyed two houses in Unzen, Nagasaki prefecture, a local official said.

"More than 150 troops, police and firefighters were dispatched to the site for rescue operations," Takumi Kumasaki told AFP. "They are carefully searching for the missing residents, while watching out for further mudslides as the heavy rain continues." Downpours are forecast for several more days over a large swathe of the country.— AFP ■

Choose the best livelihoods to benefit themselves and the State

MYANMAR people have many opportunities to set up businesses based on natural resources such as rivers, creeks and fertile lands in order to create employment opportunities for the people.

Most of the people, accounting for some 70 per cent, are residing in the rural areas. They are engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding as their primary livelihoods. In addition to these businesses, ethnic national people manufacture traditional products such as sculpture, pots, furniture and traditional woven textile for earning family incomes.

Only when the businesses of individual people improve, will it contribute much to development of the State economy. If local businesses increase the export volume, they will earn larger income.

At the same time, the people in the central Myanmar are focusing on cultivation of sesame, groundnut, potato, sunflower and other seasonal crops with the use of irrigated water from dams and reservoirs as well as river water pumping stations.

As such, it is necessary to consider how to improve businesses of the local people with the assistance of water sources which scatter all parts of the nation. Only when the businesses of individual people improve, will it contribute much to development of the State economy. If local businesses increase the export volume, they will earn larger income. If so, the government can levy commercial tax and income tax from businesspersons and allot such fund to the regions and states for development tasks.

Hence, people need to choose the best livelihoods to benefit themselves and the State through the best ways.

Pandemic In Numbers: Surge Continues

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to surge around the world this week, driven by a worsening situation in the United States (US) and Canada.

HERE is the global state of play according to a specialised AFP database.

Five Percent Increase

The average number of new daily cases globally increased by five percent over the week to 645,400, according to an AFP tally to Thursday.

The pandemic has continued to gain ground for the past two months largely due to the highly contagious Delta variant which is predominant in a number of countries. The confirmed cases only reflect a fraction of the actual number of infections, with varying counting practices and levels of testing in different countries.

Flare Up In North America

The number of new infections was by far the worst in the US-Canada zone, with 31 percent more cases compared to the previous week. The pandemic also picked up speed, but more slowly, in the



People queue for the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine during the first mega COVID-19 vaccination drive at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur on 31 May, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Middle East, which saw a seven percent increase, and in Europe where the number of cases increased by three percent. It was stable in Africa and Asia. There was a slow-down of four percent in Latin America and the Caribbean

and by 31 percent in Oceania.

Biggest Spikes

On a country basis, Azerbaijan saw the biggest pick up in cases, with an increase of 111 percent. Switzerland and Canada followed

with 76 percent more, Israel with 52 percent more and Lebanon 48 percent more.

Biggest Drops

Fiji saw the biggest drop of 47 percent this week, followed by

Colombia (minus 36 percent), Mozambique and Zimbabwe each 34 percent less and Peru (minus 28 percent).

Most New Cases

The US continued to register the most daily cases over the week with 129,400 a day, an increase of 31 percent, followed by India (37,900, minus six percent) and Iran (37,500, an increase of 13 percent).

On a per capita basis the country that recorded the most new cases this week was Georgia with 746 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Cuba (538) and the Dominican Republic (497).

Indonesia Mourns Most Deaths

Indonesia continued to mourn the highest number of daily deaths, with 1,613 per day, followed by Brazil (884) and Russia (791).

At a global level the number of daily deaths increased by two

percent to 9,540.

Vaccinations

Ecuador led the vaccination race, among countries with more than a million inhabitants, jabbing 1.59 percent of its population every day this week.

Malaysia followed with 1.42 percent, Sri Lanka (1.37 percent), Singapore (1.22 percent), Panama (1.20 percent, Turkey (1.15 percent) and Trinidad and Tobago (1.02 percent). While they are vaccinating more slowly, among the countries with the most advanced vaccination drives are the United Arab Emirates with 175 first and second doses per 100 inhabitants, Singapore (142), Israel (139), Denmark (137), Canada (136), Chile and Belgium (134 doses each), Spain (129), the United Kingdom (128) and China (127).

Some of these countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Israel and Chile have started administering third doses. —AFP

COVID-19 hampering Zimbabwe's elephants conservation efforts

THE COVID-19 pandemic has affected Zimbabwe's primary source of funding for the conservation of elephants and other wildlife, resulting in a surge in incidents of human-wildlife conflict.

Incidents involving elephants killing people or destroying their crops have accounted for the bulk of cases of human-wildlife conflict reported in Zimbabwe so far this year, as the country continues to grapple with an overpopulation of the jumbos, according to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZIMPARKS).

Every year on Aug. 12, the World Elephant Day is observed across the world. The day aims to spread awareness about the plight of elephants and identify their importance in the ecosystem.

Tourism badly affected

ZIMPARKS spokesperson Tinashe Farawo said in an interview Wednesday that his organization relies heavily on income from tourism to conserve and manage elephants but tourism had been badly affected by the pandemic.

The organization had received over 1,000 distress calls from affected members of the community since the start

of the year, and over the last five years, nearly 400 people have been killed in incidents of human-wildlife conflict. Of the 400 deaths, about 50 percent are due to conflict with elephants, Farawo said.

