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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.

Nay Pyi Taw sees transport and communications development

NAY Pyi Taw is located between the Bago Yoma Mountain and the Shan Yoma Mountains, near the centre of Myanmar, and is the main region for communication and transportation. It also borders Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Bago Region, Shan State, Kayah State and Kayin State.

Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory is constituted with two districts and 8 townships. Of a total of 796 villages, 179 villages are accessible in any season and 617 villages are accessible only in summer. Therefore, The Department of the Rural Road Development of the

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Press release on plans to continue COVID-19 vaccination in Myanmar

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out COVID-19 vaccination with the following aims: -
(a) to reduce the infection and death rates of COVID-19 in Myanmar;
(b) to prevent the infection of COVID-19;
(c) to mitigate the impact of the State economy based on infection of COVID-19.

2. During the period from 27-1-2021 to 21-7-2021, the health staff and the majority of public service personnel have been injected with the vaccines at full time. According to the Myanmar National Vaccine Deployment Plan drawn in accord with the guidelines of the World Health Organization, the target groups were set for vaccination on the priority.

3. Furthermore, the following target groups will soonest be vaccinated on the priority depending on the availability of the vaccines for meeting the above-mentioned aims: -
(a) the people above 65 years old;
(b) health personnel and private health staff who are yet to receive the vaccination despite serving the duties of prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 at frontlines;
(c) volunteers who have not received vaccines while serving the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19;
(d) older people from the Homes for the Aged;
(e) religious personnel, monks and nuns;
(f) people's service personnel who have not been injected vaccines;
(g) private banking staff;
(h) employees from private factories and industries;
(i) staff from hotels/motels/lodges;
(j) prisoners and inmates from jails;
(k) personnel from private transport services (inland, aviation and marine transport);
(l) workers from supermarkets/markets;
The soonest vaccination will be given to those from the remaining target groups depending on the arrivals of the vaccines.
4. Those who will not be vaccinated at present are: -
(a) those who have been vaccinated a kind of COVID-19 vaccines including COVIDSHIELD for two times;
(b) those currently suffering from fever and symptoms of COVID-19;
(c) the COVID-19 confirmed patients who are yet to meet six months from the laboratory test approval to the vaccinated day;

5. With regard to the incomings of vaccines and vaccination plans, a total of three million doses of vaccine arrived in Myanmar in July 2021. Three more million doses will arrive in coming August 2021. The already arrived vaccines will be injected into the people as quickly as possible.

6. The already arrived vaccines have been approved by the World Health Organization, and they are potent, safe and quality ones.

7. As everybody accepts vaccines for set times, better coverage of vaccines among the people will emerge the following benefits: -
(a) the vaccines can cut off the chains of disease infection among the people and effective mitigation of bad consequences for the people to be warded, suffering from severe impacts of the disease and death rate of the disease;
(b) when the number of infected patients among the people declines, requirements of beds at the hospitals, needs of oxygen and over workloads of health staff can be reduced; and qualified healthcare services can be given to the patients while the infection of disease can be placed under control in a short time;

8. The people are requested not to believe misinformation and rumours about vaccines; and as the vaccine is the best for themselves and their families, the people are urged to systematically participate in the vaccination programme.

9. The Ministry of Health and Sports requested retired medical professionals, medical staff, private health staff, students from medical-related universities, those from nursing and midwifery training schools and retired members of the Defence Services Medical Corps to participate in the vaccination programmes in order to fulfil human resources needed in the vaccination programmes and to have higher coverage of vaccination in a short period of time.
- Ministry of Health and Sports

COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures

- ALL people are urged to abide by the following ways of prevention against COVID-19 without fail in line with the motto: "COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures" not to violently infect COVID-19 as next wave and not to be infected of variant COVID-19 virus.
1. Systematically wear masks whenever go outside and also wear face shields whenever associate with many people.

2. Take adequate distance from each other as much as they can.

3. Avoid the crowds.

4. Take 20 seconds in systematically washing hands many times.

5. Avoid the visits to the closed chambers, air-conditioned rooms and the lesser ventilated rooms as much as possible.

6. Those who need to go outside houses should avoid acts close to and eat meals together with older persons above 60 years and those with diabetes, hypertension, and heart diseases.

7. Fully cooperate in quarantine processes.

8. Don't buy something from the vendors who do not wear masks.

9. Exchange information to each other.

10. Cooperate in vaccination of COVID-19 pandemic. Continuously follow the preventive measures although they have received the vaccinations.

11. Strictly follow the work guidelines for preventing the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

12. If somebody suffers from symptoms of higher body temperature, coughing, suffocation, tiredness and sudden loss of smell and flavour, they need to immediately contact nearby health units to receive medical treatment.

13. If those who do not wear the masks when they go outside, and if those who conduct mass gatherings will face legal actions under the existing laws.

Health Knowledge Awareness Promoting Department
Ministry of Health and Sports

Personal preventive practices against COVID-19 infection

1. Wear the mask systematically when going out in public.

2. Keep a proper physical distance.

3. Avoid the crowd.

4. Wash your hands for 20 seconds frequently.

5. Avoid entering unventilated closed spaces as much as possible.

4,980 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 July, total figure rises to 284,099

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **284,099** after **4,980 new cases** were reported on 28 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **3,584** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **8,210** after **365** died. —MNA

We need cooperation

THE volunteers are also welcomed and some volunteers report. However, some do not dare to volunteer due to the threats. Some cannot do as they are away from here. I have already been told that I welcome such volunteering and that shows we need cooperation.

(Excerpt from the speech to the 3rd coordination meeting on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 18 July 2021)

MoC grants temporary relaxation of licence requirements for anti-Covid-19 devices

THE Ministry of Commerce allows temporary relaxation of licence requirements for anti-Covid-19 equipment and products during the public holidays.

The Department of Commerce (Head Office) Import and Export Division and the Export-Import Office (Yangon) are now accepting applications for import and export licences from 26 July to 1 August.

Export licences from 26 to 28 July, including US\$456 million worth of 56 import licences for drugs and medical supplies, 277 import licences including US\$6 million and US\$318 million, respectively, have been approved.

The relevant departmental

officials are also working together to facilitate the importation processes in line with the SOP.

A total of 3,063 oxygen concentrators and 15,250 test kits arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday. A bowser carrying 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 29 tonnes of liquid oxygen (cylinders), 3,302 home oxygen concentrators, and 22 tonnes of masks were also imported via Myawady, Chinshwehaw, Kawthoung and Tachilek trade camps on the same day. These materials were imported by 36 vehicles of 26 companies.

From 12 to 28 July, 631 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 494 tonnes of the liquid oxygen tank, 106 tonnes of oxygen gas, 44,684

home oxygen concentrators, 275,778 test kits, 797 tonnes of masks, five oxygen plants and nine oxygen generators were allowed to be imported by 549 vehicles, while officials are now giving priority to disease control of Covid-19. The Trade Department also operates as usual for online registration for import licences during long public holidays from 26 July and 28 August.

The Ministry of Commerce is also cooperating with the ministry concerned to import the medical supplies. It also releases contact persons of relevant departments and its website address -- Commerce.gov.mm for people to know updated news.

— MNA



Nay Pyi Taw sees transport and communications ...

FROM PAGE-1

Union Territory is striving to make the roads accessible to all seasons.

