

# 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.

## Vice-Chairman of State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends closing ceremony of International Army Games-2021 in Russian Federation



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends closing ceremony of International Army Games-2021 in Russian Federation.

THE delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior

General Soe Win attended the closing ceremony of the International Army Games-2021 at Congress Centre of the Patriot Park in Moscow of the Russian Federation in the afternoon

local standard time on 4 September.

The Vice-Senior General and party watched competition of tank squads from the Russian Federation, China, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan in the

final event of the Tank Biathlon (Division-1). In the competition, the Russian Federation stood first with 1 hour, 36 minutes and 49 seconds, followed by China,

Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan.

The Vice-Senior General and party attended the closing ceremony of the International Army Games-2021 and the dinner hosted by Russian Minister of Defense Army General Kuzhugetovich Shoigu. First, Chief of the General Staff Army General Valery Gerasimov of the Russian Ministry of Defense, on behalf of the Russian Minister of Defense, praised the victorious squads and expressed thanks to the heads of States for sending their contestant squads to the games. Officials presented prizes to the winning squads in the Tank Biathlon (Division-1). All the guests were presented entertainment. Russian Minister of Defense Army General Kuzhugetovich Shoigu closed the ceremony via video.

Then, the Vice-Senior General and senior military officers from various countries had the dinner together.

Squads from 43 countries competed in the International Army Games-2021 which consisted of 34 battlefield skill events.

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## Union P&F Minister leads Myanmar delegation to 6<sup>th</sup> Eastern Economic Forum

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Eastern Economic Forum held in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation from 2 to 6 September at the invitation of Mr Yury Trutnev, Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District.

On the first day of forum held on 2 September, the Union Minister and party joined the Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue.

During the Business Dialogue, Mr Ivan Polykov, CEO of the Interstate Corporation for



Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and party join Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue on 2 September 2021.

lighted the current development of far eastern Russian cities, competitive investment sector, cooperation with the investors from Asia-Pacific regions by establishing the special economic zones and the launch of regular cargo shipments via northern sea route linking Asia and Europe.

Then, the Presidents of Mongolia and Kazakhstan made greeting speeches online while the Heads of China, India and Thailand via video messages.

On the last day of Forum on 4 September, the Union Minister and party greeted the officials of Roscongress Foundation and viewed the displayed booths of the Forum.

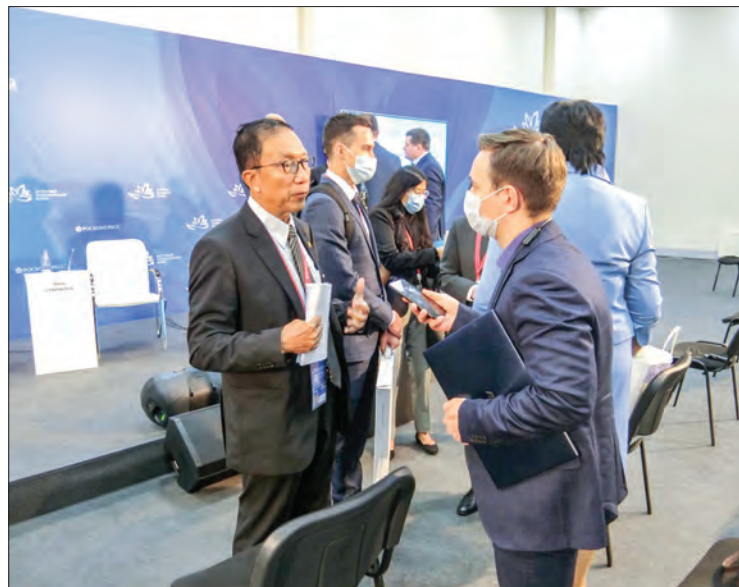
The EEF was first held in 2015, part of Moscow's push to revitalize economic growth of the Far East and Russia-Asia ties, and now this year marks 6<sup>th</sup> EEF.

The Russia's Far East is the easternmost region of Eurasia and a global economic strategy initiated by the Russian Federation with the aim of moving from regional economic cooperation to global economic integration using it as major linkage between the Asian countries and Asia-Pacific regions.

Representatives, senior



Union Minister U Win Shein and President of Russia-ASEAN Business Council Mr Ivan Polykov exchange gifts after the separate meeting.



Union Minister U Win Shein meets a business person after Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue on 2 September 2021.

Development and President of Russia-ASEAN Business Council led the discussion together with the business people and entrepreneurs of Brunei, Viet Nam, the Russian Federation, the Philippines, Myanmar and Singapore participated in the event.

The Russia-ASEAN Business dialogue discussed the cooperation with ASEAN countries in energy, agriculture, timber, tourism industry, investment, science and innovation sectors including the emergence of the Northern Sea Route.

Then, the Union Minister and party separately met the Mr. Ivan Polyakov to discuss value-added foodstuff production, energy sector, construction of fuel storage tanks and basic infrastructure, rubber based production sector, science and technology, invest-



Union Minister U Win Shein attends plenary session of 6<sup>th</sup> Eastern Economic Forum held on 3 September.

ment of Russia in health sector and bilateral cooperation to increase the trade volumes.

At noon, the delegation also received the companies wishing to cooperate in economic sector of Myanmar.

Regarding the opportunities for investment and trade, they discussed export of Myanmar's value-added farming products, power generating, oil exploration and construction of multi-purpose ports.



Union Minister U Win Shein views the displayed booths at 6<sup>th</sup> Eastern Economic Forum.

The Union Minister also attended the plenary session of the Forum held on 3 September.

President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin joined the event in person and high-

officials, business stakeholders and media outlets from roughly 60 countries including Japan, French, China, ROK, the US and India attended the Forum.—MNA

## Need to upgrade the hospitals, establish the township, station and district hospitals

HE then stressed the need to upgrade the hospitals, establish the township, station and district hospitals by observing the figures of international hospitals and set up the ICU for other diseases. He also pleaded that the government will provide cash assistance in implementing these operations. The hospital staff, Tatmadaw and social organizations need to cooperate for these processes including the upgrade of hospitals and cleansing operations.

*(Excerpt from the speech to the 9<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities made by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 23-8-2021)*

## Vice-Chairman of State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends closing ceremony of International Army Games-2021 in Russian Federation

### FROM PAGE-1

The events were held in 12 countries including Russia. The squad of Myanmar Tatmadaw has taken part in the games for the fourth time. Those of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Squad participated in the Tank Biathlon event, the skill contest of field medical corps, the skill contest of airborne platoons, and creative competition.

In the competition, the tank squad of the Myanmar Tatmadaw secured the third position with 2 hours, 28 minutes and 05 seconds in the Tank Biathlon (Division-2), the cultural troupe of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, the first prize in the entertainment in traditional costume, the second in the solo singing in Russian song, the second in the entertainment reflecting the culture of the country and the third in the online voting. The medic squad stood the sixth position among nine contestant squads and the airborne squad the seventh among 18 contestant squads.

Troops of Myanmar Tat-



madaw could secure competitiveness experiences in the games, technical experience and friendly relations with international military organizations.—MNA

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win together with senior military officers from other countries watches competition of tanks on the ground.



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party watch three contestant tanks in the Tank Biathlon (Division-1).



