IMPLEMENT NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

11,000 oil lamps offered to Shwedagon Pagoda

PHOTO : ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)

THE Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees held a ceremony before the full moon day of Thadingyut, 1383 ME at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday evening.

During the oil lamps offering ceremony, members of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees and the staff of the Board of Trustees offered 11,000 oil lamps donated by the public on the oil lamp tray structures around the precinct of the Shwedagon Pagoda. — Zaw Min Latt(MNA)/GNLM

More than 2,500 people vaccinated against COVID-19 in Sagaing

MORE than 2,500 people, including monks and senior citizens over the age of 55 received the COVID-19 vaccine yesterday in Sagaing Region, according to the COVID-19 prevention, control and emergency response committee.

A total of 2,560 people were vaccinated in four different villages and two vaccination sites in the township. COVID-19 vaccination mobile team went to Ohntaw, Ywathitgyi, Nyaungpinwun, and Sartaung villages and carried out the immunization, and the people in Sagaing were inoculated in Sitagu Sangha Hospital and the City Hall, respectively.

Chairmen of the District and Township Administration Bodies and officials encouraged the immunization, and it is reported that the rest of the monks and nuns, and students over the age of 12 will continue to be vaccinated. — MNA

Inoculation programme for monks and nuns at Sitagu Sangha Hospital in Sagaing.

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Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some causalities, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Two border trade posts in Rakhine State resume, opening business opportunities for fish farmers

The regional government of Rakhine State has made efforts to reopen two suspended trade posts in Rakhine State and it was allowed to reopen under the COVID-19 rules and regulations by the State Administration Council on 12 October 2021. **PHOTO : KANU**

EXPORT of fishery products from Sittway to Bangladesh, which was suspended almost three months due to the skyrocketing infection rate of the COVID-19 disease, has resumed since 18 October, opening up business opportunities for fish farmers and entrepreneurs.

In the 2019-2020 financial year, 7,093.413 metric tons of freshwater fish worth US$ 6.318 million were imported through this border. As the COVID-19 cases were on the rise, exports from Rakhine State to Bangladesh were suspended from 15 July 2021, while 5,010.7 metric tons of freshwater fish worth $ 4.760 million were shipped to Bangladesh. Through two border trade posts in Rakhine State, Myanmar mainly exports onion, tamarind, dried plum, dried fish and freshwater Rohu fish, and about 70 per cent of the export value of Rakhine State is the freshwater Rohu fish.

The regional government of Rakhine State has made efforts to reopen two suspended trade posts in Rakhine State and it was allowed to reopen under the COVID-19 rules and regulations by the State Administration Council on 12 October 2021. Following the coordination meeting of the Ministers of the Rakhine State government, officials from relevant departments and the Rakhine State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, border trade camps have been opened since 14 October with amended regulations to revive the border trade.

Fishing vessels from Yangon have arrived in Sittway on 17 October and the Rakhine State Fisheries Department has conducted necessary screenings. Beginning 18 October, 44.80 metric tons of freshwater Rohu fish worth $ 53,904 were exported to Bangladesh.

Reopening of the border trade camps in Rakhine State is benefiting fish farmers in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions whose farms were affected amid a surge in the COVID-19 outbreak, in addition to generating foreign income for the country and opening business opportunities to fish farmers, entrepreneurs, and residents.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/ GNLM

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)

Promoting and cementing Union Spirit

LIKEWISE if one is too eager to embrace the past, one may lose the road to the future. The government has decided to further promote the process of cementing the Union Spirit and peace process before the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Independence Day.

(Excerpt from the Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark Sixth Anniversary of signing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15-10-2021)

Myanmar participates in 2021 global rural development forum

UNION Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe participated in the 2021 Global Rural Development Forum chaired by the National Revitalization Administration of the People's Republic of China through videoconferencing yesterday.

At the forum, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Hu Chunhua addressed delivered an opening speech, and Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Mr Jamshid Kuchkarov, Director-General of FAO Dr Qu Dongyu, ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi, the Administrator of the National Rural Development and Revitalization Administration of China gave the speeches on the plans for global sustainable development cooperation for poverty alleviation and rural development and further processes.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development of Myanmar U Hla Moe said Myanmar is making great efforts for rural development by implementing poverty reduction measures to achieve sustainable development goals. The Government is paying attention to the socio-economic development of the vulnerable and underprivileged people, and an emphasis is being placed to narrow the development gap between rural and urban areas, regions and states, he continued. At the same time, the national development strategy is giving priority to balanced economic development and accelerating poverty alleviation activities, he added.

The Union Minister also spoke about the Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP) which is being drawn up to revitalize Myanmar's economy which has been affected due to the COVID-19 outbreak and to create a viable business environment for the long-term development of the people.

Myanmar delegation attends the 2021 Global Rural Development Forum via videoconferencing.

Myanmar is focusing on rural infrastructure development, raising rural livelihoods and family income, development of SMEs and cooperatives based on the agriculture and livestock sector. The Union Minister also clarified that community-based development activities are being carried out so that rural women and young people, who are the main drivers for sustainable development, can participate in village development activities.

The forum also discussed the activities for poverty reduction and rural development by setting sustainable development goals, achievements, experiences and plans for the future, global cooperation for poverty alleviation and rural development and living standards. — MNA

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

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, by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airport and seaports with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 19 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by four companies using eight vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser, eight oxygen generators, 38,700 PPE suits, and 39 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw trading posts, and Yangon international seaports.

One liquid oxygen bowser was transported to Yangon via Myawady, 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

Prisoners/detainees pardoned to be released from Insein Central Prison

THE State Administration Council declared an amnesty to those arrested or detained for their involvement in riots due to various reasons and a total of 647 detainees/prisoners were released on 18 October and 400 more (315 males, 85 females) were released yesterday morning.

Relevant officials transported them to their respective places. According to the Deputy Director and in-charge of the Insein Central Prison, plans are underway to release more.

Chairman of the State Administration Council aimed to give them a chance to participate in the public service after they have been released and their cases have been closed, he added.

The release of the prisoners/detainees is in line with the five-point roadmap set by the State Administration Council for national stability and true democracy. The Council aims to pardon those who have been prosecuted in various courts in the country and imprisoned for participating in riots for various reasons to bring peace to the people and to let them participate in nation-building, it is reported. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Releasees are transported to their home townships. **PHOTO: KANU**

Females are released from the Insein Central Prison yesterday. **PHOTO: KANU**

384 people charged in riots-related cases in Mandalay closed

THE State Administration Council has closed the criminal cases of 4,320 people involved in the riots and ordered the release of 384 defendants by Order No. 187/2021 in Mandalay yesterday.

The cases were closed yesterday afternoon after the defendants were taken into custody in Mandalay Central Prison.

Next, officials provided healthcare services to 384 amnesty prisoners: 320 males and 64 females.

Officials gave the certificates QR code to those who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 twice.

After distributing masks, officials provided the daily allowance to the amnesty prisoners and allowed them to leave.

A total of 504 — 420 men and 84 women — were released from prisons in Mandalay Region in connection with the riots, said U Cho Win Tun, head of the Mandalay Region Prison Department. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Detainees are pardoned and released from the Mandalay Central Prison yesterday.

339 prisoners from Magway Central Prison pardoned

Releasees are seen in Magway yesterday.

TO commemorate the occasion of the traditional Thadingyut Festival and to build a new, peaceful, modern, and disciplined democracy, the Government released prisoners from prisons and detention centres in various regions and states for the benefit of the prisoners and the peace of the people.

Yesterday, a total of 339 prisoners were released from Magway Central Prison.