To develop the socio-economic lives of the rural people with sustainable roads and bridges, to get rural products to the market as soon as possible by using rural roads, to make the roads accessible for the education, health and social matters of the rural people and to support the national transport project, are the goals of the department for the rural people.

It is also a goal of the Rural Road Development Department that was established on 21 July 2017 to make annual improvements for 80 per cent of villages and 90 per cent of rural people

ed not only the earthen roads into asphalt roads, concrete roads, gravel roads and reinforced roads which are accessible to any season but also the local-made wooden and bamboo bridges into reinforced concrete bridges for a total of 870,430 rural people in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

In upgrading rural roads to reduce the disparity between rural and urban living standards and to develop harmoniously, the Department has upgraded 64/7.71 miles of concrete roads; 104/3.6 miles of asphalt road; 187/2.08 miles of gravel road; 437/4.4 miles of reinforced road; 486/6.27 miles of earthen road in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.



to be able to use the roads that are accessible all year round by 2030.

The Department of Rural Road Development has upgrad-

Since from the establishment of the Department of Rural Development in the 2017-2018 Financial Year to the current 2020-2021 FY, 85/7.3 miles of

concrete road; 59/1.63 miles of asphalt road; 87/4.23 miles of gravel road; 151/4.88 miles of laterite road; 123/3.85 miles of earthen road, totally 507/5.86

miles of roads were completed for the rural people.

Rural Bridges

In terms of rural bridges, 46 concrete bridges, 3 wooden bridges, 30 submersible bridges, 266 box culverts, totally 347 bridges were upgraded.

Implementation of the Department

The Department of Rural Development has upgraded a total of 507/5.86 miles of roads since its establishment in the 2017-2018 FY, with a 25 per cent of all-year-round accessible rural roads and 77.5 per cent of roads that are accessible in the dry season in Nay Pyi Taw.

The strategic goal of the Department of Rural Road Development is to have 80 per cent of the villages and 90 per cent of the rural population in Myanmar by 2030 have access to rural roads, all villages with a

population of 1,000 or more will be able to access rural roads by 2020; by 2025, 95 per cent of all villages with a population of 500 or more.; by 2030, 75 per cent of all villages with a population of more than 250 and 50 per cent of all villages with a population of less than 250 will be accessible to all-season-round village roads.

Improvement to be continued

As the Department of Rural Road Development in Nay Pyi Taw will continue to upgrade the roads to villages in the region to be accessible in any season and as the work of the Department becomes more successful, the production/flow of rural goods in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory will increase as well as socio-economic life will inevitably develop rapidly. — Cham Myae Maung/GNLM

Oxygen cylinders provided nationwide

TATMADAW and well-wishers currently work together to provide oxygen cylinders to the public hospitals, military hospitals, health departments and COVID-19 treatment centres in respective regions and states.

The Nay Pyi Taw Command donated 50 oxygen cylinders to the 1,000-bedded Nay Pyi Taw Public Hospital in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council while 99 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) by the South-West Command to the public hospitals and welfare organizations in Pathein, Thaboung, Maubin and Danubyu townships of Ayeyawady Region,

another 90 cylinders (40 litres) by the North-West Command, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and volunteers to General Hospital in Monywa Township of Sagaing Region, 20 oxygen cylinders by the Central Command to Myingyan District Public Hospital of Mandalay Region and 65 oxygen cylinders by the Southern Command and Parahita organizations to the public hospitals in Monyo and Nattalin townships of Bago Region yesterday. Moreover, the Ministry of Health and Sports and Tatmadaw establish new oxygen plants to meet the country's oxygen needs. — MNA



Inmates vaccinated against COVID-19 in Insein central prison

THE Insein Central Prison started its COVID-19 vaccination drive for the prison inmates yesterday. According to prison officials, a total of 610 inmates were vaccinated on the first day.

“This is the first COVID-19 vaccination of prisoners at the prison. Although there is still no outbreak of COVID-19 in the prison, we are taking precautionary measures and all prisoners who wish to be vaccinated will be vaccinated,” said a prison officer.

The vaccination was undertaken by prison doctors and nurses, under the supervision

of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the guideline of the State Administration Council and it will continue over the coming days depending on the availability of vaccines from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

At present, there are more than 9,000 inmates in the Insein Centra Prison and more than 2,500 have registered to be vaccinated. — Myint Mo/GNLM

An inmate is seen receiving health condition test before inoculation.



Myanmar delegation attends 6th ASEANSAI Senior Officials’ Meeting



MALAYSIA hosted the 6th ASEANSAI Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) yesterday to successfully hold the 6th ASEANSAI Summit of the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (ASEANSAI), through videoconferencing.

The meeting was attended by delegations led by ASEAN Senior Officials from the 10 ASEAN member nations and the Director-General (Audit),

and officials led by the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union.

Datuk Nik Azman bin Nik Abdul Majid, the current chair of the ASEANSAI, said, over the last ten years since its establishment, the member countries have been able to enhance mutual understanding and co-operation and discuss important issues to achieve the goals

of the institutions. Afterwards, Head of ASEANSAI Secretariat Mr Bahtiar Arif presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed the amendments to the rules and regulations of the Institution (draft), Strategic Plan (2020-2025), the responsibilities of the Knowledge Sharing Committee, and Action Plan (draft) of the committees of the Institutions for 2020-2023. The leaders and members of the delegations exchanged views on the legal feasibility study of the Institution.

The second day of the meeting will be held on 29 July. A videoconference was also hosted on 27 July by Malaysia to prepare for and support the 6th ASEANSAI Senior Officials’ Meeting. A delegation led by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union attended, it is reported. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccination conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay regions

THE COVID-19 vaccination was provided to civil service personnel, prison inmates and people over the age of 65, including monks and nuns in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon and Mandalay regions, yesterday.

A total of 276 civil service personnel from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory as their second dose; 1,161 people over the age of 65 in Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmye, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyitagon, Amarapura and Patheingyi townships in Mandalay Region; 360 inmates in the Nay Pyi Taw Prison and 610 inmates in the Insein Central Prison were vaccinated.

The vaccination was undertaken by Tatmadaw medical teams, in collaboration with doctors and medical workers from the public hospitals and volunteers and officials encouraged and coordinated with them where necessary. — MNA



Inoculation programmes are underway in Central Command areas.

Myanmar, Laos discuss ways to repatriate over 400 Myanmar migrant workers

OFFICIALS from Myanmar and Laos held a meeting at Wanbon Port in Maing Phone (A) Village-Tract, Tachilek Township, Shan State (East) yesterday morning and discussed the repatriation process for over 400 Myanmar migrant workers who are facing difficulties in Laos.

With the supervision of Wasipit Sayadaw in Kengtung, necessary processes for the convenient repatriation of the Myanmar workers were also discussed.

U Ye Naing, Chairman of the State Administrative Branch (Shan East), Colonel Min Min Tun, Commander-in-Chief of the Tactical Team (Settlement) Tachilek, and U Myint Naing, Chairman of Tachilek District Administration Committee

and members, members of the Urban Development Support Group and officials from Laos attended the meeting.

“The returnees will be repatriated in two batches on 30 July and 1 August. At present, there are more than 450 returnees, and the returnees who are still facing difficulties will be repatriated and sent to their respective regions and states,” officials said.