### 2,829 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 September, total figure rises to 415,416

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 415,416 after 2,829 new cases were reported on 5 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 362,956 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 15,891 after 96 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 4-9-2021, a total of 4,860,264 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 2,670,333 people have been vaccinated two times and 2,189,931 people once.—MNA

### Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

# Imports of anti-COVID-19 devices, medical equipment continue



Trucks are ready to transport oxygen concentrators and medical supplies.

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen

cylinders, arranging continuous importation on public holidays.

On 5 September (Yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by 10 companies with

the use of 18 vehicles, including two bowzers.

Two bowzers carried a total of 40 tonnes of liquid oxygen, and three tonnes of liquid oxygen cylinders, 720 empty oxygen cylinders, two oxygen plants, two

oxygen generators, 1,700 oxygen concentrators for home use, 2,000 sets of PPE suits, and 26 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw, Myawady, Tachilek and Hteekhee trading posts and the Yangon International Airport.

Two vehicles carrying liquid oxygen and two oxygen plants were transported to Yangon, officials said.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the importations of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — [www.commerce.gov.mm](http://www.commerce.gov.mm). — MNA



A cargo truck is loaded with medical supplies.



Boxes of medical equipment are seen aboard the truck.



A truck is carrying anti COVID-19 devices.

## Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



### Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13<sup>th</sup> September



### 2021 Anti-Trafficking Persons in Days' Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

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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.

## State Administration Council Press Release

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

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

Information Team  
State Administration Council

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## 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)

## Kachin State Chief Minister provides protective gears, food, piglets to Lekon Ziun IDP camp

KACHIN State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and Kachin State Minister for Natural Resources U Ting Saung visited Lekon Ziun IDP camp in Lekon Ward in Myitkyina to provide assistance on 4 September.

During the meeting with the camp officials and the families of the displaced people, the Chief Minister said he came to provide the assistance required to raise their own

livestock and to live comfortably, as well as to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He added it is necessary to pay special attention to prevention of the infection of COVID-19 and he will do whatever he can to help.

The Chief Minister and party provided 20 bags of rice, packages of instant noodles, 200 eggs, 50 PPE suits, 500 gloves, 500 masks, five cartons of personal soaps, six piglets, and veterinary supplies for

the families in the camp. The head of Kachin State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department explained the use and benefits of the aids.

Afterward, the Chief Minister met the congregational officials at the Bethel Baptist Church, provided them with COVID-19 prevention equipment, and coordinated aids of the government for COVID-19 prevention and control activities.—State IPRD



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan presents aid for displaced persons to an official at Lekon Ziun IDP camp in Myitkyina.

## Oxygen plant, warehouse construction in Tamu finished 70 per cent



Already-arrived machines of oxygen plant are ready to generate oxygen for the people in Tamu.

THE construction of oxygen plant and warehouse has finished by 70 per cent in the precinct of Bawdi Tawya monastery in Tamu, Sagaing region, said Ko Aung Chan Thu, a member of Tamu Town Oxygen Plant Construction Committee.

The project started in the third week of August and has completed by 70 per cent, so far.

“The buildings are under construction. There are two construction sites—building for factory and warehouse—to keep the oxygen cylinders. The construction project is scheduled to be completed within two weeks. But, it is heavy rain in Tamu town and we could not work for four or five days. The foundation of the project was completed. The machines to operate the oxygen plant have already arrived. So far, the construction of

O<sub>2</sub> plant is now 70 per cent complete. The construction works were initiated in the third week of August,” said Ko Aung Chan Thu.

The total cost of the two construction sites is estimated to be about K35 million. It also costs US\$57,000 for an oxygen machine and \$19,000 for a generator. The whole project is being carried out with contributions from the local residents and volunteers.

The oxygen machine was purchased from China in the second week of July and arrived in Tamu town on 3 September.

Upon completion of the project, the oxygen plant will be able to produce about 200 40-liters oxygen cylinders a day and it can be fulfill the oxygen requirement in the town.—Lulay/GNLM

## Mon State reports nearly 5,000 COVID-19 confirmed cases, almost 600 deaths in August

MON State reported 4,987 COVID-19 confirmed cases in August, with 590 deaths, according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Health.

In August, the COVID-19 infections were the highest in Ye township with 946 cases, Chaungzon township with 790 cases, Bilin and Paung townships with 541 cases each, Kyaikmaraw township with 472 cases, Mawlamyine township with 414 cases, Mudon township with 377 cases, Thanbyuzayet township with 351 cases, Kyaikto township with 238 cases, Thaton township with 208 cases and those who return home with 109 cases.

The death toll was the highest in Mawlamyine township with 131 cases, Paung township with 79 cases, Chaungzon township with

69 cases, Thanbyuzayet township with 63 cases, Mudon township with 55 cases, Ye township with 50 cases, Kyaikmaraw township with 48 cases, Bilin and Thaton townships with 38 cases each and Kyaikto township with 19 cases, Ministry of Health issued.

With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the Ministry has imposed stay home restrictions on Mawlamyine, Thanbyuzayet, Thaton, Bilin and Chaungzon townships.

Those who were vaccinated first dose of COVID-19 vaccines in July are being given the second dose of vaccine starting from 26 August.

Mon State reported 12,254 COVID-19 cases with 1,092 deaths between 28 June and 3 September.—ACM/GNLM



A man receives a dose of vaccine against the COVID-19 at the Zinkyaik labour camp, Paung Township in Mon State on 4 September 2021. PHOTO: PAUNG IPRD

## Over 2 mln people in Myanmar fully vaccinated against COVID-19



An older person is receiving vaccination of COVID-19. PHOTO: LEWE TOWNSHIP IPRD

OVER 2 million people in Myanmar have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus till 4 September, and those who still need a second dose are being vaccinated, according to the Ministry of Health.

The vaccines are being given priority to 36.9 million people over the age of 18 in Myanmar. As of 4 September, a total of 2,670,333 people have been fully vaccinated and 2,189,931 people have received one dose of the vaccine, ac-

ording to the Ministry. A total of 2 million doses of Sinopharm (Beijing) vaccine purchased from China arrived at the Yangon International Airport on 28 August. It was received by a team led by the head of Yangon Region Medical Services Department and Public Health Department. It is being distributed to across the country starting from 29 August.

Myanmar has already received 6.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine including

2.5 million doses of Sinopharm vaccines donated by China, 2 million doses of Sinovac vaccines and 2 million doses of Sinopharm vaccines imported from China. Currently, the country administrated 150,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the target groups daily.

Since January 2021, the country has been administering vaccinations, using the China-made Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines, across the country.—Aye Maung/GNLM

# Innocent civilians injured in extremists' terror attacks



Security officials check exploded motorcycle in Amarapura Township.



Photo shows pieces of damaged keypad phone from exploded motorcycle.



Innocent people are injured in explosion of motorcycle on Taungthaman ring road of Amarapura Township.

FOUR innocent civilians were injured during an explosion from a motorbike (Dream 110) parked near Taungthaman ring road in Shwegunhtok ward, Tayoktan

(4) ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

U Min Aung, Zaw Min Htwe, Nyein Chan Oo and Ma Thida

Naing were injured respectively while they were driving their motorbikes on the road, and security forces transported them to the township People's Hospital for

necessary medical treatment. Keypad phone parts and a Singtech mobile phone battery were seized from the exploded motorbike. It was found to be a

type of remote-control-mine, and it is reported that investigations are underway to identify and arrest the perpetrators as soon as possible.—MNA

## Terrorists destroy telecommunication towers in Sagaing, Mandalay regions

POLITICAL extremists and terrorists destroyed telecommunication towers in some townships across the country. It is found that they have been planting mines and setting fire to some of these towers.

