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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

Four more million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines purchased from China arrive in Yangon



Four million doses of Sinopharm are being loaded on truck at Yangon International Airport.

AS a measure to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health is administering the COVID-19

vaccines to the target groups. Of 24 million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines purchased from the People's Re-

public of China, 4 more million doses arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday and were received by the

head of Yangon Region Medical Services/ Public Health Departments and official.

These vaccines will be dis-

tributed to regions and states based on the requirement, via road transport or with the help of the Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanmar airways in the cold chain.

The newly arrived COVID-19 vaccines will be given to the original target groups and extended groups according to their priorities.

Till 26 September, two million doses of COVISHIELD, 10 million doses of Sinopharm and two million doses of Sinovac purchased by the Ministry of Health, totalling 14 million have arrived in Myanmar.

The people are urged to receive the COVID-19 vaccines, and those who have already received the first dose are encouraged to go to the nearest immunization centres and receive the second dose on the scheduled immunization date or near the due date, as well as to actively participate in the vaccination activities.—MNA

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State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

THE State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products continue



A truck is carrying liqued oxygen tank.

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure the people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airport and seaports under the standard operation procedures.

Yesterday, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by three companies using by 12 vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by bowser and 88 tonnes of masks import-

ed via Muse, Myawady, and Chinshwehaw trading posts.

One oxygen bowser led to Yangon, officials said.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for better importation.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



Cargo trucks are seen with loads of medical equipment.



A cargo truck is filled with medical supplies.



A truck is conveying tank of liquid oxygen.

Anyone should not be left in COVID-19 vaccination

ALTHOUGH some ethnic armed organizations broke the agreement of NCA for various reasons, the government arranges vaccination for these organizations under the rights of the citizen. Anyone should not be left in COVID-19 vaccination. Arrangements are being made to vaccinate the people from ethnic armed organization areas in addition to those from Rakhine State. Such a move does not depend on political trends but the national cause without ism and personal cult. It is an effort to enable all the people to participate in the endeavours of State prosperity.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 2/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7-9-2021)

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman donates offertories, foodstuffs to monasteries, nunneries

NAY Pyi Taw Development Committee and departments concerned organized donation ceremonies of rice, cooking oil, gram and salt to the monasteries and nunneries in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

The ceremonies took place at Zabuthiri Hall of Nay Pyi Taw Council office, Sasana Pala Dhamma Yeiktha (Myeik) monastery in Zabuthiri Township and Thatta Thattaha "Pwint" Zedi Religious Hall in Pobbathiri Township.

The monks led by member of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vicakkhana of Aung Sitha Monastery in Pobbathiri Township attended the event at



Rice, cooking oil, gram and salt donations to monasteries and nunneries are in progress in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Zabuthiri Hall of Nay Pyi Taw Council office.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing

and invited guests donated the offertories including four basic

foodstuffs to the monks and nuns.

Similarly, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and party also donated the offertories and foodstuffs to the monks and nuns at the donation ceremonies, which were held at Sasana Pala Dhamma Yeiktha (Myeik) monastery in Zabuthiri Township and Thatta Thattaha "Pwint" Zedi Religious Hall with attendance of Chair of Nay Pyi Taw Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Shwe Inn Yeiktha Monastery of Tatkon Bhaddanta Pannasami. Officials donated a total of 484 bags of rice, 1,390 viss of cooking oil, 725 viss of beans and 725 viss of salt were donated to 269 monasteries and 11 nunneries in Nay Pyi Taw area. —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)

COVID-19 tests and fever surveillance activities accelerated in Nay Pyi Taw

COVID-19 tests and fever surveillance activities are being accelerated in staff housings in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Health staff, members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps and the Township Administration

Body are working together for the COVID-19 prevention activities in the territory.

Yesterday, a total of 2,010 staff from various ministries residing at staff housings and dormitories in Zabuthiri Town-

ship were offered to test for COVID-19.

Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing and party encouraged them during the tests, and provided them with masks.—MNA



Health staff perform COVID-19 tests on staff of ministries in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister makes inspection tour in Shwebo

SAGAING REGION Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw and officials made an inspection tour to Shwebo Township yesterday. The Chief Minister and party firstly inspected the construction of the Oxygen Plant Foundation in Industrial zone ward in Shwebo and construction of Thetketan Bridge (Tadanat) in Ward 10.

The Chief Minister also inspected the construction of Shwebo Market destroyed by fire. The Shwebo Township Development Committee Executive Officer explained the design of the new market building and construction. During the visit to Shwebo People's Hospital, aid worth K500,000 was donated for the healthcare workers. The Chief Minister



Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw views round display of foliar fertilizer and inputs.

also visited Maha Nanda Lake and observed the water storage conditions and water supply to

the town.

Afterward, he attended the demonstration of foliar ferti-

lizer application for yielding 100 baskets of Shwebo pawsan monsoon paddy per acre.

The Region Director of Agriculture Department explained that the demonstration was held to reduce the use of fertilizer due to the high price, to increase crop yield at low cost and to let the rice consume Nitrogen directly. An official also explained the use of foliar fertilizers and its benefits of reducing wastes as no direct application to the soil is required; Nitrogen can be applied directly from rice leaves, and more profitable with less cost.

The Chief Minister also visited the Paddy Sorting Factory in Sainaigy Village in Wetlet Township, and an official explained the process of seed cleaning and the purification of paddy seeds.—District IPRD/GNLM

Elderly people receive COVID vaccines in Maungtaw Township

HEALTH staff gave the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to the people of aged 55 and above and Rakhine State civil servants who have not been vaccinated in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

The vaccines are produced from the People's Republic of China and vaccinations were given at 9 am in various designated areas in the township.

During the vaccination, healthcare workers and officials made records for the vaccinated people.

Next, health officials measured the body temperature, blood pressure and monitoring oxygen level before the vaccination.

Vaccines were given systematically to the local people, and only those with normal health

conditions are vaccinated, officials said.

After resting for about 30 minutes after being vaccinated, people were allowed to leave, officials said.

Vaccines were given for the first time to civil servants, people over 55-year-old in 13 wards in the village-tracts on 26 September, officials added.—Thet Lwin Soe (District IPRD)/GNLM



A health staff performs medical checkup for providing anti-COVID-19 vaccine to an older person.

Local people get COVID-19 jabs in Pwintbyu Township



LOCAL people who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 disease received COVID-19 vaccines in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region yesterday, according to the township General Administration Department.

The vaccines are being given to four prioritized groups starting from 9 am, officials said.

The COVID-19 vaccines were administered by health

staff in four groups to prevent crowds under the leadership of the township administration body, officials said. A total of 201 people were vaccinated at the four vaccination sites yesterday, officials added.

Under the close supervision of U Aung Myat Khaing, Chairman of the Township Administration Body, staff from the Township General Administration Department, Township Fire Brigade and volun-

teer teams provided necessary assistance.

Ward and village Administrators in Pwintbyu Township are urging those who have not been vaccinated to get the vaccines according to the set schedules, officials said. To date, 2,745 people have been vaccinated in the township, according to Pwintbyu Township Administration Body Chairman U Aung Myat Khaing.—Ye Win Naing (Nyaung Oo)/GNLM

A local woman is receiving anti-COVID-19 vaccine in Pwintbyu Township.

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Fuel oil prices double during eight-month period

THE domestic fuel oil price in the last week of September tremendously increased to double compared with the price recorded in the past eight months, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association's price data showed.

The coronavirus impacts and the remarkable global rally led to the price rises, coupled with the devaluation of Kyat in the forex market.

The fuel oil was pegged at around at K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in domestic retail market. Then, it remarkably climbed up to K1,235 for Octane 92, K1,275 for Octane 95, K1,230 for diesel and K1,249 for premium diesel on 26 September 2021, according to local fuel oil market.

