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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar-India border trade increases amidst coronavirus pandemic



File photo shows: Myanmar - India friendship bridge between Myanmar and India. PHOTO: IPRD

THE bilateral border trade between Myanmar and India totalled US\$115.4 million as of 12 February in the financial year 2020-21, an increase by \$59.23 million compared to the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 12 February of this FY, Myanmar exported some \$114.79 million worth of commodities to India. In contrast, imports from Myanmar's second-largest neighbouring country were worth \$0.62 million. The two countries' border trade was US\$56.18 million last year.

The border trade between the two countries is conducted mainly through Tamu, Reed and Thantlang cross-border points. In contrast, a significant part of bilateral trade is delivered through ships.

"India and Myanmar closed the border in March 2020. Border closure also included the crossing between Tamu and the India town of Moreh on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the border trade resumed on 6 January following the COVID-19 rules and regulations," said the Tamu Merchants Association official.

The vast South Asian country's imports from Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables besides human hair, fishery and forest products. It mostly exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

Myanmar's total border trade with China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh via the 16 land borders was valued at \$3.98 billion, including \$2.7 billion in exports and \$1.26 billion in imports. — Zwe/GNLM

Hong Kong Disneyland reopens as anti-virus measures loosen

HONG KONG Disneyland reopened Friday with the territory's government lifting some social distancing measures to fight the spread of the coronavirus as the pandemic eases.

It is the third reopening for the popular theme park following previous closures in January, July and December last year lasting a total of about nine months due to the pandemic. It last closed on 2 Dec.

Local media Cable TV reported that about 100 people lined up at the gates before it opened, among them a teenager who said he was so excited he could not sleep the previous night.

"Every time Disneyland reopens is to be cherished," Yim said, donning an Olaf facemask, a snowman character in the "Frozen" animated film. "Or you would lose the chance to play when it closes." Only guests with reservations are admitted, the park said. It closes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The closures came after the park saw a declining number of visitors. Full-year attendance through September 2019 dropped 4 per cent from a year earlier to 6.5 million visitors, according to company figures.— Kyodo News ■



Hong Kong Disneyland reopened Friday with the territory's government lifting some social distancing measures to fight the spread of the coronavirus as the pandemic eases. PHOTO: XINHUA

Advertisement for STAR MASK featuring various colored disposable face masks, a star logo, and contact information for STARMART, KHA YAE PIN MART, and STARMART MANDALAY.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No (76/2021)
9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1382 ME
20 February 2021

Duty Termination

The following persons are terminated from their duties from Anti-Corruption Commission.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. U Soe Tint | Member |
| 2. U Aung Lwin | Member |
| 3. U Han Nyunt | Member |
| 4. Daw Myat Myat Soe | Member |
| 5. U Aung Than Myint | Member |
| 6. U Khin Maung Myint | Member |
| 7. U Myo Myint | Member |
| 8. Daw Aye Aye Mu | Member |
| 9. U Zaw Win | Member |
| 10. Daw Lae Lae Thwin | Member |
| 11. U San Win | Secretary |

By order
Sd/ Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No (77/2021)
9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1382 ME
20 February 2021

Appointment and Assignment of
Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission

U Tin Oo, Member of Union Civil Service Board, is transferred and appointed as Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission in accordance with Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order
Sd/ Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No (78/2021)
9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1382 ME
20 February 2021

Appointment and Assignment of
members of Anti-Corruption Commission

The following persons are appointed as the members of the Anti-Corruption Commission in accordance with Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. U Tin Swe Win
2. U Htin Kyaw
3. Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein (Retired)
4. Daw Khin Cho Ohn
5. U Aung Myint Lwin
6. U Than Soe
7. U Maung Maung Tint
8. Police Brig-Gen Thura Bo Ni (Retired)
9. U Tin Myint
10. Daw Kyu Kyu Win

By order
Sd/ Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

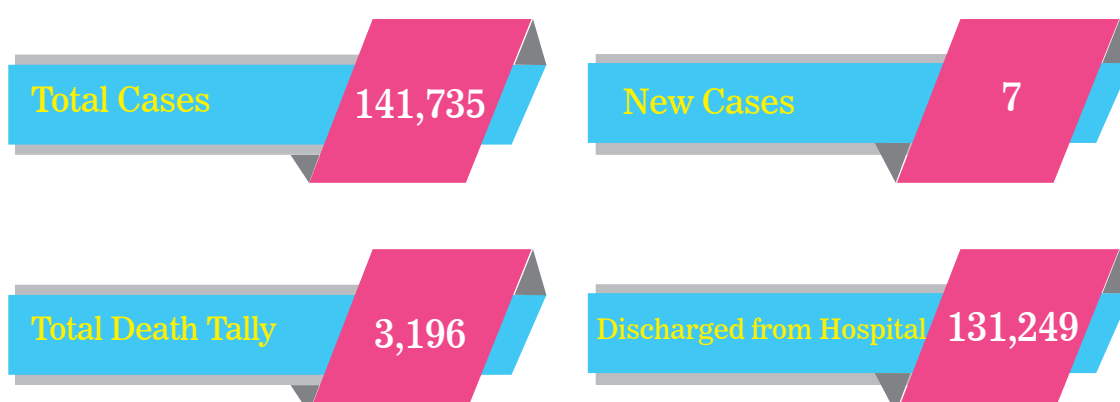
Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason for human rights, some persons are now under pressure, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnishing the image of democracy.
2. For preventing destructive actions against the stability of the State, the safety of the public and the rule of law, it is also required to take proper actions in line with the law.
3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of country and people.

7 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 February, total figure rises to 141,735

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 141,735 after 7 new cases were reported on 20 February 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 3,196 died, 131,249 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 20 February 2021



Daily death toll until 8 pm 20-2-2021



Ministry of Health and Sports

Vows of medical professionals

The recovery of economy impacted by COVID-19, continuing its vaccination programme, being patient with CDM of civil service personnel, breaching the vows of medical professionals with failure to perform their duties of healthcare services at the public health centres, difficulties of people as they have to get medical services from private clinics and taking legal actions on these cases, issuing permits to the private sector to import COVID-19 vaccine for the public with the approval of Food and Drug Administration..

(Excerpt from the speech to the coordination meeting of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 16 February 2021)

MoHS continues COVID-19 vaccination to ministry officials and civilians



MINISTRY of Health and Sports continued the COVID-19 vaccination to civil services personnel and people over the age of 65 in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Region yesterday.

The Department of Public Health in Nay Pyi Taw vaccinated a total of 907 officials from 10 ministries in Nay Pyi Taw and Union Minister for Health and Sports Professor Dr Thet Khine Win, Deputy Minister U Myo Hlaing, Directors-General and

responsible persons encouraged and supervised the vaccination.

Similarly, a total of 112 monks was vaccinated in the Inya COVID-19 vaccination centre in Yangon in accordance with the COVID-19 immunization regulations. It is reported that the Ministry of Health and Sports will continue the vaccination to civil services personnel and the people over the age of 65.—MNA



The Union Minister, Deputy Minister and party are encouraging the monks, civil services personnel and people over 65 on 20 February. PHOTO: MNA

Announcement to the civil servants who fail to perform their duties for various reasons

1. Civil servants are the people who are working to make the whole state machinery function well. No matter how much the political, economic or government changes, civil servants must perform the duties to function the state machinery. They must abide by the rules and regulations regarding working hours, performance, and conduct in the workplace in accordance with the Civil Service Law and Employee Ethics. Those who breach the employee ethics and misconduct can be taken action in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Law. If an employee's act or fail to serve is a possible offence, legal action will be taken.
2. Therefore, it is announced to the civil servants who fail to perform their duties for various reasons to return to work as soon as possible while urging employees to return to work.

State Administration Council's Announcement

Some unscrupulous persons are putting various forms of pressures and posing threats to civil service personnel in performing their duties at present. The civil service personnel who have encountered such pressures and threats shall contact the following phone numbers. Strong legal actions will also be taken against those who make such pressures and threats.

Contact phone numbers	-067 412 168	-067 412 246	-067 412 388	-067 412 598	-067 412 539
	-067 412 222	-067 412 387	-067 412 444	-067 412 066	-067 412 540

Protestors attack security force members at Mandalay Yadanabon dock

THE CDM activists from Sein Pan Ward of Mandalay destroyed the operation of two Mandalay-Bhamo water vessels at Gawwein dock and U Htay Win, mechanical technician grade-4 also took away the keys of vessels yesterday.

Although the officials and security force members conducted relief measures on such case, the protestors did not accept the negotiation and attacked the police with stick, knives, stones, catapults and other materials. Therefore, the police force dispersed them in accordance with the prescribed

crowd dispersal methods.