The event for those released prisoners was held in the Magway Central Prison.

Magway Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Lin, Transport Minister Police Col Thura Thwin Ko Ko and Region Government Secretary U Win Shein addressed the amnesty.

The pardoned prisoners were released from the prison by the authorities, after providing COVID-19 vaccination certificates and travel expenses. According to Article 419 of the Constitution, 339 prisoners: 289 men and 50 women have been pardoned in Magway Region.—Maung Nyi Nyar (Magway)/GNLM

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

Heavy rainfall damages some ancient temples in Bagan cultural zone

Some damages are seen in the aftermath of the torrential rainfall on 17-18 October in Bagan NyaungU.

THE torrential rainfall hit Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone of NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region on 17 and 18 October, resulting in damages to some temples, NyaungU District Administration Body stated. The 43.5 feet long wall with 6 inches thick bricks in the northwest of Saytanagyi Pagoda (Temple No 987) collapsed at 3 pm on 17 October. Temple No 2002 located in Taungbi village of NyaungU Township were also damaged slightly at 5:30 pm, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

U Nan Tint, township administrator and authorities concerned inspected the sites whether there is temple collapse in NyaungU town or not after heavy rainfall at 4:15 am of 18 October. East archway of Padoetharmyar Temple (Temple No 1605) in Taungbi village, the first terrace of Soemingyi Pagoda (Temple No 1145) in Myinkaba village, the roof (around 9 square feet) of Ancient Brick Monastery (123) and the west archway (12 feet long, 15 feet high and 6 feet thick) of Pyathagyi (Temple No 803) near Phwarsaw village were damaged.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) stated that the damaged temples will be restored.

The rainfall in NyaungU Township was 44.84 inches between January and 19 October 2021. The rainfall of 27.5 inches in 2006, 26.26 inches in 2007, 40.34 inches in 2011 were measured. — Maung Maung Htein (Kyaukpadaung)/GNLM

Local people in Kalay receive 2nd dose of COVID vaccines

HEALTHCARE officials administered the second dose of Sinopharm vaccines to those who have already received the first injection at the township administration office and township hall in Kalay, Kalay District, Sagaing Region yesterday morning.

Officials, volunteers and healthcare workers measured the body temperatures, blood pressure and monitored oxygen levels before the vaccination.

The vaccination was carried out at a distance of 6 feet from each other.

People from Aung Myay Mann Quarter, Aung Thitsar Quarter, Aung Zayya Quarter, Aung Myitta Quarter, Nyaung Pinthar Quarter, Myotha Quarter and Mingalar Ooyin Quarter received the vaccines at the township administration office.

Similarly, local people from Chan Myae Aungsi Quarter, Pinlong Quarter, Tat Oo Thida Quarter, Thazin Quarter, Sanmyo Quarter, Tahan Quarter, Taung Philar Quarter, Hlaing Thayar Quarter, Taung Zalat Quarter, Kyoet Thonepin Quarter, Myohla Quarter and Indogine Quarter received the COVID-19 Sinopharm vaccines at Kalay Town Hall.

According to the COVID-19 Disease Treatment and Emergency Response Committee, the vaccinated people were registered in the respective wards with citizenship scrutiny cards or household registration. — Maung Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM

A health staff injects the second dose of Covid vaccine to a local in Kalay, Sagaing Region yesterday.

1,133 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 October, total figure rises to 490,008

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 490,008 after 1,133 new cases were reported on 19 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 442,610 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,416 after 28 died.

Second day of COVID-19 vaccination to students continues in Thingangyun Township

THE second day of the COVID-19 immunization programme for the students between the age of 12 and 18 continued yesterday in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.

Middle and high school students enrolled in the 2021-2022 academic year received their first dose of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines at No (2) Basic Education High School in Thingangyun. A total of 590 students were vaccinated on 18 October and 569 students yesterday.

Officials of the Township Education Department, Township Administration Body, Public Health Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, and charitable groups worked together for the successful inoculation, and the rest of the students will be vaccinated depending on the availability of the vaccines. — Sandar Moe (IPRD)/GNLM

Immunization for students aged 12-18 is underway in Thingangyun.

Over-12s middle, high school students get jabbed against COVID-19 in states, regions

Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North)

Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region

Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region

Maukmai Township, Shan State (South)

NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region

Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory

Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State

Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region

Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region

Taungup Township, Rakhine State

Waw Township, Bago Region

Myanmar ships over 45,225 tonnes of butter bean in FY2020-2021

THE exports of butter bean exceeded 45,225 tonnes in the financial year 2020-2021, generating a revenue of US$25.678 million, as per the Ministry of Commerce's data.

In 2019, the bean touched a high of K37,000 per basket. In April 2020, butter bean fetched about K17,000 per basket. This year, it plunged into K14,000 per basket. The price dropped as the foreign demand was extremely weak amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the political changes, the traders said.

At present, the prices of butter bean move in the range of K65,000-74,000 per bag depending on the size in the Mandalay market.

Butter bean export to China, Japan and European markets has been falling. Now, it is relying only on the domestic market, said a trader from Mandalay market.

Normally, Myanmar exports about 75 per cent of butter bean production to foreign markets – Japan, China, Denmark, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan (China Taipei) and Viet Nam, with an export volume of 15,000-30,000 tonnes per year.

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There are over 160,000 acres of butter bean plantations both in winter and monsoon crop seasons. The butter bean is grown in June and July for the monsoon growing season and harvested in October and November. The cold season is in October/November and harvest time is from January to March.

The butter bean is primarily cultivated in Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and northern Shan states. Magway Region produces good-quality butter bean and Japan buyers prefer them. — KK/GNLM

Maize prices dip slightly to K600

Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of maize among regional countries. At present, maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

THE prices of maize declined slightly to over K600 per viss (a viss is equal to 1.6kg), according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre).

On 1 October, maize was priced at K730-750 per viss, whereas it dipped slightly K640-660 per viss on 19 October.

However, the prevailing market price is higher than the price registered during the year-ago period. Last year, maize fetched only K450-500 per viss.

The monsoon maize is being harvested for now. The feed processing factories are purchasing the maize at the harvest time, said U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association (MCIA) said.

Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of maize among regional countries. At present, maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three maize seasons: cold, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of maize.

Myanmar has exported more than 2.2 million tonnes of corn to foreign countries last financial year 2020-2021, said MCIA Chair U Min Khaing.

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

During the FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the external market, with an estimated value of $360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. — NN/GNLM

Chinese kale prices still rising in Kawlin

CHINESE kale prices continue to rise in price rapidly in Kawlin township, it is learnt.

The Chinese kale growers from Kawlin township are happy with good price of Chinese kale this year.

The Chinese kale is growing well on the small farmlands. The five villages in Kawlin township are planting the Chinese kale vegetables with use of Kaung My creek water.

There are two Chinese kale varieties, one with white flowers and the other with yellow flowers. The white flower variety is popular and grows up to 19 inches height while the yellow flower plant only grows to about 8 inches height.

"We are growing Chinese kale on 0.20 acre of farmland annually. The cultivation of this vegetable costs K 25,000 including the expenses for seeds, fertilizer and pesticides. This time last year, the Chinese kale yielded highly and was sold for only K 500 per bundle. This year, only a few people are growing this vegetable because of incessant rains. The Chinese kale is also sold for K 1,000 per bundle. So, the growers are earning K 15,000 daily. We have expected to earn K 400,000 for growing of 0.20 acre of Chinese kale," said U Sein Min, a Chinese kale grower from Okpo village.

