

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.

Administrative officials need to take severe action under the law without bias against those who harm security measures: Senior General



Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets ministers of Yangon Region cabinet and officials.

THE government is dubbed as the one-stop service which needs to give all the services to the people in time, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with ministers of Yangon Region government and officials at the Yangon Region cabinet office yesterday afternoon.

In his opening address, the Senior General said the government is taking responsibilities under the Constitution for cementing the democracy in line with the democratic practice. The Tatmadaw is striving for strengthening of the democracy the people chose. Despite having chances to solve the vote-rigging in the election

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... the government needs to realize the proper relations with the people to have public participation in public security measures. Officials need to supervise the security forces not to carelessly serve their duties.

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State Administration Council
Press Release

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

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

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MoC conducts daily import processes for anti-COVID-19 equipment

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

On 10 October, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by two companies using three vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by bower, 2,190 empty oxygen cylinders, and eight tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw and Myawady trading posts.



Cargo trucks are conveying medical equipments and medical products from border posts to destinations.



A bowser is ready to start trip for carrying liquid oxygen.

One oxygen bowser was transported to Yangon, officials said. 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

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)

It is necessary to produce natural fertilizers

EFFORTS are being made for the production of fertilizers from domestic plants. It is necessary to produce natural fertilizers through the wastes of animal breeding farms.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 1/2021 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 27-9-2021)

Administrative officials need to take severe action under the law without bias against those who harm security measures: Senior General

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under the law, the party supporters chose the violence way, harming the security and rule of law. The Myanmar Police Force is taking the peaceful and stable measures with the assistance of the Tatmadaw under the law. As some innocent people and service personnel lost their lives in the terrorist acts, all need to seek ways and means for protecting the people not to cause further similar cases of losing lives.

The service personnel assigned duty to enforce the traffic rules need to systematically serve the duty in line with the prescribed disciplines. The Senior General pointed out the systematic sanitation in the municipal areas of the city. Emphasis must be placed on supply of clean water to the people. Issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards must be done to

the people residing in Yangon Region to have smooth traveling. Taking example from development of other countries, it is necessary to develop the country with consideration in all arenas. So, officials need to manage development of Yangon Region.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe reported on happening of terror attacks in the region and members of security forces' efforts to control the situations under the law, and action taken against those who do not abide by traffic rules, and Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay on efforts to mitigate the flooding, systematic disposing, operation of water purifiers in supply process in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Region ministers and officials also reported on rule of law, security measures and declining of violent attacks, crime reduction, and implemen-

Housing projects need to build four-five-storey buildings to solve the land problems and cut the cost of electricity and infrastructures. Those from the agricultural and livestock farms need to effectively use the land plots.

tation of Pan Khinn project to issue CSCs to the people.

In conclusion, the Senior General said that the government needs to realize the proper relations with the people to have public participation in public security measures. Officials need to supervise the security forces not to carelessly serve their duties. The government arranges full vaccination to the people in Yangon City. Housing projects need to build four-five-storey buildings to solve the land problems and cut the cost of electricity and infrastructures. Those from the agricultural and livestock farms need to effectively use the land plots.

The Senior General stressed the need to implement the administrative system with participation of the people in all

sectors. Administrative officials need to take severe action under the law without bias against those who harm security measures. The government is dubbed as the one-stop service which needs to give all the services to the people in time. It is necessary to hold the comprehensive election.

International businesses must be systematically supervised and action must be taken against those who broke the disciplines. The linkage machinery between the government and the people must be strengthened. Requirements of rural people must be fulfilled as much as possible for improvement of their living standard. Solar power generation and waste energy generation must be implemented in Yangon Region on a manageable scale for avoiding the outages of electricity in the summer.—MNA

MoHT Union Minister holds meeting on tourism development

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung presided over a virtual coordination meeting on tourism development with the region/state officials including Nay Pyi Taw and hotel zone chairmen of Myanmar Hoteliers Association yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the hotels need to be prepared to be ready for the tourists visiting regions/states. It is necessary for the Ministry of Health and ministries concerned to cooperate in reopening the hotels in line with the Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocols.

Currently, the hotels are systematically prepared in ac-



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung emphasizes preparations of hotels for visits of travellers in regions and states at the meeting.

cord with the preventive health standards. A video showing the practical services will be released soon and it should be played via TV channels of hotels, motels, lodges, lobby and dining rooms.

Moreover, the people are now seemed to make the leisure travels as they are not only travel-

ling for fun or parties. Therefore, the respective officials, hotel zone chairmen and entrepreneurs should work in concert to ensure an enjoyable tourist site in their respective areas in line with the health rules.

Then the attendees to the meeting reported on the reopening of hotels, destination sites, vaccination programmes for those working in seven hotels and tourism sectors, outsourcing training via online and exploration of new destinations. The Union Minister finally stressed the necessary things regarding with fully vaccination and online training courses for hotel staff, and concluded the meeting.—MNA

Union Information Minister instructs staff to make efforts for news media development, access to information

and on the other hand, it should control to keep the ethics.

Positive views on the actions

Then, the Union Minister went to Pyinnya Alinn Library and instructed officials to develop the public reading habits and disseminate accurate information through libraries. Moreover, he stressed the needs to provide various newspapers, journals and magazines at every library including the books that can lure the interest of students, prioritize the literatures that can support the living of youths and offer motivation and development of youths and conduct upgrade works to Digital Library Service.—MNA

Fuel prices fall in Yangon

are different depending on the station, they become lower than before.—Myintmo/GNLM

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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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Palm oil price slips following Kyat revaluation

AS Kyat regains in the local forex market, the prices of palm oil slid, according to Mandalay wholesale market.

On 28 September, the exchange rate on US dollar hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black market, whereas the rate fell to over K2,000 on 6 October, showing a significant decrease of K1,000 within days.

The Kyat weakening against US dollar impacted the edible palm oil market last week, coupled with the shipment problem amid the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore, the prices of imported edible palm oil soared tremendously to above K5,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg), the edible oil traders stated.

At present, the palm oil



Barrels of palm oil are being unloaded from light truck.

was worth around K4,850 per viss, with a slight increase of K50 compared to the price registered last week. Myanmar brought in US\$744.2 million worth palm oil

in the past ten months (Oct-August) of the financial year 2020-2021, according to Myanmar

Customs Department.

The Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association is attempting to maintain the price stability, prevent market manipulation, import the palm oil from foreign countries sustainably for oil sufficiency, distribute the edible oil at 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 price.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To be oil sufficiency in domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported.—KK/GNLM

Myanmar corn export exceeds \$532 million in Oct-Aug period

MYANMAR's corn exports to foreign countries generated revenue of more than US\$532 million during the Oct-Aug period of the financial year 2020-2021, Myanmar Customs Department's statistics showed.

The prices of Myanmar's corn climbed up in the domestic market in the previous months on the back of strong demand by Thailand, coupled with growing the demand in domestic market, traders from Mandalay depot said.

Myanmar exported more than 2.2 million tonnes of corn to the foreign countries in the FY 2020-2021, said U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Of 2.2 million tonnes, about 1.6 million tonnes of corn were delivered to Thailand, whereas the remaining corns were conveyed to China, India and Viet Nam.

This year, the corn fetched a good price of US\$260-270 per tonne. It was priced only \$200-230 per tonne during the year-ago period.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand granted tax exemption on corn imports between February and August. However, Thailand imposed the maximum tax rate of 73 per



Corn plants bearing buds are thriving in farm.

cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand, in accordance with the notification of World Trade Organization regarding the corn import of Thailand, said a corn exporter.

With the local corn consumption growing, Myanmar's corn export to foreign markets is expected to reach 1.6 million tonnes this year, the association stated.

