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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.

Kachin state needs to consider successful cultivation of edible oil crops for ensuring food sufficiency: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the address at the meeting with the members of Kachin State government, departmental personnel, members of the district and township administration bodies and town elders in Myitkyina of Kachin State on 18 September 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon met the members of Kachin State government, departmental personnel, members of district and township administration bodies and town elders at Malikha Hall of Kachin State Government.

First, the Senior General and party were warmly welcomed by Kachin State Chief Minister U

Khet Htein Nan, members and ethnic cultural troupe. The Senior General was worn in traditional costume. The Chief Minister of Kachin State reported on the progress of development tasks in Kachin State, the prevention and control of COVID-19, vaccination process and general matters, the Myitkyina District Administrator on respective matters, and town elders on requirements for development tasks.

More than seven billion of the global population always face food requirements. Hence, it is necessary to produce advanced agricultural and livestock products to be exported to foreign markets.

In his address, the Senior General said that he as the State Administration Council Chairman met with members of Kachin State government, departmental personnel, members of district and township administration bodies and town elders for the first time. It was a duty of serving the responsibilities for the social, economic and

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Kachin state needs to consider successful cultivation of edible oil crops for ensuring food sufficiency: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

peace sectors without any needs. In discharging the State responsibilities due to situation and handover of the responsibilities, the State Administration Council was formed to implement the Five-Point Roadmap and Nine Objectives.

The council emphasizes two points of nation-building tasks. The first one is setting the political goal for firmly realizing the multiparty democracy in accord with the aspiration of the people. For the second point, as every government across the world strives for the development of their countries as much as possi-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the sports ground in Myitkyina of Kachin State on 18 September 2021.



As Myanmar exports raw natural resources only, it cannot get the deserved prices. So, it is necessary to strive for the export of finished goods. Some kinds of natural resources are renewable ones, so it is necessary to resupply and conserve renewable natural resources.

ble, the government of Myanmar prioritizes prosperity and food sufficiency.

Myanmar, endowed with plentiful land and water resources as well as human resources, emphasizes agro and livestock-based businesses. More than seven billion of the global

population always face food requirements. Hence, it is necessary to produce advanced agricultural and livestock products to be exported to foreign markets. Despite having rice and bean sufficiency, Kachin State needs a requirement of edible oil. Hence, Kachin state needs to consider

the successful cultivation of edible oil crops for ensuring food sufficiency.

The reports from the Kachin State requested to allow industrial zone, jade mining and tourism industry in the state. In fact, the production based on natural resources cannot be long term existence but short term business. So, extraction of natural resources under and above ground would not be encouraged. As Myanmar exports raw natural resources only, it cannot get the deserved prices. So, it is necessary to strive for the export of finished goods. Some kinds of natural resources are renewable ones, so it is necessary to resupply and conserve renewable natural resources.

If the state relies on natural resources, it may face difficulties. So, all the residences need to do the production with guarantees for the State. Efforts should be made for producing quality agriculture and livestock products meeting standards with plans

to send them to local and foreign markets. It is necessary to export the marketably finished goods from agriculture and livestock farms to the market. If the necessary raw materials can be produced in respective regions, export volume can be reduced. Moreover, the products can be used at fair prices. Consequently, the local economy will develop. The ability to create the situation of respective regions lies within.

According to the educational assessment, there were more than 39,000 students at KG in 2009, some 20,000 of whom reached matriculation due to dropout at different levels. Among them, more than 5,500 students passed the matriculation examination. Hence, it is necessary to enhance the education sector of the country. Schools were reopened after the Tatmadaw had taken the State responsibilities but these schools were temporarily closed due to the third-wave effects of COV-

ID-19. Guidance has been given to conduct business and law subjects at universities so as to turn out educated persons in business and legal knowledge.

Efforts must be made for the sufficiency of electricity which plays a key role in the manufacturing sector. It is necessary to consider the operation of textile and paper with the use of bamboo sources in the region. The urban construction must be facilitated with proper drainage, good ventilation, better transport, education, health sectors.

Kachin State sharing a border with the neighbouring country can export agriculture and livestock products in a short time. Domestic products must be improved to secure the market share.

After the meeting, the Senior General inspected the Kachin State sports ground and Myitkyina District Sports Ground and gave guidance on the upgrade of the sports grounds. — MNA



The Union Home Affairs Minister presents the necessary aids to the security forces.

MoHA Union Minister meets security forces of Monywa, Sagaing, Pakokku townships

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, member of the State Administration Council met security members of Myanmar Police Force in Monywa, Sagaing and Pakokku townships on 17 and 18 September.

During the visit, the Union Minister dwelt on the emergence of the State Administration Council and the cases that occurred in peaceful protests in line with democratic practices. It maintains the murder of security members and innocent people including children

according to the law.

He also talked about the current work plans and preparations for the rule of law, cooperation work with Tatmadaw in the fight against terrorists to ensure State stability, drug-eradication efforts, public participation in fighting the terrorists. The Union Minister then visited the police training school in Sagaing Township.

He also met the families of police members and provided the necessary things for the education and health sectors. — MNA

Myanmar needs to operate agriculture and livestock tasks to earn foreign exchange via global market

MANY agro-based countries are striving for ensuring smooth food supplies and earning incomes. Myanmar needs to operate agriculture and livestock tasks to earn foreign exchange via the global market. The country grows some 15 million acres of monsoon and two million acres of summer paddy which would be sufficient for a 55 million population with much surplus of paddy to be exported to foreign countries. As per-acre yield does not reach 100 baskets of paddy, the export volume of rice does not meet the expectation.

(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)

Primary duty of Tatmadaw is to defend the State; Tatmadaw and the history of the country is inseparable: Senior General

THE Tatmadaw is a part of the country born of the people and the Tatmadaw and the history of the country are inseparable. It is necessary to understand that discharging the State defence duty is serving the country, and the Tatmadaw must be for the sake of the country. Servicemen need to dutifully serve their assignments while striving for the development of the nation as much as possible, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with officers, other ranks and families of Myitkyina Station at Bala Min Htin Hall of the military command headquarters yesterday morning.



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officers, other ranks and family members of Myitkyina Station in Kachin State yesterday.



The Senior General and party comforts one of the patients at the military hospital in Myitkyina.

In his address, the Senior General said officers, other ranks and families must understand the important role of the Tatmadaw in the leadership of the national politics. The Tatmadaw pave the way for the democratization process the people aspire and successfully held the multiparty

democracy general election in 2010 in a democratic manner. The country had some requirements of widely understanding the democracy due to its start step. Global countries exercise democracy depending on their lifestyle, culture, traditions and customs.

The new government was elected in the 2015 multiparty democracy election to govern the country for five years. But, the country did not have deserved development in political, economic, social and other sectors with many criticisms over the efforts of the government.

Many facts of doubts for fairness over the freedom of expression for political parties were found in the canvassing of these parties before the election. A gigantic error of voter lists was

emphasize the prosperity of the State, the firmly standing of the country on genuine disciplined multiparty democracy and the food sufficiency of the nation. But, saboteurs commit destructive

Since its establishment, the Tatmadaw has been good discipline and obedience. It is necessary to understand that discharging the State defence duty is serving the country, and the Tatmadaw must be for the sake of the State. All need to prepare their minds to serve the State as much as possible.

found in the inspection of the Tatmadaw for the results of the 2020 election. Officials neglected the requests of the Tatmadaw to address the voting errors but they attempted to illegally seize the State power by convening the Third Hluttaw. At present, the government

acts for the State through various ways and means. Security forces and people need to join hands in preventing the destructive acts, and officers, other ranks and families need to understand the political situations.

Primary duty of Tatmadaw is to defend the State; Tatmadaw and the history of the country is inseparable: Senior General

FROM PAGE-3

The Tatmadaw is a part of the country born of the people and the Tatmadaw. The primary duty of the Tatmadaw is to defend the State, and the history of the country are inseparable. Officers and other ranks must have three kinds of capabilities for discharging the State defence duty, and they have to regularly take training sessions on a daily basis.

The servicemen discharging duty at any corps must have the capability to be ready to combat as infantry units and other corps need to take training for capacity enhancement to participate in the combined warfare.

Since its establishment, the Tatmadaw has been good discipline and obedience. It is necessary to understand that



discharging the State defence duty is serving the country, and the Tatmadaw must be for the sake of the State. All need to prepare their minds to serve the State as much as possible.