Although the local farmers from those villages are growing Chinese kale, each farmer grows only half an acre mostly. They are growing many vegetables and crops because if the price of one crop is not good, they can make a profit from growing of another crop. — GNLM

Aungban potato making huge profits

THE potatoes, grown in Aungban township, are entered the Thirimalar wholesale market in Mandalay and the potato market has performed significantly better than the last.

The potato growers are happy as they are getting good prices, according to the potato commodity depot.

About 20 trucks of potato from Aungban township are daily entered the Thirimalar wholesale market in Mandalay. The prices are getting better than before. In the past two weeks, the price of potatoes has peaked at K700 to K1,200 per viss. Currently, the average market price of potato is ranging K1,700-K1,800 per viss, increasing about ten times, said U Aung Moe Naing, an owner of Aung commodity depot in Mandalay.

"Currently, potatoes, grown mainly in Aungban township are entering the market. The potatoes from the rest of the region haven't yet entered the market. The growers are not cultivating the potato this year because they suffered a loss last year. Thus, the acre of potato cultivation has been dropped by half. As the result, potato prices are hiking in the market. The rising of fuel oil prices for transportation is another reason for the rambling price of potatoes. Besides, people have been buying potatoes to keep in their houses since the outbreak of the pandemic, he added.

These potatoes from Aungban are currently entering the Mandalay market daily and are being sold at good prices. Besides, other raw vegetables such as cabbages, cauliflowers and cucumber are also having a good prices. At present, around 50 or 70 trucks loaded with raw vegetables are entering the market daily. — Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

These potatoes from Aungban are currently entering the Mandalay market daily and are being sold at good prices.

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Implement national biodiversity strategy for environmental conservation

WITH regard to environmental conservation, Myanmar, being a member of the Convention of Biological Diversity-CBD in 1995, implements the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020) in cooperation with five subject-wise task forces. Moreover, Myanmar is realizing the Myanmar National Biosafety Framework so as to declare the national biosafety framework and policy.

Emphasis is being placed on the plans of sown acreage for important crops to ensure food sufficiency, production of quality seeds under the arrangements of relevant departments, cooperative societies and companies to distribute quality strains of seeds at fair prices to growers and develop the private seed production industries.

> The government pledges to make further energetic efforts for its tasks with the active participation of the people for ensuring socio-economic life of the people and beautifying of the environment, the sufficiency of nutritious and safe foods, narrowing between the rich and the poor, and development of rural areas in conformity with the theme of World Food Day.

Moreover, it is necessary to change the cultivation of crops depending on the climatic and geographical conditions, cultivate the cash crops and short-term vegetables in the areas with insufficient agricultural water, implement the plans of local food sufficiency and speed up the educative works on agricultural techniques.

Efforts are being made to distribute quality pedigrees of cattle and poultry species in addition to aqua-animals for development of the livestock sector and increase of meat consumption to ensure nutritious sufficiency of the people, enhance high-quality regenerations based on artificial insemination and follow the Good Animal Husbandry Practices-GAHP at the livestock farms.

While narrowing the development gap between the urban and rural areas, the government focuses on the supply of drinking water and electrification to the rural areas, setting up the fund for doing business, the opening of vocational training courses, cooperation with departments and organizations in personal hygiene of the people and prevention of environmental pollution, and coordination with social organizations to provide techniques, capitals and markets for the manageable scale cottage industries.

Regarding environmental conservation, Myanmar became a member of the Convention of Biological Diversity-CBD in 1995. Hence, the government drew the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020) to implement the mission on conservation of biodiversity and the Myanmar National Biosafety Framework so as to declare the national biosafety framework and policy.

The government pledges to make further energetic efforts for its tasks with the active participation of the people for ensuring socio-economic life of the people and beautifying of the environment, the sufficiency of nutritious and safe foods, narrowing between the rich and the poor, and development of rural areas in conformity with the theme of World Food Day.

Africa: The Second Largest Continent on Earth

By THAN HTUN
(MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)

AFRICA, the second-largest and second-most-populous continent, covers an area of about 11.7 million square miles with 1.3 billion people as of 2018, it accounts for about 16% of the world's human population. From north to south, Africa stretches about 5,000 miles. It is connected to Asia by the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt. The Sahara, which covers much of North Africa, is the world's largest hot desert. The world's longest river, the Nile, flows more than 4,100 miles from its most remote headwaters in Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean Sea in the north. A series of falls and rapids along the southern part of the river makes navigation difficult. The Nile has played an important role in the history of Africa. In ancient Egyptian civilization, it was a source of life for food, water, and transportation.

The top half of Africa is mostly dry, hot desert. The middle area has savannas, or flat, grassy plains. This region is home to wild animals such as lions, giraffes, elephants, hyenas, cheetahs, and wildebeests. The central and southern areas of Africa are dominated by rainforests. Many of these forests thrive around Africa's other great rivers, the Zambezi, the Congo, and the Niger. Much of Africa is a high plateau surrounded by narrow strips of coastal lowlands. Hilly uplands and mountains rise in some areas of the interior. Glaciers on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania sit just kilometres from the tropical jungles below. Even though Kilimanjaro is not far from the Equator, snow covers its summit all year long. In eastern Africa, a giant depression called the Great Rift Valley runs from the Red Sea to the country of Mozambique.

The Great Rift Valley is a site of major tectonic activity, where the continent of Africa is splitting into two. Geologists have already named the two parts of the African Plate. The Nubian Plate will carry most of the continent, to the west of the rift; the Somali Plate will carry the far eastern part of the continent, including the so-called "Horn of Africa." The Horn of Africa is a peninsula that resembles the upturned horn of a rhinoceros. The countries of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia sit on the Horn of Africa and the Somali Plate. The area of central-eastern Africa is important to scientists who study evolution and the earliest origins of humanity. This area is thought to be the place where hominids began to evolve. The entire region sits on the African Plate.

Eastern Africa, which includes British Indian Ocean Territory, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, French Southern Territories, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Réunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Map of African Continent. Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

Major physical regions

Major physical regions in Africa are the Atlas Mountains, the Sahara Desert, the semiarid Sahel, the tropical Sudanian Savanna, also known as the African Savanna, the Nile and the Congo rivers, the Victoria Falls, the Ethiopian Highlands, the Ituri Rainforest in Central Africa, the African Great Lakes, the Great Rift Valley, the Namib, and the Kalahari deserts.

The United Nations geoscheme divides the continent into five major regions.

Northern Africa, which includes Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, and Western Sahara.

Middle Africa, which includes Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo-Kinshasa), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.

Southern Africa, which includes Botswana, Eswatini (Swaziland), Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

Western Africa, which includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Saint Helena, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

History

The history of Africa is long, complex, and has often been under-appreciated by the global historical community. Africa, particularly Eastern Africa, is widely accepted as the place of origin of humans and the Hominidae clade (great apes). The earliest hominids and their ancestors have been dated to around 7 million years ago, including Sahelanthropus tchadensis, Australopithecus africanus, A. afarensis, Homo erectus, H. habilis and H. ergaster -the earliest Homo sapiens (modern human) remains, found in Ethiopia, South Africa and Morocco, date to circa 200,000, 259,000, and 300,000 years ago respectively, and Homo sapiens is believed to have originated in Africa around 350,000–260,000 years ago.