Domestic oil price is positively related to global market. Oil price inched higher in the global market at US\$73.98 per barrel for WTI crude and \$78.09 for Brent crude on 26 September.

Additionally, foreign exchange rate also affects the



A filling station accept vehicles for providing fuel.

petroleum price. The Kyat continues to weaken in the local forex market in September, rising above K2,100 per dollar. In mid-February, a dollar was worth K1,430 only.

Myanmar imported nearly

\$2.3 billion worth fuel oil in the past ten months (Oct-July) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Normally, a monthly oil import is estimated at \$400 mil-

lion, yet the oil importers are facing banking restrictions for maritime trade besides Kyat depreciation. Oil importers via land border can use informal payment Hundi system instead, said an importer.

Normally, Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore, with monthly volumes touching 200,000 tonnes for gasoline and 400,000 tonnes for diesel. There are about 2,000 fuel stations and over 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association stated.

Last year, the domestic oil prices have declined starting from January owing to a fall in global oil prices. On 8 January 2020, oil prices were pegged at around K905 per litre for Octane 92, K995 for Octane 95, and K985 for diesel and premium diesel. Following the global market crashing, the domestic oil price plunged to more than 50 per cent in April against January's prices.

In late April 2020, the oil prices touched the lowest of K290-330 per litre for Octane 92, K430-455 for Octane 95, K435-465 for diesel, and K445-475 for premium diesel, according to the domestic oil market.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally.—KK/GNLM

Agro exports climb up to \$4.5 bln as of 17 Sept

THE agricultural exports have soared to US\$4.536 billion as of 17 September of the current financial year 2020-2021 since 1 October 2020, despite the downward trend in other export groups amid the tightened coronavirus containment measures in the border and increase in container shipping cost.

The figures reflect an increase of \$882 million this FY. The agro exports topped \$3.65 billion in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020 FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce. The agricultural exports surged even though the main trade partner China shut down all the borders in wake of COVID-19 surge in Myanmar. The coronavirus pandemic impacted the foreign demand for other export groups—agricultural products, fishery, livestock, mineral, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods.

“The Kyat devaluation on US dollar will benefit the exporters.

Yet, it will hike up the local food prices somehow,” a market analyst shared his opinion.

In the exports sector, the agricultural industry performed the best, accounting for 37 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro products, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G to G pact also ensures the strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, in-



Vegetable plants are thriving in farm

volvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to

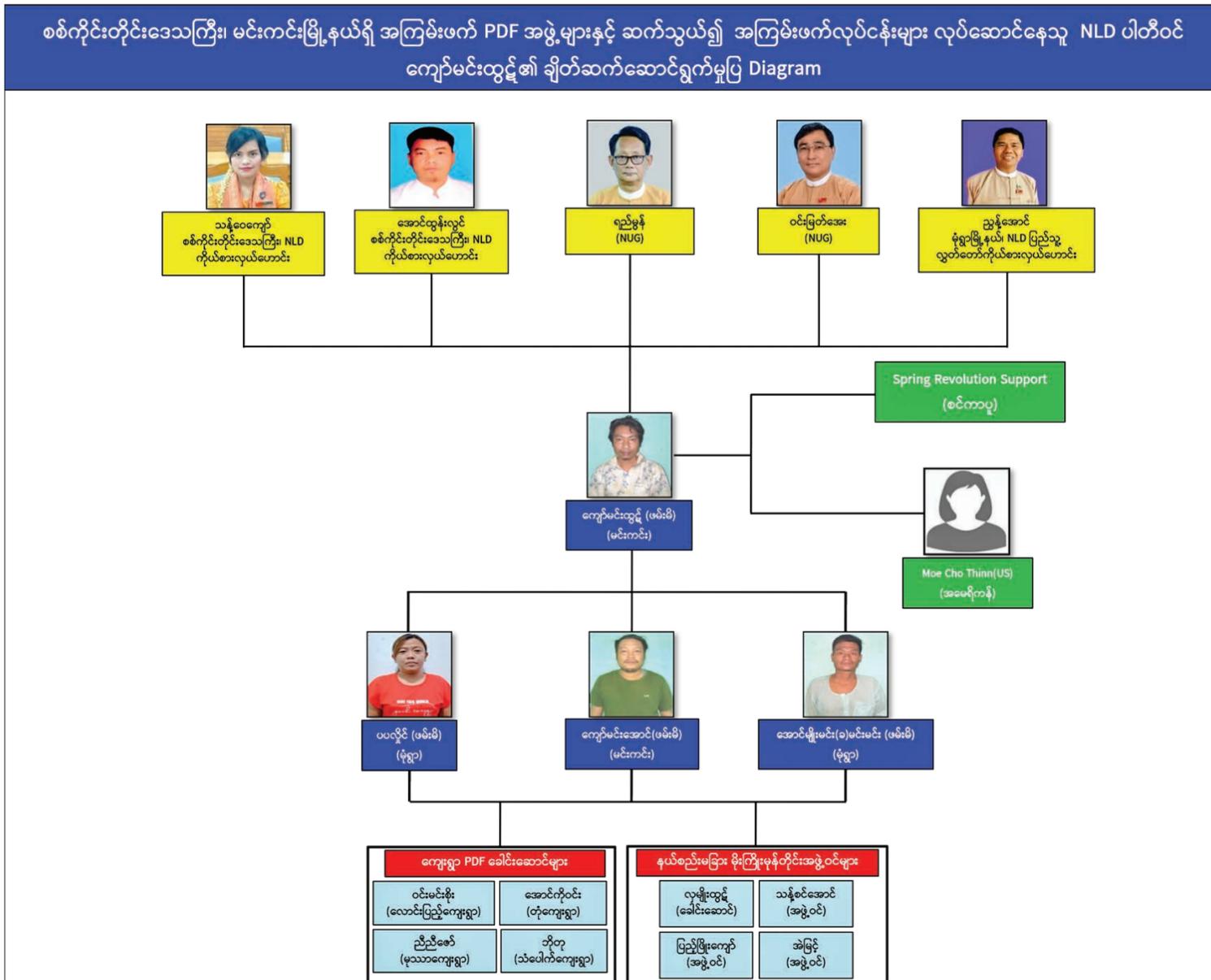
meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated. The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with chal-

lenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions.—KK/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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Minkin Township NLD member Kyaw Min Htut, three related suspects connecting PDF groups who committed terrorist activities in Minkin Township arrested



gitive Yi Mon, member of unlawful terrorist groups CRPH and NUG and conducted Zoom meetings, asked for money to establish a homemade gun factory in Minkin Township and collected list of Minkin PDF members sent to fugitive Yi Mon.

He contacted the Spring Revolution Support organized with another fugitive Nyunt Aung (former Monywa Pyithu Hluttaw MP of NLD), unlawful terrorist group NUG member Win Myat Aye, Moe Cho Thinn from the US and Myanmar nationals living in Singapore to collect money and allocated the cash contributions to PDFs and Thunderstorms Without Borders in Muttha, Tong and Thanpauk villages of Minkin Township where the innocent people were accused of being informers and killed.

According to Kyaw Min Aung, he participated in protests of Minkin Township, posted on social media, committed incitements to occur riots and collected money sent to Win Min Soe, leader of Laungpyae Village PDF.

The arrested suspects will face legal actions under the law. The security force will also investigate to arrest the absconders. Moreover, announcements are also released that the entire people can participate in fight terrorism and arresting perpetrators as quickly as possible, secretly report to the officials about their hiding places and activities, and the whistle-blowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded. — MNA

THE security forces arrested Pa Pa Hlaing, who supported PDF terrorists of Minkin Township of Sagaing Region, in Mingala street of Aungmingala Ward of Monywa township on 5 September.