Leaders must exercise fair leadership over the subordinates while subordinates must be disciplined with the nature of a good soldier. The Senior General called for avoiding liquor, cigarettes and betel quid which may harm the improve-

ment of the life and control their indulgence. Servicemen need to dutifully serve their assignments while striving for the development of the nation as much as possible.

The Senior General urged them to strictly abide by the disciplines of COVID-19 for controlling the infection rate and effectively utilize their spare time during the days of the stay-at-home programme.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs to the commander and the wife of the Senior General, cash assistance for maternal and child to the wife of the commander.

Later, the Senior General and party comforted the patient officers and other ranks at the local military hospital in Myitkyina and presented foodstuffs. — MNA

The Senior General presents foodstuffs to the Northern Command Commander.

MoLA pushes for structure of law offices, capacity development of legal officers, staff



The online coordination meeting of the Ministry of Legal Affairs in progress.

THE Ministry of Legal Affairs organized a virtual coordination meeting yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr

Thida Oo said the duties of the Union Attorney-General will be served in accord with the Union Attorney-General Law and the procedures of the ministry will be also published soon. There

would be coordination of the rule of law and justice division, e-Government division, human resource management division, monitoring and evaluation division, local and foreign relations division, legal research division and public complaint settlement division, and the ministry is currently running with four departments.

The Legal Advisory Department analyzes the laws, bylaws, rules, regulations, orders, notification orders, directives and procedures (draft) sent by the Union-level institutions and the ministries concerned. The stipulated laws are also translated into English and published as the Myanmar Law book.

The Legal Translation Com-

mission has translated 26 laws, and the laws translated into Myanmar by the commission will be published as The Penal Code Book No (9).

The Union minister then highlighted the duties of the Legal Advisory Department and the need to follow the existing laws, bylaws, instructions and legal documents in inspecting the contracts.

She also talked about the Prosecution Department that serves in criminal cases and civil suits on behalf of the State and the duties of legal officers to be well-versed in existing laws for the cases with solid evidence.

She said the State Administration Council released the Order Nos 147/2021 and 172/2021 to

withdraw the ongoing proceedings, and so the relevant courts should conduct according to the Union Attorney-General Law in dropping the cases.

Moreover, the ministry tries hard to establish e-Government and publishes SOPs for departments. The ministry also implements the procedures in line with “Providing Legal Service for Justice (2020-2024),” especially for business-related contract inspection training, law drafting training and capacity building of legal officers and staff for the benefits of the country and people. Then, the regions/states advocate-general offices presented their respective work plans of the four departments under the ministry. — MNA

1,943 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 September, total figure rises to 444,871

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 444,871 after 1,943 new cases were reported on 18 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 395,855 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,016 after 72 died.

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Union Ministers meet staff of relevant ministries



The MoALI Union Minister meets the ministry's staff.



The MoNREC Union Minister meets the staff of the ministry.



The MoH Union Minister meets the departmental personnel.

UNION Ministers accompanying Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on his visit to Kachin State yesterday morning met the departmental staff from respective ministries and instructed them on their work.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo met the respective staff at the Meeting Hall of the Agriculture Department of Kachin State.

Next, Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe met the relevant staff at Kachin State Rural Development Department Office.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental

Conservation U Khin Maung Yi met the departmental personnel at Kachin State Forest Department Guest House.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win met the healthcare personnel at the Meeting Room of the 500-bed People's Hospital in Myitkyina.

Then, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan met the staff of the ministry at Kachin State Sports and Physical Education Department Office.

The Union Ministers met heads of departments from sub-departments under the relevant ministries to discuss the working conditions and instructed them for the future work plans. —Kachin State IPRD/GNLM

25th Mekong River Commission Dialogue Partners Meeting held

THE 25th Dialogue Partners Meeting of Mekong River Commission was hosted by Laos on 17 September.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Commission's Secretary-General office and the delegations of member countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam, including from dialogue countries of China and Myanmar.

During the meeting, Laos, as Chair talked about China and Myanmar which became MRC's dialogue partners since 1996, had bilateral meetings, and urged to discuss Mekong River water resource management and future work plans with member countries and partner countries.

Then, the representative of MRC discussed the cooperation with the commission and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation in

line with the MoU, sharing information on the Lancang-Mekong River water resources, workshops and researches conducted by MRC, training for young professionals, the establishment of metrological and hydrological monitoring stations in Mekong Delta to better monitor and forecast the floods and droughts, collaboration works at Xieng Kok station between the border areas of Myanmar and Laos, sharing of measurements and drafting of Proactive Regional Planning along the Mekong River.

Then, the Chinese representative presented the meteorological and hydrological studies of the Lancang River Basin and expressed willingness to cooperate with MRC and Myanmar.

The Myanmar representative also discussed the important role of Mekong Basin in the de-



velopment of the economy and social status of the country, environmental challenges of Mekong, sustainable and proportionate projects of Myanmar, National Environmental Policy, Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and National Water Policy and strategic environmental assessment conducted to develop hydropower projects in other rivers including Mekong River. He also added that the regional cooperation of six countries in the Mekong River Basin plays a key role in effective water resources and environmental administration. The country will build meteorological and hydrological monitoring stations with the cash assistance of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Centre. After completion, the meteorological and hydrological related information will be shared. He finally discussed the need for further cooperation in capacity building and technology. — MNA

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48th Meeting of Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Working Group, Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office Board Meeting held online

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung joined the 48th Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Working Group and Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office Board Meeting online on 17 September.

The Ministers and Deputy Tourism Ministers of GMS countries, Leaders of Tourism Authority, Director Mr Alfredo Perdiguero of the Southeast Asian Department of Asian Development Bank, Managing Director of Mr Jens Thraenhart of Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office and invited guests attended the meeting.

During the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office Board Meeting, Union Minister Dr Htay Aung discussed Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap 2021-2025, “Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol”, current development in political, economy and social sector and potentials in the tourism industry of the country. Then, the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion. Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw attended the 48th Meeting of the GMS Tourism Working Group and discussed the challenges in the tourism sector; plans to be done in the post-COVID-19 period and cooperation work with the GMS member countries and development partners. — MNA

5-year-old child killed in bomb explosion in Magway



The suspects are arrested after a remote controlled mine brutally killed a 5-year-old kid in Magway.

THE terrorist groups – NUG and CRPH brutally kill innocent people and commit bomb attacks on the markets, schools, roads and bridges to affect the State stability.

On 14 September, a remote-controlled mine exploded at the betel quid shop of Ko Pwar Gyi (aka) Min Thein Soe located in front of the USDP office in Tekkatho Street of Min Kan Gyi

Ward of Magway Township in Magway Region. A five-year-old boy, son of betel quid shop owner was killed in the blast and a person was injured.

The security forces arrested the suspect Htoo Wai Yan at Nadi Ayeya (Minbu-Magway-Yangon) express gate of Magway township, Chit Phyo Thon (aka) Phoe Cho, who took the suspect to the incident place to plant the bomb, from Aung Cetana Ward at his house, and Thurein Win, who completed the KIA's training at the house of U Kyin Sein in Aung Cetana Ward where Htoo Wai Yan rented to live in.

On 12 September, Police Constable Myo Min Htet (aka) Min Htet Oo who joined CDM from Hlinethaya Security Forces stabbed Daw Swe Zin Win, a clerk of administrative office and her husband U Win Min Soe, a clerk of Shwedone Village-tract administrative office in Min Village-tract of Singu Township of Mandalay Region. The suspect was from the same village as the victims. U Win Min Soe died on the spot and Daw Swe Zin Win was badly wounded.

The suspect Myo Min Htet (aka) Min Htet Oo was arrested at Nwe Yone Village in Singu Township together with Nay Lin Oo and Ma San Myint Khine, who finished PDF training, including homemade bombs, knives and other materials.

Moreover, the police arrested Phone Myint Kyaw who provided cash assistance to the suspects at No (2) Ward of Ywar Thit Phyar in Singu Township.

The death of innocent civilians living and working honestly occurred due to the terror acts of the so-called PDF insurgents. The officials called on the people to cooperate with the security forces for the immediate peace of the towns/villages, as they were found committing atrocities such as the death of a 5-year-old child. The arrested suspects will face actions under the law. — MNA

Over 18-year-old IDPs receive COVID vaccines in Kyaukpyu

HEALTHCARE officials gave the first shots of COVID-19 vaccines to internally displaced persons over the age of 18 for the second day at Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukpyu, Rakhine State, yesterday.

During the vaccination, health officials measured the body temperatures, blood pressure and monitoring oxygen levels and made records for the people who would get vaccinated.

