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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

## Efforts must be made to set aims for Myanmar's coffee to secure a firm position in the world coffee market: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays an inspection tour around the PyinOoLwin Stadium in PyinOoLwin on 17 September 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning inspected the situations to improve the sports, economic and tourism sectors in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Re-

gion.

First, the Senior General and party inspected the upgrade of the stadium at PyinOoLwin District sports training camp, where Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein

Zan and officials reported on the progress of upgrading tasks. After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance to ensure the stadium in conformity with the prestige of PyinOoLwin which sustains more

than 100 years old town history, to enable the spectators to enjoy the matches, and upgrade the sports grounds meeting standards for athletes to be able to take training sessions.

The Senior General and

party visited Sithar Coffee Co Ltd near PyinOoLwin detour and Creation Myanmar Coffee Farm near Pwekawk Village and held talks with local coffee growers. Patron of the Myanmar Coffee Association U Ye Myint and coffee farming businesspersons

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It is necessary to strive for the production of each model good from the region to secure the market share through a One-Village-One Product system by using modern packaging designs.

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# Over 450,000 pilgrims visit Shwedagon Pagoda during COVID-19 period

PEOPLE were allowed to visit the Shwedagon Pagoda this year and a total of 454,316 people, monks and nuns have visited the famous pagoda since February, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon has been temporarily closed for more than 10 months since 9 April 2020 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With advice of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and permission of the State Administration Council, pagodas were opened in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive measures and the limited numbers of monks and nuns were given priority on 8 and 9 February. Starting from 11 February,



Devotees and worshippers pay homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda. **PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG**

monks and pilgrims from all over the country were allowed to visit the pagoda as prevention and treatment were able to control the spread of the disease to some extent.

A total of 444,808 people including 23,085 monks, 9,087 nuns; 200,671 men (domestic), 210,478 women (domestic), 998 (men) foreigners and 489 (women) foreigners have visited the pagoda

from 8 February to 10 September this year.

From 11 September to yesterday afternoon, a total of 9,508 people including 288 monks, 290 nuns, 4,242 males (domestic), 4,647 females (domestic), 35 (men) foreigners and six (women) foreigners visited the pagoda.

Thus, a total of 454,316 people, monks and nuns have visited the pagoda from 8 February to date.

Pilgrims from nunneries came to recite the Pathana Pali on 15 September, and on 4 September the Shwe Nyi Ko Image Cleansing Association cleansed Buddha images at Shin Arahan prayer hall of the Pagoda.

Monks and pilgrims were allowed to pay homage at the Shwedagon Pagoda from 6 am on 11 February following the rules and regulations of COVID-19.

A total of 3,000 people, monks and nuns were allowed to visit the pagoda three times in the morning and three times in the evening earlier this year.

Starting from 24 March, worship times were rescheduled for two times a day with sessions of 6 am to 11 am and 1 pm to 6 pm.

Pilgrims were asked to strictly follow the COVID-19 prevention measures and enter the Disinfection Chamber when they arrived at the pagoda. Hand washing and body temperature measurements are carried out by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Legal Translation Commission

Order No 7/2021

11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tawthalin 1383 ME

16 September 2021

1. The translated works in Myanmar of the Penal Code, which was enacted in English, approved by the Legal Translation Commission according to Sub-section (a) of Section 9 of the Legal Translation Commission Law, was hereby released in accord with Section 12 of the law.

2. The above-mentioned translated law in Myanmar shall take effect similar to the original scripts.

Dr Thida Oo

Chair

Legal Translation Commission

## Myanmar welcomes returnees at various border crossings



Returnees from abroad check in at the reception site.

MYANMAR nationals from abroad are being welcomed back through various land borders, officials said.

On 16 September, a total of 21 returnees: eight males and 13 females came back home from Muse, northern Shan State.

Similarly, 18 returnees: eight males and two females also returned to Myanmar via Chinshwehaw and 12 male and six female returnees came back home from Laukkai, respectively.

Healthcare officials from relevant public hospitals and members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps conducted COVID-19 tests and provided quarantine entry documents for the returnees.

Then, the returnees were transported to their respective places by passenger vehicle provided by the township administration bodies.

The COVID-19 positive patients are being kept in separate areas and the necessary medical and administrative matters are being coordinated, officials said. — MNA

## People over 18 get first dose of vaccine at Kyauktalon IDP camp in Kyaukphyu Township



An IDP receives the first jab of COVID vaccine in Kyaukphyu Township. **PHOTO: PHYO WAI LIN (IPRD)**

THE health workers vaccinated the people over 18 living at Kyauktalon IDP camp in Kyaukphyu Township of Rakhine State for the first time yesterday.

Before the vaccination, the staff of the General Administration Department collected data and the health workers monitored the body temperatures and blood pressures of the people.

Ma Khin Lin Lin, from Kyauktalon IDP camp, said, "I get my first dose of vaccine at Kyauktalon IDP camp. I am 20 years old. I did not suffer anything like dizziness or pain. I am so happy that the people at

the age of over 18 receive the vaccines. I have self-confidence after vaccination. I also thank the volunteers and the Head of the State for the vaccines."

Then, a 69-year-old U Tin Tun said, "The health officials conducted vaccination programmes here for two times. I did not get the vaccines as I was sick at that time. Now, I am in good health and get vaccinated. I thank the health officials and Head of the country. This vaccine cannot be bought. Therefore, I urge those who live in the camp to get vaccinated."

The officials conducted vaccination for 21 people at the age of over 65 starting 4 August, and for the ones over 18 at the camp. 192 people received vaccines until yesterday afternoon, according to the township health official. — Tin Tun Oo/GNLM

2,187 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 September, total figure rises to 442,928

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 442,928 after 2,187 new cases were reported on 17 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 393,459 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 16,944 after 75 died.

# Produce quality products

THE suspension of State-owned factories causes loss for the country. As such, it is necessary to consider the availability of raw materials and inputs and market share in order to resume the State-owned factories suspended for various reasons and produce quality products. Officials need to urge all personnel to consciously use the State-owned equipment in order to avoid waste and loss.

*(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 2/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7-9-2021)*

## Efforts must be made to set aims for Myanmar's coffee to secure a firm position in the world coffee market: Senior General

**FROM PAGE-1**  
reported on the production process from raw materials to finished goods and establishment of branches of the association in the coffee cultivation areas to provide aid for smooth work process.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said that there are more than 30,000 acres of coffee plantations in Myanmar with growing of Robusta and Arabica coffee strains in respective areas. As coffee farming needs a large amount of capital by taking a long term, it is necessary to strive for achieving success while continuously observing the local and international markets. Emphasis should be placed on high per-acre yield, quality products and occupying market shares.



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the Sithar Coffee Co.,Ltd.

used to say that more than 10,000 acres of land are placed under coffee plantations in PyinOoL-win, and its products are famous in the market. It is necessary to strive for the production of each model goods from the region to secure the market share through a One-Village-One Product system by using modern packaging designs. On the other hand, the tourism industry will develop with the number of local and foreign travellers. The tourism services will contribute to the trading of domestic products to increase the income of the region and raise the living standard of the local people. The Senior General met with local coffee farming businesspersons to fulfil their requirements, urging them to achieve success



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears reports on coffee production process at the Creation Myanmar Coffee Farm.



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the coffee products at the Creation Myanmar Coffee Farm.

The products must have good fragrance, taste and colour. The products must be distributed to meet the demand depending on favourite sorts of products of the regions. Every workplace must have a research and development section to conduct the research without fail. For the first phase, it is necessary to consider the export of raw materials and then quality finished goods. As the government will provide assistance for the availability of coffee qual-

ity strains, technical assistance, market sharing and needs of capital to the farms, businesspersons need to strive for the production of high-quality coffee products. In the future, businesspersons themselves should conduct researches, produce quality varieties of coffee and enhance the market. Efforts must be made to set aims for Myanmar's coffee to secure a firm position in the world coffee market.

The Senior General contin-

The tourism services will contribute to the trading of domestic products to increase the income of the region and raise the living standard of the local people.

in group-wise production for increasing the interests of individuals, the region and the State. The government will fulfil the needs. The Senior General and party viewed round the coffee products, seeds and farming machinery displayed at the coffee farms. The Senior General discussed good ventilation between coffee plants and shade plants and taking care of opening up the farms not to cause the shade plants to pest hosts. —MNA

# Staff need to ensure progress for structural reforms: MoI Union Minister

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and other departmental officials of the respective region and state attended the ceremony of an expansion of IPRD's set-up and drafting procedures yesterday.

