START PREPARATIONS TO SHOW ROWING SKILLS IN TRADITIONAL BOAT RACES PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 142, 3rd Waxing of Tawthalin 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Wednesday, 8 September 2021

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.

State budget must be spent on actually beneficial projects but reduced on unnecessary measures through thrifty ways: Senior General

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the address at the Meeting No 2/2021 of the Provisional Government of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 September 2021.

IT is necessary to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and ensure political stability for improvement of the State economy, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Meeting No 2/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his opening address, the Senior General said the government has been discharging the duty for seven months amid internal and external difficulties. The responsibility of the government is to undertake the prosperity of the country.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amendment of the 2018 Ayeyawady Region Freshwater Fisheries Law
State Administration Council Law No 24/2021

2nd Waxing of Tawthalin 1383 ME
7 September 2021

THE State Administration Council enacts this law according to Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Amendment of the 2018 Ayeyawady Region Freshwater Fisheries Law.
2. This law shall be deemed to be effective on the date on which the Union Government and the Region/State Government are formed according to the election to be held after the State Administration Council completes its duties in accordance with the provisions during the state of emergency.
3. As long as this law is in force, all provisions in Chapter (8) of the 2018 Ayeyawady Region Freshwater Fisheries Law must be considered to be revoked.
4. The Minister shall issue notification, orders and instructions, if necessary, regarding the formation of community-based fisheries groups.
5. The provisions of Chapters 13 (a), 13 (b) and 13 (c) of the Freshwater Fisheries Law may continue to apply as long as they are not inconsistent with this law.

I hereby sign under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

China's Yunnan Province donates COVID-19 protective equipment, oxygen concentrators

THE Foreign Affairs Office of the Yunnan Provincial Government donated 1.55million yuan worth of anti-COVID-19 equipment to the Kachin State government of Myanmar. The handover ceremony was held in Tengchong of Baoshan in Yunnan Province on 27 August and Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Provincial Government Mr Wang Wei presented the donations to U Thaw Dar Aung, Consulate-General to Kunming.

Moreover, another handover ceremony of 1.5 million yuan worth of 600 oxygen concentrators donated by the Yunnan Provincial Government to Shan and Kachin states was also held on 30 August. The ceremony was held at the CMC factory of Yunnan, and U Thaw Dar Aung, Consulate-General to Kunming received the materials from Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Provincial Government Mr Hao Kun.

The donated medicines, medical supplies and oxygen concentrators will be distributed to Shan and Kachin states from Yunnan via border camps. — MNA

Consulate-General to Kunming U Thaw Dar Aung receives the donations from Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Provincial Government Mr Hao Kun.

Myanmar Press Council elects council members in Yangon

MPC's election for council members in progress. **PHOTO : ZAW MIN LATT**

THE Myanmar Press Council yesterday elected its members with a ceremony at No. 228, first floor of Assembly Hall of the Central Press, Department of Printing and Publishing on Theinbyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.

During the ceremony, 29 participants voted for representatives of the Press Council, and 11 were elected, and four of them were re-elected for members of the Myanmar Press Council.

There are currently 23 members of the Myanmar Press Council, and if anyone wants to object to the recently elected four members, he or she can send a letter of protest to the Myanmar Press Council within seven days until 13 September, and the election body will hear and approve it within 15 days, officials said.

At the end of September, eight more seats for the Myanmar Press Council will be elected at the same venue, officials said. The positions to be elected are Chairman, Vice-Chairman (1), Vice-Chairman (2), Secretary (1) and Secretary (2).

Yesterday, U Nay Tun Win (Naung Ye Oo), U Soe Min (Yankin Soe Min), U Ye Yint Soe Nyunt and Daw Cho Zin (Nway Oo Lin) were elected as members of the Myanmar Press Council. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ GNLM

2,431 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 September, total figure rises to 420,402

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 420,402 after 2,431 new cases were reported on 7 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 368,066 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 16,082 after 97 died.

Goodwill for the country

HE urged to run the manufacturing, agriculture and livestock industries to ensure food security. It should make efforts for the better economic system of people and country. If the individuals have goodwill for the country, they can accomplish their works and it can also provide the development of the country and living standards of the public.

(Excerpt from the speech to the 9th 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)

State budget must be spent on actually beneficial ...

FROM PAGE-1

In its tenure, the government is striving for ensuring political stability while overcoming the challenges in the third wave of COVID-19 happening across the world. The third wave of the pandemic started in Myanmar in June and July. Thanks to the diligence and perseverance of the leaders and the cooperation of the people amid the difficulties, success has been achieved to some extent.

The infection rate of the COVID-19 pandemic is still high. Indonesia among ASEAN countries faces the highest infection rate, followed by the Philippines. Myanmar stands the sixth position among ASEAN countries, having more than 417,000 infected persons and 15,985 dead persons till 6 September. In early July, the infection rate reached 40 per cent. So, the government strived for a half down of infection, and now, the infection rate hits just 10 per cent. Despite the declining infection rate, it should not be careless as the pandemic does not totally disappear now. As the boat race example given by late General Aung San, as unacceptable proud may derail from the achievement, Union ministers and region/state chief ministers should place special emphasis on supervising the tasks.

The main drive of a country is political, economic and defence might. The powerful countries across the world have political might, military might and economic might. It is necessary to strive for having the political might. Some countries are powerful in their military and economy. The institutions need to strive for the political and defence of the countries. The economic drive is actually beneficial to the State economy. It is necessary to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and ensure political stability for the improvement of the State economy.

Only when people are healthy can they work and learn. The existence of COVID-19 will affect the health of the people. Schools were closed for about two months. When the schools open, students will have learning opportunities. Continuous learning will have an improvement in the education sector, so emphasis must be placed on academic matters for the students. Management has been made not to delay the import of vaccines and medicines for COVID-19 and other necessary drugs.

> Efforts must be made for increasing the per-acre yield of cotton to be able to cut the import volume of cotton. The Senior General said he has stressed the need to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas with the wish to ensure equal development of all areas. All ministries need to comprehensively consider the measures of all over the country for fulfilling the requirements.

> The institutions need to strive for the political and defence of the countries. The economic drive is actually beneficial to the State economy. It is necessary to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and ensure political stability for the improvement of the State economy.

Myanmar's main products come out from agricultural and livestock farms. Production of natural resources is under limitation. So, all need to systematically carry out agriculture and livestock farms. Many agro-based countries are striving for ensuring smooth food supplies and earning incomes. Myanmar needs to operate agriculture and livestock tasks to earn foreign exchange via the global market. The country grows some 15 million acres of monsoon and two million acres of summer paddy which would be sufficient for a 55 million population with much surplus of paddy to be exported to foreign countries. As per-acre yield does not reach 100 baskets of paddy, the export volume of rice does not meet the expectation. Chief ministers of regions and states need to supervise the cultivation of paddy in their respective areas.

Moreover, it is necessary to ensure edible oil sufficiency. Oil palm plants are grown in Tanintharyi Region whereas edible oil crops are grown in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Shan State. Efforts must be made for increasing the per-acre yield of cotton to be able to cut the import volume of cotton. The Senior General said he has stressed the need to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas with the wish to ensure equal development of all areas. All ministries need to comprehensively consider the measures of all over the country for fulfilling the requirements.