Vaccines were given systematically, and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated, officials said.

“I am 59 years old. The vaccine protects against COVID-19 disease to some extent. It is known that the death toll can be reduced. That’s why I came to receive that vaccine”, said Arsha Khartuu, who is living at the Kyauktalone IDP.

“Special thanks to officials from the health department who came to the IDPs camp for injections, the Head of State and leaders. I’m also happy. I have self-confidence for now. I would urge people living in this camp to get vaccinated for the second time,” Arsha Khartuu added.

As of 17 September, 285 people out of 1,008 had been vaccinated against COVID-19 disease, according to officials.

“1,008 IDPs are living in our IDPs camp,” said IDP camp official U Maw Ni. “COVID vaccines were given to 16 school staff members on 23 March, 12 members of their family on 7 April and people over the age of 65 in



An IDP gets the first shot of COVID-19 vaccine in Kyaukpyu.



Medical examination is underway before inoculation. PHOTO:PHYOWAI LIN

August and September. There are currently 640 people over the age of 18 who will be vaccinated, and 234 were vaccinated yesterday (17 September).

I want to say that when everyone is allowed to get vaccinated, everyone in the camp should come and get the COVID jabs. I’m also urging people to get vaccinated. «I want to say thanks to the heads of state for allowing me to get this vaccine,” U Maw Ni added. People over the age of 65 in the shelter have been vaccinated against COVID-19 disease since 4 August. Vaccination continues to be available to those over 18 years of age.

“As of this afternoon, a total of 312 local people came and received the vaccination. The remaining people are still being vaccinated,” said an official from the township public health department. —Tin Tun Oo/GNLM

MoC allows daily import process of anti-COVID-19 devices, medical aids

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure 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, arranging continuous importation on public holidays.

On 18 September (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by 10 companies and transported by 16 vehicles, including three bowzers.

A total of 56 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by two bowzers, 4,630 empty oxygen cylinders, eight oxygen plants, ten oxygen concentrators for home use, 500 PPE suits, and 11 tonnes of masks were imported

via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti, Myawady, and Tachilek trading posts, harbours and Yangon International Airport.

Three vehicles carrying liquid oxygen were transported to Yangon, while two vehicles to Mandalay.

Out of eight oxygen plants, two were transported to Yangon, another two to Pakkoku, and one each to Monywa, Gangaw, Myaing, and Htantalan, respectively.

From 1 September to 18 September, 380 vehicles carrying 586 tonnes of liquid oxygen bowser, 126 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 20 tonnes of oxygen gas, four storage containers, one liquid oxygen distributor, 74,000 empty oxygen cylinders, 153 oxygen plants, two oxygen refilling machines for hospitals, 18 oxygen generators, 11,328



oxygen concentrators for home use, 70,000 test kits, 1,000,000 sets of PPE, 81 tonnes of gloves and 2,270 tonnes of the mask

were allowed to be imported from 204 companies.

In the same period, a total of 29 oxygen bowzers was allowed to be transported.

Among the 29 vehicles, 20 vehicles were transported to Yangon, four to Mandalay, two to Mawlamyine, and one each to Bago, Monywa and Pyay respectively.

Two vehicles carrying liquid oxygen plus eight oxygen plants were transported to Yangon and one oxygen plant each were transported to Magway, Mawlamyine and Dedaye.

Out of 153 oxygen plants: 108 oxygen plants to Yangon, 12 to Mandalay, three to Pakkoku, three to Chauk, two to Lashio, two to Minbu, two to Maubin, and one each to Mawlamyine, Monywa, Myitkyina, Moegaung, Myinmu, Mudon,

Pyay, Meiktila, Myaungmya, Wynemaw, Tachilek, Mohnyin, Kangyidaung, Phakant, Aunglan, Kawa, Singu, Myaing, Gangaw, Htantalan and Tanyang were successfully transported.

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

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



Over 4,000 people in Pwintbyu receive COVID-19 vaccine

MORE than 4,000 people have received their first COVID-19 vaccine shots in Pwintbyu township, Magway region, it is learnt from Pwintbyu u Township General Administration Department.

Authority from Pwintbyu Township has administrated the COVID-19 vaccine in four locations starting from 16 September. As of today, a total of 4,645 people received the vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme, led by the township administration team, was launched in four locations from 9 am to 4 pm. Those locations are the township general administration department office, Lae Kine village's school, Kone Zaung village's school and Mae

Zali village's school. The health staff are giving the vaccine to a local in line with the rules and regulations. Pwintbyu township has given the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to 1,635 people to date.

The staff from the Township General Administration Department, township fire service department and volunteers are also cooperating at the vaccination programme. The first vaccination of the COVID-19 vaccine started in Pwintbyu township on 16 September. So far, a total of 4,645 people has been vaccinated, chairman U Aung Myat Khine from Pwint Phyu Township General Administration Department said. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/GNLM

Imported palm oil price jumps by \$40 per tonne in three weeks

THE price of imported palm oil hit US\$1,220 per tonne, an increase of 40 dollars per tonne in three weeks, according to Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

Although the imported palm oil price was only \$1,180 per tonne at the end-August, whereas the prices rose to \$1,220 per tonne on 18 September.

Due to the rising price of imported palm oil, the retail price of palm oil in the domestic market has also increased. The palm oil in the end-August was priced at K3,800 per viss in the domestic market, the price rose to over K4,000 per viss on 18 September.

The sharp currency depreciation has to mount the imported

palm oil price, the oil traders stated.

Nevertheless, Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association announced on 15 July statement that oil consumers should not have to worry about cooking oil.

The association is also co-operating with the relevant departments and organizations to maintain price stability, prevent market manipulation, import the palm oil from foreign countries for self-sufficiency, distribute the edible oil at a fair price to the consumers and ensure that there will be no edible oil shortage in regions and states when there is a rise in imported oil prices. The association is attempting to prevent undesirable

oil-related incidents in Myanmar due to the impact of a worldwide pandemic. Besides, efforts are being made to import cooking oil during public holidays, to carry out oil extraction with the relevant department to maintain business, sufficient supply of cooking oil in the oil tanks and to distribute cooking oil to the retailers and wholesalers.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Bring happiness to society in the best ways

MANY ways of seeking happiness for the people can be revealed in society. It is no need to search for happiness elsewhere. In fact, these ways are very simple but the people have poor eyesight to look for the happiness of their lives.

Firstly, everybody does not accept to keep their minds under the detention of hatred. Don't hate anyone for any reason because such moves will lead to evil deeds. Even though the thoughts of hatred enter your soul, immediately drive them out. Logically,

Extreme moves are like the edges of all things. Indeed, you should always take care of balancing your mind and your wish. Totally, if you can control your minds, you can thumb up for your victories filled with happiness.

deeds of others and to sympathize with others for their difficulties.

You should control your mind for expectations that may bring stress to you. You don't pack the overloaded burden of keenness to help others. Extreme moves are like the edges of all things. Indeed, you should always take care of balancing your mind and your wish. Totally, if you can control your minds, you can thumb up for your victories filled with happiness.



if you admit penetration of the hate thoughts into your minds, you automatically lose to others. If so, you will be victims of the hate thoughts the whole day.

You should do not bring the hatred of yesterday to today. All your days must be fresh and new without any hatred. Compassion must be dispersed to all every day. So, you must stay away from the hatred. It will be best that you must try hard to give compassion to the persons you hate. Otherwise, you should ignore them and their moves which spark hate thoughts.

Moreover, you should remove the worriers which are yet to happen from your thoughts. The Fortune has arranged plots for all in the world. Such plots cannot be amended. In fact, all the persons need to expect the best one and prepare for the worst one. They hold the concept that whatever it may be, they will face any challenges. If so, they can always enjoy happiness all day.

You need to simply live and struggle for ensuring safe living. If you have actually a happy mind, you don't compare your lives with others. You must try to be satisfied with your lives. You have to change your mindset to be delighted at the good

Resumption of Myanmar's tourism industry needs to admit fully-vaccinated travellers

By Aung Kyaw Thant

RECENTLY, I read a news story, mentioning that Thailand's plan to widen the resumption of its domestic tourism for reviving the pandemic-battered economy, betting on higher vaccination rates that arrange to allow the vaccinated local and foreign travellers who do not need to join the quarantine.

After more than one year of border control and an initiative to bring back foreign visitors to the resort island Phuket from July, Thailand is set to reopen more of its popular tourist destinations to fully-vaccinated foreign visitors in the coming October.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand recently stated that regions including the capital city Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri, Phetchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan are set to reopen to vaccinated foreign visitors as of 1 October; while another 21 tourist destinations may be reopened from mid-October.