“Arrangements have been made for health check-ups for the returnees and arrangements for quarantine centres to keep patients infected with the Covid-19 virus.

“Vehicles are also planned to repatriate Covid-19 negative people immediately,” officials added.— MNA



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Suspects of Meiktila blast arrested

THE terrorist groups CRPH, NUG and PDF intentionally send the youths to the ethnic armed groups for military training to destroy the State stability and attempt to commit bomb attacks and arson attacks in public areas and schools and attack the teachers.

The security forces arrested Thein Thein Ei (aka) Kala Ma at her house in Nan Taw Gone Ward of Meiktila Township for sending the information about the movement of the security forces to Aung Chit Ko who completed PDF training on 26 July.

According to the confession of Thein Thein Ei (aka) Kala Ma, Aung Chit Ko who returned to Meiktila after the training of TNLA at 7 Star grocery in Inwa street of Zay Ashe

Pyin Ward on 27 July, including the shop owner Pyi Thu and his wife Soe Noble.

Based on the words of suspects, the police also seized two homemade guns of Aung Chit Ko at Lucky Star grocery (branch) yesterday.

According to Aung Chit Ko, he conducted bomb attacks on the Meiktila district education officer office and township administrative office in Zay Ashe Pyin Ward together with Thurein Soe on 27 July. On 6 May, Thurein Soe, Htin Lin, Wai Hmue, Khaing Mye Zaw, Tayoke Lay, Kyaw Zin Han, Pan Char and Htet Wai Yan also shot, with slingshots, the teachers who held a meeting at B.E.PS (30) of Mazalibin Village of Kywal Tain Village tract of Meiktila Township to reopen



Aung Chit Ko



Arrestees are seen with seized arms.



the schools and destroyed three motorcycles of teachers in the school compound. Moreover, on 7 May, they set

fire to six motorcycles of teachers in the district education officer office in Thiri Mingala Ward. These explosives were received from the suspect Soe Yan Nain, who died in an explosion at Shwe Lin Pin Inn on 6 June.

The police also received the tip-off that Aung Chit Ko bought two homemade guns from another suspect Paing Zay (being arrested).

The suspect Aung Chit Ko joined the explosive training of TNLA at Ohn Thee Village of Khun Kaw of Kyaukme Township in Northern Shan State from 5 to 25 May under the instruction of Zin Min Phyoo (still at large) who was charged

under Section 505(a) on 18 May.

The suspects Pyi Thu and his wife Soe Noble urged and protected Aung Chit Ko who possesses the weapons to commit destructive activities.

Similarly, Thein Thein Ei (aka) Kala Ma reported the activities of security members to suspect Aung Chit Ko.

Therefore, these four suspects who attempted to affect the state stability and the rule of law will face legal actions under the law and the authority urged the people to report the activities and hiding places of remaining suspects secretly to the officials, and to cooperate with the security forces to ensure the stability. — MNA



Suspect Aung Chit Ko and terrorists set fire on motorbikes belonging to teachers in Meiktila on 6 May 2021.



Suspect Aung Chit Ko and terrorists attacked the district education office with a hand-made bomb in Meiktila on 27 April 2021.

Myanmar goods trade deficit with Singapore estimated at \$1.388 bln in seven months

MYANMAR trade deficit in goods with Singapore was estimated at US\$1.388 billion in the past seven months (October-April) of the current financial year 2020-2021, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry indicated.

Singapore is Myanmar's second-largest trading partner in the region, after Thailand. In the current FY, the value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with Singapore in normal trade and border trade topped \$1.624 billion.

The Ministry of Commerce reported that imports surpassed exports in trade

with Singapore, with exports reaching over \$117.78 million and imports valued at over \$1.5 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, footwear, textiles and clothing, minerals, and animal products to Singapore, while it imports plastic, fuel oil, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products, metals, and chemicals.

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Singapore was registered at \$3.5 billion in the last financial year 2018-2019, \$1.99 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period, \$3.83 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$2.96 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$3.69 billion in the 2015-2016FY, respectively. — KK/GNLM



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CBM sells \$33 million in July so far

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has sold US\$33 million at its FX auction rate in July so far.

The bullish hard currency gained in the local forex market, reaching the peak of K1,730 on 12 May from K1,330 in January-end. In a bid to strengthen the local currency, the CBM reportedly sold \$6 million on 8 July and \$3 million each on 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27 and 28 July in the auction market, respectively. Consequently, the exchange rate stands at around K1,645 on 28 July, according to the CBM.

The CBM trades the foreign currency with the authorized private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

The CBM's move is aimed at governing the market volatility and supporting the state's foreign exchange reserves, the CBM stated.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. The rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730 in May and it moved to the maximum of K1,595-1,620 last month.

In 2020, the exchange rate

moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — GNLM



The CBM's move is aimed at governing the market volatility and supporting the state's foreign exchange reserves, the CBM stated.

Myanmar attracts \$3.76 bln FDI in nine months

MYANMAR has drawn foreign direct investment of more than US\$3.76 billion in the past nine months of the 2020-2021 financial year, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investment in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) ensures to approve the responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects.

In May, the UK-listed enterprises brought in a large volume of investment of \$2.5 million and became the top source of FDIs in Myanmar in the past nine months, DICA's statistics indicated.

Japan stood as the second-largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of \$518.76 million from three projects, followed by Singapore investing \$428.336 million in Myanmar.

Those enterprises listed from Brunei, China, Thailand, India, Malaysia, the Republic of

Korea, Viet Nam, Marshall Island, Samoa, Hong Kong (SAR) and China (Taipei) also made investments this year.

Of 44 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by MIC and the respective investment committees between 1 October and 30 June in the current FY, 23 enterprises pumped FDIs into the manufacturing sector. The power sector received six large projects, and the livestock and fisheries sector attracted six projects. The other services sector drew five projects while the agriculture sector pulled two projects. One foreign enterprise each entered the industrial estate and the hotel and tourism sectors.

The FDIs stood at \$6.9 million from 158 enterprises in the FY2016-2017, \$6.119 billion from 234 businesses in the FY2017-2018, \$1.94 billion from 89 projects in the 2018 mini-budget year, \$4.5 billion from 298 sectors in the FY2018-2019 and \$5.689 billion from 253 businesses in the FY2019-2020, respectively, the DICA's data indicated.

Those enterprises have created over 96,000 jobs in the FY2016-2017, 110,000 in the FY2017-2018, over 53,000 in the 2018 mini-budget period, over 180,000 in the FY2018-2019 and 210,000 in the FY2019-2020, respectively. — MM/GNLM

Organize medical professionals for the production of COVID-19 vaccines

“IT is necessary to produce the basic household medicines at home. Encouragement must be given to the production of quality and high potent medicines at industrial zones and factories,” said the Chairman of the State Administration Council in his guidance at the fifth coordination meeting of the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment on 26 July.

Whenever imported the medicines including COVID-19 vaccines, we waited for a long time for our turn. It is because we have no capacity to manufacture the COVID-19 vaccine. If we have adequate technology for manufacturing the necessary medicines, it is no need to wait for our turn.

Those professionals must not be restricted under departmental rules and regulations. Freedom of creation must be given to them at full capacity. If so, manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccines and household medicines will achieve success in a short time.

