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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.

Further research must be done for manufacturing high-tech vehicles meeting international standards: Senior General

QUALITY vehicles must be distributed to regions and states, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon in inspection of the Tatmadaw Heavy Industry in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region.

Lt-Gen Kan Myint Than and Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) reported to the Senior General on brief history of the industry and functioning process, manufacturing of automobiles and related accessories in accord with the guidance of the Senior General, research process and modernizing the industry.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to manufacture a large number of quality automobiles such as oil bowlers, water tankers, garbage vans, sprayers and fire trucks not only for the Tatmadaw but for the municipal tasks and fire-fighting tasks. Quality vehicles must be distributed to regions and states. Further research must be done for manufacturing the high-tech vehicles meeting



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views assembling of vehicle at Tatmadaw Heavy Industry.

the international standards.

The Senior General inspected assembling process of automobiles in the industry with the

use of modern machinery and presented cash award to the employees. The Senior General also viewed fire truck, water

tanker, sprayer and oil bowser manufactured by the industry.

The industry is producing 2,000-gallon and 2,200-gallon fire

trucks, water tankers, oil bowlers, garbage vans, sprayers and auto parts such as jeep fames, bolts and nuts.—MNA

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Union Industry Minister inspects industries, factories in Magway Region

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

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

PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar Central Bank sells \$294.8 mln in past eight months

PAGE-7

LOCAL BUSINESS

Efforts underway for Shwebo Pawsan rice to get GI designation

PAGE-7



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 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.

International flight restrictions extended until 30 November

THE Ministry of Health has issued a directive on the temporary restriction of international commercial passenger flights to Myanmar since it is crucial to control the spread of the COVID-19 disease in Myanmar. With the permission of the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), "Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel" was revised as "Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel Issue-2" on 31-12-2020 as of 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time on 31 October 2021.

Until now, the prevalence of the COVID-19 epidemic has risen in most parts of the world. With the permission of the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the effective period of the above directive has been extended to 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time on 30 November 2021 to further prevent the risk of COVID-19 transmission via international air passengers into Myanmar.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Education Department of Higher Education Announcement

DISTANCE students who remain to enroll in science and arts subjects for the 2020 academic year in the distance education branches of various universities under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, are required to register as follows: -

Academic Year	- 2020 Academic Year
Registration period	- from 1-11-2021 to 9-11-2021 (including weekends)
Course Years	- First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Fourth Year, and Fifth Year
Distance Education Branches	- Myitkyina University, Bhamo University, Mohnyin University, Loikaw University, Hpa-an University, Pakkoku University, Haka University, Monywa University, Kalay University, Shwebo University, Sagaing University, Dawei University, Myeik University, Toungoo University, Pyay University, Bago University, Magway University, Yenangyoung University, Mandalay Distance University, Yadanabon University, Meiktila University, Kyaukse University, Myingyan University, Mandalay University, Mawlamyine University, Sittway University, Taungup University, Yangon Distance University, Dagon University, East Yangon University, West Yangon University, Taunggyi University, Panglong University, Lashio University, Kengtung University, Patheingyi University, Hinthada University, Maubin University, Yangon University of Economics, Monywa University of Economics, Meiktila University of Economics.

Department of Higher Education, Nay Pyi Taw

752 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 31 October, total figure rises to 500,073

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 500,073 after 752 new cases were reported on 31 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 467,689 have been discharged from hospitals.

Death toll reached 18,697 after 33 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 30-10-2021, a total of 13,244,996 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 7,054,015 people have been vaccinated two times and 6,190,981 people once.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals
Enterprise

Without satisfaction of traditional breeding systems

IT is necessary to modernize the livestock breeding tasks in technology without satisfaction of traditional breeding systems. To do so, the government needs to encourage and provide assistance to breeders. If so, agricultural products can be produced at high yield rate to earn foreign exchange for building the prosperous country.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the State Administration Council meeting 2/2021 on 25 October 2021)

Acts of artistes must be beneficial to the people and must not be incitement to harm the State: Senior General



Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets artistes from literary, film, theatrical performer and musical industries.

IF artistes love the motherland, they need to encourage the education for improvement of the nation, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon at the meeting with artistes from literary, film, theatrical performer and musical industries at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta of Yangon Command Headquarters.

In his speech, the Senior General said literary, motion picture, music and theatrical performer organizations maintain the good history. Those from the fine arts arena politically participated in the independence struggle. They mobilized all the people to restore peace of the country after the post-independence period. They also participated in the all sectors when the governments ruled the country in successive eras. They not only politically participated in the independence struggle but also carried out development of the country depending on the policies of the government after the country had regained the independence. All artistes motivated the entire people to be active and participate in the moves of respective eras. They persuaded the people into the situation of the State with entertainments in successive eras by preserving the Myanmar traditional culture



Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets artistes.

and national characters.

The histories proved the artistes served the interests of the State depending on the demand of respective eras. The Myanmar film industry holds up the respective themes adopted for the sake of the nation. At present, the role of print media is down but the online media up. Likewise, the role of film industry is down in the cultural sector while musical sector is also influenced by western music. Most of the people are weak in reading with lesser knowledge obtained from the literature. So, their responses change. To emerge a modern, de-

veloped democratic country, it is necessary to implement the good education system. As the educated persons will have the higher knowledge and techniques, artistes need to encourage the education sector for development of the nation. If artistes love the motherland, they need to encourage the education for improvement of the nation.

The country faced crises in outbreak of COVID-19 due to weakness in equipment, medicines and human resources. At present, infection rate of COVID-19 is down. Emphasis is being placed on reduction of infection

rate in some areas facing the high infection rate. Artistes are urged to assist in resumption of the State machinery hampered by the pandemic. As the multi-party democracy path was chosen as a political route by the people, efforts will be made for paving the way of disciplined democracy. The role of artistes is important in the State-building and nation-building tasks. Encouragement and undertakings can be much carried out through literary arena as part of sharing the knowledge obtained from the reading. Likewise, the music sector can repair the mentality

of the children through songs. Music can improve the mindset of the people as well as destroy the country. Film industry can change the mind of the people. Thabin sector plays a key role in preservation of the culture. All fine arts organizations are crucial for the State.

Artistes should participate in the tasks for improvement of the country. Acts of artistes must be beneficial to the people and must not be incited to harm the State. They all need to abide by the rules and regulations in the respective sectors.

The Senior General urged them to participate in respective sectors for benefiting the State and the people while motivating the people to follow the restrictions of COVID-19. Likewise, they all need to conserve the national culture and characters of the country.

The Senior General presented K400 million to the fund of the artistes, 100 bags of rice, 500 viss of edible oil and 300 viss of gram to officials of respective arenas. Next, Academy Film Director Sithu U Kyi Soe Tun, on behalf of the artistes, spoke words of thanks, saying that artistes will serve the interests of the State as much as possible.

After the meeting, the Senior General gave a tea party to the artistes.—MNA

It is necessary to divide tasks into sectors for carrying out fully renovation of Maha Pasana Cave: Senior General

JUST minor damage of historic building is not to be repaired but preserved in proper systems for long term existence with the use of designs and materials under detailed consideration, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of renovating the Maha Pasana Cave of the Sixth Buddhist Synod on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and officials reported to the Senior General on the brief history of the cave, damaged parts and renovation process.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said renovation must be undertaken systematically as the cave is the nobly religious site. Just minor damage of historic building is not to be repaired but preserved with proper systems for long term existence with the use of designs and materials under detailed consideration. As water infiltration may cause damage to the building, growing of plants for prevention of water infiltration must be cleared. It is necessary to divide the tasks into sectors for carrying out fully renovation of Maha Pasana



Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views renovation process at Maha Pasana Cave.

Cave. It is necessary to repair the historic buildings of other religions.