According to her confession, she remitted money and provided medicines and materials and made homemade guns

for PDFs in Minkin Township under the instructions of fugitive Kyaw Min Htut (member of Minkin Township NLD legal aid body).

Based on the words of suspect Pa Pa Hlaing, the police arrested Minkin NLD members Kyaw Min Htut and Kyaw Min Aung who connected with PDFs to commit attacks in Sagaing

Region and Aung Myo Min who admitted the terrorists at his house located in Myawady Ward of Monywa on 6 September.

Kyaw Min Htut admitted that he contacted fugitive Aung Tun Lwin (former No (2) Region Hluttaw MP of Minkin NLD) to become a member of Minkin Township public administration body and member of the organ-

izing committee for Western Command of terrorist NUG.

Moreover, he served as representative of Minkin township to commit violence with PDFs according to the instructions of Thant Wai Kyaw, member of CRPH of Sagaing Region (former No 1 Region Hluttaw MP of Kalay township).

He also connected with fu-

1,534 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 September, total figure rises to 458,154

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 458,154 after 1,534 new cases were reported on 26 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 411,955 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,527 after 62 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 25-9-2021, a total of 7,205,913 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 3,729,758 people have been vaccinated two times and 3,476,155 people once.—MNA

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'Eternal' chancellor: Germany's Merkel prepares to leave the stage

SHE was called "the leader of the free world" as authoritarian populists were on the march in Europe and the United States, but Angela Merkel is wrapping up a historic 16 years in power with an uncertain legacy at home and abroad.

In office so long she was dubbed Germany's "eternal chancellor", Merkel, 67, leaves with her popularity so resilient she would likely have won a record fifth term had she sought it.

Instead, Merkel will pass the baton as the first German chancellor to step down entirely by choice, with a whole generation of voters never knowing another person at the top.

Her supporters say she provided steady, pragmatic leadership through countless global crises as a moderate and unifying figure.

Yet critics argue a muddle-through style of leadership, pegged to the broadest possible consensus, lacked the bold vision to prepare Europe and its top economy for the coming decades.

What is certain is that she leaves behind a fractured political landscape. It is also be-



Angela Merkel is wrapping up a historic 16 years in power with an uncertain legacy at home and abroad. PHOTO: AFP

cause of the long shadow she casts that her party's candidate, Armin Laschet, has struggled to sharpen his own profile.

His Social Democratic opponent, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, has actively—and perhaps successfully—sold himself as the real continuity candidate.

Assuming she stays on to hand over power, Merkel will tie

or exceed Helmut Kohl's longevity record for a post-war leader, depending on how long the upcoming coalition negotiations drag on.

Do the right thing

The unflappable Merkel has served for many in recent years as a welcome counterbalance to the big, brash men of global

politics, from Donald Trump to Vladimir Putin.

A Pew Research Center poll this week showed large majorities in most democracies around the globe having "confidence in Merkel to do the right thing in world affairs".

However, the last days of her tenure have also been marred by what Merkel called the "bitter,

dramatic and terrible" return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan—a debacle in which she shares the blame as Germany completed its evacuation.

A trained quantum chemist raised behind the Iron Curtain, Merkel has long been in sync with her change-averse electorate as a guarantor of stability.

Her major policy shifts reflected the wishes of large German majorities—among them phasing out nuclear power after the 2011 Fukushima disaster—and attracted a broad new coalition of women and urban voters to the once arch-conservative CDU.

Austerity queen

Before the coronavirus pandemic, her boldest move—keeping open German borders in 2015 to more than one million asylum seekers—seemed set to determine her legacy.

But while many Germans rallied to Merkel's "We can do it" cry, the move also emboldened an anti-migrant party, Alternative for Germany (AfD), ushering a far-right bloc into parliament for the first time since World War II. — AFP ■

Russia's Communists lead protest over 'colossal' vote fraud



Many Russians in Moscow and elsewhere backed the Communists as a form of protest voting. PHOTO: AFP

RUSSIA'S Communist Party on Saturday led a thousand-strong protest in central Moscow over what they called "colossal" fraud in parliamentary polls as police detained a number of activists.

It was the first sizable Moscow protest since this month's

controversial polls, and police did not break up the unsanctioned rally but played loud music in an effort to drown out the protesters.

Before and during the protest, authorities detained a number of activists including Sergei

Udaltsov, head of a radical socialist group, Left Front, according to OVD-Info, which tracks detentions at opposition rallies.

In his residence outside Moscow, President Vladimir Putin hailed the ruling party's "convincing victory" and said Russian democracy was growing stronger as he hosted the heads of five parties which won parliamentary seats including Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov.

Putin opponents have accused the authorities of mass fraud after results showed the deeply unpopular ruling United Russia party winning a sweeping majority in parliament at legislative polls.

The three-day vote took place following a historic crack-down on the opposition, with authorities imprisoning Putin's most vocal critic Alexei Navalny and formally outlawing his organisations. — AFP ■

Afghan fighters seek glory on a dusty Kabul field

EVERY weekend, fighters from around Afghanistan gather on a public field in the capital to pit their skills against each other in a sport that is a mix of judo and wrestling.

The informal gatherings attract big partisan crowds, with fans cheering for their favourites—usually someone from their home district—and jeering those they want to see lose.

"I have been fighting for 17 years," said Mohammad Atef, a well-built 31-year-old from Samangan province in northern Afghanistan, after disposing of his opponent with an expert throw.

"It is popular in Samangan, Kunduz, Baghlan -- and there are many famous wrestlers in Sheberghan too."

Judo and wrestling are particularly popular in the north, with villages and districts producing local champions they put forward for regional contests and even national glory.

The discipline the Afghans



Judo and wrestling are particularly popular in northern Afghanistan, with villages and districts producing local champions they put forward for regional contests and even national glory. PHOTO: AFP

follow on the dusty field is a mix of both, with referees to make sure an obscure set of rules is followed and to declare a winner. — AFP ■

Thriftily spend Union budget on compulsory projects within six months

A government needs to efficiently arrange the public financial management comprising income of the State, taxation systems, expenditures for development tasks and administrative expenditure, and debt management so as to implement its policies.

It is necessary to strive for increasing income to implement the adopted policies and systematically allot the budgets to the Union as well as regions and states. The State Administration Council decided to enact the national plan of the State in accord with Section 100 (b) of the Constitution (2008), the annual budget and tax bills in line with the existing laws and procedures.

In fact, a period of six months is a short time. During the period, the government and the people should join hands in implementing the projects within the frameworks through the thrifty practice of the financial process to have a sound foundation for the nation.

Myanmar will change its financial year from 1 April to 31 March starting from the 2022-2023 financial year instead of 1 October to 30 September. As such, the budget for the departments and organizations has been drawn for six months until 31 March 2022.

The country faced the decline of income from the taxes due to exemption and postpone of taxation in the 2020-21 financial year whereas the State-owned businesses embraced the decline of income. Hence, the country needs to thriftily spend the budget, and arrangements will be made for spending the fund on compulsory projects.

The total capital expenditure must systematically be spent on existing construction projects which are expected to complete within six months, new projects and compulsory purchase of materials under the National Planning Law. As part of thrifty measures, Kyat currency should be spent on the purchase of necessary items to reduce the spending of foreign exchange as much as possible.

Region and state authorities need to effectively spend the allotted budget on projects on roads, water supply, electricity, production, education, health and social protection which will directly benefit the people, rather than the administration cost.

At the same time, Union ministries are to implement the projects in accord with the State financial policies, project policies, trade policies and investment policies whereas regions and states are to contribute to the State with the implementation of the regional projects.

In fact, a period of six months is a short time. During the period, the government and the people should join hands in implementing the projects within the frameworks through the thrifty practice of the financial process to have a sound foundation for the nation.