Myanmar is the second largest exporter of corn among regional countries. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corns.

The corn crop is mostly demanded by feedstuff processing businesses. This being so, it is potential business for both domestic and external markets,

said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

At present, the price slightly declined to K34,000-K35,000 per bag in the domestic market as the value of local currency revalued in the forex market, as per the wholesale market's data.

During last FY 2019-2020 ended 30 September, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to external market, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

As per data from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1.5 million tonnes valued at \$270 million in the 2018-2019FY, 1.4 million tonnes of corn worth over \$290 million in the 2017-2018 FY, 1.2 million tonnes of corn worth \$250 million in the 2016-2017 FY, and, 1.1 million tonnes of corn worth \$300 million in the 2015-2016 FY.—KK/GNLM

Manufacturing sector attracts \$286 mln last FY

MAJORITY of foreign enterprises eye the manufacturing sector for investments in the last financial year 2020-2021, pumping the estimated capital of US\$286 million into 27 projects, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration stated. The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need large labour force are prioritized, the Myanmar Investment Commission stated.

At present, labour-intensive enterprises are facing financial hardship amid the COVID-19 negative impacts and the political changes. Myanmar's garment export drastically dropped on the back of slump in demand by European Union market in the previous months. Consequently, some CMP garment factories permanently and temporarily shut down and left thousands of workers unemployed. Nonetheless, the industry is returning to normal after the COVID-19 vaccination programme for the workers, as per the HIS Markit's September

report. Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated on garment and textiles produced on a Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent. Myanmar drew foreign direct investment of more than \$ 3.79 billion in the last FY, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the DICA's statistics indicated.

Of 48 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by MIC and the respective investment committees between 1 October and 30 September of the FY 2020-2021, 27 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector. Power sector received six large project and livestock and fisheries sector attracted six projects. Other service sector drew five projects while agriculture sector pulled two projects and one foreign enterprise each entered industrial estate and the hotel and tourism sectors.—KK/GNLM



Female workers are working at garment factory.

Officials welcome 158 Myanmar returnees from Thailand



OFFICIALS systematically welcomed 158 Myanmar returnees from Thailand through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No. 2 in Tachilek yesterday.

The repatriated Myanmar citizens were sentenced for various reasons in Thailand. There are a total of 111 repatriated Myanmar nationals including 72 men, 39 women, and 35 male migrant workers and 12 female migrant workers.

With a supervision of Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee for COVID-19, the returnees were diagnosed with RDT Rapid Test Kit.

According to the test results, COVID-19 virus was detected in 36 repatriated people: 16 males and 20 females, and they will stay in COVID-19 Centres to receive further medical treatment.

On the third day, the second COVID-19 test was carried out and the people with negative test result will be sent back to their respective places.

Members of the Red Cross Brigade and Women's Affairs Committee in Tachilek provided personal goods and assisted in resettlement processes for the repatriated Myanmar nationals.—Yar Say (IPRD)/GNLM

50,400 units of COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Myeik District

THE second batch of 50,400 units of COVID-19 vaccines arrived at Myeik Airport yesterday morning as COVID-19 vaccine is being given as a priority in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region.

The vaccines were delivered by military plane in Myeik District.

The ward and village administrators will notify of those who have received the second dose of COVID vaccine for the first time on a first-come, first-served basis.

The vaccination will start on 12 October, according to the Department of Public Health.

Officials handed over the vaccines at Myeik Airport to Dr Yin Yin Nwe, deputy head of the District Public Health

Department, and distributed them to townships in the district.

The second batch of vaccines will cover 20,945 people in Myeik Township, 11,800 in Kyunsu Township, 10,390 people in Pulaw Township and 7,265 people in Taninthayi Township according to the priority plan.

In Myeik District, the first batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine was given to 23,962 people in the first round and 22,145 people in the second batch.

According to the Department of Public Health, 50,400 people will be vaccinated for the second round as a matter of priority.—Khaing Htoo (Myeik)/GNLM



Cartons of COVID-19 vaccine arrive in Myeik.

Over 45-year-old IDPs get 2nd dose of COVID jabs in Yathedaung Township



Health staff injects vaccine into a people.

HEALTH staff gave the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to over 45-year-old people at IDP camps in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

They administered the COVID-19 vaccines to IDPs and local people in target groups at North-east Ward, Zayditaung religious building, Laung Chaung Ward, Kutaung Ward, and Barhtalay Ward separately.

Members of the fire brigade, Red Cross brigade members and volunteers also assisted in the vaccination campaigns as needed.

The vaccination was given to 636 local people aged 45 and above including displaced people from five IDP camps at six designated areas.—Aung San Htun (IPRD)/GNLM

38,045 units of COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Taunggyi for population of 190,225

A total of 38,045 units of COVID-19 vaccines for populations of 190,255 arrived in Taunggyi yesterday afternoon as COVID-19 vaccine is being administered in priority groups.

In districts and townships in southern Shan State, the remaining population in the priority groups will be vaccinated next, officials said. The vaccines will be given to people in districts and townships in Shan State (South) for the second time.

Officials will deliver 7,329 doses of vaccine for Taunggyi, 1,534 for Hopong Township, 2,068 for Hsihseng Township, 2,944 for Nyaungshwe Township, 2,343 for Yaksawk Township, 1,303 for Pindaya Township, 1,751 for Ywangan Township, 2,951 for Kalaw Township, 2,116 for Pinlaung Township, 1,249 for Panglong Township, 1,938 for Loilem Township, 950 for Laikha Township, 1,490 for Mongkai Township, 1,425 for Kehsi Township, 1,229



A local receiving COVID-19 vaccine.

for Monghsu Township, 722 for Kunhing Township, 1,957 for Namsang Township, 954 for Langkho Township, 688 for Mongnai Township, 425 for Mongpan Township, and 679 for Maukmai Township respectively, according to the Shan State Public Health Department.—Sai Than Kyaw /GNLM

1,318 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 October, total figure rises to 478,651

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 478,651 after 1,318 new cases were reported on 10 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 431,275 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,134 after 30 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 9-10-2021, a total of 9,900,823 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 4,112,707 people have been vaccinated two times and 5,788,116 people once.—MNA

Austria foreign minister set to replace embattled Kurz



Kurz became the youngest elected leader anywhere in the world in 2017. PHOTO: APA/AFP

AUSTRIA'S top diplomat Alexander Schallenberg was on Sunday expected to take over the chancellorship, a day after Sebastian Kurz announced he would step down amid graft claims, capping the spectacular rise of one of Europe's youngest political leaders.

The 35-year-old conservative announced late Saturday that he was stepping down as chancellor, bowing to pressure

to resign after he was implicated in a corruption scandal. Saying he wanted to "make space to prevent chaos," Kurz—who has headed two governments over the last four years—has suggested foreign minister Schallenberg to take over the chancellery.

The 52-year-old diplomat was to meet President Alexander Van der Bellen on Sunday following a meeting with Vice

Chancellor Werner Kogler of the Greens.

Schallenberg has yet to speak publicly, but Kogler indicated late Saturday that his party would support him to keep the conservative-Greens coalition in government.

Pressure on Kurz to resign, including from the Greens, started after prosecutors on Wednesday raided several locations linked to his People's Party (OeVP).

They announced that Kurz and nine other individuals were under investigation over claims that government money was used between 2016 and 2018 in a corrupt deal to ensure positive media coverage.

Kurz has denied any wrongdoing, reiterating on Saturday that allegations against him were "false" and that he would seek to clear up the matter while he continues as party leader and as a lawmaker in parliament. — AFP ■

Taliban warns US not to 'destabilise' regime in face-to-face talks



The bomb blast hit a Shiite mosque during Friday prayers, the most important of the week for Muslims. PHOTO: AFP

A suicide bomb attack on worshippers at a Shiite mosque in the Afghan city of Kunduz has killed at least 55 people in the bloodiest assault since US forces left the country in August.

