DON'T DELAY IN BUILDING MUTUAL TRUST AMONG PARTNERS TO RESTORE PEACE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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# Myanmar set an aim to have 50 per cent coverage of vaccination across the country at the end of this year: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the address at the 7th Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit via videoconferencing on 9 September 2021.

THE 7th Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit took place through videoconferencing yesterday morning, with an address by 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.

The summit was also attended by leaders of the GMS countries prime ministers, ministers and senior officers from Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam, the president of Asian Development Bank, representatives of development partner organizations and private sectors.

First, the video clip on the accomplishments of GMS countries was presented as the opening ceremony of the summit. Prime Minister of host Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen delivered an opening address. Next, Heads of State of GMS countries and the President of ADB delivered speeches.

In his address, the Senior General said he took pride of the remarkable successes of the GMS Programme in the enhancement of regional cooperation for about three decades starting from 1992. The theme of this summit "Renewed Strength to Face the Challenges of the New Decade" is the most suitable for the Greater Mekong Sub-region at present. In implementing the projects and sector-wise action plans in accord with the GMS Strategic Framework (2012-2022), Myanmar participated in the establishment of the Greater Mekong Railways Association-GMRA and signed the Cross-border Transport Facilitation Agreement-CBTA and appendices.

The economic corridors being implemented under the GMS Programme are the most essential for the export of regional products and development. Among them, the East-West Economic Corridor is very essential for Myanmar. The corridor connected between Da Nang of Viet Nam and Yangon (Thilawa) will strengthen the connection among the GMS countries and smoothen the trade process.

The Senior General said he welcomes the GMS Economic Cooperation Programme Strategic Framework 2030 to be approved at this summit as the roadmap for the GMS cooperation programme in the future. At present, the spreading of COVID-19 caused many changes in global countries including GMS countries and impacts in the health, economic and social sectors of the peoples who are still facing difficulties. Hence, all need to cooperate in the supply of vaccines against COVID-19, recovery of the economy in the post-COVID-19 era and solving the unconventional challenges in addition to that of monetary and technological resources. In responding to the impacts of the pandemic, Myanmar welcomes the GMS COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023. Myanmar is striving for prevention and control of COVID-19 and soonest remedying the loss of businesses triggered by COVID-19 through possible ways.

> The economic corridors being implemented under the GMS Programme are the most essential for the export of regional products and development. Among them, the East-West Economic Corridor is very essential for Myanmar. The corridor connected between Da Nang of Viet Nam and Yangon (Thilawa) will strengthen the connection among the GMS countries and smoothen the trade process.

Despite facing challenges, Myanmar will make efforts for overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 in its third wave. **Myanmar set an aim to have 50 per cent coverage of vaccination across the country at the end of this year.**

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# Public Notification on buildings where terrorists involved in terrorist attacks are staying

Terrorist organizations such as CRPH, NUG, PDF, and their affiliates have been carrying out terrorist acts and arson attacks across the country to disrupt the cooperation of the people and the ethnic nationalities with the State Administration Council which has set future roadmaps for the development, stability and security of the State. In doing so, it is found that they rented apartments and houses to hide while committing destructive acts in the country.

On 8 June 2021, 25 assorted weapons, 72 hand grenades, 71 fuses, 14 assorted magazines, 156 TNT bars, 540 detonators, 2 bandoliers, more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition were found and seized from a one storey house rented by terrorists in Ywaysu (west) Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region.

On the morning of 22 June, according to the report, security forces inspected the house rented by terrorists at No 116/Pha-19, 111 (E) road and 54th street in Htuntone ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. While inspecting, the security forces were attacked by homemade grenades and guns from the house, killing some of the security forces and 6 terrorists. A total of 8 armed terrorists were arrested with weapons and ammunition.

On the evening of 14 August, the perpetrators of the armed attack which killed 5 policemen on the Insein circular train, were arrested in houses and apartments temporarily rented by them in Yangon.

The above incidents were investigated and it was discovered that terrorists conspired to commit acts of violence by temporarily renting houses or apartments. Therefore, landlords are required to report the accurate information of the tenants with complete documents under Section 17 of the Ward/Village-Tract Administration Law, and to cooperate by notifying the relevant authorities in a timely manner if they find that their tenants are suspicious.

As landlords will be responsible if their tenants are found to have committed acts of violence, and no tenants list and information had been lodged with the relevant ward/village-tract administration office while renting the apartment, please be informed that they will be taken action under the existing law. In addition, the rented house or apartment will be confiscated as evidence under the Counter-Terrorism Law and will be confiscated as State Treasury as a result of the investigation.

Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

# IDPs receive Sinovac COVID-19 jabs in Yathedaung Township

THE first vaccination of COVID-19 vaccine (Sinovac) was given to displaced people aged 45 and over in the relief camps in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, from 9 am to 4 pm yesterday.

During the vaccination, healthcare workers and officials made records for the vaccinated people.

Next, volunteers and healthcare workers measured the body temperature before vaccination. Vaccines were given systematically, and only those with normal conditions are vaccinated.

After resting for about 30 minutes after being vaccinated, people were allowed to leave, officials said.

Among the six injection sites in five designated wards in Yathedaung Township, 203 local people aged 45 and over from IDP camps in the northeast of the township including Sasana Beikman, Patipatti Sipin Monastery, Shwe Kyin Monastery, Thiri Thaw Maryone Monastery, Shwe Parami Monastery, Dhanyawadi Monastery, Tezarama Monastery, Pyinnya Parami Monastery, and Pyay Lone Chanthar Monastery received the COVID-19 vaccines.

A total of 417 people, including 214 people aged 45 and over in Anaukpyin (Muslim) Village and Nyaung Pin Gyi (Muslim) Village were vaccinated on the first day, and the rest will be vaccinated as of 10 September. —Aung San Htun (IPRD)/GNLM

# Construction of Nantsalein Creek Bridge completed by 98%

A view of the new Nantsalein creek Bridge will be built soon in Hkamti Township, Sagaing Region.
**PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG**

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Construction, the construction of the Nant Salein Creek Bridge in Hkamti Township, Sagaing Region, is underway as the bridge is now 98% complete.

The project for the bridge construction was approved by the Ministry of Construction.

Crossing over Nant Salein Creek, the bridge is being built near the 24/4 mile of Hkamti-Sinthe-Lahe Road at an estimated cost of K1,600 million.

Skilful engineers and labour from the Construction Special Task Force (1) and Bridge Task Force (2) of Bridge Department, Ministry of Construction is taking in the bridge construction project.

The old cable-stayed bridge is now old, and thus, the load capacity of the bridge is reduced to 13 tonnes due to the reduced load capacity of the bridge, officials said.

The new Nant Salein Creek Bridge is being built next to the old cable-stayed bridge, according to the Bridge Task Force (2).

The total length of the new bridge is 330.45 feet and the width of the bridge is 30.5 feet. The bridge has a width of 143 feet and a height of three feet with a load capacity of 60 tonnes.

The foundations of the bridge are made of Caisson Well Foundation with a diameter of 2.75 metres.

The hull of the bridge is made of reinforced concrete piers and the upper body is made of reinforced concrete and steel mesh.

It was also constructed with a reinforced concrete floor with a 27.5 feet wide driveway.

The bridge span is 100.72 metres long and consists of two 20-metre-wide spans, one 15-metre-wide span and one 45.72-metre-wide span respectively.

The construction of the Nant Salein Creek Bridge began on 7 April 2019.

Once completed, the Nant Salein Creek Bridge will be a major bridge on the Hkamti-Sinthe-Lahe Road, which connects Hkamti to the Naga areas of Lahe and Nangyun.

According to the Ministry of Construction, the bridge will bring better transportation to Hkamti town via Thekkekyin-Phaungpyin-Homalin-Hkamti road and YeU-Kalewa road and to Mandalay Region via Taze and Monywa.

There will also be easy access to Magway Region from Kalewa to Kalay-Kalewa Road and Gangaw-Kalay Road, officials added.—Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

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

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

*(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)*

# Myanmar set an aim to have 50 per cent coverage of vaccination across the country at the end of this year: Senior General

**FROM PAGE-1**

Myanmar especially thanks to the countries and partner organizations that cooperated with Myanmar in so doing. The Senior General expressed special thanks to Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen China for his arrangement to transport donated necessary medicines and medical equipment by special aircraft despite facing difficulties to control the COVID-19 and China and Thailand for the process of importing the medicines and medical equipment via borders.

The State of Emergency was politically declared because of attempts to convene the Hluttaw after committing the gigantic voting frauds in the general election held on 8 November 2020, and the State Administration Council has been serving the State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution of Myanmar for more than seven months as of 1 February 2021. The five-point road map is being implemented for the country not to derail from the way of democracy. Among the points of the road map, priority is being given to the implementation of the objective **"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".** According to the findings on the scrutiny of the newly-formed Union Election Commission, it was found that vote-rigging was committed for more than 11.3 million ballots. The government decided to continue the tasks in line with the road map.