Post-COVID-19 supply chain disruptions cause massive delays, loss of multi-bln USD in US

America's West Coast is under siege by massive container ships, and the number of ships is growing each day. But American consumers can't wait, and all agree, the supply chain is to blame.

“Everything's broken,” supply chain expert Dan Hirsch told the Atlantic on Tuesday, of the recent, historic disruption to the world's economic super-highway.

Zachary Rogers, founder of the Logistics Managers Index (LMI) that has been analyzing data from more than 100 top-level supply chain industry directors since 2016, called the situation a “growing pain.”

From Seattle and Tacoma in America's Northwest, through northern California's port city Oakland, and into the country's two biggest seaports - Los Angeles and Long Beach - massive container ships, measuring up to 400 meters in length and packed with goods from Asia - are waiting.

That wait is hurting Americans, causing inflation, delays for products, price increases, and empty store shelves - that ultimately cost billions of U.S. dollars. With 85 percent of U.S. shipping imports coming from China, disruptions in the supply chain are costly.

SUPPLY CHAIN

“Every morning I get an email from the port of Los Angeles - here's the one they sent me today,” Rogers pointed at his computer.

In an exclusive interview



A container ship of China's COSCO Shipping docks at a new container terminal of the Port of Long Beach in California, the United States, 20 August 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

with Xinhua last Friday, Rogers, a supply chain expert and assistant professor at Colorado State University, explained why a record number of containerships are sitting off the California coast waiting to be unloaded.

“Infrastructure,” he began. “The consumer has changed after COVID, but we do not have the infrastructure to support that change,” he said, noting that e-Commerce had exploded 40 percent in just one year, and

that huge economic segments had shifted due to the pandemic and restrictive trade practices, that had affected costs across the supply chain.

“We do not have enough warehouses in the suburbs of LA or Denver to get stuff same day, or next day, to everybody yet; we don't have enough trucks on the road to move things around; it will take time for us to adjust,” said Rogers, who earned his PhD in Supply Chain Management at

One Twitter observer said, “it looks like a video game, where hundreds of dots are surrounding a major city,” but this traffic jam is on the U.S. side.

“The Tender Rejection Index (TDD) is at 25 percent,” Rogers said. “That means for every four truckloads, there's only space for three - we need more trucks.”

“The last time we saw any warehouse capacity was August of last year. Inventory has been growing more slowly than any of our metrics,” Rogers said.

However, pricing, usually moving in consort with inventory, suddenly exploded.

“What has happened is that inventory is moving at such a high rate of velocity - we are not holding much stuff in storage because it's moving through so quickly,” Rogers noted.

Rogers told Xinhua that inventory to sales ratios are currently extremely low, whereas one year ago, they were at record highs - the most the index had ever moved in a year.

“Warehouses are full, and inventory is at record levels, growing steadily at about 5 percent, but sales are up 50 percent,” he said, explaining the kink in the supply chain.

“We were completely stopped, and then hit the gas like never before,” Rogers said.

According to Rogers, in April 2020, the LMI for inventory was at 1.67 percent, the highest it has ever been. But a year later, in April of this year, it was 1.07, the lowest it has been since 1992.

“When capacity goes down, price and utilization go up - price of inventory is dictated by the price of moving it around and storing it, in many ways,” he said. “We are not holding onto much storage.”

“We have never had more imports coming in from China than we do right now,” he added.

Rogers, who analyzes data each day on the three most salient components of the supply chain: warehousing, transportation, and capacity, said that “pre-Covid and post-Covid infrastructure has changed.” Indeed, U.S. trucking companies and ports are scrambling to hire employees and get more equipment. In February, Oakland was desperately installing “the world's biggest cranes,” to unload the Asian import tsunami, according to the Oakland Port Authority. Rogers pointed to another bar chart: “One year ago, China to North America was 3,800 USD a container. Now it's 20,000 USD. Traditionally it was 15-hundred bucks, and last year, when it jumped to 3,000, we were alarmed. Look at it now.”

SOURCE: Xinhua

Japan reviews medical system ahead of possible 6th COVID wave

THE health ministry has begun reviewing Japan's health care system in preparation for a possible sixth wave of coronavirus infections, following numerous cases of people dying at home during the previous resurgence.

In addition to asking existing medical institutions to secure sufficient hospital beds, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare also plans to increase the number of temporary medical facilities such as gyms and strengthen coordination of personnel, according to officials.

Nationwide daily infections peaked at

around 25,800 on Aug. 20 during the last, or the fifth, resurgence. While prefectures had planned for numbers to double that of the third wave, some areas saw more than triple.

In communications with local governments on Sept. 14 on establishing a medium- to long-term medical system to treat COVID-19 patients, the ministry stressed the importance of maintaining a balance with treatment for other illnesses.

Infections have been increasing even in countries that rolled out their vaccination programs earlier than Japan, so a

resurgence should be expected moving forward, it said.

The government additionally outlined plans to strengthen monitoring and emergency hospital admission of patients recuperating at home, and requested a system be created in advance to coordinate and train personnel. It also asked local governments to consider utilizing provisions under a revised infectious disease law, which allows the authorities to release the names of hospitals that do not have a valid reason for noncompliance.

SOURCE: Kyodo



E-Health and Telemedicine in Japan: After receiving an online diagnosis from a doctor and phone guidance from a pharmacist, patients can receive prescription drugs through home delivery services. PHOTO: KYODO

UNWTO WORLD TOURISM DAY 2021 TOURISM FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

15th World Rabies Day 28 September RABIES: FACTS NOT FEAR

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 26 September 2021) BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm "GULAB" over the North-west Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved Westwards and centred at about (460) Nautical miles South-west of Sittway, (550) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Gwa, (555) Nautical miles Northwest of Haingyikyun (Myanmar), (55) Nautical miles Southeast of Gopalpur and (50) Nautical miles East of Kalingapatnam (India). Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 27 September 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan, Chin States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Eastern Shan, Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayir Regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%). STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)mph. Wave height will be about (9 -12)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas. FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). Flood Warning (Issued at 19:00 hrs MST on 26-9-2021) According to the (18:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thauingyin River at Myawady is observed as about (1½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (1) day. It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Myawady Township to take precaution measure.

Arctic sailing race planned in Canada to highlight climate change

A French sports group on Saturday announced plans to launch a sailing race in the thawing Canadian Arctic to raise awareness of global warming.

Due to kick off in 2023, the North Pole Race will see ships sailing from Quebec to Vancouver along the Northwest Passage, a sea route through the Arctic Ocean along North America's northern course.

Crews will sail on special aluminum boats designed for polar waters, according to Herve Favre, president of the French group OC Sport.

These ships will have to be "fast enough to make the crossing in two months, because the window is not large," between the summer period free of ice and the return of winter precipitation, Favre said, according to a story published in the Montreal



A sailing race will be launched in thawing Canadian Arctic. PHOTO: STAR/AFP

daily La Presse.

"The North Pole Race will make the world population aware of sustainable development and the importance of acting now to save our environment," Quebec City Mayor Regis Labeaume

said last week, when the race was first reported.

Quebec City's municipal government said in a statement that the North Pole Race will bring together teams from 10 countries, including Canada,

China, Russia, France and Denmark. Each team will consist of a scientist, an experienced skipper and citizens of the country it is representing.

This race "could not have existed without global warm-

ing, because the melting ice in the Northwest Passage makes it possible to travel along this strategic nautical route," a statement from Quebec City said.

Passing through the Canadian archipelago, a vast network of isolated and inhospitable islands located beyond the Arctic Circle, the Northwest Passage saves ships approximately 7,000 kilometers (4,300 miles) of distance between Europe and Asia.

But the lack of infrastructure, the remoteness of emergency services and the limited cartography of the Arctic Ocean make navigation in these waters very perilous.