Among the resumption of

various forms of tourism services in Thailand, the reopening came followed by the Phuket Sandbox pilot, which allowed fully vaccinated foreign visitors to enter the island without quarantine.

Need to prepare Myanmar's tourism industry

As part of the preparation to resume Myanmar's tourism industry, the local authorities in Myanmar need to strictly arrange the vaccination for the local people for the two doses. If so, the destinations will be safe for the local people as well as the travellers. Even if the authority allows the fully-vaccinated foreign travellers, people from all destinations need to have been fully vaccinated.

Thailand's Tourism Authority comprehensively arranged the programmes for its famous tourism sites. According to the story, the Phuket Sandbox pilot attracted more than 26,000 tourists during the past two months to the island, generating 1.63 billion baht

(about 50 million U.S. dollars) in revenue.

If Myanmar can draft the proper travel programmes for significant tourist destinations, the government may earn a large amount of revenue from the incomes of tour agencies and companies. As such, the region and state governments need to give encouragement to operating the tourism services by fulfilling the requirements of businesspersons.

Moreover, they should not forget the local people engaging in workplaces related to the tourism services—such as producers of traditional handicrafts, souvenirs and costumes of ethnic nationals. It is because international tourists wish to observe traditional works and natural scenes of other countries, including ancient cultural heritages.

Safety for health conditions

As now is the time of the third wave move of COVID-19 which still spreads across the nation,

priority should be given to the vaccination for people from all walks of life. Anyhow, they all have to receive the vaccines. It is important that if local and foreign travellers arrive at the destinations, local people from the areas wish to earn income from giving services and selling goods to the travellers. If so, they are unavoidable to contact them. Only when both persons have got vaccinated, their relations and trading would have safety for their health. Otherwise, even first contact between them will be a spark for a further outbreak of the pandemic as the fourth wave in the country. If so, it will be regrettable for all.

That is why it is necessary to take a margin as the safe side for the people and the nation. To be able to have such a situation, the authorities need to take the cooperation of the local people for conscientiously receiving the vaccine. Just a vaccination is not enough for taking preventive, containment and treatment measures for the pandemic. Even

those the local people have been vaccinated, both local authorities and those vaccinated people need to join hands in further performing the sustainable health improvement of the relevant areas for all.

The new story added that the tourism incentives are part of the Southeast Asian country's efforts to strike a balance between pandemic containment and economic growth as long as the COVID-19 infections remain at a level that does not overwhelm the public health system.

Fully-vaccinated guests

No matter how many forms of tourism services are initiated for resumption, it is noticeable that both travellers and local people should avoid the possibilities of COVID-19 carriers as well as hosts. Hence, local authorities need to adopt the proper plans to initiate the resurgence of the tourism industry based on the

well-vaccination programmes if they have the plans to resume local businesses. Moreover, the authorities should look for further forms of tourism services appropriate for their regions so that the businesses can be operated for the people to earn income.

In fact, the tourism services dubbed as the smokeless industry is sure to contribute to the socio-economic improvement of the local people. Those people need to warmly welcome the fully-vaccinated guests but they themselves must have been vaccinated in relevant communities. If the destination areas are free from infection of COVID-19, the foreign tourists will bring the good news to their residences or further trips to other countries. The messages of their dissemination would help the improvement of Myanmar's tourism industry among the travellers as expected.



Malaysian holiday island opens as tourism restarts

Under the initiative, hotels and businesses have been allowed to reopen while activities on the island's palm-fringed beaches are resuming.

VISITORS flocked to the Malaysian island of Langkawi Thursday as it became the country's first holiday hotspot to reopen after a coronavirus lockdown that has hampered the vital tourism industry.

Restrictions on local travel had been in place for months and international borders remain largely closed as Malaysia battles its worst Covid-19 wave.

But with the outbreak gradually easing, Langkawi, one of tropical Malaysia's premier holiday destinations, has been chosen for a pilot project to reopen the sector to domestic tourists.

The island began welcoming visitors Thursday, with water cannons firing over the first plane to land at its airport.

"We're very excited because we haven't been anywhere since February 2020," Andrea Manason, an Australian woman based in Kuala Lumpur travelling with her family of six, said.

"It's real exciting for us to be here, and to actually have the kids leave the house."

Under the initiative, hotels and busi-



This picture shows a general view of a hotel at the popular tourist destination of Pantai Cenang on the holiday island of Langkawi in Malaysia. PHOTO: AFP

nesses have been allowed to reopen while activities on the island's palm-fringed beaches are resuming.

Tourists must be fully vaccinated to

visit and have to take a virus test before departure. Alexander Isaac, head of a yacht charter firm, said he was delighted at the reopening as the island's tourism

sector had been "badly impacted" by virus curbs.

"We can't afford any more lockdowns... We need to reopen the economy

and get people working again."

The island off Malaysia's northwest coast has long been popular with domestic and overseas visitors, although for now foreign tourists are still barred from the country.

Langkawi welcomed around 3.9 million visitors in 2019, with the number falling dramatically since the pandemic began.

If the island's "tourism bubble" is a success, then other holiday destinations are expected to reopen soon.

Neighbouring Thailand has reopened several islands, including Phuket, to vaccinated foreign tourists.

Malaysia imposed a nationwide lockdown in June as the highly contagious Delta variant sparked a surge in infections, and has now logged more than two million cases and over 22,000 deaths.

But authorities have started easing curbs in recent weeks as the outbreak slows and the vaccine rollout picks up speed, with over half the population now fully inoculated.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 18 September 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 19 September, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi Regions and Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Mandalay Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (4- 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Biden announces methane gas cuts goal ahead of UN climate summit



Methane is the world's second most abundant greenhouse gas, and it's many times more potent than carbon dioxide. **PHOTO: AFP/VANDERLEI ALMEIDA**

US President Joe Biden on Friday announced a bid with the European Union to lead slash-

ing of methane gas emissions ahead of a UN climate change summit where he urged the

world to show "highest" ambition.

"We're working with the European Union and other partners... (on) a global methane pledge to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030," Biden said from the White House at a virtual forum with nine foreign leaders.

This will "not only rapidly reduce the rate of global warming but it will also produce very valuable side benefits, like improving public health," he said.

Biden called the goal "ambitious but realistic," urging countries to commit at the COP26 summit organized by the United Nations in Glasgow,

Scotland in November.

There was no immediate comment from the European Union.

Biden said the United States was taking concrete steps toward UN climate goals but noted that recent devastating flooding in the US northeast and wildfires in western states echoed extreme weather events from China to the Amazon.

Last month, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the Earth's average global temperature will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels around 2030, a decade earlier than projected three years ago.

Biden said this represents

"a code red for humanity" and that "we have to act, all of us, we have to act now."

"We have to bring to Glasgow our highest ambitions. Those who have not yet done so, time is running out," he warned.

Biden called the virtual White House forum -- where there were notable absences of Chinese President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Brazil and India -- in preparation for the Glasgow summit.

World leaders will also be attending a separate closed-doors climate conference on Monday on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly in New York.—AFP ■

Southern EU leaders vow to meet Paris climate targets

SOUTHERN EU leaders on Friday pledged their adherence to the climate targets of the Paris 2015 agreement in an Athens summit that also tackled migration and regional security challenges. "Now, more than ever, (it is) necessary to tackle the escalating climate and environmental crisis and create a safe, secure prosperous, fair and sustainable future for our societies," Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ita-

ly, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain said in a joint statement.

With the Mediterranean already feeling the effects of climate change in violent weather swings, wildfires and floods, the participants agreed to "intensify" cooperation by sharing best practices in prevention measures.

The group, typically known as the Med7 but adding Croatia and Slovenia this year, also reiterated their "firm commitment"

to the implementation of the Paris 2015 Agreement, limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 Celsius (34.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, and reaching climate neutrality by 2050. And they pledged to work towards the protection of the Mediterranean's cultural and natural heritage, while advancing a shift from fossil fuels to renewables and low carbon technologies.—AFP ■



Fire reaches up to homes in Tala in June. **PHOTO: TERROT PHOTOGRAPHIC/ CYPRUS-MAIL/AFP**

US firefighters optimistic over world's biggest tree

FIREFIGHTERS battling to protect the world's biggest tree from wildfires ravaging the parched United States said Friday they are optimistic it can be saved.

Flames are creeping closer to the majestic General Sherman and other giant sequoias, as man-made climate change worsens California's fearsome fire season.