Myanmar accepted the proposal to appoint Brunei Minister of Foreign Affairs II. Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof as the special envoy of the ASEAN Chairman to continue implementation of the five-point consensus adopted at the ASEAN Leaders Meeting for the Myanmar affairs and will undertake further cooperation in accord with the frameworks of the five-point consensus of the ASEAN Leaders Meeting, that of the five-point road map of the State Administration Council and that of ASEAN. With regard to international relations, plans are underway to implement the existing bilateral agreements of two countries and international commitments.

> Myanmar has secured remarkable progress as the result of cooperation during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic but still faces challenges in handling the trade, finance and information network measures in the sub-region and enhancement of competitiveness and more improvement of the community. To be able to overcome them, it is necessary to emphasize cooperation adhering to the firmed procedures.

Myanmar will further prioritize peace, sustainable development and all participation through the concerted efforts for benefiting all regional peoples. Hence, Myanmar will continue implementation of the agreements in regional and sub-regional economic integration including ASEAN, GMS and regional multiple economic cooperation.

Myanmar has secured remarkable progress as the result of cooperation during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic but still faces challenges in handling the trade, finance and information network measures in the sub-region and enhancement of competitiveness and more improvement of the community. To be able to overcome them, it is necessary to emphasize cooperation adhering to the firmed procedures.

He expressed his firm belief that the strategy and action plan to be adopted at the summit would overcome the challenges of the new decade to build a more compact and strong community.

Next, Cambodian GMS Affairs Minister, Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary-General of the Council for the Development of Cambodia Mr Sok Chenda Sophea explained the successful results of the Greater Mekong Sub-region. Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Hun Sen gave a concluding remark.

Then, the Heads of State approved the GMS Economic Cooperation Programme Strategic Framework 2030 (GMS-2030), the GMS COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023 and the Joint Declaration of the Summit, and the summit successfully came to a close.

Also present at the Summit together with the Chairman of the State Administration Council were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for International Relations U Ko Ko Hlaing and officials of the Office of the State Administration Council and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations together with senior officers from the relevant ministries concerning the working committee for GMS cooperation and private representatives who joined the summit through online.

The Greater Mekong Subregion-GMS Economic Cooperation Programme launched in 1992 is a regional cooperation programme that has been successfully standing for about three decades. According to the GMS programme, six countries from the Greater Mekong Sub-region alphabetically host the summit once three years as of 2002 as the 10th anniversary of the GMS. Myanmar hosted the fourth GMS Summit in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 and 20 December 2011. The summits pledged to accomplish the visions related to the development of the sub-region in the future and Heads of State declared the important joint declarations. Today's 7th GMS Summit approved the GMS Economic Cooperation Programme Strategic Framework 2030 (GMS-2030), the GMS COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023 and the Joint Declaration of the Summit. —MNA

# Second day of 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, launch of OECD Competition Assessment and Competitive Neutrality Reports on Logistic Sector in ASEAN held

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo participated in the second day of the 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting via videoconference on 9 September 2021 from the office of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The Meeting was chaired by Dato Dr Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II of Brunei Darussalam and attended by ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM), Senior Economic Officials (SEOM), Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat and representatives.

During the meeting, the ministers noted the implementation status of the Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) of Brunei Darussalam under its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2021 and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and urged the sectoral bodies to intensify the efforts for the timely completion of the ongoing works. The ministers exchanged views on economic policies in the context of sustainable development as a post-COVID-19 recovery strategy and acceleration of digital economic integration and endorsed the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap: An ASEAN Digital Transformation Agenda to Accelerate ASEAN's Economic Recovery and Digital Economy Integration. In addition, the ministers noted and provided guidance on the recommendations of the High-Level Task Force on Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), the report of Chair of Senior Economic Officials' Meeting and the report of Task Force Entry into Force of Future Provisions of ASEAN Economic Agreements.

The ministers also discussed the preparation for ASEAN Economic Minister and its Dialogue Partners meeting with China, Korea, Switzerland, US, Hong Kong (China), India, EU, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Plus Three (China, Korea and Japan), East Asia and the UK which will be held from 13 September to 15 September 2021.

Deputy Minister U Than Aung Kyaw attended the morning session on behalf of the Union Minister. The Deputy Minister welcomed the progress of the Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) of Brunei Darussalam. He also supported the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap and suggested including the plan for capacity building and technical assistance in the implementation of the Roadmap taking into account the different levels of digital readiness and capacity.

The Joint Media Statement of the 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting was adopted at the end of the meeting.

In the afternoon, Union Minister joined the launching ceremony of the OECD Competition Assessment and Competitive Neutrality Reports on the Logistic Sector in ASEAN via video conference. ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM), UK Minister of State, Secretary-General of OECD, Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat and representatives participated in the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN gave the opening remarks. Dato Dr Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II, Brunei Darussalam, Mr Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of OECD, Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, UK Minister of State (Minister for Trade Policy) also delivered the remarks. After that, OECD handed over the reports to the ASEAN Economic Ministers.—MNA

**Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons**

**Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day**

**13th September**




**2021 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives**

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

## 2,310 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 September, total figure rises to 425,414

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 425,414 after 2,310 new cases were reported on 9 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 373,219 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 16,265 after 92 died.—MNA

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# 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 9 September (Yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by six companies and transported by nine vehicles, including one bowsers.

A total of 20 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by one bowser, 16 tonnes of liquid oxygen tanks, 9,125 empty oxygen cylinders, two oxygen plants, 409 oxygen concentrators for home use, six tonnes of gloves, and 1,517 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Myawady trading posts and the Yangon International Airport.

One vehicle carrying liquid oxygen was transported to Yangon and two oxygen plants to Yangon and Waingmaw officials said.

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

Muse

Myawady

Kampaiti

Chinshwehaw

# 203 Myanmar nationals repatriated via Muse

Returnees from China are accepted through the Myanmar-China border checkpoint.

MYANMAR citizens have been safely repatriated from China through Muse, northern Shan State where 203 Myanmar nationals returned home on 8 September.

Health officials from relevant public hospitals and members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps help the returnees with medical tests and documents required for quarantine, and officials from the respective military commands provided necessary assistance.

They were transported to their respective destinations by bus arranged by township administration bodies, and people diagnosed with COVID-19 were quarantined in separate places, it is reported. – MNA

# 1,883 people from TadaU receive second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

A total of 1,883 people from the targeted group in Tada-U township have received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at Thukita Kanbawza religious center in ward-3, on 9 September 2020.

The targeted groups consist of the venerable monks, people aged over 65 years and volunteers from charity organizations.

The vaccination activaties was supervised by U Kyaw Soe, chairman of the township committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and his office while the health workers administered the vaccine.

Before having a vaccination, the staff of the township administration department, health staff, the fire service members and the officials checked the body temperature and medical checkup. Then, they registered the immunization records in line with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health.

TadaU township provided the second dose of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to 1,883 people, including 1,350 people aged over 65 years, 126 venerable monks and nuns, 139 volunteers from the charity organizations, 13 government and private health workers, 2,000 civil staff and seven of their family members, five private transport staff and 43 supermarket staff, according to the township administration department. — Ye Tint (TadaU)/ GNLM

Inoculation is underway in TadaU Township.

# We are confident you all can discern whether the right or wrong, the justice and injustice, the cause and effect, and the good and the bad upon the situations occurring in Myanmar, based on what you have heard and seen : MoI Union Minister

THE diplomatic briefing on the development of Myanmar was held at Studio A of MRTV on Pyay Road of Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, UEC Member U Khin Maung Oo, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major-General Soe Tint Naing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun, the ambassadors of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Israel, Thailand, Cambodia, Egypt, the Country Representative of UN and charge d'affaires ai of Sri Lanka, India, Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, Laos, the People's Republic of China, Bangladesh, Brazil, Korea, Japan, Russia, Singapore, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Australia, Kuwait and Qatar, and deputy heads of embassies, officials and deputy resident representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross attended the event.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn cordially greets Ambassador Mr Jong Ho Bom of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Myanmar.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn cordially greets Ambassador Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak of Thailand to Myanmar.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn warmly welcomes the officials of foreign embassies and the UN representatives.

Firstly, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut and other officials warmly greeted the ambassadors and diplomats.