After inspecting the damaged parts of the cave, the Senior General paid homage to the Buddha image from the top stairs.

The Senior General gave

guidance for systematic maintenance after inspecting the halls on Hantha Thiri Hill where State Ovadacariya Sayadaws and members of the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee stay.

Laying cornerstones for Maha Pasana Cave started in

1953 and the whole cave was completed on 10 May 1954. The cave supported by six posts which means the sixth Buddhist Synod is 220 feet long and 140 feet wide. The sixth Buddhist Synod was held with participation of 2,500 members of the Sangha

from five Theravada Buddhist countries from 17 May 1954 to 22 May 1956. There are some damaged parts at the 76 years old cave. So far, renovation of the cave is some 55 per cent complete.—MNA

Progress of caged fish farming in Upper Paunglaung Dam inspected

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo inspected the caged fish farming in Upper Paunglaung Dam together with the vice-president of Myanmar Fisheries Federation yesterday.

The Union Minister greeted the locals near the dam area and pledged that the ministry will provide the needed things in conducting caged fish farming to ensure the nutrition, job opportunities, income and living standards of the residents.

Moreover, he added that the officials will communicate with the relevant organizations to grant small loans and crate market and arrangements will be also made with the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development

to run as a team.

Then, the Vice-President of Myanmar Fisheries Federation reported on the cooperation work between the local residents and private entrepreneurs.

The ministry will expand the caged farming industry to ensure the local fish consumption, stable fish prices together with high production rate and manageable scale operations. Moreover, those who want to make a commercial investment will be invited as well as giving priority to local people as they can use the existing freshwater resources to save on investment costs.—MNA

Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo views caged fish farm.



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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Union Industry Minister inspects industries, factories in Magway Region

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than met Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin and relevant governmental officials in Magway on 30 October.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said arrangements are being made to reopen No (5) Industrial Training Centre (Magway) out of two industrial training centres in Magway Region. It should cooperate with the local cotton farmers not to occur shortage of raw materials for garment factories and it also needs to invite the local and foreign investors to work together with the private sectors and factories of the ministry.

Then, the Magway Region



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than visit No 35 Heavy Industry (Chauk).

Chief Minister reported on the assistance to meet the needs of raw materials of the facto-

ries and cotton for the garment factories and work plans to develop the industrial sectors.

The Union Minister then visited the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and

Inspection and the region department head explained the inspection processes of industry, electronic and boilers, supports for MSMEs and production of 4,787,785 viss of edible oil (7,818 metric tons) from 576 factories.

The Union Minister also instructed officials to provide the technical assistance and suggestions to produce quality oil in line with the rules and procedures.

At No (35) Heavy Industry in Chauk, he gave instructions on the proper directives for production processes.

He finally visited the Hydrogen Peroxide Plant and urged all to efficient use of machinery.—MNA

Union Minister meets Hpa-an Hoteliers Association for Tourism Development



Union Minister Dr Htay Aung meets businesspersons from Hpa-an Hoteliers Association in Hpa-an.

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung addressed a coordination meeting

with Hoteliers Association (Kayin Zone) and entrepreneurs from travels and tours companies at

the Thiri Hpa-an Hotel in Hpa-an yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Un-

ion Minister said that Hpa-an is a popular tourist destination due to its abundance of tourist attractions. New destinations need to be identified in the state as well as existing destinations need to be developed for long-term development. Hotels also need to provide good health and safety services to the visitors. The government has agreed to increase the number of tourist attractions in Hpa-an, the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister called on the private sector and the local people to work together.

Afterwards, U San Ko, Minister for Ethnic Affairs of the Kayin State Government, and businessmen explained the next steps for the development of hotels and tourism sector in

Kayin State.

Afterwards, the Minister for Ethnic Affairs of the Kayin State presented local level certificates to the hotels that have been inspected and reopened in accordance with the COVID-19 regulations under the Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol, and the chairman of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Kayin Zone) accepted.

The Union Minister continued that the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism would co-operate in the development of the tourism sector in the region.

Afterwards, the Union Minister accompanied by Karen State Cabinet Ministers visited Barnei Hill Natural Park on Garden Road, No. (4) Ward, Hpa-an Township.—MNA/GNLM

VMIS of Ministry of Health wins Digital Government Award

THE Vaccination Management Information System-VMIS adopted by the Ministry of Health provided by the Ministry of Defence won the Digital Government Award category of ASOCIO ICT Award 2021 contributed by the Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO).

The ASOCIO invited the 24 member countries to compete in ASOCIO Outstanding Tech Company Award, ASOCIO Outstanding User Organization Award, ASOCIO

Digital Government Award, ASOCIO EdTech Award and ASOCIO Health Tech Award in 2021 aiming to widely use the Information and Communications Technology-ICT in Asia-Oceanian regions in manufacturing, vocational, education and health sectors.

The awarding ceremony will take place at BICC, Dhaka, Bangladesh at 5.30 pm of Dhaka standard time on 12 November 2021 during the 2021 ASOCIO PIKOM Digital Summit to be held in Dhaka from 11-14 November 2021.—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)

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



THE Ministry of Commerce arranges import of medical supplies that are important for the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade centres, international airport and seaports.

Yesterday, anti-COVID-19 equipment, many items of medical equipment were imported by three companies using four vehicles.

A total of 30 tonnes of mask in four trucks were imported via Chinshwehaw border trade centre.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including online registration for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, 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 carrying medical supply from border trade centre.

Kyaukse prepares to welcome back school children

PREPARATIONS are underway for the opening of basic education schools in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region.

At 8 am yesterday, teachers and school trustees worked together to clean up the campus in order to prevent COVID-19 disease.

Elementary schools have been closed due to COVID-19 disease and will now be admitting attendance of students as of 1 November.

Hand sanitizers, washing

basins and soaps are being set up on the school campus so that students can study with peace of mind and free from the COVID-19 disease.

Three are a total of 186 basic education schools, three private schools, and 15 monastic education schools in Kyaukse Township.

Masks are provided free of charge for teachers and school children and there is no charge for education, officials said.—Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM



Teachers clean school environs for reopening of basic education school in Kyaukse Township. PHOTO: THET MAUNG (KYAUKSE)

Value-added food production training conducted in Aungban



Trainees and officials are posing for documentary photo at value-added food production training course in Aungban. PHOTO: SAI THAN KYAW (TAUNGGYI)

ACCORDING to the instructions of the Head of State and the Union Minister, Shan State Small-scale Industry Department conducted the value-added food production training based on vegetables and crops in No (2) Ward of Aungban of Kalaw Township in Southern Shan State yesterday.

During the opening ceremony, Deputy Director-Gen-

eral of Small-scale Industry Department (Nay Pyi Taw head office) made a remark adding to emerge the entrepreneurs who produce food with rice, bean, corn, wheat and regional crops at low costs, to produce new product such as One Village-One Product and to open training to know the instructions.

Then, Aungban town elder

U Moe Kyaw expressed words of thanks.

The training will offer six subjects and the demonstrators of Small-scale Industry Department (Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State) will run the lecture and practical sessions for seven days, and a total of 20 locals from the villages of Kalaw Township join the class.—Sai Than Kyaw (Taunggyi)/GNLM

Preparations underway to reopen schools in Htantabin

BASIC education schools in Htantabin Township will be opened as from 1 November, and preparations are being made at basic education schools in the township for students to study with peace of mind when the school reopens.

Under the supervision of the Township Administration Body, Township Education Officer Daw Kyi Kyi Myint led teachers and

education staff at 149 basic education schools to carry out collective clean-ups in school classrooms.

Organizing classrooms, systematic maintenance of hand basins and collective cleaning of school grounds are also being carried out, officials said. There are a total of 149 basic education schools, six private schools and two monastic education schools in Htantabin Township.

Officials are also inspecting preparations for the school's opening.

