

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.

If Myanmar can upgrade the industries based on agriculture and livestock farms, the State economy is sure to resurge: Senior General



Chairman of the National Planning Commission Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the National Planning Commission meeting 1/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 September 2021.

U TMOST efforts must be made harmoniously for meeting the sector-wise and region-wise targets and export target in the plans and inflow of investment, said Chairman of the National Planning Commission Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the National Planning Commission meeting 1/2021 at the office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council yesterday morning.

In his address, the Senior General said the meeting 1/2021 of the National Planning Commission would approve the six-month National Planning bill of the 2021-2022 financial year among the Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and region and state chief ministers.

Although the financial year was set from October to September, the new financial year will be set from April to March in 2022-2023 financial year. So, the six-month National Planning Law will be set for six months from October 2021 to March 2022.

Myanmar has sent a report on the implementation of the sustainable development goals-SDGs to the UN Economic and Social Department in time.

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Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

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

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

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

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

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Pre-conservation works on pagodas in Bagan cultural zone

THE pre-conservation works must be conducted on some ancient pagodas of Bagan as the days of the heavy rain have caused the flood in Bagan ancient cultural zone in early September and some of the ancient buildings destroyed.

More than 3,000 ancient pagodas are concentrated in Bagan ancient cultural zone, which was named UNESCO World Heritage Site on 6 July 2019. Myanmar is the only country in the world to have more than 3,000 such ancient pagodas in one place. Bagan boasts of more than 400 famous pagodas that attract local and foreign visitors, and the ancient mural can be seen at one place and so it is a valuable ancient cultural heritage site not only for South-East Asia but also for the world.

"There was no flood in the ancient cultural zone since



Dhammayangyi Pagoda.



Floods hit one of the ancient pagodas.

the Bagan period. The water entered into NyaungU. As the ancient pagodas were constructed on the bank of the Ayeyawady River, there would be a water outlet since the Bagan era. We can see them in the photos. The outlets lead to the Ayeyawady River are blocked and also the ones in the pagoda

compounds are blocked. So, the flood occurs after heavy rainfall. It is just an alert that we should conduct pre-conservation works on the ageing pagodas not to occur damages for climate changes.

The Culamuni pagoda was constructed with the best architectural works and so it

was not flooded. The water outlets are blocked and we can see the water on the pagoda. Then, the origin waterways are blocked and destroyed when the two-lane Suharto Road is constructed. We need to conduct conservation works as it is only one cultural zone with the ancient cultural heritage which can be never found in the world," said Daw Ohnmar Myo, chair of Myanmar Archeology Association.

It should carry out the emergency conservation works and long-term sustainability of conservation efforts in the Bagan region. Most of Myanmar's ancient heritage are located on the bank of the Ayeyawady River and so the region faces floods yearly like other countries. Therefore, the conversation of the Ayeyawady River, making water outlets in Bagan areas and preparations against climate changes can maintain the cultural heritage.

"Bagan is crowded with vis-

itors in the beginning and end of Buddhist Lent. Some people visit here after the Bo Min Khaung festival at Popa this month. We got a lot of rain in the early month. Two pagodas collapsed due to the flood and the wall of Dhamma Yaza pagoda also collapsed. Such cases occurred more than 10 years ago. When the water outlets at the upper part of the pagodas are blocked, it can cause reservoirs and damage the pagodas. We need public participation in conserving our precious cultural heritages," said U Tin Hla, member of Htee Lo Min Lo pagoda board of trustees.

There was continual rainfall in Bagan of NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region until 17 September and some of the pagoda walls collapsed at Bagan. Therefore, the conservation works should be conducted on the ancient pagodas in Bagan ancient cultural zone, UNESCO World Heritage Site.

— Nyein Thu/(MNA)/GNLM



Ahlotawpyae Pagoda.

Need to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas

HE has stressed the need to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas with the wish to ensure equal development of all areas. All ministries need to comprehensively consider the measures of all over the country for fulfilling the requirements.

(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)

If Myanmar can upgrade the industries based on ...

FROM PAGE-1

The government strived for the country to be free from the LDC status. Hence, it is necessary to implement the projects and work procedures for meeting the standards for enabling the country to be free from LDC status.

As the government emphasizes food sufficiency of the entire people, narrowing of the development gap between rural and urban areas and poverty alleviation, relevant Union ministries and region and state governments need to cooperate with each other in the work process.

The Senior General noted that the six-month national plan aims to revitalize the economic and social affairs and contribute to the social-economic development of the people. The Senior General urged region and state authorities to strive for meeting the targets in respective sectors during the six-month project period so as to secure the quick win.

It is necessary to produce marketable crops suitable for climatic conditions, apply modern agricultural techniques and technologies, agricultural machinery and prevent dangers of pests in order to implement modern farming. To be able to do so, agriculturists, breeders and engineers as well as technicians must be turned out continuously. On the other hand, they need to avoid using overdose of pesticides and develop organic agriculture and livestock farming to meet international standards.

The Senior General stressed the need for an increase of livestock products to be exported for earning income for the State by distributing the pedigree animal species, providing modern livestock systems to the breeders and performing veterinary works.

The Senior General urged

those present to utilize the advantages of respective sectors such as agriculture and livestock sectors, industrial and service sectors, one village one product and SME sectors for the economic development of the respective regions and states.

The Senior General pointed

planning period and to spend the fund on purchase of actually needy materials. The public-private partnership programme should be implemented under the rules and regulations and laws for the economic development of the State.

The cooperative system

Utmost efforts must be made harmoniously for meeting the sector-wise and region-wise targets and export targets in the plans and inflow of investment. If income and expenditure are systematically arranged, projects will secure accomplishment.

out that it is necessary to create job opportunities for those who returned from foreign countries and strive for re-operating the factories at full capacity.

If the cultivation of cotton meets the target of 800,000 acres of land under the farmland policy to produce 800 to 1,000 viss per acre of cotton in order to develop local textile industries based on cotton yarn and earn income from the export of cotton and cotton products. The Senior General also highlighted the import of fuel and cooking oil and fertilizer, production of edible oils at home, spending of funds on generating electricity and fuel consumption. It is necessary to strive for the production of value-added products to increase the export volume so as to reduce the trade deficit. If Myanmar can upgrade the industries based on agriculture and livestock farms, the State economy is sure to resurge.

The Senior General stressed the need to emphasize the thrift of finance during the six-month

must be implemented with the direct participation of the people for the improvement of the rural economy and production. The Senior General stressed the need for turning out qualified teachers and emerging the developed education system. He urged all to research the production of vaccines and medicines against COVID-19 through cooperation among the relevant departments and the Ministry of Health.

Preparations must be made for the protection of disaster-hit areas. The Senior General expressed his firm belief that if all the people make utmost efforts for carrying out development undertakings, Myanmar will be a middle-class country in the ASEAN region within five years and a top country within 10 years.

Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win discussed drawing of the plans for ministries and regions, political, economic and social stability

of the State and improvement of socio-economic status of the people within six months, the resurgence of the economy, thrifty spending of the funds and coordination for implementing the targets of projects.