People of Africa

Africa is now widely recognized as the birthplace of the Hominidae, the taxonomic family to which modern humans belong. Archaeological evidence indicates that the continent has been inhabited by humans and their forebears for some 4,000,000 years or more. Anatomically modern humans are believed to have appeared as early as 200,000 years ago in the eastern region of sub-Saharan Africa. Somewhat later those early humans spread into northern Africa and the Middle East and, ultimately, to the rest of the world. Whereas the majority of Africa's peoples are indigenous, European colonial settlers constitute the largest majority of new peoples, with substantial numbers in Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, and Mozambique. Dutch settlers first arrived in South Africa in 1652; their descendants now constitute the main Afrikaner, or Boer, population.

The vast majority of European settlers arrived after the 1885 Berlin West Africa Conference and the resulting "scramble for Africa," during which European leaders carved out spheres of influence. Attendant, but unassociated, with the scramble, French and Italian settlers also established new communities in North Africa and, to some extent, western Africa. The colonial-era began to disintegrate in the 1950s.

The major drainage basins

The major drainage basins in Africa are those of the Nile, the Niger, the Congo, the Zambezi, and the Orange rivers and of Lake Chad.

Nile basin

The Nile, which is about 4,132 miles long, is the longest river in the world. From Lake Victoria, it flows, as the Victoria Nile, into Lake Albert, from which it emerges as the Albert Nile. Farther north it is known as the Al-Jabal River. Thereafter, having received several tributaries, it becomes the White Nile and finally the Nile, emptying at last into the Mediterranean Sea.

Niger basin

The Niger basin is the largest river basin of western Africa. The Niger River, which rises in the mountains of Guinea and enters the sea through its delta in southern Nigeria, is about 2,600 miles in length. Rapids interrupt its course at several points, although some of these (such as below Bamako, Mali) have been submerged in waters impounded by dams.

Congo basin

With a total area of about 1,335,000 square miles, the Congo basin consists of a vast shallow depression that rises by a series of giant steps to an almost circular rim of highlands through which the river has cut a narrow exit into the Atlantic Ocean. The Congo River is some 2,900 miles in length. Its many waterfalls and rapids cause its valley, like that of the Nile, to lose elevation quickly. The Congo enters the sea through a swampy estuary that is about 6 miles wide at its mouth.

Zambezi basin

The Zambezi River is about 2,200 miles in length and occupies a basin with an approximate area of 463,000 square miles. Originally, there were two rivers, corresponding to the upper and lower courses of the present river; the valley of the lower section eroded toward the headwaters until it captured the waters of the upper section. At the mouth of the main river is a delta about 37 miles wide.

Orange basin

The Orange River is the longest in South Africa. Flowing across almost the entire width of the country, it makes its way from the highlands in the east through the Kalahari depression in the west to empty into the South Atlantic Ocean. Its major tributary, the Vaal River, is one of its northern headwaters; the two rivers together have a combined length of about 1,300 miles. Together with other major rivers on the continent, the Orange–Vaal river system shares the characteristic of flowing over steep gradients for numerous stretches of its course. The largest drop (about 400 feet) occurs at the Augrabies Falls.

SEE PAGE-10

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 19 October 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 20 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Region. 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: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHB0OURING AREA FOR 20 October 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (5) miles south-southeast of Yedashe), latitude 19.09 °N, longitude 96.37°E, depth (2) kilometers, about (12) miles northwest of Toungoo seismological observatory was recorded at (06) hr (46) min (08) sec MST on 19 October, 2021.

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Africa: The Second Largest Continent ...

FROM PAGE-9

Chad basin

The Chad basin constitutes the largest inland drainage area in Africa. Lake Chad, a large sheet of freshwater with a mean depth between 3.5 and 4 feet, lies at the centre of the basin but not in its lowest part. Lake Chad is fed by three major streams, the Komadugu Yobe, Logone, and Chari, but these are in danger of having their waters captured by the drainage systems of rivers that flow in opposite directions. Lake Chad itself, with an area of only some 5,000 square miles, was formerly much more extensive.

Geologic history

The African continent essentially consists of five ancient Precambrian cratons Kaapvaal, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Congo and West African-that were formed between about 3.6 and 2 billion years ago and that basically have been tectonically stable since that time; those cratons are bounded by younger fold belts formed between 2 billion and 300 million years ago. All of those rocks have been extensively folded and metamorphosed. Precambrian rock outcrops appear on some 57 per cent of the continent's surface, while the rest of the surface consists of largely undeformed younger sediments and volcanic rocks.

The oldest rocks are of Archean age (i.e., about 4.6 to 2.5 billion years old) and are found in the so-called granite-gneiss-greenstone terrains of the Kaapvaal, Zimbabwe, and Congo cratons. They consist of grey, banded gneisses, various granitoid, and rather well-preserved volcanic rocks that show evidence of submarine extrusion and formation under high temperatures. The rock type komatiite is particularly diagnostic of those volcanic sequences and is almost exclusively restricted to the Archean Eon. The cratons were tectonically stabilized by voluminous granite intrusions toward the end of the Archean and were then covered by clastic sediments, some of which contain economically important gold and uranium deposits.

Natural Resources

With huge forests, many rivers and a variety of minerals, Africa is highly rich in natural resources. Different resources are found in different parts of Africa. Rich in minerals, Africa is the world's largest producer of diamond, gold and platinum around 95% of the world's diamond is found in Africa. Zaire in Africa is the largest producer. African countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo produce around 50% of the world's gold. Petroleum is found in Nigeria, Libya and Angola. A large reserve of other minerals found in Africa is cobalt, copper, chromium, uranium, platinum and bauxite. Despite so minerals found in Africa, there are not many industries developed. This is due to the lack of iron ore and coal, which are the basis of industrial growth. Apart from mineral resources, Africa is rich in timber, fruits, vegetables, rubber, palm trees, dates, cacao, banana, papaya, jackfruit, orange, grapes, cashew nut, yam, cassava, maize, wheat, rice, groundnut, coffee and cotton (Iken Edu).

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2. National Geographic
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■ ■ ■

Sri Lanka reverses organic farming drive as tea suffers

SRI Lanka on Tuesday backed down from ambitious plans to become the world's first completely organic farming nation, reversing a ban on imports of chemical fertilizer.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had imposed a total ban on agrochemicals in May, saying he wanted to make Sri Lankan farming 100 per cent organic.

Plantations Minister Ramesh Pathirana said Tuesday that the change of course was to help growers of Ceylon tea, exports of which are worth $1.3 billion annually for the island nation."Considering the fact that there has been a quality drop in tea that was produced in factories, the government has taken the decision to import sulphate of ammonia," Pathirana told reporters in Colombo.

He said imports of chemical fertilizer would continue until the island was able to produce enough organic fertilizer for local agricultural needs.

Tea production is one of the main sources of foreign exchange for Sri Lanka. Tea crops have suffered in Sri Lanka due to a lack of organic fertilizer. A worker at a tea factory in Ratnapura. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rajapaksa's policy had sparked anger among tea plantation owners and other farmers who warned that a lack of organic fertilizer and lower yields would lead to shortages.

This risked compounding problems for a government already facing an unprecedented shortage of foreign exchange to import fuel, food and medicines.

Last week, the government breached its own ban by importing from Lithuania 30,000 tonnes of potassium chloride, but called it "organic fertilizer".—AFP ■

Auto sector shifts gear towards recycling parts, batteries

FROM ageing electric batteries to old engines to rearview mirrors, the auto industry is revving up its recycling efforts as it faces pressure to reduce its colossal carbon footprint.

The world's automakers are investing in facilities to salvage old parts but the industry is also looking to recycle the millions of electric batteries used for the cars of the future.