First, a 10-minute video clip of the activities conducted by IPRD was played.

Then, the Union Minister made an opening speech. He said the IPRD of the Ministry of Information was established in January 1991 and on the occasion of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it could expand its organizational structure. More than 1,000 employees of the department will be promoted. The Prime Minister allowed such doing for the benefit of the country and people and to improve the future of the departmental staff.

The employees should make efforts to establish Myanmar society based on wisdom. Only with high knowledge



can the people know the right and wrong things, including advantages and disadvantages.

The Union Minister also highlighted the role of the public in building a democratic system and the media means to get the right knowledge and thinking skills for the people.

He also stressed the need to create good activities of the ministry with full responsibilities, adopt innovative ways

instead of old methods and provide proper services to achieve public recognition.

He urged the staff to try hard in the industry in respect of the goodwill of the State and Prime Minister for an institutional expansion.

He then said the COVID-19 pandemic would not disappear fully and the people have to co-exist with the disease. Therefore, the employees must fol-

low the health rules.

Director-General U Aye Kywe of IPRD clarified the departmental constitution reforms and future work plans.

Next, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint expressed words of thanks for expanding the department set-up and congratulated the department and staff on their achievements. He also urged them to strive for skills development as the ranks are

promoted, to be honest, and dutiful leaders and to lead the junior staff in the right way.

The ceremony came to an end with a concluding remark of the Union Minister.

For structural reforms of the IPRD, it can promote the information sector, public knowledge awareness promoting sector, public relations and public services than before.  
— MNA

## Coffee industry development programmes discussed in PyinOoLwin



The Union ministers and Mandalay Region Chief Minister hold talks with coffee entrepreneurs in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

A coordination meeting with coffee entrepreneurs was held in line with COVID-19 health rules in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Wunna Kyaw Htin U Maung Ko, regional government officials, departmental officials and coffee entrepreneurs attended the meeting.

During the event, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo discussed proper cooperation among the relevant departments, private sector and farmers to produce export-quality

coffee in addition to sufficient local consumption and plans to provide good seeds, technical assistance, researches and development programmes.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi then focused on the establishment of mixed cropping farms and the need to follow the fixed rules and regulations in operating coffee farming in forest areas.

The region Chief Minister also discussed the expansion of coffee plantations for regional development and job opportunities.

Then, the coffee entrepreneurs and farmers respectively presented their difficulties in the coffee industry.  
— 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.

# Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products continue

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, by arranging continuous importation with standard operating procedures.

On 17 September (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by four companies and transported by five vehicles.

A total of 1,000 empty oxygen cylinders, 15 oxygen plants, 367 oxygen concentrators for home use, 10,260 sets



Anti-Covid devices and medical aids (right photo) are daily imported and lorries (left photo) are transporting them to the needed places.



of COVID-19 test kits, 157,177 PPE suits, 16 tonnes of gloves, and 32 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw trading posts, ports, and the Yangon Inter-

national Airport. A total of 14 oxygen plants from the port were transported

to Yangon, and a oxygen plant from Chinshwehaw trading post to Singu Township, Mandalay Region respectively.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for ensuring better importation.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the importation 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](http://www.commerce.gov.mm). — MNA

## Officials arrange free transportation for 195 returnees from Laos

A total of 195 returnees from Laos, who have tested negative for COVID-19, came back home through the Wampong Port, Tachilek, Shan State (East) on 16 September.

Officials arranged free transportation for all the returnees by vehicle to reach their respective regions and states.

The returnees were extradited from Laos on 11 September.

With the supervision of the Prevention, Control and Treatment work Committee on

COVID-19 in Tachilek District, the returnees were diagnosed by RDT Rapid Test Kit for the first time.

On the third day of quarantine at Wamlone Center, nasal and palate samples of the returnees were taken and sent to Taunggyi for the second diagnosis.

According to the test results, the COVID-19 virus was detected in 64 repatriated people.

Therefore, officials undertook the second medical examination and a total of 195 people:

118 males and 77 females tested negative for COVID-19.

Next, Tachilek Tactical Operations Commander (Base) Colonel Min Min Tun, Chairman of the Scrutiny and Repatriation Committee on Expatriate Myanmar Migrant Workers in Tachilek, Chairman of the District Administration Body U Myint Naing and members and officials distributed food to the returnees and provided necessary assistance and free transportation to reach their respective places. —Yar Say (IPRD)/GNLM



Returnees from Laos are systematically transported to their respective regions and states.

## Terrorists attack vehicles carrying security members, health workers in Kanbalu Township



A damaged vehicle is seen after terrorists' attack.

THE armed terrorist groups attacked the convoy carrying the security members and health workers on their way back after COVID-19 vaccination processes in Kanbalu Township of Sagaing Region on 16 September.

The group led by Dr Nay Moe from Kanbalu Hospital (100-bed) conducted a vaccination process at Sein Pan Monastery in Malel Village of Kanbalu Township on the morning of 16 September and returned

with security members in four vehicles at noon from Malel Village to Kanbalu Township. When the vehicles arrived near Yay Aye Village, five remote mines planted by the terrorist groups under scrutiny exploded, and the blast caused damages to Hilux Double Cab.

It was reported that the security members and health workers were not injured. Local military columns and police members conduct operations to arrest the suspects. — MNA

# Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade slumps by \$16 mln as of 10 September



THE border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh hit US\$35.4 million as of 10 September in the current financial year of 2020-21, according to a report from the Ministry of Commerce.

According to statistics, the border trade during this period has seen a drop, decreasing by \$16 million, compared with that of the same period last year when the total bilateral border trade was only \$51.4 million.

Myanmar- Bangladesh total border trade included Myanmar

export of \$16.98 million its imports of \$18.43 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through the Sittway and Maung-taw points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, salt-water prawns and fish, dried plum, garlic, rice, mung bean, blankets, candy, plum jam, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages, according to the Ministry. — ACM/GNLM

Cargoes are loaded onto the vessel at the Myanmar Bangladesh border.

## Gold making raw materials in short supply

THE old gold scrap and jewellery are refined into the pure gold bar as the raw material from gold mining has not come to the gold market, said Chair U Myo Myint of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

“We haven’t received the raw material supplies from the region. The land from mining areas also collapsed due to the heavy rain. It is raining all over the places and some of the labourers were starting to suffers from sickness. As a result, we could not produce the raw materials from gold mining. Another thing is that all the shops haven’t reopened yet because of COVID-19. If all these shops were reopened, the shop would come and sell two or three viss of raw materials a day. Those raw materials could fulfil our market demand. Now, we could not buy the old jewellery from the gold shop because the shops are not open yet and the raw material hasn’t come from the gold mining,” he said.

On the past few days, there has been a lot of demand in the gold market, hence the gold purchase orders were accepted appointment system.

“Currently, the global gold price is falling again. The dollar exchange rate against the Myanmar kyat

has decreased when the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) is constantly selling the dollar at an auction rate. Consequently, the domestic gold price fell again. However, the raw materials are still less supplied,” said U Myo Myint.

Currently, the pure gold price is about K1,840,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogram) on 17 September in the domestic market while global gold price touches a high of above US\$1,759 per ounce. Further, the dollar to kyat exchange rate was at K1,900 per dollar on 17 September.

Gold prices were volatile in the domestic market during this month, fluctuating more than in any other months so far this year. The domestic gold price unprecedentedly reached its highest record of K1,900,000 per tical on 11 September 2021.

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

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

## Experimental long-staple cotton cultivation in Kawlin completes in end-September



In the 2021-2022 financial year, a total of 50 acres of long-staple cotton are targeted to grow in the Kawlin district, including 25 acres in Kawlin township and 25 acres in Wuntho township.

EXPERIMENTAL cultivation of long-staple cotton in Kawlin Township, Sagaing region will complete at the end of September, said U Win Thein, Head of Kawlin District Agriculture Department.

In the 2021-2022 financial year, a total of 50 acres of long-staple cotton are targeted to grow in the Kawlin district, including 25 acres in Kawlin township and 25 acres in Wuntho township. Those are being cultivated by the 40 farmers beginning from the first week of September and it is expected to complete at the end of this month.

“The cotton was started growing in the first week of September. To date, about 10 acres have been grown in Wuntho township and 9 acres in Kawlin township. The cultivation period is a little bit longer because it is raining. We expected to finish at the end of this month. The crop can be harvested in next January,” said U Win Thein.

Kawlin Township Agriculture Department provided the cotton seeds to grow 50 acres of cotton crops on a trial basis.