The Taliban warned the United States not to "destabilise" the regime on Saturday during their first face-to-face talks since the US withdrawal, as a deadly sectarian bombing raised further questions about their grip on power.

As mourners in northern Af-

ghanistan buried their dead from an attack on a Shiite mosque that killed 62, a Taliban delegation told US officials in Doha that any weakening of their government could cause "problems for the people".

Scores more worshippers were wounded in Friday's blast in Kunduz, which was claimed by the Islamic State group—who appear to be attempting to further shake Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover.

"We clearly told them that

trying to destabilise the government in Afghanistan is good for no one," the Taliban's foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi told the Afghan state news agency Bakhtar after the talks in the Qatari capital.

"Good relations with Afghanistan are good for everyone. Nothing should be done to weaken the existing government in Afghanistan which can lead to problems for the people," he said, in a recorded statement translated by AFP. — AFP ■

Sixteen dead after plane carrying parachutists crashes in Russia

SIXTEEN people were killed after an aircraft carrying parachutists crashed in central Russia on Sunday, the emergencies ministry said.

The L-410 plane carrying 22 people crashed around 9:23 a.m. local time (0623 GMT) during a flight over the republic of Tatarstan, the ministry said on its Telegram channel.

"Six people were rescued, 16 were taken out without signs of life," the ministry said.

The ministry had earlier said that 15 people died and that the aircraft was carrying 23 people.

Images published by the ministry showed the aircraft broken in half with a severely dented nose.

The six survivors were being hospitalised, the local health ministry told the Interfax news agency. — AFP ■



The L-410 plane crashed during a flight over the republic of Tatarstan. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's first president Abolhassan Banisadr dies

IRAN'S first president after the 1979 Islamic revolution, Abolhassan Banisadr, died in a Paris hospital on Saturday aged 88, after decades of exile in France following his dismissal by parliament.

"After a long illness, Abolhassan Banisadr died on Saturday at the (Pitie-)Salpetriere hospital" in southeast Paris, official IRNA news agency said, citing a source close to the former president. His family in France confirmed his death.

"We would like to inform the honourable people of Iran and all the activists of independence and freedom that... Abolhassan Banisadr has passed away... after a long struggle with illness," they said in a statement.

The family statement hailed Banisadr as someone who "defended freedoms".

But he was slammed by Iran's judiciary. "All these years, under the shadow of French and Western intelligence, he did not miss a beat to defame the people and the system of the Islamic republic," said a statement published on its Mizan Online website. — AFP ■

After deadly shooting, migrants in Libya just want to leave

AFTER escaping, with hundreds of others, from an overcrowded Libyan detention centre where guards shot dead six migrants, Sudanese refugee Halima Mokhtar Bshara says she just wants to leave the country.

"They attacked us, humiliated us, many of us were wounded," said the 27-year-old from Sudan's war-torn Darfur region. "We're at the end of our tether."

The Al-Mabani facility in the capital Tripoli was at triple its capacity following police raids against migrants last week, when guards shot six people dead on Friday.

The shooting was "related to overcrowding and the terrible, very tense situation," the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said.

Some 2,000 migrants and refugees escaped in the chaos, including Bshara and her three children.

On Saturday, the Libyan interior ministry denied any "excessive use of force" against escaping migrants. — AFP ■

The unique role of the Myanmar Coast Guard

MYANMAR possesses 261,228 square miles of land area and 144,912 square miles of waters with the coastal lines formed with more than 1,400 islands endowed with natural beauties, natural resources and economic opportunities as well as good sound foundations for operating the maritime and coastal tourism services.

The recently-constituted Myanmar Coast Guard is responsible for the security of sea lanes of communication and deep seaports. Moreover, the guard must protect the Myanmar fishermen in the seas while searching and arresting the illegal fishers.

The Myanmar Coast Guard was formed with the aim of protecting the ocean-based economy called the blue economy such as marine tourism, maritime trade, deep seaport services, offshore oil and natural gas production and marine fishing, preventing the illegal trepass in the seas and ensuring the rule of law in the sea.

The Coast Guard needs to cooperate with the Tatmadaw (Navy) in searching and rescuing the victims in the sea and bringing back Myanmar citizens from other countries. As such, servicemen of the Myanmar Coast Guard must implement the vision and mission of the corps in line with the theme: 'Guard, Protect and Save Our Sea'.

The Coast Guard needs to emphasize realization of the constabulary role and the benign role with the protection of maritime interests, search and rescue for victims in the sea and sea environmental conservation with a wide range of monitoring all activities underwater and above water in the Myanmar water territory.

The troops of the Coast Guard must strive for improvement of their capacity and capability to be relied on by the State and the people in serving the patrol, arresting the law violators, arms smugglers and human traffickers, illegal fishermen and those committing crimes and combating perpetrators of the nation in the Myanmar water territory.

Primarily, the troops of the Coast Guard must be loyal to the people, the Tatmadaw and the State with the sacrifice of their lives in protecting the interests of the nation in their assigned areas. They will be recognized as good and able citizens of the country.

Myanmar Coast Guard is assigned to protect the area from the coasts to the specific economic water zone while the Tatmadaw (Navy) is safeguarding the natural resources and integrity of the nation forever along the outer ring.

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Covid vaccines for kids? Strategies around the world

While many countries have begun vaccinating adolescents aged 12 and older very few have extended jabs to children younger than that.

PFIZER on Thursday requested emergency approval from US health authorities to use its Covid jab in children aged five to 11. Here is a look at different approaches to vaccinating children against the virus and the debates it has launched around the world.

What changes are made for children?

Pfizer tested its jab on more than 2,000 US children aged five to 11 and submitted results to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval. The dosage for children in that age range is a third of what it is for adults: 0.1 mL rather than 0.3 mL.

Pfizer and BioNTech say children in trials reacted well to the vaccine and that their immune response was "robust" and "comparable" to that observed in older adolescents and young adults aged 16 to 25. If the FDA grants authorisation when it convenes on 26 October, children in that age range — of whom there are some 28 million in the US



A teenager receives the first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine in Tegucigalpa, on September 25, 2021. **PHOTO: ORLANDO SIERRA / AFP/FILE**

— could start getting vaccinated by the end of the month.

Are other countries doing this?

While many countries have begun vaccinating adolescents aged 12 and older very few have extended jabs to children younger than that. On September 15 Cuba began administering doses of its Abdala and Soberana vaccines

its jab in 14,000 children aged six months to 17 years old in Chile, Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines and in South Africa. In early August the United Arab Emirates started offering Sinopharm, another Chinese jab, to children aged three to 17. Venezuela announced in September that it would start vaccinating children and adolescents aged three to 18 in October.

In Israel children aged five to 11 with complicating health factors — such as chronic lung illnesses, autoimmune diseases or neurological problems — have been able to get vaccinated since the end of July.

What is the argument against?

Arnaud Fontanet, an epidemiologist advisor to the French government, told AFP that the major question is whether the risk posed by Covid to children in this age range outweighs the risk of potential jab side effects.

For children in America the threat of severe Covid is elevated,

he said.

"The risk of hospitalisation for an infected child there is 10 times higher than for a child in western Europe," he said, citing the prevalence of preexisting conditions like obesity and diabetes.

Fontanet said that in southern US states where vaccination rates are low, paediatric services in hospitals are stretched thinly. The situation that could push US authorities to quickly approve jabs for younger children.

Will more kids get jabs?

The last few months have seen the World Health Organization (WHO) hammer home the importance of getting poorer adult populations vaccinated before extending jabs to children in rich countries.