"We have had to revise our budget in some cases by up to 80 percent. We rely on tourism for funding and tourism is as good as dead. We do require funding to fight poaching, for law enforcement and research," Farawo said.

He said Zimbabwe's success story in wildlife conservation is inadvertently posing serious challenges, as cases of human-wildlife conflict increase.

Over 100,000 elephants

Currently, Zimbabwe has a population of over 100,000 elephants against an ecological carrying capacity of 45,000.

The jumbos are located in four main ecological zones, and two of the zones suffer from overpopulation.

The four zones are northwest Matabeleland where the country's biggest game park Hwange is located, southeast Lowveld where the second biggest park Gonarezhou is based, the Sebungwe region and mid-Zambezi in the northern part of the country.

Of the four, northwest Matabeleland

and southeast Lowveld have an overpopulation of elephants.

Hwange National Park, which is 14,650 square kilometers in geographical size, is a habitat to around 51,000 elephants against a carrying capacity of 15,000 elephants. Gonarezhou has an ecological carrying capacity of 5,000 elephants but is currently accommodating around 13,000 jumbos, Farawo said.

Ever-growing population

He said faced with an ever-growing population against the background of restrictions in culling, depopulation by moving animals to where they are less concentrated is the only medium to a long-term solution to managing the elephant population in the country.

In 2018, ZIMPARKS moved 100 elephants from the southeast Lowveld to mid-Zambezi and plans to relocate 600 more last year were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Farawo said.

"Our area of focus is to make sure that we depopulate where we have more concentration of animals to areas where there is less concentration. But that process is expensive. We don't have money. We survive on tourism-related receipts but for the past two years there is no



This file photo taken on April 13, 2019, shows elephants at Mana Pools National Park in Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe. PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN YAQIN/FILE

travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Farawo, who argued that the elephants must pay for their upkeep through commercial exploitation, including lawful hunting.

Yearly quota

This, however, had not been effective in reducing the elephant numbers, he said, noting that since 1990, Zimbabwe

had not managed to exhaust its yearly quota of 500 elephants.

"We have never hunted 500 elephants in one season even at our best. The highest we did was 250 elephants in one hunting season," Farawo said. Zimbabwe had also not done any culling of the elephants since 1988, after having culled nearly 50,000 between 1965 and 1988.

SOURCE: Xinhua

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. Dr Khin Maung Zaw	Rector
Pro-Rector	Sittway University
Sittway University	Department of Higher Education
Department of Higher Education	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
2. Professor Dr Myo Thet Tin	Rector
Pro-Rector (Admin)	University of Medicine, Mandalay
University of Medicine, Mandalay	Department of Human Resources for Health
Department of Human Resources for Health	Ministry of Health
Ministry of Health	



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 14 August 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 15 August, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Saging, Mandalay, Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 August, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 August, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 August, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

US agency reports July was world's hottest month on record



Iraqis buy ice blocks at a factory in Sadr City, east of the capital, Baghdad, on July 2 amid power outages and soaring temperatures. **PHOTO: AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP**

JULY was the hottest month globally ever recorded, a US scientific agency said Friday, in the latest data to sound the alarm about the climate crisis.

"July is typically the world's warmest month of the year, but July 2021 outdid itself as the hottest July and month ever recorded," said Rick Spinrad, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"This new record adds to the disturbing and disruptive path that climate change has set for the globe," Spinrad said

in a statement citing data from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

NOAA said combined land and ocean-surface temperature was 1.67 degrees Fahrenheit (0.93 degrees Celsius) above the 20th-century average of 60.4 degrees Fahrenheit, making it the hottest July since record-keeping began 142 years ago.

The month was 0.02 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the previous record set in July 2016, which was equaled in 2019 and 2020.

However according to

data released by the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, last month was the third warmest July on record globally.

Zeke Hausfather, a climate scientist at the Breakthrough Institute, said it is not unusual for agencies to have small differences in data.

"The NOAA record has more limited coverage over the Arctic than other global temperature records, which tend to show July 2021 as the second (NASA) or third (Copernicus) warmest on record," Hausfather told AFP.

"But regardless of exactly where it ends up on the leaderboards, the warmth the world is experiencing this summer is a clear impact of climate change due to human emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases," he said.

"The extreme events we are seeing worldwide — from record-shattering heat waves to extreme rainfall to raging wildfires — are all long-predicted and well understood impacts of a warmer world," he said.— AFP

Hippos die as DR Congo river contaminated with 'toxic' waste

TOXIC substances emitted in Angola have turned a river red in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the environment minister said on Friday, warning of an "ecological catastrophe" as the pollution kills wildlife including hippos.

This "discolouration would be caused by a toxic substance spill by an Angolan factory specialising in industrial diamond mining," DR Congo Environment Minister Eve Bazaiba said in a statement.

Polluted tributaries are feeding into the Kasai river

in the west of the vast central African country.

Local officials in the Kasai region said the dead bodies of hippos and fish had been found in the polluted waters, she said.

The Kasai feeds into the Congo River, the second longest African river after the Nile.

The situation is an "ecological catastrophe", for the local populations, said Bazaiba. The discolouration was "on the brink of reaching Kinshasa" where over 10 million people live, she added.— AFP ■



Local officials say the dead bodies of hippos and fish have been found in contaminated waters in DR Congo, according to the environment minister. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Heaven to hell': Greek beekeepers lament tradition lost to fire

ON the scorched earth, dozens of blackened rings mark all that remains of beehives that dotted the once verdant hillsides outside the village of Voutas on Greece's Evia island.