The department’s staff will also provide awareness to the farmers to improve cotton yields. If there is no buyer, the department is arranging to sell them in Mandalay and Monywa markets.

This year, the local farmers expected to have a good yield from those 50 acres of an experimental cotton plantation. In coming year, the cotton cultivation will be extended if there will be a good yield of the plantation. — Lulay/GNLM

## Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).  
News and Periodicals Enterprise

# Myanmar rice export registers \$642 mln this FY

MYANMAR generated US\$642.2 million income from exports of rice and broken rice in the past ten months (October-July) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported in the past eight months was estimated at over 1.2 million metric tons.

Border trade disruption led to a sluggish market yet the flat price occurs in the border export market.

The prices of white rice varieties range US\$375 to 405 per metric ton, the price of glutinous rice price was priced \$600-610 per MT and the broken rice fetched \$300-335 per MT depending on the different varieties and quality, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

This year, rice shipment to European countries is declining. However, Myanmar is delivering rice and broken rice to China and Bangladesh. The market cools down for now owing to the transport difficulties amid the closure



Farmers are seen growing rice this monsoon season.

of the border posts.

The prices of staple rice have stayed in the upward trend since May. Additionally, the restriction measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and natural disasters affected the prices. The price is expected to remain bullish in the coming months, as per MRF.

High-quality rice is demanded in the domestic market and the price moves in the range of K36,000-68,000 per bag depending on different varieties. The low-quality rice is priced between K23,000 and K28,800 per bag at present. The price indicated a gradual increase.

The federation conducted

the virtual meeting with the committee members in the regions and states, exporters and the companies concerned regarding the rice production and price stability on 14 August 2021. They discussed matters related to the possible production drop in the 2021-2022 monsoon season amid the COVID-19 impacts and high

input cost and plans for rice donations to those people in need and selling rice at an affordable price near the industrial zones.

Consequently, MRF, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, rice wholesale centre (Wahdan), traders and brokers sell the rice at a fairer price in Yangon Region starting from 14 September 2021.

Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan, Pawkywel, short matured rice varieties (90 days) and sticky rice will be sold at a cheaper price between 23,500 and K54,000 per bag.

Myanmar set the rice export target at only 2 million tonnes in the current FY as summer paddy growing acreage drops. Weather changes affected irrigation water resource availability in agriculture, as per MRF.

Myanmar generated over \$800 million from rice exports in the previous FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes.

— KK/GNLM

## Thailand tops among trading partners in regional countries this FY



Myawady border trading zone.

THE bilateral trade with neighbouring Thailand, Myanmar's major trading partner among ASEAN, amounted to US\$4.117 billion in the past ten months (October-July) of the current financial year 2020-2021, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance indicated.

Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade partner among the regional countries, followed by Singapore and Malaysia. Moreover, Myanmar's exports mostly go to Thailand after the main trade partner outside the region, China.

The ministry reported that exports surpassed imports in

trade with Thailand, with exports reaching over \$2.548 billion and imports valued at over \$1.569 billion.

Thailand accounted for 18.48 per cent of total trade in the 2016-2017FY with an estimated trade value of US\$4.6 billion, 19.17 per cent in the 2017-2018FY with a trade value of \$5.57 billion, 40.38 per cent in the 2018-2019FY with \$5.46 billion and over 40 per cent in the 2019-2020FY with \$5.117 billion, respectively.

Exports of natural gas from the Taninthayi Region contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand in the previous years. The corn exports to Thailand has shown a significant increase since 2019,

the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dried), beans, corns, bamboo shoots, sesame seeds, garment, footwear, plywood and veneer, broken rice and other commodities to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products from the neighbouring country.

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Myeik, Mawtaung, Hteekhee, Kawthoung and Meisei border areas respectively. Among them, Myawady performed the largest trade in border trade with Thailand, followed by Hteekhee.

Nevertheless, the trading activity via the border is sluggish amid the COVID-19 surge. Consequently, the trade via land borders slightly declined in the current FY (2020-2021) as against last year. Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was mostly carried out with the regional trade partners. — KK/GNLM

## Over 4,000 acreages of kitchen crops completed in Sagaing Region

A total of 4,089 acres of kitchen crops have been cultivated in Sagaing Region so far this year, said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

The cultivation commenced in June 2021.

"The department mainly focuses on increasing the yield and low input cost. It encourages the growers to conduct Good Agricultural Practices and disseminate the technology of the GAP system. The number of acreages has increased this year. The growers also have access to pedigree seeds. Only fertilizer input is costly and therefore, we attempted to utilize the natural fertilizer and provided technical assistance," said U Win

Hlaing Oo.

The department has completed 331 acres of onion, 51 acres of dried chilli pepper, 3,387 acres of fresh chilli pepper and 320 acres of potato in the region, totalling 4,089 acres.

It covered 44 acres in Mawlaik, 90 in Khamti, 630 in Monywa, 826 in Yinmabin, 337 in Shwebo, 705 in Sagaing, 64 in Katha and 29 in Kawlin districts and 1,364 in Naga Self-Administered Zone, the regional department's data showed.

The respective departments in each district of the Sagaing Region are sharing information on GAP, pest management technology and soil treatment to boost the yield and penetrate more markets.

— Lu Lay/GNLM



A total of 4,089 acres of kitchen crops have been cultivated in Sagaing Region so far this year, A total of 4,089 acres of kitchen crops have been cultivated in Sagaing Region so far this year.

# Don't believe in rumours, fake news and misinformation

RUMOURS, fake news and misinformation are based on incorrect and inaccurate reasons which never come true. Those who believe in such rumours, fake news and misinformation will face terrible disadvantages in their lives.

Everybody can accept nothing even though true or untrue issues will affect their property and ego. However, they tremble at the events that may cause loss to their ego because they are afraid of losing their ownership for all.

Recently, a fake notification spread on the social network, especially on Facebook, mentioning that K5,000 and K10,000 currency notes issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar were declared illegal. It can be considered that the rootless rumour

might be based on the perpetration of unscrupulous persons.

Actually, people need to analyze the root causes and sources of any incidents and information. They should have the knowledge to assess the root causes of information whether it is true or not. They need to have the capability to analyze the background history and trustful acts of the information and the participants in the information whether should be reliable or not.

to have the capability to analyze the background history and trustful acts of the information and the participants in the information whether should be reliable or not.

To be able to analyze the information sources, the people must have the knowledgeable capacity. Decisions and remarks for any events should not be adopted hurriedly. It is necessary to take adequate time for analyzing the events and information to successfully have the correct answer. If so, they will overcome any mistakes in their lives and will achieve success in all processes, rather than others. Hence, all people should not forget to assess and analyze everything for all.



# Tawthalin, the month of Regatta Festival and boat races

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt  
(Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja, Sithu)

THE sixth month in the Myanmar Lunar Calendar is Tawthalin [September] when the monsoon has receded turning nature calm and pleasant. All aqua life bodies are filled with monsoon rain but no stormy waves, only sparking ripples dance in shine. Water surfaces look like a large mat spread out. Hence Myanmar saying တော်သလင်း ဖြစ်တဲ့ သင်ဖြူခင်း In Tawthalin rivers look like a large mat spread out. The clam atmosphere is fragrant with the sweet smell of Yinmar blooms designated as a flower of this month.

Though geographically called a tropical country and its central part marked as Dry Zone. There is not deserved in the true sense of that term. Aquatic bodies are everywhere naturally formal or created by both nature and man. To give but a few of such aquatic bodies are Indaw Kyi Lake in Kachin state and Inlay Lake in southern Shan state, Maing Ton Kan in northeastern Shan state, Meiktila Kan in Mandalay region, Taung Tha Man Inn in Amarapura and many man-made water services irrigations in other states and regions in addition to moats surrounding old capitals. Besides a long sea coastline gives Myanmar people waterly life and culture since time immemorial.