But in the afternoon, the protest crowd gathered at the corner of 41st street and Strand road and blocked the police and attacked with stick, knives, stones, catapults and other materials. Some of the police members were injured due to their attack.

The unscrupulous persons also blocked the Strand road to stop vehicle convoys which came to help the police members blocked by the protestors, and also attacked with stick, knives, stones, catapults, harpoons and other materials. A total of 11— 3

Tatmadaw members and 8 police were injured and five vehicles destroyed.

The security force softly dispersed the crowds in accordance with the prescribed crowd dispersal methods and law to save the members blocked by the crowd. The crowd dispersed in the evening. The officials detained the leaders of the protest and will take action in accordance with the law.

Some of the aggressive protestors were also injured due to the security measures conducted by the security force in accordance with the law. —MNA



Many protestors are seen blocking the Strand road in Mandalay aggressively. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ninety per cent of rural areas in Dala get access to electricity



According to the Township Electricity Manger's Office, only six villages remain to have access to electricity. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW**

ABOUT 90 per cent of the rural areas in Dala township can now access electricity. According to the Township Electricity Manger's Office, only six villages remain to have access to electricity.

There are 54 villages in 23 village-tracts of Dala township in the Yangon region. Only six villages need to access electricity. Therefore, all the villages will have access to electricity very soon.

"In 2020-2021, only six villages are left to install electricity. These villages are Kyutawyo village, Chaw Lae Wa village, Wae Gyi village, Thayaw Than village, Thayargone village and Nyaung Laybin village. The 400-volt power lines and 11 kV power lines have also been installed. The electricity could be supplied

after the installation of the meter boxes. Now, about 90 per cent have accessed the electricity, said an official from the Township Electricity Manger's Office.

The electricity from 33/6.6 kV and 15+5 MVA transformer in Dala township and 33/11 kV and 5 MVA transformer in Pyawbwegyi village have already been distributed to 54 villages, including 24 wards and 23 village-tracts in Dala town.

The locals in Dala township have lagged in development on account of poor access to transportation. Now, transportation is getting better, and electricity is now available in their villages. Therefore, the education, health, social, economic and the lifestyle of the local residents will be developed. —Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)/GNLM

Healthcare provided at military hospitals

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states are providing medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 20,422 outpatients and 2,884 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medicals and nurses have conducted 856 major operations and 462 minor operations, and the serious cases are treated by the senior doctors. These hospitals managed for the birth of 1,272 babies, while 1,272 pregnant women were

taken to the respective military hospitals.

Officials from the respective commands also provided the patients with foods, according to the report of the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,
09974424848

NOTICE TO INFORM

THE Myanmar Police Force has issued a statement saying to report about those who have been issued the arrest warrants, for peace and stability in the country.

The statement said that a state of emergency had been declared in the country since 1 February, 2021, in accordance with Article 417 of the 2008 State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and efforts are being made to ensure the rule of law and regular functioning of the state machinery. Meanwhile, Min Ko Naing (a) Paw Oo Tun, Kyaw Min Yu (a) Jimmy, Htwe Lin (a) Lin Lin, Innsein Aung Soe, Myo Yan Naung Thein, Eaint Poe U (a) Ei Pansalo and Maung Maung Aye have been charged under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code in the relevant

courts for writing articles and speeches by using their popularity on social media that could harm the peace and order of the country, and the relevant courts have issued arrest warrants under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

As every citizen is responsible for the stability and peace of the country, if you find any fugitives mentioned above or if you have information about them, report to the nearest police station or call the telephone numbers issued in each state, region and Nay Pyi Taw and those who receive them will be taken action in accordance with the law.

Personal goods imported through Myawady land border

PERSONAL goods are being imported through the Myawady land border trade zone.

The personal goods consist of electronic items, foodstuffs, clothes and shoes, Nivea, Mistine, Bella, Promina, Karmart, Arche, C'Care, Lolane and Berina's facial foam, cosmetics and hair colour and shampoo.

Under the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Agreement on Import Licencing Procedures, cosmetics are permitted to import without requiring an export licence. Upon production of the import declaration form at the Customs Department, the goods can be imported.

Nevertheless, the chemicals needed for the production of the cosmetics can be imported only with the approval of the relevant ministry after obtaining an import licence.

According to the prevention of Hazard from Chemicals and Related Substances Rules issued under Notification 85/2015-2016 by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (formally The Ministry of Industry) on 12 January 2016, the cosmetic raw materials applied for import licence are the chemicals. So, the licences are being issued only with the approval of the Ministry of Industry.

The raw materials to produce the cosmetics are needed to systematically scrutinize that they are not harmful to the customers.

To enable issuance of the import licence by the Ministry of Industry, these chemical products will be sent to the Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Education to carry out the safety test for the manufacturers to be issued with the letters of recommendation that guarantee the safety of consumption if the test results are appropriate.

Although the cosmetic importers could import without having an import licence, the raw materials to produce the cosmetics are allowed to import only with the approval of the relevant department. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar avocados see good foreign demands

THE foreign countries have shown their interests in Myanmar avocado, said U Myo Nyunt, vice-chair of Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (Mandalay).

In 2019, Myanmar exported three varieties of avocados-Amara, Hass and Bucaneer to the UK as a trial. Myanmar avocado achieved good results in the UK market, and Germany and Italy also interested in Myanmar avocado.

“We received an offer to export avocado in the coming year. The avocado received good results in the British market. Singapore and Thailand also offered to import Myanmar avocado,” he said.



The avocado farmers grow good avocado varieties to export and the foreign countries make an offer between 1,000 and 2,000 tonnes of avocado.

Although Myanmar avocados are grown to penetrate the foreign market, it now mainly focuses on the local market.

If the fruits are grown in accordance with the international standards, they can more penetrate the foreign markets.

“Myanmar avocados have good foreign demands. We need systematic packaging for international markets. We have to grow the avocado to conform to international standards. We also urge the avocado farmers to ensure the fruit quality,” he added.

The avocado farmers grow good avocado varieties to export and the foreign countries make an offer between 1,000 and 2,000 tonnes of avocado.— Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/ GNLM

Farmers succeed in dragon fruit cultivation in Kyaukse

THE local farmers who grow dragon fruit using underground water in Kyaukse

Township are successfully cultivating the dragon fruits and fetching a good income.

Now, dragon fruits are being grown across the country. There are three types of

dragon fruit species — white, yellow and red.

“I have grown about 2,000 red dragon fruit species plants. The cultivation of them cost K2.2 million, including nursery plants and cultivation charges. After growing dragon fruits for three months, the plants needed to be fertilized. The dragon fruits are water-loving plants that need to be irrigated to keep the soil moist,” said U San Myint, a dragon fruit grower.

After one year, the fruits can be started to pick up. One box of dragon fruits contains 28 fruits if it is a big one and 32 fruits if it is a small one, which is priced between K12,000 or 15,000. If the plants have cared well, they can be harvested and sold for up to 17 years. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM



Now, dragon fruits are being grown across the country. There are three types of dragon fruit species -- white, yellow and red.

Request to health workers

1. It is appreciated for the strenuous efforts of the medical doctors, nurses, medical experts and other health works at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports at the front-line in the fight against prevention, containment and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
2. As the vaccination programme of COVID-19 is being conducted for the public and the real-time healthcare services are required for the people, all the staff members at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports are strongly urged to return to their duties with taking the well-being of patients into consideration.

Ministry of Health and Sports
8 February 2021

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

Over 200 million vaccine doses administered globally so far



A man gives a thumbs up as he receives a COVID-19 vaccine in Bandah Aceh, Indonesia. **PHOTO: AFP**

MORE than 200 million coronavirus vaccine doses have been administered in at least 107 countries and territories, according to an AFP count based on official sources Saturday.

In total 201,042,149 doses had been given worldwide by 1000 GMT -- a figure that does not include the latest data from China and Russia, who have stopped making their progress public in recent days.

Some 45 per cent of the injections took places in countries belonging to the wealthy

G7 club, whose members account for just 10 per cent of the global population.

Its seven countries - the US, Canada, Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Japan - promised on Friday to share doses more fairly with worse-off countries. G7 leaders plan to more than double their total support to worldwide coronavirus vaccinations, to \$7.5 billion, including through the World Health Organization-led Covax scheme. More broadly, 92 per cent of doses worldwide have been giv-

en in countries classified by the World Bank as "high-income" or "upper-middle income", accounting for around half of global population. Among the 29 countries the institution ranks as "low-income", only Guinea and Rwanda have begun vaccinating.

Israel is far ahead of any other country worldwide with almost half its population having received at least one vaccine dose. One in three Israelis has received both doses needed for full protection. — AFP ■

Britain calls for rich states to share vaccine with poor

BRITAIN has circulated a draft resolution to members of the UN Security Council calling on rich countries to donate doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to poorer and war-torn states, according to a text of the draft seen by AFP Friday.