In its global vaccine strategy published on Thursday, the WHO said whether young children need to be get jabs depends on how the virus evolves and on proven vaccine safety in that age group.

Fontanet says western European countries will be "much

more hesitant" than the United States to lower the age range for vaccination.

He cites current data that shows infections are relatively benign in children aged five to 11, even with the now-dominant Delta variant.

Vaccination rates among the elderly are also rising, he added, which reduces the risk of that fragile population being contaminated by infections in young children.

Fontanet also notes that parents of children in that age group tend to show more resistance to vaccines.

"We always expect parents to be a little more hesitant," he said.

Getting millions of American children jabs means an opportunity to observe any side effects that may have escaped detection in clinical trials.

"It's really in our best interest to not rush and look at the data that will come from large-scale vaccination of children in the US," Fontanet added.

SOURCE: AFP

Singapore to offer Covid booster shots to eligible people

Starting from 9 October, Singapore will start offering Covid-19 booster vaccines to healthcare and frontline workers who have completed their inoculation against the virus six months ago, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced.

THE city-state is also working with various institutions to progressively roll out booster vaccinations to eligible persons in institutionalised settings, such as prisons and residential care facilities, Xinhua news agency quoted the ministry as saying.

The MOH added that Singapore will progressively invite persons aged 30 years and above who have also completed their primary series vaccination regimen around six months ago to make an appointment for their booster dose.

As of 8 October, 83 per cent of the local population has received two doses of Covid-19 vaccines, and 85 per cent have received at

least one dose.

The Ministry also announced that from Monday onwards, Singapore will extend home recovery to unvaccinated persons aged 12 to 49 years, vaccinated infected persons aged 70 to 79 years, as well as children aged five to 11 years old.

To protect the unvaccinated individuals and reduce the strain on the healthcare system, Singapore will expand the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) for entry into shopping malls, attractions, hawker centres, and coffee shops from Wednesday.

It means that only groups of up to two fully vaccinated persons will be allowed to dine in at



A man at the Raffles Place financial business district in Singapore on 20 April. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP/FILE**

all regular food and beverage establishments, and to enter shopping malls and attractions.

Meanwhile, the Ministry said that with the experience gained from the Vaccinated Travel Lanes (VTLs) to Brunei and Germany, the city-state will be extending the VTLs to eight more countries, namely Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and the US, to enter Singapore from October 19.

It will also jointly launch VTLs with South Korea for travel between the two countries from 15 November.

In the last 24 hours, Singapore reported 3,703 new Covid-19 cases, hitting a new record high and bringing the total tally in the

country to 124,157.

This was the fifth consecutive spike of the daily new cases surpassing the 3,000 mark.

Of the new cases, 2,868 were in the community, 832 were in migrant worker dormitories, and three were imported cases, the MOH said.

A total of 1,569 cases are currently warded in hospitals, with 302 serious illnesses requiring oxygen supplementation, and 40 in critical condition in the intensive care units (ICUs), said the MOH.

Also in the same period, 11 more people died due to the disease, increasing the total death toll to 153.

SOURCE: ANI/Xinhua



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 10 October 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the North Bay and Eastcentral Bay and monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the tropical depression has crossed to the Upper Vietnam coast near Nam Dinh. It is moving Westwards and forecast to gradually unimportant.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 11 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon states, fairly widespread in Magway, and Bago regions and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway and Bago regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7 – 9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts and about (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Southern Myanmar Areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Nobel Physics Prize winner says Italy research underfunded



Giorgio Parisi is an Italian theoretical physicist, whose research has focused on quantum field theory, statistical mechanics and complex systems. **PHOTO: AFP**

ITALIAN Giorgio Parisi, winner of the 2021 Nobel Physics Prize, slammed Friday the lack of funding for research in Italy, saying it invested one of the lowest amounts in Europe.

“Research is underfunded and the situation has worsened over the past 10-15 years,” he told a press conference with the foreign press in Rome.

“I was pleased to see that Mario Draghi’s government is committed to increasing the

research budget, we are at the bottom (of the list of funding amounts)” in the European Union, he said.

Research Minister Cristina Messa promised six billion euros in funding for 60 projects on Thursday, including five billion this year.

According to 2019 data from Eurostat, Italy spent 1.45 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on research, while the EU average is 2.19 percent. It

lags far behind Germany, which spends 3.17 percent.

“Italy is not a welcoming country for researchers, whether Italian or foreign,” said Parisi, who on Tuesday won the prize along with two other scientists, Japanese-American scientist Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann of Germany.

“Research is like a vegetable garden, if you think you can water it every fortnight, things will go wrong,” he said. — AFP ■

Chilean scientist plans to clean up mining with ‘metal eating’ bacteria



Chilean biotechnologist Nadac Reales works in her laboratory at a mining site in Antofagasta, Chile. **PHOTO: AFP**

STARVING microorganisms capable of surviving in extreme conditions have already managed to “eat” a nail in just three days.

In Chile, a scientist is testing “metal-eating” bacteria she hopes could help clean up the country’s highly-polluting mining industry.

In her laboratory in Antofagasta, an industrial town 1,100-kilometers north of Santiago, 33-year-old biotechnologist Nadac Reales has been carrying out tests with extremophiles—organisms that live in extreme environments.

Reales came up with her idea while still at university as

she was conducting tests at a mining plant using microorganisms to improve the extraction of copper.

“I realized there were various needs in the mining industry, for example what happened with the metallic waste,” she told AFP.

Some metals can be recycled in smelting plants but others, such as HGV truck hoppers that can hold 50 tons of rock, cannot and are often discarded in Chile’s Atacama desert, home to the majority of the country’s mining industry.

Chile is the world’s largest producer of copper, which accounts for up to 15 percent of the country’s GDP, resulting in a lot of mining waste that pollutes the environment.

In her research, Reales, who now runs her own company Rudanac Biotec, concentrated on iron-oxidizing bacteria called *Leptospirillum*. — AFP ■

Turkish fires endanger world pine honey supplies

BEEKEEPERS Mustafa Altı and his son Fehmi were kept busy tending to their hives before wildfires tore through a bucolic region of Turkey that makes most of the world’s prized pine honey.

Now the Altıs and generations of other honey farmers in Turkey’s Aegean province of Mugla are scrambling to find additional work and wondering how many decades it might take to get their old lives back on track.

“Our means of existence is from beekeeping, but when the forests burned, our source of income fell,” said Fehmi, 47, next to his mountainside beehives in the fire-ravaged village of Cokek.

“I do side jobs, I do some tree felling, that way we manage to make do.”

Nearly 200,000 hectares of forests—more than five times the annual average—were scorched by fires across Turkey this year, turning luscious green coasts popular with tourists into ash.

The summer disaster and an accompanying series of deadly floods made the climate—already weighing heavily on the minds of younger voters—a major issue two years before the next scheduled election. — AFP ■



Turkish beekeepers Fehmi Altı, (R) and his father Mustafa are now scrambling to get extra work. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

California oil pipeline could have been leaking a year: investigators

A fractured pipeline that spewed crude oil off the coast of California could have been leaking for a year, US investigators said Friday.

Tens of thousands of gallons of oil are feared to have leached into waters that are home to whales, dolphins and otters since a leak was discovered last weekend.

Stretches of prime surfing coastline have been shuttered as clean-up crews raced to prevent the spoiling of beaches, and rescue animals caught up in the slick.

US news outlets reported that a ship’s anchor could have been responsible for dragging the pipeline along the seabed and splitting it open. But Coast Guard officials investigating the incident said Friday the rupture might not be new, and could have happened as long as a year ago. —AFP ■

Nature-based activities can improve mood and reduce anxiety

OUTDOOR nature-based activities are effective for improving mental health in adults, including those with pre-existing mental health problems, a new study has found.