Both for pre-Buddhist and post-Buddhist traditions, culture has given Myanmar ethnic races aquatic tradition and activities Myanmar Kings [Pyu, Mon, My-

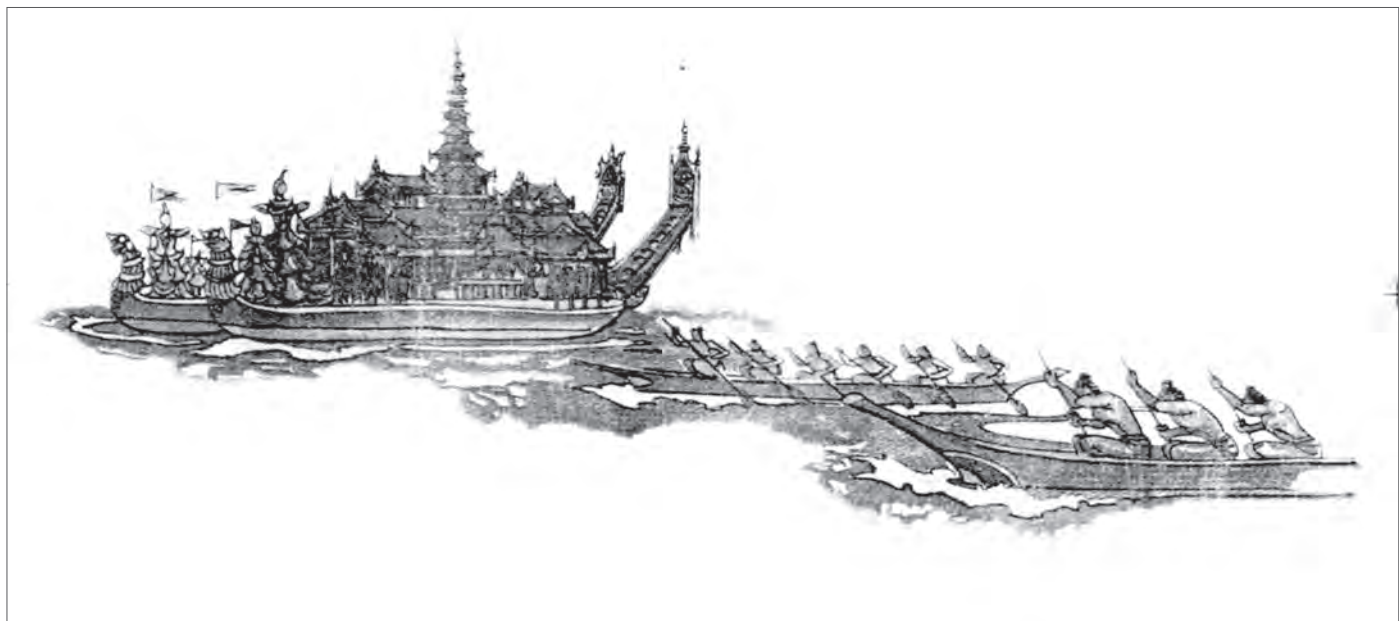
anmar, Rakhine, Shan etc...] believed that they were descended from Saka Deva King of Tavatimsa in Celestial Land. Just as Saka Deva annually holds Boat Festival in the Gunga River up there, Myanmar Kings hold a similar festival in the Kingdom down belong on Earth.

The main purposes of the festival are: -

- (1) To display
- (2) To exercise and
- (3) To recruit.

Preparations are made two months ahead. Royal orders were issued. Ministers and officials were assigned specific duties. Announcements were made to the public near and far to participate in yearly festivals and events. Royal Brahman Priests chose the most auspicious weeks, days and times to celebrate the great event.

A space and long water body were chosen: river, lake, tank etc. for a long line of watercraft of all sizes. It would be too long to mention all watercraft for display in the article. Just to mention but a few are as follows. For Yey Khin Taw you need an aquatic body of at least one mile long and half a mile wide at 6 feet to 12 feet deep. Besides element wealth and good sunshine. Burges and boats, exercise boats and rain boats are given in this article. A total number of display boats is the total number of exercise boat displays. Total numbers of racing boats



were on display. Pyi Gyi Mon Royal Burge is the major display. It is a replacement of Zey Tawun Hall with Lion Throne on which their Majesties were seated in full dress to receive guests and foreign ambassadors. All sat on the floor in far runs right and left to song composes presented loot a stanza. If the weather is clement the display would take a round of up and down streams – if not in one round. The public thickly lined up on both sides of the river and cheered long live your Majesties of the people. Peace, Progress 37 difficult styles of rowing with that short and long singing 37 music and songs.

The next follow races of watercraft. Myanmar tradition of Royal march ရေအား ကျည်းအား နှင့် ချီတော်မူ သည်။

In the bell inscription of King Thar-

awaddy at the Sunday counter of Shwed-agon Pagoda Yangon were. In the march of water and land forces, the king came down to Yangon to drive out the British who occupied Yangon when they won Second Anglo Myanmar War.

Regatta Festival in Burmese is called Yey Khin Taw [ရေခင်းတော်]. Not Yey Kin Taw [ရေကင်းတော်]. Khin [ခင်း] means to display ခင်းကျင်းပြသ Kin ကင်း means to patrol ကင်းစောင့်. All Myanmar palace cities at the capitals are brick-walled and surrounded on all four sides with moats of water supplied by dug canals. In these moats, patrol boats were on duty to watch security and safety. No enemy swim across the moats to get into the walled city to do harm to Palace dwellers. To break the monotony of duty they led music bands and songs



## US medical experts to vote on Pfizer Covid boosters

US MEDICAL experts will meet on 17 September to debate and vote on the controversial question of giving out booster doses of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine to the general population.

President Joe Biden's administration announced in August a plan to roll out third shots to everyone, not just the immune compromised already able to receive them, starting from 20 September.

But experts have since expressed reservations about whether they are required, amid concerns over global inequity, the greater need to vaccinate the unvaccinated, and possible increased risk of side effects.

The skepticism extends to scientists at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who struck a cautious tone in documents released ahead of Friday's meeting where an independent panel has been convened.



In this March 2021 photo provided by Pfizer, a technician inspects filled vials of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the company's facility in Puurs, Belgium. PHOTO: PFIZER/AFP/FILE

“Overall, data indicate that currently US-licensed or authorized COVID-19 vaccines still afford protection against severe Covid-19 disease and death in the

United States,” the FDA said in a briefing document.

The outside experts — including vaccinologists, infectious disease research-

ers, and epidemiologists — will be tasked with voting on whether there is sufficient proof of a booster's safety and efficacy.

While their recommendation isn't binding, it is normally acted upon.

If the FDA panel votes yes, it will fall to another committee convened by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on 22-23 September to decide who should receive the booster first and when they should get it.

The CDC has previously indicated it sees the elderly, nursing home residents and healthcare workers as likely first in line. Any expressions of hesitancy or calls for limits on who should get boosters may be taken as a rebuke of the Biden administration, which announced the measure prior to consulting its science agencies.

Two senior FDA officials signed on to a letter in The Lancet this week that said “booster doses for the general pop-

ulation are not appropriate at this stage in the pandemic.” Pfizer's briefing documents show it plans to cite studies that demonstrated waning immunity against infection several months out from the first two doses.

But a growing body of US research has shown two doses continue to confer high protection against severe outcomes — albeit at slightly diminished levels for the elderly. Pfizer will also present data showing boosters increased antibody levels against the Delta variant, as well as research from Israel, which ran a booster campaign for the general population, to help make its case.

For its part, the FDA said in its document that not all studies are reliable and it believes US-based research “may most accurately represent vaccine effectiveness in the US population.” — AFP



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (ISSUED at 7:00 pm Friday 17 September 2021)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 18 September, 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (5– 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Weak monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 September, 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 September, 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 September, 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region and fairly widespread in Yangon Region.

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NEWS  
IN BRIEF

## World leaders will hold closed-door climate meet at UN

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will host a closed-door meeting of world leaders at the sidelines of the General Assembly in New York on Monday to boost climate commitments.

The roundtable comes less than six weeks before a major UN climate meeting, COP26, in Glasgow, aimed at ensuring the world meets its goal of holding century-end warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"UNGA is the last big moment in the international calendar ahead of COP26," said Britain's ambassador to the UN, Barbara Woodward, in a statement. "Climate change will be the UK's top priority."—AFP ■

## Ebola virus in survivors can trigger outbreaks years after infection

EBOLA survivors can relapse and trigger outbreaks at least five years after infection, and long-term follow-up of former patients is needed to prevent devastating flare-ups, according to new research.

Scientists already knew Ebola could lie dormant in survivors, who test negative because the virus is in tissue rather than circulating in the blood.

But analysis of an outbreak this year in Guinea, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, found these "virus reservoirs" appear able to awaken and cause new infections and transmission years on.

To trace the source of the Guinea outbreak, which involved 16 confirmed cases, 12 of whom died, researchers analyzed the genomes of samples from several patients.

Ebola outbreaks are usually thought to result from the virus "spilling" from an animal host to a human.