Secretary of the commission Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein reported on drawing the six-month national plan (proposal draft) for 2021-2022 financial year, review over the foreign loans of the State and levying the tax, the Union ministers and the Union Auditor-General on drawing the respective plans and implementation.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General urged relevant ministries to conduct systematic timber extraction and eliminate the illegal timber extraction and illegal sawmills. He also stressed the need to increase the number of taxpayer people, rather than increasing the tax rate. The personnel who join the CDM activities political hinder to causing difficulties to collect the taxes and incite the taxpayers not to pay taxes. It is necessary to improve the technologies for levying the tax and relevant ministries are to strive for securing the full amount of taxes.

The amount of loans accumulates due to carrying out the tasks without income for the State. Myanmar needs to increase the products for ensuring the economic development of the State so as to reduce the volume of foreign loans.

Suspension of projects implemented with foreign loans brings loss to the State. Ministries need to cooperate with the government and private sectors in the production sector with more plans to upgrade the techniques for the enhancement of productivity at factories. Upgrade of basic production of the

country with the use of loans should be implemented carefully systematically.

As part of conserving the environment, it is necessary to reduce the businesses relying on underground and above ground natural resources, especially for timber extraction and gem excavation. Renewable energy must be generated for the consumption of energy. The drawing of plans must conform with the national characteristics of the country and the nation in actual situations.

In his concluding speech, the Senior General said the six-month national plan as a bridge between current and future financial years is based on the Five-Point Road Map and Nine Objectives of the State Administration Council. Such plans are to recover the economy that deteriorated in the COVID-19. Relevant ministries and regional governments are to join hands in implementing the plans.

The budget must be spent under the rules and regulations, and such spending must be auditable. Inputs must efficiently be used with minimizing loss and waste. And, it is necessary to monitor the implementation of the projects.

Utmost efforts must be made harmoniously for meeting the sector-wise and region-wise targets and export targets in the plans and inflow of investment. If income and expenditure are systematically arranged, projects will secure accomplishment.

The Senior General urged all to enhance cooperation between the State and private sector for fulfilling the needs of the people. Utmost efforts must be made for the resurgence of the economy and social affairs in a short time and he invited to all timely report the needs of the work process to be fulfilled by the State. — MNA

State Administration Council Chairman addresses first Financial Commission's meeting (1/2021)

CHAIRMAN of the Financial Commission Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressed the first meeting of the Financial Commission (1/2021) yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the Financial Commission Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council and Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Secretary of the Financial Commission, Union Minister for Planning and Financial U Win Shein, Union Minister for Legal Affairs Dr Daw Thida Oo, Auditor-General of the Union Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win. The Chief Ministers of the regions and states joined the meeting through videoconferencing.

The meeting aimed to discuss and approve the Union Budget for the six months from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and the Union Budget Bill.

At the meeting, Chairman of the Financial Commission, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the State Administration Council estab-



Chairman of the Financial Commission Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the first meeting of the Financial Commission (1/2021).

lished the Financial Commission on 26 February 2021, and the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 1 August 2021.

"Although we are temporarily taking care of the responsibilities of the State, the Government has set the Five-Point Roadmap and Nine Objectives to fulfil the socio-economic life of the people," he said. "As a government, we need to improve the public financial management to imple-

ment the policies," he added. He said it is necessary to strive to increase revenue to implement the policies and allocate expenditures systematically to the Union, and regions/states. In order to do so, the State Administration Council will enact the national plan of the State, annual budget and tax bills under Section 100(b) of the 2008 Constitution under the existing laws, rules and regulations.

As it is more appropriate for Myanmar which is based on agriculture to set the financial year from April to March, the financial year 2022-2023 will be set from 1 April to 31 March. Hence, the budget must be prepared for the transition period of six months from 1 October to 31 March.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance to manage expenditures well amid the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the country's economy as well as the political sabotage at present. In the 2020-2021FY, tax revenues have declined, as have state-owned enterprises due to the exemptions. He added, "We must be prudent in our spending, and we will make sure that we spend wisely."

He stressed to use essential purchases effectively, to complete the ongoing construction works, and new businesses during the six months under the National Planning Law, and to reduce the use of foreign currency as much as possible. He also highlighted the need to spend more on projects that directly benefit the people rather than administrative expenditures.

The Vice-Chairman of the Financial Commission Deputy Prime Minister discussed the status of the detailed scrutiny of capital expenditures of the Planning Department, Construction Coordination Committee, Equipment Supervision Committee, conditions for the reopening of suspended state-owned factories as per the policy, emergency funding for natural disaster prevention, relief and rehabilitation, the provision of additional funding to the regions and states year by year to better meet the needs of the people, and the budget situation for the current six months.

Secretary of the Financial

Commission Union Minister U Win Shein presented the Union Budget and the Union Budget Bill for six months from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. Auditor-General of the Union Dr Kan Zaw discussed what should be done in the future based on the findings of the Union level departments budget estimates.

Auditor-General of the Union Dr Kan Zaw put forward suggestions on future plans based on the scrutiny of the budget and expenditure accounts of Union-level departments and organizations.

Then the Prime Minister said the government should mainly focus on the welfare and development of the country. On the other hand, it also carries out production improvements. Regarding the income, the Union, region and state governments need to work for the development of the production sector. Only when production develops will the people earn their income, and the country would receive the revenue in full.

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ment the policies," he added.

He said it is necessary to strive to increase revenue to implement the policies and allocate

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State Administration Council Chairman addresses first ...

FROM PAGE-4

There should be proper money circulation to ensure economic growth and it is mainly used for the development programmes of the economy and social status. Although it is a democratic nation, the government has many responsibilities for different sectors. The manufacturers should know their duties in paying taxes. Some people avoid paying taxes during the COVID-19 pandemic. It should know the legal routes in estimating the receivable incomes and the department concerned needs to review the tax revenue and tax rate in accord with the trend. Such doing does not mean to be a burden for the people but it means to get receivable incomes to provide public services.

The region and state governments also should utilize the allocated budget for the public. Although it is not a political government, it should adopt a thrifty way and spend the allocated budget on the implementation of projects that directly benefit the people. All the efforts are carried not for the prosperity of the government but the country.

Regarding the tender procedures, it should not choose only the close ones and it needs to follow the set regulations. Such corruption affects the country a lot. The region and state governments also should implement the construction projects in line with the current condition and should spend the budget effectively, and should not buy unnecessary materials. Only then, can it bring prosperity to the country during the current government term.

In his concluding speech,

the Prime Minister said the six-month Union Budget from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 approved at today's meeting and the Union Budget Bill will be submitted to the State Administration Council via the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar together with the recommendation of Financial Commission to enact.

Moreover, concerted efforts should be made for the development of the agriculture and livestock breeding industry, regular operating of the factory, workshop and manufacturing industry and job opportunities. It also needs to conduct researches for the agriculture and livestock sectors to ensure the quality and market.