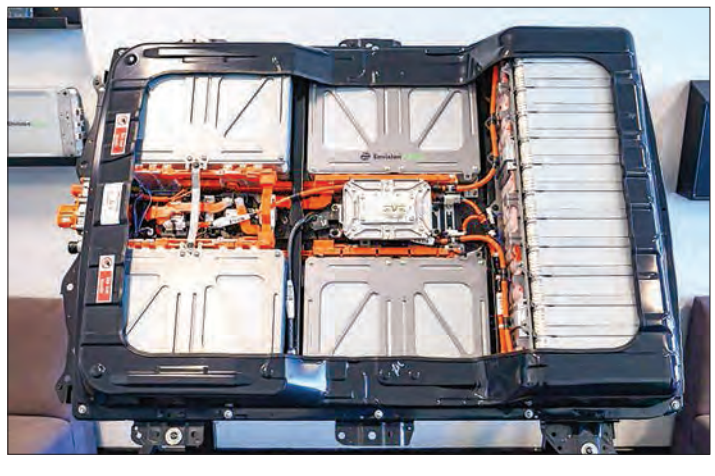
While electric cars are cleaner than their fossil fuel forebears, the raw materials needed for their batteries are extracted from mines in Africa that are often accused of environmental damage and using child labour.

"As demand for these materials increase, the pressures on these (economically marginalised) regions are likely to be amplified, risking the goals of a socially and ecologically sustainable renewable energy system," according to the Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney.

How the auto industry will manage its electric transition is likely to be among the hot topics at the two-week COP26 climate summit hosted by Britain starting 31 October.

The sector produces more greenhouse gas emissions than the entire European Union, with 20 per cent of it coming from manufacturing, according to the World Economic Forum.

Batteries can account for as much as half the price of electric cars, with a life expectancy ranging between eight and 15 years. Recycling them could have a considerable impact. — AFP ■



Most of the metals in electric car batteries can be recycled, which would reduce pressure on limited supplies and reduce the environmental impact of mining for them. **PHOTO: AFP**

Five critically endangered monkeys shot dead in Vietnam

POACHERS in Vietnam have shot dead five critically endangered langurs, a type of monkey killed for bushmeat and traditional medicine, state media said Tuesday. Rangers and police found the dead grey-shanked douc langurs during a regular patrol of forests in Quang Ngai province. Restricted to the forests of central Vietnam, the known global population of this type of langur is less than 1,000, according to conservation group Fauna and Flora International (FFI).

Other conservation groups estimate their number may be higher as some habitat areas have not yet been surveyed. The primate is a regular victim of the illegal wildlife trade, and is sought after for bushmeat, traditional medicine and the pet trade, FFI says. They are also threatened by deforestation. It is listed as "critically endangered", the highest risk category under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).—AFP ■

Thailand gears up vaccination roll-out ahead of planned reopening

THAILAND is speeding up vaccination roll-out as the Southeast Asian country plans to reopen for vaccinated visitors from November to revive the pandemic-battered economy.

On Monday, the country administered nearly 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines as it prepares to welcome back fully vaccinated international visitors from the beginning of next month, according to the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA).

As of Monday, Thailand has administered more than 66 million doses of vaccines, with about 37 per cent of its total population having been fully vaccinated, according to the CCSA.

However, the figures of full vaccination coverage are much higher in key tourist destinations, led by Phuket with 76.7 per cent and Bangkok with 69.7 per cent, according to the COVID-19 task force.

A man receives the COVID-19 vaccine in a mobile vaccination unit in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 September 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Thailand aims to inoculate about 70 per cent of its nearly 70 million population by the end of this year.

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced last week that the country planned to allow fully vaccinated visitors from "low risk" countries and regions to enter Thailand without quarantine from next month.

The low-risk and quarantine-free list would initially include at least 10 countries and regions, such as Britain, Singapore, Germany, China and the United States, Prayut said during a televised address on 11 October.

According to the CCSA, full details of the reopening plan will be available within this week.

On Tuesday, Thailand reported 9,122 new COVID-19 cases and 71 additional deaths. Of the new cases, 1,646 were found in Bangkok and its five neighbouring provinces, according to the CCSA.

The total number of infections has risen to more than 1.8 million in the country, with fatalities reaching 18,407.—Xinhua ■

New Zealand Covid cases hit record despite vaccination push

NEW ZEALAND recorded its highest number of daily coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic on Tuesday as a Delta-variant outbreak that dashed the nation's "Covid Zero" hopes showed no signs of easing.

Health authorities announced 94 new virus cases, exceeding the previous daily record of 89 set in April last year during the first wave of Covid-19 infections.

While case numbers remain low by most international standards, they have been steadily growing since the highly transmissible Delta variant was first found in New Zealand in mid-August.

The outbreak, centred on Auckland, has forced Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to drop her core policy goal of eliminating the virus in favour of ramping up vaccination efforts.

The centre-left leader is set to unveil a new strategy on Friday that will allow for greater freedoms once vaccination targets have been reached.

Around two-thirds of the eligible population have now been fully inoculated.

"We know that vaccinations are already making a significant difference to the outbreak in Auckland, but so too are people following the rules," Ardern told reporters.

A police officer directs a driver wanting to leave the city at a Covid-19 checkpoint at the southern boundary in Auckland on 14 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/DAVID ROWLAND**

Before the arrival of Delta, New Zealand won widespread praise for its hardline approach, which involved strict lockdowns, rigorous contact tracing and tight border restrictions. The measures paid off, with just 28 deaths in a population of five million and domestic life near normal for long periods.—AFP ■

Latvia to impose lockdown over Covid spike

LATVIAN Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins said on Monday that the Baltic state will go into lockdown for a month due to surging coronavirus infections and a poor vaccination rate.

"I apologize to those who have already been vaccinated, but the restrictions will apply to everyone," Karins told reporters after a 10-hour cabinet meeting.

"There are still too many unvaccinated people who get infected with Covid and die in the hospital," he added.

A protestor holds a sign reading "My body, my choice" during a demonstration against "compulsory" vaccination in Riga, Latvia on 18 August 2021. **PHOTO: GINTS IVUSKANS / AFP**

The lockdown is due to last from Thursday to 15 November and will feature an 8 pm to 5 am curfew, shuttered salons, cinemas, theatres and concert venues as well as a takeout-only policy at restaurants.

Only stores selling food and other essentials will remain open, while most people will be required to work remotely, with the exception of those in construction, transportation and other fields with jobs that cannot be performed off-site. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

S.Africa rejects Russian Sputnik vaccine over HIV fears

SOUTH Africa's health products regulator on Monday said it would not approve Russia's Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine due to concerns it could increase the risk of HIV infection among men.

The decision was based on earlier studies testing the safety of a modified form of adenovirus — a type of virus that causes respiratory infections — known as the Ad5 and contained in the Russian jab. Russia's Gamaleya Centre, which developed Sputnik V, said it would produce information to show that concerns were "completely unfounded".

South Africa, the country worst-hit by the pandemic in Africa, also has the world's highest number of people living with HIV.

It has been struggling with vaccine hesitancy. Just over a quarter of 40 million targeted for vaccination by early 2022 are fully jabbed to date.—AFP ■

Pfizer seeks green light for Covid jab for children aged 5-11 in Canada

Pfizer-BioNTech submitted an authorization request to Health Canada on Monday for the use of its Covid-19 vaccine in children aged 5-11, the companies and the Canadian government said.

The authorization request is based on data from trials conducted on 2,268 children in this age group for whom the dosage was lowered to 10 micrograms per injection — three times less than the standard dose — which the company says is "the preferred dose" for 5-11 year olds.

This same Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved in Canada for ages 12 and up.