But the analysis showed the Guinea strain was virtually identical to that from a 2013-16 wave. If the virus had been circulating actively in the community since then, it would have accumulated a certain number of mutations as it spread.—AFP ■

## Chinese astronauts return to Earth after 90-day mission

THREE Chinese astronauts returned to Earth Friday after completing the country's longest-ever crewed mission, the latest landmark in Beijing's drive to become a major space power.

The capsule carrying the trio deployed its parachute and landed in the Gobi desert at 1:34 pm local time (0534 GMT).

"It feels very good to be back!," Tang Hongbo told state broadcaster CCTV after the 90-day mission, a record for China.

"I want to say dad, mom, I'm back! In good health and good spirits!" he said after emerging from the capsule within 30 minutes of landing. The crew of the Shenzhou-12 spacecraft were in good health, China Manned



Astronauts Nie Haisheng (C), Liu Boming (R) and Tang Hongbo wave at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, 17 September 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

Space Agency (CMSA) said in a statement.

"The first manned mission to the (Chinese) space station is a complete success," it said.

The taikonauts — as Chinese astronauts are known — will undergo a 14-day quarantine before they can go home "because their immune sys-

tems may have weakened after the long mission," Huang Weifen, chief designer of China's manned space project told CCTV.

The mission was part of China's heavily promoted space programme, which has already seen the nation land a rover on Mars and send probes to the moon. The launch of Beijing's first crewed mission in nearly five years coincided with the 100th anniversary of the ruling Communist Party on 1 July, and was the highlight of a massive propaganda campaign.

The crew stayed for 90 days at the Tiangong space station, conducting spacewalks and scientific experiments.—AFP ■

## Computing pioneer Clive Sinclair dies at 81



Clive Sinclair shows off one of his inventions in 2006. PHOTO: AFP

CLIVE Sinclair, the British inventor who pioneered the pocket calculator and affordable home

computers, reportedly died on Thursday at the age of 81.

He passed away at his home

in London after fighting cancer for more than a decade, UK media said, prompting tributes from many who fondly recalled their first experience of computing in the early 1980s.

He was still working on inventions last week "because that was what he loved doing", his daughter Belinda Sinclair told the BBC.

"He was inventive and imaginative and for him it was exciting and an adventure, it was his passion," she added.

Clive Sinclair's groundbreaking products included the first portable electronic calculator in 1972.

The Sinclair ZX80, launched

in 1980 and sold for less than £100 at the time, brought home computing to the masses in Britain and beyond.

Other early home computers such as the Apple II cost far more, and Sinclair's company was the first in the world to sell more than a million machines.

Follow-up models included the ZX Spectrum in 1982, which boasted superior power and a more user-friendly interface, turbo-charging the revolution in gaming and programming at home. British movie director Edgar Wright, whose latest film "Last Night in Soho" premiered in Venice this month, paid tribute to Sinclair on Twitter.—AFP ■

## Desolate villages face famine in Madagascar drought

NOTHING to eat, nothing to plant. The last rain in Ifotaka fell in May, for two hours.

Across Madagascar's vast southern tip, drought has transformed fields into dust bowls. More than one million people face famine.

Across tens of thousands of acres, the countryside is desolate. Harvest season begins in October, leaving long, lean weeks before the meagre crops come in. Some villages are abandoned. In others, people should be working the fields, but instead are languishing at home. There's nothing to reap.

Hunger weighs people down, both in mind and body. They move slowly, and struggle to follow conversation.

"I feel sick, and worried. Every day I wonder what we're going to eat," says Helmine Sija, 60 and a mother of six, in a village called Atoby.

## Eating cactus and weeds

A petite woman with grey hair and a hardened face, Sija tends a boiling pot of cactus in front of her home. She chopped the pricks off with a machete to prepare them for cooking.

It can't really be called food. The concoction has little nutritional value, but it's a popular appetite suppressant, even though it causes stomach aches.

Her three oldest children have left home to look for work in other towns. She's caring for the young ones.



Across Madagascar's vast southern tip, drought has transformed fields into dust bowls. More than one million people face famine. PHOTO: AFP

"I want to move somewhere more fertile, where I can farm. But I don't have enough money to leave," she says.

Arzel Jonarson, 47, a for-

mer cassava farm worker, now gathers firewood to sell, earning about a 25 US cents a week. Enough to buy one bowl of rice.—AFP ■

# China fully vaccinates more than 1 billion people

CHINA has fully vaccinated more than one billion people against the coronavirus — 71 per cent of its population — official figures showed Thursday.

The country where the virus was first detected has mostly curbed the virus within its borders, but is racing to get the vast majority of its population vaccinated as a new outbreak flickers in the southeast. “As of 15 September, 2.16 billion vaccine doses have been administered nationwide,” said National Health Commission spokesman Mi Feng at a press briefing. Chinese health authorities said late last month that 890 million people in China had been fully vaccinated and two billion doses administered.

The government has not publicly announced a target for



A citizen receives a dose of COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination site in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, 16 May 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/DU YU

vaccination coverage, but top virologist Zhong Nanshan said last month that the country is likely to have 80 per cent of its population inoculated by the end of the year, reaching herd immunity.

China is currently battling an outbreak of the Delta variant in the southeastern province of Fujian that has infected almost

200 people so far in three cities, dozens of whom are schoolchildren. The Fujian cluster is the biggest rebound in weeks and comes after the country declared the Delta variant under control, in a test of China's “zero-case” approach to the pandemic.

China reported 49 new domestic transmissions on Thursday, the vast majority in Fujian.

Authorities said the cluster's suspected patient zero was a man who had recently returned from Singapore to the city of Putian, and developed symptoms after completing a 14-day quarantine and initially testing negative for the virus. The man's 12-year-old son and a classmate were among the first patients detected in the cluster last week, shortly after the new school term began.

The variant then raced through classrooms, infecting more than 36 children including 8 kindergartners, city authorities said Tuesday, in the first major school-linked spread the country has seen since the start of the pandemic.

Despite rolling out its vaccine campaign to include minors aged 12-17 in July, most young children remain unvaccinated in China, sparking fears that the latest Fujian outbreak could hit the most vulnerable people in the country disproportionately.

Authorities have rushed to quash the outbreak with targeted lockdowns, travel restrictions, mass testing and school closures before the upcoming 1 October public holiday, a week-long tourism peak.—AFP ■

## 3,000 unvaccinated health workers suspended

THOUSANDS of health workers across France have been suspended without pay for failing to get vaccinated against Covid-19 ahead of a deadline this week, Health Minister Olivier Veran said Thursday.

“Some 3,000 suspensions were notified yesterday to employees at health centres and clinics who have not yet been vaccinated,” Veran told RTL radio.

He added that “several dozens” had turned in their resig-

nations rather than sign up for the jobs. That compares with 2.7 million health workers overall, Veran said, adding that “continued healthcare is assured”.

President Emmanuel Macron gave staff at hospitals, retirement home workers and the fire service an ultimatum in July to get at least one shot by September 15 or face unpaid suspension.

Many nurses in particular have been reluctant to get vaccinated, citing safety or efficacy

concerns, posing the risk that France's inoculation drive could stall.

France's national public health agency estimated last week that roughly 12 per cent of hospital staff and around six per cent of doctors in private practices have yet to be vaccinated.

Overall, 70 per cent of the French have received both doses required to be fully vaccinated, which are available to everyone over age 12 — one of the highest



Thousands of health workers across France have been suspended without pay for failing to get vaccinated against Covid-19 ahead of a deadline this week, Health Minister Olivier Veran said Thursday. PHOTO: PIXABAY/AFP

rates in the world.

But 74 per cent have had one dose only, suggesting that many people are holding out against the jobs despite their widespread availability.—AFP ■

## Cuba seeks WHO approval of its Covid-19 vaccines



Nurse Xiomara Rodriguez prepares a Cuban Soberana 2 vaccine candidate to be administered to a volunteer during its trial Phase III in Havana, on 31 March 2021 PHOTO: AFP/JOAQUIN HERNANDEZ

Thursday with WHO experts examining the nation's Abdala and Soberana 02 jabs, said Rolando Perez of state pharma group BioCubaFarma.

Perez said the experts would examine the vaccines' “safety, immunogenicity (the ability of a vaccine to provoke an immune response) and efficacy.”

The WHO's representative in Cuba, Jose Moya, told AFP there would be “a first virtual meeting” Thursday between experts in Havana, Geneva and Washington.

