

# WORLD AGENDA

JULY 2021

**1 Jul 1, China:** A day of mass celebration and speeches for the centenary of the Chinese Communist Party enables **Xi Jinping** to extol his handling of the Hong Kong challenge and Covid-19 pandemic, and to lay out plans for expanding China's global presence

**2 Jul 15, U.S.:** German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** makes a likely farewell visit to the U.S. after 16 years at the helm of Europe's largest economy. Both countries are eager to rebuild ties strained during the Trump era

**3 Jul 4, U.S.:** President **Joe Biden** has acknowledged that his goal of partially vaccinating 70% of adults by the July 4 holiday is unlikely to be met, with vaccine hesitancy still strong in the south and midwest

**7 Jul 9, Hong Kong:** A rare pear-shaped diamond expected to fetch up to \$15 million can be bought at auction using cryptocurrencies. **Sotheby's** says it is the first time a diamond of such size has been offered for sale using Bitcoin and the like

**8 Jul 28, Thailand:** The first passengers will depart from Bangkok's **Bang Sue Grand Station**, the biggest rail station in Southeast Asia. The airport-style hub should relieve chronic traffic congestion and help upgrade the public transport system



**4 Jul 23, Japan:** The **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**, postponed by the global pandemic, are set to go ahead despite opposition from most of the public

**5 Jul 20, U.S.:** Amazon founder **Jeff Bezos** makes the first manned flight into space by his company **Blue Origin**, in the ongoing bid to usher in a new era of private commercial space travel

**6 Jul 6-17, France:** The **Cannes Film Festival** returns after a one-year absence with a live event that vows to bring back glamour, stars and top filmmakers to the French Riviera