On 4 September, a MYTEL telecommunication tower, set up in a field at about two furlongs west of Shwehlyan village, Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, was set on fire by rubbish, destroying equipment and cables

inside.

At around 2 am on 5 September, terrorists blew up the Ooredoo telecommunication tower set up near milepost 15 miles and one furlong on Tagaung-Bhamo road in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, and equipment and cables in the box containing tower control transmitters were destroyed. At the same time, three terrorists driving two motorbikes from the east of the Patle-inn village, set fire to the tower control

transmitter box at the bottom of the Ooredoo telecommunication tower set up in the compound of U Kyaw Soe, in Patle-inn village, Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, and escaped toward Singu Township. The fire was put out by the villagers, and transmitters and cables were destroyed in the fire.

Security forces are investigating to identify and arrest the terrorists effectively under the law, it is reported.—MNA



Terrorists destroy telecommunication towers and cabinets of devices in Yinmabin, Madaya and Thabeikkyin Townships.

# Give a helping hand but don't interfere in internal affairs

GENERALLY, Myanmar people are honest and humble in nature of paying respect not only to their friends but to strangers in their relations as they are handling their daily works under the guidance of Buddhism and other religions.

Myanmar ethnic people do not have hostility against others for any reason. But Myanmar history showed the valour of Myanmar people in fighting against the invader colonialists in struggling for regaining Myanmar's independence in successive eras. Whenever the country faces a state of emergency, Myanmar people showed their brilliant valour with relentlessly patriotic spirit.

Myanmar people need to forge unity among them for safeguarding the State and sovereignty of the nation. It is an inborn duty of all Myanmar people. They must have a wider scope of knowledge to be able to analyze the updated global situations to understand the consequences of right and wrong events. Especially, they all have to uphold the State interests forever.

The history of the globe proves many countries failed under the aid with attachments one after another. Despite possessing the small strength, Myanmar has been dodging the dangers of powerful countries which are always trying to neo-colonize the small countries so as to enlarge their dominated arenas. All Myanmar people should take lessons from the past bitter events of the failed countries which collapsed under the beautiful words of neo-colonialists to be able to apply the experiences for the motherland in the future.

Myanmar people need to forge unity among them for safeguarding the State and sovereignty of the nation. It is an inborn duty of all Myanmar people. They must have a wider scope of knowledge to be able to analyze the updated global situations to understand the consequences of right and wrong events. Especially, they all have to uphold the State interests forever.



## WHO Launches Pandemic Data Hub In Berlin

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday launched a global data hub in Berlin to analyse information on emerging pandemic threats, filling the gaps exposed by COVID-19.

THE WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence was inaugurated in the German capital by Chancellor Angela Merkel and WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who said it would fill "a gap in the world's defences".

"The COVID-19 pandemic is the defining crisis of our time it has taught the world many painful lessons. One of the clearest is the need for new powerful systems and tools for global surveillance to collect, analyse and disseminate data on outbreaks," Ghebreyesus said.

"Viruses move fast but data can move even faster. With the right information, countries and communities can stay ahead of emerging risks and save lives," he said.

The data hub, which has received initial funding from Ger-

many, is set to bring together experts from various disciplines in Berlin to analyse data quickly in order to predict, prevent, detect, prepare for and respond to risks worldwide.

The hub will try to get ahead of the game, looking for early warning signs that go beyond current systems that monitor publicly available information for emerging outbreaks.

The first head of the centre will be Chikwe Ihekweazu, currently director of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.

Merkel said she hoped the new hub would help the world to be "better prepared for future epidemics and pandemics", stressing that its findings would be shared with other countries.

"The pandemic has shown how much we can achieve if we really join forces. Experts all over the world have increased

their knowledge at a really impressive speed and have also shared it again and again," she said.

A team of international experts went to Wuhan earlier this year and produced a report with their Chinese counterparts that drew no firm conclusions on the origins of the virus.

Instead, it ranked four hypotheses, deeming a jump from bats to human via an intermediate animal the most probable scenario, while a lab leak was seen as "extremely unlikely".

But the investigation faced criticism for lacking transparency and access, and for not evaluating the lab-leak theory more thoroughly.

The experts' report suggested the outbreak could have started as far back as September 2019, long before it was first detected in December 2019 in



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (R), Director-General of the WHO and German Chancellor Angela Merkel cut the ribbon during the inauguration ceremony of the 'WHO Hub For Pandemic And Epidemic Intelligence' at the Langenbeck-Virchow building in Berlin, on 1 September, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Wuhan.

"Despite decades of investment, COVID-19 has revealed the great gaps that exist in

the world's ability to forecast, detect, assess and respond to outbreaks that threaten people worldwide," Michael Ryan,

head of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, said in a statement.

SOURCE: AFP

## Air quality improvements from COVID lockdowns confirmed

COVID-19 lockdowns brought rapid and "unprecedented" improvements in air quality in some parts of the world - but not enough to halt climate change caused by global warming, UN weather experts said on Friday.

ACCORDING to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s Air Quality and Climate Bulletin, South East Asia saw a 40 per cent reduction in the level of harmful airborne particles caused by traffic and energy production in 2020.

China, Europe and North America also saw emissions reductions and improved air quality during the pandemic's first year,

while countries such as Sweden saw less dramatic improvements because existing air quality contained comparatively lower microparticle levels (PM2.5) of harmful sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO) and ozone (O3).

### Atmospheric experiment

Dr Oksana Tarasova, chief of WMO's Atmospheric Envi-

ronment Research Division, explained that although the clean air development had been welcome for many people with breathing difficulties, the absence of harmful microparticles left the path clear for naturally occurring ozone, "which is one of most dangerous pollutants".

"So, despite such an unexpected experiment with atmospheric chemistry, we noticed that

in many parts of the world, even if you take down the transport and some other emissions, air quality would not meet the requirements of the World Health Organization (WHO)," she told journalists in Geneva.

### Godzilla' storm

Although human-caused emissions of air pollutants fell during COVID-19 movement restrictions and the accompanying global economic downturn, weather extremes fuelled by climate and environmental change triggered unprecedented sand storms including the June 2020 "Godzilla" dust cloud - the largest African dust storm on record - and wildfires from Australia to Siberia, which have worsened air quality significantly.

"This trend is continuing in 2021," said WMO, pointing to devastating wildfires in North America, Europe and the Russian tundra, that have "affected air quality for millions, and sand and dust storms (that) have blanketed many regions and travelled across continents".

### 4.5 million pollution victims

The UN agency noted that air pollution has a significant impact on human health. Estimates from the latest Global Burden of Disease assessment show that global mortality increased from 2.3 million in 1990 - with 91 per cent owing to particulate matter, nine per cent attributed to ozone - to 4.5 million in 2019 - 92 per cent from particulates, eight per cent from ozone).

The Air Quality and Climate Bulletin - WMO's first - is based on studying key air-pollutants from more than 540 observation stations in and around 63 cities from 25 countries, across the world's seven geographical regions.

Analysis showed decreases of up to 30-40 per cent overall of PM2.5 concentrations during full lockdown in 2020, compared with the same periods in 2015-2019.

WMO noted however that PM2.5 levels "exhibited complex behaviour even within the same region, with increases in some Spanish cities, for instance, which were attributed mainly to the long-

range transport of African dust and/or biomass burning".