■ ■ ■

In fact, our country has intellectuals and intelligent-sia to create initiatives for the production of any medicines. But they don't have permission and encouragement from the authorities. If they have the green light, they are ready to produce necessary medicines for the sake of the people and the country. They don't have any colour. They don't have any bias. Their souls are always clean and free. They don't have any ambition. They target to produce the medicines benefiting mankind.

As such, the authorities need to search for those medical professionals. At this junction, the authorities should contact those medical professionals with professional status. They don't wish to obey any orders. They don't wish for any positions. They know dos and don'ts. But they prefer to enjoy the fruits of their work process. They are in freedom style. They don't like any orders for their works. If the authorities thoroughly organize those medical professionals, their work process will achieve success.

Hence, the authorities need to seek the best way of encouraging those medical professionals. Necessary assistance must be given to them to conduct their research. To be able to secure achievement in the production of medicines, the authorities need to spend the necessary costs and time on manufacturing the household medicines and other vaccines to be conducted by the professionals.

As soon as the work process starts, necessary assistance must be provided to the medical professionals. Those professionals must not be restricted under departmental rules and regulations. Freedom of creation must be given to them at full capacity. If so, manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccines and household medicines will achieve success in a short time.

IMF warns developing nations falling behind due to unequal vaccine access

While the global economy is still growing, the uneven distribution of vaccines is widening disparities as rich countries pick up speed and leave developing nations behind, the IMF warned Tuesday.

“VACCINE access has emerged as the principal fault line along which the global recovery splits into two blocs,” the International Monetary Fund said in its updated World Economic Outlook. But the IMF warned of the danger to the whole world if new virus variants are allowed to take hold.

The recovery “is not assured even in countries where infections are currently very low so long as the virus circulates elsewhere,” the report said.

World GDP will expand by six per cent this year, unchanged from the April forecast, but IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath flagged the “widening gap” as advanced economies grow faster and developing nations, especially in Asia, slow.

The United States is projected to see much faster growth this year than previously forecast, expanding seven per cent growth thanks to massive government spending and widespread Covid-19 vaccinations, but the IMF slashed the forecast for India, which is facing a resurgence of infections. The Washington-based crisis lender once again stressed that “the immediate priority is to deploy vaccines equitably worldwide,” and pushed a \$50 billion plan that offers a “feasible cost to end the pandemic”.

Advanced nations have vaccinated



A man (centre) exercises besides a hoarding urging the public to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus in Hanoi on 20 July 2021. PHOTO: AFP

nearly 40 per cent of the population, compared to barely 11 per cent in emerging markets and a tiny fraction in low-income countries, the report said.

Gopinath said “at least 1 billion vaccine doses should be shared in 2021 by countries with surplus vaccines.”

Failure to achieve widespread vaccinations could allow highly infectious virus variants to take hold, like the Delta variant that has become prevalent. That could derail the recovery, wiping out \$4.5

trillion cumulatively from global GDP by 2025, more than half of that lost from rich nations, the fund estimates.

And this is not just a “tail risk” that is highly unlikely but “a realistic downside risk,” said Petya Koeva-Brooks, deputy director of the IMF Research Department.

More worried now

Although some emerging market nations like Brazil and Mexico are poised

to show stronger growth this year, developing nations as a group are struggling to return to their pre-pandemic levels.

“I would say we're more worried than we were back in April,” Koeva-Brooks told AFP.

Vaccinations allowed an economic reopening and led to upgrades for the United States for this year and next, when growth is expected to hit 4.9 per cent.

However, that assumes the US Congress will approve another round of spending later this year of about \$4 trillion in President Joe Biden's infrastructure and job creation programs.

The IMF also raised the 2021 estimates for Canada and Britain to 6.3 per cent and seven per cent, respectively, while the euro area GDP is expected to expand 4.6 per cent, just slightly higher than the April WEO.

India's growth forecast was slashed three points to 9.5 per cent, and even China was trimmed by three-tenths of a per centage point to 8.1 per cent.

In Latin America, Mexico is expected to post higher growth, helped by the positive spillovers from the recovering US economy as well as from increasing domestic demand, while Brazil also got a boost amid rising commodity prices, which will fade next year, the report said.

Temporary or persistent?

Rising prices are another factor weighing on the global recovery, and pose a challenge to policymakers.

And while the recent inflation spike is the result of the unprecedented and uneven turnaround from the pandemic and should prove temporary, the IMF raised the possibility that price increases could become “persistent”.

“The unprecedented convulsion in the global economy last year continues to trigger aftershocks,” the IMF said, pointing to a shortage of computer chips and a lack of shipping containers where they are needed, which has delayed deliveries of materials.

Koeva-Brooks said some of the bottlenecks and price jumps were to be expected and should be temporary, but acknowledged that the situation is hard to measure.

“We've never seen how to reopen economies after a crisis like this one,” she said.

The IMF said inflation should return to pre-pandemic ranges in 2022 and urged central banks to hold off on reacting to the temporary price pressures — but to be ready to take “preemptive action”.

SOURCE: AFP

■ ■ ■

Coffee, vegetable may protect against COVID-19: study

“One or more cups of coffee per day was associated with about a 10% decrease in risk of COVID-19 compared to less than one cup per day. Consumption of at least 0.67 servings per day of vegetables (cooked or raw, excluding potatoes) was associated with a lower risk of COVID-19 infection. Processed meat consumption of as little as 0.43 servings per day was associated with a higher risk of COVID-19. Having been breastfed as a baby reduced the risk 10% compared to not having been breastfed.”

A NORTHWESTERN Medicine study shows coffee consumption and eating lots of vegetables may offer some protection against COVID-19.

Using data from the UK Biobank, researchers examined the associations between dietary behaviours measured in 2006-2010 and COVID-19 infections in March to December 2020, before vaccines were available. They focused on 1) diet factors for which data were available and previously implicated in immunity based on human and animal studies; 2) self-reported intakes of coffee, tea, vegeta-

bles, fruit, fatty fish, processed meat and red meat. An early-life exposure to breastmilk also was analyzed.

Among the 37,988 participants tested for COVID-19 and included in the study, 17 per cent tested positive.

The researchers found that one or more cups of coffee per day was associated with about a 10-per-cent decrease in risk of COVID-19 compared to less than one cup per day. Consumption of at least 0.67 servings per day of vegetables cooked or raw, excluding potatoes, was associated with a

lower risk of COVID-19 infection. Processed meat consumption of as little as 0.43 servings per day was associated with a higher risk of COVID-19. Having been breastfed as a baby reduced the risk 10 percent compared to not having been breastfed.

Exact mechanisms linking these diet factors to COVID-19 are unknown. “Coffee is a major source of caffeine, but there are also dozens of other compounds that may potentially underlie the protective associations we observed,” said senior author Marilyn Cornelis, associate pro-

fessor of preventive medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. “Associations with processed meat, but not red meat, point to non-meat factors.”

The observational nature of the UK Biobank research limits the extent to which mechanisms of protection can be tested, Cornelis said. However, much of her nutrition research uses genetics, and with all UK Biobank participants currently genotyped, she hopes to use this information to gain better insight into how diet and nutrition offer protection from the disease.

