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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 147, 8th Waxing of Tawthalin 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Monday, 13 September 2021

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Four million doses of Chinese vaccines arrive in Myanmar

Packages of Sinopharm anti-COVID-19 vaccine are being unloaded from aboard the airplane at Yangon International Airport on 12 September 2021.

FOUR million Sinopharm vaccines out of 24 millions purchased from China arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

These vaccines will be distributed to respective regions and states via land and air routes with the help of Tatmadaw (Air) starting today.

Officials will vaccinate the people over the age of 65 and 55, people with disabilities, ethnic armed organizations, people with chronic disease and people at IPD camps in addition to the priority groups. There are 4,944,654 people who get vaccinated until 11 September while 3,239,764 people are fully vaccinated and 1,704,890 people get their first-time vaccination. Total doses of vaccine delivered are 8,184,418.

The Ministry of Health also urged the people to get vaccinated without fail, and those who get first jabs to receive second dose on the due date at the nearest vaccination sites.—MNA

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Message from Lieutenant General Soe Htut, Union Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Chairman of Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

9th Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13 September 2021

1. The issue of trafficking in persons has re-emerged as a modern form of slavery in the late 20th century. It can be regarded as an inhumane exploitation and a violation of human rights. Nowadays, trafficking in persons occurs in various forms at the global scale, and it becomes a global problem. It is found that the impacts of trafficking in persons strike more on the developing nations. Trafficking in persons is not like a traditional crime, and it is a complex and multidimensional issue linked to development, poverty, natural disasters as well as cross-border matters among others. Though the international community puts its utmost efforts to address the issue, it recognizes that the number of trafficking in persons related cases remains high.
2. Myanmar defined all forms of trafficking in persons as crime and considered addressing the issue as a national priority since 1997. The Provisional Government of Myanmar with the involvement of relevant ministries, has developed five-year projects on prevention, protection and prosecution of trafficking in persons and annual plans have been formulated under each five-year project for its implementation. In order to improve public participation in combating trafficking in persons, Anti-trafficking in Persons Day of Myanmar is marked annually on 13th September and the day has been observed in Nay Pyi Taw and other regions/states every year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the ceremony of the Anti-trafficking in Persons Day of Myanmar could not be organized and instead online campaigns to raise awareness on the trafficking in persons were conducted.
3. Nowadays, the number of trafficking in persons across the world is increasing and it becomes a threat among the most vulnerable communities. It is found that 70 percent of victims of trafficking in persons were women and children. The implication of COVID-19 pandemic such as fewer job opportunities, higher poverty rate, closure of schools and using online channels to recruit victims exacerbate the problem of trafficking in persons. According to the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the patterns and flows of trafficking in persons are changing and child trafficking and forced labour are occurring increasingly due to the abuses committed by traffickers who exploit the victims over extreme poverty, vulnerability and socio-economic factors.
4. Furthermore, the Report also describes that the traffickers are recruiting the victims through the use of modern internet technology. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions have affected the economic development and resulted in the increase of trafficking in persons related cases among the vulnerable communities. Due to unemployment problems along with lack of job opportunity, women and children become major targets for traffickers. According to the study of the Human Rights First organization, 120 million people are being trafficked and $150 billion is gained as a benefit annually, and there are over 25 million people trafficked in the Asia region alone.
5. While the global issue of trafficking in persons is on the rise, the most common form of trafficking in persons is sexual exploitation with 79 percent followed by the forced labour with 18 percent. On the other hand, the COVID-19 restrictions are posing a challenge in providing services to counter trafficking in person, combatting the crime and delivering protection assistance. The ASEAN member states are cooperating in various sectors for tackling trafficking in persons, ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons was adopted in 2012. The Senior Officials Working Group on trafficking in persons and Heads of Specialist Units were formed and regional cooperation working plans are developed and implemented.
6. Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime including combating trafficking in persons on 30 March 2004, and the Anti-trafficking in Persons Law was enacted on 13 September 2005. The Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons was formed on 11 February 2006 and Five-Year Anti-Trafficking in Persons Projects were developed to reduce the cases of trafficking in persons locally or transnationally and to identify the new forms of trafficking in persons.
7. In Myanmar, one of the key factors which contribute to trafficking in persons is the desire to find a decent work and many victims fall prey to brokers and human traffickers. Forms of trafficking in persons found in Myanmar include forced marriage and forced pregnancy by cross-border perpetrators, forced labour on fishing boats and debt bondage against disadvantaged people.
8. In Myanmar, the five-year projects on Combating Trafficking in Persons have been developed since 2007 with four focus areas namely policy and cooperation, prevention, prosecution and protection and these projects are being implemented in cooperation with relevant ministries, United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. In this year, 2021, the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and working groups, Committees, regional/state/district/township level anti-trafficking in persons teams have been re-organized.
9. In order to raise public awareness on the risks of trafficking in persons, Myanmar promotes different educational activities such as broadcasting educational movies and songs on TV channels in collaboration with media organizations, distributing pamphlets, setting up Billboards, sending SMS via mobile phone operators and incorporating the subject in the basic education curriculum. 24-hour hotlines were installed and extended in Yangon, Mandalay and Muse in addition to Nay Pyi Taw which enable identifying and rescuing the victims and taking action against perpetrators in a timely manner. In addition, Migrant Resource Centers have been opened for raising awareness and providing information to potential migrants and their families.
10. With regard to the protection of victims, the National Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) on repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in persons was published and introduced to the Central Body for Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and other relevant departments. Under the National SoPs, a wide range of assistance including livelihood support, providing food, travel and medical expenses to the victims during the trial process, establishing a separate fund to assist victims of trafficking in persons, setting up temporary shelters in Myawady, Muse, Kawthoung, Mandalay and Yangon have been channeled. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the victims of trafficking in persons receive personal protective equipment and COVID-19 tests from the Ministry of Health. Also within this year, there is a plan to construct a new temporary shelter for the victims in Kachin State.
11. From the end of the 8th Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day until 26th August 2021, a total of 48 victims of trafficking in persons including 4 male and 44 female from 35 cases of trafficking in persons were rescued, 31 cases of trafficking in persons were prosecuted and a total of 101 offenders, including 39 male and 62 female were prosecuted. In 2020, a total of 315 victims, including 2 male and 313 female received 2,297,600 Kyats for travel, 1,732,500 Kyats for food, 48,000 Kyats for medicine and medical treatment of one female victim, and a total of 46 victims, including one male victim and 45 female victims received 46,000,000 Kyats for their rehabilitation. In 2021, a total of 93 victims, including one male and 92 female received 1,082,000 Kyats for travel, 1,228,000 Kyats for food and 10 female victims received 10,000,000 Kyats for their rehabilitation.
12. Regarding the international cooperation, Myanmar has signed a number of treaties including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols namely, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially on Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. In addition, Myanmar is a member of the Cooperative Project against Trafficking in Persons of the Six Greater Mekong Sub-Region (six GMS nations) and the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons. Bilateral Memoranda of Understanding against Trafficking in Persons with China, Thailand, Laos, and India were signed to further improve the cooperative mechanisms in combatting trafficking in persons.
13. In December 2020, the Regional Working Group Meeting of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking in Persons and the 14th Senior Officials Meeting were held virtually, and discussed the matters pertaining to the ongoing measures regarding new emerging routes of trafficking in persons, potentials of trafficking in persons during migration, innovative measures on combating trafficking in persons as well as effective responses to eradicate exploitation. The 17th SOMTC Working Group Meeting on trafficking in persons and the 35th Heads of Specialist Units on combating trafficking in persons were held virtually in July 2021 which created opportunities to share experience and good practices among ASEAN member states and to implement regional plans for combating trafficking in persons.
14. Moreover, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (8) is to create employment opportunities and to tackle forced labour and address modern-day slavery and

SEE PAGE-3

The rate of COVID-19 disease infection has dropped

THE rate of COVID-19 disease infection has dropped due to the supervision of the relevant authorities and the good cooperation of the people, adding the need to diagnose the contact persons of the COVID-19 positive patients in order to continue to reduce the infection and to be cautious despite the decline rate in virus infection.