The development programmes of education and healthcare services also should be conducted for the people to improve the knowledge and skills of every citizen.

If the country has strong budget status, it can reduce the foreign debt. To achieve strong finance, it should arrange to receive the revenues fully and manage the revenues from the natural resources sector and the contribution of the state-owned investment sector to the State systematically.

The Union ministries and region and state governments should effectively utilize the



The States/Regions Chief Ministers attend the first Financial Commission's meeting online.

expenses especially for the projects directly benefiting the public such as education, health services, social protection, electricity, road and bridge, rural development, drinking water and efficiency of agricultural water

rather than for the departments. The COVID-19 expense is also allowed in this six-month budget year just like in 2020-2021FY. It needs to arrange to provide the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund if necessary, and it is also estimated K100 billion special fund for COVID-19 in addition to K56 billion of emergency fund in the six-month budget term for the expenses of prevention, control and treatment activities.

Regarding the foreign loan and financial assistance, the relevant departments and organizations should cooperate with the respective countries and organizations, add in a budget and review the new loans or financial assistance whether they benefit the people, they are saved and they have any bondage in implementing the projects with the aids of foreign countries. More-

over, it should make repayment including capital and interest as a dutiful country.

If the country has strong budget status, it can reduce the foreign debt. To achieve strong finance, it should arrange to receive the revenues fully and manage the revenues from the natural resources sector and the contribution of the state-owned investment sector to the State systematically. On the other hand, the local and foreign investments will be invited to promote the government, private and cooperatives sectors. Saving the expenses, adopting the thrifty way and collecting the receivable taxes will support the financial status of the country.

Finally, he urged to exert the utmost efforts to implement the five-point roadmap and nine objectives of SAC using the allocated budget. — MNA

Medicines, medical supplies, basic foodstuffs sold at fairer prices in Yangon

YANGON Region government arranges to meet the needs of medicines in the region and to provide the medicines at fair prices to the people during the third wave of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association (MPMDMA) designated the Myanmar International Trade Centre in Pabedan township of Yangon Region as the second location to convene the wholesale and retail distribution of medicines yesterday. During the event, 11 pharmaceutical

companies sold K100,000 worth of 156 medicines and medical supplies.

The first exhibition of the essential medicines opened in Ahlon Township also sold medicines and related products worth over K60,000 on its 28th day, yesterday.

In addition, a mobile vehicle of the Myanmar Rice Traders Association under the guidelines of the Yangon Region government sold rice, cooking oils, foods, meat and fish in some townships of the region. — MNA



Lancang-Mekong Investment Seminar held in Myanmar

THE Lancang-Mekong Investment Seminar in Myanmar was held virtually on 21 and 22 September 2021 by the Lancang-Mekong Special Fund (2020) with the aim of sharing good practices and enhancing knowledge on the investment-related policies and regulations, discussing the investment policy measures to respond to the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and promoting the regional investment among the Lancang-Mekong member countries: China, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

On the first day of the Seminar, the speakers from the Lancang-Mekong member countries presented the country profiles based on the investment related policy measures and prioritized investment sectors in the context of COVID-19 Pandemic and post COVID-19



discussion based on the country presentation with the aim of improving better economic development and cooperation among Lancang-Mekong member countries.

The Seminar was attended by a total of 70 participants from the Lancang-Mekong member countries and officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The Lancang-Mekong Investment Seminar was hosted by Myanmar and it was the first seminar for investment promotion among the member countries. It aims at not only enhancing the investment promotion and job creation of the region but also contributing to a community of shared future of peace and prosperity among Lancang-Mekong Countries.— MNA

Era.

The Panel Discussion was held on the second day of the Seminar.

The importance of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) investment in the region,

link to ASEAN agreements and RCEP agreement, and policy recommendations based on the key points: integrating/linking in-country investment promotion policy implications of LMC member countries to

the enhancement of regional cooperation; recognizing prioritized sectors; coordinating cooperation mechanisms, and exploring current and potential trends in the post-COVID Era were made the deep dive

Myanmar welcomes 200 returnees from Thailand

MYANMAR officials warmly welcomed a total of 200 returnees — 120 men and 80 women — repatriated from Thailand via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No.2 in Myawady, Kayin State, yesterday morning.

The repatriation process began on 1 August 2021.

U Aung Chan Nyein, Deputy District Administrator of Myawady District and officials welcomed the returnees.

Next, healthcare professionals and departmental officials carried out the COVID-19 tests, provided documents re-

quired for quarantine, and explained the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

Previously, only returnees from Myawady and Kawkaireik districts were tested for the COVID-19 virus.

All returnees will now be screened and those infected will be treated at COVID-19 Centre in Myawady and Shwe Myawady COVID-19 Centre.

The 200 Myanmar returnees from different regions and states will be transported to their respective places by private vehicles, officials said. — Htein Lin Aung/GNLM



Returnees from Thailand check in at the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge-II in Myawady.

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 through trading posts, international airport and seaports with standard operating procedures.

On 22 September, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by seven companies and transported by two vehicles.

A total of 43 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by two bowzers, 1,579 empty oxygen cylinders, eight oxygen plants, 68 oxygen concentrators for home use, 14 tonnes of the glove, and 59 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw



Lorries are seen transporting anti-Covid medical aids to the needed areas.

trading posts, and Yangon International Airport.

Two oxygen bowzers were transported to Yangon.

Next, seven Oxygen Plants imported via seaport were transported to Yangon and one oxygen plant was imported via Chinshwehaw trading post to Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State respectively.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for 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. — MNA

1,818 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 September, total figure rises to 451,663

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 451,663 after 1,818 new cases were reported on 22 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 404,479 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,266 after 64 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 21-9-2021, a total of 6,159,036 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 3,583,549 people have been vaccinated two times and 2,575,487 people once.—MNA

Extremists arrested for explosive actions in Hline Township, Yangon Region

ACCORDING to the reports, explosives were hidden on the third floor, Building No. (16), No. (6) Ward, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, on 10 August, and security forces searched the area.

Three extremist youths: Wai Phyo Aung, Thiha Kau-
ng Set and Poe Kyawt Kyawt
Khant were arrested inside the
apartment along with 16 hand
grenades, two soft TNT bars
and other explosive devices,
according to the reports.

According to the state-
ments of the defendants in-
volved in the incident and re-
ports from citizens, security
forces raided a house, Building
No. (36), 6th floor, 22nd Street, (6)
Ward, in Latha Township on 15
September.

On the spot, Thaw Zin Soe,
Kyaw Naing Aung (aka) Azel
and Min Phyo Thaw were
arrested with two homemade
guns, two 9mm bullets, one
mine, 12 handmade bombs,
one grenade and 16 sound
bombs and 23 accessories.

According to the state-
ment of the arrested extrem-
ists, Aung Myo Thu (aka) Thagi
was arrested with three gre-
nades in the lane beside Build-
ing No. (53), (7) Ward, Lanmad-
aw Road, Lanmadaw Township
at around 4 pm.