The research—led by the University of York—showed that taking part in outdoor, nature-based activities led to improved mood, less anxiety, and positive emotions.

The study found that activities lasting for 20 to 90 minutes, sustained for over the course of 8 to 12 weeks, have the most positive outcomes for improving mood and reducing anxiety.

Gardening and exercise were among the activities associated with mental health benefits. Engaging in conservation activities was also reported to make people feel better, as did ‘forest bathing’ (stopping in a forest to take in the atmosphere). — ANI ■

Singapore expands quarantine-free vaccinated travel lane scheme

SINGAPORE said Saturday that it will expand its vaccinated travel lanes scheme that allows visitors to enter the city-state without the need for quarantine to another nine countries.

The government said the scheme, which was introduced last month for Brunei and Germany, will be expanded to Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, South Korea, Spain and the United States next month.

Transport Minister S. Iswaran told an online press conference that travelers from those countries are required “to

present verifiable and authenticated digital proof of vaccination as a precondition for entry.”

Most of the 11 countries are already open to travelers from Singapore.

Singapore has already reopened its borders to visitors from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau, which are deemed very low risk.

“While still a far cry from where we were pre-COVID, this is a significant step in the reopening of our borders, and crucial to reclaiming and rebuilding our status as an international aviation hub with



This file photo shows a Singapore Airlines passenger checking-in at the automated booth at the international departure area of Changi International Airport in Singapore on 11 October, 2018. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP**

global connectivity,” Iswaran said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Saturday that as Singapore continues to grapple with a protracted spike of coronavirus infections, “it will take us at least three months, and perhaps as long as six months, to get to” a new normal.

On Friday, Singapore reported 3,580 new COVID-19 cases, the highest number of daily infections so far, raising the total number to 120,454, with 142 fatalities, since the first case early last year. — Kyodo News ■

Fiji to reopen for tourism as it hits vaccine milestone



Tourism usually accounts for about 40 percent of Fiji's economy, according to government figures. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

FIJI will ease Covid-19 restrictions and announce its reopening for international travel after the country hit a vaccination milestone Saturday.

Changes to the country's virus restrictions would be announced on Sunday afternoon

after 80 percent of the adult population received both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine, Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama said.

Visitors must be fully vaccinated and test negative for Covid-19 before departure un-

der the previously announced plan.

Once in Fiji, they would stay in designated zones where all contacts, from hospitality staff to tour operators, would be fully vaccinated.

Reviving tourism, which government figures estimate accounts for 40 percent of Fiji's economy, is seen as crucial to containing rising poverty in the nation of under one million people.

The South Pacific nation was free of Covid for a year before the arrival of the Delta variant in April.

The outbreak's case numbers peaked in July recording more than 1,200 new infections daily. Only 40 cases were recorded on Saturday. — AFP ■

Diners whet their appetites at flood cafe

A Thai restaurant has taken dining with a water view to the next level – its customers perch precariously on wooden stools as murky brown floodwater laps at their tables.

Tropical storm Dianmu and heavy monsoon rains have caused flooding in 33 Thai provinces, inundating more than 300,000 households and claiming nine lives.

Riverside areas of Bangkok are bracing for flooding in the coming days and more storms are expected to hit the kingdom next week.

But the crisis has been a

boon for the Chaopraya Antique Cafe in Nonthaburi, part of the vast sprawl of Bangkok upriver from the city centre.

In the afternoons and evenings, the restaurant is full of diners munching miang kham, a fiery leaf-wrapped appetiser, giggling and jumping on their seats as boats and rice barges cruise past the Chao Phraya River, sending waves of caramel-coloured water towards them.

When flooding began owner Titiporn Jutimanon intended to close the restaurant but soon realised customers did not actually

mind being surrounded by water.

“The concept has spread by customers' word of mouth,” he said, adding footage of the quirky eatery quickly started trending on social media.

Restaurants in Bangkok and other hotspots yoyoed in and out of restrictions on in-house dining this year as a deadly third wave of coronavirus infections took hold. Thai authorities allowed in-house dining to resume in September, as part of an easing of restrictions as new cases fell to around 10,000 a day, down from a peak of 23,000 in August. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 1.5 million Covid deaths in Latin America

THE toll of the Covid-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean exceeded 1.5 million deaths on Friday, according to a count made by AFP from official figures.

The coronavirus death toll in particular exceeded 600,000 in Brazil on Friday, the second worst affected country in the world after the United States.

Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Argentina have the highest numbers of deaths after Brazil. With 605 deaths from Covid-19 per 100,000 inhabitants, Peru is the country with the highest death rate in the subcontinent.

The pandemic has killed at least 4.83 million people worldwide since the end of December 2019, according to a report drawn up on Friday at 10:00 GMT by AFP from official sources. — AFP ■

Brazil surpasses 600,000 Covid deaths

BRAZIL on Friday surpassed 600,000 deaths from Covid-19, the health ministry said. The country of 213 million has also recorded more than 21.5 million cases of the deadly virus.

It is the second worst affected country in the world by Covid deaths after the United States, although many experts consider the official numbers to be underestimates.

The US recently passed 700,000 deaths, although its population is 35 percent larger.

Brazil registered 615 new deaths on Friday, as well as 18,000 cases in the previous 24 hours.

“The situation has improved but we cannot lower our guard,” Margareth Dalcolmo, pulmonologist and researcher at the prestigious Fiocruz research institute, told AFP.

She said the pandemic could only be considered under control once “we have 80 percent of the population vaccinated.”

So far 71.4 percent of Brazilians have received at least one vaccination dose but only 45.9 percent are fully immunized. — AFP ■

APEC ministers pledge relief for small businesses



People walk through the Myeongdong shopping district in Seoul on Aug. 27. PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE/AFP

MINISTERS from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group responsible for small and medium enterprises have vowed to continue addressing the needs of small businesses with relief programs in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ministers convened virtually at the 27th APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting on Saturday, with a collective goal to strengthen the resilience of small businesses

across the Asia-Pacific region focusing on digitalisation, inclusive growth and well-being, reports Xinhua news agency.

Chairing the meeting was New Zealand's Minister for Small Business Stuart Nash.

In his opening remarks, Nash reiterated the role of small businesses as "the powerhouses of our economies and communities".

"They unite our communities... The survival and resilience

of our small businesses through this pandemic is critical to a sustainable economic recovery and maintaining the cohesion of our communities."

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) account for more than 97 per cent of businesses in the APEC region, employing more than 60 per cent of the workforce and comprising 40 to 60 per cent of economic growth in most economies. — Xinhua ■

UK to ramp up pressure on EU over N.Ireland deal

BRITAIN is set to ratchet up pressure on the EU this week to agree an overhaul of the post-Brexit deal on Northern Ireland, according to a draft speech released on Saturday.

Britain's Brexit minister David Frost will use a speech in Lisbon on Tuesday to say there must be "significant change" to the agreement, known as the Northern Ireland protocol, a day before the EU is expected to issue its own proposals to break the impasse.

The protocol was negotiated as part of Britain's divorce from the EU to avoid a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland by effectively keeping the province in the EU single market.

But it has caused an outcry among Northern Ireland's pro-UK unionists who argue the arrangement creates a trade border between Great Britain and the province, undermining its constitutional position in the union.

Among the most contentious side effects an EU ban on



Britain's Brexit minister David Frost will use a speech in Lisbon on Tuesday to say there must be "significant change" to the agreement, known as the Northern Ireland protocol, a day before the EU is expected to issue its own proposals to break the impasse. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

British sausages and chilled meats being imported into Northern Ireland — dubbed the "sausage war" — because of the UK's post-Brexit break with EU food hygiene laws.