The Union ministers sought the approvals for their reports.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said the suspension of State-owned factories causes loss for the country. As such, it is necessary to consider the availability of raw materials and inputs and market share in order to resume the State-owned factories suspended for various reasons and produce quality products. Officials need to urge all personnel to consciously use the State-owned equipment in order to avoid waste and loss. Staff housings must be built to complete on the schedules.

In his concluding speech, the Senior General noted that more than 2.1 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been injected for the first time and over 2.6 million for the second time. A total of 10 million units of anti-COVID-19 vaccines will arrive in Myanmar in the coming October and four more million in November. Arrangements are being made to purchase more vaccines.

The government spent US$169 million on the purchase of anti-COVID-19 vaccine and other medical equipment and K566 billion on repairing hospitals and clinics, COVID centres and social organizations. Moreover, more than 500,000 USD was spent on general measures. The government is ready to spend the fund on the prevention of COVID-19 and officials need to efficiently use them.

Although some ethnic armed organizations broke the agreement of NCA for various reasons, the government arranges vaccination for these organizations under the rights of the citizen. Anyone should not be left in COVID-19 vaccination. Arrangements are being made to vaccinate the people from ethnic armed organization areas in addition to those from Rakhine State. Such a move does not depend on political trends but the national cause without ism and personal cult. It is an effort to enable all the people to participate in the endeavours of State prosperity.

Myanmar is a sovereign nation. Some persons and organizations turn a blind eye to the country for its international relations in line with the State prestige. Officials from regions and states sharing borders with foreign countries need to do anything in line with the international charters and agreements in border relations with the prestige and integrity of the State. It is necessary to avoid the acts of discredit the State prestige and integrity. All officials need to improve the respective sectors for the uplift of the State integrity. The State budget must be spent on actually beneficial projects but reduced on unnecessary measures through thrifty ways.

—MNA

Vice-Chairman of State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Higher Military Command School

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, currently in Novosibirsk of the Russian Federation, accompanied by Military Attaché Commodore Kyaw Soe Moe and officials, arrived at the Higher Military Command School in the morning of local standard time on 6 September. They were welcomed by Commandant Colonel Segey Markovchin and officials.

They laid a wreath and paid tribute to the statues of hero in honour of securing the gallantry medal with the sacrifice of lives for the State and visited there.

At the school hall, the commandant clarified the brief history of the school and the conducting of subjects and learning of foreign trainees. The delegation members asked for further information,

Officials conducted the Vice-Senior General and party around the booths of the school. Next, the Vice-Senior General and the commandant exchanged emblems and gifts.

They then visited the shooting range of the school. The commandant, officials and trainees demonstrated shooting with the use of small arms and assorted sniper guns. The Vice-Senior General and party participated in the shooting.

Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General and party had lunch together with the commandant and officials. —MNA ■

The Vice-Senior General and the commandant exchange emblems and gifts.

The Vice-Senior General posts for the group photo at the Higher Military Command School.

Officials conducts the Vice-Senior General and party around the booths of the school.

Myanmar welcomes 221 returnees from Thailand

MYANMAR officials warmly welcomed a total of 221 returnees transferred by Thailand at Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge (2) in Tachilek, Shan State (East) on 6 September.

Of them, 164 returnees (93 men and 71 women) were people who have served prison time in Thailand, and 57 (33 men and 24 women) were migrant workers.

Tactical Operations Commander(Tachilek Base) Colonel Min Min Tun, the Chairmen and officials of the District and Township Administration Bodies warmly welcomed the returnees.

After the COVID-19 medical check-up, it was found that 18 returnees were diagnosed with COVID-19 and they have been under medical care. The rest of the people have been quarantined at Wan Lone Quarantine Centre and those who are not affected with the disease, after a medical check-up on the third day, will be sent back home in respective regions and states.

The returnees were encouraged and provided with foods, and transported to the quarantine centre by vehicles, it is reported. – Yasay (IPRD)/ GNLM

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Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrives back from Russian Federation

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party arrive back at Nay Pyi Taw Military Airport yesterday.

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 left the Tolmachevo Airport in Novosibirsk for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at night of local standard time on 6 September. They were seen off at the airport by the Head of Intelligence Department of No 41 Division Colonel Dimity V Menchov and officials, Myanmar Military Attaché to the Russian Federation Commodore Kyaw Soe Moe and officials.

Lt-Gen Aung Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers and officials who accompanied the Vice-Senior General also returned to Myanmar on the same flight.

During the visit, the delegation attended the closing ceremony of the International Army Games-2021, held talks with military and civilian officials from the Russian Federation, paid visits to the significant places and discussed the further promotion of friendly relations and military technological sector, science and technology sector, research sector, development of human resources sector and culture sector between two governments and two armed forces.

The Vice-Senior General and party arrived back at the Nay Pyi Taw Military Airport at about 8 am yesterday. They were welcomed back by members of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Pavel Klabukov and officials. — MNA

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation which participated in Russia's Int'l Army Games-2021 arrives back

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation which competed in the International Army Games-2021 held at the Congress Centre of the Patriot Park in the Russian Federation arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Maj-Gen Ko Lay, Maj-Gen Zaw Lwin Oo and officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

A total of squads from 43 countries participated in 34 events of the International Army Games-2021 held in 12 countries including the Russian Federation. It was the fourth competition of the squad of the Myanmar Tatmadaw. The squad took part in the tank biathlon, field medical corps skill contest, skill contest of airborne platoons, and creative 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 performance with traditional costumes and the second prize in the solo singing presentation and the second prize in the contest to show the traditional culture of the country as well as the third prize in the online voting of audiences.

Moreover, the medical corps of Myanmar Tatmadaw stood the sixth position among nine squads and the airborne troop, the seventh position among 18 squads.

Members of the Myanmar Tatmadaw showed their excellent skills in securing the competition

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation that contested the International Army Games-2021 arrives back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

experiences of international military organizations, technical experiences and friendly relations, and it decided to further compete in the games in the coming years. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

	Name	Appointment
(1)	Colonel Zaw Win Tun Ministry of Defence	Principal Myanmar Mercantile Marine College Ministry of Transport and Communications
(2)	Lieutenant-Colonel Kyaw Naing Aye Ministry of Defence	Managing Director Myanma Shipyards Ministry of Transport and Communications

Khaunglanphu locals receive second vaccination shots

Inoculation drive in Khaunglanphu in progress.

HEALTH workers gave the second doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to the elderly over the age of 65, government/private health staff, social welfare organizations members, monks, nuns, government employees and vendors in Khaunglanphu Township of Putao District of Kachin State starting 6 September.

Lieutenant-Colonel Phone Naing of No (46) Infantry Regiment, Township Administration Body Chairman U Min San Tun and other officials inspected the vaccination processes.

Two medical teams vaccinated 396 people. And a mobile team will also conduct the vaccination programmes for the elderly living in remote areas. — Township IPRD/GNLM

Final day of second jabs conducted in Yathedaung Township

THE final day of the second vaccination programme was conducted at three vaccination sites in Yathedaung Township of Rakhine State yesterday.

A total of 57 people, including those over the age of 65, were vaccinated. Moreover, the officials will vaccinate the people who missed the vaccines on 8 and 9 September.

There were 4,712 people who received the first jabs in Yathedaung Township. Of them, 4,400 were vaccinated against COVID-19 yesterday keeping in line with COVID-19 health rules of the Ministry of Health. — Aung San Tun (IPRD)/GNLM

Final day of the second doses of Covid vaccines is underway in Yathedaung Township in Rakhine State.