(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)

Message from Lieutenant General Soe Htut, Union Ministerr, Ministry of Home . . .

FROM PAGE-2

trafficking in persons effectively, together with sustainable economic development. It is vital to create enabling environment for the development of small and medium enterprise (SME) and decent work opportunities in addressing the issue of trafficking in persons. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global economic downturn, and disease control restrictions have resulted in the serious problems for the most underprivileged, underdeveloped and vulnerable groups while it allows perpetrators to persuade the victims with false hope.

15. Misuse of information technologies by traffickers also poses a challenge to suppression of trafficking in persons. Since the issue of trafficking in persons links to economic development, human resource development, capacity to implement the policies strategies and technology development, the following measures will be needed to adopt immediately:-
   (a) Prevention of trafficking in persons be part of the national economic development plans;
   (b) Poverty reduction which is the main source of the issue of trafficking in persons and therefore, poverty alleviation plans be implemented effectively;
   (c) To enhance the performance of Community Watch groups (CWG) and improve the cooperation with the local authorities;
   (d) To encourage the participation of the community and private organizations in awareness-raising activities on trafficking in persons;
   (e) To conduct research and studies on combating the trafficking in persons during and the post COVID-19 pandemic, and apply the findings practically;
   (f) To explore the effective ways to respond based on the victims' experiences;
   (g) To enhance cooperation with trafficking in persons suppression organizations from neighbouring countries and collaborate with them in investigation on transnational trafficking in persons cases, and to improve the use of online technology for investigation.
16. In accordance with the motto of the 9th ceremony for Anti-trafficking in persons Day 2021 **'Prevent, Rescue, Assist and Listen to the voice of the trafficked victim'**, it is important that the victims of trafficking in persons should be treated with respect and dignity and it is firmly believed that the tireless efforts of Myanmar will greatly contribute to combat trafficking in persons in the country and beyond.

Myanmar, Japan discuss cooperation in agricultural development

Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association Watanabe Hideo discuss enhancement of Myanmar-Japan private sector.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo received Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association Watanabe Hideo and party at the ministry's hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they focused on enhancement of Myanmar-Japan private sector cooperation in agriculture sector, development of human resources, and production and marketing of high quality agricultural and livestock products.—MNA

Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They must be placed at well-ventilated sites.
4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.
8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

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

Union Construction Minister inspects road and bridge construction, repair works in Bago Region

UNION MINISTER for Construction U Shwe lay inspected the site chosen for construction of a three miles and one furlong long Toungoo detour which will link the expressway and Toungoo in Toungoo District of Bago Region on 11 September.

Then, the Union Minister and party looked into the 370 ft long Naungyoe bridge on Magyeebin-Kinseik village road being built by Department of Rural Road Development, road maintenance of the Bago-Toungoo section of Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay Union Highway by B.O.T companies, the site chosen for building the bridge and progress of Penwegon detour, and concrete road paving site on Thahtaygon-Kinywa road section.

He then met the officials of B.O.T companies which operate Yangon-Bago-Toungoo-Meiktila-Mandalay Highway at Bago Region Department of Highways.

During the meeting, he stressed the need to construct the road to meet the ASEAN's standards, upgrade it to the four-lane road including motorcycle lanes, grow the trees on each side of the road and apply phase-by-phase work plan.

He also said it should revise the BOT contract as quickly as possible and make efforts to meet the set quality for respective road sections.

The Union Minister also discussed the development of roads and bridges in Bago Region with region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win at the meeting hall of Kyonku Bridge.

Union Minister U Shwe Lay views paving of concrete road with the use of heavy machinery.

The Union Minister also inspected the expansion of Phayagyi-Bawnetgyi road to a four-lane, a road network to Yangon-Bago-Toungoo-Meiktila-Mandalay Union Highway and Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway, paving of platform and drainage system.

He then also checked the repairs of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway, paving of asphalt concrete, construction of sub-structure on Kyan Creek bridge between milepost No 75/7 and 76/0 and operations of pier shaft and cross beam on Swa Creek bridge between milepost No 165/1 and 165/3.—MNA

1,953 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 September, total figure rises to 431,833

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 431,833 after 1,953 new cases were reported on 12 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 380,474 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 16,530 after 79 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 11-9-2021, a total of 4,944,654 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 3,239,764 people have been vaccinated two times and 1,704,890 people once.—MNA

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Myanmar pulses export grows this financial year

MYANMAR pulses export in the past eleven months of the current financial year 2020-2021 generated more revenue compared with the-year ago period.

More than 1.87 million tonnes of various pulses and beans were exported to foreign markets between 1 October 2020 and 27 August 2021 of the current financial year 2020-2021, with an estimated value of US$1.44 billion, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

During the past eleven months, the country shipped $841.78 million worth 1 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets, and $600.46 million valued at 782,250 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar shipped over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially mung bean, with estimated worth of $1 billion, to other counties in the FY 2018-2019. During last FY 2019-2020 which ended on 30 September, the country delivered 1.6 million tonnes with an estimated value of $1.195 billion.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar bean, especially black bean, green gram and pigeon pea. Besides India, Myanmar's bean are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand by those countries is small, according to the domestic beans market.

Bags of sample pulses and beans are displayed at bean brokerage.

Following the policy change of India's pulses import, the prices of black gram and pigeon pea have risen in domestic market, according to the traders from Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre.

At the present time, black bean touched a high of K1.5 million per tonne. Similarly, the price of pigeon peas is relatively high at K1.4 million per tonne. The price rise is attributed to the relaxation on bean import quota by India.

India set import quota on beans including black gram and pigeon pea starting from 2017. Myanmar earlier had to export black bean and pigeon pea under the quota system and limit period.

On 15 May 2021, India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved not only black gram but also other pulses being imported from Myanmar that have bill of landing up to October-end 2021, with relaxation of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 November 2021. According to this statement, the previous notifications dated 19 March 2021 and 26 March 2021 were cancelled.

Additionally, Myanmar can export 250,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas under the G to G (government to government) pact during April-March period between the 2021-2022 financial year and the 2025-2026 FY, as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce and India's counterpart signed on 18 June.

At present, the demand of green gram slips due to border trade restrictions amid the COVID-19, with estimated value of around K100,000 per three-basket bag.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second largest production is the pulses and beans, counting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black bean, pigeon pea and green gram constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black eyed beans, butter bean and rice bean are also grown in the country.—KK/GNLM

Trade deficit shrinks to $154 mln over 11 months as import slumps

MYANMAR'S trade deficit in the past eleven months (1 Oct-27 Aug) of the 2020-2021 financial year narrowed to US$154 million on account of the lower import, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the past eleven months, the country's exports were estimated at $13.2 billion, imports were valued at $13.4 billion this FY. The external trade drastically sank to $26.7 billion from $33.66 billion recorded in the year-ago period. Myanmar's trade gap was $1.4 billion in the year-ago period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar witnessed a slump in export and import triggered by the coronavirus impacts this year against the year-ago period. Both sea trade and border trade dropped. The neighbouring countries tighten the border security and restrict the trading in certain border areas.

For the maritime trade, disruption in logistic sector, spikes in container rates and banking restriction dragged down the trade.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. The country mainly imports essential goods, construction materials, capital goods, hygienic materials, supporting products for export promotion and the import substitution.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at $1.3 billion in the 2019-2020 FY, $1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, $1.3 billion in the previous mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), $3.9 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, $5.3 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, and $5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.—KK/GNLM

Cotton prices slide this year

Female farming workers are picking out wools of cotton plantations.