In front of the Township Information and Public Relations Department, a notice board was displayed for parents and teachers to obey COVID-19 disease preventive measures for the safety of the school children, officials added.—Zin Min Htaik (Htantabin)/GNLM



Teachers and education staff carry out sanitation at basic education school before reopening of school. PHOTO: ZIN MIN HTAIK (HTANTABIN)

Myanmar Central Bank sells \$294.8 mln in past eight months

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$294.8 million at its FX auction rate to the authorized dealers in the past eight months (Feb-Sept) 2021, according to the auction results released by the CBM.

Last month, the CBM reportedly sold \$50 million on 18 October, 30 million each on 22 and 26 October in the auction market, totaling \$110 million which is the largest amount sold in the past eight months. Consequently, the exchange rate dipped to below K2,000 in late October, according to the CBM.

Last September-end, a dollar value reached the highest of over K3,000 in history. The CBM, therefore, sold \$63 million to the banks in September 2021.

In a bid to strengthen the local currency and govern the market volatility, the CBM reportedly sold about 6.8 million dollars on 3 February 2021, \$12



Photo depicts building of Central Bank of Myanmar.

million in April, \$24 million in May, \$12 million in June, \$39 million in July and \$28 million in August in the auction market.

The CBM trades the foreign currency with the authorized private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

The currency intervention is required to steer the own

currency value. It is one of the responsibilities of the CBM to control the price. This is why the CBM practised the foreign exchange intervention.

The current political changes in Myanmar and the COVID-19 impacts affect the currency market. Some people want to hold the hard currency during the difficult times,

a market observer shared his opinion.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-K1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest

of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April.

The rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730 in May and it moved in the maximum of K1,595-K1,620 last month. The local forex market's data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-K1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. The rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730 in May and it moved in the maximum of K1,595-K1,620 in June. The rate stood at K1,626-K1,670 in July. It hit the lowest of K1,660 and the highest of K1,682 in August. The rate edged up to K3,200 and fell to K1,696 in September. Last month, it stayed between K2,430 and K1,830.—KK/GNLM

Myanmar foreign trade down by \$263 mln this FY



Mini-buses stop at border trade post.

MYANMAR'S external trade as of 22 October in the current mini-budget year 2021-2022 (Oct-March) sank to US\$1.4 billion, which shows a drastic drop of \$263 million as against the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

The international trade stood at over \$1.66 billion in the corresponding period of last FY 2020-2021, according to data released by the ministry.

This month, Myanmar's export was worth over \$697 million whereas, the country's import was relatively low at \$703.68 million.

The border trade dropped owing to the closure of border post by the main trade partner China amid the coronavirus impacts. However, the mari-

time trade was registered an increase of \$115 million.

At the present time, the traders have transaction problem triggered by the restriction of the private banks.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing trade deficit, export promotion and market diversification.

The external trade stood at \$29.58 billion in the 2020-2021 FY, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics.—KK/GNLM

Efforts underway for Shwebo Pawsan rice to get GI designation

MYANMAR'S Shwebo Pawsan Farming, Milling and Trading Association (Central) is exerting efforts for Shwebo Pawsan (high quality rice variety) to get a Geographical Indication (GI) designation.

"To promote the interests of the farmers, traders and millers in Shwebo Pawsan cultivation areas, they are urged to join membership. The concerted efforts are required to achieve GI," said a member.

The association is encouraging the farmers, millers and

traders in Shwebo, Wetlet, KhinU, YeU, Taze, Dabayin and Kanbalu townships of Sagaing Region to become members of Myanmar's Shwebo Pawsan Farming, Milling and Trading Association (Central).

The membership registration fee for the farmers is set at K20,000 and annual membership fee is K10,000 for 2022.

In order to acquire copyright for Shwebo Pawsan, the related organizations and the farmers are working together to meet quality and GI criteria.

Pawsan rice was previously grown in the Ayeyawady delta region. Now, it is cultivated across the country. There are about 1.3 million acres of Pawsan rice crop every year.

Pawsan varieties vary on different regions and harvest season.

A GI is a specific intellectual property right that designates a product from a specific region and whose characteristics result in both the natural conditions of its origin and the expertise of local producers.—Lu Lay/GNLM



An aerial view of farmlands where Shwebo Pawsan paddy strain is grown. PHOTO: LULAY

Create learning opportunities for students to cover their age

THE outbreak of COVID-19 shut down the ways of all opportunities of global people as the pandemic spreads across the world.

In Myanmar, children learning basic education are victims of Saturn COVID-19. They lost learning opportunities in infection of the disease from the first to the third waves. Although the relevant governments had tried hard to reopen the basic education schools and universities, their missions failed.

However, nobody should give up on the situation. Everybody needs to seek the best and proper way for overcoming the challenges triggered by the pandemic to enable the youths to continue their learning.

Fortunately, the best and proper way could be sought for reducing the infection rate of the disease. Thanks to concerted efforts of authorities, officials and people, the infection of the pandemic could be reduced to around four per cent of the infection rate. Hence, a plan was set to reach less than four or three per cent of the infection rate of COVID-19 by the end of October 2021.

If so, the government will be ready to reopen the schools for the children. To do so, the government arranged to vaccinate the youths aged 12 and above as well as teachers in order to ensure the safe environs of classrooms. If those students have received the vaccines, the schools would be ready to admit the students for their learning opportunities.

In the near future, the classrooms would be filled with students with fresh and active faces. But, their age is beyond the deserved one. The grade number of students is smaller than the age. Nonetheless, students should not be disappointed in their situation. Systematic learning of education is their compulsory duty for life.

Those students need to take care of learning without spreading their sense. They should steadfastly learn their respective school lessons. But, if one gives up on attending the schools, one will miss the chance of learning. If so, the learning opportunity will be useless. So also, those who give up on the chance will lag behind others.

As such, every student needs to grasp the unprecedented chance of learning. If they give up to the chance, the situation of turning out the educated new generations will fail. Moreover, the unbalanced condition between the age of students and the grade of education will not benefit the youths along with their life.



Delhi's sixth sero survey shows more than 90% people have antibodies

This means that Delhi is unlikely to witness a Covid wave as destructive as the second wave in April and May until a new severe variant emerges, a government official said.

FOR every 100 people in Delhi, 97 have some level of antibodies that react with Sars-CoV-2 because they have had an infection or a vaccine dose, the latest serological survey suggests, according to preliminary results released by the government on 28 October.

Experts said the findings are consistent with two significant factors: Delhi had a devastating wave of infections in April-May that appeared to leave very few people uninfected, and the city's cases have not risen even though almost all activities have opened up and the public appears not to be adhering to Covid-safe behaviour such as wearing masks and maintaining distance.

Sixth sero-survey

"The report of the sixth sero-survey has come in and the overall positivity was found to be 97%. In all the 11 districts, the positivity was over 90%. This shows that a huge proportion of the people in Delhi have had the infection and many others have been vaccinated. This report is very positive," said Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain.

"Earlier, researchers had said that herd immunity could be reached at 70% to 80%, then they said 90%, but in Delhi it is 97% now," the minister added.

Herd immunity is when enough people have adequate

protection from immunity so that an infectious disease stops spreading to vulnerable people. But experts say there are several unknowns, such as how long antibodies will remain protective, and the evolution of the virus, which can mutate to become more resistant.

It was not immediately clear what proportion of the seroprevalence was due to vaccination or a past infection. But a proxy can be considered in the seroprevalence seen among children, who are not yet eligible for vaccines. The report found that a little over 80% of the samples taken from children were positive for antibodies - this proportion would have been the result of a natural exposure to the virus.

The seroprevalence

The seroprevalence in the latest round is a jump of 41 percentage points from the fifth survey, the sampling for which was only partial and took place before the April-May wave of infection.