Favre, whose group also organizes the Route du Rhum transatlantic solo yacht race, said the North Pole Race was more likely to attract adventurers rather than professional racers. — AFP ■

'Ancestor' of Mediterranean mosaics discovered in Turkey



Turkish and Italian archaeologists painstakingly use shovels and brushes to discover more about the powerful Hittite kingdom. PHOTO: AFP

THE discovery of a 3,500-year-old paving stone, described as the "ancestor" of Mediterranean mosaics, offers illuminating details into the daily lives of the mysterious Bronze Age Hittites.

The assembly of over 3,000

stones—in natural shades of beige, red and black, and arranged in triangles and curves—was unearthed in the remains of a 15th century BC Hittite temple, 700 years before the oldest known mosaics of ancient Greece.

"It is the ancestor of the classical period of mosaics that are obviously more sophisticated. This is a sort of first attempt to do it," says Anacleto D'Agostino, excavation director of Usakli Hoyuk, near Yozgat, in central Turkey.

At the site three hours from Turkey's capital Ankara, first located in 2018, Turkish and Italian archaeologists painstakingly use shovels and brushes to learn more about the towns of the Hittites, one of the most powerful kingdoms in ancient Anatolia.

"For the first time, people felt the necessity to produce some geometric patterns and to do something different from a simple pavement," D'Agostino says. — AFP ■

Burgundy's prized vineyards reel as weather hammers harvest

HEAVY rains, frost, hail and disease have battered vineyards across France this year but few places were hit as hard as Burgundy, where growers are warning of the poorest harvests in memory.

"In a normal year it would be full by 9:30 am," said Julien Cheveau as he watched workers dump grapes into a cart at

the muddy edge of his field in Solutre-Pouilly, part of the famed Pouilly-Fuisse appellation.

But as the lunch break approaches, the mound of golden yellow grapes has yet to reach the top of the bin.

The very factors that make Burgundy whites and reds a favourite of wine fans—small but prestigious houses, the predom-

inance of chardonnay grapes, relatively high altitudes—made the region particularly vulnerable to the extreme weather.

"Sometimes you can go down an entire row without even having to empty your bucket," said Aurelie Cheveau, Julien's sister-in-law and co-manager of their namesake vineyard. — AFP ■

Saudi masters 'live art' of python crossbreeding in palace home

SAUDI Faisal Malaikah's love for non-venomous snakes has evolved from having just one when he was five to ultimately crossbreeding dozens to produce "live art" in unique colours and patterns.

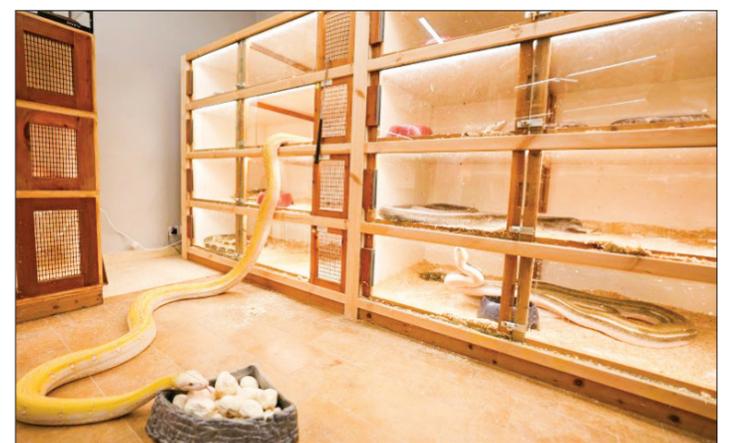
In the garden of his palace in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, the 35-year-old businessman has a sign on the wall in green block letters that reads: "THE SNAKE ROOM".

"There are people who collect precious stones or classical cars or paintings; as for me, I like to collect live art," the father of three told AFP, referring to his collection of more than 100 reticulated pythons—the world's longest snake—from southeast Asia.

"They are popular in the fashion industry, where their skin is used to make bags, shoes and belts, but one out of every 1,000 snakes hunted is one with a rare colour.

"The hunters sell the unique-coloured snakes to collectors like myself... and I crossbreed to produce rare genetic mutations with patterns and colours unseen before," he said, pointing at a gold and grey-dotted white snake wrapped around his left arm.

Malaikah said he had no interest in selling to fashion brands, criticised by animal rights group for their unethical use of animal skins. — AFP ■



A reticulated python in Malaikah's snake room. PHOTO: AFP

India's cumulative Covid-19 vaccination figure crosses 84.42 crore doses

INDIA'S COVID-19 vaccination coverage has crossed the 84 crore mark, the Union Health Ministry informed on Friday.

"With the administration of 72,20,642 vaccine doses in the last 24 hours, India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage crossed the landmark of 84 crores (84,15,18,026) as per provisional reports till 7 am today. This has been achieved through 82,33,242 sessions," the ministry said in a press release.

As per the data from the ministry, Uttar Pradesh is leading in the vaccination coverage with 9,88,83,207 doses administered in the state.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have administered 7,69,21,190 and 5,98,81,731 vaccine doses respectively so far.

Further, it has been informed that 32,542 patients have recovered from COVID-19 infection in the last 24 hours, increasing the cumulative tally of recovered patients to 3,28,48,273. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 97.78 per cent, the highest since March 2020.

As many as 31,382 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the active caseload in the country to 3,00,162. — ANI ■



A medical worker inoculates a municipal worker with a COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre in New Delhi on 22 February, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Quad countries pledge to donate 1.2 bn vaccine doses globally



"In addition to doses financed through COVAX, Australia, India, Japan, and the United States have pledged to donate more than 1.2 billion doses globally of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines," the Quad joint statement said. PHOTO: AFP

THE Quad countries—United States, India, Japan and Australia—have pledged to donate more than 1.2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses globally, in addition to the vaccines financed through COVAX.

In a joint statement, released by the White House on Friday (local time) the countries said that 79 million coronavirus

vaccine doses have already been collectively delivered to the Indo-Pacific region.

"In addition to doses financed through COVAX, Australia, India, Japan, and the United States have pledged to donate more than 1.2 billion doses globally of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines," the Quad joint statement said.

"We launched the Quad Vaccine Experts Group, comprised of top experts from our respective governments, charged with building strong ties and better aligning our plans to support Indo-Pacific health security and COVID-19 response," they said further adding that the partnership on COVID-19 response and relief marks an historic new focus for the Quad.

Further, the leaders said that they are committed to better preparations for the next pandemic.

"Quad leaders commit to better preparations for the next pandemic. We will continue to build coordination for health-security efforts in the Indo-Pacific, and we will jointly conduct at least one pandemic preparedness tabletop or exercise in 2022," they said. — ANI ■

France to double Covid vaccine doses for poorer countries

FRANCE will double the number of vaccine doses it will send to poorer countries to 120 million, President Emmanuel Macron pledged on Saturday, in a video broadcast during the Global Citizen concert in Paris.

"The injustice is that in other continents, obviously, vaccination is very late," he said. "We have to go faster, stronger."

"France pledges to double the number of doses it is giving,"

he added. "We will pass from 60 million to 120 million doses offered."

That amounted to more than the doses so far administered in France, he said.

On Wednesday, the United States announced that it would be doubling its donation of vaccine doses, bringing its total contribution to 1.1 billion.

President Joe Biden described the pandemic as an

"all-hands-on-deck crisis," adding "we need other high-income countries to deliver on their own ambitions". The European Union has committed to distributing 500 million doses.

And China's President Xi Jinping, in a video message broadcast to the UN on Tuesday, pledged a total of two billion doses by the end of the year, repeating a figure already given by the Chinese authorities. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

French capital sees 11th weekend of protests against COVID-19 passes

PROTESTERS against mandatory COVID-19 passes took to the streets of Paris for an 11th consecutive Saturday, a Sputnik correspondent reported.