THE prices of cotton this year touch a low of K900 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg), whereas it fetched up to K1,500 per viss last year, the growers stressed.

"The cotton quality is poor for now. The harvest time has just started. The heavy rainfall resulted in yield drop this year. The cotton farming will not make loss for sure as it can be harvested until cold season and the quality will be improved later. The price is expected not to remain on a downward trend," said U Pho Cho, a grower from Butar village in NyaungU Township.

This year, Sagaing Region Agriculture Department projected to cover 79,346 acres of cotton in the region and a total of 45,502 acres have been planted as of June, the department stated.

The input costs approximately K350,000 per acre, while an acre yields about 1,000 viss.

The cotton cultivation is commonly found as polyculture. As a result of this, the farming allows the growers to increase their incomes.

The cotton is successfully cultivated in 19 townships across Sagaing, Monywa, Yinmabin, Shwebo and Kanbalu districts of Sagaing Region.—Lu Lay/GNLM

State Administration Council
Press Release
Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

Four million doses of Chinese vaccines arrive in Myanmar

NEWS ON PAGE-1

Packages of Sinopharm anti-COVID-19 vaccine are being unloaded from aboard the airplane at Yangon International Airport on 12 September 2021.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

2nd dose of COVID vaccine given in Kyaukpyu Township

HEALTHCARE officials gave second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to local people at Sandagu Hall in No.3 Basic Education High School in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

Healthcare workers, members of the fire brigade, and volunteers assisted in the vaccination programme and transportation for the vaccinated people were arranged after the vaccination programme.

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 to the local people, and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated, officials said.

In Kyaukpyu Township, the first vaccination was given on 1 August and the second vaccination on 29 August.

A total of 4,930 people were vaccinated for the second time between 29 August and 11 September.

On 12 September, monks and nuns from urban areas and village-tracts, elderly people, civil servants and local people received the COVID-19 vaccines, officials said. —Tin Htun Oo (IPRD)/ GNLM

An older man receives the second jab of COVID vaccine in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State, yesterday. **PHOTO: TIN HTUN OO (IPRD)**

Imports of anti-COVID-19 device, medical products continue 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 12 September, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by six companies with the use of 17 vehicles, including three bowsers.

A total of 60 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by three bowsers, 127 empty oxygen cylinders, four oxygen plants, 1,600 sets of PPE suits, 57 tonnes of masks were imported through Chinshwehaw, and Myawady border trade camps and the Yangon International Airport.

Two bowsers carrying liquid oxygen led to Yangon and one to Mawlamyine, and one each of oxygen plant to Mandalay, Chauk, Mohnyin, Kangyidaunt, officials said.

Officials from the relevant departments are coordinating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including online registration for the import process.

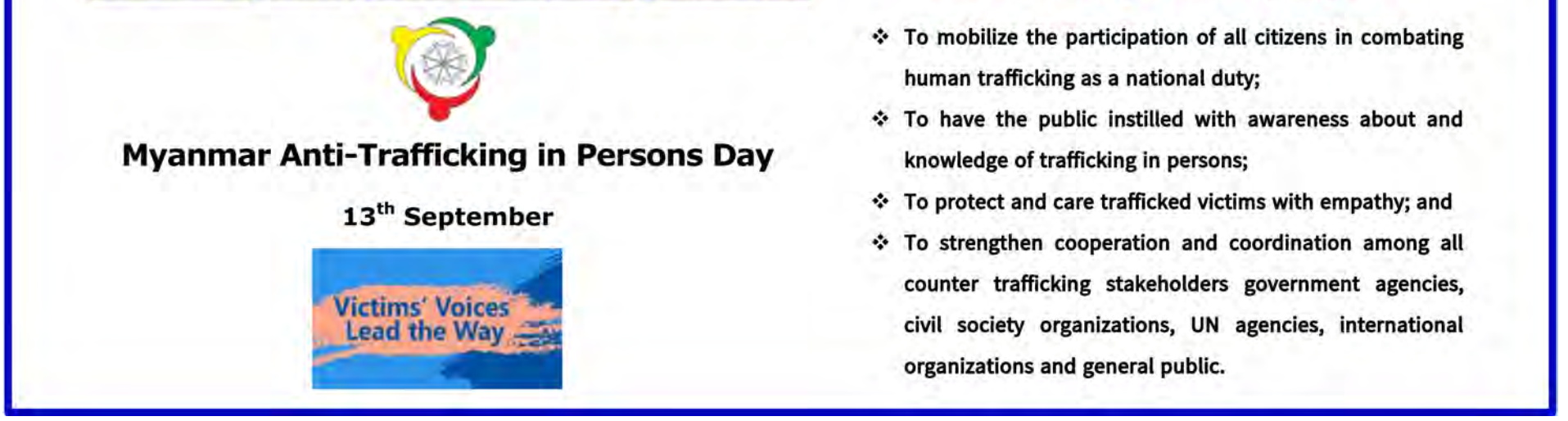
It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the importations of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website—www.commerce.gov.mm.—MNA

A bowser is carrying liquid oxygen to distribute it to needed people.

A truck is loaded with oxygen concentrators and other equipment.

A truck is loaded with medical equipment and medicines.

A cargo truck carrying medical equipment is ready to start transportation.



13 SEPTEMBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Strive for enlargement of forest areas to benefit the people

THE land of Myanmar is covered with thick foliage of 29,701,617.85 acres of 828 forest reserves and 13,014,703.59 acres of protected public forests.

Barren hills are gradually greened in all parts of the country thanks to concerted efforts of administrative bodies, departmental personnel and locals. It proves the gradual improvement of climatic conditions in the country. For the time being, the government removed the forest lands from the list due to the expansion of public residences and farmlands while setting more forest lands on the edge of forests that are too far from the residents.

> Trees benefit the people where forests prevent climate change and global warming. As the fine weather can approve the continuation of all processes, all the people need to strive for thriving and extension of forests not only in urban but also in rural areas.

The government has been dealing with the greening tasks in cancellation of forest areas for improvement of socio-economic life of the local people through the cooperation of the relevant departments. It is because those people residing in the forest areas are primarily engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. A total of 22,412.96 acres of forest reserves and protected public forests close to the public residences were removed from the list of forests from 2016 to 2020.

Moreover, a total of 1,021,888.58 acres of forest reserves and protected public forests were also removed from the forest list from 1986 to 2011 and 633,455.3 acres of land from 2010 to 2016, totalling 1,677,756.84 acres of forest lands, accounting for 3.93 per cent of the existing forest lands.

In fact, it is not to be concerned about the loss of forest land. The Myanmar Forest Policy (1995) and the master plan of the national forest sector (2030-2031 financial year) are being implemented for ensuring the 30 per cent coverage of forest land across the country area during the project period. Upon completion of the project, the land of Myanmar would be covered with about one-third of greening.

In addition, the government tries to illustrate the arid region of the country with greening plants in various ways. So, the saplings were scattered from helicopters to the arid areas many times. Even thriving one of the dropped saplings will be beneficial for society.

Trees benefit the people where forests prevent climate change and global warming. As the fine weather can approve the continuation of all processes, all the people need to strive for thriving and extension of forests not only in urban but also in rural areas.

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Robotics to build on momentum from COVID-19

China's robotics industry is growing from strength and strength, with leading companies in the sector ramping up efforts to advance production in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak...

Photo shows robots working at a plant of Sany Heavy Industry in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, 20 February 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN ZEGUO**

CHINA'S robotics industry is growing from strength and strength, with leading companies in the sector ramping up efforts to advance production in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak, said business executives on the opening day of the four-day World Robot Conference 2021 in Beijing on Friday.