Frost, who was Prime Minister Boris Johnson's chief Brexit negotiator in the run-up to Britain's departure, has spent much of his time in cabinet since trying to convince the EU to unravel the withdrawal agreement he was

pivotal in delivering.

He will say any solutions from Brussels will have to move beyond simply resolving the sausage row, as the British press reported the EU was prepared to drop the ban. The Times newspaper reported the European Commission will raise proposals for frictionless trade in "national identity goods" like sausages for communities in Northern Ireland on Wednesday. — AFP ■

How Danish gastronomy reached dizzying heights

IT'S home to the top two eateries in the world and a cornucopia of Michelin stars: Denmark's haute cuisine, non-existent 20 years ago, is making Copenhagen a top destination for gourmands.

Noma and its star chef Rene Redzepi, and Geranium headed by Rasmus Kofoed, clinched the top two spots in the 50 Best Restaurant awards recently published by British magazine Restaurant.

"They were nobody 20 years ago when Rene Redzepi started to reinvent the Nordic cuisine, focusing on local, ethical food," says Szilvia Gyimothy, a marketing professor at Copenhagen Business School.

"It was quite unique and now he is an agenda-setter."

With cold winters and sandy fields battered by winds

from the North Sea and Baltic, Denmark is worlds away from the sun-drenched orchards of France, Italy and Spain, whose bountiful crops have served up gastronomic feasts for centuries.

Paradoxically, Denmark's culinary successes have been partly attributed to the country having no gastronomic traditions to speak of, leaving the field wide open to innovation and creativity.

There are "many restaurants in the world where the chefs ... rest on their laurels (and) are not so creative. Rene Redzepi and Rasmus Kofoed are never satisfied with what they've achieved," says Bent Christensen, founder of Danish food guide Den Danske Spiseguide. — AFP ■



An inside view of the World class Danish restaurant Noma is seen on May 31, 2021 in Copenhagen. PHOTO: THIBAUT SAVARY / AFP

China to develop housekeeping sector to support rural vitalization

CHINA will develop the housekeeping service sector in the next five years to consolidate poverty alleviation and facilitate rural vitalization, said an action plan unveiled Saturday.

By 2025, China expects to make it easier for rural labor, especially those lifted out of poverty, to find jobs in the housekeeping sector, said a document jointly issued by 14 government departments, including the Ministry of Commerce.

In five years, the housekeeping service sector should play a stronger role in creating jobs and improving people's well-being. It will become better branded, more professional, better informed, and regulated, it said.

Toward this end, the document outlined measures including supporting key groups and improving public services to encourage rural labor to take up jobs in the housekeeping sector.

It stipulated efforts to foster cooperation between industry associations, large housekeeping companies, and governments of regions lifted out of poverty. Efforts must be made to provide financial support for eligible enterprises and encourage housekeeping service providers to start their businesses in rural areas. — Xinhua ■

Green energy springs from abandoned UK coalmine

DAWDON coalmine in northeast England was abandoned three decades ago, but is being brought back to life as the unlikely setting for a green energy revolution.

The carbon-intensive colliery, near the town of Seaham on the windswept northeast English coast, hauled coal from deep underground until its closure in 1991.

Dawdon has long since flooded with water because part of the mine is below sea level, and is heated by geothermal energy.

Authorities now want to capture and harness this valuable and unlimited green energy source to power a new garden village development.

“The heat is basically coming from the ground,” said Durham County Council official Mark Wilkes, whose portfolio in-



Landmarks around Seaham like a mural by artist Cosmo Sarson remind of the town’s coal-mining past. PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS/ AFP

cludes climate change.

Water deep inside the mine heats up underground to about 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit).

At the colliery’s entrance, where thousands of miners once rushed to work, the vast pipes of a

treatment plant now suck up the equivalent of a bathtub of warm water every two seconds, which is used to heat up a separate water supply.

In turn, this water circuit is heated via a pump until it reaches 55-60 degrees Celsius.

The plant treats the highly acidic and ferrous water in order to prevent contamination of local beaches and water supplies. Its heat will eventually power local homes, while the treated water is released back into the sea.

— AFP ■

JICA invests \$2.5 mil. in fly-based sanitation startup in Nairobi



Supplied photo shows Sanergy Inc.’s organic waste recycling factory in Nairobi. PHOTO: SANERGY/ KYODO

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency has invested \$2.5 million in a U.S. startup in Nairobi that uses flies to process

biowaste in an initiative to help address the city’s growing sanitation needs and also help farmers across Kenya produce

more crops with fertilizer produced as a byproduct.

Sanergy Inc. uses a “circular economy” approach -- collecting excrement and other organic waste from places such as markets, farms and restaurants, and then turning the waste into useful products including feed and biofuel.

At its pilot plant, Sanergy produces and sells insect feed called KuzaPro created from the larvae of the black soldier flies that

feed on the biowaste.

The development of the alternative protein feed comes amid growing demand for such feed to produce more livestock and fish via aquaculture, the Japanese government-backed aid agency said.

Sanergy also produces an organic crop fertilizer created from the residue left after the biowaste has been fed to the black soldier flies. It is sold across Kenya.— Kyodo ■

Volcano island flights resume after ash closed airport

FLIGHTS to and from La Palma in Spain’s Canary Islands resumed Saturday after the airport reopened following a 48-hour closure due to volcanic ash, airlines and the airport authority said.

Clouds of thick ash from the volcano had shuttered the airport on Thursday morning for the second time since the September 19 eruption on La Palma,

one of the Spanish islands off the northwestern coast of Morocco.

“La Palma airport is back in operation,” Spain’s AENA airport authority tweeted, with local Canaries airline Binter confirming it had resumed flights several hours later.

“Binter has resumed its flight schedule with the island of La Palma following an improvement in

weather conditions and the ash cloud,” an airline statement said. Thick ash had forced the airport to close down on September 25 but although it reopened 24 hours later, it was three days before flights resumed. It has been almost three weeks since La Cumbre Vieja began erupting, forcing 6,000 people from their homes as the lava scorched its way across

1,200 acres of land.

Earlier on Saturday, part of the volcano’s cone collapsed, sending new rivers of lava pouring down the slopes towards an industrial zone. “It seems part of the cone has collapsed... giving way to two different lava flows,” volcanologist Stavros Melitidis of Spain’s National Geographic Institute told RNE radio.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Extensive power outage hits JR trains in Tokyo area

EAST Japan Railway Co. said it experienced extensive service disruption in the Tokyo area on Sunday afternoon due to a power outage.

While the cause of the outage is not yet known, a fire was reported at the railway company’s substation facility in Warabi, Saitama Prefecture neighboring the capital, local firefighter authorities said.

The fire was put out around 1:25 p.m., and no injuries have been reported, according to the fire department in Warabi. It said it received a call around 12:55 p.m. reporting the sound of an explosion at the substation. JR East said it halted services in the Tokyo metropolitan area including on the Yamanote, Keihin-Tohoku and Joban lines from around the same time.

Some of the disrupted services have been partially resumed, but the Keihin-Tohoku Line and several other lines are still halted, according to JR East. — Kyodo ■

Lebanon in blackout as power stations run out of fuel

LEBANON was plunged into a total blackout Saturday after two main power stations went offline because they ran out of fuel, the state electricity corporation said.

The Mediterranean country is battling one of the planet’s worst economic crises since the 1850s, and has in recent months struggled to import enough fuel oil for its power plants.

State electricity in most places is barely available for an hour a day amid rolling power cuts, while the fuel needed to power private back-up generators is also in short supply.

“After the Deir Ammar power station was forced to stop producing power yesterday morning (Friday) due its gasoil reserves running out, the Zahrani plant also stopped this afternoon for the same reason,” Electricite du Liban said in a statement.