The resolution, submitted Thursday by Britain to the other 14 members of the Security Council, "emphasises the need for solidarity, equity, and efficacy and invites donation of vaccine doses from developed economies to low- and middle-income countries and other countries in need."

The draft resolution was announced Wednesday by Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab during a session of the Security Council, and estimates that around 160 million people worldwide are living in a conflict zone or unstable circumstances that puts them at risk of not receiving a vaccination.

The text "calls for the strengthening of national and

multilateral approaches and international cooperation... in order to facilitate equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines including in armed conflict situations."

It also "demands that all parties to armed conflicts engage immediately in a durable, extensive, and sustained humanitarian pause to enable, inter alia, Covid-19 vaccinations in areas of armed conflict."

It calls on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who this week denounced the "wildly uneven and unfair" distribution of vaccines around the world, "to report on the implementation of this resolution, in particular a full assessment of all the impediments to the Covid-19 response, including vaccination programmes, in countries in situations of armed conflict and complex humanitarian emergencies, as necessary and at least every 90 days."

Last year, it took the Security Council, stalemated by Chi-

nese-US rivalry, three months to adopt its one and only resolution to date on the pandemic, which called upon warring factions to halt operations to allow for a vaccine to be distributed.

London hopes its resolution will be adopted in the coming weeks. But Russia could be difficult to convince after stating this week that the issue of vaccines did not fall within the ambit of the Security Council.

Meanwhile, a 34-year-old Canadian announced her plans to challenge the 71-year-old Guterres for the position of UN secretary-general when his current term expires in January 2022.

Arora Akanksha, who was born in India and currently works in the UN development agency, said in a letter that the United Nations was "not living up to our purpose or our promise. We are failing those we are here to serve. We are here to solve humanitarian crises, not perpetuate them." — AFP ■

Pandemic has plateaued, according to Sciensano

THE number of daily deaths in Belgium is declining, according to data published on Saturday morning by the Sciensano Public Health Institute. An average of 39 deaths per day was recorded from 10 to 16 February, a reduction of almost 5 per cent.

The daily average for new infections in the same period is 1,886 - another 5% decrease

when compared to the previous week.

Belgium is still seeing an average of 119 hospitalizations per day, with patient numbers rising slowly. 313 people are currently in intensive care.

Thus far, 4.18% of the population has received the first dose of the vaccine - around 385,000 people. — AFP ■

Mongolia to spend 79.3 mln USD on COVID-19 vaccines: minister

MONGOLIA will spend 226 billion Mongolian Tugriks (about 79.3 million U.S. dollars) to vaccinate its people against COVID-19, the country's Health Ministry said Saturday.

"The Mongolian government has approved a total of 226 billion Mongolian Tugriks for all activities related to COVID-19 vaccination, including the purchase, transportation, storage and inoculation,"

said Sereejav Enkhbold, the country's health minister.

Mongolia is planning to vaccinate at least 60 per cent of its 3.3 million people, or all adults in the country, against the coronavirus within 2021, with 20 per cent of them to be vaccinated under COVAX, a global initiative to ensure quick and equal access to vaccines against the virus, according to the minister. — Xinhua ■

U.S. COVID-19 vaccine rollout hindered by winter storms

U.S. COVID-19 vaccine rollout has been hindered by power outages amid the ongoing winter storms in much of the country, with nearly all states experiencing shipment delays.

U.S. government vaccine distribution partners "have all faced challenges as workers have been snowed in and unable to get to work to package and ship the vaccines," said Andy Slavitt, White House senior adviser for COVID-19 response, on Friday. The country has a backlog of six million vaccine doses due to storm weather, according to the White House.

More than 2,000 COVID-19 vaccination sites have been affected, slowing the pace of administering doses. Some vaccines were sitting "safe and sound" in factories and hubs, and approximately 1.4 million doses were being transported

Friday, according to Slavitt.

UPS and FedEx will be making Saturday deliveries, and all backlogged doses would be delivered "within the next week," he said. Slavitt also announced that the federal administration is working with Florida and Pennsylvania to open five additional vaccination centers.

California, the most populous U.S. state hit hard by the pandemic, has witnessed severe delay of vaccine shipments, leading to the cancellation of vaccination appointments.

Los Angeles has postponed more COVID-19 vaccination appointments originally scheduled for Saturday as vaccine shipments remain mired in transit. Local officials pushed back 12,500 appointments scheduled Friday because of supply disruptions. — Xinhua ■



The winter storm spawned at least four tornadoes, according to Atlanta-based weather.com. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia says registers third coronavirus vaccine

MOSCOW announced Saturday it had registered its third vaccine against the coronavirus and promised to introduce the jab to the Russian population by March.

Russia was the first country to register a vaccine against Covid-19 in August ahead of clinical trials, and the Sputnik V jab has been authorised in more than two dozen countries around the world.

“Today we note that a third vaccine, CoviVac, has been registered,” Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said at a government meeting broadcast on state television.

“And already in mid-March, the first 120,000 doses will be dis-

tributed within the civilian circulation,” he told the cabinet.

First greeted with scepticism, the effectiveness of Sputnik V was confirmed by the Lancet medical journal earlier this month.

Moscow relied on the nationwide rollout of the vaccine to stave off the impact of a second wave of infections that battered the country late last year.

But mortality data released recently revealed that Russia’s death rate was still one of the highest in the world.

President Vladimir Putin announced in October that the country had registered its second vaccine, EpiVacCorona, which



Russia has registered its third coronavirus vaccine named CoviVac developed by the Federal Scientific Centre for Research and Development of Immune and Biological Products. **PHOTO: TASS**

health officials had said would enter mass production this month. Mishustin said Saturday that

Russia had produced 10 million doses of Sputnik and 80,000 batches of the EpiVacCorona vaccine

developed by the Siberian Vektor laboratory.

With the introduction of the third jab Saturday, the prime minister said that: “Today Russia is the only country in which there are already three vaccines for the prevention of Covid infection.”

CoviVac was produced by the state-run Chumakov Centre based in Moscow, which employed a different method of development from Sputnik and EpiVacCorona, using an inactive virus. The vaccine is due to complete final stage clinical trial with 3,000 participants in March and has so far been recommended for people below the age of 60. — Tass ■

Argentina president tells health minister to quit over vaccine line-jumping



Health Minister Gines Gonzalez Garcia was asked to step down after it emerged that people close to him had skipped the line for a Covid-19 vaccination. **PHOTO: © JUAN MABROMATA, AFP**

ARGENTINA’S President Alberto Fernandez asked his health minister to resign Friday after it emerged that friends of his had skipped the line for a Covid-19 vaccination.

So far only health workers have been vaccinated in Argentina and vaccinations for people aged over 70 only began on Wednesday in the province of Buenos Aires. The scandal broke

after a 71-year-old journalist, Horacio Verbitsky, announced on the radio that, owing to his longstanding friendship with Health Minister Gines Gonzalez Garcia, he had already been able to get vaccinated in his office. Local media reported that other people close to the government were also vaccinated at the health ministry. Fernandez, who is in his 60s and was vaccinated in front of cameras to encourage Argentinians to sign up, ordered his chief of staff to ask for the minister’s resignation, officials said. Argentina, with 44 million inhabitants, has recorded some two million Covid-19 cases and suffered more than 50,000 deaths. —AFP ■

3-month gap between Oxford vaccine jabs gives better efficacy: Study

A three-month interval between doses of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine results in higher vaccine efficacy than a six-week gap, according to a new study which says the first dose can offer up to 76 per cent protection in the months between the two jabs.

The results of the analysis from a phase 3 randomized controlled trial, published in The Lancet journal, suggest that the interval between doses can be safely extended to three months given the protection a single dose offers. According to the researchers, including those from the University of Oxford in the UK, this dosage regimen is beneficial while vaccine supplies are initially limited, and may allow countries to immunise a larger proportion of the population more

rapidly.

“Vaccine supply is likely to be limited, at least in the short term, and so policy-makers must decide how best to deliver doses to achieve the greatest public health benefit,” said study lead author Professor Andrew Pollard from the University of Oxford.

Mr Pollard believes policies of initially vaccinating more people with a single dose may provide greater immediate population protection than immunising half the number of people with two doses, especially in places where the Oxford vaccine is in limited supply. —ANI ■



A three-month interval between doses of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine results in higher vaccine efficacy than a six-week gap, according to a new study which says the first dose can offer up to 76 per cent protection in the months between the two jabs. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Virus outbreak hits Chinese community in Cambodia

AN outbreak of coronavirus has hit the Chinese expat community in Cambodia, the country’s Premier Hun Sen said Saturday, a setback in the Southeast Asian nation’s otherwise successful containment efforts.