Pine, walnut and fig trees were among the rich plant life sustaining the bees in a region that produces 40 per cent of Greece's honey. And those industrious workers were, in turn, a cornerstone of the local ecosystem, pollinating local farmers' crops. "It's a whole way of life that we lost along with the forest," says Babis, 53, whose main source of income was his hives.

"What are we going to find here next year? It's over. We've gone from heaven to hell."

Bee colonies that have been bred over decades, with skills passed down through generations, have been wiped out in a fury of wild fires bil- lowed by the forces of climate

change.

'Too late for change'

Greece — along with Turkey, Italy, Spain and Algeria — has been hit by a savage fire season that Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis described as the "greatest ecological disaster in decades". "The climate crisis is a harsh reality and shows us that forests will become increasingly vulnerable and increasingly valuable for what they provide," says Dimitris Karavellas, managing director for WWF Greece.

"The climate crisis is not an excuse to fail but must be a wake-up call for change."

But for the beekeepers of Evia, it's too late for change. "We lost our hives because we were running to save our villages," says Adonis Vakos, his cap pulled down on his head as he surveys the ruins of the charred forest before him.— AFP

Wildfires ravage vast area of eastern Bolivia: NGO



Firefighters battle flames close to the Santa Cruz airport in Bolivia on 1 August, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

DEVASTATING wildfires in Bolivia consumed 749,000 hectares from January to July, the Friends of Nature Foundation (FAN) NGO said on Thursday night.

FAN said it had used images from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2 satellite to study the damage.

As in neighboring Brazil, the fires have been aggravated

by widespread deforestation aimed at expanding farming or pastureland.

The eastern Santa Cruz and northeastern Beni departments account for 94 percent of burnt areas, FAN said.

Up to the end of July, 137,000 hectares (3400,000 acres) had been burnt in Santa Cruz but the local governor said Thursday that figure had

since passed 200,000.

Beni had registered 564,000 hectares of damage in the seven-month period.

Santa Cruz, which lies close to the border with Brazil, declared a "red alert" on Thursday.

"The red alert was declared because of the progressive increase in heat sources and because of the climactic conditions we're facing," said Yovenka Rosado, the coordinator for forest fires in Santa Cruz.

According to the FAN report, the vast majority of the burnt area was pastureland, shrubs and grasslands.

Just three percent was woodland while eight percent was land used for farming.

FAN estimates that more than 2.3 million hectares of forests and prairies were destroyed by fire in 2020 and 6.4 million hectares the year before.— AFP

US authorizes Covid boosters for those with weakened immune systems



The rapid US vaccination program has slowed particularly in politically conservative regions in the South and Midwest. PHOTO: AFP

THE United States on Thursday authorized an extra dose of Covid vaccine for people with weakened immune systems, as the country struggles to thwart the Delta variant.

Emergency use authorization for a third injection of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines was granted by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulator.

“The country has entered yet another wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the FDA is especially cognizant that

immunocompromised people are particularly at risk for severe disease,” said acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock in a statement.

“Other individuals who are fully vaccinated are adequately protected and do not need an additional dose of Covid-19 vaccine at this time,” she added.

The FDA said the additional dose was for solid organ transplant recipients or those with equivalent weakened immune systems.

US health authorities had

been debating whether a third dose may be required, following a similar move by Israel.

More than 619,000 people have died in the United States from Covid-19, with case numbers increasing sharply in recent months due to the spread of the Delta variant.

The country’s rapid vaccination program has slowed particularly in politically conservative regions in the South and Midwest, and among younger people, those with lower income and racial minorities.—AFP ■

Disease experts call to halve foot traffic in Tokyo to curb COVID-19

INFECTIOUS disease experts on Thursday called for foot traffic in Tokyo to be cut by half from the level in early July, prior to the current state of emergency in the capital, to stem the alarming rise in coronavirus infections.

The experts on a government subcommittee on the COVID-19 response also urged, in their draft proposal, strengthening measures to reduce crowds in situations where infection risk is high including underground food sections at department stores and shopping malls.

With patients in need of

medical attention rising, the experts stressed the need to seek cooperation from health institutions that have previously not been involved in coronavirus response and promote coordination with prefectural governments over the hospitalization of patients.

The number of new COVID-19 cases nationwide totaled over 18,000 on Thursday, topping the previous record of 15,812 reported a day earlier, according to a Kyodo News tally.

Tokyo reported 4,989 new coronavirus cases the same day, the second-highest figure



People wearing face masks walk in Tokyo’s Shibuya area on Aug. 12, 2021, as the capital reported 4,989 new coronavirus cases the same day, the second highest figure after 5,042 infections logged a week earlier. PHOTO: KYODO

after the 5,042 infections logged a week ago. The number of patients with severe symptoms

also hit a record high of 218, surpassing 200 for the first time. The capital’s seven-day roll-

ing average of new infections was 3,976 per day, up 9 percent from a week earlier.—Kyodo ■

Israel begins COVID-19 booster shots for over 50s

ISRAELIS aged 50 and over began receiving vaccine booster shots against the coronavirus Friday as part of a government bid to stem spiking infections driven by the Delta variant.