Health Canada said that it will only authorize the use of the vaccine if the independent and thorough scientific review of all data submitted confirms that the benefits outweigh the risks with this group. The Canadian ministry also indicated that other manufacturers also were testing their vaccines on children of different age groups.— AFP ■

Japan's key electronics fair opens with spotlight on low-carbon tech

JAPAN'S major annual electronics show involving more than 300 companies opened Tuesday, with the spotlight on cutting-edge technologies designed to achieve carbon neutrality.

As was the case last year, organizers decided to hold the Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies online as a precaution against the coronavirus. The event through Friday, under the theme of "Toward Society 5.0 with the New Normal", ,is accessible by the public with pre-registration.

Rechargeable batteries to store renewable energy and carbon recycling technologies are among exhibited products that may help Japan and other countries reach the goal of net zero carbon emissions in the next several decades.

Screenshot taken on 18 October 2021, shows the online entrance of the Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

The concept of Society 5.0 to incorporate innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence and robots into society has been promoted by Japanese industries and the government.

"As an exhibition that creates new markets, we hope to propose solutions that will contribute to a society where values and people's behaviors are rapidly changing," Kiyoshi Shikano, executive producer of CEATEC, said Monday when the electronics show was available to the media.

Viewers are able to search on the CEATEC website for companies by name or topic, and visit the companies' pages. The firms have uploaded videos explaining their products and communicate with visitors via chat or email.— Kyodo News ■

Global conference on industrial internet opens

THE 2021 Global Industrial Internet Conference kicked off Monday in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning province. The conference aims to promote the integration of industrialization and informatization in a wider scope, in greater depth and at a higher level.

Themed sub-forums and dialogues, and exhibitions and competitions will also take place during the three-day event. They will focus on utilizing the industrial Internet for more networked and intelligent development, said the organizing committee.

This year's conference has an exhibition area of about 20,000 square meters, the largest in its history. More than 100 enterprises are participating in the event. — Xinhua ■

Participants learn about an electric car displayed at the booth of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. at an auxiliary exhibition during the 2021 Global Industrial Internet Conference in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning province, 18 October 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cryptocurrencies can undermine effectiveness of US sanctions: Treasury

THE rising use of cryptocurrencies could undermine effectiveness of US economic and financial sanctions and potentially dent the role of the American dollar, the Treasury Department said Monday.

Following a review on the US sanctions system, Treasury found that "while sanctions remain an essential and effective policy tool, they also face new challenges including rising risks from new payments systems, the growing use of digital assets, and cybercriminals".

Treasury sanctions work by blocking targets — individuals, government officials or companies — from using the US financial system, which in effect cuts them off from banking or profiting from trade in most of the world.

But digital currencies and alternative payment platforms "offer malign actors opportunities to hold and transfer funds outside the traditional dollar-based financial system", the report said.— AFP ■

WTO to conduct 8th trade policy review of China

THE World Trade Organization (WTO) will start the eighth trade policy review of China on Wednesday, the Ministry of Commerce said Tuesday.

The review would last three days until Friday and will be attended by Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen in Beijing via video link, and China's Ambassador to the WTO Li Chenggang in Geneva, the ministry said.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of China's accession to the WTO. Over the past 20 years, China has fully fulfilled its accession commitments, actively participated in the work of the WTO, and made great contributions to upholding the multilateral trading system, the ministry said.

The country had undergone seven trade policy reviews by the WTO previously. The last review was conducted in 2018.—AFP ■

US industrial output drops in Sept as supply issues plague economy

OUTPUT by US industries fell sharply last month amid continued supply constraints hindering manufacturing, according to official data released Monday.

The rapid surge in demand for goods as the American economy reopened in the wake of the Covid-19 shutdowns has created severe challenges for suppliers who struggle to get key materials and goods.

Ports are backed up, transportation firms are struggling to find truck drivers to deliver product, and factories overseas, in some cases, still have not fully reopened.

Total industrial production fell 1.3 per cent in September, according to the Federal Reserve data, a surprise drop as economists were forecasting a modest increase.—AFP ■

S.Korea's foreign currency deposit rises to 94.2 bln USD in September

SOUTH Korea's foreign currency deposit rose in September as domestic exporters put export proceeds in bank accounts, central bank data showed Tuesday.

Deposit denominated in foreign currencies amounted to 94.2 billion US dollars as of the end of September, up 1.6 billion dollars from a month earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It continued to grow for the second consecutive month as local exporters deposited the export proceeds amid the solid export growth, caused by the global demand recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Foreign currency deposit, owned by companies, increased 2.1 billion dollars to 75.76 billion dollars last month, but the individuals-possessed deposit shrank 0.5 billion dollars to 18.44 billion dollars.

The US dollar-denominated deposit grew 1.77 billion dollars to 82.15 billion dollars, and the Chinese-yuan deposit added 80 million dollars to 1.62 billion dollars. Deposits in the European single currency and the Japanese yen slipped to 3.89 billion dollars and 4.79 billion dollars.— Xinhua ■

Deposit denominated in foreign currencies amounted to 94.2 billion US dollars as of the end of September, up 1.6 billion dollars from a month earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). **PHOTO: AFP**

Toyota will pour $13.1 billion into the development and supply of batteries for electric vehicles as it pushes to make its production carbon-neutral. **PHOTO: AFP**

Toyota to invest $3.4 bn into US battery production

TOYOTA will pour $13.1 billion into the development and supply of batteries for electric vehicles as it pushes to make its production carbon-neutral.

The world's biggest carmaker Toyota unveiled plans on Monday to invest $3.4 billion into automotive batteries in the United States and build a factory in the country for their production. The 10-year investment is part of a project announced last month by the Japanese firm to pour 1.5 trillion yen ($13.1 billion) into the development and supply of batteries for electric vehicles as it pushes to make its production carbon-neutral.

"Toyota's commitment to electrification is about achieving long-term sustainability for the environment, American jobs and consumers," said Ted Ogawa, chief executive officer at Toyota Motor North America.

The company did not specify further details such as a site and production capacity but said it would establish a new company for the US project.

In June, Toyota said it aimed to make its production carbon-neutral by 2035, replacing the previous target date of 2050.

Toyota is a pioneer of hybrid vehicles and autos using hydrogen fuel and is also stepping up its development of battery-powered electric cars. Last year Japan's former prime minister Yoshihide Suga set a 2050 deadline for the world's third-largest economy to become carbon neutral, significantly firming up the country's climate-change commitments. The nation has struggled to cut carbon emissions after shutting down reactors following the 2011 meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.— AFP ■

UK's Johnson outlines 30,000 green jobs boost

SPANISH renewable energy giant Iberdrola has committed to invest £6 billion ($8.2 billion, 7.1 billion euros) to create Britain's biggest offshore wind development, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the company said on Monday.

Johnson said the project off the east coast of England, involving Iberdrola subsidiary Scottish Power, would supply enough energy to power 2.7 million homes, and create 7,000 jobs.

Turbines at The Blyth Offshore Demonstrator Wind Farm built by EDF Energy Renewables are seen off the coast of Blyth, north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in northeast England. **PHOTO: WILLIAM EDWARDS/AFP**

The project still requires planning consent. It is one of 18 deals worth a total of £9.7 billion and creating a potential 30,000-plus jobs to be formally announced at a UK Global Investment Summit to support green growth on Tuesday. Iberdrola chairman Ignacio Galan said the investment would be a "significant step to achieving enough offshore wind to power every UK home by 2030". Johnson, who has outlined plans for Britain to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, is keen to burnish his green credentials as he prepares to host world leaders at a crunch UN climate change summit in Glasgow next month.