A lot has changed since then. Between April 15 and October 28, the Capital recorded 655,614 infections. In mid-April, a total of 2.1 million doses were administered to people in Delhi. As on Thursday, 20.3 million doses have been administered, and 86% of the 15 million adult population eligible to take a shot has received

at least one dose.

"This result was completely expected after the huge wave of infection this year. The number of cases that have dropped drastically over the last few months is not because people suddenly started following Covid-appropriate behaviour - if we go out, we will see many are not following it still - but because of a high exposure to the virus in the population," said Dr Sanjay K Rai, head of the department of community medicine at AIIMS.

Rai added that the findings give some basis to lift curbs further. "A severe third wave is unlikely in Delhi. Yes, there will be fluctuations in the number of cases, if we are recording 30 today, it might go up to 300. But it will not be like any of the previous waves. This is a good result and we should now try and go towards normalcy. If not now, when?" he said, while adding that there must be close monitoring for any new variant.

Samples taken from 28,000 people

The latest survey was based on samples taken from 28,000 people. "The kits that are used for sero survey just detect the presence of antibodies against the virus - it cannot tell the difference between antibodies due to a previous infection or immu-



A health worker tests a visitor for Covid-19 testing. PHOTO: ANI

nisation. However, neutralising antibody levels will be tested for a proportion of the samples, which will give us some idea as to what proportion of the people might have had natural infection and what proportion developed antibodies through vaccination," said Dr Pragya Sharma, who leads the sero-surveillance study and is the professor of community medicine at Maulana Azad Medical College.

A report with the results of neutralising antibody levels as well as about vaccine hesitancy or eagerness among people in Delhi will be submitted after Diwali, ac-

ording to an official from Delhi's health department.

According to the preliminary report, which was submitted on Tuesday night, even in Southwest Delhi, which recorded the lowest sero-prevalence, 93.3% of the samples were found to be positive. With 99.8%, East district recorded the highest sero-prevalence.

The sero prevalence is also slightly higher among the women -90.1% compared to 88.2% among men. These figures don't average up to the overall seropositivity of 97% because it is yet to be adjusted for the

sensitivity of the testing kits.

District-wise sero-prevalence

The district-wise sero-prevalence has already been weighted according to the age and gender constitution of the people living in the district as well as the sensitivity of the kits. The study found some people who received vaccines did not develop any antibodies. Of the vaccinated who were sampled and received Covishield, 95.3% developed antibodies. Among those vaccinated with Covaxin, 93% had antibodies.

SOURCE: ANI

S.Korea to launch "living with COVID-19" guideline in November



A woman wearing a face mask prepares to board her train at Seoul Station in Seoul, South Korea, Feb. 10, 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

SOUTH Korea planned to launch the so-called "living with COVID-19" guideline from November as the full vaccination rate topped the key precondition of 70 percent, the health ministry said on 29 October.

Starting from Nov. 1, the business hour restrictions on all multiuse facilities, including restaurants and cafes, will be lifted except for nightlife entertainment facilities such as nightclubs, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Under the first phase of the three-stage "living with COVID-19" scheme, nightlife facilities will be allowed to operate

until midnight.

Currently, restaurants and cafes are allowed to open until 10:00 p.m. local time in the Seoul metropolitan area, while the business hour was limited to midnight in other parts of the country.

Under the new guideline, the maximum number of private gatherings will be raised to 10 people in the metropolitan area regardless of the vaccination from the current eight.

In the non-metropolitan area, the number will be increased to 12 people from the current 10.

For those who have yet to

be fully vaccinated, up to four people will be allowed to gather at restaurants and cafes where people have to take off masks for eating and drinking.

The so-called "vaccine pass" system will be introduced with a grace period to require people to show a vaccination certificate or a negative test result when visiting risky facilities, including nightlife facilities, karaoke, public bathhouse, indoor sports facilities, racecourse, bicycle race track and casino as well as medical institutions.

The eased antivirus measures came as the country's full

vaccination rate surpassed 70 percent of the population.

In the latest tally, the country reported 2,124 more cases of COVID-19 for the past 24 hours, lifting the total number of infections to 360,536. The daily caseload hovered above 1,000 for 115 days since July 7.

The first phase of the new guideline will be maintained for six weeks. Under the second phase, the operating hour restriction on nightlife entertainment facilities will be lifted.

Under the third phase, the limit on the number of private gatherings will be removed.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 31 October 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan State, fairly widespread in Eastern Shan State, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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NASA, SpaceX delay ISS mission due to bad weather

NASA and SpaceX have delayed a mission sending four astronauts to the International Space Station to avoid “a large storm system,” the agency said Saturday.

The astronauts of “Crew-3” were due to launch aboard a Crew Dragon spacecraft named “Endurance” fixed atop a Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Sunday.

But they will instead aim to launch at 1:10 am (0510 GMT) on Wednesday, which “would have Crew-3 arriving at the space station later the same day about 11 p.m (0300 GMT Thursday),” NASA said in a statement.

They will then carry out “a short handover with the astronauts that flew to the station as part of the agency’s SpaceX Crew-2 mission,” it added.

Should a launch on that date



Americans Tom Marshburn (second from left), Raja Chari (second from right) and Kayla Barron (right) as well as German Matthias Maurer (left) of the European Space Agency, will spend six months on the orbital outpost. **PHOTO: AFP**

be impossible, “a backup opportunity” is available on November 4, SpaceX said on its website.

The “Crew-3” team will spend six months on the orbital outpost and conduct research to

help inform future deep space exploration and benefit life on Earth.

Scientific highlights of the mission include an experiment to grow plants in space without soil or other growth media, and another to build optical fibers in microgravity, which prior research has suggested will be superior in quality to those made on Earth.

The Crew-3 astronauts will also conduct spacewalks to complete the upgrade of the station’s solar panels and will be present for two tourism missions, including Japanese visitors aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft at the end of the year and the Space-X Axiom crew, set for launch in February 2022.

Crew-3 is part of NASA’s multibillion-dollar partnership with SpaceX that it signed after ending the Space Shuttle program in 2011 and aims to restore US capacity to carry out human spaceflight. — AFP ■

COP-26 kicks off on 31 October; climate technology, finance to be India’s main focus

WITH host British Prime Minister Boris Johnson reportedly estimating the chances of a successful outcome to the United Nations COP 26 at “about six out of 10”, the much-awaited climate summit kicks off on 31 October in Glasgow.

India has assured the UK COP Presidency of full support for the meaningful outcome of

COP-26 with Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav stating that the upcoming climate summit should be of “action and implementation”.

However, since combating climate change is a universal challenge, India wants global climate action to be guided by principles and values of climate justice and equity.

In those terms, technology transfer and climate finance — the two factors essential for a “level playing field between developed and developing countries” — will form the basis of India’s pitch at the summit. The country will pitch for the \$100 billion per year climate financing by developed nations. — ANI ■

The New York ‘canners’ recycling discarded bottles to survive

ON a Brooklyn street, Laurentino Marin doesn’t stop to admire the Halloween decorations. Like every morning, the Mexican is busy filling a shopping cart with used cans and plastic bottles,

which he will exchange for a few dollars.

Marin, who is 80, is one of New York’s estimated 10,000 “canners,” mostly older migrants from Latin America and China

who scrape a living sorting and recycling plastics and aluminum.

Frail and stooped over, Marin stops in front of the stairs of a typical brownstone house that dots this neighborhood, lifts the lids of the trash cans and plunges his gloved hands into them.

He also searches through plastic packaging filled with garbage that sit on the sidewalk, awaiting collection from the city’s sanitation department.

Large see-through bags hang from his trolley, already full to the brim with a multicolored assortment of soda and beer cans.