During the press briefing, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn clarified the situation in three sections as follows: -

As the first part, why did the Tatmadaw take all the responsibilities of the State? As you all know, there were serious irregularities of voter lists and voting frauds in the Multiparty Democracy General Election held on 8 November 2020 under the NLD government term. According to the official statements of the Union Election Commission regarding the findings on voter lists, there were more than 11,305,390 suspected voting irregularities, and since right after the election, Tatmadaw has released the findings 30 times, statements on its positions for two times before the election and four times after the election. During the press conferences of Tatmadaw, these cases were clarified in the presence of local/foreign media outlets with well-founded proof and evidence.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said there should be a free and fair election and simple political affairs many times before the election. However, as you are all aware, Tatmadaw requested not to convene the sessions of the 3rd Hluttaw until the processes of vote-rigging cases were solved as there were some disputes regarding free, fair and transparent elections in three periods of the election: before the election, on the election day and after the election. But they failed to do so. Tatmadaw called for Union Election Commission to solve a large number of discrepancies in voter lists as the first step. But, the UEC rejected the proposal and tabled the motion to hold a special session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the law through the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. They also refused it. Tatmadaw requested the government, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and UEC to address the current situation of the country. When all the proposals were rejected, Tatmadaw proposed the convening of the meeting of the National Defence and Security Council. But they did not solve the case. Without addressing the requests and with incorrect election results through vote-rigging, they tried to convene the Hluttaw and form the government which can be recognized as they violated Section 40, sub-section (c) and Section 417 of the State Constitution 2008 and their actions were tantamount to the attempt to take the sovereign of the Union by wrongful forcible means. Therefore, Tatmadaw has undertaken the State responsibilities according to the stipulations of the State of Emergency of the 2008 Constitution.

But, the local and foreign journalists and some foreign countries, which do not follow the media ethics and international relations, spread accusations that Tatmadaw staged a coup d'état. But, Tatmadaw only maintains the power of the State under the Constitution and it is not seizing the power. A free and fair multiparty democracy general election will be held accordingly after accomplishing the provisions of the State of Emergency. This was repeatedly explained many times before and is now pointed out again as the first point of this briefing.

For the second section, I would explain the work plans and objectives being implemented during the term of the State Administration Council.

The aspiration and hope of the entire Myanmar people are to establish a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system. Tatmadaw has been building the system based on the multiparty democratic system since 1988. In practising the multiparty democratic system, free and fair elections are the "lifeblood of these systems". The basic requirement for a free and fair election is stability and the rule of law. Stability means political stability, safety and economic stability. For the rule of law, it needs to follow the existing laws and develop a disciplined practice. In order to implement these processes, the State Administration Council has adopted the Five-Point Road Map and Nine Objectives for political, economic and social affairs.

The Five-Point Road Map is as follows: -

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented under 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 according to democratic standards.

To implement these procedures effectively and bring prosperity for the country and people, the State Administration Council formed the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar after its six-month performance, and the SAC Chairman took over the post of Prime Minister of the State and accelerated the momentum of all procedures.

Thirdly, I would like to present some aspects of the current political, economic and social developments.

Being the Provisional Government of Myanmar, it has been undertaking the State duties under the Constitution 2008 and will hold the election under the law at the end of the state of emergency. And it will hand over the power to the government emerged in line with the election results. On the other hand, a government must work for the socio-economic development of its people, including the development of the country. Therefore, if we look at the Five-Point Road Map and Nine Objectives of the SAC, all conform with the current situation of the country.

The first political objective of the SAC is our foreign policy. We practise independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy. We

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# We are confident you all can discern whether the right or wrong, the justice and injustice, the cause and effect, and the good and the bad upon the situations occurring in Myanmar, based on what you have heard and seen : MoI Union Minister

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn makes the briefing on the current developments of Myanmar to the diplomats and UN representatives.

FROM PAGE-6

uphold the principle -- peaceful coexistence among the nations. Being an ASEAN member country, we carry out the measures for regional peace and development keeping in line with the attitudes and objectives of ASEAN. Similarly, we cooperate with the international countries in the works for global peace, tranquillity and sustainable development based on justice, equality and fair international laws.

There are also interferences in the internal affairs of sovereign states on the pretext of democracy and human rights. Every independent country has its own sovereignty. What I do want to say is that there is equal opportunity regardless of large or small countries or powerful or not powerful countries.

The Head of the State, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services attended the ASEAN Summit in April and clarified the reasons for taking State power by Tatmadaw, the occurrence of riots, future work plans and objectives of the State Administration Council.

He also said he will give careful consideration to constructive suggestions made by ASEAN leaders if they facilitate the implementation of a Five-Point Road Map of the government, benefit the country, and are based on the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Way, ASEAN Spirit. Myanmar has agreed on the appointment of the ASEAN Special Envoy to Myanmar. We can see crystal-clearly the current practical implementations.

I also want to brief the country's COVID-19 preventive measures. The deputy minister of the Ministry of Health will also present the matter in detail.

Although our country faced the first and second small waves, it had huge impacts during the third wave like other global countries. However, our government conducted the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities effectively and we could control the disease to a certain extent. The government conducted COVID-19 tests, imposed Stay-at-Home orders and purchased the vaccines not only from India since the previous government term but the vaccines from Russia and China as well for the vaccination programmes in Myanmar. In addition to the purchased vaccines, China, India, Cambodia and Thailand donated the vaccines and medical supplies like good friends. Moreover, the donations of people and organizations, participation of volunteers and individuals' adherence to health rules are very supportive for the COVID-19 prevention processes. The government appreciates our partner countries, local/foreign organizations and people for participating in prevention activities in many and various ways. Although there might be still challenges and hardships, we can overcome any obstacles or difficulties with the supervision of the authorities and public participation based on our national characteristics of our citizens such as generosity, charity and helpfulness, in other words, the strength of internal unity.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the repatriation of Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries and facing difficulties due to loss of jobs has been carried out. A total of 1,086 Myanmar citizens from Malaysia and 70 from India were respectively repatriated back to Myanmar by the Navy vessels before the third wave of COVID-19. During the third wave period, a total of 74,955 has also returned from China, Laos and Thailand, respectively, to date. The Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Myanmar said earlier that our citizens should be protected under the shade of the Government and will assist them where necessary. The Government will further accept those who are in various countries and willing to return home. An earnest request is placed for the countries concerned to render necessary assistance in this regard.

I would also like to explain the work being done to achieve lasting peace in the whole country. Tatmadaw fully recognizes that the process for enduring peace is absolutely imperative. Therefore, in order to carry out the peace process successfully with the armed ethnic groups, Tatmadaw has stopped its military activities since 21 December 2018.

On the other hand, I would like to inform you that the Government is taking effective action against illegal CRPH and NUG-affiliated terrorist organizations who are being against the State without complying with the existing law. NUG declared a state of emergency on 7 September, intending to destabilize the tranquillity of the State and the socio-economic life of the people. NUG's statement tends to make the declaration of the war against the Government. When the EAOs were officially asked whether NUG terrorist groups were accepted in their respective areas, the majority of EAOs formally replied that there were no NUG terrorist groups in their territories. Questions should be raised whether NUG terrorist groups are whereabouts.

We are inviting the diplomats and representatives of foreign missions to attend this clarification briefing for the facts and information about current developments and endeavours in Myanmar so as to welcome

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UEC Member U Khin Maung Oo.

MoHA Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing.

MoH Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun.

Diplomats and officials of foreign embassies and UN representatives view around the displays at the event.

10 SEPTEMBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



# Don't delay in building mutual trust among partners to restore peace

THE beautiful word "peace" is the most essential for human society. Everybody, every organization and every country wishes to enjoy the taste of peace.

In Myanmar, the government opens the door forever to all with the invitation to partners for holding talks to restore the peace in the country. For the time being, ethnic armed organizations seek trust and mutual understanding with the government to secure peace.

Both organizations are walking on tracks that are slightly different from each other. If the tracks coincide, the process of restoring the peace will achieve success. Hence, both sides need to adjust their concepts through the compromise. Likewise, two bodies on different sides need to negotiate all things so as to make the compromise for restoring the peace.

But, it is not an easy process. Dialogue partners need to negotiate necessary topics and concepts to have the best answer. In fact, all organizations to discuss the peace process have their own concepts and answers in hand. They all need to analyze such answers whether it is correct or wrong leading to the peace process.

Currently, the entire people are exhausted in passing the days without peace and tranquillity. All the people anticipate the fruits of peace in society. Despite understanding the hopes of the people, all dialogue partners turn a blind eye to the correct way leading to peace. Primarily, they could not build mutual trust among them.

At a time when they have built trust among all dialogue partners, they all need to march forward as quickly as possible in order to restore the peace for beautifying the lives of the people and for shaping a peaceful and pleasant society.

Practically, anyone cannot know a thing without doing it. Scientists in successive eras adventured and conducted researches for having new things or for creating new objects useful for society but they had passed numerous processes of error and trial. After overcoming the challenges, they could take the innovative things. That is why not only the government but also dialogue partners need to build mutual trust between them before holding the peace dialogues. If so, their efforts will be close to their achievements.