They also said the COVID-19 pandemic is causing companies and organizations to modify or improvise use of technologies like artificial intelligence and robotics, leading to rapid adoption of robots in fields like healthcare and smart logistics.

Accepting robots in various fields

Michael Tam, chief brand officer of UBTech Robotics, a Shenzhen, Guangdong province-based company, said the novel coronavirus outbreak has led an increasing group of people to accept robots in various fields, making robotics one of the unlikely beneficiaries of the economic turbulence.

During the pandemic, UBTech's anti-epidemic robots and solutions have been used in 15 countries and regions, including China, the United States, Japan, the Netherlands and Rwanda, to help control the spread of COVID-19 and speed up the return to normal life. For instance, UBTech robots can check the body temperature and remind people to wear masks properly, if they detect uncovered noses.

In fact, companies are looking to use such service-providing robots to help bridge the social gaps created by the COVID-19 epidemic, Tam said.

"Despite the COVID-19 impact, we expect the domestic robots market will see steady and healthy development this year. We'll see substantial growth in the next three to five years."

Focus on fields

UBTech, he said, will mainly focus on fields like AI-powered education, elderly care and smart logistics. "We'll make a big push to reduce the cost of making robots, allowing more people to enjoy the convenience brought by the adoption of emerging technologies."

China has been the world's largest market for industrial robots for years. In 2018, industrial robots made in China accounted for 38 percent of the global production volume, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology showed.

According to the ministry, over 237,000 industrial robots were produced in China in 2020, up 19 percent year-on-year. The latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed over 205,000 industrial robots were produced during the first seven months of this year, up nearly 65 percent year-on-year.

China's industrial robots

Xu Guoqiang, sales director for the North China market at lightweight robot expert firm Rokae (Beijing) Technology Co Ltd, which is based in Beijing, said the rapid growth of China's industrial robots was mainly driven by the swift adoption of robots in companies in the wake of mounting uncertainties brought by the coronavirus outbreak. And China's steady industrial development and growth also prompted the increase in industrial robots, he said.

"We expect to see an explosive growth of industrial robots in China, especially in emerging fields like semiconductors and new energy. We'll also see rising new opportunities in service-providing robots, in terms of application in fields like New Retail, catering and healthcare."

Xu's views were echoed by Yang Shuai, executive president of Hunan Cothink Robotics Tech Co Ltd, which is based in Changsha, Hunan province. Yang said he expects to see substantial growth in service-providing robots in the future. "This trend will accelerate during the post-pandemic era."

SOURCE: Xinhua

Bangkok to reopen for vaccinated tourists in October

THAILAND is planning wider reopening and domestic tourism boost to revive its pandemic-battered economy, betting on higher vaccination rates that allow quarantine-free travels.

After more than one year of border control and an initiative to bring back foreign visitors to the resort island Phuket from July, Thailand is set to reopen more of its popular tourist destinations to fully-vaccinated foreign visitors starting next month. Regions including the capital city Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri, Phetchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan are set to reopen to vaccinated foreign visitors from Oct. 1, while another 21 destinations may reopen from mid-October, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) announced on Friday. The reopening came followed the Phuket Sandbox pilot, which allowed fully vaccinated foreign visitors to enter the island without quarantine.

Photo taken on 1 September 2021 shows a shopping mall in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG TENG**

The Phuket program

The Phuket program had attracted more than 26,000 tourists during the past two months to the island, generating 1.63 billion baht (about 50 million U.S. dollars) in revenue, according to TAT. Local tourism may also get a big push as the government considered measures to encourage domestic travelling starting from mid-October if the number of COVID-19 new cases remains at a manageable level. According to Minister of Tourism and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakan, two local tourism campaigns in the pipeline are the "We Travel Together" Phase 3 and "Travel around Thailand," which would be subject for the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA)'s approval at the end of this month. "We are closely monitoring the development trend on the number of new daily infections following the lockdown easing that took effect on Sept. 1. If the new case tally remains at a manageable level, we will continue to pursue our plans," Phiphat said in an interview with local media, the Prachachat. The minister said the two campaigns, which had been postponed because of the third wave of the outbreak since early April, will be important for the survival of Thai tourism industry.

Under the "We Travel Together" scheme, travelers will be given a 40 percent discount on accommodation, a 600-baht voucher for food and beverage for every night booked and another 40 percent discount on plane tickets, according to Phiphat. It is expected to cover 2 million applicants. The "Travel around Thailand" project will subsidize 40 percent of tour packages of up to 5,000 baht for 1 million Thai tourists.

Campaigns to help unleash pent-up demand

TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn expected the campaigns to help unleash pent-up demand. "Most Thais will prefer to travel within the country for the end of this year as going aboard can still be considered quite a challenge, due to the ongoing global pandemic," Yuthasak said. TAT estimated that there would be 90 million domestic trips this year, in line with the number recorded in 2020. The tourism incentives are part of the Southeast Asian country's efforts to strike a balance between pandemic containment and economic growth as long as the COVID-19 infections remain at a level that does not overwhelm the public health system. The revival of tourism sector has been high on the Thai government's agenda as the sector accounted for about one fifth of the country's gross domestic product in years before the pandemic.

SOURCE: Xinhua

■ ■ ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 12 September 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may further intensify into a Depression during next (6) hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 12 September, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in (Northern and Eastern) Shan State, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Southern Shan, Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfallls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9 -12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 September, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 08:00 hrs MST on 12-9-2021)

FLOOD CONDITION OF NGAWUN RIVER

According to the (07:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thabaung at Ngawun River has exceeded by about (2) inches above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (1) day.

ADVISORY

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

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Mars rocks collected by Perseverance boost case for ancient life

NASA'S Perseverance Mars rover has now collected two rock samples, with signs that they were in contact with water for a long period of time boosting the case for ancient life on the Red Planet.

"It looks like our first rocks reveal a potentially habitable sustained environment," said Ken Farley, project scientist for the mission, in a statement Friday. "It's a big deal that the water was there for a long time."

The six-wheeled robot collected its first sample, dubbed "Montdenier" on 6 September and its second, "Montagnac" from the same rock on September 8.

A Martian rock dubbed "Rochette" that provided NASA's Perseverance rover its first two samples. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP**

Both samples, slightly wider than a pencil in diameter and about six centimeters long, are now stored in sealed tubes in the rover's interior.

A first attempt at collecting a sample in early August failed after the rock proved too crumbly to withstand Perseverance's drill.

The rover has been operating in a region known as the Jezero Crater, just north of the equator and home to a lake 3.5 billion years ago, when conditions on Mars were much warmer and wetter than today.

The rock that provided the first samples was found to be basaltic in composition and likely the product of lava flows.

Volcanic rocks contain crystalline minerals that are helpful in radiometric dating.

This in turn could help scientists build up a picture of the area's geological history, such as when the crater formed, when the lake appeared and disappeared, and how climate changed over time.

"An interesting thing about these rocks as well is that they show signs for sustained interaction with groundwater," NASA geologist Katie Stack Morgan told a press conference.

The scientists already knew the crater was home to a lake, but couldn't rule out the possibility that it had been a "flash in the pan" with floodwaters filling up the crater for as little as 50 years.

Now they are more certain groundwater was present for much longer. "If these rocks experienced water for long periods of time, there may be habitable niches within these rocks that could have supported ancient microbial life", added Stack Morgan. — AFP ■

Scientists debate promise, peril of tweaking wild genomes

IN the movie Jurassic Park, reconstructing and tweaking genetic material makes it possible to bring dinosaurs back to life.

Today, a technology that manipulates animal genomes, called gene drive, has become a reality. The goal, however, is not to revive long-gone species, but to eliminate invasive ones.