Changes in ozone concentrations varied greatly across regions, ranging from no overall change to small increases - as in Europe - and larger increases (up to 25 per cent in South America).

Sulphur dioxide concentrations were 25 - 60 per cent lower in 2020 than during 2015-2019 for all regions, according to WMO's Bulletin. Carbon monoxide levels were lower for all regions, with the largest decrease in South America, of up to approximately 40 per cent.

### Wildfire cooling

Paradoxically, while intense wildfires generated "anomalously high" microparticle pollution in several parts of the world in 2020, WMO explained that forest fires in southwestern Australia in December 2018 and January 2019 "also led to temporary cooling across the southern hemisphere, comparable to that caused by ash from a volcanic eruption".

SOURCE: UN



COVID-related lockdowns brought cleaner air to many cities, like Seoul in South Korea. PHOTO: UNSPLASH/GEONHUI LEE/UN



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 5 September 2021)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and strong to vigorous elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 5 September, 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Magway Regions and Chin, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9 -12) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and (5-7) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthay Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 September, 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 September, 2021:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 September, 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

### Flood Warning (Issued on 5-9-2021)

According to the (07:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung is observed as about (1) inch below its danger level. It may exceed above its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thabaung at Ngawun River is observed as about (½) foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Ngathaingchaung and Thabaung townships, to take precaution measure.

### Flood Bulletin (Issued at 08:00 hrs MST on 5-9-2021)

#### FLOOD CONDITION OF AYEYAWADY RIVER

According to the (07:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (9) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (07:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (07:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (8) inches above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

#### Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada and Zalun townships, to take precaution measure.



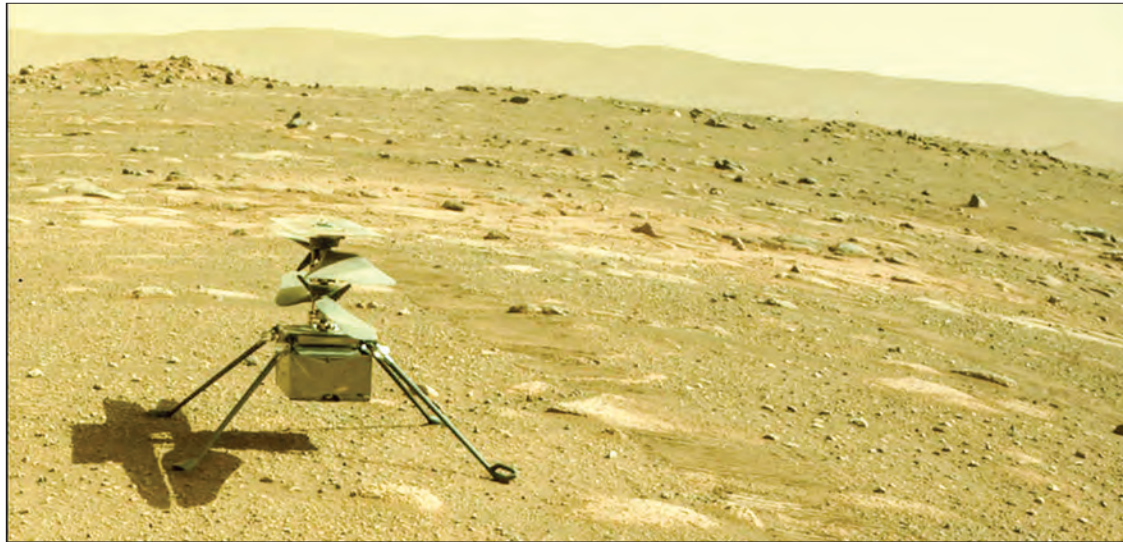
## After six months on Mars, NASA's tiny copter is still flying high

IT was only supposed to fly five times. And yet NASA's helicopter on Mars, Ingenuity, has completed 12 flights and it isn't ready to retire.

Given its stunning and unexpected success, the US space agency has extended Ingenuity's mission indefinitely.

The tiny helicopter has become the regular travel companion of the rover Perseverance, whose core mission is to seek signs of ancient life on Mars.

"Everything is working so well," said Josh Ravich, the head of Ingenuity's mechanical engineering team. "We're doing better on the surface than we had expected."



NASA's Ingenuity helicopter, photographed on Mars by the Perseverance rover's rear Hazard Camera on April 4, 2021. PHOTO: NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Hundreds of people contributed to the project, though only about a dozen currently

retain day-to-day roles.

Ravich joined the team five years ago.

"When I got the opportunity to come work on the helicopter project, I think I had the

same reaction as anybody else: 'Is that even possible?'"

His initial doubts were understandable: The air on Mars has a density equivalent to only one percent that of Earth's atmosphere. By way of comparison, flying a helicopter on Mars would be like flying one in the thin air nearly 20 miles (30 kilometers) above Earth.

Nor was it easy getting to Mars in the first place. Ingenuity had to withstand the initial shock of takeoff from Earth, and then of the February 18 landing on the red planet following a seven-month voyage through space, strapped to the rover's belly. — AFP ■

## California winemakers take wildfire-fighting into their own hands



Randy Dunn checks the hose on a fire truck he has purchased to protect his vineyard from California wildfires. PHOTO: AFP

WATER TANKS, fire trucks and helicopters: California's Napa Valley winemakers are buying their own equipment to protect their property and their pricey vintages from wildfires.

A historic drought driven by man-made global warming has left large tracts of the western United States parched and highly vulnerable to fires.

That includes the world-re-

nown vineyards that dot central California, producing billions of dollars in wine every year.

And with fires spreading at an alarming rate—2021 is shaping up to be the most destructive year on record—firefighting resources are stretched thin.

"I know that CalFire cannot be everywhere at the same time and that has shown constantly, not only here but in the

rest of California," said Randy Dunn, who founded his 200-acre (80-hectare) winery in 1979, referring to the state's firefighters.

"So I feel strongly that, if you have some protection and you stay here, that you got a chance. If you leave, then I think your chance has really dwindled."

Dunn already owned a vintage 1946 fire truck—old, but still functional—and has just bought a newer one. The siren doesn't work, but its hoses are fine, though so far they have not been battle tested—it's more of something he has been using for fun with his grandchildren.

But he is confident he would be able to use it if a fire breaks out on his property. Its purchase was prompted by a close call last year when the Glass Fire scorched more than 67,000 acres of Napa and Sonoma counties—prime wine-producing country. "It was about a mile from here," he told AFP pointing to the west, where dried-out pines cling to the dusty earth.— AFP ■

## Komodo dragon, 2-in-5 shark species lurch towards extinction

TRAPPED on island habitats made smaller by rising seas, Indonesia's Komodo dragons were listed as "endangered" on Saturday, in an update of the wildlife Red List that also warned overfishing threatens nearly two-in-five sharks with extinction.

About 28 per cent of the 138,000 species assessed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its survival watchlist are now at risk of vanishing in the wild forever, as the destructive impact of human activity on the natural world deepens.

But the latest update of the Red List for Threatened Species also highlights the potential for restoration, with four commercially fished tuna species pulling back from a slide towards extinction after a decade of efforts to curb over-

exploitation.

The most spectacular recovery was seen in the Atlantic bluefin tuna, which leapt from "endangered" across three categories to the safe zone of "least concern".