At a time when they have built trust among all dialogue partners, they all need to march forward as quickly as possible in order to restore the peace for beautifying the lives of the people and for shaping a peaceful and pleasant society.

■■■

# 'More joy': Milan designers visualize the post-pandemic home

*Another trend during lockdowns was that "people wanted their house to be a happy place, so with more colour and greenery"...*

A POOL table that changes into a dining table, a bookshelf that transforms into a filing cabinet and noise-cancelling panels to facilitate home-working: adapting to life after coronavirus was on the minds of many exhibitors at Milan Furniture Fair this week.

After months cooped up at home, many people's houses and apartments have been transformed into offices, schools, gyms and playgrounds, blurring the lines between public and private spaces.

"The home has become a refuge for its inhabitants, a welcoming place that reflects the personality of each of them and offers both comfort and a certain flexibility," Maria Porro, head of the Salone del Mobile fair, told AFP.

"Hence the search for materials that feel nice to touch, and multifunctional pieces that allow spaces to be modulated and personalised."

Designers said people were much more focused on their homes during the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

**Modular billiards -**

A pool table in canaletto walnut laid with plates and candles draws the eye of visitors, who stop to feel its smooth surface and take photos.

"Demand has increased with the pandemic because people have rediscovered their home and want a games area that transforms easily into a dining table or desk," said Guido Rossi of the manufacturer MBM Biliardi.

Nearby, Ferrimobili offers tailor-made products including a shelf that houses an extendable desk, adapted for the needs of people working from home.

"It's the ideal solution for small spaces. With the pandemic, clients want a home that is more functional but also still elegant," said Domenico Tescione from the Rimini-based firm that saw its revenues increase by 20 per cent last year.

The wider Italian furniture industry had a difficult 2020, when the country endured months of coronavirus lockdowns, with turnover falling 8.9 per cent to 21.2 billion euros ($25 billion).

In the first half of 2021, however, sales soared and even overtook pre-pandemic levels, at 14.3 per cent higher than the same period in 2019.

**Bright colours**

Comfort has become increasingly important. "Working for hours on an old table and repurposed chair is unacceptable," said Andrea Bottoli of office furniture firm Martex.

Home-workers who spend much of their day in videoconferences are also focusing more and more on their image.

"They put the company logo as a backdrop, they try to find the most attractive part of their house and adapt the light so they don't look too tired," Bottoli said.

Before the pandemic, "clients looked for office furniture that made it feel more like home — and now it's the reverse. They want an office at home, without it looking like a workplace", added designer India Mahdavi.

Another trend during lockdowns was that "people wanted their house to be a happy place, so with more colour and greenery", she told AFP.

The trend of searching out durable, solid and sustainable material was highlighted by the fair's "urban forest", 100 maples, oaks, lime, apple and plum trees that welcomed visitors and will later be replanted around Milan.

"The pandemic has revealed a huge appetite in people for creating, for renovating their homes, because they are staying at home, they don't travel so much," said French designer Pierre Yovanovitch.

He believes "people want comfort, sensuality", not cold, white interiors: "They are searching for more playfulness, more colour, more joy."

***SOURCE: AFP***

■■■

# France's Pasteur Institute seeks unvaccinated patients for new Covid treatment

*The Pasteur Institute is hoping to recruit between 350 and 700 patients through medical clinics and laboratories for a study that's been labelled a "national research priority". It appears the Pasteur Institute is more likely to find candidates for its trials in the French Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, where vaccination hesitancy remains high.*

THE Pasteur Institute is on the lookout for hundreds of patients to take part in clinical trials for its new treatment for Covid-19, in news that comes amid a slackening of vaccination rates in France.

**Lille-based research body**

On Monday the Lille-based research body said it had signed up its first patient for the second phase of the trial, which was given the green light in June by the French National Agency for the Safety of Medicines.

It's hoping to recruit between 350 and 700 patients through medical clinics and laboratories for a study that's been labelled a "national research priority".

The institute said the "adaptive, outpatient, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind phase study" would evaluate the "safety, tolerability and efficacy of clofoctol" in patients with early-stage symptomatic Covid – with a view to preventing hospitalizations.

Clofoctol is a little-used antiviral medicine that treats respiratory, ear, nose and throat infections. Taken as a suppository, it is already marketed in France and other European countries for non-Covid treatments.

Participants for the Pasteur clinical trials must be aged over 50, unvaccinated and present with at least one symptom of Covid-19.

**Eye on French West Indies**

For now, only those in the northern Hauts-de-France region bordering Belgium are being sought, but the Pasteur Institute said it would extend in search to other regions – notably the French West Indies, where delta infections are soaring. More than 72 per cent of people aged over 12 in mainland France have received at least one vaccine dose, and more than 60 per cent are fully vaccinated – largely thanks to strict health pass rules and mandatory jabs for health workers.

On top of that more than 120,000 vulnerable people have received a third booster shot since 1 September, when the campaign kicked off.

A bust of Louis Pasteur, the 19th century French scientist, outside the Pasteur Institute in Lille. **PHOTO: DENIS CHARLET /AFP**

It appears the Pasteur Institute is more likely to find candidates for its trials in the French Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, where vaccination hesitancy remains high.

Official figures show only 24 per cent of Martiniquans aged over 12 are fully vaccinated, with that number dropping to 22 per cent for Guadeloupe. To fund its trial, the institute received a 5 million euro donation from the luxury goods giant LVMH.

***SOURCE: AFP***

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

**(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 9 September 2021)**

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 10 September, 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Magway Regions and Kachin, Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and Northern Shan, Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon,Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8 – 10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon- Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 September, 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 September, 2021:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 September, 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## Flood Bulletin

**(Issued at 08:00 hrs M.S.T on 9-9-2021)**

**FLOOD CONDITION OF AYEYAWADY RIVER**

According to the (07:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Zalun at Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (2) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (12) hrs.

**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 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 Thabaung at Ngawun River has exceeded by about (1) inch above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

**ADVISORY**

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

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# We are confident you all can discern whether the right or wrong, the justice and injustice, the cause and effect, and the good and the bad upon the situations occurring in Myanmar, based on what you have heard and seen : MoI Union Minister

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productive collaboration from the international community.

We are confident you will be able to discern whether the right or wrong, the justice and injustice, the cause and the effect and the good and the bad upon the situations happening in Myanmar, based on what you have heard and seen.

Then, UEC member U Khin Maung Oo clarified the attempts of the previous government and UEC conducted in advance in the pre-election period of the 2020 General Election.

He said that the NLD party hard cores, supporters and partisan people were appointed for election sub-commissions at various levels and there was bias to the NLD throughout the electoral process.

NLD tried to take control of essential ministries as part of planning to work on voter list because the NLD moved the General Administration Department from Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of Union Government Office at Union Level and established new Immigration and Human Resources ministries in States and Regions except in Shan and Rakhine after 2018 by-election.

During the voter lists data collection process, NLD-appointed ward/village-tract administrators closely worked together with NLD victory teams in some places. That is why there was a massive inclusion of people who do not have any Citizenship Scrutiny Card and of the people who were included in the voter list twice or thrice although they have the same CSCs because there was no proper check whether these people have any CSC or whether they are eligible to be in voter list or not according to the respective Hluttaw Election Laws.

The notification of 5th amendments of respective Hluttaw election regulations was issued on 3 October 2019 and, of the 6th amendments was issued on 5 June 2020 by former UEC. It was found that former UEC chairman and commissioners took guidance by former president and also by former State Counsellor in order to favour the NLD in the election.

Given the reason for errors in the voter list after the first time display, on 4 August 2020, under the directives of the Union Government Office, a "Support Group" on voting lists was formed to ensure the voter list was complete and correct. The group was led by State/ Region Chief Ministers and Immigration minister, representatives from Commission, General Administration Department and Immigration Department were included. By misusing the authority of that group, NLD party victory teams at all levels interfered and gave pressure on the voter list, therefore the respective election sub-commissions could not perform well to get the accurate voter list and the list was more bloated.

Officials clarify the displayed documents to diplomats, officials of foreign missions and UN representatives.

The former UEC released some restrictions for the people who do not have CSC and issued the instruction that voters who did not have a citizenship scrutiny card were allowed to cast their ballots at the polling stations with other identification. That is why people who were not identified properly yet and who did not have any CSCs were allowed to cast the votes and the people with the same CSC numbers were duplicated twice or more than three times in the voter list, and it was against the respective Hluttaw election laws Section 59.

The former UEC also instructed to distribute the voter slips, and these slips were bloated, were held unauthorized persons and the people who only brought were allowed to vote. And it caused unlawful voting against laws and regulations.