"We have hundreds of firefighters there giving it their all, giving extra care," Mark Garrett, communications officer for the region's fire department, told AFP, of the operation in Sequoia National Park.

Crews are battling the spreading Paradise and Colony fires, which have so far consumed 4,600 hectares (11,400 acres) of forest since they were



General Sherman, the world's biggest tree, has been wrapped in foil to protect it from flames. **PHOTO: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/AFP**

sparked by lightning a week ago. The blazes are threatening

Giant Forest, a grove of around 2,000 sequoias that includes five of the largest trees on the planet -- some up to 3,000 years old.

The biggest of them all, the General Sherman stands 83 meters (275 feet) tall.

On Thursday, General Sherman was wrapped in fire-proof blankets -- aluminum foil intended to protect its giant trunk from the worst of the flames.

By Friday, managers felt they had the upper hand, thanks in part to clearing of undergrowth and controlled burns that starve the fire of fuel.

"I think the most challenging part is the terrain here," said Garrett. But "we haven't seen explosive fire behavior; it really slowed down and gave us a chance to get ahead of it." — AFP ■

Bitcoin mining generates substantial electronic waste: study

MINING for bitcoin generates substantial electronic waste that "represents a growing threat to the environment", according to a recent study.

A co-author of the report told AFP on Friday that the average life cycle of the powerful computers used to unearth the units of the world's leading cryptocurrency was only 1.3 years. Alex de Vries noted that this was "extremely short compared to any" other electronic devices such as iPhones.

At 30,700 tonnes, the amount of electronic waste generated by bitcoin mining in the 12 months to May was "comparable to the amount of small IT and telecommunication equipment waste produced by a country like the Nether-

lands", the report said.

The race to find new bitcoins -- on Friday, one unit was worth more than \$47,000 following a stellar rise this year -- means the mining computers' processing power soon becomes obsolete. And the more bitcoin is worth, the larger the amount of electronic waste, according to the study published by scientific journal, Elsevier. Alex de Vries works as an economist at the Dutch central bank, while the report's co-author Christian Stoll is from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Despite the high amount of waste, it remains a fraction of the global total from throwing away electronic devices, which stood at 53.6 million tonnes last year.— AFP ■

Australian COVID-19 response saves “thousands of lives”: health minister

AUSTRALIA'S coronavirus response has saved tens of thousands of lives, the government has claimed.

According to data released by the federal government, Australia has the second-lowest COVID-19 death rate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with 0.75 deaths per 100,000 people.

By comparison, the death rate between 24 Feb and 14 Sept was 93 per 100,000 in the United

States and 89.4 in Britain.

Only New Zealand bettered Australia among OECD members.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said that even amid the country's biggest wave of infections Australians have been protected from the worst of the pandemic.

“The fact that we have the second-lowest per capita levels of lives lost means that tens of thousands of lives were saved not just last year, but this year as well,” he told Nine Entertainment

newspapers.

“The focus on aged care, both workers and residents, has meant that there are dramatically different human outcomes from the Sydney outbreak this year as opposed to the Victorian outbreak last year.”

According to the Department of Health of the Australian government, as of Thursday there had been 1,128 COVID-19 deaths in Australia, 909 of which were in 2020.

Australia reported 1,825 new



File photo taken on 1 April 2020 shows a researcher working at a lab of the University of Queensland (UQ) in Brisbane, Australia. **PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

locally-acquired COVID-19 infections on Friday morning, among which 1,284 were in New South Wales. The Australian Capital

Territory recorded 30 new cases, its second most on any day since the start of the pandemic.—Xinhua ■

Italy extends its COVID green pass to workplaces

ITALY on Thursday made its anti-COVID ‘green pass’ obligatory for all employees, in a bid to boost vaccine rates ahead of the winter flu season.

The law, which will penalize workers who are unvaccinated or do not have proof of a recent negative coronavirus test, is set to come into effect on 15 October.

“We’re extending the ‘green pass’ obligation to the entire world of work, both public and private,” Health Minister Roberto Speranza told a press conference after the government took the decision.

“And we’re doing it for two basic reasons: to make these places safer and make our vaccination campaign stronger,” Speranza said.



AFP file photo of people demonstrating against the introduction of the green pass. **PHOTO: AFP**

The pass is a certificate that shows whether someone has been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative in the previous 48 hours, or recently recovered from the virus.

It is currently mandatory

for indoor dining in restaurants, cinemas and sports stadiums, intercity trains and buses or domestic flights, and for teachers.

Just over 40 million people are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus in Italy, roughly

equivalent to 75 per cent of the population over the age of 12. And the government hopes to boost that figure by another four million.

Unvaccinated doctors suspended

Under the new law, workers failing to produce a pass will face fines of up to 1,000 euros, according to media reports. Unjustified absences due to failure to secure a pass could lead to the employee being suspended, they said.

Even within the medical establishment where inoculation is obligatory, the vaccine faces obstacles. The FNOMCeO medical association told AFP Thursday that 728 doctors have been suspended for not being vaccinated.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Covid-19 pandemic had psychosocial impact on healthcare workers: ICMR study

A study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has revealed that increase in the work volume and intensity, manifestations of stigma and additional responsibilities of healthcare workers (HCWs), who had to adapt to new protocols and adjust to the ‘new normality’ amid the COVID-19 pandemic, had a psychosocial impact on them.

According to the study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, the pandemic has brought out different expressions of the stigma that HCWs face with experiences of verbal and physical abuse reported to a large extent on social and print media platforms.

“Manifestations of stigma have been reported in India with doctors, and nurses being forced to vacate from their premises and reports of physical violence on HCWs in many parts of the nation. — ANI ■

Two in three LatAm kids still not back in classroom: UNICEF

TWO out of three children in Latin America and the Caribbean have not returned to the classroom after months of coronavirus lockdown, the UN said Thursday, warning of long-term consequences.

The region has had longer uninterrupted school closures than any other in the world, with 153 in-person school days lost on average since the pandemic hit, said the UN children's agency, UNICEF.

“For the past 18 months, most children in Latin America and the Caribbean haven’t seen their teachers or friends outside of a screen. Those without internet haven’t seen them at all,” UNICEF regional director

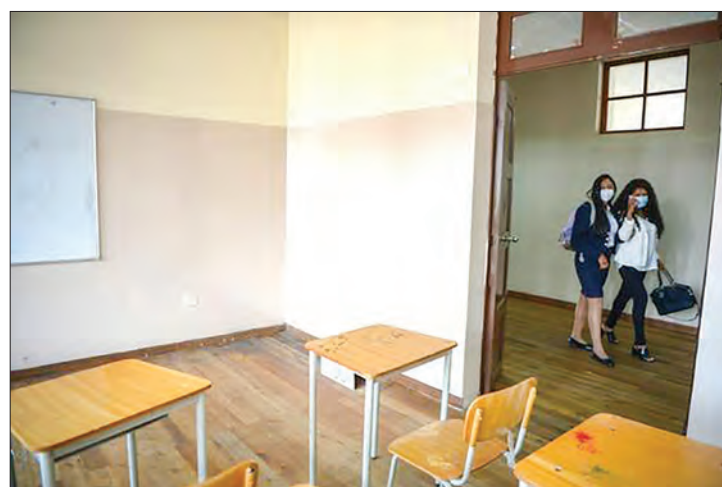
Jean Gough said in a statement.

“Digital education should continue and improve, but it’s clear that during the pandemic the most marginalized families haven’t had access to learning. Every day out of the classroom brings the most vulnerable children closer to dropout, gang violence, abuse or human trafficking.”

UNICEF said some 47 million children in the region have resumed schooling, but nearly 86 million remain out of the classroom.

It stressed that in-person school attendance was not associated with increased coronavirus transmission.

“The risks of staying out of



Some 86 million children in Latin America and the Caribbean have yet to return to the classroom. **PHOTO: AFP**

school are too high, higher than the risks of being in school,” said Gough.

“Children in this region

have already lost more than a year of school. They can’t afford to miss another day of in-person learning.”—AFP ■

China lowers cost of COVID-19 nucleic acid test

The National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA) of China has asked local healthcare authorities to lower the price of conducting COVID-19 nucleic acid tests at public hospitals.

As of Thursday, authorities in 30 provincial-level regions including Guangdong and Hubei had decreased the price, mostly to 60 yuan (9.3 U.S. dollars) or lower per person for a single test, the NHSA said Friday.