The species—a mainstay of high-end sushi in Japan—was last assessed in 2011.

"These Red List assessments demonstrate just how closely our lives and livelihoods are intertwined with biodiversity," IUCN Director General Bruno Oberle said in a statement.

### 'Clarion call'

A key message from the IUCN Congress, taking place in the French city of Marseille, is that disappearing species and the destruction of ecosystems are no less existential threats than global warming.— AFP ■

## New project to track endangered species coming back from brink

AFTER decades of recording alarming declines in animals and plants, conservation experts have taken a more proactive approach, with a new "Green Status" launched on Saturday, billed as the first global measurement for tracking species recovery.

After decades of recording alarming declines in animals and plants, conservation experts have taken a more proactive approach, with a new "Green Status" launched on Saturday, billed as the first global measurement for tracking species recovery. Since 1964, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has assessed

some 138,000 species for its Red List of Threatened Species, a powerful tool to highlight the plight of wildlife facing extinction. Some 28 percent are currently at risk of vanishing forever. Its new Green Status will act as a companion to this survival watchlist, looking at the extent to which species are depleted or restored compared to their historical population levels. The initiative aims "to measure species recoveries in a standardised way, which has never been done before", Green Status co-chair Molly Grace told a news conference Saturday during the IUCN congress in Marseille.— AFP ■



At least 30 per cent of the Komodo dragon's habitat is projected to be lost in the next 45 years. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Data security concerns after Indonesian president vaccine certificate leak

INDONESIANS expressed concerns over the security of their personal medical data Saturday after the president's coronavirus vaccine certificate was leaked and a large test app also appeared compromised.

Indonesia has a weak cyber security record, with poor online literacy and frequent leaks previously.

Joko Widodo's vaccine certificate — which circulated online, showing his censored ID number and vaccination times — was leaked by users who found his data on official vaccine-monitoring app PeduliLindungi, the government said.

"Certain people have accessed the vaccine certificate of Mr. Joko Widodo by using a vaccine check feature available



Joko Widodo's vaccine certificate circulated online, showing his censored ID number and vaccination times / Indonesia's Presidential Palace. PHOTO: AFP

in PeduliLindungi," an official statement said Friday.

Jakarta-based Ageng

Wibowo, 39, said the leak made him nervous and called for tougher cyber security laws.

"If a president can have his data leaked what about me who is just a regular person?"

However, Communication and Information Ministry officials deflected blame and said Widodo's data was accessed via the General Commission of Elections website.

Health minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said authorities have blocked access to public officials' data following the breach.

Officials added they were working to improve PeduliLindungi users' data security.

The leak comes only days after researchers of encryption provider vpnMentor revealed the data of 1.3 million users of a government test-and-trace app had been compromised.

The researchers said among the information leaked were passengers' data and Covid-19 test results. — AFP ■

## Tokyo Paralympic-linked COVID-19 cases reach nearly 300 in 3 weeks



The Tokyo Paralympics mascot Someity disinfects the starting area before swimming competitions begin on 3 August 2021, at Tokyo Aquatics Centre. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ANOTHER 10 people associated with the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics have tested positive

for COVID-19, the games' organizing body said Saturday, with the cumulative total

reaching nearly 300 in three weeks. Of the 297, those tested positive for COVID-19 were mostly contractors.

As for the daily count, the committee said no athletes tested positive for the fourth straight day, and nine of the 10 were contractors.

After being infected with COVID-19, a Paralympian from overseas was hospitalized Tuesday night, the first such case among athletes either at the Tokyo Olympics or Paralympics. The committee, however, said Saturday the Paralympian has already been released from the hospital.— Kyodo News ■

## Cuba starts vaccinating children in order to re-open schools amid Covid surge

CUBAN authorities on Friday launched a national campaign to vaccinate children aged two to 18 against Covid-19, a prerequisite set by the Communist government for schools to re-open amid a spike in infections.

Children aged 12 and older will be the first to receive one of the two domestically produced vaccines, Abdala and Soberana, followed by younger kids.

Schools have mostly been closed in Cuba since March 2020, and students have been following lessons on television. With the school year starting Monday, they will continue learning remotely until all el-

igible children are vaccinated. Late Friday, the Medicines Regulatory Agency (Cecmed) announced that it authorized

the emergency use of the Soberana 2 vaccine for minors between the ages of two and 18. — AFP ■



Students wait to be vaccinated at the Saul Delgado pre-university institute in Havana's El Vedado neighborhood on 3 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Thousands in Australia sign petition asking government to give light to Chinese COVID-19 vaccines

THOUSANDS of individuals have signed a petition asking the Australian government to introduce or import COVID-19 vaccines made by China.

The petition, launched last week on the website of the Parliament of Australia, has garnered nearly 8,000 signatures, as of Saturday morning. The campaign was initiated due to "the serious COVID-19 epidemic situation in Australia," as well as the shortage of vaccines in the country, the petition read.

Vaccines made by China are safe, effective, and cheaper, and have been supplied to millions of people in many other countries and regions, it noted. The Australian government has been under criticism for its vaccine rollout. — Xinhua ■

#### Police say four officers hurt in UK clash with anti-vaxxers

ANTI-VACCINATION protesters clashed with police in London on Friday as some tried to storm the offices of the UK regulator that approves vaccines, with police saying four officers were hurt.

The latest protest, comprising dozens of demonstrators who massed at several sites through the afternoon, comes after anti-vaxxers previously targeted UK television broadcasters' offices.

A livestream of the demonstration showed protesters trying to push past a police cordon to enter the office of the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency), which was the world's first regulator to approve a coronavirus vaccine for public rollout in December last year. — AFP ■

#### NZ Covid outbreak claims first death in six months

NEW Zealand recorded its first Covid-related death in six months Saturday, but health authorities said there were signs the outbreak of the highly infectious Delta variant was coming under control.

A woman in her 90s, who had underlying health conditions and could not receive a ventilator or intensive care support, died in an Auckland hospital on Friday night.

She is the 27<sup>th</sup> person to die with Covid-19 in New Zealand and the first recorded since 16 February this year. — AFP ■

## Syria 'ready' to help Lebanon with gas, electricity transit



Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Meqdad (R C) and other cabinet members meet with an official Lebanese delegation in the capital Damascus to discuss plans to import gas through war-torn Syria. **PHOTO: AFP**

SYRIA has agreed to help crisis-hit Lebanon by letting gas and electricity transit through its territory, an official said Saturday during the first high-level visit from Beirut to Damascus since

Syria's civil war erupted.

Harsh fuel shortages and power cuts inflicted by Lebanon's economic collapse have paralysed businesses such as restaurants, shops and industry

as well as vital services like hospitals.

Now Beirut hopes to strike a deal to import gas from Egypt and electricity from Jordan using Syrian infrastructure -- with

Washington's blessing despite US sanctions against the Damascus regime.

Syria is "ready" to help Lebanon with "transit for Egyptian gas and Jordanian electricity via Syrian territory," senior official Nasri Khouri told reporters, after the delegation led by interim deputy prime minister Zeina Akar met Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Meqdad and Oil Minister Bassam Tomeh. "The parties agreed to set up a joint team to track technical details" of the plan, added Khouri, who is secretary-general of the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council. Lebanon's energy minister, Raymond Ghajar, said a meeting would be held next week in Jordan with representatives from Beirut, Amman, Damascus and Cairo to discuss technical and financial issues and to decide on a work plan and timetable. — AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### China-funded thermal power plant expansion completed in Mongolia

THE completion and commissioning ceremony of the China-funded expansion of a thermal power plant was held Friday in Erdenet, capital of Mongolia's northern province of Orkhon.