Although the criteria for voters who can cast the advance votes and the procedures to be taken by election sub-commissions were prescribed in the laws and regulations, the former UEC issued the instruction to allow those aged 60 and above to cast advance votes. While collecting the ballot papers of those aged 60 and above during the official advance voting period in the 2020 general election, members of the NLD campaign team were presented together with the respective teams when they visited the voters' houses to collect the advance votes in some places.

A panel of photo records about terrorist attacks is displayed at the event.

On 6 November 2020, just two days prior to Election Day, the former UEC announced that the ballot papers which were stamped with only tick-sign without UEC logo are valid and it caused the complication in the counting process at polling stations.

During the printing of ballot papers for the 2020 elections, 139,331,120 ballots in total were printed. The printing of ballots was done eight times, including up to the day just before the elections (7 November 2020).

As there was less possibility for NLD to win the election in these townships, the former UEC announced the postponement of elections in 9 townships in Rakhine and 6 townships in Shan, altogether 15 in total just before the election due to security concerns. Although some political parties pointed out that the security conditions in Paletwa township was worse but the election had not been cancelled there, the former UEC defended its decision and favoured the NLD by misusing its power.

During the broadcast campaign period of political parties on state media, 85 parties submitted requests to UEC and among them, the manuscripts by 64 parties including Union Solidarity and Development Party were edited and revised. Some parties withdrew their requests and cancelled their broadcasting schedule. But it was found that the NLD and 20 other parties were allowed to broadcast their manuscripts without editing.

When the former UEC published the notifications on the accreditation procedures for domestic and international observers, 4 areas of observation were cut off. 13 areas were allowed to observe in the 2015 General Election and only 9 areas were allowed to observe in the 2020 General Election and it was found that the last election had less transparency.

Regarding the election offences in the 2020 General Election according to the statistics by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 546 alleged election offences were presented to the police, 336 cases were prosecuted, 192 were closed and there were 18 ongoing cases. The number of cases was higher than before.

Regarding the malpractices in the 2020 General Election, 287 electoral complaints were submitted to former UEC and 265 cases were objecting NLD party. There were only 29 electoral complaints in the 2010 General Election and 45 cases in the 2015 General Elections and the number of complaints in the 2020 General Election is relatively high.

As defined by the first point in the Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council, the current Union Election Commission inspected in detail the voter lists and voting processes of 315 townships where multiparty elections were held on 8th November 2021. According to former UEC, there were 38,271,447 eligible voters and 39,963 polling stations in these 315 townships. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population as of November 2020, there were 31,775,330 eligible voters, that is, citizens over 18 years of age. The difference in this regard is therefore 6,496,117 voters.

In the voter list, people who do not have any Citizenship Scrutiny Cards were included, and some were included twice and more than three times although they hold the same CSCs in the same townships. There were also people duplicate in the voter list based on cross-checks among the townships within the same State/ Region, cross-checks among the different States/Regions. There were also people of age 100 years

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# We are confident you all can discern whether the right or wrong, the justice and injustice, the cause and effect, and the good and the bad upon the situations occurring in Myanmar, based on what you have heard and seen : MoI Union Minister

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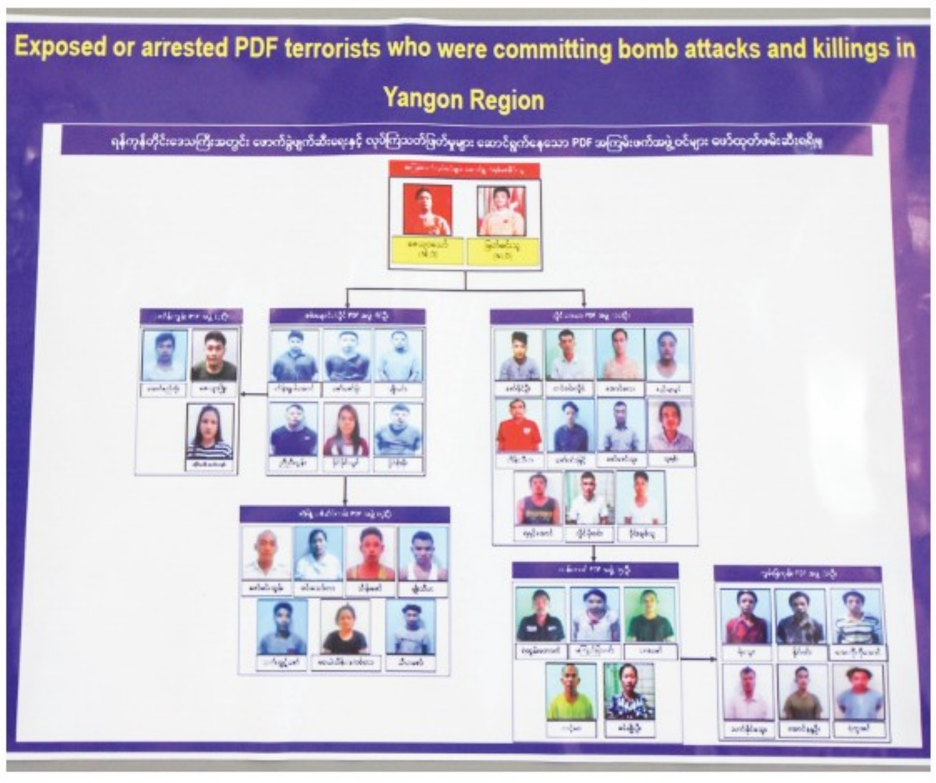
and above and also of age under 18 years. In total, there are 11,305,390 names in the voter lists that are potentially fraudulent. This represents 29.54% of the total voter lists provided by the former Union Election Commission.

He then presented the results from the field investigations of Pyithu Hluttaw ballot papers used during the 2020 General Election.

It found that 43,004,382 ballot papers had been issued to polling stations, and the actual number of used ballot papers was 27,098,058. Therefore, in principle, 15,906,324 unused ballot papers should remain. However, we found only 14,920,783 ballot papers remaining. We found that this difference is caused by the combination of 1,424,391 missing ballot papers, and 438,850 excess ballot papers.

According to the overall review and analysis on the entire electoral process before, during and after the election which also includes findings on inspections of voter lists and ballot papers and field investigations in respective States and Regions, it is found that the 2020 General Election was not held in a free and fair manner. It was also discovered that the National League for Democracy (NLD) misused its government authority and administrative power, as well as the COVID-19 rules and regulations in order to unlawfully get the state power. Equally, it was also inspected that the former Union Election Commission has been misused its mandate and violated existing laws and regulations. Subsequently, the current Union Election Commission has announced the annulment of the results of the 2020 General Election.



A photo record board at the event.

Taking the weaknesses from the 2020 General Election into consideration, the current Union Election Commission is making a thorough review of the respective Hluttaw Election Laws and regulations, and the Political Parties Registration Law and regulations. And we are conducting the audit on Funding, money and property of 93 registered political parties under the Political Parties Registration Law and regulations. The Union Election Commission will further consult with political parties on an appropriate proportional representation system for Myanmar.

The current Union Election Commission is discharging its duties as mandated by the Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council and devoting its attention to concluding the remaining tasks. The Union Election Commission will fulfil its obligation to hold truly free and fair multiparty democratic general elections in line with the 2008 Constitution, which is scheduled upon completion of the tasks as per the provisions of the State of Emergency, as also stated in the Five-Point Road Map.

After that, Deputy Minister Major-General Soe Tint Naing reported on how the terrorist organizations CRPH, NUG, and its PDF groups who are all of a piece committed acts of terrorism interconnectedly.

Facts, documents and photo records displayed at the event.

Certain terrorist members namely Zaw Wai Soe, Yi Mon, Myo Yan Naung Thein and Zin Mar Aung from CRPH and NUG incited their PDFs to carry out terrorist attacks; connecting young people, their so-called G-Zs, with EAOs for terrorist training; terrorist financing; provision of ammunition; outreach programs of support and encouragement. The video clips entail how they campaigned to disrupt administrative machinery, overthrow the government and intimidate innocent people to support them. There are rumours that these videos were fabricated by some media outlets, and had been technically verified.