Htet Swe Phyo, Soe Thi-
ha Min and Joseph Van Lian
Hmon (aka) Joseph were ar-
rested along with 10 bullets of
9mm and one bullet of 5.56mm
and accessories at apartment
No. 101, Pyinya Parami Ye-
iktha, Parami Street, Hline
Township.

Nay Thway, Kyaw Ko Ko
and Kyaw Min Tun were also
arrested at the Yuzana Hotel
in Bahan Township. On 16 Sep-
tember, Min Min Soe and Zaw
Zaw Han were arrested near
the No. 3 Highway checkpoint
in Yangon.

A total of 12 extremists
were arrested in connection
with the Highway equipment.
Among them, Aung Myo
Thu attended explosion train-
ing in the KNLA Brigade 5
area.

Min Phyo Thaw, Nay
Thway, Kyaw Ko Ko, Min Min
Soe and Zaw Zaw Han also
attended a explosion training
course organized by the Kayah
State Strike Committee led by
NLD members near Moebye.

Nine extremists: Min Phyo
Thaw, Nay Thway, Kyaw Ko
Ko, Min Min Soe, Zaw Zaw
Han, Thaw Zin Soe, Kyaw
Naing Aung, Aung Myo Thu
and Kyaw Min Tun formed the
Spring Soldier-SS squad under
Yangon Urban Guerrilla Revolu-
tion (YUG) group under the
supervision of Min Thet Naung
(aka) Saddam Gyi (aka) Beard
(remaining to be arrested).

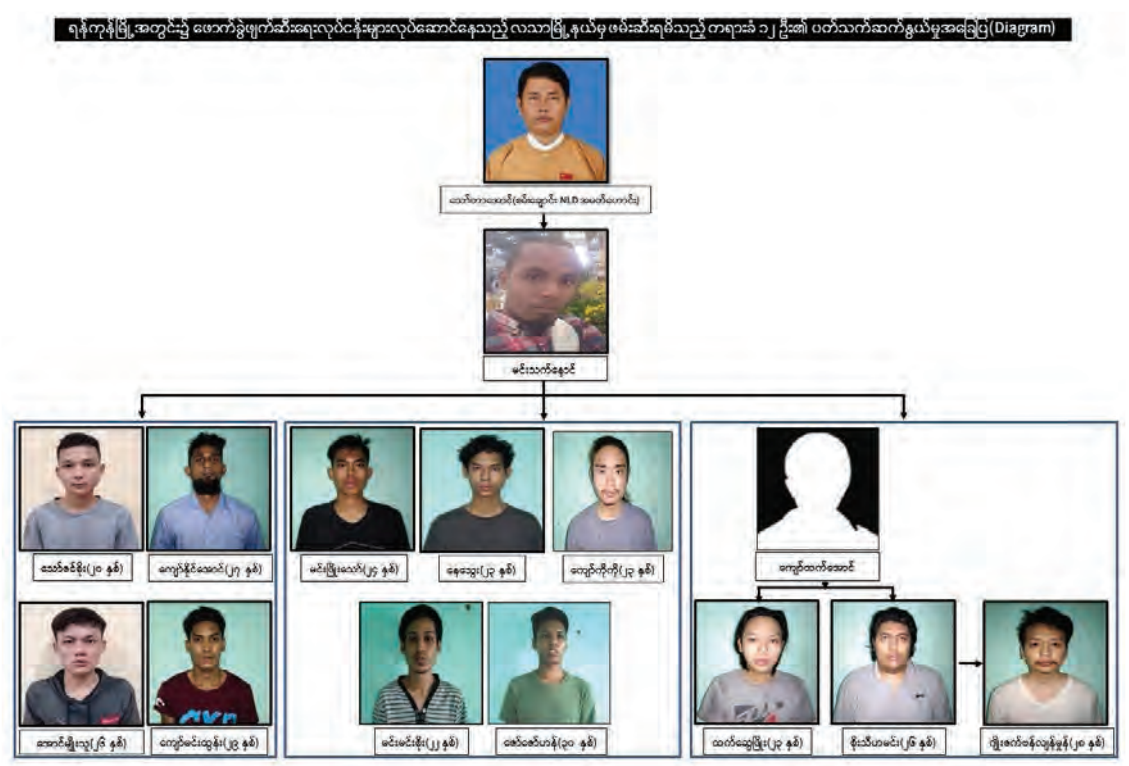
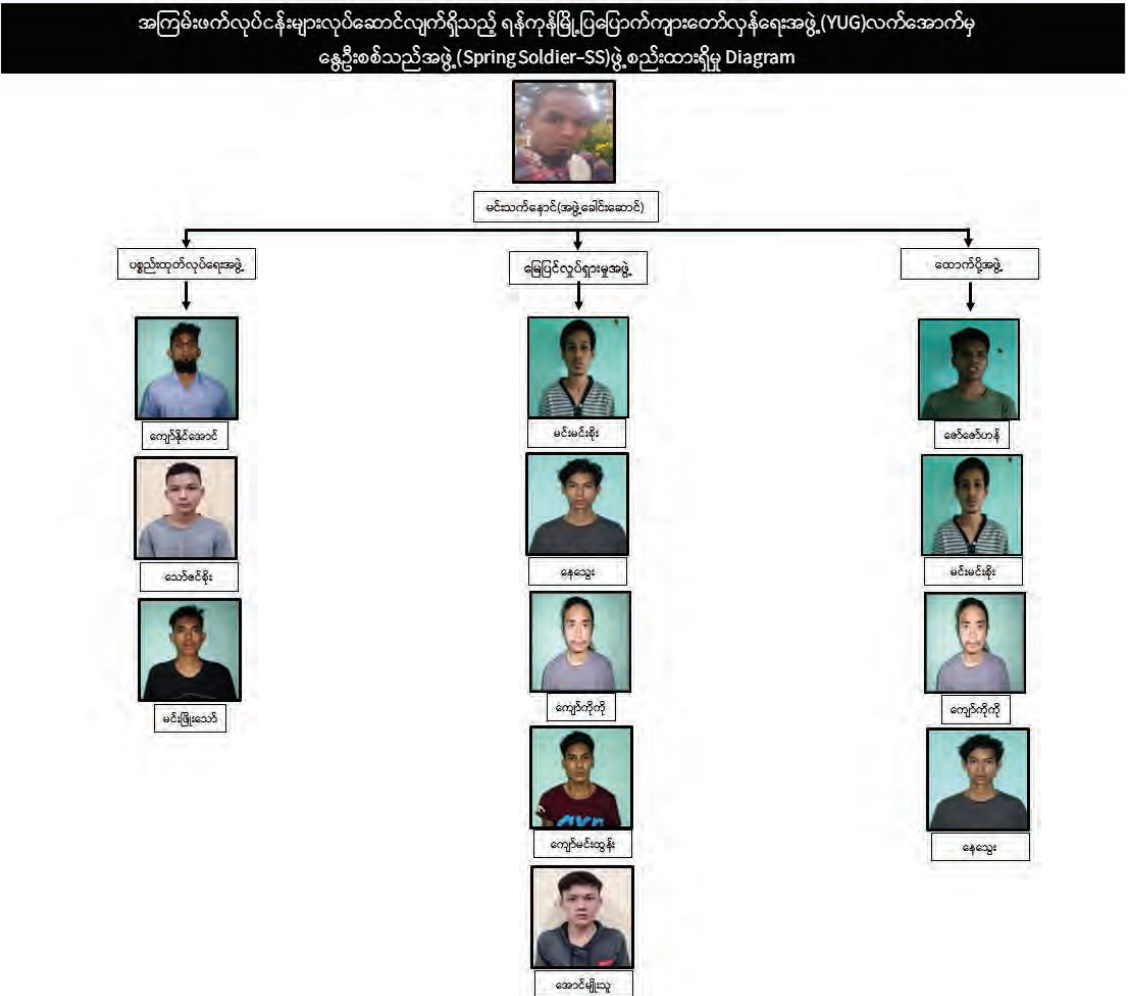
On 10 May, at the behest of
Min Thet Naung, four suspects
named Min Phyo Thaw, Nay
Thwe, Min Min Soe and Zaw
Zaw Han detonated two home-
made bombs in front of a house
to assassinate the adminis-
trator of Myaynigone(North)
Ward.