“I’m looking for cans to survive,” the wrinkled-faced Marin, originally from Oaxaca, says in Spanish. — AFP ■



Laurentino Marin drives his trolley of cans through the streets of Brooklyn in New York on 27 October 2021, before exchanging them for a few dollars at a recycling center. **PHOTO: AFP**

China’s first hydrogen fuel cell hybrid locomotive starts trial run



The hydrogen energy locomotive project was jointly launched by the Inner Mongolia subsidiary of the State Power Investment Corporation Limited (SPIC), CRRC Datong Co, Ltd., and the Hydrogen Energy Co, Ltd. of SPIC. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE first China-developed hydrogen fuel cell hybrid locomotive started a trial run on Friday on a railway line for coal transport in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The hydrogen energy locomotive project was jointly launched by the Inner Mongolia subsidiary of the State Power Investment Corporation Limited (SPIC), CRRC Datong Co, Ltd., and the Hydrogen Energy Co, Ltd. of SPIC.

Compared with traditional diesel locomotives, the new-energy locomotive is expected to cut carbon emissions by about 96,000 tonnes a year running on the 627-kilometer coal railway linking the Baiyin-hua coal mine in Inner Mon-

golia with the port of Jinzhou in northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

Li Lingtao, deputy chief engineer with CRRC Datong Co, Ltd., said that the hydrogen fuel cell hybrid locomotive has a design speed of 80 km per hour.

It can run continuously for 24.5 hours when fully loaded with fuel and its maximum traction load on straight roads reaches 5,000 tonnes.

The new-energy locomotive has broad market prospects for use in large factories, mines and ports.

With the emission of water, the hydrogen-fueled locomotive can realize zero pollution during operation. — Xinhua ■

Russia imposes nationwide paid holiday to curb Covid

NEW coronavirus restrictions came into effect across Russia on Saturday with authorities looking to stem soaring infections and deaths in Europe's worst hit country by fatalities.

Saturday's government tally recorded 40,251 new cases, the highest figure for new infections since the beginning of the pandemic.

President Vladimir Putin last week ordered a paid holiday from Saturday to November 7 in a bid to break a recent chain of records in daily cases and deaths.

Russia has held back on imposing significant nationwide measures since ending a short lockdown at the beginning of the pandemic and instead placed its hopes on the rollout of several homegrown vaccines, including Sputnik V.

Even though several jabs have been freely available for months, just 32.5 per cent of the population have been fully vaccinated, according to government



The Kremlin this week said epidemiologists had raised "concerns" after polls cited by news agencies showed one-third of Russians planned to travel during the holiday period. PHOTO: AFP

statistics Saturday.

The Kremlin this week said epidemiologists had raised "concerns" after polls cited by news agencies showed one-third of Russians planned to travel during the holiday period.

Regions across the country

have imposed some virus restrictions but the most stringent began this week in Moscow—the epicentre of Russia's outbreak — with non-essential services shuttered. Russian authorities have been accused of downplaying the pandemic and figures

from statistics agency Rosstat on Friday showed nearly twice as many Covid deaths compared with the government tally.

Rosstat said 44,265 people died of coronavirus in September — nearly double the official government figure. — AFP ■

US authorizes Pfizer COVID vaccine for children 5-11: regulator



The United States on Friday authorized the Pfizer COVID vaccine for children aged five-to-11 after a committee of experts this week found its benefits outweighed the risks. PHOTO: AFP

THE United States on Friday authorized the Pfizer COVID vaccine for children aged five-to-11 after a committee of ex-

perts this week found its benefits outweighed the risks.

"As a mother and a physician, I know that parents, caregivers, school staff, and children have been waiting for today's authorization," said acting Food and Drug Administration chief Janet Woodcock in a statement.

"Vaccinating younger children against COVID-19 will bring us closer to returning to a sense of normalcy."

The vaccine rollout should begin in earnest after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention convenes a panel on Tuesday to further discuss clinical recommendations.

In a clinical trial involving more than 2,000 participants was found to be more than 90 percent effective at preventing symptomatic disease.

The vaccine's safety was also studied in more than 3,000 children, and no serious side effects have been detected in the ongoing study.

In this age group, the vaccine is given as two shots three weeks apart, dosed at 10 micrograms — a third what is given to older age groups.

According to the CDC, there have been 8,300 COVID hospitalizations of children aged five-to-11 since the start of the pandemic, and 146 deaths. — AFP ■

China cracks down over 'serious' Covid outbreak

BEIJING introduced new Covid-19 curbs on Saturday to stamp out a "serious" outbreak as the Chinese capital maintains its strict zero-tolerance policy, with less than 100 days before it hosts the Winter Olympics.

China's leading epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan said Saturday that authorities could contain a nationwide outbreak within a month—but also warned the "pandemic cannot be eradicated within a short period of time".

The outbreak has hit at least

14 of China's provinces and millions have been tested in the past week.

The situation is "serious and complex" and the epidemic "is still developing rapidly", Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission, told a press conference Saturday.

In Beijing, authorities ordered all cinemas closed until November 14 in the capital's Xicheng district, which lies west of Tiananmen Square and is home to over a million people. China announced



Rising cases have forced Chinese authorities to resort to tough steps to eradicate the resurgence of the virus. PHOTO: AFP

59 locally transmitted virus cases Saturday — the highest since mid-September — including two

cases in Beijing linked to a tourist group infected in the north of the country. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel to hold public discussion on vaccinating children aged 5-11

THE Israeli Ministry of Health on Friday announced that it will hold an open public discussion on Nov. 4 about vaccinating children aged 5 to 11 against COVID-19.

This came after an advisory panel to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday voted in favor of authorizing the Pfizer vaccine for children in this age range.

At the meeting, which will be broadcast live, the ministry's management team of epidemics will present the information and considerations on the matter, prior to its recommendation to the ministry's director-general Nachman Ash on whether to launch such a campaign.

The team invited the Israeli public to present the positions and ask questions, as part of a transparent process on the issue. — Xinhua ■

COVID infections in England at highest level since January: figures show

COVID-19 infections in England have increased to their highest level since the beginning of the year, according to official figures released Friday.

The latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) survey estimates around one in 50 people had coronavirus in England in the week to 22 Oct, which is the same proportion of people at the peak of the second wave in early January. The official weekly R number in England is estimated to have risen to between 1.1 and 1.3. The coronavirus reproduction figure means that for every 10 people with coronavirus they will, on average, infect between 11 and 13 others.

The pandemic therefore appears to be growing in England, as "R" was estimated to be between one and 1.2 last week.

Another 43,467 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 8,979,236, according to official figures released Friday. — Xinhua ■

G-20 leaders gather for talks on inflation impact, tax reform



The “La Nuvola” convention center in the EUR district of Rome, where the upcoming G20 summit of heads of states will be held. **PHOTO: ANDREAS SOLARO / AFP**

LEADERS of the Group of 20 major economies gathered Saturday for two days of talks in Rome to look into the impact of rising inflation amid the uneven global recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and to show support for an international corporate tax reform deal.

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi called for multilateralism to deal with a range of issues the world faces, saying in his opening remarks, “From the pandemic to climate change, to fair and equitable taxation, going it alone is simply not an option.”

While the meeting is the first in-person G-20 summit since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year, some attendees have de-

decided to join virtually, including Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida who took office less than a month ago and awaits a general election on Sunday.

U.S. President Joe Biden attended the gathering in person. But Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has remained in his country since the outbreak of the pandemic, has not traveled to Italy, dashing any chance the two could hold their first face-to-face summit amid tense bilateral relations.

The summit takes place as the global economy faces increasing downside risks, with the recovery showing geographical divergence in part due to unequal access to coronavirus

vaccines and pandemic-induced supply chain disruptions feeding into inflation in many countries.