The demonstrators gathered near the Gare de Lyon railroad terminal in the city's 12th district and marched across Paris to the Sacre-Coeur basilica on the Montmartre hill.

The procession was shadowed by police officers.

A separate protest, organized by Florian Philippot, the leader of the right-wing Patriots party, started at the Place de Barcelone square in the 16th district.

According to the BFMTV broadcaster, some 64,000 people took part in almost 200 protests against COVID-19 passes on Saturday nationwide, with 7,200 in Paris alone.

In July, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a series of new restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19, including a special health pass indicating that a person has either been vaccinated or has a negative test result.

The pass is required in museums, theaters, restaurants, bars, shopping centers, as well as on planes and long-distance trains. — AFP ■

German public transport: Over 230,000 warnings to wear face masks

ACCORDING to a report by "Welt am Sonntag", German federal police have warned almost 230,000 travellers at train stations and on trains for violating the mask requirement since the beginning of the year.

In the vast majority of cases a warning sufficed, and travellers put on their masks, but in 11,300 cases travellers were slapped with fines.

So-called transport exclusions were imposed 745 times, so the objectors had to leave the train. 844 dismissals were also issued.

According to the report, more than 42,300 warnings had been issued in January. Since then, the number has fallen; in August it was just under 23,000.

According to the works council of Deutsche Bahn (DB), the introduction of the mask requirement in trains and other measures to combat the corona pandemic led to an increase in insults and attacks directed at employees. — AFP ■

EU to strengthen consumer protection in digital age: commissioner

THE European Union (EU) is determined to improve consumer protection to ensure consumers the same protection when they purchase goods and services offline or online, the EU's Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders said here on Friday.

"On every occasion I heard the same thing: we need to make consumer legislation fit for today ... A lot of consumer legislation is not fit for the digital age," Reynders told a press conference after an informal meeting of the EU member states' ministers responsible for consumer protection.

He said the participants discussed the need to update the Consumer Credit Directive



The European Union (EU) is determined to improve consumer protection to ensure consumers the same protection when they purchase goods and services offline or online. **PHOTO: AFP**

and the General Product Safety Directive.

"The European Commission also proposes to ensure

that when people take out a loan on a mobile phone they get all the main information at a glance," he said, adding that

it now takes up to 30 swipes to read all the information about a loan, which is why most people do not read all the important

information.

He pointed out that six in ten consumers have been facing financial difficulties since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, according to a survey conducted in 21 out of 27 EU member states, which is why it is important to have "up to date rules" for consumer credit, whether offline or online.

According to Reynders, the General Product Safety Directive was adopted back in 2002 when nine percent of Europeans were shopping online, while last year the respective figure was 72 percent.

"We want to make sure that products purchased online are as safe as those sold offline," he said. — Xinhua ■

Turkey cuts benchmark rate by 100 basis points



The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey's (CBRT) branch in Izmir, western Turkey, Aug. 15, 2019. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/XINHUA**

TURKEY'S Central Bank has unexpectedly cut its benchmark interest rate by 100 basis points despite high inflation, shifting towards an easing policy which caused the national currency

to weaken.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to reduce the policy rate (one-week repo auction rate) from 19 percent to 18 percent, a statement

from the monetary institution said on Thursday.

"The Committee evaluated the analyses to decompose the impact of demand factors that monetary policy can have an effect, core inflation developments and supply shocks. Accordingly, it is judged that a revision in monetary policy stance is needed and the policy rate was decided to be reduced," it added.

Following the decision, the Turkish lira weakened by some 1.6 percent against the U.S. dollar, trading at record low of 8.8 per dollar.

The lira has lost over half of its value since a currency crisis in mid-2018. — Xinhua ■

APEC vows to improve women's economic empowerment

MINISTERS and officials in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region renewed their commitment Friday to gender equality and women's economic empowerment in creating conditions that will drive inclusive, effective and enduring economic growth after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Addressing the significant and disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls, ministers, officials and business leaders pledged to

implement policies that will improve women's access to capital and markets, strengthen women's labor force participation, increase access to leadership positions and support women's education, training and skills development.

Leading the discussion at the 2021 APEC Women and the Economy Forum, which was held virtually on Friday night, New Zealand Minister for Women Jan Tinetti called attention to how the pandemic

has driven many women out of the workforce and negatively affected their well-being. "We know that much of the essential work has been carried out by women, and that they have been crucial to our COVID response as scientists, health-care professionals, educators and other essential workers," Tinetti said.

"We also know that women often carry out significant unpaid care responsibilities." — Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's mobile phone shipments reach 227 mln units in Jan-Aug

CHINA'S mobile phone shipments stood at 227 million units in the first eight months of the year, up 12.3 percent year on year, according to data from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT).

IN August, the country's mobile phone shipments dropped 9.7 percent year on year to reach 24.3 million units, said the CAICT, a research institute under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

A total of 57 new models were released last month, up 50 percent from a year earlier, the data showed.

THE country's domestic brands continued to dominate mobile phone shipments in August. Their shipments hit 22.8 million units, making up 93.8 percent of the total shipments.

IN the January-August period, shipments by domestic brands went up 10.6 percent year on year to top 204 million units, according to the CAICT. — Xinhua ■

Lebanon's army receives food aid from Italy

The Lebanese army on Saturday received 13 tonnes of food products from Italy through Beirut's airport, the army reported in a tweet.

The donation comes at a time when Lebanon's military is facing serious challenges amid the ongoing financial crisis in the country.

Leaders in the country have warned that the military institution may collapse as the country's economic crisis drags on, and asked for global help on food, medicine and equipment. In the past few months, the Lebanese army has received aid from Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Oman, Turkey, Spain, Germany and Serbia. — Xinhua ■

Mitsubishi invests in Laos wind farm project, biggest in S.E. Asia

JAPANESE trading house Mitsubishi Corp. has invested in a massive wind power plant project in Laos to deliver electricity to Vietnam, in what would be the biggest onshore wind farm in Southeast Asia.

Mitsubishi said in a recent press release that the 600-megawatt wind power plant in southern Laos, a first for the country, will be developed by Hong Kong-based Impact Energy Asia Development Ltd., or IEAD, from next year, with operations planned to start in 2025.

The onshore wind farm project, also described as the “first cross-border electricity interchange from wind power generation” in the region, is aimed at fighting climate change while supporting economic activity.

Vietnam requires ad-



Undated file photo shows wind power plants in the northern Japan prefecture of Akita, in which the Japanese trading house Mitsubishi Corp has invested. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ditional power supply to maintain its growing economy, especially during the dry season when the wind power plant is expected to operate at a high rate and the availability of hydro-power generation, one of the nation’s main power sources, is limited, according to Mitsubishi.

Although it has not disclosed the size of the investment, the To-

kyo-based conglomerate said its subsidiary based in Hong Kong holds a stake of about 24 percent in the project, with the remainder held by BCPG Public Company Ltd. and Earth Power Investment Ltd., both of which are subsidiaries of Thai firms.

“We will continue to contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society by both striving to

achieve a stable supply of electricity in Vietnam and addressing the environmental challenges for a stable society,” Mitsubishi said. The move was followed by an announcement in July by BCPG that IEAD and Vietnam Electricity, a leading power company in the nation, have officially agreed on electricity purchase for 25 years. — Kyodo News ■

China releases 2021 list of top 500 enterprises

CHINA released the list of top 500 Chinese enterprises for 2021 on Saturday, showing improved business performance and better industrial structure.

Combined operating revenues of the top 500 companies reached 89.83 trillion yuan (about 13.9 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2020, up 4.43 per cent compared to that in the previous year, according to the list jointly released

by the China Enterprise Confederation and the China Enterprise Directors Association.

The firms raked in 4.07 trillion yuan in total profits, up 4.59 per cent compared to that of the companies on the 2020 list.