The government announced on Thursday that it was offering third shots to people aged over 50, two weeks after launching a campaign to give the elderly booster jabs.

“This is an important step in the fight against the Delta pandemic,” Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement.

Israel was one of the first countries to launch a vaccination drive in mid-December via an agreement with Pfizer to obtain millions of paid doses in exchange for sharing data on their effectiveness.

The campaign helped to drastically bring down infections, but that trend has since reversed, driven by the spread of the Delta variant in unvaccinated people as well as those whose immunity has waned six months after they got their initial shots. “Starting



Israelis arrive to get their third dose of the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine at the Clalit Health Service in Jerusalem PHOTO: AFP

this morning, people between the ages of 50 and 60 have been vaccinated at Clalit clinics across the country,” said Ran Balicer, chief innovation officer at Clalit Health Services and the chairman of Israel’s national expert panel on COVID-19.—AFP ■

COVID-19 pandemic to affect mobility in Italy: report

THE coronavirus pandemic will continue to influence the mobility of workers and students for months to come in Italy, a report showed on Wednesday.

“A greater use of remote working and learning suggests a change in the traveling habits of employees and students,” Italy’s National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) wrote in the report.

“While over 80 per cent commuted at least five times a week before the pandemic, less than 70 per cent are planning to do so with the same frequency next fall.” Among the employees and students in-

involved in the study, more than 50 per cent of those planning to change their mobility behavior cited the coronavirus emergency as the main reason.

ISTAT also predicted a change in transport habits, with the number of people commuting on public transport forecast to drop to 22.6 per cent after the summer break, compared to 27.3 per cent before the pandemic. These data came despite the progress of Italy’s domestic vaccination campaign, which has seen 64.66 per cent of the target population (or 34.9 million people) fully immunized as of Wednesday.—Xinhua ■

Malaysia's economy grows 16.1 pct in Q2 2021



MALAYSIAN economy grew 16.1 per cent year on year in the second quarter of 2021, due to the low base from the significant decline in activity during the second quarter last year when movement restriction was first imposed in the country, the central bank said on Friday.

A woman leaves a Light Rail Transit station in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
PHOTO: XINHUA

However, owing to the re-imposition of nationwide containment measures, the central bank has lowered Malaysia's full-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast this year to 3-4 percent, from the previous forecast of 6-7.5 per cent, it said in a statement.

The economic performance in the second quarter was mainly supported by the improvement in domestic demand and continued robust exports performance, said the central bank.

Economic activity picked up at the start of the second quarter, but slowed down thereafter, following the re-imposition of stricter containment measures nationwide, it added.

According to the central bank, all economic sectors registered an improvement, particularly the manufacturing sector.

On the expenditure side, it said, the growth was driven by higher private sector spending and strong trade activity.
—Xinhua ■

Agreement reached to avoid strike at world's largest copper mine in Chile

THE main workers' union at the world's biggest copper mine, Chile's Escondida, announced Friday it had reached an agreement with Anglo-Australian giant BHP to avoid a strike.

The union, which counts more than 2,000 members, said it had obtained "almost unanimous" approval for a new collective agreement proposed by management, cancelling a strike notice that it had filed on July 31.

BHP had already said earlier

in the week that negotiations had ended, "resulting in the final content of the collective contract and closing conditions," however the agreement had yet to be accepted by the union.

Neither BHP nor the union published the financial details of the deal, although the company confirmed in a bulletin that the negotiated conditions would be in force for 36 months.

"This afternoon, after almost unanimous acceptance

by our base, we formalized the signing of our new collective contract, which includes the gains obtained during collective bargaining," the union said.

Local media reported that the agreement included a bonus for each union member of \$23,000, as well as nearly \$4,000 for extra days worked, in addition to other provisions.

Workers at the Escondida mine had announced their intention to strike after insisting their



Escondida copper mine workers protest outside BHP Billiton's offices in Santiago in May 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

demands for a one-off bonus to recognize their work during the

coronavirus pandemic had not been met.—AFP ■

'Nothing left': in crisis-hit Lebanon bread too is scarce

MICHAEL Hamati emerged from a long queue at a Beirut bakery sweat dripping from his forehead, as Lebanon's economic collapse sparks increasing shortages including over bread.

"There's nothing left in this country," said the 72-year-old, as dozens of people clamoured behind him in the simmering heat for their turn.

Lebanese flocked to bakeries before dawn Friday, desperate to find affordable bread in a country where fuel and medicine are already in critically short supply.

The rush came after the central bank on Wednesday said it could no longer afford to subsidise fuel in Lebanon.

The country, struggling with political turmoil since 2019, has also been hit by the worst global economic crisis in 150 years, according to the World Bank.

At least 78 per cent of the more than six-million-strong population lives below the pover-

ty line and businesses can barely stay afloat.

The Lebanese pound has lost more than 90 per cent of its value against the dollar on the black market in less than two years.

Many bakeries have already closed down because they cannot afford the rising cost of fuel needed to power private generators as electricity cuts last for around 20 hours a day.

Those that remain open have rationed production to make the subsidised flour they receive from the state last longer, leading to shortages in stores and supermarkets.

Hamati arrived at a Beirut bakery early in the morning, bracing for a long wait.