Min Thet Naung, Min Phy-
oe Thaw and Kyaw Ko Ko made
handmade bomb explosions
on a platform in front of the
township power station near
the Idol bar on Insein Road.

Former NLD MP Thawda
Aung provided links to attend
explosion training to commit
such acts of action. Thawdar
Aung also provided financial
support for the explosion when
the trainees returned.

Next, Soe Thiha Min, Htet
Swe Phyo, Joseph Van Lian
Hmon and Kyaw Htet Aung
(remaining to be arrested)
launched an explosive train-
ing course at Soe Thiha Min's
house on Parami Road in Hline
Township.

With cooperation with il-



Confiscated explosive devices.



legal organizations, young ex-
tremists intended to prevent
security forces from operating
their duties in some townships,

factories were set on fire, and
administrators were also as-
sassinated.

Security measures are

being stepped up to prevent
attending explosion training
in connection with some ethnic
armed groups, and stockpiling
weapons and amv munition.

Officials will take effective
legal action against the arrest-
ed extremists, according to the
report.

It is reported that officials
called on the people to work
together to protect the ex-
tremism and to work together
for peace and stability in the
towns and villages as soon as
possible. — MNA

Start preparations to harvest short-term species of monsoon paddy

CULTIVATION of paddy, the staple food of Myanmar, has been completed in Myanmar for a few months. Thanks to the mechanized farming system, Myanmar farmers grow paddy as double and triple cropping on their farmlands as part of plans to increase per-acre yield. Now is the time of making preparations to harvest the short-term species of monsoon paddy.

Local farmers have already harvested summer paddy in most of the areas of the nation. The time of cultivation is different in all regions and states depending on climatic conditions and the supply of irrigated water. Generally, Myanmar has harvested summer paddy and then tried to cultivate monsoon paddy in the upper Myanmar areas whereas farmers from the lower Myanmar are focusing on the harvesting of short-term species of monsoon paddy called 'Kaukyin'.

Now is mid-September. So, the days to start harvesting the short-term species of paddy are getting nearer. It is because the new species of monsoon paddy is expected to be harvested in late September or early October. When the paddy has been harvested, various kinds of rice will flow into the market, bringing lower prices of paddy to the consumers.

Now is mid-September. So, the days to start harvesting the short-term species of paddy are getting nearer. It is because the new species of monsoon paddy is expected to be harvested in late September or early October. When the paddy has been harvested, various kinds of rice will flow into the market, bringing lower prices of paddy to the consumers.

Merchants need to remember that they themselves are also consumers. As such, they should adjust the prices of rice for the people who are residing in the country where various paddy species are grown and harvested all year round for prioritizing local consumption.

■ ■ ■

ADB cuts Asia growth forecast on slow Covid vaccine rollout

Forecasts were lowered for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, where nations have struggled to obtain enough doses to inoculate their populations as they battle fresh waves of infections. Southeast Asia, including virus-ravaged Indonesia and the Philippines, was expected to grow 3.1 per cent this year, compared with a previous forecast of 4.4 per cent.

THE Asian Development Bank warned of "lasting scars" from the coronavirus pandemic as it cut its 2021 growth forecast for developing Asia on slow vaccination rates, surging infections and crippling lockdowns.

A shortage of doses, which has hampered efforts to inoculate the vast region stretching from the Cook Islands in the Pacific to Kazakhstan in Central Asia, could worsen as evidence of waning vaccine protection increases demand for booster shots, the lender said Wednesday.

The Philippines-based ADB forecast growth of 7.1 per cent — compared with its previous prediction in April of 7.3 per cent and a slight contraction in 2020 — but said the recovery "remains fragile".

Vaccination rates have been uneven across the region, where less than a third of the population was fully protected against



Workers build a bridge in Ghaziabad, India. The Asian Development Bank has cut its growth forecast for developing Asia. PHOTO: AFP

Covid-19 at the end of August, the lender said in an update of its flagship Asian Development Outlook.

That compared with more than 50 per cent coverage in the United States and nearly 60 per

cent in the European Union.

The ADB warned that delayed vaccine rollouts and the

emergence of new variants were among the biggest risks to the outlook — and could have long-term damaging consequences.

"Income losses caused by the pandemic in particular threaten to leave lasting scars and have a multidimensional effect on regional economies," the ADB said. Progress on reducing poverty in developing Asia had been set back "at least two years", and prolonged school closures would lead to higher-than-expected learning and earning losses.

While the regional economy was expected to expand this year and next, the recovery had "diverged" in the first half of 2021 as the hyper-contagious Delta variant ripped through some countries.

In two-thirds of the developing Asian economies, the share of the population that has been fully vaccinated was 30 per cent or lower, the ADB said.

"Growth tended to be strong-

er in economies that had progressed the most in controlling the pandemic," it said.

East Asia, where vaccination rates were among the highest in the region and governments were quick to contain outbreaks, was set to grow 7.6 per cent this year, compared with an earlier forecast of 7.4 per cent.

Forecasts were lowered for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, where nations have struggled to obtain enough doses to inoculate their populations as they battle fresh waves of infections.

Southeast Asia, including virus-ravaged Indonesia and the Philippines, was expected to grow 3.1 per cent this year, compared with a previous forecast of 4.4 per cent.

The ADB expects the Pacific to contract 0.6 per cent, after forecasting in April 1.4 per cent growth.

SOURCE: AFP

OECD lowers global, US economic growth forecasts

The impact of the Delta variant of the coronavirus has "so far been relatively mild" in countries with high vaccination rates, but it has lowered the momentum elsewhere and added pressures to global supply chains and costs, the OECD said.

THE OECD warned Tuesday of an "uneven" global economic recovery as it lowered its 2021 growth forecasts for the world and the United States while raising the outlook for Europe.