The COP26 conference is being seen as a last chance to nail down tougher emissions targets to prevent runaway global warming.

The British leader also sees green investment as key to growing the country's economy after the coronavirus pandemic and Brexit. "The fantastic £9.7 billion of new investment we have secured today will power our economic recovery, creating thousands of jobs and helping to level up across the country," he said.—AFP ■

Teijin unit to begin recycled polyester chip production in Thailand

Photo shows a plant of Teijin Polyester (Thailand) Ltd. in Pathumthani Province, Thailand. **PHOTO: TEIJIN FRONTIER CO./KYODO NEWS**

TEIJIN Frontier Co. will start producing recycled polyester chips made from locally procured plastic bottle flakes in Thailand in January for high-quality polyester long fibre products.

The Osaka-based firm under the wing of major textile maker Teijin Ltd. said it will build a manufacturing facility for the recycled products at a plant run by Teijin Polyester (Thailand) Ltd., in Pathumthani Province, north of Bangkok.

Production will begin in January with a plan to have an annual output capacity of 7,000 tonnes in the 2025 business year. Teijin Frontier did not release how much it will invest in the new facility. The recycled polyester chips will be processed into polyester filaments for sale under the Ecopet recycled-fibre brand by Teijin Frontier group companies.—Kyodo News ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (220N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (220N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-10-2021** 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (229N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (229N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canadian PM visits indigenous school graves

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a visit Monday to the indigenous community of Kamloops where the remains of 215 children were found in May at a former residential school, apologizing for not coming sooner.

The visit followed strong criticisms directed at Trudeau for ignoring an earlier invitation to the community on the first national day of truth and reconciliation on September 30, instead going on a family vacation.

"Instead of talking about truth and reconciliation, (everyone has) talked about me and that's on me. I take responsibility for that," he told a news conference.

Seated next to him, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc chief Rosanne Casimir said: "It was a long-awaited moment to receive a personal hand of recognition and sympathy regarding this horrific confirmation of unmarked graves from the Canadian head of state."—AFP ■

China's routine space vehicle test 'a transparent act for peaceful use, not militarization'

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday said the Financial Times-reported "China's test of new space capability with a hypersonic missile in August" was in fact a routine test of technology for reusing a space vehicle, and Chinese experts said that China has the right to test such technology for peaceful purpose regardless of how the US or the West demonizes it. If the US launches a space arms race, non-Western powers like China and Russia would be forced to turn their advanced capabilities into military use for strategic deterrence and self-defence, experts said.

Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a routine press conference on Monday that such a test is meant to lower the cost of using a space vehicle, and it can provide more low-cost measures for the peaceful use of space.—Xinhua ■

US Justice Dept asks Supreme Court to block Texas abortion ban

US President Joe Biden's administration, in the latest move in the battle over reproductive rights, asked the Supreme Court on Monday to block a Texas law that bans most abortions in the state.

The Texas abortion law is "clearly unconstitutional" and violates the landmark 1973 Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade, which enshrined a woman's legal right to an abortion, the Justice Department said.

Allowing the Texas law to remain in force would "perpetuate the ongoing irreparable injury to the thousands of Texas women who are being denied their constitutional rights," the department said in its request to the nation's highest court.

Anti-abortion activists protest outside the US Supreme Court in Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Justice Department's emergency filing is the latest legal maneuver in the fight over the controversial Texas law known as Senate Bill 8 (SB8), which bans abortions after six weeks, before many women even know they are pregnant.

Calling it "flagrantly unconstitutional," US District Judge Robert Pitman issued a preliminary injunction earlier this month halting enforcement of the Texas law, which took effect on 1 September. "This court will not sanction one more day of this offensive deprivation of such an important right," Pitman said in a blistering decision.

Days later, however, the New Orleans-based Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the Texas law pending a full hearing in December.—AFP ■

Who will form Iraq's next government?

IRAQ'S 10 October elections reinforced the parliamentary strength of mercurial Shiite preacher Moqtada Sadr and saw a sharp decline in that of his adversaries, the pro-Iran Hashed al-Shaabi alliance, according to preliminary results.

A final tally from the ballot, organized to appease youth-led anti-government protests that began in 2019, is expected in the next few weeks, but so far no bloc has a clear mandate. That means the numerous political parties will engage in lengthy negotiations to form alliances and name a new prime minister.

What alliances are possible?

Harith Hasan, a nonresident senior fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center, generally sees two main potential scenarios.

The first is the revival of a "Shiite alliance" between Sadr, who has criticised Iranian influence, and the Hashed, a former paramilitary network now integrated into the regular security forces.

Results so far show Sadr won more than 70 of the 329 parliamentary seats. This coalition option would see Sadr accepting "a new power-sharing arrangement with a compromise candidate" as prime minister, Hasan said.

There would also be an agreement "on certain 'principles' for reform, including the future and the structure of Hashed al-Shaabi," he said.

Any compromise candidate for prime minister will have to have the tacit blessing of Tehran and Washington, arch-foes that are both Baghdad allies.

Iraqis pass by a poster of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Sadr City in Baghdad on 17 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

According to preliminary results the Conquest (Fatah) Alliance, the political arm of the multi party Hashed, emerged from the election with only around 15 seats in parliament. — AFP ■

Khalilzad, US envoy who brokered Afghan exit, quits

US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar shake hands after signing an agreement in the Qatari capital Doha on 29 February 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

ZALMAY Khalilzad, the veteran US envoy whose months of patient hotel-ballroom diplomacy helped end the US war in Afghanistan but failed to prevent a Taliban takeover, resigned on Monday.

In a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Khalilzad defended his record but acknowledged that he came up short and said he wanted to step aside during the "new phase of our Afghanistan policy."

"The political arrangement between the Afghan government and the Taliban did not go forward as envisaged," he wrote.

"The reasons for this are too complex and I will share my thoughts in the coming day and weeks."

Born in Afghanistan, the dapper 70-year-old academic turned US diplomat took senior positions as part of the inner circle of former president George W. Bush, becoming the US ambassador to Kabul and then Baghdad and the United Nations.

As former president Donald Trump itched to end America's longest war in Afghanistan, he brought back Khalilzad, who led exhaustive talks with the Taliban — without including the US-backed government in Kabul.

Those talks led to a February 2020 agreement in which US troops would leave the following year.—AFP ■

US renews calls for talks with North Korea

A US envoy made a new appeal Monday for talks with North Korea, insisting the United States has no hostile intent following a spike in tensions.

Sung Kim, the US special representative on North Korea, met in Washington with his South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyu-duk, ahead of a three-way meeting Tuesday with senior Japanese official Takehiro Funakoshi.

"We will seek diplomacy with the DPRK to make tangible progress that increases the security of the United States and our allies," Kim said, referring to the North by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"We harbor no hostile intent toward the DPRK and we are hopeful to meeting with them without conditions," Kim told reporters.

But he added that the allies had "a responsiblity to implement UN Security Council resolutions," referring to sanctions which North Korea seeks to see lifted.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week blamed the United States for sanctions, dismissing Washington's assertions that it does not have hostile intentions.

North Korea in recent weeks has tested a long-range cruise missile, a train-launched weapon and what it said was a hypersonic warhead.

Kim met three times with former president Donald Trump, who boasted of stopping a war but failed to reach a comprehensive agreement on ending North Korea's nuclear program.