"This is the first time I come to this bakery. There isn't any bread left in stores," he told AFP.—AFP ■



The rush to buy petrol and bread in Lebanon came after the central bank said it could no longer afford to subsidise fuel. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nepal announces relief measures for enterprises, individuals affected by COVID-19

Nepal's central bank on Friday announced a set of relief measures for enterprises and individuals affected badly by the COVID-19 pandemic as the economic recovery is being reversed by the second wave of the virus. The Nepali government was forced to re-impose a lockdown in late April in the Kathmandu Valley and other parts of the country to cope with the second wave of the epidemic that befell earlier in the month, a move that is cutting short the recovery process.

While unveiling the monetary policy for the 2021-2022 fiscal year that began in mid-July, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank Maha Prasad Adhikari announced a number of relief measures, including the extension of loan repayment deadline, reduction of instalment amount, restructuring and rescheduling of loans and credits at cheaper interest rates, for enterprises and individuals suffering from the epidemic.—Xinhua ■

Greek economy to grow despite Covid, fires: minister

Greece's economy will weather the twin blows of the COVID-19 pandemic and massive wildfires this year, aided by better-than-expected tourism arrivals, the finance minister said Friday. Greece's economy will weather the twin blows of the Covid-19 pandemic and massive wildfires this year, aided by better-than-expected tourism arrivals, the finance minister said Friday. "It's a good year compared to last year. Compared to our estimates...it's much better," Finance Minister Christos Staikouras told Mega TV, referring to tourism arrivals. "Our estimate for 3.6-percent (economic) growth this year is absolutely feasible, and may actually be too conservative," he said.—AFP ■

Indonesia introduces solar power program into universities to cultivate future talents

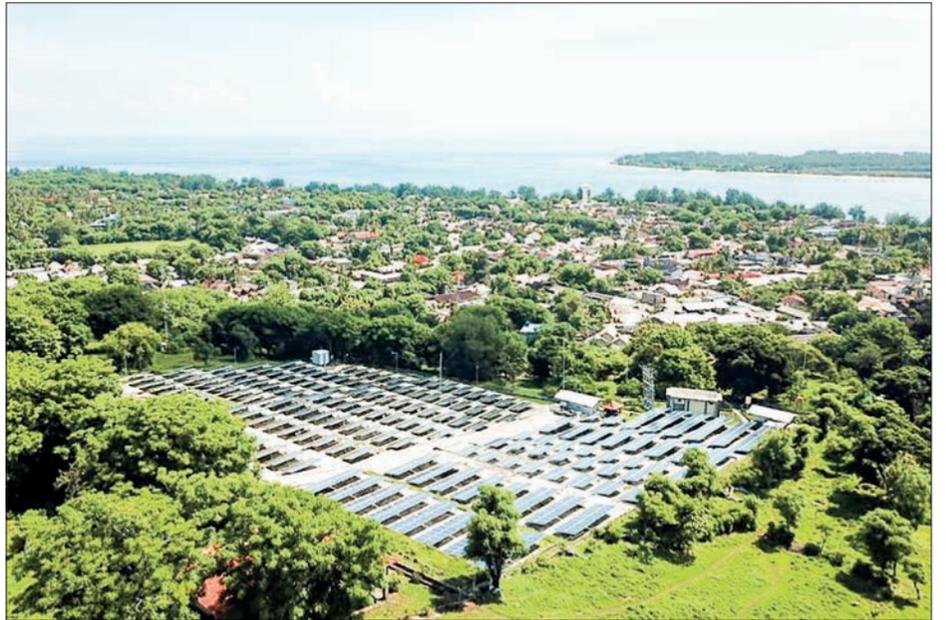
THE Indonesian government has launched the Solar Power Initiative Movement Program to universities across the country, aiming to encourage college students to choose their future careers in the clean energy industry.

The program is designed for students who want to earn college credits from it as a elective

class. It is tailored as a combination of three-month courses and three-month group assignments, Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Nadiem Makarim said on a virtual event Friday.

During the first three months, students will receive course materials delving on engineering, commercial, and market-

ing knowledge. Then, the students will be trained directly by rooftop photovoltaic power station entrepreneurs about market survey, business strategies, and promotional techniques. According to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the current total capacity of photovoltaic power stations in Indonesia is only 31 megawatts.—Xinhua ■



The Lombok Solar Project consists of three individual solar projects each with a capacity of 7-megawatts, all located on the island of Lombok in Indonesia.
PHOTO: JAKARTA POST/XINHUA

Apple defends child protection features over privacy concerns

APPLE on Friday defended new child protection features that would check images uploaded to its cloud storage and on its messaging platform, rejecting concerns the updates pose threats to privacy.

"We can see that it's been widely misunderstood," the US tech giant's software chief Craig Federighi said of the update rollout in an interview with the Wall Street Journal published Friday.

Last week, Apple unveiled two features to debut on iPads and iPhones in the United States.

One can identify child sexual abuse images uploaded to its iCloud storage, while the other uses machine learning to recognize and warn children and their parents when receiving or sending sexually explicit photos on Apple's texting app, Messages, the company said in the statement. Federighi said the new tools do not make Apple's systems and devices less secure or confidential. "We wanted to be able to spot such photos in the cloud without looking at people's photos," he said, adding Apple wanted to "offer this kind of capability... in a way that is much, much more private than anything that's been done in this area before."—AFP ■

S. Africa to seek opportunities on BRICS Business Forum

SOUTH Africa would use the the BRICS Business Forum to showcase what the country can offer, improve confidence and attract investment, said an official on Friday.