The project was executed by China's Hunan Industrial Equipment Installation Company, which has previously conducted the expansion of Thermal Power Plant No. 3 in Ulan Bator. "The completion of the project is of great significance to the development of Mongolia's energy sector," Mongolian Energy Minister Nansal Tavinbekh said at the ceremony. Tavinbekh noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic the project executor overcame difficulties such as personnel exchanges and limited transportation of materials, and successfully completed the expansion with high quality. Chinese Ambassador to Mongolia Chai Wenrui sent a letter to praise the successful completion of the project. — Xinhua ■

## Troubled German IAA auto show opens under climate, Covid cloud

GERMANY'S revamped IAA auto show, one of the world's largest, opens in Munich on Tuesday for a celebration of all things car-related, but climate concerns and pandemic woes threaten to spoil the party.

After a disappointing edition in 2019, marred by environmental protests, poor visitor numbers and no-shows from major automakers, the biennial event has reinvented itself as a "mobility fair" with a spotlight on electric cars, scooters and even bicycles.

Historically held in Frankfurt, the IAA will for the first time take place in the Bavarian city of Munich as part of efforts to revive the event. The six-day fair will be one of the biggest exhibitions

since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, coming just as Germany grapples with a fourth wave.

To reduce the infection risk, daily visitor numbers are capped at 80,000 and guests must show proof of vaccination, recovery or a recent negative test before entering. Confirming a trend seen at auto shows around the world, many well-known brands will again skip the showcase, chief among them the Stellantis group (Peugeot-Fiat Chrysler) and Japan's Toyota.

Also absent will be leading electric car-maker Tesla, leaving IAA organisers to hope that this year's more than 70 bicycle exhibitors will keep audiences satisfied -- and attract new ones.



The ACM City One will be a German-built, electric microcar that will be sold for a low price en masse. The start-up firm recently agreed a partnership with Magna International, a global parts manufacturer, to develop the model. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is bowing out of politics after a general election on September

26, will give a speech on Tuesday when the fair opens to trade visitors. — AFP ■

## 'Silent crisis' looms as US to end Covid aid for millions of jobless



The expanded American unemployment safety net is ending, but some jobless people fear they won't be able to return to work. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPENDING less on food. Drawing down on retirement savings. Dropping out of the workforce

altogether.

Last year, the United States massively expanded unemploy-

ment aid as Covid-19 broke out. But in the coming days those benefits will end, forcing millions of jobless Americans -- some of whom haven't worked for the entire pandemic -- to make hard choices about how they will get by in an economy newly menaced by the Delta variant. "I have no idea how we would survive, just on my daughter's income," said Deborah Lee, an unemployed phlebotomist in Arizona who is recovering from a Covid outbreak that affected her daughter and two of her three granddaughters.

The government-funded programs that increased weekly payments and gave aid to

the long-term unemployed and freelancers were credited with keeping the United States from an even worse economic collapse last year.

In recent months they have become controversial, with some states ending them early and arguing they encouraged people not to return to jobs that Covid-19 vaccines made safe, though studies have disputed that contention. From September 6 they will end nationwide, and while economists don't expect them to meaningfully dent the US economy's recovery from its 2020 debacle, they'll undoubtedly up the pressure on the unemployed. — AFP ■

### Taliban to rely on financing from China for economic comeback in Afghanistan

THE Taliban on Thursday said that it will primarily rely on financing from China for an economic comeback in Afghanistan.

With the help of China, the Taliban will fight for an economic comeback in Afghanistan, said Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid to an Italian newspaper, reported Al Jazeera.

In his interview published by La Repubblica on Thursday, Mujahid said the Taliban will fight for an economic comeback with the help of China.

"China is our most important partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us, because it is ready to invest and rebuild our country," the Taliban spokesperson was quoted as saying in the interview, reported Al Jazeera. — ANI ■

## Dramatic change to New Zealanders' spending habits during COVID-19 lockdown

NEW data from Westpac NZ showed a dramatic change in spending habits by New Zealanders in the first fortnight of COVID-19 lockdown.

Home meal kits and digital downloads were in hot demand as households readjusted to life within their own four walls, while shops such as bakeries and fast food stores saw a massive drop off in business.

Westpac NZ Chief Experience Officer Oliver Lynch said Kiwis aren't just spending money on different things than usual, but they're spending at different times of the day.

"Transaction levels between 10 pm and midnight have been 61 per cent lower than usual during lockdown, which reflects we're not going out and socialising with friends, or perhaps that



Supermarket spending accounted for 22 per cent of all transactions, up from 16 per cent in pre-lockdown times. Shoppers shop at a supermarket in the suburb of Johnsonville in Wellington on 11 August 2020. PHOTO: AFP

we're just getting to bed earlier for a good night's sleep," Lynch said.

"Spending on downloaded content from companies like Apple and Amazon as a proportion of all spending has more than doubled from 2.3 per cent to 5 per cent, while the share of transactions at specialty

food markets like Farro and home meal kit companies like Hello Fresh are up from 1.8 per cent to 3.1 per cent, a 72 per cent increase in share."

"In other words, Kiwis are reading, binge-watching and cooking up a storm." Purchases were down 99 per cent at baker-

ies and 97 per cent at fast food retailers, with vending machines making up much of the remaining spending. Transactions at building supply companies and service stations also dropped by 82 per cent and 57 per cent from their pre-lockdown levels respectively. — Xinhua ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### \$26 billion opioid settlement ready for next step: US drug firms

THREE pharmaceutical companies said Saturday they had received enough support from US states to move to the next stage of a \$26 billion settlement over thousands of legal claims related to the opioid epidemic.

The opioid crisis -- exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic -- has killed more than half a million people in the United States. In a joint statement AmerisourceBergens, Cardinal Health and McKesson said they had received the green light from 42 out of 49 states, Washington DC, and five US territories. — AFP ■

#### China to issue billions in sovereign bonds in Hong Kong

CHINA'S Ministry of Finance (MOF) plans to issue sovereign bonds totaling 20 billion yuan (3.1 billion US dollars) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region this year.

The MOF will issue the renminbi (RMB) sovereign bonds in three batches of 8 billion yuan, 6 billion yuan, and 6 billion yuan, respectively. The first tranche of bonds will be issued on Sept. 23. The detailed arrangements will be announced by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. The MOF started selling yuan-denominated treasury bonds in Hong Kong in September 2009 to boost the region's economy and speed up offshore yuan business expansion. — Xinhua ■

## Tokyo Stock Exchange mulls extending trading hours by 30 min



This file photo shows the Tokyo Stock Exchange on 2 October 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Tokyo Stock Exchange is planning on extending its regular trading hours by an extra 30 minutes giving investors more time to deal with issues, such as a system failure, a source familiar with the matter said Friday.

The first extension of closing hours since 1954 is expected to take place in three years and will

see the market close at 3:30 pm rather than the current 3 pm, according to the source.

The envisaged move would come almost a year after the world's third-largest bourse experienced a day-long stoppage on 1 October, which also suspended all trading of equities listed on stock exchanges in Sapporo, Nagoya,

and Fukuoka. The Tokyo bourse currently operates for five hours a day from 9 a.m., shorter than its international counterparts, including New York, which runs for six and a half hours.