President Joe Biden has promised to keep seeking diplomacy but with a more low-key approach looking for areas for progress.— AFP ■

US Special Representative for North Korea Policy Sung Kim speaks to reporters outside of the State Department. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran indicates nuclear talks only with EU this week

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif are pictured during the final EU, P5+1 plenary session with Iranian officials about the future of their country's nuclear programme at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria, on 14 July 2015. **PHOTO: STATE DEPARTMENT / PUBLIC DOMAIN**

IRAN'S lead nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri will be in Brussels Thursday for talks with the European Union aimed at reviving its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, the foreign ministry said Monday.

"After the talks in Tehran, Bagheri will go to Brussels to discuss outstanding issues," foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters, referencing talks last week in Tehran with EU envoy Enrique Mora.

Khatibzadeh only spoke of talks with the EU, rather than the direct parties to the 2015 deal, suggesting that a lawmaker on Sunday misquoted Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in citing him as saying that the Brussels talks would be with the "P4+1". The "P4+1" represent four UN Security Council permanent members — Britain, China, France and Russia — along with Germany.

These nations are the remaining parties to the 2015 deal with Iran, after the US pulled out in 2018 under then president Donald Trump.

The deal, which gave Iran sanctions relief in return for curbs on its nuclear activities, has been on life support since the US withdrawal, which was followed by Washington reimposing biting sanctions on Tehran, which has incrementally rolled back its commitments. Talks got underway in Vienna in April in a bid to revive the deal, after Trump's successor President Joe Biden signalled a willingness to come back on board. But they have been suspended since June, when ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi was elected president of Iran. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ecuador president declares state of emergency over drug violence

ECUADOR'S President Guillermo Lasso on Monday declared a state of emergency in the country grappling with a surge in drug-related violence, and ordered the mobilization of police and military in the streets. "Starting immediately, our Armed Forces and police will be felt with force in the streets because we are decreeing a state of emergency throughout the national territory," said the president in a speech broadcast by the state channel EcuadorTV.

"In the streets of Ecuador there is only one enemy: drug trafficking," declared the right-wing leader, adding that "in recent years Ecuador has gone from being a drug trafficking country to one that also consumes drugs." The announcement came on the eve of an official visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to Ecuador and Colombia in a bid to support and broaden ties with the Latin American democracies.—AFP ■

N. Korea fires suspected submarine-launched ballistic missile: Seoul

NORTH Korea fired a suspected submarine-launched ballistic missile into the sea on Tuesday, the South's military said, the nuclear-armed country's latest advance in weapons technology and one that could give it a second-strike capability. The test came with both Koreas building up their weapons capabilities in what could become an arms race on the peninsula, and with the Washington-Pyongyang dialogue at a standstill. The "short-range ballistic missile suspected to be an SLBM" was fired from Sinpo into the sea east of the peninsula, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.—AFP ■

Wounds persist in Spain decade after ETA ends armed struggle

A decade after Basque separatist group ETA renounced the use of arms, the northern Spanish region is still trying to turn the page on decades of bloodshed.

In a video released on October 20, 2011, three masked ETA leaders announced that the group classified as a terrorist organisation by the European Union "has decided the definitive cessation of its armed activity".

"It is time to look at the future with hope. It is also time to act with responsibility and courage," they added, raising their fists in the air at the end of the video.

The announcement put an end to western Europe's last armed insurgency.

"After ten years, we have advanced...but there are still wounds that have not healed," regional leader Inigo Urkullo of the moderate Basque nationalist PNV party wrote in an opinion column published Sunday. Created in 1959 at the height of Francisco Franco's dictatorship which repressed Basque culture and language, ETA is accused of killing more than 850 people in its fight for an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain and southwest France.—AFP ■

ETA's definitive renunciation of violence finally put an end to western Europe's last armed insurgency. **PHOTO: AFP**

Postponed XXXI SEA Games to be held in May 2022

THE XXXI Vietnam SEA Games, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 epidemic, will be held in May 2022, the SEA Games Federation confirmed on 18 October at its meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives from 11 Southeast Asian countries and officials, and it was confirmed that the postponed Viet Nam SEA Games will be held again in mid-May 2022.

Officials at the Viet Nam Olympic Committee will approve the detailed fixtures of the Games later this month and the game was scheduled to be held in the second week of May.

The XXXI SEA Games, hosted by Vietnam, was originally scheduled to run from 21 November to 2 December but has been postponed to next year due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The XXXI SEA Games will feature 520 events in 40 sports, mainly those played at the Olympic Games.

Myanmar plans to compete in 18 sports and athletes are undergone training in special training camps for the SEA Games. —Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Greece hands over Olympic flame to Beijing 2022 hosts

Yu Zaiqing (R) receives the torch with the Olympic flame from president of the Hellenic Olympic Committee Spyros Capralos. **PHOTO: AFP**

GREECE on Tuesday handed over the Olympic flame to organizers of the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, a day after the lighting ceremony was disrupted by activists calling for the event to be postponed. Hellenic Olympic Committee chief Spyros Kapralos gave the Olympic torch to the vice-president of Beijing 2022 and vice-president of the Chinese Olympic Committee Yu Zaiqing at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, where the ancient Games were revived in 1896.

"The Olympic flame will travel to the Great Wall and across other parts of China, bringing with it the light of peace and friendship," Yu said. He said China vowed to deliver "a streamlined, safe and splendid Games". Around 2,900 athletes, representing approximately 85 National Olympic Committees, will compete in the Winter Games between 4 and 20 February 2022.

Actresses dressed as ancient Greek priestesses had earlier lit a cauldron with the Olympic flame, after China's Turin 2006 and Vancouver 2010 freestyle ski silver medallist Li Nina ran a lap with the torch in the second-century AD stadium. — AFP ■

England ordered to play game behind closed doors after Euro 2020 final chaos

ENGLAND must play their next home match in a UEFA competition behind closed doors following disorder at the Euro 2020 final at Wembley, European football's governing body ruled on Monday.

The showpiece game between England and Italy on 11 July was marred by chaotic scenes as ticketless fans forced their way through security cordons to gain entry to the stadium. In addition to the one-match sanction, UEFA has imposed a ban for a second game, which is suspended for two years.

England fans cheer on their team outside Wembley Stadium ahead of their UEFA EURO 2020 final match against Italy in northwest London on 11 July, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

The English Football Association (FA) has also been fined 100,000 euros ($116,000) over various issues including "lack of order and discipline inside and around the stadium" and the "throwing of objects". A statement from the FA said: "Although we are disappointed with the verdict, we acknowledge the outcome of this UEFA decision. — 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.

Premier League clubs vote to block sponsorship deals linked to owners

PREMIER League clubs have voted to temporarily block teams from striking lucrative deals with businesses that have links to their club's owners after the Saudi Arabia-backed takeover of Newcastle.

The Guardian newspaper reported 18 clubs voted in favour of the ban at an emergency meeting on Monday, with Newcastle voting against and Manchester City abstaining.

It is understood that both questioned the legality of the move.

A temporary month-long ban on such deals will be put in place while the possibility of a permanent ban is debating.

Many clubs in the English top-flight fear Newcastle's wealthy Saudi owners could conclude agreements in the oil-rich kingdom that could give them an advantage.

Last week, Leeds owner Andrea Radrizzani said Financial Fair Play rules must be enforced to ensure the 20 Premier League clubs are "playing the same game".

Premier League champions City, who are owned by the Abu Dhabi United Group, have struck deals that are known as related party transactions, for example sponsorship from Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi government-owned carrier.

The Newcastle takeover was rubber-stamped by the Premier League earlier this month after it received legally binding assurances that the Saudi state would not control the club. — AFP ■