Busi Mabuza, chairperson of the Chairperson of the South African chapter of the BRICS Business Council, said the country intended to use the opportunity presented by the

BRICS Business Forum to showcase new possibilities and opportunities within the regions.

"In an environment where sentiment globally is bearish, when the pause button is pressed by many investors, we want to make sure that opportunities in BRICS stand out," she said.

India will host the BRICS Business Forum virtually on Aug. 16-18.

Mabuza said she will go with captains of industry from various sectors to lure investors into the country.

She explained that in the Forum they want to identify challenges and opportunities to ensure greater economic, trade and investment ties amongst the BRICS countries. Mabuza expressed confidence in BRICS countries' capability to drive economic development amongst those countries. "There is a consensus amongst our partners that there are opportunities in our economies to unlock growth and allow for development. Our conviction is that we have to massively mobilize all the resources at our disposal and accelerate economic activities that will put the BRICS economies on a journey towards a sustainable recovery trajectory," she said.—Xinhua ■



The South Africa pavilion is seen during the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, Nov. 5, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA/SADAT/FILE

Amendment to the Open Tender No 3/2021

1. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines announced the invitation for open tender regarding the sale of 5008.574 Metric Tons, (21) Lots of Cathode Copper by US dollars. The tender opening date was on 21.7.2021 and 30.7.2021, which is part of the public holidays and so, the tender opening date was postponed to 20.8.2021 by advertising in the state-owned newspapers.
2. However, the tender has been rescheduled to open on 20.8.2021, which is now included in the extended public holidays, so the tender opening date will be re-schedules as follows:
(a) Closing date and time of tender: 27.8.2021 (14:00)
(b) Opening date and time of tender: 27.8.2021 (15:00)
3. For any further detailed information, it is requested to contact the telephone numbers: 067-3409378 and 067-3409372, Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines

Correction

Amendment to the Open Tender No 3/2021 of the Department of Mines in the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper published on 14.8.2021, please be aware that the opening and closing date of the tender in the tender advertisement to 27.8.2021 instead of 22.8.2021.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0240-691N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0240-691N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (455W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (455W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Belgian lawmaker warns against Europe's involvement in U.S.-China tension

RAOUL Hedebouw, Member of Belgium's Chamber of Representatives, has warned against Europe's involvement in the U.S.-China tension in a recent live debate.

"I think it is a bad idea to conclude this strategic partnership with the political and economic power that during the last century has behaved most aggressively toward the nations of this world," said Hedebouw, denouncing Belgium's failure to oppose Europe's involvement.—Xinhua ■

'Unprecedented' number of migrants cross Mexico border

An "unprecedented" number of migrants were intercepted illegally crossing the US-Mexico border in July, the head of America's Homeland Security department has said. Border guards recorded more than 200,000 instances of people attempting to enter the United States during the month, according to US Customs and Border Protection.

"We are encountering an unprecedented number of migrants in between the ports of entry at our southern border," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told a press conference in Texas Thursday.—AFP ■

Malaysian air force member kills 3 in shooting rampage at base

A Malaysian air force member shot dead three of his colleagues before killing himself at a base on Borneo Island on Friday, authorities said.

In the morning rampage at the air force base near Kuching, the capital of Sarawak State, the gunman went to a guard house and shot three other servicemen with a firearm before turning the gun on himself, according to police. Two of the victims and the gunman died at the scene. The third died at the hospital.—Kyodo ■

Japanese transport firm makes diesel fuel using ramen broth

THE enterprising president of a transport firm in southwestern Japan has come up with a way to power his trucks with a biodiesel fuel made partly from leftover "tonkotsu" ramen soup broth.

The firm, Nishida Shoun, based in Fukuoka Prefecture, mixes lard extracted from the broth, which is made from pork bones, with a fuel made from waste cooking oil.

It has already started using the diesel oil in some of its 170 trucks and plans to use it in all of them from September.

An effective alternative to

petroleum diesel, biodiesel fuel is known to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The company's chairman, Masumi Nishida, came up with the idea of using tonkotsu ramen broth for fuel production in 2013 when he was approached by an operator of a ramen chain while conducting research on biodiesel fuel derived from vegetable oil.

The operator said he had to pay for disposal of leftover broth and wondered whether it could be put to use instead. Rising to the challenge, 74-year-old Nishida developed a device to separate



Photo shows Nishida Shoun Chairman Masumi Nishida holding samples of biodiesel fuel in Miyawaka, Fukuoka Prefecture, on July 2, 2021.

PHOTO: KYODO

out the lard from the broth that can be placed in the kitchens of ramen shops.

Though lard tends to solidify easily compared to vegetable

oil, Nishida came up with a way to eliminate certain elements during refining so that it can be mixed with biodiesel fuel made from waste cooking oil.—Kyodo ■

Hong Kong population sees historical decrease



People walk in the Hennessy Road in south China's Hong Kong, July 16, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/WU XIAOCHU

HONG KONG'S population has seen a 1.2 percent decline in the past year amidst Beijing's crackdown on dissent in the city and

the pandemic-induced lockdown, local media Ming Pao Daily reported Friday.