Price for testing a group of 10 people was reduced to a maximum of 15 yuan per person.—Xinhua ■

10,000 migrants, many Haitian, packed under Texas bridge



Migrants walk across the Rio Grande River at Del Rio, Texas, carrying food and other supplies to a makeshift encampment under a bridge inside the United States. **PHOTO: AFP/JORDAN VONDERHAA**

THE mayor of Del Rio, Texas declared a state of emergency Friday after more than 10,000 undocumented migrants, many of them Haitians, poured into the border city in a fresh test of President Joe Biden's immigration policy.

Del Rio Mayor Bruno Lozano said that the migrants were crowded in an area controlled by the US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) beneath the Del Rio International Bridge, which

carries traffic across the Rio Grande river into Mexico.

Video footage showed thousands under and around the flyover, adults and families.

Many were Haitians hoping to stay in the United States as their country suffers after a large earthquake and continuing political turmoil, Lozano said.

Hundreds continued to flow into Del Rio Friday, boosting up the number that Lozano put

at 10,503 under the bridge late Thursday.

All were awaiting processing, and hopefully a chance to remain in the United States, by the CBP, which has been overwhelmed by migrants crossing the border from Mexico as well as tens of thousands of refugees from Afghanistan.

"The border patrol right now is so overwhelmed with the influx of migrants in the Del Rio sector," Lozano said.

The White House remained silent on the issue as political pressure mounted on Biden to address the influx.

Both Republicans and Democrats called for quick action from Biden, whose administration recorded and mostly expelled more than 200,000 migrants at the border in both July and August, the highest numbers in more than a decade.

Some said Biden's decision in late July – after Haitian president Jovenel Moise's assassination – to allow Haitians without US visas at the time to remain in the country offered an incentive for others to come.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghanistan's central bank urges people to use local currency

Afghanistan's central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), has urged people to use local currency in transactions and avoided using foreign currencies. "In accordance with article 33 of the Da Afghanistan Bank law, the Afghanistan currency and its monetary unit is afghani.

Therefore, all Afghans, the government and private institutions are requested to use afghani in their contracts, transactions and businesses to improve economic growth," the bank said in a statement posted on social media account.—Xinhua ■

Gold falls on stronger U.S. dollar

GOLD futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange fell on Friday as the U.S. dollar strengthened for the second day in a row.

The most active gold contract for December delivery fell 5.3 U.S. dollars, or 0.3 per cent, to close at 1,751.4 dollars per ounce.

Gold lost 2.3 per cent for the week and closed at the lowest level since 10 Aug.

The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index rose to 71 in September from 70.3 in August, giving gold some support.—Xinhua ■

China's fiscal revenue up 18.4%

China's fiscal revenue logged a year-on-year increase of 18.4 per cent in the first eight months of the year, official data showed Friday.

The country's fiscal revenue amounted to about 15.01 trillion yuan (about 2.33 trillion U.S. dollars) during the period, according to the Ministry of Finance.

Tax revenue came in at 12.96 trillion yuan in the Jan.-Aug. period, up 19.8 per cent year on year.—Xinhua ■

Growing number of new businesses in Italy while bankruptcies fall in Q2

IN what Italy's National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) called "further proof" of the country's economic recovery, the number of new business licences increased, while bankruptcies fell in the second quarter (Q2) of this year.

ISTAT reported that the number of new businesses created in Q2 rose by 3.2 per cent compared to the first quarter, while the number of bankruptcies declined by 8.9 per cent over the same period.

Nearly 80,000 new businesses were created in the period between April and June of this year.

ISTAT said that when adjusted for seasonal factors, the increase in the number of newly registered businesses exceeded pre-pandemic levels in the following sectors: construction, information and communication services, financial, real estate, and professional activities.

Businesses related to



A couple poses for a selfie without protective face masks in front of the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy, 28 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

tourism, such as hospitality and catering companies, have been hit the hardest by the coronavirus pandemic, ISTAT said. These sectors are still more than 40 per cent below pre-pandemic levels, and in the second quarter, they recorded a further 5.7-per cent decline quarter on quarter. Transport-related services

also declined by 5.7 per cent in the second quarter, meaning the sector has contracted by nearly a quarter compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Bankruptcies, meanwhile, declined across most economic sectors, with increases only in the health services, education, entertainment, and personal care sectors.—Xinhua ■

Diamonds expected to spur Botswanan economy

BOTSWANA'S economy is on a recovery course supported by the mining sector, according to the financial services provider Absa Bank Botswana.

"Botswana's economic recovery is underway with an improving outlook for diamond demand buoying medium- to longer-term prospects. Rough diamond prices are recovering in line with stronger demand in key markets, such as the U.S. and China, and signs of a recovery in India," said Keabetswe Phoko-Moshagane, Absa managing director, who warned that the economy continues to face risks and uncertainties because of the pandemic.

Botswana has seen a steady rise in confirmed COVID-19 cases during the peak of the pandemic's third wave and authorities are banking on the rollout of the vaccines to ease the pandemic's wrath.—Xinhua ■



Women cut and polish diamonds in Botswana, a country that transformed after its independence primarily by harnessing the power of its diamond resources. **PHOTO: STEINMETZ CO., GABORONE, BOTSWANA/XINHUA**

Automakers tuning up EVs, hybrids with game, movie sounds

AS automakers make their shift to electrification of vehicles to meet stricter emission regulations, many have started collaborating with composers of game and film music in search of a signature tune that can replace engine sounds.

Since electrified cars using motors are quieter than internal combustion engine vehicles, drivers tend to pay more attention to interior sounds of electric vehicles and gasoline-electric hybrids, automakers say.

Nissan Motor Co. and a research unit of major entertainment company Bandai Namco Holdings Inc., which produces various games from the “Pac-Man” to “Mobile Suit Gun-



Engineers of Nissan Motor Co. stand around its sport utility vehicle Rogue, equipped with new sound effects to inform drivers to wear seatbelts and a door is not shut. **PHOTO: NISSAN MOTOR CO./ KYODO**

dam” series, developed sound effects such as to inform drivers to wear seat belts and a door is not shut. The sounds are introduced in new models of its Note compact car in Japan as well as the sport utility vehicles Rogue and Pathfinder in the United

States and Qashqai in Europe that went on sale since fall last year. The collaboration reflected a knowledge accumulated in the video game industry on how to accurately convey necessary information and alert a change in situation, the

companies said. In five years of trial and error, the companies tried various patterns of scales and tempos and sought their ideal sound that is sophisticated, comfortable to hear and not alarming like a buzzer.—Kyodo ■

France fetes 40 years of TGV trains

FRANCE on Friday celebrated four decades of flying across the countryside on ultrafast TGV trains, while getting a glimpse of the next-generation locomotive.

President Emmanuel Macron was on hand at the Gare de Lyon in Paris, where the first voyage of a Train a Grande Vitesse was inaugurated by president Francois Mitterrand in 1981. In front of a full-scale model of the new TGV M, he hailed a prime example of “French genius” and promised to unlock 6.5 billion euros (\$7.7

billion) to develop the TGV network, including new lines serving cities such as Nice and Toulouse. “We’re going to continue this grand adventure with new industrial commitments,” since more people are looking beyond metropolises to smaller cities — an apparent allusion to post-Covid prospects. “We see clearly that life and work are going to be restructured, and that our fellow citizens today want to organize their time for living and time for working differently,” he said.—AFP ■



The TGV is a high-speed train that operates all over France and beyond. Travel from romantic Paris to the shores of the Mediterranean or the vineyards of the Loire Valley. **PHOTO: BONJOURLAFRANCE/ AFP**

UK retailers face supply crunch as Christmas looms



Retailers are unable to source enough products due to a supply crunch caused by Brexit and Covid. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UK retailers are facing a double whammy of sliding sales and global supply crunch, making it tough for stores to obtain goods

ahead of the Christmas shopping season, data showed Friday. Retail sales dropped 0.9 per cent in August

from the prior month, with the grocery sector hit by people returning to restaurants and pubs after the lifting of virus curbs, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. A significant number of retailers are additionally unable to source enough products because of the supply crunch caused in large part by a shortage of lorry driver owing to Covid and Brexit fallout. The ONS on Friday said that 6.5 per cent of retail firms were unable to obtain materials, goods

or services needed from within the UK in the two weeks to 22 August. Department stores were the hardest hit at 18.2 per cent, followed by clothing stores at 11.1 per cent. Economists said Friday’s gloomy news spells Christmas trouble for retailers. “A perfect storm of labour shortages, supply chain issues and increased demand will continue to test retail leaders,” said Oliver Vernon-Harcourt, head of retail at accountancy group Deloitte.—AFP ■

Over 1 mln people apply for jobs at Amazon as part of Career Day

AMAZON on Friday announced that over 1 million people applied for a job at Amazon as part of Career Day 2021. The virtual event attracted job seekers from more than 170 countries and regions around the world. In 24 hours, more than 2,000 Amazon recruiters offered 30,000 individual career coaching sessions with participants, the announcement said. Amazon Career Day 2021 is the biggest training and recruiting event in the United States. Career Day took place across the country on Sept. 15, according the company.—Xinhua ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1056W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1056W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2021** 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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (348W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (348W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2021** 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

Rare US constitution copy tipped for \$20 mln sale at auction

An extremely rare original copy of the American constitution, signed in 1787 in Philadelphia, will soon be auctioned with an estimated value of between \$15 million and \$20 million, Sotheby's announced Friday.