Cuba has been using domestically-produced vaccines in its Covid-19 inoculation campaign, including for children.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Slovenia: Covid pass mandate enters into force**

All services and even workplaces in Slovenia require a Covid pass PST (Recovered-Vaccinated-Tested) as of yesterday in a sweeping tightening of restrictions designed to stem a rapidly deteriorating fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

A total of 1,364 new coronavirus infections were confirmed in Slovenia on Tuesday, up 25% from a week earlier, while six patients with Covid-19 died, according to the latest data released on Wednesday. The positivity rate was just over 20%, down from almost 25% a day earlier. The 7-day average of new cases rose to 953 and the 14-day incidence per 100,000 to 530, data from the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) show.—AFP ■

**Major Paraguayan hospital reports zero general hospitalizations**

In Asuncion, Paraguay, the National Hospital of Itauguá has reported zero COVID-19 general hospitalizations for the first time in more than a year. While a few patients remain in the ICU, this marks the lowest general hospitalizations caused by COVID-19 in the area since the start of the pandemic.—AFP ■

NEWS  
IN BRIEFNobel laureate  
Romer decries lack  
of 'integrity' under  
Georgieva at World  
Bank

NOBEL Prize-winning economist Paul Romer said the current head of the IMF, in her previous senior role at the World Bank, engineered a "whitewash" of his concerns surrounding the bank's flagship report.

In an interview with AFP on Thursday, Romer said there was a "lack of integrity" among the World Bank leadership, including then-CEO Kristalina Georgieva.

Earlier in the day the World Bank announced it was immediately discontinuing its Doing Business report after an independent investigation commissioned by its board found irregularities in the 2018 and 2020 editions and concluded that Georgieva pressed staff for alterations to avoid angering China.

Romer said that during his time at the World Bank he was not aware of Georgieva pushing staff on China. But "I had some suspicions that things like this might be going on." — AFP ■

Singapore's non-oil  
domestic exports  
growth narrows to 2.7  
pct in August

SINGAPORE'S non-oil domestic exports (NODX) grew at a slower pace in August, as the year-on-year growth narrowed from 12.7 per cent in July to 2.7 per cent, Enterprise Singapore, a government agency, announced on Friday.

The electronic NODX expanded by 16.7 per cent year on year in August, extending the 15 per cent increase in the previous month. The non-electronic NODX declined by 1.4 per cent in August, a reversal from the 12 per cent rise in July.

On a month-on-month seasonally adjusted basis, Singapore's NODX decreased by 3.6 per cent in August to 15.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 11.52 billion U.S. dollars), after a 0.9 per cent decrease in the previous month.

Singapore's non-oil re-exports (NORX) grew by 19 per cent year on year in August, following the 13.9-per cent rise in July. Both electronic and non-electronic NORX grew. —Xinhua ■

## Canada sees funds inflow of billions of dollars in July



A resident walks inside a quiet Chinese shopping mall in Richmond, Canada, 2 April 2020. PHOTO: LIANG SEN/XINHUA

INTERNATIONAL transactions in securities caused a net inflow of funds of 18.9 billion Canadian dollars (about 14.9 billion U.S. dollars) in the Canadian econo-

my in July, according to Statistics Canada on Thursday.

Foreign investors acquired 14.2 billion Canadian dollars of Canadian securities in July

while Canadian investors reduced their holdings of foreign securities by 4.7 billion Canadian dollars, following a record investment of 28 billion Canadian dollars in June. As a result, international transactions in securities generated a net inflow of funds of 18.9 billion Canadian dollars in July. Non-resident investors acquired 14.2 billion Canadian dollars of Canadian securities in July, the 12th consecutive month of investment in these instruments, for a total of 118.1 billion Canadian dollars.

Foreign investment targeted government debt securities. A foreign divestment in Canadian equities moderated the overall acquisition activity in the month.

Foreign investors added

13.5 billion Canadian dollars of government debt securities to their portfolios in July. This activity largely reflected acquisitions of federal government debt instruments with 8.1 billion Canadian dollars and provincial government bonds with 5.4 billion Canadian dollars.

In addition, non-resident investors added 6 billion Canadian dollars of Canadian private corporate bonds to their holdings, mainly foreign currency-denominated instruments of Canadian chartered banks.

Non-resident investors reduced their holdings of Canadian equity securities by 1.1 billion Canadian dollars in July, the second divestment in three months.—Xinhua ■

Austria hears first lawsuit  
over virus outbreak in ski  
resort

THE first civil lawsuit begins in a court in Vienna on 17 September over a notorious outbreak of coronavirus at the popular ski resort of Ischgl in March 2020, where thousands of people from 45 countries claim to have become infected.

The case is the first of 15 lawsuits filed by plaintiffs from Austria and Germany, accusing the authorities of not responding quickly enough to Covid-19 outbreaks in Ischgl and other resorts in the province of Tyrol.

It is being brought on behalf of the family of 72-year-old Hannes Schopf, who died after contracting the virus in Ischgl.

Lawyer Alexander Klausner, acting for the Schopf family and the VSV consumer organisation helping them and others bring their cases to court,

said the official shortcomings that allowed Ischgl and the surrounding area to become a virus hotspot were manifold.

He pointed to a report last October by an independent commission of experts which found that local officials had "reacted too late" and made "serious miscalculations" when alerted by Iceland on 5 March that several of its nationals had tested positive on returning home. Local officials "had at least 48 hours to react" after the warning, Klausner told AFP.

They also missed an opportunity to prevent more tourists coming to the valley that weekend, and the regional government cast doubt on whether the Icelandic tourists had been infected in Ischgl, he said.—AFP ■



The Tyrolean ski resort of Ischgl was the site of a notorious outbreak of coronavirus in March 2020. PHOTO: AFP

IMF chief denies altering  
World Bank report to  
appease China

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva disagreed with an investigation showing she pushed for changes to a World Bank report to favour China. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva on Thursday disputed an independent investigation which found that in her previous job at the World Bank, she pressed staff to alter a report to avoid angering China.

Based on the findings, the World Bank announced it was immediately discontinuing its Doing Business report after the investigation found irregularities in the 2018 and 2020 editions.

Georgieva, a Bulgarian national who took the helm of the International Monetary Fund in October 2019, rejected its conclusions regarding her role.

"I disagree fundamentally with the findings and interpretations of the Investigation of

Data Irregularities as it relates to my role in the World Bank's Doing Business report of 2018," she said in a statement.

The allegations could damage her reputation, and provide grist for long-time US critics of the multilateral organizations and their treatment of China.

"These are serious findings," the US Treasury said in a statement, noting it is "analyzing the report."

"Our primary responsibility is to uphold the integrity of international financial institutions."

Georgieva said she briefed the IMF's board on the situation. The board is expected to meet to discuss the issue but it is unclear when.—AFP ■

# China seeks to join TPP free trade pact to boost Asia clout

CHINA on Friday began in earnest work to advance its application to become a member of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal, a day after filing a bid to join the pact in an attempt to increase its economic clout in the Asia-Pacific region.

Chinese accession would significantly impact trade in the region, and its bid is aimed at countering moves that the United States and other partners are pursuing to decouple from the Chinese economy. It remains uncertain, though, whether China will

be allowed to join the pact.

To join the deal, formally known as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, China will need the unanimous approval of the 11 member countries. One hurdle China faces is its strained ties with Australia, one of the TPP members. In June, China said it had filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization over Australia's anti-dumping tariffs, apparently retaliation against Canberra's decision to complain to the WTO over China's an-

ti-dumping duties on wine exports. Australia signaled on Friday that it is unwilling to accept the start of talks on China's possible participation. The country's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan said in a statement on Friday that China would need to convince members that it has a "track record of compliance" with its commitments in the WTO and existing trade agreements, once again reiterating the need for China to restart ministerial-level talks between the two nations.—Kyodo ■



Officials of the 11 member countries of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade accord make a toast after a meeting in Tokyo on 19 January 2019. PHOTO: KYODO

# Shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy sails away on market debut



Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. is the world's largest shipbuilding company. Its headquarters are in Ulsan, South Korea. PHOTO: HHI/AFP

SHARES in the world's biggest shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries more than doubled from their

initial public offering price when they made their stock trading debut on Friday.

Hyundai Heavy's IPO follows a restructuring of the wider group linked to a deal to take a majority stake in global number two Daewoo, although that is still waiting regulatory approval.

The Hyundai Heavy flotation price was set at 60,000 Korean won (€43.39), but they rocketed to 135,000 won in the first hour of trading in Seoul, up 125 per cent. By early afternoon the price had slipped back to 115,000 won, giving it a market capitalisation of more than 10 trillion won (€7.2 billion).

More than 1,600 domestic and foreign institutional investors applied

for shares during the flotation process earlier this month. The offering raised 1.08 trillion won.