The world economy has bounced back this year on the back of stimulus measures, the rollout of effective Covid vaccines and the resumption of many economic activities, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said.

"The recovery remains very uneven, with strikingly different outcomes across countries," the OECD said in its interim economic outlook.

Global gross domestic product has surpassed its pre-pandemic level following last year's Covid-induced recession. Global output is now expected to

expand by 5.7 per cent this year, down 0.1 per centage points from the organization's previous forecast in May.

But the outlook for 2022 has slightly improved, with 4.5 per cent growth now expected, up by 0.1 points.

"Output and employment gaps remain in many countries, particularly in emerging-market and developing economies where vaccination rates are low," the report said.

The OECD lowered its growth outlook for the United States, from 6.9 to 6.0 per cent this year. The US Congressional Budget Office has forecast 6.7 per cent growth for the world's top economy.

The OECD's eurozone forecast, however, was raised by one point to 5.3 per cent, though the outlook varied within the single-currency bloc, with higher growth now expected in France, Italy and Spain

while Germany was not performing as well. The growth prospects of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea and Turkey have also improved, while those of Australia, Britain, Japan and Russia were lowered.

The forecast for China, the world's second biggest economy and a driver of global growth, remained unchanged at 8.5 per cent.

'Sizeable uncertainty'

The impact of the Delta variant of the coronavirus has "so far been relatively mild" in countries with high vaccination rates, but it has lowered the momentum elsewhere and added pressures to global supply chains and costs, the OECD said.

"Sizeable uncertainty remains," the report said.

SOURCE: AFP



The OECD says 'sizeable uncertainty remains' about the global economic recovery. PHOTO: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 22 September 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 23 September 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Magway Regions and Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7 - 10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Bay of Bengal Condition Issued at (14:00) hours M.S.T on 22-9-2021

ACCORDING to the observations at (13:30) hrs M.S.T today, a low pressure area may form over the Northeast Bay and adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal around (24.9.2021) evening.

Over 600 acres of coffee cultivated in Sagaing Region

A total of 608 acres of coffee plants have been cultivated in the Sagaing region this year, said Head of Sagaing Region Department of Agriculture U Win Hlaing Oo.

The department has cultivated the coffee plantation since June 2021. So far, a total of 605 acres of coffee plantation has been completed.

“Coffee plantation is grown mostly in Homalin, Hkamti, Naga, Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik, Katha and Kawlin townships. We are carrying out to boost the coffee cultivation in the Naga area. We are providing the coffee seed and nursery plants. Initially, we are attempted to develop the acreage of coffee plants because we focus on the income from the coffee cultivation. At the same time, we are facing transport difficulties. But the coffee from the Naga



This year, the Sagaing region grew 35 acres of coffee plants in Mawlaik district, 18 acres in Tamu district, 16 acres in Kalay district, 103 acres in Hkamti district, 132 acres in Naga area, 260 acres in Katha district and 44 acres in Kawlin district.

is of such a high-quality one. But they haven't yet received the income that they deserve because of high transportation charges. There are a few acres of a coffee plantation in the Naga area. However, Ka-

wlin township started their experimental coffee cultivation. Also, the transport will also be improved. If India opened their border checkpoints, there will be increased the coffee cultivation acres and income,” said

U Win Hlaing Oo.

This year, the Sagaing region grew 35 acres of coffee plants in Mawlaik district, 18 acres in Tamu district, 16 acres in Kalay district, 103 acres in Hkamti district, 132 acres in

Naga area, 260 acres in Katha district and 44 acres in Kawlin district.

There are ten thousand coffee plantations in the Sagaing region. To be able to increase coffee acreage, the Agriculture Department is raising awareness of land treatment, natural fertilizer, growing methods, and coffee production.

Besides, it is also reported that farmers are being provided with coffee cultivation techniques and post-harvest technology.

Myanmar currently exports its coffee to the US. The country is also trying to expand its market to Japan, Korea, Canada and Europe.

There are approximately 50,000 acres of coffee plantations across Myanmar. Of this figure, 40,000 acres grow coffee of Arabica variant. — Lulay/GNLM

Pansodan-Dala ferries increase service routes for convenience of passengers

YANGON (Pansodan-Dala) ferries have increased their service routes on the weekdays starting from 21 September for the convenience of the passengers, according to the announcement of the department schedule of the Pansodan-Dala ticket booth.

The ferry service will run 30 crossings on weekdays and 20 on weekends. The ferries are running alternatively departing from Dala at 5:30 am and departing from Pansodan at 6 am. The last ferry departs at 6 pm from Dala and 7 pm from Pansodan. The ferry routes have been re-scheduled for the convenience of the passengers. Currently, the passengers are travelling peacefully and regularly.

The Pansodan-Dala ferry is the only transport option for

the local people in southern Yangon—Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships to link with the commercial hub Yangon City.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, there have been very few or almost no traveller; the ferry are running as usual for the convenience of the passengers.

JICA donated three motor ferries called “Cherry” and they were handed over to the Dala jetty on 15 November 2014. These ferries have been offering service in an alternative way daily.

Now, we have reached seven years in 2021. The jetty is one of the busiest ports in the Yangon region, providing the best service for commuters. — Naing Lin Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM



The Pansodan-Dala ferry is the only transport option for the local people in southern Yangon—Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships to link with the commercial hub Yangon City.

16 acres of avocado cultivation completed in Naga area this year

ABOUT 16 acres of avocado cultivation has been completed in Naga self-administered zone, Sagaing region and more avocado plantations are underway to cultivate continuously, said U Aung Kyi Win, deputy head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

This year, the avocado cultivation in Naga self-administered zone started in May 2021. So far, 13 acres of avocado has been cultivated in Leshi township and three acres in Nanyun township, according to statistics from the department.

“About 16 acres of avocado has been cultivated in two townships of Naga self-administered zone in Sagaing region. We are also making arrangements to grow more acres of plantation in other townships. For the development of the Naga zone, avocado saplings have been distributed to grown in their areas. Now, the farmers started cultivating the plants,” said U Aung Kyi Win.

Sagaing Region Agriculture Department is co-operating with the township agriculture head and local farmers to cultivate the



As avocado is perennial, the department is making efforts to grow high-quality avocado seeds in the Naga zone.

avocados continually in Naga self-administered zone.

As avocado is perennial, the department is making efforts to grow highly-quality avocado seeds in the Naga zone.

Avocado fruit has high oil content and a very nutty, rich taste. Its flesh is smooth textured and it has a thick skin casing. The fruit ripens between September and February. The tropical climate and rich soil in Myanmar make it a perfect place for avocado cultivation.

The avocado was introduced into Myanmar over 70 years ago and has become a major fruit in the country. — Lulay/GNLM

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Germany reaches \$460 mln in past ten months

THE value of trade between Myanmar and Germany from October to July of the current financial year 2020-2021 exceeded US\$460 million, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export to Germany surpassed its import, with \$349.882 million worth of export and \$110.79 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Beyond the regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU members. Germany is the biggest trade partner of Myanmar in European Union, followed by Spain.