It is one of only 11 known surviving copies and will be sold in New York in November, the auction house said.

Sotheby's is exhibiting until Sunday a private collection of American constitutional documents dating from the revolutionary period, 1776 to 1789.

Included is the constitution, signed on September 17, 1787 at Philadelphia's Independence Hall by America's founding fathers, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison and ratified the following year. "It's incredibly rare," said Selby Kiffer, a manuscripts and ancient books expert at Sotheby's, noting that it was probably printed on the eve of the signing.—AFP ■

Armenia takes rival Azerbaijan to top UN court

ARMENIA dragged rival Azerbaijan to the UN's top court on Thursday, accusing it of decades of rights abuses including last year's war over a disputed region.

Yerevan is calling on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to take emergency measures to "protect and preserve Armenia's rights", the Hague-based tribunal said in a statement. Azerbaijan said it would "hold Armenia to account" for what it said were rights abuses against its own people. Armenia's case is based on an allegation that Azerbaijan has breached a UN treaty, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

"For decades, Azerbaijan has subjected Armenians to racial discrimination," the filing says, "with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev himself leading the way". "As a result of this state-sponsored policy of Armenian hatred, Armenians have been subjected to systemic discrimination, mass killings, torture and other abuse."—AFP ■

'Happy' SpaceX tourist crew spend first day whizzing around Earth



The all-amateur crew in the Dragon capsule. PHOTO: AFP

SPACEX'S all-civilian Inspiration4 crew spent their first day in orbit conducting scientific re-

search and talking to children at a paediatric cancer hospital, after blasting off on their pioneering

mission from Cape Canaveral the night before.

St Jude tweeted its patients got to speak with the four American space tourists, "asking the questions we all want to know like 'are there cows on the Moon?'" Billionaire Jared Isaacman, who chartered the flight, is trying to raise \$200 million for the research facility.

Inspiration4 is the first orbital spaceflight with only private citizens aboard.

Earlier, Elon Musk's company tweeted that the four were "healthy" and "happy", had completed their first round of scientific research, and enjoyed a couple

of meals.

Musk himself tweeted that he had personally spoken with the crew and "all is well".

By now, they should have also been able to gaze out from the Dragon ship's cupola — the largest space window ever built, which has been fitted onto the vessel for the first time in place of its usual docking mechanism.

Most humans in space

The Inspiration4 mission also brings the total number of humans currently in space to 14 — a new record. In 2009, there were 13 people on the International Space Station (ISS).—AFP ■

'Flying Tiger' ace WW2 pilot dies at 103

AN ace US fighter pilot and one of the last surviving members of the swashbuckling "Flying Tigers" who fought the Japanese for Nationalist China during World War Two has died at 103, friends and colleagues announced Thursday.

The Flying Tigers operated out of Burma in the early 1940s in support of Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek against the Japanese, conducting dangerous missions over occupied China and shooting down hundreds of enemy bombers.

They initially operated as

mercenaries with the tacit support of the US government, given Washington's official neutrality towards Imperial Japan before the Pearl Harbour attacks in late 1941.

Serving under the legendary lieutenant-general Claire Chennault between 1943 and 1944, Stephen Bonner flew "five confirmed and five probable aerial victories and additionally was credited with damaging two more fighters and bombers," Jeff Green, Chairman of the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation,



The Flying Tigers operated out of Burma in the early 1940s in support of Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek against the Japanese, conducting dangerous missions over occupied China and shooting down hundreds of enemy bombers. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

told AFP. "With his remarkable longevity, Steve would become the last living 'Fighter Ace' to have flown in China during the

Second World War," Green said, describing him as a "Gallant Soldier and a Christian Gentleman."—AFP ■

In Canada's far north, candidate seeks to be indigenous people's voice



Lise Kistabish, shown here during a campaign stop in Seneterre, Quebec, Canada on 8 September 2021, wants to bring her region's concerns to parliament. PHOTO: AFP

AS she campaigns ahead of parliamentary elections next week, Lise Kistabish has a message for Canada's marginalized indigenous people: she

will make their concerns heard.

"I want to make the point that we are here and that we have a voice," Kistabish told AFP on a recent campaign

stop in the sparsely populated northern Quebec.

Kistabish, 54, an indigenous community organizer, has been travelling thousands of kilometres (miles) to meet with voters in the electoral district of Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou, where indigenous people make up 38 per cent of eligible voters.

The district is about one and a half times the size of France. Here, small towns and villages are often several hundred kilometres apart.

"I want to provide solutions and bring the region's priorities to parliament," Kistabish, a short woman with closely cropped hair, told AFP during a stop in Waswanipi, a Cree community of 2,000 inhabitants.

"We can learn from history. I want horror stories not to be repeated. I want to make sure that this message is carried to parliament," she added.

Kistabish was referring to the discovery last summer of more than 1,200 unmarked graves at former indigenous residential schools in British Columbia and Saskatchewan provinces that exposed a dark chapter in Canada's history.

Until the 1990s, some 150,000 First Nations, Inuit and Metis youths were forcibly enrolled in the schools, where students were physically and sexually abused by headmasters and teachers who stripped them of their culture and language.—AFP ■

Venezuela’s Maduro in Mexico on first foreign trip since US accusations



Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro was greeted by Mexico’s Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard in Mexico City. **PHOTO: MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY/AFP**

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro arrived in Mexico on Friday to participate in a gathering of leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean, a rare trip abroad and his first since the United States accused him of drug trafficking.

Maduro was received by Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard on arrival in Mexico City for the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, or CELAC, the Mexican Foreign Ministry said on Twitter.

In March 2020, the US Department of Justice accused him of crimes including “narco-terrorism”, drug trafficking, and possession of weapons, offering \$15 million for information leading to his arrest.

The designation came as the Trump administration worked to help opposition leader Juan Guaido take power.

The Venezuelan president, who usually travels to Cuba, a close ally, or to Caribbean countries, has avoided leaving his country after the reward was

issued and his trip to Mexico is the first of an official nature since then.

His participation at the summit was confirmed at the last minute, a few hours before the heads of state and government, foreign ministers and envoys of the 33 countries that make up the body are set to meet.

The CELAC summit will be held at the National Palace in Mexico City on Saturday and opened by Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentina’s president reshuffles cabinet after political crisis

ARGENTINA’S president Alberto Fernandez announced a new cabinet on Friday in a bid to smother a political crisis that pitted him bitterly against his vice-president this week after an electoral defeat in legislative primaries.

The reshuffle came one day after Vice-President Cristina Kirchner wrote Fernandez to demand one, deepening the crisis gripping the ruling coalition after their poor showing in the weekend primaries.

Juan Manzur, governor of Tucuman province, will take over as chief of staff from Santiago Cafiero, one of Kirchner’s most controversial officials, the presidency announced.

Cafiero instead became foreign minister, replacing Felipe Sola, who is in Mexico for the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, or CELAC, which begins on Saturday.

Due to the crisis, Fernandez cancelled his visit to Mexico for the summit and won’t attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week.

The new ministers joining the cabinet, who will be sworn in on Monday, are Anibal Fernandez (Security), Julian Dominguez (Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries), Juan Perzyck (Education) and Daniel Filmus (Science and Technology).

Juan Ross was also appointed as the new Secretary of Communication and Press, replacing Juan Pablo Biondi, whom the vice-president had openly rejected and accused of organizing “off-the-record operations.”

The government of Fernandez and Kirchner, herself a former president, has been going through its most acute crisis yet this week after the weekend’s legislative primary elections, in which the ruling Frente de Todos coalition won only 31 per cent of the votes at the national level.—AFP ■

Indonesia airs concern over arms race after Australian nuke sub pact

INDONESIA on Friday expressed deep concerns about an arms race following a decision by its neighbour Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines as part of a three-way security partnership with Britain and the United States.