In May, the Tokyo Stock Exchange said it would create a panel to discuss a potential extension to its trading day. — Kyodo News ■

## Boeing 787 Dreamliner deliveries not likely to resume until late October: report

DELIVERIES of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner, suspended since May, likely won't resume until the end of October amid disagreements with US safety regulators, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Dreamliner deliveries were suspended for much of the past year, including between last November and March, after Boeing

uncovered manufacturing defects.

The company announced in July that it had spotted additional problems near the nose of the plane and was working to fix them.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Boeing held a meeting in August with Federal Aviation Administration officials, but

the two sides could not agree on the method of quality-assurance for the Dreamliner.

"The FAA continues to engage with Boeing as the company works to demonstrate the reliability of its proposed method for inspecting certain undelivered 787 airplanes," the agency said in a statement to AFP. — AFP ■

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Dated: 6 September 2021

## New Zealand tried for years to deport supermarket attacker: Ardern



A police officer stands guard near the New Lynn supermarket in Auckland, New Zealand, 3 September 2021. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed that the violent attack that happened at New Lynn supermarket in Auckland at 2:40 pm local time Friday was a “terrorist attack” carried out by an “extremist.” **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEW ZEALAND had been trying for years to deport an Islamic State-inspired radical who went on a frenzied stabbing attack, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern revealed Saturday, saying it was “frustrating” he was allowed to stay free. The lifting of suppression orders showed the attacker, Sri Lankan Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen, was served a deportation notice in April 2019 after his refugee status was revoked.

While the legal process

dragged on, Samsudeen grabbed a knife off a supermarket shelf in Auckland on Friday and injured seven people, leaving three critically wounded, before he was shot dead by police who were tailing him.

Ardern, who referred to Samsudeen as “the terrorist” and did not mention his name, was able to outline steps New Zealand had taken to try to deport him after the legal suppressions were removed late Saturday.

Samsudeen arrived in New Zealand as a 22-year-old in 2011 on a student visa and was granted refugee status two years later.

In 2016, he came to the attention of the police and intelligence agencies after expressing sympathy on Facebook for terrorist attacks.

During their investigations it became evident the refugee status was fraudulently obtained and the process began to cancel his right to stay in New Zealand, Ardern said. — Xinhua ■

## Haiti racing to rebuild schools destroyed in earthquake

HAITI is struggling to send children back to class amid the devastation of the earthquake last month that killed more than 2,200 people and destroyed tens of thousands of buildings, including many schools. It is a logistical and humanitarian challenge in the disaster-prone country—the poorest in the Americas—one that never fully recovered from the huge quake in 2010 that killed more than 200,000 people and caused billions in damage.

Classes for most students, initially scheduled to start September 6, have been pushed back by two weeks. And they have been postponed until October 4 in the three southern departments hardest hit by the 7.2 magnitude quake of August 14.

In those areas, many families lost everything.

Word of the delayed start to the school year launched a countdown for aid workers, who have raced to help the very needy people in the southern departments.

### Schools destroyed

“Of the 2,800 schools in the three affected areas, 955 have been assessed by the government with support from UNICEF, and the first results show that 15 percent of them were destroyed and 69 percent were damaged,” Bruno Maes, head of UNICEF in Haiti. — AFP ■



An aerial view of Haiti from a US Navy aircraft on 1 September 2021. **PHOTO: US NAVY/AFP**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Biden to visit three sites of 9/11 attack on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

US President Joe Biden will commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 by traveling to all the three sites of the attacks, the White House said Saturday. On September 11, the president and First Lady Jill Biden will “honor and memorialize the lives lost 20 years ago,” according to the White House statement. They will take part in ceremonies in New York, where the twin towers of the World Trade Center fell; in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the site of a crash of a plane hijacked by four jihadists; and in Arlington, Virginia, where the Pentagon was struck.—AFP ■

### Guns for hire: New US abortion law sparks debate on bounty hunters

THE phrase “bounty hunter” conjures images of “wanted” posters and gunslinging cowboys hunting fugitives in the Wild West—but the controversial profession is very much alive in modern-day America. The industry, almost unique to the United States, came under a renewed spotlight this week as the Supreme Court refused to block a Texas law giving ordinary citizens the green light to sue anyone helping women access abortions. Activists and politicians from street level campaigns to the White House have voiced alarm at the high court’s break with 50 years of precedent in protecting nationwide access to abortion.—AFP ■

## Fashion Week returning to New York with in-person energy

AFTER a long hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, New York is opening its Spring/Summer 2022 Fashion Week with the return of in-person runway shows featuring big names like Tom Ford and Altuzarra.

But Covid-related curbs will

deprive the series of some of its usual international flavor as it rolls out this week.

The pandemic overshadowed the last two fashion weeks, in September 2020 and February 2021, as both were dominated by virtual runway shows.

Steven Kolb, chief executive of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), says he sees room for both digital and in-person shows.

But “there is a real optimism and energy and enthusiasm about returning to live shows,” he added.

“There is, of course, nothing you can compare to a live show.”

In New York, whose fashion shows precede those of London, Milan and Paris, there is no shortage of iconic runway settings, as with Tommy Hilfiger’s Apollo Theater show in 2019 or Michael Kors’ Studio 54-themed event the same year.

On Thursday evening, LaQuan Smith will present his collection atop the Empire State Building, capping a day including shows by Moschino, Sergio Hudson and Carolina Herrera.—AFP ■



The Michael Kors runway show in February 2019 during New York Fashion Week. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Afghan crisis cements Qatari global influence

POLITICAL leaders have flocked to Doha and some countries have moved their Kabul embassies to Qatar, all praising their host for its key role in the airlift out of the Afghan capital.

Tiny Qatar has seized the moment, cementing its outsize global influence and reputation as a neutral mediator after winning the trust of all sides in Afghanistan's forever war.

Qatar invited the Taliban to open a political office in Doha in 2013, with then US president Barack Obama's blessing as conflict in Afghanistan raged. It went on to host talks between Washington and the Taliban that concluded in 2020 with a troop withdrawal agreement, followed by direct negotiations between the former insurgents and Afghan government. Doha's long-standing hotline to the Taliban ultimately helped Qatar burst onto the world stage as the lynchpin of efforts to evacuate desperate Afghans and foreigners — and now the push to



Political leaders have flocked to Doha and some countries have moved their Kabul embassies to Qatar. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

reopen Kabul airport.

"The Qataris have earned a reputation as honest brokers who are willing to help multiple warring parties to a find a way to

end these conflicts," said Colin Clarke, senior research fellow at the Soufan Center.

"I think what Qatar got out of it was a growing recognition

that Doha is the place to make a deal. It has grown into the Geneva of the Middle East, a place where warring parties can meet on neutral territory." — AFP ■

## Afghan civil war 'likely': top US general

AFGHANISTAN will "likely" erupt in civil war, the top US general told US media Saturday, warning that those conditions could see a resurgence of terrorist groups in the country.

As American forces began their withdrawal, the Taliban took over Afghanistan in a lightning campaign, with only the northern province Panjshir holding out against the hardline Islamists.

"My military estimate... is that the conditions are likely to develop of a civil war," General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Fox News.

He questioned whether the Taliban — who are yet to declare a government — would be able to consolidate power and establish effective governance.