The kingdom has so far fared well in tackling the virus and life in the capital Phnom Penh has largely returned to normal.

But a group of Chinese nationals who underwent testing to obtain medical certificates for overseas travel recorded positive results on Saturday, sparking fears of a wider outbreak in the community.

“We have discovered a big community infection with 32 cases... this is a bad situation for us,” Hun Sen said during a speech broadcast on state-run TV.

“Those found positive today are all Chinese.”

The increasing presence of Chinese businesses across the kingdom has heightened anti-Chinese sentiment among some Cambodians, and Hun Sen urged people not to discriminate against Chinese nationals because of the latest outbreak.

The strongman prime minister, one of the world’s longest serving leaders, is a staunch ally of Beijing, and Cambodia receives billions of dollars in soft loans and investment from China.

Early in the pandemic many countries closed their borders to China, where the virus was first detected, but Hun Sen refused to follow suit and even travelled to Beijing to meet with leader Xi Jinping last February in a show of solidarity. —AFP ■

Romanian homeless people made a vaccine priority

ALMOST 300 homeless people have been vaccinated against coronavirus in Romania, making it one of the first European countries to single out people who are sleeping rough, health authorities said Saturday.

“These people are among the most exposed to infection risk. It’s hard for most of them to follow infection control measures,” junior health minister Andrei Baciu told AFP.

Bucharest decided to move the homeless up the priority scale -- following in Denmark’s footsteps -- after pressure from charity groups.

Now people sleeping rough are on par with the over-65s, chronically ill people and teachers, and just below health workers.

Mobile vaccination teams have visited shelters in several towns including the capital over the past few days. —AFP ■

Vaccination gains momentum

Vaccination shots for the elder people aged 65 and above in coming weeks and our country is on the road towards the end of the pandemic that has upended life and taken lives of over 3,000 people in our country and has disrupted our economy.

As the vaccination programme gains momentum, we see the beginning of our victory against the pandemic. Meanwhile, we are confident that our people will also be patient and wait for their turn with trust and confidence.

We appeal all people to abide by COVID-19 health rules and guidelines during the period when the vaccines are still not available. And, those who have been vaccinated against the virus are urged not to even think of putting the mask away anytime soon.

About 70 per cent of our population will be vaccinated against COVID-19 in 2021 and 2022.

Sixteen days after the beginning of vaccination, with 1.5 million vaccines donated by the Government of India, two million doses of vaccines purchased from India arrived on 11 February.

Meanwhile, vaccines provided under the COVAX Facility will arrive in March and vaccines bought by the state budget will arrive in April.

The coming months can bring logistics, public relations and communications challenges for the government and health authorities.

We have a long way to go until the majority of our citizens are vaccinated, but we should all be grateful to see the progress being made and keep the faith that a return to normalcy is on the horizon.

A major UK study has confirmed that most people who have been infected with the coronavirus have antibodies in their blood for at least six months. Earlier, the consensus on viral immune response had considered three months as a minimum period during which one was highly unlikely to be reinfected.

But, we would like to urge all those who have been vaccinated or not to follow the basic rules and regulations — including staying masked and socially distanced until we are out of the woods.

As the progress of vaccination is being made, patience is required.



Understanding Earth: What's Up with Precipitation

Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

Water—the main reason for life on Earth—continuously circulates through one of Earth's most powerful systems: the water cycle. Water flows endlessly between the ocean, atmosphere, and land. Earth's water is finite, meaning that the amount of water in, on, and above our planet does not increase or decrease.

Of all the water that exists on our planet, roughly 97% is saltwater and less than 3% is fresh water. Most of Earth's fresh water is frozen in glaciers, ice caps, or is deep underground in aquifers. Less than 1% of Earth's water is fresh water that is easily accessible to us to meet our needs, and most of that water is replenished by precipitation—a vital component of the water cycle, affecting every living thing on Earth.

Precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapour that falls quickly from a cloud. The main forms of precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, graupel (soft hail or snow pellets), and hail. While the precipitation is the ultimate source of the fresh water we use in our daily lives, this essential natural resource is not distributed evenly across our planet. On land, some places are drenched with rain, such as temperate and tropical rainforests. Other locations receive little rain and snow and are so dry that communities, such as Las Vegas, Nevada, recycle water that has been used bathing and cleaning—known as gray water—to water their gardens.

Understanding the role of precipitation in Earth's water cycle and how it interacts with other Earth systems requires a global view. The distribution of water throughout the atmosphere and how it moves, changing between its solid, liquid, and gaseous forms, is a powerful vehicle for redistributing Earth's energy and influences the behaviour of the planet's weather, climate, and other environmental systems.

Measuring Precipitation: On the Ground and from Space

Today, scientists can measure precipitation directly—using ground-based instruments such as rain gauges—or indirectly—using



The Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Core Observatory (SOURCE: NASA)

remote sensing techniques (e.g., from radar systems, aircraft, and Earth-observing satellites).

Rain gauges measure precipitation amounts at a given location. Oftentimes measurements from an individual rain gauge are used to represent precipitation conditions across larger areas, i.e., between gauge sites. However, that isn't always the best assumption. The reality is that precipitation may fall more-or less-intensely at the location of the gauge—or it may miss the gauge entirely. Damage or obstructions to a gauge or the presence of strong winds can also introduce error.

Ground-based weather radars emerged during World War II and have since been used to observe precipitation, mostly over land. Ground-based radars send out pulses of microwave energy in narrow beams that scan in a circular pattern. When the microwave pulse encounters precipitation particles in the atmosphere, the energy is scattered in all directions, sending some energy back to the radar. These measurements are used to estimate intensity, altitude, precipitation type (e.g., rain, snow, hail), and motion. Obtaining continuous measurements of precipitation from ground-based systems (e.g., from rain gauges and radar systems) presents a challenge due to large gaps between monitoring sites on land and huge gaps over the ocean.

Earth-observing satellites can provide frequent estimates of precipitation at a global scale. To do this, satellites carry instruments designed to observe

specific atmospheric characteristics such as cloud temperatures and precipitation particles, or hydrometers. These data are extremely useful for filling in data gaps that exist between rain gauge and ground-based radar sites and offer insights into when, where and how much precipitation is falling worldwide. Satellite data also provide a unique vantage point. While ground-based instruments can directly measure or estimate how much precipitation falls to the ground, satellite instruments estimate the amount of electromagnetic radiation (or energy) that is emitted or reflected either from the tops of the clouds or from the rain droplets themselves, providing a top-down view. Spaceborne radar instruments can even observe the three-dimensional structure of precipitation. Such satellite observations are detailed enough to allow scientists to distinguish between rain, snow, and other precipitation types, as well as observe the structure, intensity, and dynamics of storms.

Late 1997 saw the launch of the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM), a joint mission between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). TRMM measured heavy to moderate rainfall over tropical and subtropical regions over 17 years, until the mission ended in April 2015. Measurements from TRMM advanced our understanding of tropical rainfall, particularly over the ocean, and provide three-dimensional images of storm intensity and structure from space using the first satellite-borne weather radar.

TRMM's successor is another Joint NASA-JAXA mission called the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Core Observatory, launched on February 28, 2014 from the Tenegashima Space Center, in Japan. The Core Observatory carries two instruments—the Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR) and GPM Microwave imager (GMI)—collecting observations that allow scientists to dissect storms. Like a diagnostic CAT scan, the DPR provides a three-dimensional profile that shows the intensities of liquid and solid precipitation. The Core Observatory is part of an international constellation of domestic and international satellites that together provide global observations of precipitation from space—called the GPM mission. Together, the constellation observes rain, snow, and other precipitation data worldwide every three hours.

Other United States (as well as international) satellites provide additional information about the environment that can be used to increase our understanding of Earth's atmosphere and precipitation. For example, NASA's CloudSat mission, The joint NASA/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (Suomi NPP) satellite and NASA's Aqua satellite. Furthermore, the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES), built by NASA and operated by NOAA, observe clouds in infrared and visible wavelengths, allowing scientists and weather forecasters to routinely track the movement of storm systems and how they change over time.

Combining Earth Observations to Gain a Global Perspective

Like parts of the human body, Earth's "spheres" (e.g., atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere) interact with one another in complex ways. For example, Earth's weather and climate systems are fundamentally linked and impacted by interactions with the ocean and land.

To understand Earth as an integrated system, NASA collaborates with its domestic and international partners to support satellite missions and field campaigns that measure various environmental parameters on a variety of spatial and temporal scales. These observational data, coupled with numerical computer models, increasingly allow scientists to better comprehend interactions between Earth's components, or "spheres," and more accurately model weather and climate scenarios such as extreme weather events (e.g., hurricanes) and El Niño.