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some causalities, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

Information Team
State Administration Council

MoC conducts import process for anti-COVID-19 equipment daily

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 7 September (Yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by 22 companies with the use of 38 vehicles, including three bowsers.

A total of 57 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by three bowsers, three tonnes of liquid oxygen tanks, 19,757 empty oxygen tanks, 13 oxygen plants, three oxygen generators, 2,667 oxygen concentrators for home use, 67,500 sets of PPE suits, and six tonnes of gloves and 88 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Myawady and Hteekhee trading posts and the Yangon International Airport.

Anti-Covid devices are imported via land borders.

Three vehicles carrying liquid oxygen were transported to Yangon, Mandalay and Bago.

Next, four oxygen plants were transported to Yangon, seven to Mandalay, and one each to Maubin and Myaungmya.

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. — MNA

Lorries and bowsers are seen transporting oxygen tanks and medical aids to the needed areas.

Hong Kong-Macao-Yangon relief flight to be operated in October for Myanmar returnees

THE Hong Kong-Macao-Yangon relief flight is scheduled to be launched by the end of October for Myanmar nationals in Hong Kong and Macao, who want to return home due to difficulties in staying, according to the Myanmar Consulate General in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong-Macao-Yangon relief flight will be operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA). The airlines will be able to operate at least 100 passengers.

According to a statement from the Myanmar Consulate General, only those who really want to return home can register for the exact number of passengers and cancellation will not be allowed after registration.

Those who want to return to Myanmar from Hong Kong must bring a copy of Myanmar passport. Registration must be submitted to relief.flight.hk@gmail.com with a copy of Hong Kong ID Card by 10 September.

The tourism company, which is assisting with the census and ticket sales to accommodate returnees from Macao, was also unable to assist at this time, and thus one of the returnees had to take the lead as a volunteer.

The person who can help as a volunteer need to contact Facebook Messenger of the Myanmar Consulate General or WhatsApp No. +85255736793 as soon as possible and the Hong Kong-Macao-Yangon Relief Flight schedule and dates will be announced in a short period, according to a statement from the Myanmar Consulate General. — Pwint Thitsar/ GNLM

PHOTO : SOE MYINT AUNG

8 SEPTEMBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Start preparations to show rowing skills in traditional boat races

MYANMAR is a country teeming with water sources such as creeks and rivers in its nature. In consequence, most of the Myanmar people are skilful in livelihoods related to water sources.

Since time immemorial, Myanmar forefathers have been using small and large boats for transportation from one place to another. They used creeks and rivers as their transport ways. They earned income from trading goods with the people along both banks of creeks and rivers. Till today, everybody can see towns and villages were established on both banks of Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin, Sittoung, Laymyo and Kaladan rivers.

> In fact, Myanmar's traditional boat races held across the nation have turned out the skillfully selected rowers for the national squad which bagged a lot of gold, silver and bronze medals in the international contests for the State.

Both rural and urban people used the boats to transport vegetables, seasonal crops and utensils to their destinations. Hence, they were skilful in using the boats as well as swimming sport.

Since yore, the traditional boat races have been held not only in urban regions but in rural areas with the participation of healthy lads. They tried to show their excellent skills in the races so as to take pride in their efforts. They wished to post the milestones of their skills of rowing in the native lands. In the monarchical era, royal boat rowers were more popular than other soldiers among the maidens.

Myanmar people could not forget their tradition of rowing the boats as competitions. They have been carrying such a kind of sport till today. In successive eras, the government holds the traditional boat races in the month of Tawthalin in the Myanmar lunar calendar which generally falls in September when the weather is generally fine.

Most of the rural people can suspend their farming works during the period and join the races enthusiastically. At present, these boat races are basic for taking exercises so as to take part in the internationally traditional boat races. In fact, Myanmar's traditional boat races held across the nation have turned out the skillfully selected rowers for the national squad which bagged a lot of gold, silver and bronze medals in the international contests for the State.

Currently, the climatic condition is fine. Now is in September. Myanmar people not only in urban lands but in rural areas are keen to take part in the traditional boat races mostly held in the countryside, which will be attractive to the international tourists and local travellers.

■ ■ ■

European tourists boost sector, but can't top Americans, Asians

Tourism-dependent Greece hosted more than two million visitors in July and August.

EUROPEAN travellers helped plug a gap left by Asian and North American tourists stranded at home by the pandemic, staving off a total washout this year for Europe's hospitality industry. But many Brits stayed at home.

After a disastrous 2020 tourism season, the sector had banked on vaccination campaigns and the easing of travel restrictions to see brighter days this summer.

While European visitors might have shored up numbers, the recovery was patchy with tourists spending in different places, on different things — and not with the same largesse as the big-spending Chinese or Americans.

Fears over suddenly changing Covid travel restrictions and — for the UK, especially — the cost of mandatory Covid-19 tests have also driven the disruption to travel patterns this summer.

Tourism-dependent Greece hosted more than two million visitors in July and August — "something we haven't seen since 2019," said Haris Theocharis, the tourism minister until a cabinet reshuffle in late August.

Napolean, the owner of a bar in Athen's Plaka tourist hot-spot, said he had exceeded his targets "by more than 50 per cent" this summer.

Visitors throng the Promenade des Anglais in Nice... but, Les Anglais didn't make it this year. **PHOTO: AFP**

But at the nearby Byron Hotel, co-manager Zimi Mistiopoulos said they only had 10 days of full occupancy. Two years ago, there wasn't a room to be had all season, he said.

"Even if the tourists were there, they didn't buy that much," said Dimitris Papachristodoulou, owner of several souvenir shops, lamenting the loss of Americans and Chinese, "who consume the most".

Not quite there

Those groups were also absent from Italy, where the Hotel Cosmopolita in the heart of Rome has had "an average of three or five occupied rooms out of 82", said Walter Pecoraro, the owner and president of the hoteliers' association of Lazio, the capital region.

"Roman tourism is 80 per cent foreign, 80 per cent of which are Americans and Asians," he told AFP. According to the association, 600 hotels out of 1,200 in Rome were open this summer, with average occupancy at only 30-35 per cent.

Spain, the world's second-largest tourist destination behind France in 2019, welcomed 4.4 million visitors in July, 78 per cent up on a year earlier, national statistics institute data show.

But that's a far cry from the 9.9 million in pre-pandemic 2019.

The Mediterranean coast was the most favoured destination: establishments in Catalonia recorded an occupancy rate close to 95 per cent in August.

The French were Spain's top visitors, with 874,000 vacationing there, ahead of the Germans (707,000) and the British (555,000).

Brits, in pre-Covid times the largest contingent, this year largely opted to stay at home.

Bookings are "running at a fraction of a normal year with the main barriers to travel being concerns about the traffic light system" of colour-coded restrictions and the cost of tests, the British federation of travel agents said.

Those who decided to go anyway opted mainly for the islands of Spain and Greece.

"What stands out this summer is that very few destinations were open," said Ana Domenech, France director of booking site lastminute.com.

"Greece was clearly the new destination of the summer, with 79 per cent more travellers than in 2019," she said.

Holiday at home

In fact, more than 450,000 French made their way to Greece this year.

But as with the UK, people travelling within their own countries also created "a beautiful summer" for the domestic industry, said Sebastien Manceau, an expert in tourism at the Roland Berger consulting firm.