"I think there's at least a very good probability of a broader civil war and that will then in turn lead to conditions that could, in fact, lead to a reconstitution of Al-Qaeda or a growth of ISIS or other... terrorist groups," Milley said.

Emphasizing that he could not predict what would happen next in Afghanistan, he nonetheless gave a bleak assessment.

"The conditions are very likely," Mil-



Mark Milley questioned whether the Taliban -- who are yet to declare a government -- would be able to consolidate power. PHOTO: AFP  
ley told Fox News, "that you could see a resurgence of terrorism coming out of that general region within 12, 24, 36 months." — AFP ■

## Montenegro clashes ahead of Orthodox leader's inauguration

PROTESTERS clashed with police Saturday in the southern Montenegrin city of Cetinje as ethnic tensions rose a day ahead of the inauguration of the new head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the tiny Balkans nation.

Hundreds of protesters forced their way past police cordons on the outskirts of Cetinje and put up barricades blocking access to the historic city, once the royal capital, an AFP correspondent reported.

Demonstrators shouted "This is not Serbia!" and "Long live Montenegro!" on the main road linking Cetinje to the capital Podgorica.

By Saturday evening, all roads into the city had been blocked.

Police and special forces

were deployed around the monastery itself, but have not for the moment intervened.

Sunday's enthronement of



By Saturday evening, all roads into Cetinje had been blocked. PHOTO: AFP

the new Metropolitan of Montenegro Joanikije has exacerbated ethnic tensions in this country, which broke away from Serbia in 2006.

Nearly a third of Montenegro's 620,000 population identifies as Serb and some even refuse to acknowledge Montenegro's independence.

While the Serbian Orthodox Church (SPC) is the dominant religion in Montenegro, critics accuse it of serving the interests of Belgrade.

The government that assumed power at the end of the 2020, is accused by its critics of being too close to the church. — AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Iran calls on US to stop its addiction to sanctions

IRAN urged the United States Saturday to stop its addiction to sanctions against the Islamic republic and accused President Joe Biden of following the same "dead end" policies as Donald Trump.

Foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh made his remarks a day after the US Treasury announced financial sanctions against four Iranians accused of planning the kidnapping in the US of an American journalist of Iranian descent.

"Washington must understand that it has no other choice but to abandon its addiction to sanctions and show respect, both in its statements and in its behaviour, towards Iran," Khatibzadeh said in a press release.

Under Trump's presidency, Washington unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and six major powers.

The multilateral deal offered Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme. — AFP ■

#### France's biggest trial to open over November 2015 atrocity

THE biggest trial in France's modern legal history begins on Wednesday over the November 2015 attacks on Paris that saw 130 people slaughtered at bars, restaurants and the Bataclan concert hall.

The suicide bombing and gun assault by three teams of jihadists, later claimed by the Islamic State group, was France's worst post-war atrocity. A purpose-built facility at the historic court of justice on the Ile de la Cite in central Paris will host the trial, with 14 of the 20 defendants present, including the only surviving attacker, Salah Abdeslam.

"Everyone has their own expectations, but we know that this is an important milestone for our future lives," said Arthur Denouveaux, a survivor of the Bataclan music venue attack and president of the Life for Paris victims' association. — 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.

## 2022 Asian Women's Cup Qualifiers postponed to October

GROUP D matches for the 2022 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in which Myanmar national women's team participation have been postponed to October 2021, according to the Asian Football Confederation.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is originally scheduled to host the qualifiers in Lebanon from 13 to 25 September, but officials set new schedules and venues amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

Asian Football Confederation also stated that Lebanon will not be able to host the women's football event due to domestic political tensions.

The AFC has decided to hold the event in Kyrgyzstan from 18 to 24 October, as other countries in the group could not host it.

Myanmar is falling in the Group D with Lebanon, UAE and Guam. According to the new fixtures, Myanmar will

play against Lebanon on 18 October, Guam on 21 October and UAE on 24 October respectively.

The Myanmar team will have more time to prepare for the group stage matches and will have more than a month to prepare.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has postponed the Group D matches due to host country change. Other seven group matches

will be held as scheduled from 16 to 29 September.

The tournament will be divided into eight groups and only the top team in each group will win the tournament.

According to the group vote, Group A includes China Taipei, Bahrain and Laos, while Group B consists of Vietnam, Tajikistan, Maldives and Afghanistan. In the meantime, Singapore is placing in the Group C together with Iraq

and Indonesia while Myanmar is in the Group D with UAE, host Lebanon and Guam.

Next, South Korea, Uzbekistan and Mongolia are placed in the Group E and Group F consists of the Philippines, Hong Kong and Nepal. Group G consists of Jordan, Iran and Bangladesh while ASEAN powerhouse team Thailand is included in Group H with Palestine and Malaysia. —Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

## Tokyo Games end with legends forged in gold



Tomoki Sato (L) poses for a photo with his gold medal alongside Hirokazu Ueyonabaru holding his bronze medal after the men's wheelchair T52 1,500-meter victory ceremony on 29 August 2021, at Tokyo's National Stadium. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Tokyo Games brought Japan 13 more gold medals than the previous Paralympics, as a new generation of athletes contributed a swathe of titles and a few old stagers showed they still have what it takes.

Five years after the disappointment of Rio de Janeiro, where Japan never topped the

podium, the nation achieved its equal-third best gold medal total, while tallying 51 medals overall — one short of its record 52, set in 2004.

Tomoki Sato wheeled his way to two gold medals on the athletics track, living up to the pre-games hype to deliver the 400, 1,500-meter T52 double and

improve on the two silver medals he won in 2016.

The 31-year-old chose to deflect the plaudits after winning, saying he was simply focused on performing at a high level to honor the sacrifices others had made in bringing the games to fruition during the coronavirus pandemic.

"The year (following the postponement of the games) was a struggle not only for athletes, but for many people.

Athletes from each country came here determined to still perform at their peak, and with this in mind, I wanted to make sure I gave my best," Sato said. Making history was on the agenda in Tokyo for Japanese cyclist Keiko Sugiura.

Over some five years, Sugiura went from suffering a brain injury in an able-body cycling race to a double Paralympic gold medalist, earning a spot in the Japanese cycling annals in the process. — Kyodo News ■

## Djokovic moves on at US Open as top-ranked Barty ousted

NOVAK Djokovic moved within four matches of completing the first men's singles calendar-year Grand Slam in 52 years on Saturday while top-ranked Ashleigh Barty was eliminated from the US Open by a stunning fightback from American Shelby Rogers.

World number one Djokovic defeated Kei Nishikori 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-3, 6-2, taking his 17th consecutive victory over the Japanese star and improving to 18-2 in their overall rivalry.

"I was very pleased with the focus," Djokovic said. "Maybe at some points I wasn't my best, but I was determined and focused and that made the difference."

With a fourth career US Open trophy, Djokovic would

complete the first men's singles sweep of major titles in the same year since Rod Laver in 1969.

Reigning Wimbledon champion Barty won 11 of 14 games after dropping the first set, only for Rogers to capture five of the last six games for a shocking 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (7/5) triumph.

"I didn't want to leave," Rogers said. "I just said make balls, try to stay in this match, it can't get any worse, you've lost to her every time."

Rogers had dropped all five prior meetings with Barty but would not be denied, breaking the Aussie as she served for the match in the eighth and 10th games as the crowd went wild at Arthur Ashe Stadium. — AFP ■