Price pressures in the United States and elsewhere are currently seen as transitory, with bottlenecks occurring as some parts of the economy recover from the pandemic faster than others, resulting in imbalances between supply and demand. But concerns linger over whether it could lead to a more sustained rise in inflation.

Biden was expected to have broached the issue of the imbalance in supply and demand in the global energy markets during the meeting, according to a senior U.S. government official. — AFP ■

US, EU agree to lift punitive tariffs

THE United States and the EU agreed Saturday to lift punitive tariffs on imported European steel and aluminum, ending a dispute that strained their trade ties since then-president Donald Trump imposed the levies three years ago.

The deal was announced by US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, who said it “allows limited volumes of EU steel and aluminum to enter the US tariff-free.”

Increased EU retaliatory measures on iconic American products like Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Levi’s blue jeans and Kentucky bourbon – due to take effect December 1 -- will not now be applied, Raimondo said from Rome where she was attending the G20 summit.

EU trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said in a tweet: “we have agreed with US to pause our steel & aluminum ... trade dispute and launch cooperation on a Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel & Aluminum.”

Trump in June 2018 imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum from several economies, including the European Union. He said he was acting on national security grounds.

The Europeans hit back quickly, with duties on tobacco, corn, rice and orange juice from the US, besides motorcycles and bourbon.

In June, as they announced a deal to end their dispute on subsidies to Airbus and Boeing, the US and the European Union gave themselves until December 1 to resolve the steel tariff issue.

“These industries were facing retaliatory tariffs of 50 percent,” Raimondo said of the likes of Harley Davidson. “No business can survive that. There are 1.7 million Americans supported by the distilled spirits industry. There are 5,600 manufacturing workers at Harley Davidson and all of their jobs are safer today because of this deal.” — AFP ■

Sri Lanka to provide free tea plants to boost tea growth

THE Sri Lankan government said on Friday that it will provide free tea plants to any grower who wishes to engage in tea plantation from next year.

Plantations Minister Ramesh Pathirana told a media briefing that presently it took nearly four years for the tea bushes to produce yield, therefore the growers often become discouraged in engaging with the tea industry.

“The growers have come forward to cultivate tea adopting the new system. By adopting this plantation method, it will be possible to make a revolutionary change in the tea industry within the next three years,” the minister said. The minister said tea should be grown on a fresh fertile land, tea plants will be provided free of charge and financial assistance will also be provided for land preparation from next year



Staff members work on the production line of organic teas at Stassen Exports Private Limited in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 28 Oct 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/TANG LU / FILE**

to encourage tea planting.

“We must now turn to new methods. Instead of manual tea plucking, we should focus on tea plucking machines. Many countries in the world adopt such new technologies in tea plantations,” Pathirana said.

“We hope to use the barren lands that are not currently used

for tea planting when moving towards new plantation methods. Steps will be taken to implement this project from the beginning of next year,” he added.

Tea has made up 12 percent of Sri Lanka’s export revenue in 2020 and China was the country’s fifth-largest tea export destination. — Xinhua ■

In Spain, delivery riders law reshuffles deck for take-away market

JUST weeks after Spain became the first EU member to give delivery workers labour rights, firms that employ them like Uber Eats or Just Eat are still struggling to adapt to a new law which may become a model for the rest of Europe.

As of August 12 when the law came into force, couriers who deliver food, mostly on bicycles and motorcycles, must be rec-

ognised as employees instead of being considered self-employed freelancers as before.

This means app-based food delivery firms have to pay employee contributions for benefits like sick leave and protections against dismissal.

The firms say the so-called “Rider Law” -- which only applies to food couriers and not other gig workers -- threatens

the 700-million-euro (\$850 million) industry in Spain.

The reform has prompted some platforms to seek legal loopholes while others have entered into talks with unions.

Unions argue the law has improved the lot of couriers, whose numbers have exploded in recent years in Spain to around 30,000 according to industry associations. — AFP ■



Steel is loaded onto a truck for shipping at the NLMK Indiana steel mill on 15 March 2018 in Portage, Indiana. **PHOTO: GETTY/AFP**

Russian tourists flock back to Egypt's Red Sea

MUSSA al-Nahas sat outside his fragrance and spice shop overlooking the Red Sea beaming at the sight of Russian tourists, who are beginning to flood back to Sharm el-Sheikh six years after a terror attack.

"Today is much, much better than three or four months ago because the Russians are back," he told AFP.

"The return of Russian flights has spurred other countries to also open up," he added.

Nahas, 42, has spent half of his life in the idyllic, sun-drenched Red Sea resort which was badly hit economically after the 2015 downing of a Metrojet plane that killed 224 mostly Russian passengers.

The attack was claimed by the so-called Islamic State jihadist group, which has a presence in the



Russian tourists are beginning to flood back to Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh six years after a terror attack that downed a Metrojet plane killing 224 mostly Russian passengers. PHOTO: AFP

restive North Sinai region.

In the wake of the crash, Russia instituted a blanket ban on all flights to the Red Sea from 2015, and even to Cairo for a few weeks. The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 was a double blow driving

away the remaining tourists—the country's lifeline.

Tourism represents about 10 percent of the GDP of Egypt where a third of the 100 million-strong population lives below the poverty line.

"We used to say that

Sharm el-Sheikh had become a ghost town," said Nahas. But in August, the fortunes of Sharm -- as it is affectionately known -- started to look up when the first plane from Moscow touched back down at the local airport. — AFP ■

Oil giant Saudi Arabia sees opportunity in climate crisis



Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has pledged to go carbon-neutral by 2060. PHOTO: AFP

THE climate crisis does not look like good news for the oil industry, but Saudi Arabia is sniffing an opportunity that could help retain its energy

dominance for decades.

Not only is the world's top oil exporter ramping up production, it is also making a major play for the trillion-dollar

emerging industries touted as a route to cleaner air.

Such a move by one of the globe's biggest polluters has not gone down well with environmental campaigners, with Greenpeace complaining of "greenwashing".

But a push for the Saudi-promoted "circular carbon economy" is likely to feature at the United Nations' COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, starting on Sunday, after winning G20 approval during the kingdom's presidency of the body last year.

The message screamed out loud and clear at this week's Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in Riyadh: the Saudis are sticking with oil, and they want it to be part of the solution.

"I'm sure that people have noticed that we have been repositioning ourselves," Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman told the thousands-strong gathering dubbed "Davos in the desert", featuring superstars of the business world. — AFP ■

China releases operation rules for Beijing bourse

CHINA'S securities regulator on Saturday published rules for initial public offerings, refinancing and supervision for the newly-announced Beijing Stock Exchange.

Along with related normative documents, these rules are set to come into effect from Nov. 15, according to a statement on the official website of the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

The securities reg-

ulator had solicited public opinions on the rules before the release. It has adopted all constructive opinions on protecting the rights and interests of small and medium investors, boosting listed companies' operation capabilities and improving information disclosure, the statement said.

China has decided to build the Beijing bourse into a primary platform for innovation-oriented small and medium-sized

enterprises as the capital market evolves to meet

the financing needs of various entities. — Xinhua ■



Staff members are busy at work at the Beijing Stock Exchange on 14 September. The new bourse, registered on 3 September, aims to nurture an array of specialized and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises. PHOTO: XINHUA

NEWS

IN

BRIEF

Europe's economic recovery steadies, consolidation expected in 2022

THE economy in Europe continues to rebound from a recession induced by the pandemic in the third quarter of this year, preliminary data released by the statistical office of the European Union on Friday showed.

The seasonally adjusted Gross Domestic Product ticked up by 2.2 percent in the 19-country euro area and 2.1 percent in the 27-member European Union (EU) in the third quarter this year compared with the previous quarter, the Eurostat revealed.

The bounceback in the EU is the second in a row after a two-percent growth in the second quarter, in sharp contrast to the contractions during the previous two quarters.