SOURCE: Xinhua



A girl learns to make coffee latte during the Ankara Coffee Festival on 29 Sept. 2018, in Ankara, Turkey. PHOTO: XINHUA/QIN YANYANG/FILE



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 28 July 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29 July 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Northern Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-11)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 July 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 July 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 July 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 11:00 hrs M.S.T on 28-7-2021)

Flood condition ofSittoungRiver

According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition ofThaungyinRiver

According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thaungyin River at Myawady has exceeded by about (10½) feet above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition ofThanlwinRiver

According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpaan has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1½) feet during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Madauk,MyawadyTownship and Hpaan Township, to take precaution measure.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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NEWS
IN BRIEF

Hong Kong's civil society 'withers' under national security purge

HUNDREDS of elected community leaders in Hong Kong have resigned and dozens of civil society groups have disbanded as China remoulds the finance hub in its own image.

Just days before Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law on the city last year, student Wong Yat-chin founded a new group called Student Politicism.

He had just finished his exams and wanted to keep opposition voices alive in a city supposedly still guaranteed free speech by setting up small street booths to discuss issues such as democracy and prisoner rights.

Since then he has been arrested five times for hosting booths or making speeches.

"The red lines are being tightened each day," the 20-year-old told AFP.—AFP ■

Taliban tell China Afghanistan will not be base for separatists

A top-level Taliban delegation visiting China assured Beijing the group will not allow Afghanistan to be used as a base for plotting against another country, an insurgent spokesman said Wednesday.

The delegation is in China for talks with Beijing officials, spokesman Mohammad Naeem told AFP, as the insurgents continue a sweeping offensive across Afghanistan — including areas along their shared border.

Their frontier is just 76 kilometres (47 miles) long — and at a rugged high altitude without a road crossing — but Beijing fears Afghanistan could be used as a staging ground for Uyghur separatists in Xinjiang.

"The Islamic Emirate assured China that Afghanistan's soil would not be used against any country's security," Naeem said. "They (China) promised not to interfere in Afghanistan's affairs, but instead help to solve problems and bring peace." —AFP ■

U.S., Singapore agree on need for rules-based order in Asia



U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin (front, R) is honoured by Singapore's army on 27 July 2021, in Singapore. **PHOTO: SINGAPORE'S DEFENSE MINISTRY/ KYODO**

VISITING U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen agreed Tuesday on the need for a rules-based order for regional security and to work on expanding their defence partnership.

Austin, who arrived in Singapore on Monday, is the first key member of President Joe Biden's Cabinet to visit South-east Asia and is set to travel to Vietnam and the Philippines after three days in the city-state.

During their meeting in Singapore, Austin and Ng "agreed on the importance of sustaining a rules-based order" and "committed to continue discussions on U.S. force posture

initiatives", according to a joint statement issued afterward.

Singapore provides logistical support to U.S. military aircraft and vessels and allows the regular rotational deployment of U.S. Navy littoral combat ships and P-8 aircraft.

The statement described the U.S. presence in the region as being "vital for its peace, prosperity and stability." Austin also held talks with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday.

"We are looking for new ways to work together, and strengthen this relationship further," Lee said on Facebook later.—Kyodo ■

Thousands of US-bound migrants stranded in Colombia

THOUSANDS of migrants are stranded in a Colombian port town as they wait for boats to cross into neighbouring Panama on their way to the United States, a state relief agency said.

The Gulf of Uraba, on Colombia's northern coast, is one of the main transit points for refugees from nearby Latin American nations as well as Africa, and Asia, trying to cross into Panama through a jungle corridor known as the Darien Gap. The United States is usually their final destination. But the number of migrants arriving in the municipality of Necocli has swelled in recent weeks and a local shipping company that transports people across the gulf into Panama's southern jungle is unable to keep

up, the municipal disaster management agency said Tuesday.

In the absence of land crossings to the border, "the company takes around 700 to 750 (migrants) but at night 1,000, 1,100, 1,200 more arrive," head of the disaster management unit, Cesar Zuniga, told AFP.

He added that more than 10,000 migrants had now accumulated in the municipality of 45,000 people. Dozens of migrants, including pregnant women and children, can be seen crowded on the beach waiting for a spot on a boat in images shared by local authorities. Zuniga said many of them were living in local hotels or rented rooms.

In January, hundreds of migrants living in makeshift tents



Earlier this year, migrants had set up camps on Necocli's beaches as they waited for the border to reopen. **PHOTO: AFP**

on the beach were trapped in Necocli due to strict border closures meant to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

"This time it is different,"

said Zuniga. "There is no forced border closure, the build-up is due to the operational and logistical inability of the transport company," Zuniga said.—AFP ■

French court to rule on illegal assets of E. Guinea president son



Teodorin Obiang tried to pass off his Avenue Foch building as a diplomatic mission. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRANCE'S top appeals court on Wednesday rules on the conviction handed to the powerful son of

the president of Equatorial Guinea for building up luxury assets in the country with illegally obtained

funds. If the Court of Cassation throws out the appeal by Teodorin Obiang, who is vice-president of the poverty-stricken central African country, his assets could be redistributed to the country's people under a new French law passed this month.

The case against Obiang, the son of Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang who has ruled the country since 1979, is the most advanced of several opened in France against mainly African elites over ill-begotten assets. The ruling will come two days after Equatorial Guinea closed its embassy in London following a move by Britain to

impose sanctions against Teodorin Obiang.

Britain accused Teodorin Obiang of siphoning off state assets into his own bank accounts to fund a luxurious lifestyle, including mansions around the world, luxury cars and the crystal-covered glove that Michael Jackson wore on his 1987-89 "Bad" tour.

Teodorin Obiang was first convicted in France in 2017 and again on appeal in February 2020 when he was handed a three-year prison sentence in absentia, fined 30 million euros (\$35 million), and had all the assets that had been seized in the investigation confiscated.—AFP ■

US veterans department becomes first agency to adopt vaccine mandate

THE US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) said Monday its more than 100,000 health care personnel would have to get Covid-19 shots, becoming the first federal agency to institute a mandate as California and New York City announced new vaccine requirements affecting workers.

President Joe Biden's administration had previously been reluctant to support such measures, but is now confronted with a Delta variant-driven surge

that is sweeping mainly through America's tens of millions of unvaccinated. "Whenever a Veteran or VA employee sets foot in a VA facility, they deserve to know that we have done everything in our power to protect them from Covid-19," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough in a news release. "With this mandate, we can once again make — and keep — that fundamental promise."

The statement added that four unvaccinated VA employees had died in recent weeks, all of

whom were unvaccinated.

Personnel such as physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, registered nurses and others now have eight weeks to be fully vaccinated. Earlier this month, VA officials said more than 70 per cent of the agency's 300,000 employees were fully vaccinated. The new order applies to 115,000 people, according to the Military Times. The move came as part of a broader shift, with New York City announcing municipal workers will need



US President Joe Biden looks at a dose of vaccine before its administered at a Covid-19 vaccination site at the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Centre in Washington. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

to get vaccinated or submit to weekly tests, and California ordering a similar measure for its

government employees but also extending the rule to private sector health workers.—AFP ■

Brussels says 70% of EU adults have at least one Covid shot



EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Tuesday that 70 per cent of adults in the bloc have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. Overall, 57 per cent of over-18s are now fully vaccinated across the 27 nations, she said in a statement. "These figures put Europe among the world leaders," von der Leyen said.