Steven Spielberg's film was set on an imaginary island off the coast of Costa Rica, and it is also on an island that the first open-air experiments in programmed extinction could take place, according to experts gathered at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Congress in Marseille. It could happen within a decade, they told AFP. That's because fragile island ecosystems are in crisis. Dozens of vertebrate species have vanished in the last century, and dozens more are on a glide path to extinction.

The culprits are non-native rats, snakes and mosquitoes — all introduced by humans, for the most part by accident — that eat bird eggs, infect birds with disease, or outcompete indigenous amphibians and mammals.

For more than 20 years, Island Conservation has been working to eradicate rodents and other invasive alien species, which are a major threat to biodiversity globally, the organisation's Royden Saah told AFP.

The conservation NGO has been successful on two Galapagos islands — Seymour North and Mosquera — using traps and poison-delivering drones.

But species eradication using these tools is costly and has no guarantee of success. Rat poison is effective, but poses risks to other species. — AFP ■

Ocelots rescued from traffickers returned to wild in Ecuador

Ocelots (like these pictured in 2015 at a center in Colmbia before their return to the wild) are found in the rain forest across South and Central America and even as far north as Texas. **PHOTO: AFP**

SIX ocelots rescued from illegal wildlife traffickers have been returned to the wild in northern Ecuador, the environment ministry said on Saturday.

"They released six female ocelots (Leopardus pardalis) in the Cotacachi Cayapas Reserve," near the border with Colombia, it said in a statement.

"All the specimens returned to their natural habitat after a rehabilitation period of approximately one year."

Rescuers said the ocelots were dewormed and blood samples were taken to assess their health. They were also marked with microchips to identify them in the future.

The nocturnal wildcats were released "in an area where humans have no contact with them and where they can live in their habitat and develop freely," according to Placido Palacios, director of the private James Brown Rescue Center, where the animals underwent rehabilitation.

Illegal wildlife trafficking is punishable with up to three years in prison in Ecuador.

Over the past seven years more than 6,000 wild animals have been rescued from the trade, according to figures from the country's environment ministry. — AFP ■

The plant invaders posing a headache for conservationists

A garden favourite or an invasive pest? **PHOTO: AFP/ FILE**

THE tall and attractive stranger has showy plumes and can make itself at home at the coast, in the city or even in your garden.

But conservationists warn that Cortaderia selloana — or pampas grass — is a damaging invasive species menacing parts of southern Europe.

Also known as "feather duster", pampas grass is sold as an ornamental plant despite appearing in a rogue's gallery of a hundred of the worst invasive species in Europe.

At the world congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), winding down this week in Marseille, a motion called for "urgent action" to restrict and ultimately eradicate the plant outside its native South American habitat.

Conservation groups and ministries, many from Spain, said they were "alarmed because today its seeds can be bought easily and cheaply anywhere in the world, without legal constraints, through different internet platforms".

The case highlights the difficulties of halting the spread of invasive plants in the face of low awareness and a massive international online trade offering exotic species at the click of a button. "You see more clearly the impact of animals -- they are a predator destroying a prey. But plants can have a very severe effect," Piero Genovesi, who heads up the IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist Group.

"It's less visible in the beginning, but then it becomes huge." Genovesi told AFP that in Europe most invasive plants are introduced by being sold for gardens.

"Pampas grass is beautiful, but it spreads very rapidly, so once it's out, it's very difficult to contain it," he said. — AFP ■

Japan governors fret at impact of gov't plans for easing COVID curbs

JAPANESE prefectural governors on Saturday expressed concerns over the potential impact of the central government's laying out of its plans for a future easing of COVID-19 restrictions even as it extended the state of emergency in Tokyo and many other areas. The governors said the announcement of the scenario to relax curbs on traveling and large events around November once most of the population has been vaccinated could make the public too optimistic about the pandemic situation at a time when coronavirus infections are still surging.

The government decided Thursday to extend the state of emergency covering 21 of Japan's 47 prefectures, slated to end Sunday, through Sept. 30 in 19 prefectures, also including Hokkaido, Aichi, Osaka and Fukuoka. Nationwide daily COVID-19 cases topped 25,000 in mid-August but have since fallen by more than half.

Driven by the highly contagious Delta variant, the number of patients with severe symptoms exceeded 2,000 for the first time in late August and has remained high, putting a strain on the country's health care system. In some cases, COVID-19 patients denied hospital admission have died while recuperating at home, highlighting the seriousness of the hospital bed shortage. During the online meeting of the National Governors' Association, Gunma Gov. Ichita Yamamoto said, "If the restrictions are eased too quickly and preventive measures such as wearing masks are neglected, the virus will spread."

Photo shows an online meeting of Japan's National Governors' Association on 11 September 2021. During the meeting, governors expressed concerns over the potential impact of the central government's laying out of its plans for a future easing of COVID-19 restrictions. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The association urged that the government present a vaccination rate target for the relaxation and make sure to prevent people who are unvaccinated from being treated unfairly. — Kyodo ■

Community groups set pace in Australia's vaccination race

Minority communities have mobilised to battle misinformation and get people vaccinated, filling a void left by Australia's mostly Anglo-centric officialdom. **PHOTO: AFP**

COMMUNITY groups in Australia's Covid-hit cities are battling misinformation in multiple languages as they race to vaccinate a way out of "traumatic" lockdowns.

Beneath the minarets of a mosque in west Sydney, 500 people are booked in for vaccine appointments at a pop-up clinic -- part of a burgeoning network of initiatives by minority communities trying to fill a void left by Australia's mostly Anglo-centric officialdom.

For many, it is the longest time they have been out of their homes in weeks.

"They just want to go back to work, they want to go back to life," said Omar Moussawel, one of those getting jabbed to end Sydney's nearly three month lockdown.

When Sydney's outbreak began in late June, a lack of doses made national vaccination efforts tortuously slow.

Myths, fears and outright misinformation -- notably about the AstraZeneca vaccine -- were allowed to spread largely unchallenged.

Khaled Kamalmaz, a health coordinator with the Lebanese Muslim Association, remembers such misinformation spreading rapidly across languages.

"We've had to step in and, you know, try to change the narrative," Kamalmaz said.

The group enlisted sheikhs and religious leaders to get themselves jabbed as an example and to counter damaging misinformation. Communities also partnered with local government authorities increasingly aware of the issue. — AFP ■

French ex-health minister charged over handling of pandemic, endangering lives

FORMER French health minister Agnes Buzyn was charged on Friday over her handling of the COVID-19 pandemic after investigators at a special court in Paris concluded there were grounds to prosecute her.

Buzyn has been charged with "endangering the lives of others", the prosecutor of the Republic's Court of Justice said, but not for a second possible offence of "failure to stop a disaster".

The former doctor, who will be able to appeal the charge, arrived for a hearing at the court on Friday morning saying she welcomed "an excellent opportunity for me to explain myself and to establish the truth."

The 58-year-old added that she would not "let the action of the government be discredited, or my action as a minister, when we did so much to prepare our country for a global health crisis that is still ongoing".

The charges are a blow for President Emmanuel Macron, whose handling of the health crisis will face scrutiny during election campaigning next year, but the court also immediately faced allegations of judicial overreach.

Former prime minister Edouard Philippe and current Health Minister Olivier Veran are also being investigated by magistrates at the court and have seen their offices searched.

The ruling will likely stir a debate about the blame and responsibility for the spread of COVID-19, which caught governments, many health experts and the World Health Organization by surprise as it began spreading from China in early 2020. — AFP ■

Visitors now need a special COVID-19 pass to ride up the Eiffel Tower or visit French museums or movie theatres. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Osaka to reuse Olympic cardboard beds for COVID-19 patients

OSAKA GOV. Hirofumi Yoshimura said Saturday he wants the cardboard beds athletes slept on at the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics to be made available for COVID-19 patients.The recyclable beds from the athletes' village in Tokyo are likely to be used at a temporary medical facility to be set up by the western Japan prefecture by the end of this month.