Of the 37 million French people who went on holiday this summer, 85 per cent stayed in the country, according to Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, junior minister for tourism. "As the weather was capricious, some regions suffered, such as Brittany and Normandy", to the benefit of the south of France, Manceau said.

At Les Sableres campsite in Vieux-Boucau, on the southwest coast, the 500 pitches were full from mid-July to the end of August, and up to 150 requests per day had to be turned down.

We "returned to the levels of 2019, if not better", the site's director, Herve Labarthe, said.

And the foreigners have returned — at least from within Europe: Belgians, Dutch, Germans.

"But we still don't have the British," Monceau said.

SOURCE: AFP

Cuba becomes first country in world to begin vaccinating toddlers against COVID-19

The Abdala and Soberana vaccines are being given to children aged between 2-11.

CUBA on Monday became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against COVID-19 , using home-grown jabs not recognized by the World Health Organization.

The communist island of 11.2 million people aims to inoculate all its children before reopening schools that have been closed for the most part since March 2020.

The new school year started on Monday, but from home via television programmes, as most Cuban homes do not have internet access. Having completed clinical trials on minors with its Abdala and Soberana vaccines, Cuba kicked off its inoculation campaign for children on Friday, starting with those 12 and older.

On Monday, it started distributing jabs in the 2-11 age group in the central province of Cienfuegos.

Several other countries in the world are vaccinating children from the age of 12, and some are conducting trials in younger kids.

Countries such as China, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have announced they plan to vaccinate younger children, but Cuba is the first to do so.

Chile on Monday approved the Chinese Sinovac vaccines for children between six and 12.

The Cuban vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have not undergone international, scientific peer review. They are based on recombinant protein technology — the same used by the United States' Novavax and France's Sanofi jabs also awaiting WHO approval.

Unlike many other shots in use, recombinant vaccines do not require extreme refrigeration.

The majority of schools in Cuba have been closed since March 2020, reopening for a few weeks at the end of last year before closing again in January. The government has announced schools will reopen gradually, in October and November, but only after all children have been vaccinated. UN agency UNICEF has called for schools worldwide to reopen as soon as possible, as "the long-term costs of closures are too high and hard to justify."

SOURCE: AFP

The Cuban government has announced schools will reopen gradually, in October and November, but only after all children have been vaccinated. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary

THE State Administration Council has assigned Dr Wah Wah Maung, Director-General of Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, to the duties of Permanent Secretary of the same Ministry.

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Tuesday 7 September 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and weak to moderate over the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 8 September, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Naypyitaw and Magway Region, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago Regions and Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-8)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FLOOD Bulletin

(ISSUED at 08:00 hrs M.S.T on7-9-2021)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (07:30)hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Seiktha at Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (3) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (07:30)hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Hinthada at Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (5) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (07:30)hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Zalun at Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (7) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (07:30)hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngathaingchaung at Ngawun River has exceeded by about (2) inches above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

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

Myanmar pharmaceutical imports top $397.46 mln in nine months

THE import value of Myanmar pharmaceutical products was estimated at US$397.46 million in the nine months (October-June) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

Myanmar imports 90 per cent of medicine and medical products through foreign markets, the Myanmar Chambers of Commerce for Pharmaceutical & Medical Device (MCCPMD) stated.

India is the main supplier for Myanmar. Also, it is imported by Bangladesh, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, China (Taipei), Thailand, the US and Viet Nam.

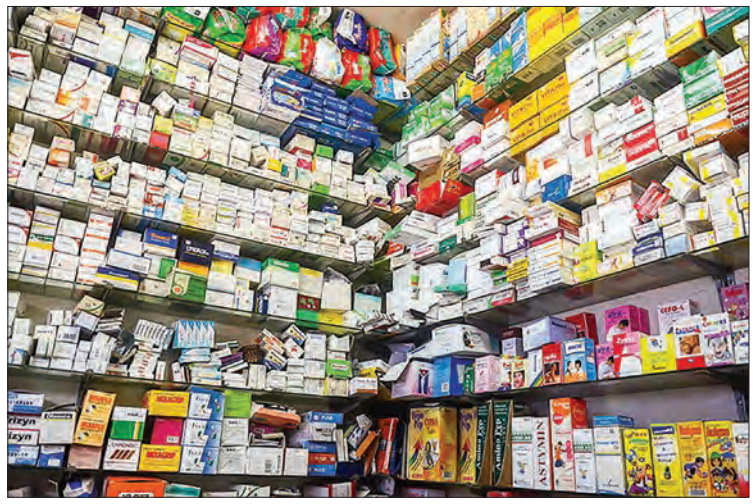
Most commonly prescribed drugs are available in the market. Only some are out of stock for now. At present, pharmaceutical import is regularly flowing. However, the prices of pharmaceuticals were up by 5 to 10 per cent owing to the Kyat depreciation in the local forex market. The COVID-19 related medical devices including surgical masks and pulse oximeters are highly demanded in the country amid the COVID-19 surging cases, a market observer said.

The Trade Department granted a temporary import licence exemption for 92 HS code lines up to three months starting from 1 September, in a bid to facilitate the trade during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Ministry of Commerce also cut the red tape for imports of some pharmaceuticals which have been imported.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) is accelerating its effort to facilitate the inflow of essential medicines in the devastating time of the COVID-19 crisis, along with the related committees, departments concerned, traders and entrepreneurs.

The federation formed a task force on 25 July 2021, with an aim to ensure adequate stock of essential medicine for prevention, control and treatment of the COVID-19 and have a smooth trade flow. – KK/GNLM



The Trade Department granted a temporary import licence exemption for 92 HS code lines up to three months starting from 1 September, in a bid to facilitate the trade during the COVID-19 crisis.

500 companies struck off register due to AR absence in past two months: DICA

A total of 500 companies was struck off the register in the past two months as they failed to submit an annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended. The DICA found that 500 companies which failed to restore their status within six months of suspension under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law in the last two months. The companies were struck off the register starting from 5, 9, 16 July and 25 and 30 August respectively, according to the DICA's notification.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

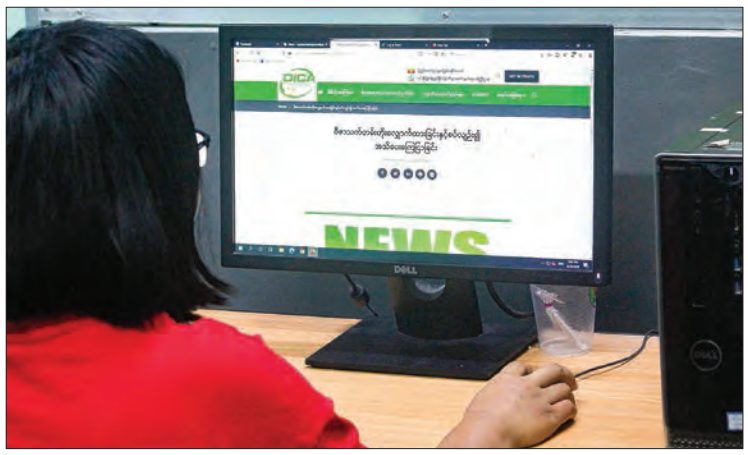
The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. The number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, topped more than 2,000 in the first half of this year. Earlier, MyCO received more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month.