For example, to study hurricanes, scientists use data from a suite of instruments that orbit Earth on several spacecraft to collect information about different aspects of the storm, such as sea surface temperature, humidity, rainfall rates, cloud heights, and surface wind speed. Observing these contributing factors helps scientists to better understand the processes involved in storm formation, movement, and intensification. Furthermore, scientists can ingest datasets such as these into computer models that allow operational forecasters to better predict where, when, and how strong a hurricane become.

The ability to observe global precipitation also enable scientists to better understand large-scale climate phenomena such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle. The ENSO cycle describes fluctuations in ocean temperature in the equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean. The two modes of this oscillation, El Niño and La Niña, impact global weather patterns and can bring severe drought conditions or intense rainfall events to different parts of the world. While the overall global total rainfall changes very little,

global observations of precipitation can show how precipitation is redistributed to specific areas.

Future Earth-observing satellite missions, such as the Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System (CYGNSS) and the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission, are scheduled to launch in the coming years. CYGNSS will collect the first frequent space-based measurements of surface wind speeds in the inner core of tropical cyclones to better understand their rapid intensification. The SWOT mission will contribute to a better understanding of the world's ocean and terrestrial surface waters. These and other missions will ultimately enable new data products to aid our understanding of the atmosphere, land, and ocean and their roles in Earth's changing climate for many years to come.

Using Precipitation Data in the Real World

Humans are directly impacted by changes in precipitation on a range of scales. For example, an increase in rainfall can cause flooding and/or landslides that affect individual homes, cities, or even entire countries. Flood disasters and torrential rainfall can also have negative health impacts, such as increasing the spread of diseases like malaria. Drought conditions can impact a region's susceptibility to wildfire or diminish crop yields for local farmers—both of which can have cascading effects on the local to regional economy.

Access to accurate estimates of precipitation can improve our understanding of growing seasons or indicate where international aid agencies should deliver aid. Among other uses, precipitation and other Earth-observing datasets from NASA are used for forecasting tropical cyclones; monitoring soil moisture conditions and fresh water availability; and predicting flood and drought conditions, landslides, crop yields, and water-related illnesses.

Source: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), US.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organization transferred

U Min Min, Director-General of Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce, has been transferred to Director-General of the Union Minister Office from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 20 February 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21 February 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Shan State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions and Kachin, Chin and Kayah states and isolated in Lower Sagaing, and Bago regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts and about (4-6) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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UN chief hails U.S. return to Paris Agreement, calls for climate action

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday hailed the re-entry of the United States into the Paris Agreement on climate change and called for global action to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

"Today is a day of hope, as the United States officially rejoins the Paris Agreement. This is good news for the United States, and for the world," Guterres told a virtual event to mark the U.S. re-entry.

"For the past four years, the absence of a key player created a gap in the Paris Agreement, a missing link that weakened the whole. So today, as we mark the United States re-entry into this treaty, we also recognize its restoration, in its entirety, as its creators intended," he said. "Welcome back."

The United States signed the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016, and expressed its consent



Photo taken in The Hague, the Netherlands, on Jan. 25, 2021 shows screens displaying International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and co-chair of the Global Commission on Adaptation (L-R), attending the opening session of the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 via video link. **PHOTO: CAS/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

to be bound by the agreement by acceptance on Sept. 3, 2016. Donald Trump, shortly after taking office as U.S. president, announced in June 2017 that his country would cease all participation in the agreement. The U.S.

withdrawal officially took effect on Nov. 4, 2020.

On his first day in the White House, President Joe Biden signed a new instrument of acceptance, which was deposited with the UN secretary-general

on the same day, enabling the U.S. re-entry on Feb. 19, 2021, in accordance with provisions of the Paris Agreement.

Guterres on Friday called for U.S. and global action to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Paris Agreement is a historic achievement. But the commitments made so far are not enough. And even those commitments made in Paris are not being met, said Guterres.

The six years since 2015, when the Paris Agreement was negotiated, have been the six hottest years on record. Carbon dioxide levels are at record highs. Fires, floods and other extreme weather events are getting worse, in every region, he said. "If we don't change course, we could face a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 3 degrees this century."

This year is pivotal for global climate action, and the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, in November will be a make-or-break occasion. Governments will take decisions that will determine the future of people and the planet, he said.

—Xinhua ■

Brussels approves EU-UK personal data flows

THE European Commission lifted the threat of crucial data flows between Europe and Britain being blocked in a move that would have crippled business activity as it said Friday that privacy safeguards in the UK met European standards.

In a key post-Brexit decision, the EU executive said that British authorities had sufficient measures in place to protect European users' personal data, freeing up data transfers for businesses as well as for police.

The adequacy decision, to be formally adopted by the 27 member states, would ensure that data protection will "never be compromised when

personal data travel across the Channel," said EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders.

Businesses will breathe a sigh of relief at the decision, with more and more companies relying on cross-border cloud computing and other technology to function every day.

This was made especially clear during the COVID-19 pandemic as companies, schools and governments increasingly went online, counting on big tech's networks to operate.

A negative decision would have blocked the transfer of data from EU-based companies to the UK, crippling activity. —AFP ■

As peace deal drifts, South Sudan risks fresh crisis



The peace process has drifted as South Sudan reels from economic crisis, brutal ethnic violence, an armed insurgency, and its worst hunger crisis since declaring independence from Sudan in 2011. **PHOTO: AFP**

ON the eve of its first anniversary, South Sudan's unity government is in trouble, with the country's fragile peace process in doubt and old rivalries again threatening a return to war.

President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar, for years on opposing sides of the battlefield, formed a coalition government on February 22, 2020 after nearly a year of delay and haggling along with international pressure.

The agreement to share power was born from a truce that ended five years of bloodshed in the world's newest country that cost nearly 400,000 lives and drove four million people from their homes.

That ceasefire still largely holds -- but it is being sorely tested, observers say.

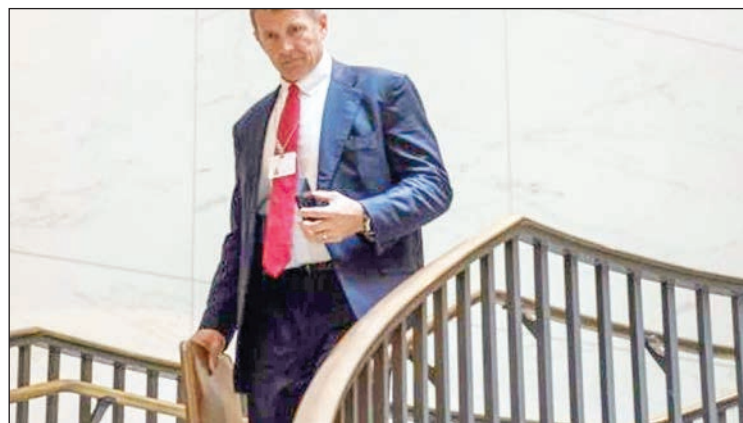
Apart from forming a gov-

ernment in Juba, almost none of the other provisions of the peace accord signed by Kiir and Machar have been honoured a year after the pair shook hands.

National parliament has not convened, contested ministerial posts remain unfilled, and Kiir and Machar's troops have not unified into a single army -- a critical safeguard against another outbreak of fighting.

"With both men continuing to command their own separate forces, the journey back to war could be short," said the International Crisis Group in a February report. The peace process has drifted as South Sudan reels from economic crisis, brutal ethnic violence, an armed insurgency, and its worst hunger crisis since declaring independence from Sudan in 2011. —AFP ■

UN report finds Trump ally violated Libya arms embargo: US media



Erik Prince, founder of private military contractor Blackwater USA, violated a UN arms embargo on Libya, a confidential report has reportedly found. **PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP/FILE**

PRIVATE security contractor and ally of former US President Trump Erik Prince violated a United Nations arms embargo on Libya, UN investigators have found in a report detailed by US media on Friday.

The confidential report to the Security Council, obtained

by the New York Times and the Washington Post, said that Prince deployed a force of foreign mercenaries and weapons to strongman Khalifa Haftar, who has fought to overthrow the UN-backed Libyan government, in 2019.

The \$80 million operation included plans to form a hit

squad to track and kill Libyan commanders opposed to Haftar -- including some who were also European Union citizens, the New York Times said.

Prince, a former Navy SEAL and the brother of Trump's education secretary Betsy DeVos, drew infamy as the head of the Blackwater private security firm, whose contractors were accused of killing unarmed Iraqi civilians in Baghdad in 2007.

Four who were convicted were pardoned by Trump last year.

The accusation exposes Prince to possible UN sanctions, including a travel ban, the Times said.