Most of the crucial indicators are pointing to a sustained and steady economic recovery in Europe, which according to forecasts is expected to extend well into 2022 despite headwinds. Set back by a resurgence of the COVID-19 infections, the Eurozone's economy suffered contractions for two consecutive quarters from Oct. 2020 to March 2021, defined as a double-dip recession.

As the rollout of vaccinations in Europe, which was widely criticized and trailing other regions initially, gathered pace and enabled governments in the area to ease restrictions and reopen their economies, the euro area witnessed an unexpectedly strong rebound in the second quarter this year, with economic output soaring by 2.1 percent quarter on quarter. — Xinhua ■

EU agency ends warning notice for commercial flights over Iran's airspace: Iranian official

THE European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has ended an advisory notice which warned against flying of commercial planes over Iran's airspace for "safety reasons," Siavosh Amir Mokri, head of the Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) of Iran, said on Saturday.

To remove the nearly two-year restriction, the CAO and Iran Airports Company had engaged in negotiations with European airlines, the region's aviation authorities as well as the EASA, Amir Mokri was quoted as saying by Iran's state TV.

The EASA issued the notice in January 2020, due to Tehran and Washington's regional confrontations and following Iran's fire of missiles against a U.S. base in Iraq in the same month. — Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCP GRAZ VOY.NO. (21004S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCP GRAZ VOY.NO. (21004S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

S Korea holds state funeral for former President Roh amid protests

MOURNERS paid their final respects to former South Korean President Roh Tae Woo in a state funeral held in Seoul on Saturday amid protests, with some municipalities refusing to raise flags of mourning for the army general-turned politician over his involvement in a bloody crackdown on a pro-democracy movement.

At the ceremony for Roh, who served as president from 1988 to 1993 and died Tuesday at the age of 88, Prime Minister Kim Boo Kyum praised him for improving ties with Pyongyang.

Roh and North Korea's founder Kim Il Sung in 1991 signed an agreement on reconciliation and exchange and adopted a joint statement on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

But Kim also mentioned



Bereaved family members attend a memorial service for former South Korean President Roh Tae Woo on 30 October 2021, in Seoul. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

the 1980 crackdown on the pro-democracy uprising in the

southwestern city of Gwangju, in which scores of civilians were

killed, according to a report by Yonhap News Agency.

"We fully understand those of you who oppose the state funeral," the report quoted Kim as saying. "Despite the many achievements of the deceased as president, we are simply unable to just mourn his death today because there are still many tasks left to be resolved by our community."

During the five-day state funeral that started Tuesday, local governments were required by law to display flags of mourning.

However, Gwangju refused to do so as the city said the late president, who led the massacre, had not offered a sincere apology to the victims. Three other municipalities followed Gwangju in protesting against raising a flag in his honor, according to a report by the Kyungyang Shinmun. — Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China to add 1,000 sports parks by 2025

CHINA will build or expand roughly 1,000 sports parks nationwide by 2025, said a guideline released Friday by state organs, including the National Development and Reform Commission.

These parks should be built in open, natural spaces where sports facilities do not occupy too many vegetated areas, said Ou Xiaoli, an official with the commission, at a press conference.

No less than 65 percent of the land area of the sports parks should be vegetated, the guideline says, stressing that the building of these parks must not cross the country's ecological red lines or do harm to the ecosystems. — Xinhua ■

Philippine troops kill alleged "topmost wanted" rebel leader in clash

A Philippine ranking army general said troops had killed an alleged "topmost wanted" rebel leader in a clash on Saturday in the southern Bukidnon province.

Major General Romeo Brawner, commander of the army's 4th infantry division, said New People's Army (NPA) commander George Madlos, also known as Ka Oris, was killed after a 30-minute firefight in Impasugong town around 11:30 a.m. local time on Saturday.

The military said Madlos, facing murder and robbery charges, is allegedly the commander and spokesperson of the NPA's National Democratic Front, an umbrella organization of left-wing groups. — Xinhua ■

Ecuador suspends mountain-climbing after deadly avalanche

ECUADOR suspended climbing on five mountains Friday due to bad weather, after an avalanche killed three climbers and left three others missing.

Climbers will not be able to access the snow-capped peaks of Cayambe, Cotopaxi, Illiniza Sur, Antisana and Chimborazo for at least a week, the Environment Ministry said.

An avalanche last Sunday struck a group of 16 mountaineers ascending Chimborazo, a volcano which is the highest peak in the country, leaving three dead and three missing. The restrictions will remain in force until the weather improves, the ministry added. — AFP ■

Pressure mounts as Dutch govt coalition talks drag on

PRESSURE is mounting on Dutch political leaders to put together a coalition government, which after 226 days on Friday became the longest formation talks on record in the Netherlands.

Experts say even the position of long-time Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte was by no means certain, even if he is still the most likely candidate to lead the country again after 11 years in power.

But seven months after Dutch voters went to the polls it was very much back to square one, with a future coalition government most likely resembling the one that stepped down in January over a childcare scandal.



Informateur Johan Remkes (C) arrives at the De Zwaluwenberg estate for talks on the formation of a new government in Hilversum, The Netherlands, on 27 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rutte's third cabinet resigned in mid-January after news that thousands of Dutch parents

were wrongly accused by Dutch authorities of fraudulently claiming child allowance. — AFP ■

Russian tycoon pays \$500 million to settle US tax bill



Oleg Tinkov, owner of Tinkoff Bank and Tinkoff Cycling Team, paid \$509 million to settle US tax evasion charges. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

RUSSIAN billionaire Oleg Tinkov was required to pay nearly \$509 million to settle US charges of tax evasion, the US Justice Depart-

ment said Friday.

The banking and investment tycoon paid the back taxes and fine after pleading guilty on

October 1 to felony charges of concealing more than \$1 billion in assets to avoid paying taxes on them as he gave up his US citizenship in 2013.

Tinkov is the founder of Tinkoff Credit Services, which became the popular online Tinkoff Bank, and owner of the professional Tinkoff Cycling Team.

The Justice Department said that the Russian-born Tinkov, 53, became a US citizen in 1996. In 2013 he took Tinkoff Credit public on the London Stock Exchange, valuing his holding in it at more than \$1.1 billion. Three days after the IPO, he sought to renounce his US citizenship at the US embassy in Moscow. — AFP ■

Voters to keep eye on Kishida's course correction from Abe-Suga era

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida, whose ruling coalition according to media polls is projected to remain in power in Sunday's general election, appears poised to differentiate himself from his predecessor Yoshihide Suga in order to avoid quickly following him out of office.

So far, Kishida has apparently not been making the same mistake as Suga on the communication front.

After taking office in early October, Kishida pledged to listen to people's voices and held talks with business operators and others during election campaigning, apparently to draw a contrast with Suga, who was criticized for being out of touch with public sentiment in the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic.



Combined photo shows Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) and Yukio Edano, leader of the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, making stump speeches in Machida in Tokyo and the capital's Tachikawa, respectively, on 30 October 2021, a day before a general election. PHOTO: KYODO

"It is evident that Mr. Kishida has better communication skills than Mr. Suga. But people have yet to see the specifics of his policies as his tenure has just begun," said Koji Nakakita,

a Japanese politics professor at Hitotsubashi University.

Suga's predecessor Shinzo Abe was in power for nearly eight years, making him Japan's longest-serving prime minister. Suga,

who was Abe's chief Cabinet secretary, took over but ended up serving for just a year.

After being elected prime minister on Oct. 4, Kishida quickly dissolved the House of Repre-

sentatives, the powerful lower chamber of parliament, for an election to seek a public mandate for remaining in power.

While the election will decide if the government is led by Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party or the opposition, it also provides voters with an opportunity to give their verdict on the governments of Suga and Abe, and their "one-way communication."

