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■ After 15 victories and one defeat, boxer Aniya Seki from Köniz near Berne fought her first world title fight in the super-flyweight division and defeated her opponent from Germany, Natascha Guthier, on 20 August. Seki, aged 32, who has a Japanese father and a Swiss mother, was clearly technically superior to her opponent and scored a unanimous points victory (100:91, 100:90, 98:92).

■ At the end of 2010, Switzerland's population stood at 7,870,100 according to the results of the latest census published by the Federal Statistical Office. This meant an increase of 84,300 people or 1.1% compared to the previous year. In 2008, there had been a 1.4% increase. The number of foreign nationals permanently residing in Switzerland totalled 1,766,300 million. This is 22.4% or 52,300 people more than in 2009. Of the foreign resident population, 62.4% came from EU or EFTA member states. The place of birth of persons residing in Switzerland was also recorded for the first time: 73.6% were born in Switzerland; of these 93.6% are Swiss citizens.

■ The "Grande Dixence" dam in Valais celebrated its 50th anniversary on 22 September. Standing at 285 metres, the "Grande Dixence" is the world's second-highest dam, after the Nurek dam (300 metres) in Tajikistan. It holds back 400 million cubic metres of water and weighs around 15 million tons. Over 3,000 construction workers, geologists, hydrologists and engineers spent 15 years working at the building site at an altitude of 2,400 metres above sea level.

"In times of adversity, it is vital that we stand together. That is what I am appealing for in the spirit of our forefathers who stood together in 1291 – back then it was against the Habsburgs, the challenge today is the exchange rate."

Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann

"Switzerland is set to become German finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble's largest tax collection agency."

Peter Bodenmann, former President of the Swiss Social Democratic Party on the tax agreement between Switzerland and Germany signed on 21 September

"After the many issues we had to iron out, this agreement represents a major achievement."

Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf on the same topic

"Life is unjust, particularly when it comes to major banks that have been the target of public outrage for years with no sign of punishment."

Roger Köppel, editor-in-chief of "Weltwoche" after the revelation that a UBS employee lost 2.3 billion US dollars through speculation

"If you're asking whether I feel to blame, then the answer is no."

Oswald Grübel, former CEO of UBS on the machinations at his bank

"This group of morons says we should cut the tax rate for all companies."

Christophe Darbellay, President of the Christian Democratic People's Party (CVP), on the Swiss People's Party (SVP)

"Federal councillors should not conduct election campaigns. This would be disastrous for the institution of the Federal Council. I believe it is of greater benefit to my FDP party if I just do my job well."

Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter before the elections

"In the current line-up I too may face de-selection. But that wouldn't bother me."

Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer on the Federal Council election of 14 December

"I is often more important than 'we'. 'More and more' overrides 'I have enough'."

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard in her speech on the Day of Prayer and Repentance



Beating the favourites to be crowned champion – Daniel Bösch won the legendary Unspunnen wrestling tournament in Interlaken on 4 September. "I am a quiet but ambitious person who can be uncompromisingly tough sometimes", is how the butcher from Sirnach in the canton of St. Gallen, who is 193 cm tall and weighs 125 kg, describes himself.

Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga was also thrilled by Bösch. At the Unspunnen festival she explained that all seven Federal Councillors had wanted to travel to Interlaken before in the end agreeing to "send someone nice from the left to see some rough action".

The bottom of the dam is 200 metres thick – twice the length of a football pitch.

It narrows as it rises such that the top of the dam wall measures just 15 metres. If the reservoir is full, the top of the dam moves by 11 centimetres under the pressure. A fifth of the stored energy generated in Switzerland is produced by the Grande Dixence plant. The storage power station provides around 400,000 households with electricity.

■ The performance of Swiss industry in the second quarter of this year was excellent, according to the Federal Statistical Office. Production was 2.3% higher and revenues even 3.1% up on the same period in the previous year. There was also a significant increase in orders.

■ Switzerland has introduced a new award for the best schnapps distilleries in the country. They will be known as "Gold Distillers" according to an announcement by the Swiss federal authorities. A jury under the supervision of Destisuisse, the research institute Agroscope Changings-Wädenswil and the Swiss Alcohol Board has presented the first awards. The following methods were applied: the sensory consensus method for the description of the schnapps and the internationally recognised 100-point system for colour, fragrance, aroma, taste and harmony. The experts tasted 410 varieties of spirit on 9 and 10 June. With an eight-hour working day, the judges had to assess a different schnapps every two and a half minutes on both days. Five distilleries may now use the title "Gold Distiller 2011". (BE)