During the public holidays from 23 to 31 August, the DICA is offering services for investment and company registration at the Head Office located at No.1 Thitsar Road, Yankin Township of Yangon Region and One-Stop-Service is opened at No. 49 Seinlemay Lane, Kaba Aye Road, Yankin Township for the department coordination matters, the DICA announced.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA. — GNLM



All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Domestic gold price sets fresh record high up to K1.8 mln per tical

THE price of pure gold metal reached an all-time high of K1,800,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes), according to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The spikes in the gold market are attributed to political development, high demand in the domestic gold market, shortage of raw gold metals, the price gain in the international market and the Kyat depreciation.

The global gold price stood at only US$1,816 per ounce at the present time, while the US dollar exchange rate is worth above K1,800.

On 12 May, the gold hit a peak of K1,709,000 per tical and the current rate hit the highest in history.

As a result of this, YGEA urged its members to regulate trade in order to deal with market volatility.

To regulate unsustainable rally in the domestic gold market, the association called for the members to make the gold transaction with only immediate payment, avoid the verbal transactions over calls and halt trading outside the Yangon region, according to YGEA.

In January 2021, the gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). The price was registered the highest of K1,455,000 (30 April) and the lowest of K1,389,000 (1 April). The price reached an all-time highest of K1,709,000 (12 May) and the lowest of K1,447,000 in May. The price moved in the maximum of K1,575,500 (11 June) and the minimum of K1,543,000 (19 June). Last month, it fluctuated between K1,562,300 (26 Jul) and K1,587,000 (K1,587,000), the gold traders said.

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal priced moved in the range of 1,280,000 (1 December) and 1,332,000 (28 December).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. — NN/GNLM

UK pledges £5.4 bn for pandemic-hit state healthcare

The Excel exhibition centre in London was turned into a COVID-19 speciality hospital to help the UK cope with the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE UK government on Monday announced £5.4 billion (6.3 billion euros, $7.5 billion) in extra funding for the state-funded healthcare system to treat virus cases and clear a massive backlog in routine operations.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson and health minister Sajid Javid announced the extra cash, to be handed out over the next six months, saying it would help "manage the immediate pressures of the pandemic".

The state-funded National Health Service, or NHS, has struggled to cope with soaring virus rates and has diverted medics away from their usual specializations to help treat Covid-19 patients, leading to long waiting lists for operations and treatment.

The largest part of the extra funding, £2.8 billion is allocated to virus-related costs such as enhanced infection control measures, the government said, while £1 billion will help tackle the backlog in other treatment and operations.

Johnson acknowledged that "treating Covid patients has created huge backlogs" and said the money would go "straight to the frontline" to provide treatments that patients "aren't getting quickly enough."

Javid said the waiting lists would get worse before they get better due to more people coming forward for treatment following relaxation of virus restrictions.

The health ministry predicted the waiting list for routine operations such as hip replacements and cataract removal could soar to 13 million.

The extra funding announced is only for England while other regions will receive up to £1 billion this and next year.

The UK's total virus cases rose to 7.02 million on Monday.

The announcement comes as the government is also proposing a hike in a tax on earnings to help pay for care homes for older people, many of whom currently have to meet these costs privately.— Xinhua ■

Vietnam jails man for five years for spreading Covid

A Vietnamese man has been sentenced to five years in jail for spreading Covid-19 after he breached home quarantine rules.

Le Van Tri was convicted of "spreading dangerous infectious diseases to other people" after he travelled to his home province Ca Mau from coronavirus hotspot Ho Chi Minh City in July, according to a report on the website of the provincial People's Court.

The 28-year old was accused of breaching a 21-day home quarantine regulation in the southern province, which had a lower case rate than Ho Chi Minh City, and he tested positive for Covid-19 on 7 July.

"Tri's breach of the home medical quarantine regulation led to many people becoming infected with Covid-19 and one person died on 7 August 2021," according to the court report.

State media said eight people became infected because of Tri.

After keeping case numbers low last year, Vietnam is now dealing with its most serious Covid-19 outbreak so far, with nearly 540,000 infections and more than 13,000 deaths recorded.— AFP ■

Ho Chi Minh City has decided to extend its tight social distancing rules until 15 September. **PHOTO: UNSPLASH/AFP**

Cuba to relax pandemic restrictions for incoming travellers

CUBA is set to relax pandemic border control measures for international passengers starting 15 November, the island's Ministry of Tourism (Mintur) announced Monday on its website.

"The Caribbean nation will relax COVID-19 hygiene and sanitary protocols for incoming travellers," the ministry said, adding new measures will focus on monitoring symptomatic patients and temperature checks.

Passengers keep social distancing at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Cuba, 15 November 2020. **PHOTO: YAMIL LAGE/AFP/ POOL VIA XINHUA/FILE**

Cuba will no longer demand a PCR test upon arrival and COVID-19 vaccination certificates issued abroad will be accepted by customs authorities, Mintur said.

Additionally, the domestic tourism market will gradually reopen depending on the evolution of the pandemic in each region.

The decision to spur international tourism was made on the grounds that "more than 90 per cent of the country's population is expected to be fully vaccinated by November," the ministry said.

Cuba on Monday registered 7,230 new confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus and 85 related deaths in 24 hours, bringing the national total to 696,904 cases and 5,788 deaths, respectively.

The island resumed scheduled commercial flights in November 2020, when Havana's Jose Marti International Airport restarted operations after having been closed for more than seven months due to the pandemic.

At present, international passengers who arrive on the island are required to quarantine either at hotel facilities allocated by the government or isolation centers. In pre-pandemic times, the tourism industry in the Caribbean nation accounted for more than 10 per cent of Cuba's hard currency earnings.

The tourist high season in Cuba runs from mid-November to April. —Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK: Over 7m cases since start of pandemic

The UK has recorded more than seven million COVID cases since the start of the pandemic, according to the latest data.

The COVID crisis has placed what has sometimes seemed like an intolerable burden upon the health service and inflicted terrible losses upon a care sector that bore the brunt of the initial outbreak.

On Monday, the government announced a £5.4bn boost to help the NHS deal with both COVID and the backlog in non-COVID treatments over the coming months.–AFP ■

Japan: Third person dies after taking contaminated Moderna jab

A third man has died following injection from a contaminated batch of Moderna vaccines, although authorities say no link has yet been found to the vaccine.

The Japanese health ministry reported that the 9 year old died the day after receiving his second shot, in mid-August. Aside from a buckwheat allergy, he had no known underlying health conditions. The shot came from one of three contaminated batches that has subsequently been found to contain fragments of stainless steel. On 26 August, all affected 1.63m doses were withdrawn.– AFP ■

Texas zoo vaccinates animals

THE San Antonio zoo says it's preparing to vaccinate its first group of animals since the pandemic started. But they insist it's just a precaution.

"Some of the primates and gorillas at other institutions have had Covid," says Dr Rob Coke, senior director of veterinarian care at the zoo.

He says that even though some animals have shown only mild Covid symptoms when they've contracted the disease, the zoo wants to make sure its animals are as safe as possible:

"Luckily, none of them have passed away from it, but they do get ill. We want to make sure we try to prevent that type of illness."–AFP ■

Merkel's record mixed as she takes wheel at last IAA show

No German leader's diary would be complete without a visit to the venerable IAA motor show, which welcomes Angela Merkel on Tuesday for the last time in her chancellorship.

But the biennial celebration of all things auto-related is mired in controversy this year as Germany struggles to adapt its flagship industry to the electric and digital revolution.