"But we need to keep up the effort." The European Commission president sounded a warning over the "very dangerous" Delta variant of the virus that has increasingly taken hold on

the continent and seen infection rates begin to tick up again. "I therefore call on everyone — who has the opportunity — to be vaccinated. For their own health and to protect others," she said. The European Commission — which has been in charge of securing vaccinations for the bloc — had earlier set the target of getting 70 per cent of adults fully vaccinated by the end of summer. Von der Leyen said on July 10 that the EU had delivered enough vaccines to reach that level. The inoculation drive in the bloc has picked up speed dramatically after a bumpy start due to supply shortfalls that saw it lag behind pacesetters like the United States, Britain and Israel.— AFP ■

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Tuesday that 70 per cent of adults in the bloc have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. **PHOTO: UNSPLASH/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

COVID-19 curbs to end in Australian's Victoria state, continue in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S Victoria state said on Tuesday it will end lockdown after curtailing the spread of COVID-19, but neighbouring New South Wales faced a four-week extension of restrictions according to media reports after new cases hit a 16-month peak.

More than half of Australia's near 26 million population has been in lockdown in recent weeks after an outbreak of the highly infectious Delta variant took hold in the New South Wales capital of Sydney and spread to three states.

New South Wales reported 172 COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, up from 145 a day earlier, with at least 60 spending time in the community while infectious.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian said a decision whether to lift the five-week lockdown will be taken this week, and local media later reported the state would announce a four-week extension of the order on Wednesday. With less than 13 per cent of the state's population fully vaccinated, curbs are expected to stay.

"We know we've put in the hard yards for five weeks and we don't want to waste all the good work that we've done by opening too early and then having the virus spread again," Berejiklian told a media conference. A spokesperson was not immediately available to confirm the media reports about the planned lockdown extension.—AFP ■

France's top council to rule on vaccine passports

FRANCE'S highest constitutional authority on Monday said it would rule next week on new legislation passed by parliament that would make vaccine passes a key part of daily life. The Constitutional Council, which has the power to send laws back to the legislature and government for changes, said it would issue the ruling on August 5. President Emmanuel Macron last week ordered that the health pass — proof of full vaccination or a negative test — would be required for people in France to visit venues such as cinemas or nightclubs. Parliament voted overnight Sunday to Monday to extend the use of obligatory vaccine passports from next month for visits to restaurants and cafes and trips on inter-city trains, as well as planes. The legislation



A jogger runs in the Champs de Mars as a strict lockdown comes into effect in France to stop the spread of COVID-19, Paris, France, 21 March 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

also makes vaccinations obligatory for health workers and carers.

But the plans have proven hugely controversial, prompting two weekends of protests that on

Saturday saw over 160,000 rally nationwide and dozens arrested. It was passed after marathon debates in the upper and lower houses.—AFP ■

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Dated: **29th July 2021**

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Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated: **29th July 2021**

China-Europe freight train service resumes from flood-hit Zhengzhou



Aerial photo shows a China-Europe freight train bound for Helsinki, Finland departing from Putian Station of Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province, 20 Nov. 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/HAO YUAN**

CHINA-EUROPE freight trains that depart from the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou have resumed operations after the city was hit hard by floods triggered by torrential rain.

On Sunday, a freight train loaded with electronic components, auto parts and other goods departed Zhengzhou for Belgium's Liege via the border port of Erenhot in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The China-Europe freight-train service has handled more than 7,300 trips in the first half of this year, up 43 per cent from the same period last year, data by the China State Railway Group Co. Ltd. showed. The freight trains have carried over 700,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit containers of goods in the six-month period, surging 52 per cent year on year. Launched in 2011, the freight trains have reached 168 cities in 23 European countries and recorded more than 40,000 trips, according to the group. —Xinhua ■

US manufactured goods growth slows in June

ORDERS for big-ticket manufactured goods grew at a slower-than-expected pace last month in the United States, government data said Tuesday, as the computer chip shortage continued to take a toll.

The Commerce Department reported durable goods orders increased 0.8 per cent in June, weaker than expected and much less than the 3.2 per cent growth seen the month before, which was sharply revised up. Durable goods orders were up 13 out of the last 14 months, the data said, and the transportation category fueled last month's gain with a 2.1 per cent overall increase. Within that category, non-defense aircraft and parts rose 17 per cent as Boeing shipped more planes. However orders for motor vehicles and parts fell 0.3 per cent as US car-makers continued to deal with shortages of semiconductors, which has forced some to idle assembly lines. "Vehicle production and orders have been wildly erratic in recent months, and the noise is likely to persist for some time yet," Ian Shepherdson on Pantheon Macroeconomics said.—AFP ■

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR POWER
PROJECTS IN MYANMAR
(Tender No. EPGE PV 02/2021-2022)**

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 02/2021-2022, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 10th September 2021 and the Addendum No.1 shall be issued.

Amendment to the Open Tender No 3/2021

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation; Department of Mines announced the invitation for open tender regarding the sale of (5008.574) Metric Tons; (21) Lots of Cathode Copper was advertised in state-owned newspapers with the announcement that it would be sold in US dollars and an open tender would be opened on 21.7.2021. However, the open tender will be postponed to 30.7.2021 as the tender opening date is part of the government holidays. The announcement was made in the state-owned newspapers from 16.7.2021 to 18.7.2021.

2. The tender has been rescheduled to open on 30.7.2021, which is now included in the extended public holidays, so the tender opening date will be reschedules as follows:

(A) Closing date and time: 20.8.2021 (14:00)
(B) opening date and time: 20.8.2021 (15:00)

3. For any further detailed information, it is requested to contact the telephone numbers: 067-3409378 and 067-3409372, Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines



**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee**

Invitation to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) from legal consulting firms

29 July 2021

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is committed to develop Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone in Rakhine State and the Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee (KPSEZ MC) is now inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from local or regional or international law firms to provide legal services to the committee for the Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Project, which includes an International Deep Sea Port and an Industrial Park.

The EOI shall contain, but not limited to, the following information.

- 1) Brief description of the firm or organization, and description of the human and technical resources that will be dedicated to the projects;
- 2) The background and relevant experiences of the legal consultants, preferably PPP projects, and concession agreements locally and internationally

The EOI shall be submitted by **3:00 PM (Myanmar Standard Time), Tuesday August 10, 2021**, by email to:

Chairman
KPSEZ Management Committee
Email: hqoffice@kpsezmc.com

On the basis of the above information, KPSEZ MC shall shortlist the potential Legal Consulting Firms. Only the shortlisted potential Legal Consulting Firms shall be invited to participate in the Tender process.

KPSEZ MC

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Japan’s Komatsu sells new hydraulic excavator in Southeast Asia

JAPANESE construction machinery maker Komatsu Ltd. has launched a new 20-tonne hydraulic excavator in Southeast Asia for use in urban civil engineering, starting with Indonesia and Thailand.

The new PC200-10M0 excavator under the CE series features better fuel economy and prices 10 to 15 per cent lower compared with the PC210-10M0 standard series excavator introduced in 2019, the Tokyo-based company said in a news release Monday.

The specifications of the new model are optimized exclusively for urban civil engineering work with four-cylinder engines, compared with the conventional series with six-cylinder engines, while maintaining the quality and durability of the previous model, it said. A Komatsu spokesperson told NNA that demand for residential land development and road construction in Indonesia is high.

Komatsu said it will promote a two-model line strategy in Southeast Asia, with the new model and the PC210-10M0 series model to meet a wide range of customer needs in the region.