Secondly, I presented the casualties resulting from the acts of terrorism and destruction committed by CRPH, NUG, and PDFs under various names. During the period from February to August 2021, there were 406 school bombings/ arson attacks; 386 arson attacks on government offices/ departments; 29 attacks on private banks; 4 bank robberies; 23 attacks on public banks; 9 arson attacks on markets; 172 explosions and arson attacks on bridges and roads; 216 arson attacks on residential places and offices; 8 bomb blasts/arson attacks on supermarkets; 18 attacks on factories and workshops; 28 attacks on private buildings; 235 bombings/ arson attacks on police stations; 35 destructive acts against the State's property; 41 destructive acts against the private property; 19 bombings/arson attacks on hospitals/health care centres; 2,390 explosions of landmines at communal spaces in urban areas. Those bombings/ arson attacks left 69 people killed and 280 others injured. Terrorist attacks, including bombings, have claimed the lives and property of innocent people, and some of the incidents can be viewed in PowerPoint. In addition, 102 administrators of township, ward and village a and 117 were wounded in their assassination attempts. 369 people were killed and 446 others wounded for allegedly being informants. 253 people were wounded for their support of the other political parties. 140 Government employees and security forces were killed and 469 wounded. In total, 933 were killed and 1,312 injured in the above-mentioned terrorist attacks. Five monks were brutally murdered, one of them was burnt to death during the destructive acts against Buddhist monasteries and religious buildings. There were 9 murder cases against children in which even the eight-month-olds were brutally killed. There were also reports of bombings/burning of schools and the killing of five teachers with the intent to deprive school-age children of access to education.

Thirdly, it turns out that all of those who led the campaigns such as fundraising and terrorist financing as well as terrorist attacks by CRPH, NUG and PDFs are none other than the members of the NLD. There have been 32 cases of terrorism filed under the Counter-Terrorism Law, led by the members of the NLD. According to the confession of the arrested terrorist members, there have been links between these atrocious terrorist acts and NLD members.

Fourthly, he briefed them on counter-terrorism, public safety and the rule of law.

Multiple terrorist attacks erupted in Myanmar in October 2016 with ARSA terrorists attacking security forces and civilians in northern Rakhine State. On 30 August 2017, ARSA launched synchronized attacks on more than 30 police outposts on the border in Rakhine State. Afterwards, the militant group was declared to be an extremist terrorist group, with the rule of law and security maintained under the laws. Security forces are constantly reminded to comply with existing laws, procedures, and codes of conduct in controlling today's riots and violence. Any violations of the procedures and codes of conduct by security forces are being investigated and necessary action is being taken.

Fifthly, I touched upon accountability. From February 2021 until today, the authorities took such steps as arrests of rioters and violent protestors, detention on remand and prosecution under the law. Considering the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the social and psychosocial well-being of its citizens, the State Administration Council dismissed the pending cases and issued a proclamation releasing 4,651 prisoners. Some journalists from certain media outlets were involved in the arrests and prosecution. The penalties against these journalists are not based on freedom of the press and expression, but on their intent to harm the interests of the country, breach of existing laws and incitement to violent extremism. In addition, the cases filed under 505 (A) of the Penal Code were dismissed according to the law. Education, Health and other departmental staff and civilians are being communicated on daily basis and granted clemency.

Then, Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun explained the regions/ states with the highest infection rate and death rate.

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He also said the number of total testing in the third wave is 1,139,466 up to now and the daily average number of testing is 11,282.

During the long holidays, the laboratory testing is increased especially more focusing on the selected 65 high transmission Townships. The test positivity rate is also decreased up to more than 40% in mid-July to 9% currently.

Due to a reduction in test positivity rate and confirmed cases, the number of COVID-19 cases is also reduced in the public hospitals and treatment centres so that increased health care for non-COVID-19 related diseases are also re-kindled and scaled up.

About 50,000 people from IDP camps in Rakhine state including Bengalis and more than 1,000 people from NCA signatory EAOs are starting to get vaccinations and extensions of these vaccination programmes are ongoing.

From 27.1.2021 to 4.9.2021, the number of people who are fully vaccinated is more than 2.6 million, the number of people who get their first-time vaccination is more than 2.1 million, and the total number of people who get vaccinated is more than 4.8 million. Therefore, the total doses of vaccine delivered are more than 7.5 million and the programme is ongoing.

For the target population of 18 years old and above, the total doses targeted for this group is 68 million and 7.5 million doses are delivered so that 11% of the doses for that particular targeted group has been delivered. Therefore, 7% of the total country population had been already vaccinated.

From September to December 2021, the COVID-19 vaccination programme will target 12 million people and ongoing vaccinations will be done. Additional priority groups will be added such as disabled persons, Ethnic Armed Organization (EAO) persons, people with chronic diseases, people in the age group of 40 to 64 years old. These additional groups will get phase by phase vaccinations.

He finally said the government of Myanmar in cooperation and collaboration with the people of Myanmar is implementing the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment as well as COVID-19 vaccinations with added momentum so that the third wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar is obviously reduced and the country will successfully win over the third wave of COVID-19 very soon.

Then, UEC member U Khin Maung Oo and officials explained the representatives from foreign embassies about the press records, electoral documents, findings on voter lists of UEC, photo records of killed innocent people by the terrorists. The diplomats to the press very carefully paid attention to the efforts of the government in conducting rapid COVID-19 prevention, control and vaccination programmes, the dramatic decline in the infection rate, violence and murder cases of CRPH, NUG and PDFs.

As the international community becomes more aware of the real situations of Myanmar, it can strengthen the bilateral relations with Myanmar.—MNA

# Fishery exports plummet to $706 mln as of 27 August

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector for nearly eleven months (1 October-27 August) of the current financial year 2020-2021 fell to US$706 million, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's fishery exports dramatically declined this year, owing to the COVID-19 impacts and the transport difficulty.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is striving for the income generated from fisheries export this financial year 2020-2021 to keep up with $715.337 million registered in the previous FY 2019-2020. Consequently, MFF is beefing up the exports of both freshwater and saltwater fish to meet the goal.

Although some offshore and inshore vessels started to go fishing on 15 July, they are battered by the high cost of fuel oil and fishing equipment and supplies. Additionally, the exporters' companies pull down the price. The domestic fish industry flounders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The coronavirus pandemic shut down the wedding, donation events, festivities and restaurants. It also poses transport difficulties. The restrictions caused a slump in fish consumption in the local market.

"The disruption in container shipment wreak havoc on aquaculture export. To tackle this, the state authorities fulfil the requirements, and the One-Stop Service (OSS) was established. Myanma Port Authority processed to facilitate the transportation. The container shipment has become smooth in June. Furthermore, the Provisional Government of Myanmar will make those stakeholders engaged in the fisheries sector get vaccinated for the COVID-19. This move ensures the trade partners for seafood safety," said Dr Toe Nanda Tin, senior vice-president of MFF. "Keeping the businesses going and growing is a pivotal role in the country's economy. All the sectors including agriculture and livestock need to commit this. MFF is conducting the business regularly. "Those enterprises in the fisheries sector are truly appreciated. The federation is trying to meet the last year's export earnings in the last month of the current FY (September)," she added. Of 175 various aquaculture products, marketable fish products, especially fish, shrimp, eel and crab are primarily exported to foreign markets.

Myanmar's fishery exports dramatically declined this year, owing to the COVID-19 impacts and the transport difficulty.

In the past ten months, a monthly income from the fisheries sector is worth $65 million. Moreover, the fishery exports through the Sino-Myanmar border has ground to a halt following the consequences and safety measures on the imported seafood amid the COVID-19 pandemic, traders stressed.

Myanmar's fishery export was experiencing a downturn due to the import restrictions triggered by the detection of the COVID-19 on fish imports in China. China was the second-largest buyer of Myanmar's fishery products, accounting for US$254 million out of overall fishery export value of $850 million in the past financial year2019-2020. At present, China shut down the border areas in wake of the COVID surge in Myanmar. The fishery sector is dependent on maritime trade only. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidelines to ensure food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020. The permitted companies are advised to carry out food safety plans, follow the guidelines of WHO and FAO, formulate the safety management system and suspend the exports if any suspicious foodborne virus or virus infection risk are found in the products. The export is likely to resume once the products meet food safety criteria set by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). Myanmar Fisheries Federation stated that only the G2G pact can tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports. During the last FY2019-2020, MFF expected to earn more than $800 million from fishery exports and it reached a target.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union. The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes that meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques. To ensure food safety, the foreign market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) certificates.

To meet international market standards, fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries that are compliant with GAqP. The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAqP system.

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, the fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Its fishery production including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish are far better than the regional countries. If the country can boost processing technology, it will contribute to the country's economy and earn more income for those stakeholders in the supply chain, Yangon Region Fisheries Department stated. There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth $530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth $480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth $500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth $600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth $700 million in the 2017-2018FY and 580,000 tonnes worth over $730 million in the 2018-2019FY respectively, according to the Commerce Ministry. — KK, Nyein Thu/GNLM

# JAL to raise 300 bil. yen later this month amid low travel demand

JAPAN Airlines Co. said Thursday it plans to raise some 300 billion yen ($2.7 billion) to strengthen its financial standing and secure operating funds for the future as air travel demand remains weak amid the coronavirus pandemic. The airline, known as JAL, said it will raise the funds through subordinated loans and bonds to avoid share dilution, while sources familiar with the matter said the company would use part of the funds to invest in green technology to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The company is looking for approximately 200 billion yen in subordinated loans, which can partially be counted as capital, from banks and about 100 billion yen from subordinated bond issuance, the sources said.