Merkel, who is quitting politics after an election on 26 September, has been a regular at the show over her 16 years in power — even earning the sobriquet the "car chancellor" for her efforts to shield German carmakers from tougher EU pollution rules.

The German leader will give a speech when the fair opens to trade visitors on Tuesday in Munich, a new location as part of efforts to rebrand itself as a "mobility fair" with a spotlight on electric cars.

But there is little chance of the chancellor herself arriving in an electric vehicle, since they make up only 2.4 per cent of the government's 25,000-strong fleet, according to official figures from January.

The figure rises to 5.6 per cent when taking into account hybrids and cars that run on clean fuels.

Even so, it is a stark reflection of the blind spots in state support for the German automotive industry, which has received billions of euros in funding in recent years but without any meaningful focus on clean mobility.

'Depressing and incomprehensible'

The 2015 "dieselgate" scandal spelled the beginning of the end for diesel. That was when Germany's biggest carmaker Volkswagen admitted to fitting 11 million vehicles with illegal emissions-cheating devices.

Until then, Diesel was favoured by German and other governments as an efficient and more environmentally friendly alternative to gasoline.—AFP ■

Germany's car industry accounts for more than 12 per cent of jobs in the nation's industrial sector, making its future a political hot potato. **PHOTO: AFP**

China trade enjoys forecast-beating surge in August

CHINA'S exports and imports enjoyed forecast-beating growth in August, with data on Tuesday showing overseas demand for cars, electronics and consumer goods surged as a domestic coronavirus outbreak was brought to heel.

The figures follow a recent spate of weak numbers that had suggested the recovery in the world's second-biggest economy was flattening owing to a spike in the Delta variant that has forced some countries to impose containment measures and hit consumer sentiment.

They also came despite the shutdown of a major port caused by the virus outbreak, which observers had expected to hit shipments.

A ro-ro ship waits to load China-made cars for export at a berth of Port of Lianyungang in Lianyungang City, east China's Jiangsu Province, 7 September 2020. **PHOTO: GENG YUHE/XINHUA/FILE**

Exports jumped 25.6 per cent on-year, while imports rose 33.1 per cent, according to China customs authorities.

The readings were both sharply up from July and far better than estimates in a Bloomberg survey of 17.3 per cent and 26.9 per cent, respectively.—AFP ■

In world first, bitcoin becomes legal tender in El Salvador

EL Salvador on Tuesday becomes the first country in the world to accept bitcoin as legal tender, despite widespread domestic skepticism and international warnings of risks for consumers.

President Nayib Bukele's government claims the move will give many Salvadorans access to bank services for the first time and save some $400 million in fees on remittances sent home from abroad every year.

"Tomorrow, for the first time in history, all the eyes of the world will be on El Salvador. #Bitcoin did this," Bukele said on Twitter Monday. He started the ball rolling Monday evening by announcing El Salvador had bought its first 400 bitcoins, in two tranches of 200, and promised more were coming.—AFP ■

A recent opinion poll found that 70 per cent of Salvadorans opposed the adoption of bitcoin as legal tender, and hundreds protested against it on 1 September 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK awaits fallout from end of jobs support scheme

The British government's furlough scheme that has supported millions of private-sector jobs during the pandemic is close to ending, a move that risks a spike in unemployment according to economists.

Experts, however, do not expect sectors seriously affected by a shortage of staff owing to the virus outbreak and Brexit — such as road haulage — to necessarily benefit from the bigger pool of available workers.

"The furlough scheme has played a key role — protecting nearly 12 million jobs over the last 18 months," the Treasury told AFP in a statement ahead of the multi-billion-pound programme finishing at the end of September. With the UK economy in recovery mode thanks to the lifting of lockdown restrictions at home and abroad, Britain's unemployment rate stands at 4.7 per cent, down from a pandemic peak of 5.2 per cent at the end of last year. But the UK already has more than one million job vacancies despite the furlough scheme supporting jobs at a cost of almost £70 billion ($95 billion, 82 billion euros).

"It is certainly possible, if not likely, that there will be a temporary fall in employment and rise in unemployment in October," noted Paul Dales, chief UK economist at Capital Economics research group.—AFP ■

Climate change fuelling surge in property insurance: Swiss Re

CLIMATE change will help propel a threefold surge in property insurance premiums over the coming two decades, according to a study published on Monday by Swiss Re.

More frequent and stronger weather events, rising seas and wildfires driven by man-made changes to the world's climate will see demand for insurance protection for buildings and infrastructure grow faster than other segments of the industry, it said.

That trend will reinforce long-term shifts driven by urbanization and rising wealth in emerging economies, the company said in a report for the annual Rendezvous September reinsurance industry gathering in Zurich.

Swiss Re, which provides insurance for other insurance companies, set out to forecast the major trends driving the sector until 2040.

According to its study, while premiums in property and casualty reinsurance combined will more than double to $4.3 trillion (3.6 trillion euros), those for property alone are set to almost triple.

At $1.3 trillion in 2040, property-related premiums will account for 29 per cent of all premiums collected, up from about 25 per cent in 2020, it said.— AFP ■

China-ASEAN technology forum to be held in south China

A cargo ship docks at Qinzhou Port in China-ASEAN Free Trade Area in Qinzhou, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, on 11 July 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE 9th Forum on China-ASEAN Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation will be held in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from 9 September to 13 September, regional authorities said Monday.

The high-level forum will be held both online and offline on the sidelines of the 18th China-ASEAN Expo, scheduled in Nanning from 10 September to 13 September, according to the regional science and technology department.

The forum will feature a series of activities such as a forum of young scientists and an advanced technology exhibition.

It will also hold events to promote all-round, multi-level and extensive innovation cooperation between China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries, aiming to provide technological support for the regional economic recovery.

Inaugurated in 2013, the Forum on China-ASEAN Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation has grown into an important platform for showcasing achievements in innovation and promoting innovation cooperation and technology transfer between China and ASEAN countries.— Xinhua ■

Japan business lobby urges to exempt quarantine for inoculated travellers

JAPAN'S largest business lobby, known as Keidanren, on Monday urged the Japanese government to promptly consider exempting overseas arrivals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 from quarantine and cutting the current quarantine period of 14 days to less than 10 days, local media reported Monday. Masakazu Tokura, the head of the Japan Business Federation, submitted the proposals to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, believing that once the recent surge in COVID-19 infections was mitigated, the government should proactively take steps to restart economic and social activities. In addition, the business lobby suggested that the treatment of COVID-19 patients should not be limited to designated hospitals and clinics, and that drugstores should be allowed to sell simple antigen test kits approved by the health ministry.—Xinhua ■

Japan's largest business lobby on Monday called for the government to promptly consider exempting overseas arrivals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 from quarantine while also shortening the current 14-day quarantine period to a maximum of 10 days. **PHOTO: KYODO**

VW's electric push 'can't go any faster', says CEO

VOLKSWAGEN chief executive Herbert Diess said Monday it was "impossible" for the German car giant's electric transformation to happen any faster, but he accused Angela Merkel's government of holding back change with generous diesel subsidies.

In an interview with AFP and the Financial Times at the IAA motor show in Munich, Diess said the VW group "was really fast in changing" as its sets its sights on becoming a global leader in environmentally-friendly, battery-powered vehicles.