The main export items are

rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, garments on a Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries. Meanwhile, machinery, data-processing equipment, electrical and optical goods, chemical products, motor vehicles and parts and pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, food and beverages and consumer goods are imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar reinstated the EU's Generalized Scheme of Preference starting from 19th July 2013. Myanmar can enjoy GSP for the export of fisheries, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboo and rattan finished products, forestry products, apparel and finished industrial goods.

Trade value with Germany



Myanmar's export to Germany surpassed its import, with \$349.882 million worth of export and \$110.79 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

was registered at \$823.7 million in the last FY 2019-2020, \$821.5 million in the FY 2018-2019, \$373	million in the past mini-budget period (April-September 2018), \$584 million in 2017-2018 FY, \$342	million in 2016-2017 FY and \$153 million in FY 2015-16, respectively. — KK/GNLM
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Muse border trade down by 24% as of 10 Sept



As of 23 July 2021, Myanmar's exports to China through the Muse land border were valued at \$2.4 billion, while imports are worth \$1.1 billion. The trade showed a slump in both exports and imports.

MUSE border trade sank 24.3 per cent over the past eleven months in the current financial year 2020-2021 as against last year, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

As the COVID-19 infections are spiking in Myanmar, trade through Myanmar's major border area Muse completely stopped, along with other border posts between Myanmar and China from 8 July.

The value of trade between Myanmar and China via the Muse land border touched a low of US\$3.5 billion between 1 October and 10 September in the current financial year 2020-2021 amid the political developments and the COVID-19 surge. The figures plummeted from \$4.7 billion recorded in the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 23 July 2021, Myanmar's exports to China through the Muse land border were valued at \$2.4 billion, while imports are worth \$1.1 billion. The trade showed a slump in both exports and imports.

On 30 March, Man Wein, which is a major border crossing between Muse and Kyalgaung areas, was suspended owing to the COVID-19 cases. The traders have to send the goods, including rice and broken rice, various pulses and beans, fishery products, onion, chilli and other export items to China via the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint owing to the closure of the Man Wein checkpoint.

Following up the COVID-19 detection of the staff from Muse 105th-mile trade zone, China closed down all the border posts. Wamting, Kyinsankyawt and

Pangsai (Kyukok) border posts came to an abrupt halt on 8 July.

In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus on the border, China banned border crossing, causing the price hike for the agricultural input, cement and medical devices.

Earlier, China practised a driver substitution programme and those drivers were tested every three days.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, including rice, beans and corns, and fishery products such as crab, prawn, etc. Furthermore, Myanmar's natural gas export to China is also conducted through the Muse-Ruili border. The raw CMP materials, electrical appliances and consumer goods are imported into the country. — KK/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 2.2 mln tonnes of corn to international trade partners this FY

MYANMAR has exported more than 2.2 million tonnes of corn to foreign countries in the current financial year 2020-2021, said U Min Khaing, the chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Of 2.2 million tonnes, about 1.6 million tonnes of corn were delivered to Thailand, whereas the remaining corns were conveyed to China, India and Viet Nam.

This year, the corn fetched a good price of US\$260-270 per tonne. It was priced only \$200-230 per tonne during the year-ago period.

Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Maesot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand has granted tax

exemption on corn imports between February and August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

During the last FY2019-2020, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the external market, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of corn among regional countries. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn. — NN/GNLM



At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

Philippines to grow by 4.5 pct in 2021: ADB

THE Philippine economy is recovering but remains “fragile” because of periodically tighter COVID-19 mobility restrictions, particularly in Metro Manila, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Wednesday.

An update to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO), the ADB’s widely followed economic publication, maintained the growth forecasts for the Philippines at 4.5 per cent in 2021 and 5.5 per cent in 2022, as recovering domestic demand and improving global trade align with the ADO’s projections announced in April.

According to the report, the Philippines’ economic growth in 2021 and 2022 will be supported by sustained growth in public infrastructure spending, improving consumer confidence, and progress in the national COVID-19 vaccination program.

The report said the main risk to the outlook is the spread of newer, contagious COVID-19 variants, which may result in the return of stricter containment measures and may stall economic activity.

“The economy has regained its footing and is on the right

growth path. But the recovery remains fragile due to the threat posed by more infectious COVID-19 variants,” ADB Philippines Country Director Kelly Bird said in a statement.

Bird said that vaccination remains key to the economy’s safe reopening. The Philippines now has over 2.4 million confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 37,074 deaths. The government has focused on vaccinating Filipinos living in urban areas such as Metro Manila, which records the highest incidences of COVID-19 cases.

The report said the rollout



Workers in personal protective equipment suits disinfecting escalators to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus at a mall in Manila in June. **PHOTO: AFP**

of the national vaccine program has accelerated in recent months and is therefore making good

progress towards meeting the government’s year-end targets. —Xinhua ■

IEA presses Russia to end Europe gas shortage



A worker walks at the construction site of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline in Lubmin, northeastern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP / TOBIAS SCHWARZ.**

THE International Energy Agency on Tuesday urged Russia to step up gas deliveries to Europe in anticipation of higher winter demand, as tight global supply

pushes prices skywards.

“Russia could do more to increase gas availability to Europe and ensure storage is filled to adequate levels in preparation

for the coming winter,” the IEA said in a statement.

Opening the tap would be “an opportunity for Russia to underscore its credentials as a reliable supplier to the European market,” it added.

Higher demand, including from extremes of hot and cold weather this year, and squeezes on supply due to “a series of unplanned outages and delays across the globe and delayed maintenance from 2020” have boosted gas prices, the IEA said.

Prices for electricity in Germany and Spain “have been around three or four times the averages seen in 2019 and 2020” in recent weeks, in part down to higher gas prices, it added. —AFP ■

US homebuilding accelerates as firms aim to close supply gap

US homebuilding accelerated last month, according to government data Tuesday, as construction firms looked to feed the supply-starved real estate market.

Housing projects started last month rose 3.9 per cent from July to more than 1.6 million, seasonally adjusted, the Commerce Department reported, which was above analysts’ forecasts.

The United States is seeing a real estate boom as low borrowing rates and the upheavals of the Covid-19 pandemic push people to move, causing a supply shortage that has driven prices up and spurred homebuilding.

Multi-unit buildings saw a big increase as construction started rose 21.6 per cent in Au-



The US housing market continues to see high prices, leaving builders rushing to alleviate a supply crunch. **PHOTO: AFP**

gust, but single-family home projects fell 2.8 per cent, according to the data.

The fall in house construction is indicative that the real es-

tate boom may be running out of steam, said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics, who predicted the indicator would cool soon. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Democrats vote to fund US government but shutdown still looms

US lawmakers voted Tuesday to keep federal agencies running through 3 December and avoid a government shutdown at the end of the month — although the stop-gap measure is likely dead on arrival in the Senate.

The House Democrats’ interim bill, known as a “continuing resolution,” includes a suspension of the US debt limit until after next year’s midterm elections — a measure that allows the United States to avoid defaulting on its loans and sending the global economy into meltdown.