According to estimations released by the Census and Statistics Department on Thursday, Hong Kong's population as of the end of June saw a drop of almost 90,000 from the same month last year. This marks the biggest population decrease in the city since 1961 when the city began keeping records. A government spokesperson clarified that the decrease in population is not a direct reflection of emigration, and that other factors, such as COVID-19 restrictions and severe interruption of international

travel, should be taken into consideration.

Hong Kong has seen a mass exodus of its residents in past months following the enactment of the Beijing-imposed national security law, which criminalizes acts of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces. In January, Britain began offering a route to permanent settlement and citizenship to holders of the British National (Overseas) status in Hong Kong.

It is estimated that upward of 300,000 people will take up the offer over the next five years, according to a report from Britain's Home Office.—Kyodo ■

Zambia counts votes from close election as army reinforced



Hakainde Hichilema, who is vying the top job for the sixth time and is backed by an alliance of 10 parties. PHOTO: AFP

Vote counting was underway in Zambia on Friday after a hard-fought general election that saw social media throttled in the capital and President Edgar Lungu

send more troops to three provinces to quell violence.

The ballot is expected to be the tightest stand-off yet between Lungu, 64, and main

opposition candidate Hakainde Hichilema, 59, who is vying the top job for the sixth time and is backed by an alliance of 10 parties.

Thursday's vote presented a test of democracy in the usually peaceful southern African nation country of more than 17 million people, where rising living costs appear to have diminished support for Lungu, who is accused of growing increasingly iron-fisted since taking office in 2015.

Violence was reported in the North-Western province, a Hichilema stronghold, where two people including a ruling Patriotic Front (PF) party chairman were killed, the president announced late Thursday, blaming his rival's United Party for

National Development (UPND) party.

Zambia's electoral commission has launched an investigation into the chairman's murder, which the UPND distanced itself from, calling it a "distraction" tactic.

The PF also alleges some of its agents were beaten and chased from polling stations in the Southern province.

Lungu, who had deployed the military to police the vote following pre-election clashes, reinforced troops in three provinces.

He has already inferred that election day violence has "effectively rendered the elections in... three provinces not free and fair".—AFP ■

US issues new terrorism threat warning ahead of 9/11 anniversary

THE US Department of Homeland Security issued a new terrorism threat advisory on Friday ahead of the anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks and amid a resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic.

The National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin said the United States faces a “heightened threat environment” from both domestic terrorists “and those inspired or motivated by foreign terrorists and other malign foreign influences.”

It cited increased use of “online forums to influence and

spread violent extremist narratives and promote violent activity.”

The new advisory updated a January alert following the attack on the US Congress by supporters of then-president Donald Trump, when DHS said the country faced “increasingly complex and volatile” threats from anti-government and racially motivated extremists, often stirred up by online influence from abroad. The bulletin had already been amended in May, with DHS warning violent extremists could exploit the easing



Washington saw security intensified with National Guard troops and high fences following the January 6 assault on Congress by supporters of president Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

of Covid-19 restrictions to conduct attacks.

“Extremists may seek to exploit the emergence of Covid-19 variants by viewing the potential re-establishment of public health

restrictions across the United States as a rationale to conduct attacks,” the DHS advisory said, adding that “pandemic-related stressors... may contribute to more violence this year.”—AFP ■

Taliban close in on Kabul as US scrambles to evacuate

THE Afghan Taliban tightened their territorial stranglehold around Kabul on Saturday, as refugees from the insurgents’ relentless offensive flooded the capital and US Marines returned to oversee emergency evacuations.

With the country’s second- and third-largest cities having fallen into Taliban hands, Kabul has effectively become the besieged, last stand for government forces who have offered little or no resistance elsewhere.

Insurgent fighters are now camped just 50 kilometres (30 miles) away, leaving the United States and other countries scrambling to airlift their nationals out of Kabul ahead of a feared all-out assault.

US embassy staff were or-



Insurgent fighters are now camped just 50 kilometres away from the Afghan capital. PHOTO: AFP

dered to begin shredding and burning sensitive material, as units from a planned re-deployment of 3,000 American troops started arriving to secure the airport and oversee the evac-

uations.

A host of European countries – including Britain, Germany, Denmark and Spain – all announced the withdrawal of personnel from their respective

embassies on Friday.

For Kabul residents and the tens of thousands who have sought refuge there in recent weeks, the overwhelming mood was one of confusion and fear of what lies ahead.

“We don’t know what is going on,” one resident, Khairiddin Logari, told AFP.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was “deeply disturbed” by accounts of poor treatment of women in areas seized by the Taliban, who imposed an ultra-austere brand of Islam on Afghanistan during their 1996-2001 rule.

“It is particularly horrifying and heartbreaking to see reports of the hard-won rights of Afghan girls and women being ripped away,” Guterres said.— AFP ■

Police raid Nicaragua paper that branded govt a ‘dictatorship’

NICARAGUAN police on Friday raided the premises of independent newspaper La Prensa, which had branded the government a “dictatorship” after being forced to suspend its print edition.

The publication announced the suspension on Thursday, blaming customs for refusing to release its paper imports.

La Prensa was the only national independent daily newspaper remaining in circulation at a time when the government is accused of repressing opponents.

Nicaragua is gearing up for a general election in November but since the beginning of June, authorities have detained 32 op-

position figures, including seven with aspirations of challenging President Daniel Ortega, who is seeking a fourth successive term.