"Those beds were for Olympians and they are high quality," Yoshimura told reporters. – Kyodo ■

Philippines reports record daily spike with 26,303 new COVID-19 cases, total tops 2.2 mln

THE Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) reported 26,303 new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) infections on Saturday, the biggest single-day spike since the pandemic began in the Southeast Asian country. The caseload brings the total number of confirmed cases in the Philippines to 2,206,021. The DOH also reported 79 coronavirus-related deaths, raising the country's death toll to 34,978.– Xinhua ■

China-ASEAN Expo testifies to resilient regional economy, fosters greater recovery

THE ongoing 18th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held on time despite a raging pandemic worldwide has testified to the vitality and resilience of an integrated regional market, and showcases the potentials of a key platform to make possible all-round trade and economic cooperation.

Starting Friday both online and offline in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the four-day expo has attracted enterprises from more than 40 countries and regions, with special events to mark the 30th anniversary of China-ASEAN dialogue relations.

A visitor (L) learns about the performance of a robot at the 18th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 11 September 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LU BOAN**

BRINGS GOODWILL TO FRUITION

"This year's expo provides an important platform to enhance trade and investment opportunities between ASEAN and China during this crucial time of economic recovery, as well as positively contribute to the longstanding relationship between our two sides," ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi said via video link at the expo's opening ceremony on Friday.

As a crucial facet of China-ASEAN relations, the expo has long been fruitful in helping the two sides synergize their respective development efforts. This year's edition will host 26 high-level forums and nearly 150 promoting events on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and key industries.

A total of 179 deals worth more than 46.59 billion U.S. dollars, the highest ever figure, were signed late Friday at the expo, a growing number of which are in green economies, according to expo officials.— Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Macao pledges to advance work on in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin

HO IAT SENG, chief executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), said Friday that the SAR government would advance work for building the Guangdong-Macao in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin in a pragmatic and orderly manner.

The general plan for building the cooperation zone in Hengqin, issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, was made public on 5 September 2021.— Xinhua ■

Seeking to change deadbeat image, Zimbabwe pays debt

AFTER 20 years of not paying its debts, Zimbabwe is taking steps to clean up its balance sheet and its image by making payments to major creditors.

Even if admittedly token amounts, the government hopes they will build goodwill towards Zimbabwe.

Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube announced during a video conference this month that Zimbabwe had made its first payments in two decades to a group of rich countries known as the Paris Club.

"We have started paying them because, as a country, we ought to be known as good debtors and not bad debtors," Ncube said. — AFP ■

Syria to get part of Egypt's gas passing to Lebanon upon agreement

Egyptian natural gas will be piped to Lebanon via Jordan and Syria to help boost its electricity output under a plan agreed by the four governments on Wednesday to ease a crippling power crisis. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SYRIA'S Oil Minister Bassam Tohme announced on Saturday that his country will be taking a certain amount of Egypt's gas as part of the agreement to facilitate the flow of gas from Egypt to Lebanon through Syria, according to the state news agency SANA.

The minister said this would help with the electricity generating process in Syria, which is suffering from the lack of electricity as a result of the sanctions and the U.S. occupation of key gas and oil fields in eastern Syria.

This agreement has taken place during the recent visit of the Lebanese ministerial delegation to Syria, during which Syria agreed to facilitate the flow of gas and electricity from Egypt and Jordan to Lebanon.

The gas will be pumped through the Arab Gas Pipeline (AGP), a 1,200 km-long trans-regional gas export pipeline built to carry natural gas from Egypt to Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. — Xinhua ■

Domestic tourism boom gives UK seaside new lease of life

CHILDREN clutching glow sticks shrieked with delight and onlookers gazed awestruck as Blackpool's Illuminations lights festival launched to a spectacular volley of fireworks from its 158-metre Victorian tower.

The northwest English town's lights display crowns an extended tourist season as Britain's traditional seaside resorts benefit from a domestic tourism boom during the coronavirus pandemic.

Expensive Covid tests, vaccine certification, quarantines and the UK government's ever-changing traffic-light system for international travel have made overseas trips less attractive and even inaccessible for British holidaymakers.

But the lifting of restrictions has helped domestic tourism, providing a boon to seaside resorts that were once Britons' favourite destinations before the advent of cheap overseas package holidays to warmer and sunnier climes.

Rise, fall, revival?

Blackpool, on the Irish Sea north of Liverpool and Manchester, embodies the rise and fall of the quintessential British seaside resort. After the arrival of the railways, it became Britain's premier mass tourist destination in the 19th and 20th centuries for city dwellers to escape smog and enjoy bracing sea air and cheap entertainment.

A series of lockdowns hit people and traders in Blackpool hard, exacerbating existing high levels of poverty. **PHOTO: AFP**

But affordable air travel and holidays from the 1960s lured Britons overseas and knocked Blackpool off its perch. By 2008, it offered 40 percent fewer bed spaces than in 1987.— AFP ■

Global EV demand seen growing 11-fold by 2035 in zero-emission shift

GLOBAL demand for electric vehicles is expected to grow 11-fold over the next 15 years through 2035 in a rapid shift to zero-emission mobility, eclipsing that of hybrids as soon as next year to become the largest segment among battery-powered automobiles, according to a market research firm.

The market for vehicles fully powered by electricity is estimated to total 24.18 million autos worldwide by 2035, compared with 13.59 million gasoline-electric hybrids and 11.42 million plug-in hybrids projected for that year, Fuji Keizai Co. said in its recent forecast.

"EV is expected to become the mainstay electrified vehicle in the long term, as prices are falling and more (charging) infrastructure will be available," the research firm said, adding that EV demand is expected to top that of hybrids as early as 2022.

Nissan Motor Co. exhibits its new all-electric Ariya sport utility vehicle at the Chicago Auto Show on 14 July 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The auto industry faces a strategic turning point in response to a major change in exhaust regulations in key markets to address global warming.

The European Union is seeking an effective ban on sales of new vehicles with internal combustion engines including hybrids from 2035. Japan, China and other major markets are taking similar measures around that year.

Among new business plans recently outlined, Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday it will spend 1.5 trillion yen ($14 billion) by 2030 to speed up the development of batteries for electric and hybrid cars and ramp up battery production. Growth in EV sales is expected to be driven by the European and Chinese markets, which are forecast to account for a combined 74 percent of the worldwide EV market in 2035. — Kyodo News ■

Indian Railways plans to spread rail-based tourism

Indian Railways announced their plan to spread rail-based tourism among masses through leasing of coaching stock to interested parties to run them as theme-based cultural, religious, and other tourist circuit train. **PHOTO: SWARAJYA/ANI**

INDIAN Railways on Saturday (September 11) announced their plan to spread rail-based tourism among masses through leasing of coaching stock to interested parties to run them as theme-based cultural, religious, and other tourist circuit train.

This has been planned to tap the potential of the tourism sector and to leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector in tourism activities like marketing, hospitality, etc.

An Executive Director level committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Railways to formulate the policy and terms and conditions.

According to the Railways Ministry, the proposed model would have the leasing of coaches as per the desired configuration of interested parties.

Outright purchase of coaches can also be done. "Leasing to be done for a minimum period of 5 years and extendable till codal life of coaches," said the ministry. The proposed model would have a minimum train composition for leasing purposes as per policy guidelines.

It was also informed by the ministry that a simple registration process would be conducted for the interested parties based on the eligibility criteria. Indian Railways will levy haulage charges, nominal stabling charges, and lease charges.