"Can we do it faster? No, it's impossible," said Diess. "Because this transition is so complicated, requires so much investment" and capacity building, he said, from battery cell production to new factories.

Germany's biennial IAA exhibition comes as the industry is in the midst of a painful rebirth, spurred by climate concerns and tougher pollution rules.—AFP ■

VW, which presented its ID.Life electric car at the International Motor Show in Munich, aims to become the world's largest electric carmaker by 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nobel laureate Stiglitz says global tax plan should aim higher

NOBEL economics prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz praised international backing for a global tax on corporations but said the minimum rate agreed by governments to battle "the dark side of globalisation" remains too low. More than 130 nations have supported a plan to introduce a tax floor of at least 15 per cent aimed at preventing countries from competing to offer the lowest rates in order to attract multinationals seeking to minimise their tax bills. "It's a fantastic initiative," Stiglitz told AFP on the sidelines of the Ambrosetti Forum, an economics conference next to the scenic Lake Como in Cernobbio, Italy. "The system of multinationals' taxation, which is over 100 years old, is not suited for a 21st century globalized economy," he said.—AFP ■

UK warns on cryptocurrency ads after Kardashian post

CRYPTOCURRENCY advertisements, particularly from social media influencers, should face regulation according to the head of Britain's financial watchdog, who highlighted a recent ad posted by Kim Kardashian. Virtual currencies and tokens have attracted interest from amateur investors lured by stellar gains but who also risk big losses and being scammed. "As we live more and more of our lives online, we can't allow online business to operate in ways we wouldn't tolerate with any other business," Charles Randell, head of Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), said on Monday.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1055W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1055W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မာယူရိပ်ပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
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09 974 424 848

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taliban fire shots to disperse anti-Pakistan rally, says report

THE Taliban fired shots in the air Tuesday to disperse dozens of people protesting in Kabul against Pakistan's involvement in Afghan affairs, AFP staff at the scene reported.

Around 70 people, mostly women, rallied outside the Pakistani embassy, holding banners and chanting against what they said was meddling by Islamabad.—AFP ■

Belarus hands long prison term to protest leader Kolesnikova

A court in Belarus sentenced one of the country's most prominent opposition figures, Maria Kolesnikova, to 11 years in prison on Monday after she led unprecedented protests against President Alexander Lukashenko last year. A defiant Kolesnikova smiled and made her signature heart-shaped hand symbol during the court hearing in Minsk, where lawyer and fellow opposition activist Maxim Znak was also handed a 10-year sentence. During the closed-door trial authorities had accused the pair of violating national security and conspiring to seize power.—AFP ■

11th Beijing International Film Festival to open on 21 September

THE 11th Beijing International Film Festival is set to run from 21 September to 29, with nearly 300 films to be screened, according to the organizers. Guests invited to attend the red-carpet opening ceremony at Yanqi Lake in Huairou District will be transported by the suburban railway, passing through some beautiful scenery in northeastern Beijing. Meanwhile, guests from overseas will attend and interact online due to COVID-19 control and prevention restrictions.

Online streaming platform iQiyi will initiate a cloud film festival to allow audiences enjoy films online. —Xinhua ■

Guinea junta stands by business commitments, vows 'union' government

Jubilation erupted in some districts of Conakry after the military took power. **PHOTO: AFP**

The colonel behind a putsch in Guinea promised investors on Monday that business deals would not be affected by the country's latest coup and vowed to form a "government of national union" to oversee a political transition.

In a speech the day after his men arrested the 83-year-old president, opening a new chapter in Guinea's long history of turmoil, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya also declared there would be no "witch hunt" against members of the former government.

Doumbouya, with an eye to the mining industry that is the backbone of the economy, said "activities in the country are continuing as normal."

Guinea will "uphold all its undertakings (and) mining agreements," he promised, stressing "its commitment to give favourable treatment to foreign investment in the country."

Doumbouya was wearing a military uniform as he addressed former ministers and institutional leaders who had been summoned to hear him speak.

He also said "a consultation" would be launched that would "set down the broad parameters" of political transition.

"A government of national union will be established to steer the transition," he said, but gave no details about how long the consultation or the handover would last.—AFP ■

Japanese lawmaker Akimoto given 4-yr jail term over casino graft

A Japanese lawmaker was sentenced Tuesday to four years in prison and ordered to pay fines of about 7.6 million yen ($69,000) in a bribery case linked to the government's project to build casino resorts.

The Tokyo District Court ruled that former ruling Liberal Democratic Party member Tsukasa Akimoto was guilty of receiving bribes worth 7.6 million yen between September 2017 and February 2018 from a Chinese gambling operator aiming to enter Japan's casino market.

Akimoto, 49, was also found guilty of offering money to two former advisers to the Chinese firm 500.com in exchange for giving false court testimony favourable to him between June and July last year, when the House of Representatives lawmaker was released on bail.

It is rare that an incumbent lawmaker is given a prison sentence without suspension.

"Statements of those who admitted to providing cash were fully credible as they were strongly supported by objective evidence," Presiding Judge Toshihiko Niwa said, dismissing Akimoto's claim of innocence.

The judge also recognized Akimoto took the initiative in organizing false court testimony, saying his action was an "unprecedented obstruction of justice."—Kyodo ■

Japanese House of Representatives lawmaker Tsukasa Akimoto (front) enters the Tokyo District Court to hear the ruling on his bribery case, linked to the country's casino resort project. The former Liberal Democratic Party member, 49, was sentenced to four years in prison for receiving bribes from a Chinese company lobbying for a casino licence in Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Afghan universities deserted as Taliban impose new rules

Usually, campus corridors at Gharjistan University in Kabul on the first day of term would be packed full of students, but on 6 September there was a strikingly low turnout. **PHOTO: AFP**

UNIVERSITIES in Kabul were almost empty on the first day of the Afghan school year, as professors and students wrestled with the Taliban's restrictive new rules for the classroom.

The Taliban have promised a softer rule than during their first stint in power from 1996-2001, when women's freedoms in Afghanistan were sharply curtailed and they were banned from higher education.

This time, the hardline Islamist group have said women will be allowed to go to private universities under the new regime, but they face tough restrictions on their clothing and movement.

Women can only attend class if they wear an abaya — a flowing robe — and a niqab — a face veil with a small window to see through — and are separated from men, the Taliban said.

"Our students don't accept this and we will have to close the university," said Noor Ali Rahmani, the director of Gharjistan University in Kabul, on an almost empty campus on Monday.— AFP ■

South Korea successfully launches homegrown SLBM: report

South Korea's locally-developed, diesel-powered 3,000-tonne submarine, named after revered independence activist Ahn Chang-ho, during its commissioning ceremony on the southern island of Geoje. **PHOTO: SOUTH KOREAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP**

SOUTH KOREA has test-fired a homegrown submarine-launched ballistic missile, a report said Tuesday, as it seeks to build up its forces to defend itself from the nuclear-armed North.

Pyongyang has long sought to develop submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) technology, and showed off four such devices at a military parade overseen by leader Kim Jong Un in January, with state media KCNA calling them "the world's most powerful weapon".

But while North Korea has released pictures of underwater launches, most recently in 2019, analysts believe that was from a fixed platform or submersible barge, rather than a submarine.

South Korea's Agency for Defence Development last week carried out underwater ejection tests of the SLBM from a new, locally developed 3,000-tonne class submarine fitted with six vertical launching tubes, Yonhap reported, citing unnamed military sources.