According to an official police statement, the newspaper’s managers are being investigated for “customs fraud and money laundering.” Police took control of the premises at midday and said the newspaper’s warehouses were in “custody.”

During the raid, some of the paper’s journalists said internet access and electricity were cut off, while officers prevented them from using their mobile telephones inside the building.

Pro-government media



La Prensa had been the only national independent daily newspaper remaining in circulation at a time when the Nicaraguan government is accused of repressing opponents. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

published photos of La Prensa’s warehouses on social media,

claiming they had no reason to halt their print version.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Merkel to visit Moscow next Friday

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel will head to Moscow next Friday before visiting Ukraine two days later, her spokesman said, without giving further details on the trips.

Spokesman Steffen Seibert said details on her programme and reasons for the visits will be provided next week.

Merkel’s August 20 visit to Moscow would take place just weeks before she is due to leave office following September 26 elections in Germany. It would also be her first to the Russian capital since January 2020. Since then relations between Germany and Russia have been highly strained by a multitude of issues, including Moscow’s troop build-up on Ukraine’s borders, a series of espionage scandals and the poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

Nevertheless, Merkel had said in June that the EU should seek direct talks with President Vladimir Putin even as the bloc stands together against “provocations” from Russia.—AFP ■

UK vows not to turn back on Afghanistan despite embassy pullout

BRITAIN will not abandon Afghanistan, Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed on Friday, even as he confirmed the imminent withdrawal of most embassy staff in the face of a rapid Taliban onslaught.

With the Islamists seizing control of more Afghan cities, Britain is deploying around 600 troops to help evacuate its roughly 3,000 nationals from the country, and Johnson said the “vast bulk” of remaining embassy staff in Kabul would return to the UK.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said President Joe Biden’s decision to withdraw US troops, forcing NATO allies to follow suit, “leaves a very big problem on the ground” and handed momentum to the Taliban. He predicted it would benefit Al-Qaeda, who were given safe haven by the Taliban before the September 11, 2001 attacks that prompted the West’s 20-year involvement in Afghanistan.—AFP ■

Chin youth player Phun Za Mang renews contract with Esbjerg Fb Club

PHUN Za Mang, a Chin youth footballer playing for the Danish first division club youth team, has been renewed contract with Danish football club Esbjerg Fb till 2024, according to the Danish football club statement.

The 16-year-old Chin boy is playing for the Danish senior team at the end of this season.

Under the current deal, he will only be allowed to play for the senior team, officials stated.

Phun Za Mang has also been named in the Danish U-12 squad and again in the U-16 youth team.

He was a member of the junior team of the Danish first division club Esbjerg FB team and then joined for the senior team in the 2020-2021 season.

The Sixteen-year-old chin player took striker and winger roles and has scored two goals in eight appearances for Esbjerg FB team.

According to the Chinland FC statement, Phun Za Mang immigrated to Denmark from Matupi, Chin State.—GNLM



Chin youth player Phun Za Mang has scored two goals in eight appearances for Esbjerg FB team. **PHOTO: PHUN ZA MANG INSTAGRAM**

Henley keeps PGA Wyndham lead while Sabbatini charges

RUSSELL Henley fired a six-under par 64 on Friday to grab a four-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the US PGA Wyndham Championship while Olympic runner-up Rory Sabbatini charged.

Henley, a 32-year-old American, had seized the first-round lead with an opening 62 and stood on 14-under 126 after 36 holes at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"Just started feeling good

with the putter," Henley said. "Just kind of a boring round, made some putts and had some good saves. I just tried to keep committing to every shot and it just kind of happened."

Henley began on the back nine Friday and took a bogey at the par-3 12th only to reel off four birdies in a row starting with a 20-foot putt at the 14th and including a 14-footer at the par-3 16th.

World number 56 Henley holed a birdie putt from just inside 18 feet at the par-3 third to reach 12-under; tapped in birdie at the par-5 fifth and sank another from just inside seven feet at the eighth.

Henley seeks his fourth US PGA title and the first since winning the 2017 Houston Open.

"Keep trying to make good decisions and commit to what I'm doing," Henley said of his weekend plans. "I feel good about my game, but there's so much golf to be played and I'm just excited to try to keep playing well."—AFP ■



American Russell Henley fired a six-under 64 on Friday to seize a four-stroke lead after the second round of the US PGA Wyndham Championship. **PHOTO: AFP**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Kane's future hangs over Tottenham and Man City ahead of season opener

MANCHESTER City's defence of the Premier League title gets underway on Sunday away to Tottenham with both clubs still in limbo over the future of Harry Kane.

The England captain returned to training with his Spurs teammates for the first time on Friday after arriving back late from his holidays in the United States and then having to quarantine.

Kane has made no secret of his desire to leave his boyhood club with City the obvious destination as they seek a successor to all-time top scorer Sergio Aguerro, who has depart-

ed Manchester for Barcelona.

However, Kane's decision to sign a six-year contract in 2018 has backfired with Spurs chairman Daniel Levy set to demand a fee well in excess of the £100 million (\$138 million) Premier League record City spent on Jack Grealish earlier this month. "Harry is an exceptional, extraordinary striker. There are no doubts about that. Of course we are very interested," City boss Pep Guardiola said last week. "But he is a Tottenham player. If they don't want to negotiate there is nothing more to say. If they want it, we will try."—AFP ■