Hyundai Heavy said it planned to use around 760 billion won of the flotation proceeds to invest in next-generation vessels and environment-friendly technologies.

The Daewoo transaction was announced in 2019 but still needs approval from authorities in South Korea, Japan and the European Union. If it goes ahead it will consolidate Hyundai Heavy's position as the dominant global shipbuilder, giving it more than 20 per cent of the market. —AFP ■

# US moves to block Purdue Pharma opioid settlement

THE US Justice Department has challenged a plan that would dissolve Purdue Pharma, manufacturer of the OxyContin drug that has been blamed for the country's opioid crisis, while shielding its founders from lawsuits.

The government wants the settlement, which was approved this month by a federal judge, to be put on hold while prosecutors challenge it in a federal appeals court.

Under the deal, the Sackler families that founded and profited from the company would have to pay \$4.5 billion, but they could not be taken to court again over the drug.

In a court filing released Wednesday, Justice Department Trustee William Harrington argues the deal falls short of providing accountability for the nationwide addiction crisis that caused more than 500,000 overdose deaths in the United States over the past 20 years.

The agreement "harms both the public and countless individuals by extinguishing the rights that opioid victims hold against possibly thousands of Sackler Family members and associated parties."—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (218N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (218N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1110)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1110)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-9-2021** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

TUG; MEGAH SARI, BG; VIVA 26 V.01

Consignees of cargo carried on **TUG; MEGAH SARI, BG; VIVA 26 VOY.NO. (V.01)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

## South Korea: new kid on the SLBM block



Seoul's missile was fired underwater from South Korea's newly commissioned submarine Ahn Chang-ho. **PHOTO: SOUTH KOREAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP**

MISSILE test headlines on the Korean peninsula are almost invariably about the nuclear-armed North, but this week the South fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile of its own as it rapidly scales up its military capabilities.

The successful test puts the South among the elite flotilla of nations with proven SLBM technology, and Seoul is on a multi-billion-dollar drive to develop its defence forces.

On the other side of the Demilitarized Zone that splits the

peninsula, the North maintains the world's largest standing army and has made rapid progress in its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programmes, earning it multiple international sanctions.

But Seoul's SLBMs shift the strategic balance, enabling it to respond with a surprise second strike even if its land-based forces were destroyed in a conflict.

Wednesday's launch took place from the Ahn Chang-ho, a new 3,000-ton missile submarine named after an independence

campaigner.

Afterwards President Moon Jae-in — who has long pursued engagement with Pyongyang to bring it to the negotiating table — told the vessel's commander: "Activist Ahn Chang-ho remarked in 1921 that 'The only thing we can trust and wish for is our strength'."

South Korea maintains a conscript army to defend it against the North, which invaded in 1950, and this month unveiled a blueprint to raise its defence budget to 70 trillion won (\$60 billion) by 2026, with a focus on developing "cutting-edge advanced technologies".

It is adding more Aegis-class destroyers to its navy and building more SLBM submarines, as well as replacing ageing F-4 and F-5 jets with indigenously-designed KF-21 fighters. The state Agency for Defense Development (ADD) also unveiled a supersonic cruise missile on Wednesday and said it was pursuing a high-powered ballistic missile able to deliver a significantly heavier warhead—AFP ■

## N. Korea tested "railway-borne missile system" on Wed.: KCNA

NORTH Korea has tested a "railway-borne missile system," state-run media reported Thursday, a day after Japanese authorities said the nuclear-armed nation launched two ballistic missiles in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

The objective was to strike a target area 800 kilometres off North Korea's east coast, according to the Korean Central News Agency. Japan said the two missiles flew around 750 km before falling into the sea within its exclusive economic zone, in the first launches of ballistic missiles by North Korea in nearly six months. The missiles launched Wednesday are regarded as an updated version of the KN-23, a new type of short-range ballistic missile known to fly on an irregular trajectory. It is similar to an advanced ballistic missile manufactured in Russia, military experts said.

Pak Jong Chon, a close aide to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, observed a firing drill by a railway-borne missile reg-



North Korea tests a "railway-borne missile system" in central North Korea on 15 September 2021. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

iment on Wednesday, the news agency said. He was reportedly promoted to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea earlier this month.

"The railway-borne missile system serves as an efficient counter-strike means capable of dealing a harsh multi-concurrent blow to the threat-posing forces through separate performances of firepower duty in different parts of the country," KCNA said.

But the experts said it is uncertain whether the missile system will actually work well as train tracks in North Korea have become decrepit and a railcar carrying a ballistic missile may be unable to run at high speed.

Moreover, the latest test would help the United States and other nations detect where North Korea might launch a ballistic missile, they said. Washington and Seoul are expected to scrutinize the railway network in the country ahead.—Kyodo ■

## Navalny app removed as Russians vote after crackdown

JAILED Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's app instructing Russians how to vote to unseat President Vladimir Putin's ruling party disappeared from Apple and Google Friday as three-day parliamentary polls marked by a historic crackdown on the opposition opened across the country.

Parliamentary and local polls in the world's largest country spread over 11 time

unavailable on Google and Apple stores after Russia ramped on pressure on US tech giants to remove it, accusing them of election interference.

Navalny's allies denounced the move as an "act of political censorship."

"They caved in to the Kremlin's blackmail," exiled Navalny ally Leonid Volkov said on Telegram. Google and Apple have not commented on the



The run-up to the parliamentary polls has been marred by an unprecedented crackdown on Kremlin critics and independent media. **PHOTO: AFP**

zones began at 08:00 am Friday.

The run-up to the parliamentary polls has been marred by an unprecedented crackdown on Kremlin critics and independent media, with Putin's top foe Alexei Navalny jailed in January and his organisations subsequently outlawed.

On Friday morning, Navalny's "Smart Voting" app was

move. Navalny had appealed to supporters from prison to download the app and urged them to back mostly Communist Party candidates to weaken the ruling party.

With many voters frustrated by falling incomes and not planning to cast their ballots, Putin urged Russians to elect a "strong" parliament. — AFP ■

## Australia says more US troops to come, eyes missile work

AUSTRALIA said Thursday that more US troops will rotate through the island nation and that the allies will cooperate on missile development, the latest joint steps amid shared concerns over a rising China.

Australia announced a three-way alliance with the United States and Britain in which Canberra will acquire nuclear-powered submarines, enraging France whose own major contract for conventional submarines was scrapped.

Outlining further measures on a visit to Washington, Defence Minister Peter Dutton

said Australia will be "significantly enhancing" cooperation including working together on the development of missiles and explosive ordnance.

He said Australia was willing to see more US Marines in a decade-old rotation through the northern city of Darwin.

"I do have an aspiration to make sure that we can increase the numbers of troops through the rotations," Dutton said.

"The air capability will be enhanced, our maritime capability enhanced and certainly the force posture enhanced."—AFP ■

# US reassures livid France after Australia scraps submarine deal

THE United States on Thursday struggled to contain the fallout after France furiously protested Australia's scrapping of a major arms deal in favor of US nuclear submarines.

President Joe Biden on Wednesday unveiled a new three-way alliance among the United States, Australia and Britain that features the submarines — a key asset to challenge an increasingly assertive China in the decades to come.

China voiced anger — as did France, which called off a Washington gala to celebrate America's oldest alliance and accused Biden, in whom it placed high hopes, of being no different than his "America First" predecessor Donald Trump.



The deal extends US nuclear submarine technology to Australia as well as cyber defence, applied artificial intelligence and undersea capabilities. **PHOTO: US NAVY/ AFP**

Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said he was "very angry" over the loss of what he once called "the contract of the century," which was worth Aus\$50 billion (31 billion euros,

\$36.5 billion) when signed in 2016. "This unilateral, sudden and unforeseeable decision very much recalls what Mr Trump would do," Le Drian told France Info radio.—AFP ■

# EU announces new Indo-Pacific strategy



The EU is looking to increase engagement in the Indo-Pacific as the US, UK and Australia increase ties. The crew waves from aboard the frigate 'Bayern' of the German Navy, which is setting off on a voyage lasting several months in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. **PHOTO: SINA SCHULDT / DPA / AFP**

THE European Union (EU) on Thursday unveiled a new strategy for enhancing its economic, political and defence existence in the Indo-Pacific region, vowing to cooperate with all actors in the region and seek no confrontation.