"Mr. Abe returned to power (in 2012) after previous governments had struggled to make decisions. He formed a government that could decide, but it also became a government that did not offer explanations to the people," said Masahiro Iwasaki, a professor of Japanese politics at Nihon University. — Kyodo ■

Putin lashes out at G20 over vaccines



A shipment of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccines arrives at the Tunis-Carthage International Airport in Tunisia, Tunisia, on 9 March. PHOTO: FETHI BELAID/AFP

RUSSIA complained Saturday about lack of international recognition for its Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine at a G20 summit, where leaders agreed to step up global inoculation efforts.

"Despite the decisions of the

G20, not all countries in need can have access to anti-Covid vaccines," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in video message comments to counterparts that were retransmitted on Russian state television.

"This happens mainly because of dishonest competition, protectionism and because some states, especially those of the G20, are not ready for mutual recognition of vaccines and vaccination certificates," Putin added.

In an apparent reference to the failure of Russia's Sputnik V to win foreign regulatory approval, Putin urged G20 health ministers to discuss the mutual recognition of vaccines and vaccination certificates "as soon as possible".

Earlier this month, South Africa refused to approve the Russian jab despite the country's dire need for vaccines, claiming it could increase the risk of HIV infection among men. Sputnik V also lacks regulatory approval in the EU and the US. — AFP ■

Four Gulf states pull diplomats from Beirut

THE United Arab Emirates on Saturday recalled its diplomats from Beirut in "solidarity" with Saudi Arabia over a Lebanese minister's criticism of the Riyadh-led military intervention in Yemen.

The row, which has also seen Saudi Arabia ban the imports of Lebanese goods and Kuwait and Bahrain expel Lebanese envoys, is a blow to a country already in the grip of crippling political and economic crises.

Lebanon had been counting on financial assistance from the Gulf to rescue its economy.

"The UAE announced the withdrawal of its diplomats from Lebanon in solidarity with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in light of the unacceptable approach of some Lebanese officials towards Saudi Arabia," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

UAE citizens were also barred from travelling to Lebanon.

The crisis broke out Friday when Saudi Arabia recalled its ambassador from Lebanon and ordered the Lebanese envoy to leave the kingdom within 48

hours.

Hours later, Bahrain followed suit and Kuwait announced similar measures Saturday.

It was sparked by the broadcast this week of an interview in which Lebanon's Information Minister George Kordahi criticised the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen.

In his remarks -- recorded in August but aired on Monday -- Kordahi called Yemen's seven-year war "futile" and said it was "time for it to end". — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Supreme Court to hear Texas abortion law case

TWO months after refusing to intervene, the US Supreme Court is to hear challenges on Monday to a Texas law that bans abortions after six weeks of pregnancy and makes no exceptions for rape or incest. The nine-member court, which includes six conservative justices, will listen to two hours of arguments by parties in a closely-watched case with far-reaching human and political ramifications.

Texas, the country's second-largest state, is being sued by Democratic President Joe Biden's Justice Department and a coalition of abortion providers, accused of enacting abortion restrictions they say are "plainly unconstitutional."

Texas Senate Bill 8 (SB8) bans abortions after a heartbeat can be detected in the womb, which is normally around six weeks, when many women do not even know they are pregnant. — AFP ■

Eric Adams: the vegan ex-cop set to become New York's second Black mayor

ERIC Adams, a Black ex-cop who fought racial discrimination within the police, is poised to be elected New York's next mayor Tuesday, tasked with leading the city's post-pandemic recovery.

The 61-year-old centrist Democrat and passionate vegan will become just the second African American to lead the Big Apple, a job often described as the most difficult in the United States after president.

It caps a remarkable rise for Adams, who was born in poverty in Brooklyn and ran errands for a gang as a teenager before joining the NYPD and then pursuing a political career.

He is all but certain to defeat Republican rival Curtis Sliwa in Tuesday's vote in overwhelmingly liberal-voting NYC and succeed unpopular progressive Bill de Blasio, whose two-term limit ends December 31. Adams considers himself a strong leader: a champion of the working class and a fighter against racial injustice, but also someone who is tough on crime and friendly towards big business.

As mayor for more than eight million people, he will oversee America's largest municipal budget, crippled by the pandemic, and its biggest police force and public school system.

"This is a city where the mayor is the dominant political force. You need someone who knows how to use authority," said New York University urban planning and policy professor Mitchell Moss, describing de Blasio as at times "indecisive." — AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Fixtures released for 2022 Asian Cup Women's Championship



Myanmar women footballers celebrate the victory after securing 2-0 win over UAE at previous AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers at Spartak Stadium in Kyrgyzstan on 24 October, 2021. **PHOTO: AFC**

THE final group matches of the 2022 Asian Cup Women's Championship, in which Myanmar national women's team participating, have now been announced.

The AFC confirmed the group matches days after the group stage draw ceremony on 28 October.

In the final round, Myanmar will face defending champions Japan, South Korea and Viet Nam in the Group C.

Meanwhile Group A consists of host India, China, China Taipei and Iran and three ASEAN teams: Thailand the Philippines and Indonesia are included in the Group B together with Australia.

According to the match schedule, Myanmar team will play against defending champions Japan in the opening match of the group stage on 21 January.

Next, Myanmar will face

South Korea on 24 January and Viet Nam on 27 January.

The tournament will be hosted by India from 20 January to 6 February, 2022. A total of eight teams will advance to the quarter-finals.

The Myanmar team has stopped training after the previous qualifiers and is scheduled to resume training in the second week of November for the next stage.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Solskjaer's tactical tweaks pay off as Man Utd return to winning ways

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer took Manchester United south to play Tottenham with his job on the line but lives to fight another day after his decisions paid off handsomely in a 3-0 win.

The pressure on the Norwegian was intense after last week's 5-0 horror show against Liverpool, in which Jurgen Klopp's men embarrassed their historic rivals. United travelled to London for Saturday's game after taking just one point from a possible 12 to fall well off the pace in the Premier League.

AFP looks at three talking points after the win against Spurs lifted United back within touching distance of the top four:

Veteran strike force

Solskjaer chose to pair Cristiano Ronaldo and Edinson Cavani up front at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, selecting a strike force with a combined age of 70. It was the first time they had started together. Young guns

Marcus Rashford and Mason Greenwood were sacrificed to make way for the veteran double act, potentially depriving United of thrust down the flanks. But Ronaldo and Cavani both got on the scoresheet and proved a constant headache for the Spurs defence. Solskjaer said it was the oldest team he had picked for United, adding he had decided it was time to bank on experience.

Steady Varane

United's defending at home against Liverpool was catastrophic, summed up by an incident in which Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw collided in the lead-up to Liverpool's second goal.

Solskjaer chose to bring back France defender Raphael Varane against Spurs for his first game for the club since October 2, switching to a central back three, with Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka pushing forward. — AFP ■



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal for Manchester United against Tottenham. **PHOTO: AFP**

Canada's Pendrith grabs three-stroke PGA Bermuda lead

CANADIAN Taylor Pendrith reeled off four consecutive birdies on his way to a six-under par 65, seizing a three-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the US PGA Bermuda Championship. The 30-year-old newlywed from suburban Toronto, who barely practiced before the event began, stood on 17-under par 196 after 54 holes at Port Royal Golf Course in Southampton. New Zealand's Danny Lee was second on 199 after a 65 and Australian Lucas

Herbert matched his career-low PGA round from Friday with a 65 to stand third on 200. Pendrith, coming off a career-low 61 on Friday that gave him a one-shot lead, stumbled early with a bogey at the fifth hole but responded with four birdies in a row starting at the par-5 seventh. He added birdies at the par-3 13th and 16th holes, sinking a 40-footer at the latter for only the fourth birdie of the day at 16, and tapped in for birdie at the par-5 17th.—AFP ■