This led to the network’s “complete collapse without any possibility of restoring it for the time being”, it said.

It was the second such complete outage reported by EDL since the start of the month, after a similar incident last Saturday.

A source at the energy ministry told AFP that all was being done “to find a way out of the problem and ensure fuel”.

— AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0186N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0186N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-10-2021 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.

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'Father of Pakistan's bomb' A.Q. Khan dies at 85



Khan was lauded for bringing Pakistan up to par with India in the atomic field. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ABDUL Qadeer Khan, the founder of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme who was accused of smuggling technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya, has died at 85, authorities said Sunday.

The atomic scientist, who spent the last years of his life under heavy guard, died in the capital Islamabad, where he had recently been hospitalised with Covid-19.

Khan died after being transferred to the city's KRL Hospital with lung problems, state-run broadcaster PTV reported.

He had been admitted to the same hospital in August with Covid-19.

But after being permitted to return home several weeks ago, he was transferred back after his condition deteriorated, it said.

Khan was hailed a national hero for transforming Pakistan into the world's first Islamic nuclear power and strengthening its clout against rival and fellow nuclear armed nation India.

But he was declared by the West a dangerous renegade for sharing technology with rogue nuclear states.

The news of his death sparked an outpouring of grief and praise for Khan's legacy.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Dr A Q Khan,"

Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted, stressing how loved the nuclear scientist had been in Pakistan due to "his critical contribution in making us a nuclear weapon state".

"For the people of Pakistan he was a national icon."

The prime minister said the scientist would be buried at Islamabad's majestic Faisal Mosque at his request.

The funeral was scheduled to be held at 3:30 pm (1030 GMT) Sunday.

Black market

According to Islamic tradition, burials should take place as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours of death. — AFP ■

Afghans flock to Iranian border, but few can cross

THE number of Afghans attempting to cross the border to Iran has soared since the Taliban swept to power almost two months ago, but few make it across, an official said.

Before the Taliban came to power on August 15, around 1,000 to 2,000 people crossed to Iran through the Zaranj border station in the southwestern province of Nimroz every month.

But the border commander for Nimroz province, Mohammad Hashem Hanzaleh, told AFP this week that the number of people attempting to cross has since soared to between 3,000 and 4,000 every day.

The hike comes as devastating economic and humanitarian crises lash Afghanistan, with the UN warning that a third of the population faces the threat of famine.



The number of people attempting to cross into Iran from Afghanistan has soared to between 3,000 and 4,000 every day. **PHOTO: AFP**

But Hanzaleh said that very few had the papers required to cross.

Traders and people holding residence visas, as well as those with visas to seek medical treatment, "are not prevented by Iranian forces," he said, adding that about 5-600 people were allowed

across each day.

For those without their papers attempting to cross, the experience can be harrowing.

Hayatullah, wearing a towel-like turban and a grey beard, showed off his injured hand, with dark blood seeping through the bandage. — AFP ■

Solomons pair survive 29 days adrift at sea

LOST at sea for 29 days, two Solomon Islanders survived on coconuts, oranges and prayers before being rescued 400 kilometres (250 miles) away off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The two men were travelling between islands in the notoriously unpredictable Solomon Sea, when their seven-metre (23-foot) boat got caught in rough weather a few hours into their journey on September 3.

Livae Nanjikana and Junior Qoloni lost sight of land in the "heavy rain, thick dark clouds

and strong winds," Nanjikana told the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation from the PNG district of Pomio on Friday.

As the battery in their GPS died and nightfall approached, they switched off their 60-horsepower engine to save fuel.

The men spent their first night being battered by wind and rain which drove their boat further out to sea.

For the first nine days, they lived on oranges they had packed for the trip.

When those ran out, Nanjik-

ana said they survived on rainwater, coconuts "and our faith in God because we pray day and night." Collecting rainwater in a canvas bag, the pair would power up their engine whenever they came across a floating coconut, racing to pick it up.

"After several days, because we prayed, God gave us this thought of constructing a device to sail. So we constructed a mast-like structure using paddles and canvas and set sail following the direction of the wind," Nanjikana said. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden signs bill to study, curtail cybersecurity risks at US schools: White House

US President Joe Biden has signed a bill requiring the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to study and prevent possible risks at American elementary and secondary schools, the White House announced on Friday.

"On Friday, October 8, 2021, the President signed into law: S. 1917, the 'K-12 Cybersecurity Act of 2021,' which requires the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to study the cybersecurity risks facing elementary and secondary schools and develop recommendations that include voluntary guidelines designed to assist schools in facing those risks," the White House said in a press release.

The bill was originally introduced by Republican Senator Rick Scott and later joined by other senators and representatives, including Jacky Rosen and Jim Langevin.

The K-12 Cybersecurity Act requires CISA to complete a study of potential cybersecurity risks that elementary and secondary schools are facing, including risks related to protecting sensitive student and employee records, and remote learning. After the study will be completed, CISA is supposed to provide cybersecurity recommendations and a web tool to facilitate school security against possible hacking. — ANI ■

Colombian nun kidnapped by Mali jihadists in 2017 freed

A Franciscan nun from Colombia kidnapped by jihadists in Mali more than four years ago has been freed, Mali's presidency said.

Sister Gloria Cecilia Narvaez was taken hostage on February 7, 2017 in southern Mali near the border with Burkina Faso where she had been working as a missionary.

A statement on the presidential Twitter account paid tribute to her "courage and bravery" along with photos of the nun taken after her release Saturday.

"I thank the Malian authorities, the president, all the Malian authorities, for all the efforts you've made to liberate me, may God bless you, may God bless Mali," Sister Gloria said in images broadcast on state television showing her with Mali's interim president Colonel Assimi Goita and the archbishop of Bamako Jean Zerbo.

"I am very happy, I stayed healthy for five years, thank God," the nun said, smiling and wearing a yellow robe.

Her liberation had been the fruit of "four years and eight months of the combined effort of several intelligence services", the presidency said. — AFP ■

‘Run Sara Run’: clamour grows for Duterte daughter presidential bid

PHILIPPINES “First Daughter” Sara Duterte has been in lock-step with her father, following him into law and succeeding him as a city mayor. Now, she’s leading the race to replace Rodrigo Duterte as president.

So far, the feisty politician, who once punched a court sheriff in front of TV cameras, has rejected calls to seek the country’s highest office, insisting she wants to serve another term as Davao city mayor.

Supporters have plastered “Run Sara Run” posters and tarpaulins across the archipelago nation, held rallies and posted thousands of messages

urging the 43-year-old to change her mind.

In a cryptic Facebook post on Saturday—the day after the deadline for registering as a candidate—Sara thanked her supporters who turned up at the Manila registration site for national positions, including president.

“Although I was not at the Sofitel (hotel), you did not lose hope and patience during the wait,” she said, hours before her office announced she had tested positive for Covid-19. “For this I offer my heartfelt thanks.”

The elder Duterte has not named a successor, but indicated recently Sara would run alongside his longtime aide



Supporters have plastered “Run Sara Run” posters and tarpaulins across the archipelago nation. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Senator Christopher Go. While Sara missed Friday’s closing date, analysts say she has until November 15 to make a late entry into the presidential race—like her father did in 2015.

Sara, known for her quick temper and fondness for big motorbikes, was in first place in the latest Pulse Asia poll of voter preferences for president.

She was followed by Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the son and namesake of a former dictator, celebrity mayor Francisco Domagoso and boxing legend Manny Pacquiao.