JAL said it will announce the details of the fundraising plan on Friday. JAL raised around 180 billion yen last November through a public stock offering and other means to survive the pandemic and cover replacement costs for its fleet. The company's capital adequacy ratio stood at 42.4 per cent as of late June, a relatively high level among major global airlines, but JAL is planning to secure fresh funds as it expects a recovery in air travel demand could take time amid the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, the sources said. —Kyodo ■

File photo taken in October 2020 shows Japan Airlines Co. planes parked at Tokyo's Haneda airport. **—PHOTO: KYODO**

# JR East to test Singapore-made robotic coffee baristas at stations

EAST Japan Railway Co. will start testing in December fully autonomous robotic baristas to serve coffee at its Tokyo and Yokohama stations in a tie-up with a Singaporean retail tech startup.

The company known as JR East said the planned test-marketing involves the Ella robotic barista system developed by Crown Technologies Holding Pte. Ltd., which has had a business partnership with the railway operator since late last year. The unmanned system serves coffee through an automated ordering, serving and cashless payment process. It can serve more than 200 types of blended coffee and allows customers to use dedicated apps and railway-related IC cards for payment.

JR East expects the upcoming market research at two of the busiest stations in Japan to pave the way for it to provide loyal customers with customized coffee by using artificial intelligence analysis of their preferences. It also envisions offering such a "coffee subscription service" to commuter pass holders. A plan is also in the works to create a Japan-based joint venture with Crown Technologies for these robo-barista services. —Kyodo ■

Photo shows the Ella autonomous robotic barista capable of offering over 200 types of blended coffee, which was developed by Crown Technologies Holding Pte. Ltd. of Singapore. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### EasyJet rejects takeover bid, plots $2.0 bn lifeline

BRITISH airline EasyJet on Thursday revealed it had rejected a takeover approach, reportedly from rival Wizz Air, and revealed a $2.0-billion lifeline as the battered aviation sector looks to recover.

No-frills carrier EasyJet said in a statement that the bid had undervalued the group, adding that the suitor was no longer considering an offer and that the airline would now sell new shares to raise around £1.2 billion ($1.6 billion, 1.4 billion euros).

Bloomberg reported that the bidder had been Hungarian budget airline Wizz Air.

EasyJet meanwhile added that it had secured a new credit facility totalling $400 million.

"The board recently received an unsolicited preliminary takeover approach," EasyJet said in the statement.

"This was carefully evaluated and then unanimously rejected. The potential bidder has since confirmed that it is no longer considering an offer for the company."

EasyJet said the "highly conditional all-share" proposal "fundamentally undervalued the company".

The rights issues would "facilitate and accelerate the group's recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic", it added.—AFP ■


## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1109)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1109)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE**



**Ministry of Electricity and Energy**
**Invitation for Expression of Interest –EOI**

1. The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announced an Invitation to Expression of Interest –EOI to the local and foreign companies / organization to implement the economical size fertilizer factories for the following factories;
(a) No.1 Urea Fertilizer Factory (Sa-le)
(b) No.2 Urea Fertilizer Factory (KyunChaung)

2. The required information for EOI regarding about factories can be available in the Ministry's website https://www.moee.gov.mm. Please contact to following address to enquire other information:
Deputy Permanent Secretary (Energy)
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Office No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone no: 067 3410 599

3. EOI proposals shall be submitted to the following address in person or by parcel express not later than (12:00) noon at the date of 12th October 2021:
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Office No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone no: 067 3410 464



**Ministry of Electricity and Energy**
**Invitation for Expression of Interest –EOI**

1. The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announced an Invitation to Expression of Interest –EOI to the local and foreign companies / organization to operate with private public partnership for the following factories;
(a) No.4 Urea Fertilizer Factory (Myaungdaga)
(b) No.5 Urea Fertilizer Factory (Kangyidaunt)

2. The required information for EOI regarding about factories can be available in the Ministry's website https://www.moee.gov.mm. Please contact to following address to enquire other information;
Deputy Permanent Secretary (Energy)
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
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Office No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone no: 067 3410 464

# China welcomes 'end of anarchy' with new Afghan govt

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid holds a press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday. Mujahid announced the new government to rule the country. The Taliban announced Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund as the interim leader, while giving key positions to some of the movement's top officials. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEIJING said Wednesday it welcomed the end of "three weeks of anarchy" in Afghanistan with the establishment of a new interim government in Kabul, calling on the Taliban to restore order in the country.

The Islamists seized control of Afghanistan as US troops withdrew last month and have set up a new administration that started work Wednesday.

Despite previous promises that their rule would be inclusive, the government is drawn exclusively from loyalist ranks with established hardliners in all key posts and no women.

China has been scathing about the American withdrawal, which it criticised as ill-planned and hasty. On Wednesday it said the new government would help bring stability.

"China attaches great importance to the announcement by the Taliban of the establishment of an interim government and some important personnel arrangements," said foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin at a press briefing.

"This has ended more than three weeks of anarchy in Afghanistan and is a necessary step to restore order and rebuild the country."

While much of the world has adopted a wait-and-see approach to engagement with the Taliban, China has already said it is ready to build friendly relations with the group following their takeover. Analysts have said a stable and cooperative administration in Kabul would open economic opportunities for China and allow for expansion of its massive overseas infrastructure drive, the Belt and Road Initiative. — AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Shang-Chi,' with an Asian lead, sets a N.America box office record

THE North American box office got a big boost as Disney's new "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," featuring Marvel's first leading Asian superhero, scored an unexpectedly strong $75.4 million opening, industry observer Exhibitor Relations said Tuesday.

That figure, for the Friday-through-Sunday period, was a Labour Day weekend record, the Hollywood Reporter said, and the film took in an additional $19.3 million on Monday. "This is a fantastic opening on a traditionally quiet Labour Day weekend," said David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research. "The three-day number is a record-breaker for the holiday, a positive finish to the summer... (marking) a sensational weekend for the industry."

"Shang-Chi" stars Canadian actor, stuntman and erstwhile Deloitte accountant Simu Liu as Marvel's newest superhero, a former assassin in the shadow of an evil father. It also features Awkwafina, Tony Leung and Michelle Yeoh. The film, which has drawn strong reviews for its choreography and Asian representation, enjoyed the second biggest opening of this pandemic year, behind Marvel's "Black Widow," which had an $80 million opening.—AFP ■

### Marie-Antoinette diamonds up for auction in Geneva

TWO splendid diamond bracelets that belonged to French queen Marie-Antoinette will go under the hammer in Geneva later this year, the auction house Christie's said Wednesday.

The bracelets, coated with 112 diamonds in total, will be sold together and are estimated to fetch between $2-4 million when they go under the hammer on 9 November.

That estimate "includes not only the intrinsic value of the diamonds, but also the possibility to wear jewellery that was once worn by the famous queen Marie-Antoinette," Christie's jewellery specialist Marie-Cecile Cisamolo told AFP. The historic jewels could meanwhile easily go for far more than the asking price. "As seen in recent Geneva sales, the market for jewels of noble provenance continues to perform extremely well," Francois Curiel, the chairman of Christie's luxury division, said in a statement.—AFP ■

# Hawkish Takaichi joins race to be Japan's next PM

Japanese politician Sanae Takaichi announced Wednesday she will run for head of the country's ruling party. **PHOTO: AFP**

SANAE Takaichi, one of Japan's few prominent female politicians, announced Wednesday she will run for head of the ruling party as it seeks new leadership before a general election. The race to lead the Liberal Democratic Party was thrown wide open after its current head, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, said he would not run.

Takaichi — a hawkish nationalist who has held several ministerial positions — is only the second politician to declare she will stand in the 29 September party vote, along with former foreign minister Fumio Kishida.

Whoever wins will become prime minister and take the LDP into a general election that must be called in October and held no later than November. "With the responsibility to protect Japan and the determination to open the way for the future, I, Sanae Takaichi, announce my candidacy," she told reporters. The 60-year-old vowed improvements in a wide range of sectors, from education to defence and disaster management.

She pledged to bolster the economy with a "Sanaenomics" plan — a nod to former prime minister Shinzo Abe, whose signature "Abenomics" involved vast government spending and monetary easing. And she raised the possibility of allowing stricter anti-virus measures in Japan, which has so far avoided blanket stay-at-home orders.— AFP ■

### Top Mexico court rules criminalizing abortion unconstitutional

MEXICO'S Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that criminalizing abortion is unconstitutional in a decision hailed as "historic" by rights campaigners in the conservative Latin American country.