Under the partnership dubbed AUKUS, which is aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, Australia will be shared nuclear propulsion technology that would make submarines quieter and capable of staying submerged longer than conventional diesel-powered types.

“Indonesia noted with caution the Australian government’s decision to acquire nuclear-powered submarines,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, expressing “deep concerns over the continuing arms race and military power projection in the region.”—Kyodo ■

France recalls ambassadors to Australia, US in escalating row

FRANCE on Friday recalled its ambassadors to the United States and Australia in a ferocious row over the scrapping of a submarine contract, an unprecedented step that revealed the extent of French anger against its allies.

President Emmanuel Macron recalled the envoys after Canberra ditched a deal to buy French submarines in favour of US vessels, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

Le Drian said that the decision was made to “immediately” recall the two French ambassadors due to “the exceptional seriousness of the announcements made on 15 September by Australia and the United States”.

The abandonment of the ocean-class submarine project that Australia and France had been working on since 2016 con-



Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said she understood France’s ‘disappointment’. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

stituted “unacceptable behaviour among allies and partners”, the minister said.

“Their consequences affect the very concept we have of our alliances, our partnerships, and the importance of the Indo-Pacific for Europe,” he added.

US President Joe Biden announced the new Australia-US-Britain defence alliance on Wednesday, extending US nuclear submarine technology to Australia as well as cyber defence, applied artificial intelligence and undersea capabilities.—AFP ■

Hungary opposition hopes new primary system will help oust Orban



Opposition candidates faced off in a prime-time TV debate this week. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUNGARY’S newly united opposition politicians will go to the polls Saturday in the country’s

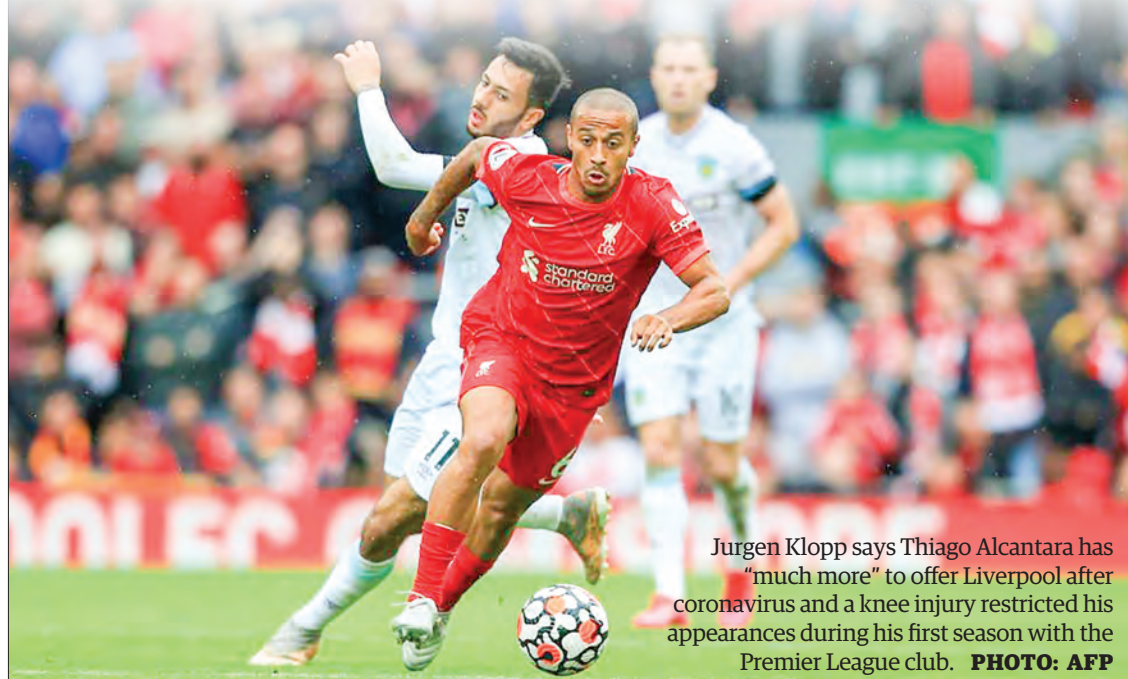
first-ever primary elections that they hope are the key to ousting right-wing Prime Minister Viktor

Orban. After years of bickering and a string of landslide losses, the once-factional opposition has come together with one common goal -- to push the long-serving leader from power in elections next year.

Their six-party alliance, set up last year, is made up of a diverse cast of political parties: leftist, liberal and formerly far-right.

They accuse 58-year-old Orban -- who regularly clashes with Brussels over migration and rule-of-law issues -- of endemic corruption and creeping authoritarianism since he came to power in 2010.—AFP ■

Klopp says Thiago has 'much more' to give Liverpool



Jürgen Klopp says Thiago Alcantara has "much more" to offer Liverpool after coronavirus and a knee injury restricted his appearances during his first season with the Premier League club. **PHOTO: AFP**

JÜRGEN Klopp says Thiago Alcantara has "much more" to offer Liverpool after coronavirus and a knee injury restricted his appearances during his first season with the Premier League club.

The 30-year-old Spain international arrived at Anfield for £20 million (\$27.5 million) from Bayern Munich a year ago but was limited to 24 league outings in the 2020/21 season. Klopp hopes a clean bill of health will allow the former Barcelona player to shine at the heart of Liverpool's midfield after he helped Spain

reach the Euro 2020 semi-finals.

"He (Thiago) has shown what kind of player he can be. There's much more to come," Klopp said ahead of Saturday's match against Crystal Palace.

"He's settled well. He's a really good character, a really good personality and a world-class player."

Thiago provided the assist for Sadio Mané's goal during the Reds' 3-0 victory at Leeds last week and Klopp likened his passing ability to a "world-class golfer".

But the Reds manager explained Thiago now played in a "complex" role requiring defensive skills in addition to the attacking talent he showed during spells at Barcelona and Bayern.

"All the technical stuff is easy for him," the German told reporters on Friday. "He had to and has to adapt to the way we play. We want him to play his football with some little things which he has had to adapt. "He's a playmaker that can be deeper but must be very often between the two lines of the opponent."—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.

South Korea's Ko vaults into lead at Portland LPGA event

WORLD number two Ko Jin-young surged to the top of the leaderboard on Friday with a five-under 67 to take a one-shot lead at the halfway stage of the LPGA Portland Classic.

Ko, who is playing in her first tournament since failing to win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics, rolled in six birdies, including back-to-back efforts



South Korea's Ko Jin-young hits a tee shot on the eighth hole during the second round of the LPGA Tour event in Portland, Oregon. **PHOTO: AFP**

at the 13th and 14th, with the only blemish a bogey on the par-four 11th.

Ko finished a disappointing ninth at the Games in Japan six weeks ago then took a break at home in neighbouring South Korea to spend time with family and friends.

"I am playing really good right now," she said. "I spent over a month in Korea, so I feel really fresh."

Scotland's Gemma Dryburgh is alone in second after shooting a 69 in Friday's second round at the Oregon Golf Club.

First round co-leader Carlota Ciganda of Spain fired a 71 and is in solo third, three strokes behind Ko.

Ko needed just 48 putts in her first two rounds and says the greens at the course are in great condition.—AFP ■

Joshua promises dream bout with Fury will happen



Anthony Joshua says the bout most boxing fans want to see a heavyweight clash with fellow British world champion Tyson Fury will take place before he hangs up his gloves. **PHOTO: AFP**

ANTHONY Joshua says the mouthwatering heavyweight boxing bout with fellow Briton Tyson Fury will happen preferably in Britain before he hangs up his gloves.

Between them, the two boxers currently hold all the major versions of the heavyweight world title. Talks of a unification 'superfight', which went on for months, appeared to be on the brink of

ending in an agreement earlier this year only for a United States arbitrator to rule Fury had to fight Deontay Wilder for a third time.

As a result Fury, having previously drawn with and then stopped Wilder, is set to make the maiden defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) belt against the American in Las Vegas next month. Joshua is set to face World Boxing Organization (WBO) mandatory challenger Oleksandr Usyk in London next Saturday, with a crowd of some 60,000 expected at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, the home of the Premier League club.

Joshua, also the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion, says he will battle to get the fight with Fury on.

"It will happen," the 31-year-old told the Daily Mail.—AFP ■