According to the adopted Joint Communication on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the Indo-Pacific region's growing economic, demographic, and political weight makes it a key player in shaping the international order and in

addressing global challenges. The EU intends to increase its engagement with the region to build partnerships that reinforce the rules-based international order; address global challenges and lay the foundations for a rapid, just and sustainable economic recovery that creates long-term prosperity. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told a press conference that the EU will seek no confrontation but cooperation with everybody, and the strategy is inclusive to all actors in the region.

Borrell said in a statement issued later that "The world's center of gravity is moving towards the Indo Pacific, both in geo-economic and geo-political terms. The futures of the EU and the Indo-Pacific are interlinked."—Xinhua ■

# LDP's acting Secretary-General Noda aims to be 1<sup>st</sup> female PM

SEIKO Noda, the executive acting secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is known as a strong-willed lawmaker who has professed determination to become the first female prime minister of Japan.

Noda, 61, was among the LDP lawmakers who pushed for insurance coverage of

fertility treatment and other support. She gave birth to a boy at the age 50 in 2011 through in vitro fertilization using a donated egg in the United States.

A graduate of Sophia University and granddaughter of a former construction minister, she has served as the minister of internal affairs

and communications as well as consumer affairs minister, among other roles.

A nine-term House of Representatives lawmaker who does not belong to any faction in the LDP, Noda has expressed willingness to appoint women to half of the Cabinet posts if she becomes prime minister.—Kyodo ■



Seiko Noda was Japan's youngest post-war cabinet member in 1989 when she was 37. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dutch foreign minister resigns over Afghan crisis

DUTCH Foreign Minister Sigrid Kaag resigned on Thursday after parliament formally condemned her handling of the Afghanistan evacuation crisis.

Lawmakers approved a motion criticizing the government for failing to evacuate some Afghans, and for missing signs of an imminent Taliban takeover.

Kaag's resignation comes a day after Britain's Dominic Raab was demoted from his position as foreign minister over the way he dealt with the situation in Afghanistan.

"The House considers that the government has acted irresponsibly," Kaag said in a statement to parliament after parliament voted by 78 votes to 72 to condemn her.

"And although I stand by our commitment, I can only accept the consequences of this judgement as the minister with ultimate responsibility," she added.

"In my view on democracy and the culture of our administration, a minister should go if the policy is disapproved of. I will therefore submit my resignation as minister of foreign affairs to his majesty the king." Dutch Defence Minister Ank Bijleveld however refused to resign despite also being hit with a so-called censure motion by parliament.—AFP ■

### Peru Congress approves law to cremate late Shining Path leader

PERU'S Congress approved a bill allowing authorities to cremate the body of late guerilla leader Abimael Guzman Thursday, as debate rages over what to do with his remains.

Guzman, the founder of the brutal Shining Path guerrilla group, which spread terror across Peru in the 1980s and 1990s, died on Saturday in a military prison at age 86.

His also-imprisoned widow, Elena Iparraguirre, the Shining Path's former second-in-command, has requested that Guzman's body be turned over to her for burial.

But officials were concerned that Guzman's gravesite could become a rallying point for his followers, and there is widespread support for his body to instead be cremated and the ashes spread in the Pacific Ocean.

The law authorizes judges and prosecutors to decide the fate of the body of a person convicted of terrorism who dies in prison while serving his sentence "in case of possible harm to security and public order," according to the text.

The bill received 70 votes in favor, 32 against and 14 abstentions during the plenary session broadcast by the Congressional Television Channel. It still needs to be approved by the executive branch.

The body of the former guerrilla is in a morgue of the port of Callao, west of Lima, since his death caused by double pneumonia, an infection that inflames both lungs and has been associated with Covid-19. The body must still undergo more testing.—AFP ■

## SEA Games' fixture expected to be confirmed by year-end

VIET NAM, the host of the XXXI SEA Games (Southeast Asian Games), is expected to approve the detailed fixtures of the event later this year.

The tournament was scheduled to run from 21 November to 2 December 2021 but was postponed to next year due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

The Viet Nam Olympic Com-

mittee is scheduled to reconvene it in late April or early May 2022, depending on the epidemic situation. Due to the inability to hold this year, the Viet Nam Olympic Committee must make arrangements to ensure that the 2022 SEA Games do not coincide with other international tournaments next year. The SEA Games officials will not change the format

of the Games, which will include 40 sports categories as previously scheduled. Myanmar will compete in the upcoming SEA Games and plans to compete in 18 sports.

Most of the athletes who will compete in the SEA Games are already taking in their training camps, and some sports teams are training abroad, officials said. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## FIFA poll claims majority of fans want 'more frequent' World Cup



According to FIFA, most fans want a more frequent World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

A majority of football supporters support the idea of a "more frequent" World Cup, according to an online poll published Thurs-

day by FIFA in the midst of a debate on its biennial World Cup project.

According to the IRIS/You-

Gov study carried out among 15,000 people "with an interest in football", 55 per cent of respondents want to see the top international competition more often than every four years, says football's world governing body.

The survey showed that 30 per cent would like the World Cup to be held every two years, 11 per cent every year and 14 per cent every three years, a highly unusual frequency in international sport.

The survey nevertheless reveals strong differences according to the geographical areas and the age of the respondents.—AFP ■

## Heat on Koeman as Barca drift creates concern over loss of identity

RONALD Koeman is adamant Barcelona will be better soon but he heads to Granada in La Liga on Monday under pressure, with his team accused not just of losing but of losing their identity.

Barca were outplayed in a 3-0 defeat by Bayern Munich on Tuesday, the gulf in class so obvious that Bayern eased off in the second half. By the end the home fans at Camp Nou were more interested in keeping up an inflatable ball than keeping up with what was on the pitch. Koeman's team failed to muster a single shot on target, had less of the ball – once the club's signature statistic – and have now registered three consecutive losses at home in the Champions League, with 10

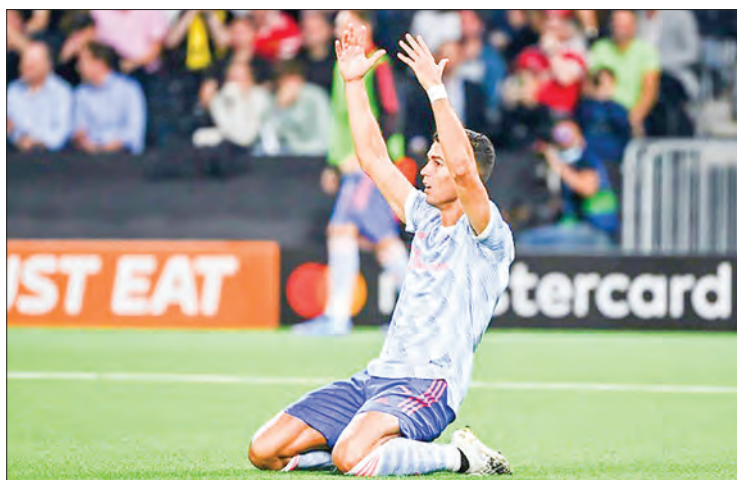
goals conceded.

After the string of summer sales and the departure of Lionel Messi, nobody was shocked Bayern were better. Few expect Barcelona to trouble either the Champions League's latter stages or any of its chief contenders this season.

But as Barca look ahead now to some kinder assignments – Granada on Monday, then Cadiz and Levante – the debate has begun about the manner of the decline and whether Koeman is the right coach to close the gap.

"It is what it is, we are what we are," said Gerard Pique after the game in midweek, a sentiment Koeman said he agreed with. "We have to be realistic," he added.—AFP ■

## Ronaldo's Man Utd seek response, Chelsea look to Lukaku in Spurs clash



Cristiano Ronaldo has three goals in two games since returning to Manchester United. **PHOTO: AFP**

ALL eyes are once again on Cristiano Ronaldo as Manchester United aim make amends for a shock Champions League defeat to Young Boys when the Premier League leaders head to West Ham on Sunday.

Second-placed Chelsea are

behind United only on goals scored and will look to extend their unbeaten start in a London derby at Tottenham. Liverpool and Manchester City will not expect to be troubled when Crystal Palace and Southampton visit Anfield and the Etihad respectively

on Saturday. But the pressure is on under-fire Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta when the Gunners travel to fellow strugglers Burnley.

### United must do better

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has demanded an immediate response from United after the optimism engendered by Ronaldo's return was punctured in Bern. Solskjaer's side had won three of their first four matches in an unbeaten start to the Premier League campaign, including a Ronaldo-inspired rout of Newcastle on the Portuguese superstar's Old Trafford return last weekend. Ronaldo was on target again in Bern, but United succumbed after Aaron Wan-Bissaka's red card to lose to the lowest seed in their Champions League group.—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.