The unanimous vote opens the way for women across Mexico to access abortion without fear of being prosecuted and potentially imprisoned.

"It is one more step in the historical struggle for (women's) equality, dignity and the full exercise of their rights," said court president Arturo Zaldivar. He said that "from now on it will not be possible, without violating the criteria of the court and the constitution, to prosecute any woman who aborts in the cases that this court has considered valid."—AFP ■

Supporters of the legalization of abortion take part in a demonstration in the framework of the International Safe Abortion Day, in Guadalajara, Mexico on 28 September 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

# N. Korea stages military parade on 73rd founding anniversary

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (C) attends a military parade in Pyongyang in the early hours of 9 Sept 2021, as reported in North Korea's Rodong Sinmun. **PHOTO: KOREA MEDIA/KYODO**

NORTH Korea staged a military parade early Thursday to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the country's founding, state-run media reported, with leader Kim Jong Un struggling to cope with the nation's worst food crisis in more than a decade. The military parade, believed to be aimed at generating national unity, was North Korea's first since January this year, when the country held the first congress of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea in nearly five years. The holding of the latest parade, in which paramilitary and public security forces participated, may also be related to last month's South Korea-U.S. joint military exercises that prompted the North to warn of a "serious security crisis."

Pyongyang has long lambasted military drills between Seoul and Washington as rehearsals for war and invasion.

Kim, clad in a grey suit and tie, watched the parade, which started at midnight at Kim Il Sung Square, the capital's central area named after his grandfather and North Korea's founder, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. The Rodong Sinmun, the newspaper of the ruling party, also reported on the parade in Thursday's edition but did not feature any photos of ballistic missiles, indicating no strategic weapons were on display.

At a military parade in October 2020, North Korea showed off its cutting-edge intercontinental ballistic missile on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the ruling party, while unveiling a submarine-launched ballistic missile in January 2021.—AFP ■

# Two decades after 9/11, Saudi Arabia seeks softer image

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman poses for a selfie during an investment conference in Riyadh on 23 October 2018. **PHOTO: SAUDI ROYAL PALACE/AFP**

TWO decades after Saudi Arabian militants masterminded and carried out the September 11 attacks, the desert kingdom is striving for change in a reform drive aimed at updating its ultra-conservative image.

Women can drive and cinemas have reopened in the "new" Saudi Arabia under crown prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman, among many modernising reforms that some believe can be linked to the trauma of 9/11. The initiatives are "one of the long-term consequences" of the worst terrorist attack on US soil, Yasmine Farouk of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace told AFP.

Fifteen Saudis were among the 19 hijackers in the plane attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, which left nearly 3,000 dead and were plotted by Saudi-born Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The kingdom, a long-time American ally, denied any involvement but faced harsh US rhetoric over its social and education systems that critics said promoted extremism. More pressure could follow in the coming months after US President Joe Biden ordered the declassification of secret documents from a US investigation into the attacks. Biden was responding to pressure from families of some of those killed on 9/11 who have long argued that the classified documents may contain evidence that the Saudi government had links to the hijackers.— AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Catalan separatists to test unity ahead of Madrid talks

Catalonia's deeply divided separatist movement will put its mobilization skills to the test Saturday as the northeastern region celebrates its national day ahead of fresh talks with Spain's government.

The annual "Diada" on September 11 marks the fall of Barcelona to Spain in 1714 and normally draws vast crowds of more than one million people.

This year's celebrations will be the first since Spain pardoned nine separatist leaders who were serving long jail terms over their involvement in a failed 2017 independence bid. Under the slogan, "We will fight for independence and win", the Catalan National Assembly (ANC), the region's biggest grassroots separatist movement, is planning to march through Barcelona in an annual rally that at its peak brought 1.5 million people onto the streets.—AFP ■

### Somalia power struggle escalates over security minister's sacking

A damaging power struggle between Somalia's top political leaders escalated further on Thursday as they locked horns over the premier's dismissal of the security minister.

The very public feud between President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, commonly known as Farmajo, and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble has plunged the troubled country into fresh crisis as it struggles to hold long delayed elections and keep an Islamist insurgency at bay.—AFP ■

# Taliban vows to protect minorities' rights as interim gov't starts

THE Taliban have pledged to protect the rights of minorities and underprivileged groups as the Islamist group announced an all-male interim government in Afghanistan, without mentioning women's rights that were curtailed under its previous rule.

In the first statement since the Taliban captured the capital Kabul in mid-August, supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada said Tuesday the government will also promote education.

But he did not refer to education of women that was restricted when the Taliban were previously in power between 1996 and 2001.

The supreme leader said the government, which began work on Wednesday, will govern in accordance with Islamic law, maintaining that the Taliban have fought for liberating Afghanistan from foreign occupation and establishing a complete Islamic system in the nation.—Kyodo ■

Defiant female protesters said they were willing to accept the burqa if their daughters could still go to school under Taliban rule. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Reinier De Ridder wants new challengers except for Aung La N Sang

ONE Middleweight and Light Heavyweight World Champion Reineir De Ridder. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

THE ONE Middleweight and Light Heavyweight World Champion Reinier De Ridder said that he wants new challengers except former two-division ONE Championship World Champion Aung La N Sang, during an interview with ONE Championship.

"I'm looking to be active," De Ridder says. "I don't want to sit out, so line somebody up every three months."

"To be honest, I wasn't that excited to fight him again. It was very hard to do it even better than the first time [in October 2020], so I'm just happy to put it behind me, and — after this interview — to never have to speak about it again and be done with it. It's been good. A lot of respect for the guy. We've had two good fights, and I'm done," De Ridder added. Next, De Ridder has also expressed his overwhelmed feeling about Aung La N Sang as he won the Championship belt from Aung La with some difficulties.

"I have spoken to [Aung La N Sang] a few times now in passing. He's a legend, he's a great fighter, I respect him, but I never want to see him inside the cage again. I'm happy to put this to bed now. Two wins, it's done," the Dutch fighter continued. — 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.

# Football fan sentenced for racist message about England players

A FOOTBALL fan was handed a suspended jail term in Britain on Wednesday for posting racist comments on social media blaming three black players for England's Euro 2020 final defeat to Italy. Scott McCluskey, 43, from Runcorn, northwest England, singled out Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho in an abusive Facebook message after they missed their penalties in a shootout. He admitted a single charge at Warrington Magistrates Court of sending an offensive or abusive message by a public communication network, and said he was "deeply ashamed" of his actions.

He was handed a 14-week jail sentence, suspended for 18 months and ordered to 30 days of rehabilitation work on racism and diversity overseen by the Probation Service. District Judge Nicholas Sanders told McCluskey: "This sort of online abuse seems to have gained some sort of traction in our society and it is entirely unacceptable. "It is something which has the capability to cause real harm not just to individuals such as the three footballers concerned but to wider society as a whole."

McCluskey's case came as former footballer Anton Ferdinand called on social media companies to act immediately to end racial abuse, warning that online hate could even be fatal.

The ex-West Ham defender, 36, told British lawmakers scrutinising a government plan to tighten online safety laws of the addictive nature of social media. That creates a "mental health issue of not being able to escape it", he said in evidence to a parliamentary committee. — AFP ■

# Teenager Pepi leads fightback as US off mark with Honduras win

Teenager Ricardo Pepi celebrates after firing the US into a 2-1 lead in their World Cup qualifying win over Honduras on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

TEENAGE striker Ricardo Pepi inspired a second-half fightback as the United States came from behind to defeat Honduras 4-1 in a hard-fought CONCACAF World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

FC Dallas 18-year-old Pepi scored a crucial header to fire the US into a 2-1 lead and had a hand in three more goals to give the Americans their first victory of CONCACAF's final round of qualifiers after two opening draws.

US coach Gregg Berhalter's team had been outplayed in a lacklustre opening 45 minutes that saw Honduras take the lead through a Brayan Moya header on 27 minutes.

But Berhalter rang the changes at half-time, bringing on Antonee Robinson, Brenden Aaronson, and Sebastian Lletget and switching to a more adventurous 4-3-3 formation after starting the game with an unfamiliar 5-2-3 line-up.

The switch paid immediate dividends, with Robinson equalizing in the 48th minute with a cushioned finish after Pepi's decoy run to the near post distracted the Honduras defence.

Former Mexico youth international Pepi then headed the US into the lead on 75 minutes after DeAndre Yedlin's superb cross from the right flank to make it 2-1.

Pepi then set up an 86th minute goal for Aaronson, squaring to the Red Bull Salzburg forward who finished with aplomb to make the game safe.

There was still time for Pepi to be involved in the fourth US goal, his low shot parried by Honduras goalkeeper Luis Lopez into the path of Lletget, who tucked away at the far post. — AFP ■