All except Sara have declared they will run for the top job. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Merkel bids Israel farewell after 16 years of support

GERMANY’S outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel is visiting Israel on a farewell tour Sunday, after a 16-year term during which she cultivated warm relations with the Jewish state.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has said he and Merkel would discuss “regional threats and challenges, especially the Iranian nuclear issue”, and maintaining Israel’s “strength in all spheres”.

It is Merkel’s eighth and final visit to Israel as chancellor, as she prepares to retire from politics.

She arrived late Saturday, the Israeli foreign ministry said.

Merkel had initially planned to visit in August, but delayed her trip amid the chaotic exit of US and allied forces, including Germans, from Afghanistan.

The 67-year-old trained physicist is to receive an honorary doctorate from Haifa’s Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. — AFP ■

Fire-caused power outage hits trains in Tokyo area, 236,000 affected

A fire at a major substation facility near Tokyo run by East Japan Railway Co caused a power outage on Sunday, forcing the operator to temporarily suspend train services on a number of lines in the Tokyo metropolitan area and affecting around 236,000 people, the company said.

The local fire department in Warabi, Saitama Prefecture, received a call around 12:55 pm reporting a fire at the substation facility in the city. The fire was brought under control three and a half hours later and no one was injured, according to the local police and the fire department.

THE cause of the fire is still under investigation but the police said a room that houses transformers inside the substation facility was destroyed. The facility plays a critical role in sending electricity to trains operating in Tokyo and its nearby areas via other substations.

JR East halted services, including on the Yamanote, Keihin-Tohoku and Joban lines. Most of the affected lines including the Yamanote resumed operation but part of the Shonan-Shinjuku Line that links Gunma and Tochigi prefectures, north of Tokyo, and Kanagawa Prefecture, south of the capital, was out of service for the rest of the day.

A man living near the facility said he saw black smoke coming from it and smelled something burning. Another man in the neighborhood said he saw flames as high as 20 meters a few times. — Kyodo ■

Czech PM to meet ailing president after election defeat

CZECH Prime Minister Andrej Babis is set to meet the country’s president on Sunday, with the populist billionaire hoping to hold on to power despite a narrow election defeat at the hands of a centre-right alliance.

Babis, a long-time political ally of President Milos Zeman, on Saturday lost the cliffhanger vote to the Together alliance which is ready to form a majority government with another grouping.

But Zeman made it clear earlier that he would appoint the head of a party, not an alliance, following the election, suggesting Babis would get the first attempt at negotiating a viable cabinet.

“I can’t see many reasons why he would do something else,” Tomas Lebeda, an analyst at Palacky University in the



Babis, a food, chemicals and media mogul, is facing police charges over alleged EU subsidy fraud. **PHOTO: AFP**

eastern Czech city of Olomouc, told AFP.

Zeman is due to receive Babis in his residence outside Prague for an informal meeting on Sunday morning, before a more formal encounter scheduled for October 13.

“We’ll see what the president will say,” Babis said as he conceded defeat.

The president cast his ballot in the residence because of poor health, with Czech media suggesting rather serious liver problems. — AFP ■

Iraqis head to early vote with little hope for change

IRAQIS headed to the polls Sunday for an early election billed as a concession to anti-government protests but expected to be boycotted by many voters who distrust official promises of reform.

Polls opened at 7:00am (0400 GMT) but few voters turned up early at one polling station at a school in central Baghdad.

“I have come to vote to change the country for the better, and to change the current

leaders who are incompetent,” said Jimand Khalil, 37, who was one of the first to cast her vote.

“They made a lot of promises to us but didn’t bring us anything.”

Security was tight in the capital, with voters searched twice at the entrance to polling stations.

Airports are also closed until dawn on Monday across Iraq, where despite the government’s declaration of victory over the Islamic State group in late 2017,

jihadist sleeper cells continue to mount attacks.

Polls remain open until 6:00 pm, with preliminary results expected within 24 hours of closing. Dozens of election observers deployed by the European Union and the United Nations were set to monitor the vote.

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi cast his ballot early in Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone.

“This is an opportunity for change,” he said. — 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.



Striker Suan Lam Mang (No.20) is a key player for the Myanmar National Football Team. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar football star Suan Lam Mang to join Thai League II

MYANMAR national team striker Suan Lam Mang is planning to play for a Thai League II club, according to the statements by Thai football league clubs.

Negotiations for a transfer between Myanmar national team striker Suan Lam Mang and Thai League II club have reached the final stage and a final agreement has yet to be reached.

This season, Thai League

matches started on 3 September and the mid-season transfer window will open on 8 December.

Therefore, striker Suan Lam Mang will be able to officially join the club in the middle of the season if a final agreement is reached with the Thai League-II club, which is under negotiation.

Striker Suan Lam Mang joined Thai League III club Muaungkan United (currently Thai League II) on a two-year

contract in 2019. After that, Suan Lam Mang moved to Trat FC from Muaungkan United.

Next, the Myanmar shining star moved to Ranong United on loan when his contract with Muaungkan United was terminated.

Striker Suan Lam Mang returned to Myanmar at the end of the 2021 Thai League season and is currently waiting for next opportunities in Thai League.—GNLM

McTominay gives Scotland dramatic win, Sweden see off Kosovo

SCOTT McTominay scored an injury-time winner as Scotland came from behind to claim a crucial 3-2 victory over Israel in World Cup qualifying on Saturday, while Sweden beat Kosovo to keep up their chase of Spain.

The win takes Scotland four points clear of Israel in second place in Group F with three matches remaining as they bid to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1998.

Group winners qualify automatically for next year's finals in Qatar, with the runners-up heading into the playoffs.

Scotland trailed twice in the first half at Hampden Park to goals from PSV Eindhoven forward Eran Zahavi and Mu'nas Dabbur.

John McGinn levelled once, but home striker Lyndon Dykes missed a penalty on the stroke of half-time. He made amends before the hour mark with an equaliser, awarded after a VAR



Scott McTominay scored an injury-time winner as Scotland came from behind to claim a crucial 3-2 victory over Israel in World Cup qualifying on Saturday, while Sweden beat Kosovo to keep up their chase of Spain. **PHOTO: AFP**

review after the referee initially disallowed it for a high boot.

A point would have been a decent result for Steve Clarke's men, but the hosts pushed for a winner which arrived in the 94th minute as Manchester United midfielder McTominay bundled in at the back post. The Scots still hold a slim chance of topping the group, trailing leaders Denmark, who visit Moldova later Saturday, by four points.

"We've got a few games left and we have to just remain focused. We wanted a win tonight and we got it," Dykes told Sky Sports. Sweden moved within a point of Group B leaders Spain thanks to a 3-0 win over Kosovo in Solna.

Alexander Isak scored a magnificent goal to cap a brilliant individual display, with Robin Quaison and Emil Forsberg also on the scoresheet. —AFP ■

'Best of era' Fury hailed after Wilder classic

TYSON Fury believes he is the greatest heavyweight of his era after producing a scintillating display to beat Deontay Wilder in a boxing classic on Saturday. The 33-year-old undefeated Englishman recovered from two knockdowns against the hard-hitting Wilder before knocking out the American in the 11th round to retain his WBC crown. "I know I'm the greatest heavyweight of my era, without doubt. Number one," Fury said following an epic battle at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. "I've fought the most devastating puncher in the history of our sport, not once, not twice, but three times." At a towering 6ft 9in tall and weighing in at 277 lbs, Fury is unarguably one of the biggest heavyweight champions of all time. Icons of the heavyweight division like Muhammad Ali or Joe Frazier would be giving away massive advantages in height and weight in any theoretical match-up with the reigning champion. Fury was initially reluctant on Saturday to rank his chances against past greats.—AFP ■



'Boxing history': Tyson Fury knocked out Deontay Wilder in the 11th round in Las Vegas. **PHOTO: AFP**