The SLBM is believed to be a variant of the country's Hyunmoo-2B ballistic missile, with a range of around 500 kilometres (310 miles), and will be mass produced for deployment after another round of tests, it added.

South Korea joins only a handful of countries to have successfully developed an SLBM.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bolsonaro issues decree limiting social media moderation

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro issued a decree Monday that changes the rules of content moderation on social media, a move that critics argue could hinder the fight against disinformation.

The decree goes into effect immediately but must be ratified by Congress in order to become law. It aims to combat "the arbitrary and unjust deletion of accounts, profiles and content by providers," the federal communications secretariat said.

Far-right leader Bolsonaro, who has himself had content removed from his social media accounts for spreading disinformation about Covid-19, says that the suspension or removal of accounts and content that various platforms have subjected him and some of his supporters to is "censorship."

The new provision establishes a series of hypotheses for which there would be "just cause" to remove content or suspend users — such as committing crimes or inciting violence — and imposes new rules for platforms to do so.—AFP ■

'We live in fear': Once embracing, Turkey turns on migrants

GHAWSUDDIN Mubariz was already spending restless nights worrying about being sent back to Afghanistan when a stadium full of Turkish football supporters broke into a chant calling for migrants to go home.

The 20-year-old had felt welcomed when he fled the northeastern Afghan city of Kunduz and crossed into Turkey after a three-week trek across Pakistan and Iran nearly two years ago.

He eventually found a job at a fast-food joint in Istanbul and sent half his earnings to his Afghan relatives so they can better cope with poverty and endless war.

But things changed when the police began rounding up Afghans and placing them in deportation centres in response to growing public anger at migrants that coincides with a new spell of Turkish economic malaise.—AFP ■

Trial of accused 9/11 mastermind restarts, days before 20th anniversary

A New York City fireman signals to rescue workers making their way into the rubble that was once the World Trade Centre in New York City on 18 September 2001 **PHOTO: US NAVY PHOTO/AFP/FILE**

THE prosecution of alleged 11 September mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others restarts Tuesday, just days before the 20th anniversary of the attacks, stirring new hopes for justice and retribution.

Mohammed and his co-defendants, who have been locked up at the "War on Terror" prison at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for nearly 15 years, will appear in the military tribunal here for the first time since early 2019.

But after a 17-month halt due to the coronavirus pandemic, the proceedings appear likely to continue where they left off, mired in the defence's efforts to disqualify most of the government's evidence as tainted by the torture the defendants underwent in CIA custody.

On Sunday, the new military judge, Air Force Colonel Matthew McCall — the case's eighth — signalled a slow start, deciding that an initial hearing focused on his own qualifications will take place on Tuesday. Lawyers for both sides are allowed in a war crimes tribunal to question a new judge for possible bias.

The rest of the week will mostly involve meetings with the military prosecutors and defence teams.

With scores of motions lined up to demand evidence that military prosecutors refuse to hand over, defense attorneys said the pretrial phase could easily last another year, placing far over the horizon any hope for a jury trial and verdict.—AFP ■

Venezuela political rivals narrow differences at Mexico talks

VENEZUELA'S government and opposition on Monday found common ground on two fronts, including the country's pandemic response, in a tentative step towards ending a long-standing political crisis.

The signing of two "partial agreements" came after representatives of President Nicolas Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaido held four days of talks in Mexico City mediated by Norway. They agreed to meet again on 24 September to 27, with the key issues of elections and sanctions still to be resolved.

The accords involve social protection — including dealing with the coronavirus — and Venezuela's stance on a disputed border area controlled by Guyana.—AFP ■

Police officers stand outside the Sofitel Hotel in Mexico City, where representatives of the Venezuelan government and opposition held talks, on 6 September 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar ranked 7th in ASEAN for AFC club competitions

MYANMAR is currently taking 7th position in ASEAN for the ranks of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) football club competitions, according to the ASEAN football data.

Myanmar domestic football teams collected 5,662 club points and have earned 11,073 total points since 2018 and the teams are currently in 28th place for the whole Asia region.

Team Thailand is at the top position in ASEAN with total club points of 29,125.

Viet Nam is following Thailand with 20,018 club points and the Philippines is standing in third place.

Malaysia is in fourth place with 12,083 club points and Singapore is fifth with 9,750 points.

Indonesia is above team Myanmar with 17,923 club points and Cambodia is under Myanmar with 6,339 AFC club points.

Next, Laos is in the ninth position in ASEAN with 947 AFC club points while Timor Leste and Brunei are at the bottom place with no AFC club points collected.

The rankings are based on the performance of the teams in this year's AFC Champions League and after the cancellation of the AFC Cup.

There have been changes compared to the rankings in January 2021, officials said.—GNLM ■

Southgate 'open-minded' about World Cup every two years

England boss Gareth Southgate says he is "open-minded" about holding the World Cup every two years and has spoken to Arsene Wenger about the proposal. **PHOTO: AFP**

ENGLAND boss Gareth Southgate says he is "open-minded" about holding the World Cup every two years and has spoken to Arsene Wenger about the proposal.

Former Arsenal manager Wenger, who is now director of development at world governing body FIFA, has called for football's showpiece competition to become a biennial event.

Southgate revealed after England's 4-0 World Cup qualifying win over Andorra on Sunday that he had spoken to the Frenchman about the proposals and that he is open to the possibility — as long as the football calendar does not become overloaded. "I think the whole calendar needs reviewing," he said. "My feedback would be — I don't know how our generation are going to find a World Cup every two years a strange concept.

"But I also know that things like The Hundred in cricket have been an incredible success, so I'm open-minded about some of those things. But the calendar generally needs to be tidied up. We can't keep adding more things in.

"I agree generally with the concept of better-quality matches — fewer matches, better quality across the board, but there's lots of other things that need consideration and we can't just add more in at the moment."

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin warned on Monday that holding the World Cup every two years would "dilute" the tournament. — 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.

Europe defeat US for second straight Solheim Cup

EUROPE, fuelled by rookies Matilda Castren and Leona Maguire, beat the United States 15-13 to retain golf's Solheim Cup on Monday. Finland's Castren fired out of a bunker and drained her putt at the 18th to secure a 1-up victory over American Lizette Salas for the point that ensured Europe would retain the trophy it won in 2019 at Gleneagles in Scotland.

The Europeans came into the final day of the biennial match-play showdown between European and US women needing five points from 12 singles matches to gain the 14 they needed to take the Cup back home from Inverness Club in Ohio.

Ireland's Maguire — like Castren, the first woman from her country to play in the Solheim Cup — fittingly delivered Europe's first point of the day with a dominant 5&4 victory over Jennifer Kupcho. Maguire, who had already partnered to deliver 3 1/2 points over the first two days in fourball and foursome matches, seized the lead with an eagle at the par-five second and never looked back.

"Just so proud of getting 4 1/2 points on the board for Europe," said Maguire, who became only the third player to earn 4 1/2 or more points in the Solheim Cup.

"I just tried to get off to a really good start and that eagle on the second — couldn't have started any better than that," she said.

"Made birdie on six, which is a hole I haven't played well all week," said Maguire, whose approach at the sixth flew over the pin and left her an eight-footer for birdie.—AFP ■

Finland's Matilda Castren celebrates after closing out her singles match win to ensure Europe retains golf's Solheim Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**