Prince did not cooperate with the UN inquiry and his lawyer declined to comment to the New York Times, it added. —AFP ■

G7 leaders pledge support for Tokyo Olympics

LEADERS from the Group of Seven industrialized nations have pledged full support for Japan to host a “safe and secure” Olympic Games this summer.

“We support the commitment of Japan to hold the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 in a safe and secure manner this summer as a symbol of global unity in overcoming COVID-19,” read a joint statement released after a virtual meeting of leaders chaired by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday night.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told the meeting that Japan is determined to host the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer despite COVID-19, briefing Tokyo’s preparations for the Games with the International Olympic Committee.

Suga told reporters after



This photo taken on Nov. 10, 2020 shows the illuminated Olympic rings outside Tokyo’s National Stadium, the main venue for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. PHOTO: XINHUA

the meeting, “I was able to gain support from all the leaders. It was so encouraging.”

G7 includes the seven leading industrialized countries of Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada. Suga, who took

office last September, was attending the meeting for the first time, as were U.S. President Joe Biden and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. The postponed 2020 Olympic Games has been rescheduled for July 23-August 8, 2021. — Xinhua ■

‘Violence unacceptable’ Spain PM says as rapper protests rage



Protests that began in Catalonia have now spread to other cities, including Madrid. PHOTO: AFP

SPAIN’S government will confront all forms of violence, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Friday as violent protests over the jailing of a rapper for controversial tweets ran into a fourth night.

“Democracy never, ever justifies violence,” the Socialist leader said in his first public condemnation of the unrest which began on Tuesday and has been applauded by his junior coalition partner, the hard-left Podemos.

Spain’s conservative opposition had lambasted the premier

for not publicly condemning the violence, calling on him to break with Podemos over its support for the demonstrators.

Angry demonstrations first erupted on Tuesday night after police detained rapper Pablo Hasel, 32, who was holed up in a university in Catalonia to avoid going to jail in a case that has raised concerns about free speech in Spain. Violence is an attack on democracy.

Consequently, the Spanish government will confront any kind of violence,” Sanchez said.

“In a full democracy – which

Spain is – the use of any kind of violence is unacceptable. There is no exception to this rule,” he added, in reference to remarks by Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias who said Hasel’s jailing raised questions about Spain’s democracy.

About 100 people have been arrested since the protests began, including 16 overnight in Barcelona and the eastern city of Valencia, and scores have been injured, including a young woman who lost an eye after being hit by a foam round fired by police on Tuesday. — AFP ■

Russia announces first known case of H5N8 avian flu in humans

Russia said Saturday its scientists had detected the first case of transmission of the H5N8 strain of avian flu to humans and had alerted the World Health Organization.

In televised remarks, the head of Russia’s health watchdog Rospotrebnadzor, Anna Popova, said scientists at the Vektor laboratory had isolated the strain’s genetic material from seven workers at a poultry farm in southern Russia, where an outbreak was recorded among the birds in December.

The workers did not suffer any serious health consequences, she added.

“Information about the world’s first case of transmission of the avian flu (H5N8) to humans has already been sent to the World Health Organization,” Popova said.

There are different subtypes of avian influenza viruses.

While the highly contagious strain H5N8 is lethal for birds it has never before been reported to have spread to humans. —AFP ■



Anna Popova, praised “the important scientific discovery,” saying “time will tell” if the virus can further mutate. PHOTO: Dmitry Astakhov, Sputnik, Government Pool PHOTO/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kremlin critic Navalny to serve prison time as Moscow court dismisses appeal

A Moscow court on Saturday upheld a ruling to jail the Kremlin’s most prominent opponent Alexei Navalny, sealing his first lengthy prison sentence in a decade of legal battles with Russian authorities. Judge Dmitry Balashov dismissed Navalny’s appeal against a recent decision to imprison him for violating the terms of a suspended sentence on embezzlement charges. The anti-corruption campaigner was ordered on February 2 to serve time in a penal colony for breaching parole terms while in Germany recovering from a nerve agent poisoning he blames on the Kremlin. —AFP ■

5.2 million people displaced in DR Congo, including 3 million children: UN

There are about 5.2 million displaced people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) – about half of whom were forced to flee their homes in the last 12 months, according to United Nations data. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Friday released a report Fear and Flight: An uprooted generation of children at risk in the DR Congo, noting that of the total number of displaced people, three million are children. Whole villages have been set ablaze, health centres and schools ransacked, and entire families – including children – hacked to death, in a series of merciless attacks in eastern DR Congo by fighters using machetes and heavy weapons, said UNICEF. “Displaced children know nothing but fear, poverty, and violence. Generation after generation can think only of survival”, Edouard Beigbeder, UNICEF Representative for the DR Congo, said. — Xinhua ■

Gov't, TEPCO ordered to pay 278 mil. yen over Fukushima crisis



Plaintiffs' lawyers hold banners in front of the Tokyo High Court on Feb. 19, 2021, that say they have won a damages suit against the government and Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. over the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A Japanese high court on Friday overturned a lower court decision that dismissed the state's responsibility in the 2011 nuclear crisis, ordering

both the government and the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant's operator to pay damages to 43 people who had to evacuate from their

hometowns as a result.

The Tokyo High Court ordered the state to cover the total damages of 278 million yen (\$2.63 million) together with Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc., following the precedent set by the Sendai High Court last September.

It marked the third high court ruling among 30 similar lawsuits filed across the country, and the second in which both the state and the utility were ordered to pay damages over radioactive contamination following the meltdowns at the plant.

Presiding Judge Yukio Shiraiishi said it was "extremely unreasonable" for the government not to use its regulatory power to force the operator widely known as TEPCO to take preventive measures against

the tsunami that triggered the world's worst nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

If it had done so, "the impact of the tsunami would have been significantly reduced, and the facility would not have lost all power," he said.

The court also ruled that the evacuees should be compensated for their mental distress, in addition to the 100,000 yen per month to be awarded to them as consolation for prolonged evacuation. In a lawsuit filed with the Chiba District Court, 45 people collectively sought around 2.8 billion yen in damages from the government and the plant operator after they were forced to move from Fukushima Prefecture to Chiba Prefecture, near Tokyo. — Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. agricultural exports to China to hit record high in 2021: USDA

U.S. agricultural exports to China are expected to hit a record 31.5 billion U.S. dollars in fiscal year (FY) 2021 that ends on Sept. 30, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said on Thursday.

The figure is 4.5 billion dollars higher than the department's previous forecast in November, due to the strong first-quarter shipments and surging sales to China, the USDA said in its Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade.

"October-December exports reached a historic high of \$14.4 billion, largely a result of strong shipments of soybeans, corn, sorghum, wheat, cotton, and chicken paws. Outstanding sales of many of these products remain high, with corn sales at unprecedented levels," the USDA said.

China is forecast to remain as the largest U.S. agricultural market in FY 2021, followed by Canada and Mexico, according to the USDA. — Xinhua ■

Google fires another lead AI ethics researcher

GOOGLE said Friday it fired a lead artificial intelligence ethics researcher, following controversy last year over the tech giant's dismissal of a Black colleague who was an outspoken diversity advocate.

"I'm fired," Margaret Mitchell announced on Twitter.

Google told AFP that after reviewing "this manager's conduct, we confirmed that there

were multiple violations of our code of conduct, as well as of our security policies, which included the exfiltration of confidential business-sensitive documents and private data of other employees."

Mitchell's dismissal came a day after Google named one of its few Black executives, Marian Croak, as head of a new centre of expertise on responsible AI

within Google Research.

"For the past six years she's been a vice president at Google working on everything from site reliability engineering to bringing public Wi-Fi to India's railroads," senior programme manager Sepi Hejazi Moghadam said of Croak in a blog post announcing her new position.

Mitchell was suspended from her job last month in re-

sponse to her downloading and sharing company documents, according to a Google statement to Axios, which reported that the documents were aimed at showing discriminatory treatment of Timnit Gebru, who was fired last year.

In a tweet early this month, Mitchell said she was troubled by the firing of Gebru, her co-leader on the AI ethics team. —AFP ■

Winter weather closes Texas chip plants, worsening shortages

THE winter storm ravaging the United States has forced the shutdown of computer chip manufacturing in Texas, threatening to worsen a global semiconductor shortage.

NXP Semiconductors, a major provider of automotive and mobile phone chips, said its plant in Austin, Texas was closed amid the state's electric power difficulties.