The company plans to extend the strategy to other regions it views as strategic markets, including Asia, Latin America, Oceania, Africa and the Middle East, according to the news release. (NNA/Kyodo)— Kyodo ■



Photo shows Komatsu Ltd.'s 20-tonne PC200-10M0 hydraulic excavator under the CE series for use in urban civil engineering. The Japanese construction machinery maker began selling the new model in Southeast Asia in July 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**



The products, marketed under names like Black Horse Honey and Jaguar Power, contain chemicals like sildenafil or tadalafil which are used in drugs like Viagra and Cialis, which in France are only available on prescription. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP**

Not so sweet: France warns on ‘aphrodisiac honey’

FRENCH health and security authorities on Tuesday warned against honey and gel products being marketed as natural aphrodisiacs but which, in fact, contain ingredients not marked on labels that may have dangerous side effects.

Anyone who has bought the products “should above all not consume them but destroy them”, French anti-fraud, customs and health products safety agencies said in a joint statement.

They said the products, marketed under names like Black Horse Honey and Jaguar Power, claim to be natural but actually contain chemical products like sildenafil or tadalafil. These are the main substances in the anti-erectile dysfunction drugs Viagra and Cialis, which in France are only available on prescription.

These substances can have serious side-effects in people suffering heart conditions, the agencies warned, saying clinics had in the last months reported several cases of people who had consumed the products.

These included “repeated convulsions, pulmonary haemorrhages, brain swelling, or major acute renal failure that, for some, resulted in hospitalizations,” the agencies warned.— AFP ■

NEWS
IN BRIEFMan robs iconic
Parisian jeweller
using stand-up
scooter as getaway

An armed man using a stand-up scooter Tuesday robbed famed Parisian jeweller Chaumet of up to three million euros worth of jewellery in an audacious evening heist, a source close to the case said.

The robber stole between two million and three million euros (\$2.4-\$3.6 million) worth of jewellery and precious stones after bursting into the shop near the Champs-Élysées avenue around 5 pm, the source said.

Without using his weapon, the man also made his getaway on the scooter from the store on Rue François 1, the source said.

Chaumet, now part of the world's leading luxury goods maker LVMH, is best known for its store on Place Vendôme, which was robbed in 2009 with 1.9 million euros worth of gems stolen. — AFP ■

Leader of Tanzanian
opposition party
charged with
terrorism

A court in Tanzania has charged the leader of the main opposition party with terrorism-related offences, following his arrest that drew international concern and criticism of the country's new president.

Chadema chairman Freeman Mbowe was detained last week along with 15 other members of the party in a late-night crackdown government critics said bore the hallmarks of the oppressive rule of country's late leader. State prosecutor Ester Martin said Mbowe had been charged with two counts of "economic sabotage", crimes that do not allow for bail in Tanzania. "These are terrorism financing and terrorism conspiracy," she told reporters late Monday. Chadema said Mbowe had been charged in Kisumu court with terrorism crimes without his family or lawyers present. The party chairman and the other Chadema officials were arrested in the Lake Victoria port city of Mwanza last Wednesday ahead of a planned public meeting to demand constitutional reform. — AFP ■

Blinken in veiled warning on rights, democracy in India

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a veiled warning Wednesday about Indian democracy backsliding in his first official visit to New Delhi.

Rights groups say civil liberties and the space for dissent are under increasing attack in the world's biggest democracy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Blinken told civil society groups — his first appointment before meeting Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Modi — that the United States and India are "connected by shared values" such as the rule of law and freedom of religion.

But he added: "Both of our democracies are works in progress... As I said before, some-



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to India. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

times that process is painful. Sometimes it's ugly. But the strength of democracy is to embrace it."

"At a time of rising global threats to democracy and international freedoms — we talk about a democratic recession —

it's vital that we two world-leading democracies continue to stand together in support of these ideals."

Under Modi, India has made growing use of anti-terrorism legislation and "sedition" laws to arrest campaigners, journalists, students and others, critics say.

Earlier this month, an 84-year-old priest and tribal rights activist, charged with terrorism offences, died after nine months in custody, prompting international outrage including from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Hindu nationalist administration has also brought in legislation that detractors say discriminates against India's 170-million-strong Muslim minority. — AFP ■

Mata'afa takes office as Samoa's first female PM



Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa is the first woman to become prime minister of Samoa, taking office after a bitter impasse. **PHOTO: SAMOA OBSERVER/AFP**

FIAME Naomi Mata'afa entered parliament as Samoa's first female prime minister Tuesday, ending a bitter impasse that left the Pacific island without an effective government for 109 days after her election victory.

Following several abortive legal challenges, outgoing leader Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi finally conceded defeat on Monday, allowing Mata'afa and her fledgling cabinet to move into their parliamentary offices.

"I am pleased and thankful," Mata'afa said, listing an interim budget as her im-

mediate priority to keep the government running and give her cabinet time to review Samoa's financial and economic circumstances.

But she told Radio New Zealand the preparations had not been smooth going.

"We had approached key ministries... in terms of preparing briefs for an incoming government. They weren't very responsive," she said. "I would presume now that the issue has been settled about the validity of our government, they will come on board." — AFP ■

British Museum to restore objects damaged in Beirut blast

THE British Museum will restore eight ancient glass artefacts damaged in last year's Beirut port explosion, the London cultural institution announced on Tuesday.

The glass vessels were shattered after 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in Beirut's port caused a blast that devastated the city on 4 August 2020.

Workers will piece together hundreds of glass fragments at the British Museum's conservation laboratories in London with funding from The European Fine Art Foundation (TEFAF).

"These objects hold immense historical, artistic and cultural significance. Their return to their rightful form is a powerful symbol of healing and resilience after disaster," said

TEFAF chairman Hidde van Seggelen.

The artefacts were held in a case displaying 74 Roman, Byzantine and Islamic-era glass vessels in the American University of Beirut's Archaeological Museum, located 3.2 kilometres (two miles) from the blast.

The explosion caused them to shatter into hundreds of pieces, which were mixed with broken glass from cabinets and windows.

Only 15 vessels were deemed salvageable and eight safe to travel to London for restoration.

Sandra Smith, head of collection care at the British Museum, explained that glass reconstruction is a "delicate process" as shards move out of shape and



A view shows the damage inside an apartment in the neighbourhood of Gemmayze on 5 August 2020, a day after a blast in a warehouse in the port of the Lebanese capital sowed devastation across entire city neighbourhoods, killing more than 100 people, wounding thousands and plunging Lebanon deeper into crisis. **PHOTO: PATRICK BAZ / AFP**

have to be drawn back under tension.

The vessels, dating back to the first century BC, document

the evolution of glass-production technology in Lebanon, with two thought to have been imported from Syria or Egypt. — AFP ■

Biden accuses Russia trying to disrupt 2022 elections

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday accused his Russian counterpart of seeking to disrupt the 2022 congressional elections by spreading “misinformation.”

“Look at what Russia is doing already about the 2022 elections and misinformation,” Biden said during a trip to the office of the director of national intelligence near Washington, referring to information he receives during his daily briefing.

“It’s a pure violation of our sovereignty.”

He also lashed out at Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin has “a real problem, he is sitting on top of an economy that has nuclear weapons and nothing else,” Biden said. “He knows he is in real trouble, which



US President Joe Biden (left) has accused his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin (right) of trying to spread misinformation to disrupt the US 2022 midterm elections. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

makes him even more dangerous in my view.”