State Grid Corporation of China topped the list, followed by the China National Petroleum Corporation and the China Petroleum & Chemical

Corporation.

The revenue threshold of the top 500 Chinese enterprises increased by 3.28 billion yuan from a year ago to 39.24 billion yuan, the data showed.

The number of companies whose revenues exceeded 100 billion yuan rose to 222, with eight of them reporting revenues of over 1 trillion yuan.

This year’s list also showed an improved

industrial structure, as more high-tech and modern services companies such as communication equipment makers and logistics firms were included.

The average R&D spending of the top 500 firms came in at 2.94 billion yuan, up 17.95 per cent. The ratio of their R&D expenditure to operating revenues hit a new high of 1.77 per cent. — Xinhua ■

Oil prices climb, notching 4-day winning streak

OIL prices advanced on Friday to log a four-day winning streak, amid various tailwinds.

The West Texas Intermediate for November delivery added 68 cents to settle at 73.98 U.S. dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for November delivery increased 84 cents to close at 78.09 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange, record-

ing the highest settlement in nearly three years.

“The price rise is being facilitated by limited supply (production outages in the Gulf of Mexico, lower OPEC+ production than agreed) coupled with robust demand, causing the oil market to tighten noticeably,” Carsten Fritsch, energy analyst at Commerzbank Research, said Friday in a note. — Xinhua ■



An oil tanker arrives in Southampton, southern England. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BANK Holiday

ALL Banks will be closed on 1st (Friday) October 2021 “BANK HOLIDAY” under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar

MYANMA Port Authority “NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.18 feet to 21.39 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 6th to October 11th, 2021. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Ministry of Industry No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise Announcement of Expression of Interest

1. Ministry of Industry invited local and foreign companies who are interesting to cooperate with No.(7) Textile Factory (Myittha) and No.(8) Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) for Public-Private Partnership to submit EoI proposal dated on (28.5.2021).
2. Regarding the call for EoI proposal, we announce and invite again in order to let companies know comprehensively. The deadline of the available from is (26.10.2021), Tuesday 16:00 P.M and the deadline of EoI submission is (26.11.2021), Friday 16:00 P.M. The detailed information can be known by asking to Ph: 0673 408185, 0673 408338 and email to textile.planning@gmail.com of No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (042N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (042N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-9-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (349W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (349W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-9-2021 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

Abbas gives Israel one year to end occupation of Palestinian territory

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday gave Israel one year to end its occupation of Palestinian territory.

"Israel, the occupying power, has one year to withdraw from the Palestinian territory it occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem," he told the General Assembly in a fiery speech. "We are ready to work throughout this year on the delineation of borders and solving all final-status issues under the auspices of the international Quartet and in accordance with UN resolutions," he said.

Abbas threatened to withdraw recognition of the State of Israel. "If this is not achieved, why maintain recognition of Israel based on the 1967 borders? Why maintain this recognition?" he asked.

— Xinhua ■

Swiss same-sex marriage plan put to the polls

SWITZERLAND votes Sunday on whether to legalise same-sex marriage after opponents secured a referendum challenging the government's plans to bring in "marriage for all".

Polls indicate broad support for legalisation, which would bring the Alpine nation into line with most of Western Europe. Polling stations remain open until noon (1000 GMT), with the result expected to follow within hours.

"Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this historic step towards equality," the Marriage Yes campaign said Saturday, urging voters to the polls.

According to the last survey conducted, 53 percent are in favour of legalising same-sex marriage, with 27 percent against.

Market researchers gfs.bern surveyed 13,261 voters between 1 and 9 September.

An earlier gfs.bern survey between 2 and 16 August put the balance of support at 55-20.— AFP ■

Russia calls on US to 'be more active' to revive Iran nuclear deal



Iran President Ebrahim Raisi remotely addresses the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly via video-link on 21 September 2021 in New York. PHOTO: AFP

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called Saturday on the United States to take a more active approach to help

resume stalled talks aimed at reviving the Iran nuclear deal.

"It seems evident they should be more active" in "re-

solving all issues related" to the accord, Lavrov told reporters at the United Nations in New York.

Lavrov added that he hoped

negotiations in Vienna among Iran, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany would resume "as soon as possible."

The talks, brokered by the Europeans, seek the return of the United States to the 2015 agreement trashed by former president Donald Trump -- as well as Iran's return to full compliance.

Trump pulled America out in 2018, reinstating sanctions on Iran that Washington had lifted as part of the agreement.

Since then, Tehran has also retreated from many of its commitments.

Lavrov said Iran no longer meets elements of the agreement "simply because the United States has left it."

He added that sanctions reimposed on Iran also affected countries who "trade legally" with Tehran. — AFP ■

Risk of 'imminent' famine in Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN is at risk of "imminent hunger" with winter approaching and services disrupted by the return to power of the Taliban, a UN official warned in an interview with AFP.

Natalia Kanem, director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said via video that the situation in the country was dire.

"It would not be an exaggeration to say" that at least a third of Afghanistan's population of around 33 million is affected by "imminent hunger," Kanem warned. Harsh winters, disrupting the ability to transport supplies to isolated areas of the mountainous country, plus the coronavirus pandemic will ag-

gravate an already complicated situation, she added.

"There is a lot of anxiety over how we're going to deliver health care, where the next meal is going to come from," Kanem told AFP from the UNFPA headquarters in New York. The doctor from Panama warned that women and girls would bear the worst of it. "It is urgent, for women and girls in particular who were already suffering. This is one of the countries with the highest death rates during childbirth and pregnancy rates. "We cannot underscore enough that even during a transitional period, women and girls have human rights and these are to be respected," she said.

Kanem repeated calls made



Afghanistan is at risk of "imminent hunger" with winter approaching and services disrupted by the return to power of the Taliban, a UN official warned in an interview with AFP. PHOTO: AFP

by the international community to the Taliban, who swept to power last month as the United

States withdrew its last troops, ending Washington's 20-year war there. — AFP ■

Syria conflict death toll exceeds 350,000 over past decade: UN



The United Nations (UN) presented a report on Friday to the ongoing 48th session of the Human Rights Council, according to which 350,209 identified individuals were killed in the conflict in Syria between March 2011 to March 2021. PHOTO: AFP

THE United Nations (UN) presented a report on Friday to the ongoing 48th session of the Human Rights Council, according to which 350,209 identified individuals were killed in the conflict in Syria between March 2011 to March 2021.

Michelle Bachelet, the UN's high commissioner for human rights, told the Council that this assessment was based on her office's own data, records maintained by civil society organizations and information from the Syrian government.

She explained that the numbers include only those people identifiable by full name, with

an established date of death and who had died in an identified governorate.

"Any information that did not include these three elements had been excluded, and an exhaustive review had been carried out to prevent duplicate records," she said.

According to Bachelet, among the 350,209 identified individuals killed in the conflict, over one in every 13 was a woman and almost one in every 13 was a child.

Bachelet stressed that the killings may have had even more victims, but that has yet to be fully documented. — AFP ■

Race wide open as Germany votes in post-Merkel election

GERMANY votes Sunday in one of the most unpredictable elections in its recent history, with Angela Merkel's conservatives and the centre-left Social Democrats in a tight race for her crown as she prepares to leave the political stage.

The epochal election ushers in the end of 16 years in power for Merkel and places Germany, a byword for stability, in a new period of uncertainty.

Opinion polls show the race for the chancellery headed for a photo finish, with Merkel's CDU-CSU conservative alliance on around 23 percent, just behind the centre-left Social Democrats on 25 percent -- well within the margin of error.

"We will certainly see some surprises on Sunday," said Nico Siegel, head of the Infratest Dimap polling company.

Despite the SPD's lead in the polls, a victory for the conservatives "can't be ruled out", he said.

"The race for first place is wide open."