As per the ministry, some key features of the proposed model are that punctuality would be its priority and timely approvals would be provided for coach refurbishment and itineraries. The proposed model would also permit third-party advertising inside the train. — ANI ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disney to debut rest of 2021 films in cinemas first

DISNEY announced Friday that all of its films slated for release by the end of the year will be exclusively screened in cinemas first, bringing relief to theaters anxious to reconnect with audiences after the coronavirus pandemic devastated their industry.

THE animated film "Encanto" will be released on the big screen on November 24 and will not appear on Disney's on-demand video platform until December 24, the company said in a statement.

OTHER planned projects, including "The Last Duel" by Ridley Scott, "Eternals" by Marvel Studios and "West Side Story" by Steven Spielberg, will be screened in theaters for at least 45 days before they are released elsewhere. — AFP ■

Salesforce offers help moving employees out of Texas after abortion law

THE IT giant Salesforce has offered to help relocate its employees working in Texas, following the passage of a restrictive abortion law in the conservative US state.

"IF you want to move we'll help you exit TX," Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff said in a tweet on Friday, adding a link to a CBNC article that first reported the move. The law, which bans abortion after six weeks, has prompted outrage among women's rights activists and Democrats, and the Biden administration is looking for legal ways to block it. Salesforce, a San Francisco-based software company, told its employees that it respects "that we all have deeply held and different perspectives," according to an internal note quoted by CNBC.

"WITH that being said, if you have concerns about access to reproductive healthcare in your state, Salesforce will help relocate you and members of your immediate family," the memo read. — AFP ■

UAE operating aid air bridge to Kabul as Pakistan's PIA to resume commercial flights

THE United Arab Emirates has set up an air bridge to deliver tons of aid to Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, a Kabul airport operations manager told AFP on Saturday, while Pakistan International Airlines said it would relaunch commercial flights to the Afghan capital starting Monday.

The wealthy UAE, a close US ally, is one of a number of Gulf states that have been key staging posts for evacuation flights for foreigners and Afghans, alongside Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

"From the 3rd of September, (...) the UAE government has activated an air bridge corridor for humanitarian aid," said Ibrahim Moarafi. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (233N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (233N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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.

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IAEA chief set to make 1st visit to Iran under new president

THE head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is making final adjustments to visit Iran on Sunday, according to several senior Iranian government officials.

The visit by Director General Rafael Grossi would be his first since President Ebrahim Raisi assumed office in Iran in August. Raisi leads a conservative anti-U.S. administration.

Grossi is expected to discuss such issues as nuclear inspections and mutual cooperation with senior Iranian officials during the visit.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog is tasked with verifying Iran's commitments under its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. But Iran has restricted its inspections, while enriching uranium to 60 percent purity, which is close to nuclear weapons-grade.

The Grossi visit is being arranged for Sunday as the IAEA plans to hold a regular board meeting in Vienna from Monday that might result in a resolution against Iran's nuclear activities.

Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. **PHOTO: JOE KLAMAR/AFP**

The visit is seen by many as Iran wishing to show its willingness to cooperate in a bid to alleviate opposition from some countries toward Iran at the board meeting.

"It's clear that a strong response is needed" at the IAEA board, one source said, adding Iran has not constructively engaged with the nuclear watchdog.

Grossi visited Tehran in February during the administration of Raisi's predecessor, President Hassan Rouhani. — Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan inks deal to export defence assets to Vietnam amid China worry

JAPAN and Vietnam signed Saturday a deal enabling exports of Japanese-made defence equipment and technology to the Southeast Asian country to boost cooperation amid China's rising assertiveness in regional waters.

The two countries signed the accord in Hanoi during Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi's first trip overseas after assuming the post last year. Japan will thus accelerate negotiations with Vietnam to sell Self-Defence Forces' vessels, the Defense Ministry said in a statement following talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Van Giang.— Kyodo ■

California counts cost of rare governor recall election

IT'S a $280 million taxpayer-funded election that most Californians don't want, and which could see a candidate with only a handful of votes take the reins of the world's fifth-largest economy. California is voting on recalling Gavin Newsom, a Democrat who won the deep-blue US state's governorship by a landslide in 2018, and whose term expires next year anyway. The suave San Francisco-born politician has been forced back onto the campaign trail early by a quirk in California's "direct democracy" constitution that allowed Republicans to force Tuesday's vote by gathering a relatively low number of signatures. It is the same mechanism that brought Arnold Schwarzenegger -- California's last Republican governor -- to power in 2003, sealing the reputation of the state that is home to Hollywood as a place where anything is possible in politics.— AFP ■

South Korea to invest heavily in spy satellite technology with eye on North

Naro Space Center is a South Korean spaceport in South Jeolla's Goheung County, operated by the state-run Korea Aerospace Research Institute. This handout photo taken on 27 November 2018 and shows a single stage rocket on its launch pad at the Naro Space Center in the southern coast county of Goheung. **PHOTO: KARI/AFP/FILE**

THE South Korean government plans to spend 1.6 trillion won ($1.37 billion) by 2030 on developing state-of-the-art spy satellite and related rocket technology in a bid to beef up its surveillance network as North Korea continues to work on nuclear and missile development.

The move comes after guidelines agreed by South Korea and its security ally the United States that had restricted Seoul's ballistic missile development for decades were abolished in May.

South Korea, in close coordination with the United States, detected preparations that had been made in North Korea ahead of a military parade in Pyongyang early Thursday.

While it is already capable of eavesdropping on communications, South Korea continues to depend on the United States for intelligence gathering via spy satellite. The country is aiming to be able to conduct constant surveillance of its northern neighbor using its own micro-satellites.— Kyodo ■

Norway grapples with temptation of a 'mini Brexit' from EEA

ON PAPER, Norway's election on Monday looks like it could cool Oslo's relationship with the European Union but analysts say that appearances may be deceiving.

After eight years of a pro-European centre-right government, polls suggest the Scandinavian country is headed for a change of administration.

A left-green coalition in some shape or form is expected to emerge victorious, with the main opposition Labour Party relying on the backing of several eurosceptic parties to obtain a majority in parliament.

In its remote corner of Europe, Norway is not a member of the EU but it is closely linked to the bloc through the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement.

The deal gives Norway access to the common market in exchange for the adoption of most European directives.

Both the Centre Party and the Socialist Left -- the Labour Party's closest allies, which together have around 20 percent of voter support -- have called for the marriage of convenience to be dissolved.

"The problem with the agreement we have today is that we gradually transfer more and more power from the Storting (Norway's parliament), from Norwegian lawmakers to the bureaucrats in Brussels who are not accountable," Centre Party leader Trygve Slagsvold Vedum said in a recent televised debate.

Defending the interests of its rural base, the Centre Party wants to replace the EEA with trade and cooperation agreements.

However, Labour leader Jonas Gahr Store, who is expected to become the next prime minister, does not want to jeopardise the country's ties to the EU, by far Norway's biggest trading partner.

"If I go to my wife and say 'Look, we've been married for years and things are pretty good, but now I want to look around to see if there are any other options out there'... Nobody (in Brussels) is going to pick up the phone" and be willing to renegotiate the terms, Gahr Store said in the same debate.— AFP ■

Labour Party leader Jonas Gahr Store, who is expected to become Norway's next prime minister, does not want to jeopardise the country's ties to the EU, by far its biggest trading partner. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pope Francis meets Viktor Orban in worldview clash

POPE Francis arrived in Budapest on Sunday to celebrate a mass, with eyes focused on his meeting with the anti-migration Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

The head of 1.3 billion Catholics will have a half-hour meeting with Orban -- accompanied by Hungarian President Janos Ader -- in Budapest's grand Fine Arts Museum, in what could be an awkward brief encounter.

On the one side, Orban, a self-styled defender of "Christian Europe" from migration. On the other, Pope Francis, who urges help for the marginalised and those of all religions fleeing war and poverty.