The US leader also ex-

pressed concern about the recent increase in cyberattacks, including via ransomware, which

typically see hackers encrypting victims’ data and then demanding money for restored access.

“If we end up in a war, a real shooting war, with a major power, it’s going to be as a consequence of a cyber breach,” Biden said.

The United States will hold midterm elections in fall 2022, in which all seats in the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate seats will be on the ballot.

Washington recently accused Beijing of carrying out the massive hack in March of Microsoft Exchange, and the White House has also repeatedly called on Russia to take action against ransomware attacks originating from within the country.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colombia expels German who took part in anti-govt protests

COLOMBIAN immigration authorities said Tuesday they had expelled a German woman who took part in demonstrations against the government of President Ivan Duque. Rebecca Sproesser “was carrying out activities that had nothing to do with her status as a tourist, and which could affect the civil order and peace,” said the immigration authorities in a statement justifying “the decision to expel her”.

Sproesser regularly uploaded photos and video of demonstrations to her social media networks, in which she met with members on what she called the “front line” of protests in the southwestern city of Cali. On Friday, she said on Facebook she had been the victim of an attack in the city, which has been the epicentre of anti-government protests that left more than 60 dead in three months.—AFP ■

HRW accuses Israel, Hamas of ‘apparent war crimes’ in Gaza conflict

HUMAN Rights Watch said Tuesday that both Israel and Gaza’s Islamist rulers Hamas “apparently” committed “war crimes” during a May conflict, calling for the incidents to be probed as part of ongoing international investigations.

The 11-day conflict saw Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza fire thousands of rockets towards Israel, which pounded the strip with hundreds of air strikes.

In a report released Tuesday, HRW said it had investigated three Israeli attacks that “killed 62 Palestinian civilians where there were no evident military targets in the vicinity,” interviewing Palestinians in Gaza and analysing data from the sites and digital imagery.

It listed a May 10 strike in Beit Hanoun, one on 15 May at the Al-Shati refugee camp and a series of air strikes on 16 May in Gaza City as the focus of its investigation, but noted “other Israeli attacks during the conflict were also likely unlawful.”—AFP ■

France owes French Polynesia ‘a debt’ over nuclear tests: Macron



French President Emmanuel Macron stopped short of apologizing for the nuclear tests carried out from 1966 to 1996. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that Paris owed “a debt” to French Polynesia over nuclear tests conducted in the South Pacific

territory between 1966 and 1996, but stopped short of apologising.

“I want truth and transparency,” Macron said in a speech

to Polynesian officials during his first official trip to the territory, adding that there should be better compensation for victims of the tests.

“The nation owes a debt to French Polynesia. This debt is from having conducted these tests, in particular those between 1966 and 1974.”

The legacy of French testing in the territory remains a source of deep resentment and is seen as evidence of racist colonial attitudes that disregarded the lives of locals.

The tests were conducted from 1966 to 1996 as France developed nuclear weapons.

Officials denied any cover-up of radiation exposure earlier this month after French

investigative website Disclose reported in March that the impact from the fallout was far more extensive than authorities had acknowledged, citing declassified French military documents.

Macron echoed the sentiments in his remarks on Tuesday.

“I want to tell you clearly that the military who carried them out did not lie to you. They took the same risks... There were no lies, there were risks that weren’t calculated, including by the military.”

“I think it’s true that we would not have done the same tests in La Creuse or in Brittany,” he said, referring to regions inside France.—AFP ■

After weeks-long wait, Peru’s president to be sworn in

LEFTIST Pedro Castillo is to be sworn in as Peru’s president Wednesday with a full inbox: tame the coronavirus epidemic, reactivate a flagging economy, and put paid to years of political turmoil.

The rural school teacher becomes Peru’s fifth president in three years, and has vowed to upend a quarter century of neo-liberal government.

He was declared the victor on July 19, more than six weeks after a runoff vote against right-wing rival Keiko Fujimori, whose fraud claims were then reviewed

by an electoral jury.

Three days of ceremony are planned, starting with the swearing-in Wednesday on Peru’s independence day – an event that will be attended by Spanish King Felipe VI, six Latin American leaders, former Bolivian President Evo Morales, and the United States education secretary among the guests.

A military parade is planned for Lima on Friday.

Castillo, 51, becomes Peru’s first president in decades with no ties to the country’s political or economic elite.—AFP ■



Pedro Castillo was born in Puna, a town in Cajamarca, where he worked as a rural school teacher. **PHOTO: X07403/AFP**

Aung La N Sang to take on Leandro Ataides on 30 July



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

MYANMAR'S sports icon and former two-division of ONE Champion World Champion Aung La N Sang will fight against Brazilian giant fighter Leandro Ataides in the middleweight clash of the ONE Championship event named ONE: Battleground at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 30 July.

Besides being tied for most knockouts in the middleweight division, both fighters will give their best of all to earn a rematch against reigning ONE Middleweight World Champion Reinier De Ridder.

Leandro Ataides is a five-time Brazilian jiu-jitsu World Champion and one of the most

successful grapplers to test his skills in ONE Championship. Despite his BJJ black belt credentials, the Brazilian powerhouse has grown into a complete martial artist and has since registered half of his wins by way of spectacular knockout to showcase his growing striking skills.

Ahead of the fight, Aung La N Sang said, "Life is a battleground. No matter what the circumstances are and where you are in life, keep fighting."

ONE Championship, one of the most popular world's martial arts organizations, will broadcast the ONE: BATTLEGROUND live from the Singa-

pore Indoor Stadium on Friday, 30 July, and the six-bout card features amazing fights including kickboxing, Muay Thai, and MMA.

The Skynet Channel will show live the ONE event including Aung La N Sang vs Leandro Ataides fight starting from 7 pm of Myanmar standard time.

At the same time, the full event stream will be available free on ONE's YouTube channel and the ONE Super Mobile Application.

Also, the first two bouts will be streamed on ONE Championship Facebook and Twitter pages, ONE Champion officials said. — GNLM

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.

Chinese teens win Olympic diving gold to keep perfect record

CHINA stretched their remarkable 100 per cent Olympic record in women's synchronized 10m platform diving thanks to two fearless teenagers on Tuesday.

China came into the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games hoping for a clean sweep of diving golds, but they were stunned by British duo Tom Daley and Matty Lee on Monday. Normal service was resumed however as Chen Yuxi, who is just 15, and 17-year-old diving partner Zhang Jiaqi romped to a comfortable gold with 363.78 points at Tokyo Aquatics Centre.

The Chinese have won the women's synchronized 10m platform gold at every Olympics since its debut at Sydney in 2000. Tuesday's gold was number six in the event.

Jessica Parratto and Delaney Schnell of the United States won silver in a distant second (310.80 points), with bronze going to Mexico's Gabriela Agundez and Alejandra Orozco (299.70).

Asked by AFP afterwards if they had felt any nerves at all, the Chinese teenagers turned to look at each other and then said in unison: "No." But Chen, a world champion in the individual event when she was only 13, cautioned that "I hope we are not one-time wonders.—AFP ■

China stretched their remarkable 100 per cent Olympic record in women's synchronized 10m platform diving thanks to two fearless teenagers on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