Around 40 percent of Germany's 60.4 million eligible voters have said they are undecided, while the same proportion have already cast their ballots by post -- including Merkel herself.

The battle for the chancellery has boiled down to a contest between two men: Finance Minister and Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz, 63, of the SPD, and



Billboards with election campaign posters showing the three chancellor candidates in the the September 26 federal election. PHOTO: AFP

Armin Laschet, 60, of the CDU-CSU.

But with both parties likely to fall well short of the majority

needed to govern alone, there could be weeks or even months of fraught coalition negotiations.

— AFP ■

Iceland government poised to win majority, but future uncertain



This is only the second time since 2008 that a government has made it to the end of its four-year mandate. PHOTO: AFP

ICELAND'S government was poised to win a clear majority in Saturday's election, partial results showed, though it remained

to be seen if Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir's left-right coalition would agree to continue in power together.

The three-party coalition has brought Iceland four years of stability after a decade of crises.

With more than a third of votes counted, Jakobsdottir's Left-Green Movement, the conservative Independence Party and the centre-right Progressive Party were together credited with 41 of 63 seats in parliament, up from the 33 seats they held previously.

But the Left-Green Movement was seen losing ground to its right-wing partners, putting Jakobsdottir's future as prime minister -- and the coalition itself -- in doubt.

"We will have to see how the governmental parties are doing together and how we are

doing," Jakobsdottir told AFP, as the partial results showed her party losing one seat in parliament from the 11 it won in 2017.

A clear picture of the political landscape was however only expected to emerge later Sunday when all votes had been counted.

A total of eight parties are expected to win seats in the Althing, Iceland's almost 1,100-year-old parliament.

The splintered political landscape makes it tricky to predict which parties could ultimately end up forming a coalition.

"I know that the results will be complicated, it will be complicated to form a new government," Jakobsdottir said. — AFP ■

Demonstrators in northern Chile protest against Venezuela migrants

ABOUT 3,000 people marched Saturday in the northern Chilean port city of Iquique to protest the presence of undocumented Venezuelans, with some demonstrators scuffling with migrants and a radical fringe setting fire to belongings at an empty immigrant camp.

The marching demonstrators shouted "No more illegal immigration" and sang the local anthem as well as Chile's national anthem, warning that "Chile is a republic that will be respected."

Police stepped in to break up a number of minor fights which they said were caused by Chileans who attacked Venezuelan migrants living on the street.

The protesters marched from Iquique's old town about 10 blocks to the Pacific Ocean where hotels and apartments



Venezuelan migrants take refuge on the seashore to avoid being attacked by demonstrators during a march in Iquique, Chile on September 25, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

line the seafloor.

The migrants have scrambled around the city since early Saturday to try to find less visible spots to camp, AFP journalists

said.

The demonstration took place a day after police evacuated a migrant camp that had existed for a year in the town

square. Most of the migrants, poor and undocumented, are stranded in the city, surviving on odd jobs with no way to reach the capital. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tiny San Marino holds abortion referendum

THE tiny state of San Marino votes Sunday in a highly charged referendum over whether or not to allow abortion in the predominantly Catholic country.

Campaigners hope to bring the picturesque republic, situated on a mountainside in the centre of Italy, in line with most of Europe in lifting what is currently an absolute ban on terminating a pregnancy.

But the influence of the Catholic Church remains strong, and Pope Francis last week reiterated his uncompromising position that abortion is "murder".

Along with Malta, Andorra and the Vatican, San Marino is one of the last places in Europe to have a total ban on abortion, even in cases of rape or incest, severe foetal impairment or risk to the mother's life. In Sunday's referendum, initiated by the San Marino Women's Union (UDS), 35,411 voters -- a third of them living abroad -- are eligible to cast a ballot. — AFP ■

Mali approaches 'Russian private companies,' slams France at UN

MALI has asked private Russian companies to boost security, Russia's foreign minister confirmed Saturday, as the Malian leader accused France of abandoning the conflict-ridden country by preparing a large troop draw-down.

European countries have warned the Malian government on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this week against hiring paramilitaries from the controversial Wagner group.

But with Paris set to reduce its military presence in Mali, Sergey Lavrov told reporters that the Malian government was turning towards "private Russian companies."

"This is activity which has been carried out on a legitimate basis," he said during a press conference at the UN headquarters in New York. — AFP ■

Win Theingi Tun joins Indian club Gokulam Kerala FC



Myanmar women football star Win Theingi Tun (No 7) dribbles the ball at Women's Olympic Qualifiers against Indian team at Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 19 April 2019. **PHOTO: MFF**

GOKULAM Kerala FC (GKFC), defending champions of the Indian Women's League, signed Myanmar women's national team striker Win Theingi Tun on a short-term contract.

The team will compete in the upcoming AFC Women's Club Championship to be held by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in November.

"This team is the defending champions of the Indian League and has internationally experienced coaches," Win Theingi Tun said. "It's a team with a lot of players at the national level and I'm really happy to be able to

move to such a good team. I have met Indian national team four times in my career. It has been seen as a more difficult competitor over and over again.

"India's women's football development is really fast. With my teammates, I will strive for success at the Asian Women's Club Championship.

"I'm happy and proud to be the first female football player to play abroad. Myanmar women's football players have abilities to play abroad. This is the very first time I'm going to play abroad, so I will show my best for the next generations who will follow me."

Win Theingi Tun, a 26-year-old striker, is the first Myanmar female player to play abroad.

Gokulam Kerala FC won the 2019-20 Indian Women's League and qualified for the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship as India could not host the 2020-21 event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Indian Women's Professional League started with six teams in the 2016-17 football season, but was held in the 2018-19 season with 12 teams. Gokulam Kerala FC was founded in January 2018 and features nine Indian women's national team players. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

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.

Usyk ends Joshua's reign as world heavyweight champion

OLEKSANDR Usyk ended Anthony Joshua's reign as world heavyweight champion in front of the Londoner's home crowd with a stunning unanimous points decision victory on Saturday, scuppering hopes of a 'Battle of Britain' unification bout with fellow world title-holder Tyson Fury.

Joshua ended the 12th and final round of the contest backed up on the ropes, with the cheers of a crowd of more than 66,000 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium no match for the skills of his challenger.

The impressive Ukrainian triumphed 117-112, 116-112 and 115-113 on the scorecards of the three judges in just the former undisputed cruiser-

weight world champion's third bout as a heavyweight.

His victory, which extended Usyk's perfect record as a professional to 19 wins from as many fights, saw him become just the third boxer after Evander Holyfield of the United States and Britain's David Haye to win both the cruiserweight and heavyweight world titles. Boxing fans have long looked forward to a clash between Joshua and British compatriot Fury, who defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Deontay Wilder in Las Vegas next month – the third time the pair have fought each other following a split-decision draw and a win for Fury.—AFP ■

PSG, Man City set to benefit from expected end to financial fair play restrictions



Manchester City and PSG have regularly been accused of not respecting UEFA's financial fair play rules, but these rules are set to change. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PARIS Saint-Germain and Manchester City go head to head in the Champions League on Tuesday after a summer which underlined their status as the new superpowers of European football, and any possible

restraints on their enormous spending could soon disappear along with UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules.

The story of PSG, City and Financial Fair Play (FFP) is essentially the story of the last

decade in European football.

Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour bought City in 2008, while in 2010 Qatar Sports Investments purchased PSG.

Also in 2010, UEFA introduced FFP in response to a debt crisis that was submerging clubs across the continent.

FFP meant clubs could not lose more than 30 million euros (\$35.2m) over a three-year period if they wanted to play in European competition. Rivals of PSG and City have consistently asked how the duo can be respecting the rules when they spend as much as they do, most notably when the French side splurged the two biggest transfer fees in history to sign Neymar and Kylian Mbappe in 2017.—AFP ■