"We are carefully monitoring the situation and will resume operations in our Austin facilities as soon as possible," said David Reed, executive vice president for operations at the Dutch-based company. Infineon Technologies said it was given notice this week that power would be turned off for its plant in Austin. "This gave us a few hours to prepare for the disruption and we were

able to put the factory into a safe state and protect our employees and production inventory," a statement from the German-based tech firm said. "We have immediately set-up a task force, which is continuously monitoring the situation and executing mitigation measures." Operations were also suspended at Texas facilities of South Korea's Samsung, according to media reports. The news comes amid a worsening shortage of semiconductors affecting a variety of sectors including automobiles, mobile phones, game consoles and more. Manufacturers have faced challenges in meeting strong consumer electronics demand during the pandemic, while meeting needs of other sectors.

The Biden administration



Electric power disruptions in Texas resulting from deadly winter storms has also forced the closure of semiconductor plants, worsening a global chip shortage. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

said last week it was assessing immediate steps to address the semiconductor shortage and planned an executive order to shore up critical supply chain items.

The White House said the administration wants a "comprehensive review of supply chains for critical goods" that can guide both short- and long-term actions. —AFP ■

Paris authority wins Airbnb court case over rental restrictions

PARIS authorities are celebrating after winning a court case against Airbnb and other short-term holiday rental companies that they hope will boost the city's property market.

France's Court of Cassation ruled that regulations designed to counter the impact of Airbnb and other short-term rental sites on the local property market were "proportionate" and in line with European law. The decision could now encourage other European cities to take similar steps.

"Total victory for the City of Paris against Airbnb and fraudsters who rent their properties illegally," deputy mayor Ian Brossat, who is in charge of housing, wrote on Twitter, saying it ended five years of court battles. — Xinhua ■

Sterling soars close to three-year high above \$1.40

THE British pound soared above \$1.40 on Friday for the first time in almost three years, propelled by a vaccination drive that has boosted economic recovery hopes.

Sterling breached the symbolic barrier for the first time since April 2018, reaching \$1.4008.

“The markets are forward-looking and any softness in data during this lockdown is continuing to be shrugged off,” ThinkMarkets analyst Fawad Razaqzada told AFP after official UK figures Friday showed slumping retail sales and soaring government borrowing.

“Let’s not forget that the UK also avoided a ‘no deal’ Brexit at the end of last year, which is one of the key reasons... (for) \$1.40, a level where it was

trading around before that 2016 referendum” in favor of Britain’s exit from the European Union.

The British currency has risen more than 2 percent against the euro in February, as the aggressive rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program in the UK raised expectations its economy will recover faster than that of its European peers.

Britain reported this week it has vaccinated 15.6 million people with a first dose against COVID-19 so far, the fastest rollout per capita of any large country.

Neil Jones, head of FX sales at Mizuho Bank, said sterling is benefiting from the fact that the currency market is already looking at a “post-COVID world”. —AFP ■

Bitcoin market hits \$1.0 trillion in value

THE total value of all bitcoin topped \$1.0 trillion on Friday, capping a spectacular record-breaking week for the world’s most popular cryptocurrency.

At about 1930 GMT, bitcoin zoomed to its latest all-time pinnacle at \$55.155 after a string of corporate giants embraced the digital unit.

With more than 18.6 million bitcoins created since the digital currency was launched in 2009, the entire market is now worth \$1.015 trillion, according to data provider Coinmarketcap.com.

“This is certainly big news for the industry and

this would not have been possible without the involvement of smart money,” said AvaTrade analyst Naeem Aslam.

“The reason that one trillion dollar market cap is significant because not many believed that bitcoin can achieve this. Now, we have a real number which is massive in size and we are going to get more investors joining this rally,” he added.

Bitcoin has set a blistering record pace, blasting past \$50,000 on Tuesday, a week after Tesla revealed it had invested \$1.5 billion in the unit. —AFP ■



The price of a bitcoin has rise by nearly 90 per cent since the start of this year. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Bolsonaro appoints army reserve general to head Petrobras



In this file photo taken on December 14, 2018, then-President-elect Jair Bolsonaro (L) and General Joaquim Silva e Luna attend a ceremony at a navy base in Itaguaí city, Rio de Janeiro state. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BRAZIL’S far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, appointed an army reserve general to lead state-owned energy giant Petrobras, after criticizing several successive increases in the price of fuel.

“The government decided to appoint Joaquim Silva e Luna to fulfill a new mission, as... president

of Petrobras, after closing the cycle, exceeding two years, of the current president Roberto Castello Branco,” said a brief note from the Ministry of Mines and Energy, published by the president on his Facebook account.

Silva e Luna, formerly the defense minister under president Michel Temer,

had been serving as general director of the Itaipu Binacional dam.

His nomination will have to be confirmed by the Petrobras board of directors. Earlier Friday Bolsonaro had announced that there would be “changes” at Petrobras.

“We will never interfere in this great com-

pany, nor in its pricing policy, but people cannot be surprised with certain increases,” Bolsonaro said during a morning event in the northeastern state of Pernambuco. He did not give further details.

His statements were followed by a sharp drop in the oil company’s share prices. They closed down 7.92 percent Friday, with preferred shares down 6.63 per cent.

Petrobras has increased fuel prices four times so far in 2021, a cumulative rise of nearly 35 per cent. The price of gas cylinders, widely used by poor families, has also increased considerably this year, a new blow to people already severely affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. —AFP ■

China-Europe Railway Express brings more foreign products to inland China

FREIGHT trains along the China-Europe route continued to deliver a wide variety of goods and products from countries along the Belt and Road to their final destination in China during the Spring Festival, providing consumers with more choices during the country’s most important traditional festival, Chinanews.com reported on Feb.17.

In recent days, the

freight trains have transported foreign commodities, including pure milk, chocolate, and cold-chain foods all the way to Zhengzhou, capital city of central China’s Henan province.

Transporting these foreign products to China’s market amid a worldwide pandemic is a difficult task. “We must strengthen epidemic control measures throughout the whole pro-



A distribution center for the China-Europe Railway Express in Zhengzhou. PHOTO: LI ZHANGPENG

cedure, while keeping the products fresh,” stated Li Ming, deputy station-master of Putian Station

on the Zhengzhou section operated by China Railway Zhengzhou Bureau Group Co., Ltd. — Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SAN PEDRO VOY. NO. (106S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SAN PEDRO VOY. NO. (106S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (019N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (019N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES



The photo shows Mindon earthen road section in Dawei-Hteekhee road.

Dawei-Hteekhee road to get easy access to Thailand's Bangkok

By Zin Lin Myint, Translated by Robert Tun Win

Infrastructures such as buildings, transport, water and power supplies are necessary for the state of being perfect in a bid to develop the economy of the State. Especially, transport plays a crucial role in carrying out development tasks for a region of a country. Moreover, it is also important to create travel routes to neighbouring countries besides smooth and secure local transport links. With the aim of developing travel routes, plans are underway to build a motor road linking Dawei Special Economic Zone with Hteekhee.

The plan is to build a motor road from Dawei SEZ in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, to Hteekhee on the border of Myanmar and Thailand. Dawei-Hteekhee motor road will be about 140 KM long, and it will be a two-lane road. It

will be as good as the best in the world. Upon completion, anyone can travel to Bangkok, Thailand, from Hteekhee within two hours.

Dawei-Hteekhee is currently an earthen road, and it will be upgraded into a tarred road. After upgrading the road, it will take about two and half hours to travel to Hteekhee on the border of Myanmar and Thailand from Dawei SEZ, and it will be a two-hour drive from Hteekhee to Bangkok, Thailand. It will take about four and a half hours to get to Bangkok from Dawei.

The arrangement has been made to invite tenders for the construction of Dawei-Hteekhee motor road in the mid-year of 2021, reported by the Management Committee of Dawei Special Economic Zone. With the assistance of the Neighbouring Countries Economic

Development Corporation Agency of Thailand (NEDA), efforts had to be made in acquiring loans to implement Dawei-Hteekhee motor road project, which was approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in April of 2017, and the project is now to begin the work.

The Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Corporation Agency of Thailand (NEDA) will issue out the loans to be spent on the implementation of Dawei-Hteekhee motor road project. As regards, the Ministry of Construction acted as the responsible ministry, and environmental and social impact assessments were carried out and recently approved.

Upon completion of upgrading the Dawei-Hteekhee motor road project, not only Taninthayi Region but also Dawei SEZ will witness

great progress relating to society and economics, thereby promoting bilateral trade cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand which can expand the economic area and travel service between the two countries through mutual friendship and goodwill. The Dawei-Hteekhee road is currently an earthen road facing landslides and road erosion which cause road damages and traffic congestion in the rainy season. Rainwater causes the surface under the ground to soften, making it full of mud. In this state, traffic congestions and accidents come about thereby resulting in a barrier to freight transport and travel. For that reason, Dawei-Hteekhee road will be upgraded into a tarred one.