But the approach, eminently Christian according to the pope, has often been met with incomprehension among the faithful, particularly within the ranks of traditionalist Catholics.

Over the last few years, there has been no love lost between Orban supporters in Hungary and the leader of the Catholic world.

Pro-Orban media and political figures have launched barbs at the pontiff calling him "anti-Christian" for his pro-refugee sentiments, and the "Soros Pope", a reference to the Hungarian-born liberal US billionaire George Soros, a right-wing bete-noire.

The pope's plane touched down just before 7.45 a.m. local time (0545 GMT), according to an AFP reporter travelling with the pontiff. Eyebrows have been raised by the pontiff's whirlwind visit to close the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress. — AFP ■

The pope's seven-hour-long stay in Hungary will be followed immediately by an official visit to smaller neighbour Slovakia of more than two days. **PHOTO: AFP**

India, Australia hold 1st "two-plus-two" security talks

India and Australia hold "two-plus-two" security talks in New Delhi on 11 September 2021. **PHOTO: INDIA'S DEFENCE MINISTRY/ KYODO**

INDIA and Australia held their first-ever security talks involving their foreign and defence ministers in the Indian capital New Delhi on Saturday.

Australia has become the third partner in India's "two-plus-two" security talks, after New Delhi launched similar talks with the United States and Japan.

The four countries have formed the so-called Quad grouping of four democracies amid China's growing clout in the Indo-Pacific region.

The talks were held between Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and their Australian counterparts Marise Payne and Peter Dutton.

The two sides agreed to have further cooperation on information sharing and rear-area support. The Indian side expressed its intention to boost bilateral ties through joint development of defense equipment.

The ministers also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have seized power as the United States completed the withdrawal of its troops from the country at the end of last month.— Kyodo ■

Tunisia's president says necessary to amend constitution

TUNISIAN President Kais Saied has announced plans to amend the constitution and form a new government months after he dismissed the prime minister and suspended parliament in moves his critics called a coup.

Speaking to two TV stations after an evening stroll through the heart of the capital on Saturday, Saied said he would form a new government "as soon as possible" after selecting "the people with the most integrity". But he declined to give a specific timeline. Saied also said it was necessary to change the constitution.

"The Tunisian people rejected the constitution," he said, while adding that the charter is "not eternal". "We can introduce amendments to the text," he said. Elected in late 2019, the legal theorist and former law professor has billed himself as the ultimate interpreter of the constitution. He invoked that power on July 25 to fire the prime minister, freeze parliament and assume all executive powers.— AFP ■

Tunisian President Kais Saied has announced plans to amend the constitution and form a new government. **PHOTO: TUNISIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Newly released FBI memo hints at Saudi involvment with 9/11 hijackers

THE Biden administration declassified an FBI memo Saturday that fortified suspicions of official Saudi involvement with the hijackers in the 11 September 2001 attacks, but it fell well short of proof that victims' families suing Saudi Arabia had hoped for.

The memo from April 4, 2016, which had been classified until now, showed links between Omar Bayoumi, at the time a student but suspected to have been a Saudi intelligence operative, and two of the Al-Qaeda operatives who took part in the plot to hijack and crash four airliners into targets in New York and Washington.

Based on 2009 and 2015 interviews with a source whose identity is classified, the document details contacts and meetings between Bayoumi and the two hijackers, Nawaf al Hazmi and Khalid al Midhar, after the two arrived in Southern California in 2000 ahead of the attacks. — AFP ■

Yemen: the seven-year war with no peace in sight

SEVEN years have passed since Huthi rebels seized the Yemeni capital Sanaa in September 2014, sparking a war that has plunged the already impoverished country into the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Despite diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting between the Iran-allied rebels and Saudi-backed government, there is no end in sight to a conflict that has put millions on the brink of famine. Here are some of the key questions and answers about the war in Yemen.

Who has the upper hand?

Analysts say the balance has tilted in favour of the Huthi rebels against the Saudi-led military coalition. Riyadh has been leading the coalition on behalf of the Yemeni government since March 2015, and its air strikes had allowed loyalists to reclaim southern territories from the rebels, who control much of the north and large swathes of the west.— AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

ASEAN Football: MPFL 2021 cancelled amidst pandemic surge

THE Malaysia Premier Futsal League (MPFL) 2021 named CUCKOO has officially been cancelled, according to the statement with the ASEAN Football Federation.

The FA of Malaysia (FAM) made the statement in previous week after taking into consideration the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, said the source with the ASEAN Football Federation.

"The decision was also taken in line with the current status of the competition which has yet to receive official permission from the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) and the National Security Council (MKN)," said ASEAN football officials.

"This is the best decision to be taken at the moment as this will allow teams to make better plans to compete in the competition next season," ASEAN football authorities added.

Similarly, all the Myanmar National League football matches have been postponed to next year amidst the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across Myanmar.

The Myanmar National League Committee has decided to resume all MNL matches next year in consultation with all clubs. All the Myanmar National League football clubs will be notified in advance when the tournament will resume in 2022," said Myanmar National League officials.—GNLM

New starts abound as Europe's elite chase Champions League glory

Lionel Messi could make his first start for PSG against Club Brugge in the Champions League. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AFTER a summer of eye-catching moves across Europe, the continent's top clubs begin the long road to Champions League glory next week as fans return after a 2020-21 competition held largely behind closed doors.

A flurry of transfer activity, headlined by Lionel Messi ending his long association with Barcelona and Cristiano Ronaldo returning to Manchester United, guarantees plenty of fresh intrigue.

The opening round of group stage fixtures doesn't disappoint either, with Barcelona taking on Bayern Munich for the first time since a humiliating 8-2 defeat in the quarter-finals two years ago.

Liverpool and AC Milan, clubs with a combined 13 European Cups between them, square off at Anfield in just their third competitive meeting -- after the 2005 "Miracle of Istanbul" and Milan's revenge in the 2007 final.

Holders Chelsea bolstered their squad by re-signing striker Romelu Lukaku, prised away from cost-cutting Italian champions Inter Milan where he was voted Serie A player of the season last term.— AFP ■

Belfort humbles Holyfield with 1st rd TKO

Brazilian martial artist Vitor Belfort (3rd L) celebrates after defeating US former professional boxer Evander Holyfield (2nd R) during a boxing fight at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood, Florida on 11 September 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

FORMER heavyweight world champion Evander Holyfield looked all of his 58 years in a first-round technical knockout loss to mixed martial arts star Vitor Belfort on Saturday. With former US President Donald Trump providing ringside commentary for the spectacle at Seminole Hard Rock casino in Hollywood, Florida, Brazil's Belfort unleashed an early flurry that ended with Holyfield slipping through the ropes. The American ring great regained his feet only to be sent to the canvas by a combination from Belfort. He beat the count, but after he absorbed another flurry of blows without throwing any the referee stopped the fight despite Holyfield's objections. "I wasn't hurt," insisted Holyfield, who called the decision to stop the fight "kind of sad."— AFP ■

Teen Raducanu wins US Open title for first Slam crown by qualifier

BRITISH teenager Emma Raducanu completed the greatest underdog title run in tennis history on Saturday, becoming the first qualifier to capture a Grand Slam crown by defeating Canada's Leylah Fernandez in the US Open women's final.

The 18-year-old was the first British woman in 44 years to win a Slam crown after beating 19-year-old left-hander Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 to take the $2.5 million (2.1 million euro) top prize.

"I knew I would have to dig deep," Raducanu said. "It was an incredibly difficult match but I thought the level was really high. I had to play some of my best tennis."

It was a stunning achievement for the unheralded 150th-ranked teen, who didn't drop a set in three qualifying matches and seven main-draw matches over two weeks in producing a stunner for the ages.— AFP ■