It was learnt that the Taninthayi regional government and land



management committee are responsible for handling land compensation for moving houses from the project area. There are some damages caused by rainwater on this motor road between the exit of Myitta and Ai-waing, which can be slippery. Therefore, the drivers have to use high gears to pass through large hollows that appeared on the road. Landslides occur from time to time. Machinery has to be used in this regard. These difficulties will not be found any longer once the road has been upgraded, and it will be smooth and secure enough for the vehicles to drive on.

Dawei-Hteekhee trade route is 97 miles long—34 miles long from Dawei to Myitta and 63 miles long from Myitta to Hteekhee. There is a distance of 43 miles from Hteekhee to Kanchanaburi of Thailand. There is also a distance of 87 miles from Hteekhee to Bangkok, Thailand.

Hteekhee is a border trade camp on the Myanmar side, which was commissioned into service on 11 May in 2013. The implementation plan of upgrading Dawei-Hteekhee road is one of the main tasks already contained in the project of Dawei Special Economic Zone. Dawei Special Economic Zone has an

area of 2,000 hectares, including the jetty and industries. Upon completion, it will be the largest economic zone in the South-east Asian region, quoted the officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in their review as saying.

Myanmar accepted the proposal from Japan to be a part of Dawei Special Economic Zone, according to the official release from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. The project of Dawei Special Economic Zone is divided into two parts—primary project and a main project. Italian-Thailand Company has already got permission to implement the primary project, and it will carry out nine projects, including Dawei-Hteekhee road project, small jetties and LNG port. Japan will undertake the main project of the Dawei Special Economic Zone.

The plan to upgrade Dawei-Hteekhee road project will begin in June or July in 2021. Once Dawei-Hteekhee road upgrading project has been finished, anyone will be able to go to Thailand by land besides an extension of trade area to Southeast Asian countries through Thailand.

The photo shows a road sign to Dawei deep seaport project and Thailand.



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower (A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogvoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARKVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Yangon United sign Magwe forward player on loan

IN preparation for a new football season of the Myanmar National League, Yangon United Football Club previously confirmed that forward player Pyae Moe from Magwe Football Club has joined with the Yangon United football squad for a two-year contract

agreement, according to the team statement.

The 28-year-old defender has expressed his feeling upon joining the top domestic league football club.

"I am so proud to be offered by this great team. And I know it

could be harder to take a position among the talented players, and I have to gear up my performance more and more. And I do my best for the fans as well," Pyae Moe said. Pyae Moe studied football education at the Institute of Sports and Physical Education

(Mandalay) from 2008 to 2009. Next, he played for the Ministry of Sports in the Inter-ministries Football Tournament and began his professional journey with Rakhine United (U-21) in 2011. Then he advanced to the senior team playing four years. He spent one

year in Zeyar Shwe Myay, 2017-2018 in Hantharwady United, and 2019-2020 in Magwe producing quality performances in the respective teams. He was a star player in the senior Myanmar national team in 2015 for World Cup Qualifiers. —GNLM ■

Burns matches 36-hole Riviera record to grab PGA lead



Sam Burns matched the 36-hole course record at Riviera at 12-under par 130 after shooting a 66 Friday to seize the lead of the US PGA Genesis Invitational. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAM Burns matched the 36-hole course record at Riviera on Friday, firing a five-under par 66 to seize a five-stroke lead at the US PGA Genesis

Invitational. The 24-year-old American threatened to run away from a star-studded field with a bogey-free round to stand on 12-under 130 at the halfway mark. "I was hitting it good and I had some good looks and I was able to convert them," Burns said. "Just had patience out there. I didn't try to force anything. Whenever we were in a tricky spot, just took what the golf course gave us."

World number one Dustin Johnson, the reigning Masters champion, shot 67 to share second on 135 with fellow Americans Tyler McCumber and Jason Kokrak and Chile's Joaquin Niemann.—AFP ■

Klopp won't focus on Man City when Liverpool review title flop



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

LONDON — Jurgen Klopp says Liverpool won't focus on catching Manchester City when he reviews what went wrong in their disastrous Premier

League title defence.

City are 10 points clear at the top of the table and Liverpool boss Klopp has been forced to concede the cham-

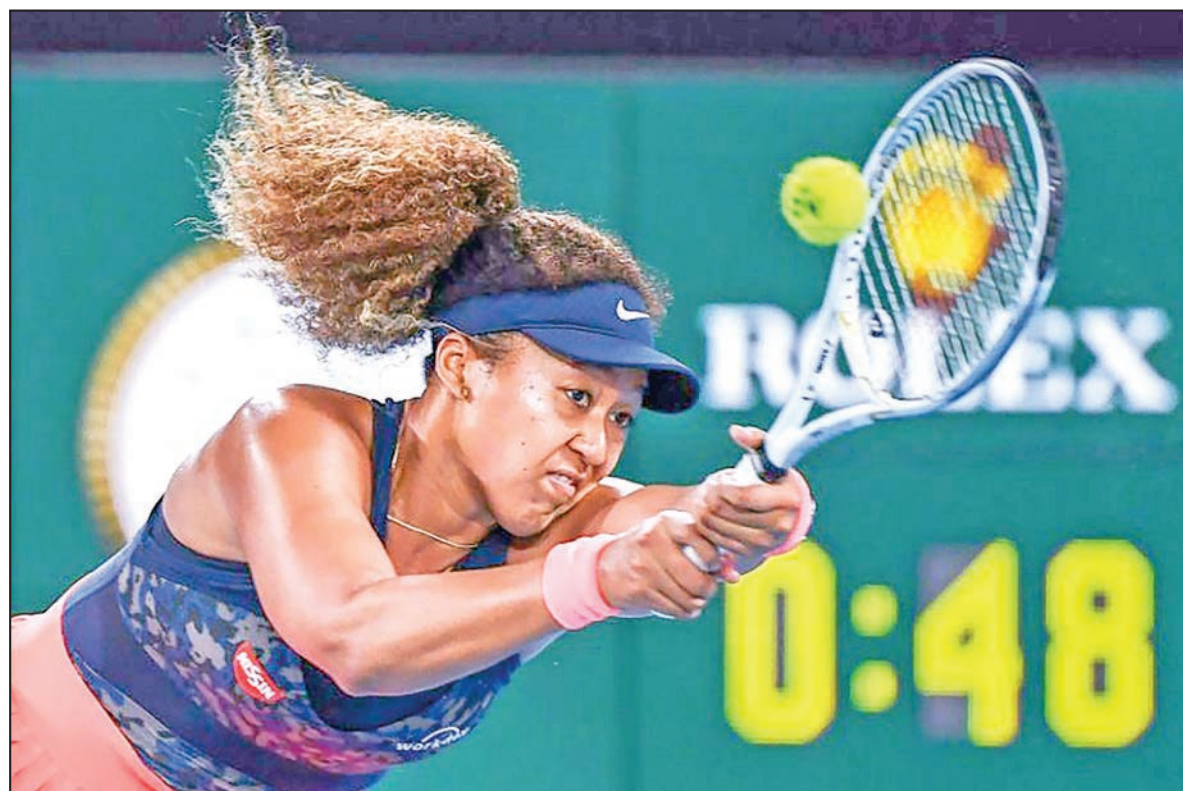
pions are out of the title race.

The injury-plagued Reds are languishing 16 points behind City in sixth place after three successive league defeats. But Klopp, whose team were thrashed 4-1 by Pep Guardiola's men recently, is adamant City are not going to be the driving force behind his own plans for improvement next term.

"We do not have to think about that now because we do not play them any more this year, probably. Maybe in the Champions League," Klopp told reporters on Friday.

"It was never the case where we thought 'how can we overtake City', or 'how can we become the finest team in English football again'? —AFP ■

Japan's Osaka dominates Brady to win Australian Open



Osaka has won her fourth major title. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAPAN'S Naomi Osaka dismissed Jennifer Brady in straight sets to win the Australian Open and underline her growing hold on women's tennis on Saturday.

Osaka edged a tight first set but controlled the second to win 6-4, 6-3 in 77 minutes in front of 7,381 fans at Rod Laver Arena.

Third seed Osaka preserves her 100 percent record in Grand Slam finals after winning the 2018 and 2020 US Opens and the 2019 title in Melbourne. The reigning US Open champion, who beat her idol Serena Williams in the Melbourne semi-finals, has now won two of the last three Grand Slams as her status and reputation soars.

"We played in the semis of the US Open a couple of months ago and I told everyone that you're going to be a problem," Osaka told Brady at the trophy presentation.

"And I was right. It's really incredible to me to see your growth over the past few months, it's really cool for me to see."

Osaka, 23, is only the third player after Monica Seles and Roger Federer to win their first four major finals, and will now rise to second in the world rankings.

She saved two match points in the fourth round against Garbine Muguruza and swept past Williams in straight sets in the semis. —AFP ■