But Senate Republicans argue that Democratic spending is out of control and have vowed to vote against any attempt to lift the borrowing cap — insisting that the Democrats have enough lawmakers to pass the initiative on their own.

Not a single Republican voted for the continuing resolution, which passed 220 to 211, along party lines.

The legislation includes \$28.6 billion in new disaster aid for states hit by hurricanes and wildfires, many of them Republican. It also allocates \$6.3 billion for resettling Afghans evacuated after the fall of Kabul to Taliban militants. In theory the measure would buy legislators time to negotiate full-year spending bills for the rest of fiscal 2022 — but it is almost certain to fail in the evenly-divided upper chamber, where it would need Republican support to bag the necessary 60 out of 100 votes available. — AFP ■

Nigeria, Ghana sprint to join digital currency race

NIGERIA and Ghana are racing to adopt a central bank digital currency as they look to ride the wave of popularity of cryptocurrencies in West Africa’s two largest economies.

Central banks in both countries have partnered with foreign financial tech companies to create digital versions of their currencies, joining the global train of countries exploring the initiative.

Nigeria, Africa’s largest economy, will launch its eNaira digital currency on 1 October, while Ghana will trial e-Cedi from this month.

Nigeria has seen a boom of cryptocurrencies, despite a ban on banks making the transactions, as people look for ways to escape the weakening naira currency and offset high cost of living and unemployment in Africa’s most populous country.

“Nigerians are investing in cryptocurrency as a means of store value and to carry their funds outside the shores of the country,” said Ayodeji Ebo, head of retail investment at Lagos-based investment firm Chapel Hill Denham.

“eNaira will be for transactionary purposes.” —AFP ■

France pulls plug on massive Paris station revamp

FRENCH rail operator SNCF has scrapped plans for a controversial expansion of Europe’s busiest train station, the Gare du Nord in Paris, with the government urging Wednesday a “much smaller project” after cost estimates ballooned.

The overhaul would have tripled the size of the station — site of the Eurostar terminal for high-speed trains to London, Brussels and Amsterdam — before France hosts the Rugby World Cup in 2023 and the 2024 Summer Olympics.



French and foreign travellers have long complained that the Gare du Nord is dirty and chaotic. PHOTO: AFP

The ornate 19th century facility already sees 700,000 people pass through every day. But in July, the main

contractor warned that the final bill would be triple initial estimates of 500 million euros (\$587 million), with

completion pushed back to 2025 at the earliest.

SNCF, which announced the decision late Tuesday, blamed the contractor Ceetrus — a subsidiary of the Auchan supermarket chain — of “serious failure” over the project. “We have asked SNCF to study a much smaller project of around 50 million euros, to make improvements and meet the challenges of 2023 and 2024,” Transport Minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari told BFM television.— AFP ■

Japan’s financial regulators to oversee computer system at Mizuho

JAPAN’S financial watchdog said Wednesday it requested Mizuho Financial Group Inc. and its banking arm Mizuho Bank to submit a work plan for system maintenance after a series of system failures this year, in a rare move to effectively oversee the system of a major bank. The Financial Services Agency made the request as part of its business improvement or-

der issued amid lingering concerns over the security of the financial group’s system after it experienced seven failures this year.

Mizuho, one of the three Japanese megabanks, is still working to identify the root causes of the series of failures including the latest system problem that disrupted about 100 automated teller machines on 8 Sept.—Kyodo ■



Mizuho Bank, Ltd. is the integrated retail and corporate banking unit of Mizuho Financial Group, the third largest financial services company in Japan. PHOTO: MIZUHO/KYODO NEWS

China’s Mid-Autumn holiday box office nearly 500 mln yuan

CHINA’S box office revenue of the three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday ending Tuesday was 497 million yuan (76.82 million U.S. dollars), showed data by box office tracker Beacon on Wednesday.

It was against over

800 million yuan scored during the same holiday in 2019 before COVID-19 struck.

Disaster movie “Cloudy Mountain” topped this year’s Mid-Autumn Festival holiday ticket sales chart with 214 million

yuan, accounting for over 40 per cent of the total.

Family drama “All About My Mother” that debuted on Sept. 19 came in second with nearly 73 million yuan, followed by the U.S. action film “Free Guy” that garnered 53

million yuan at the holiday box office. Hong Kong-set action film “Raging Fire” pocketed 45.56 million yuan, an amount similar to that achieved by “To Be With You,” a romance movie that opened on Sunday.—Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IMKE SCHEPERS VOY.NO. (13W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IMKE SCHEPERS VOY.NO. (13W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S GOLD STAR SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0068W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0068W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC TAIPEI VOY.NO. (125X)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC TAIPEI VOY.NO. (125X)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V THERESA GRACE V.05-21

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V THERESA GRACE VOY.NO. (05-21)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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 SILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEW LEGACY V.5/2021

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEW LEGACY VOY.NO. (V.5/2021)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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 UNISPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR POWER PROJECT
IN MYANMAR

(Tender No. EPGE PV 02/2021-2022)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 02/2021-2022, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 15th October 2021 and the Addendum No.3 shall be issued.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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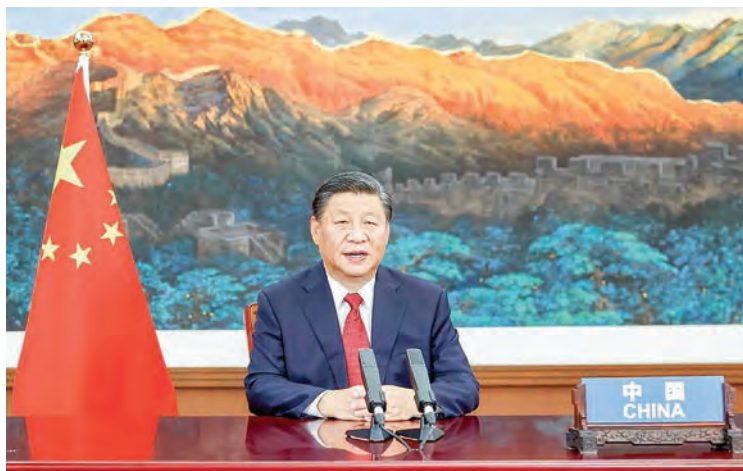
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Xi urges world to practise true multilateralism

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for improving global governance and practising true multilateralism.

Xi made the appeal in his statement delivered via video at the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

“In the world, there is only one international system, i.e. the international system with the United Nations at its core. There is only one international order, i.e. the international order underpinned by international law. There is only one set of rules, i.e. the basic norms governing international relations underpinned



Xi made the appeal in his statement delivered via video at the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

by the purposes and principles of his statement delivered via video at the general debate of the 76th

session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The UN should hold high the banner of true multilateralism, Xi said. Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday proposed a Global Development Initiative, calling for bolstering confidence and jointly addressing global threats and challenges to build a better world for all.

Xi made the remarks at the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) via video, as the world faces the combined impacts of changes unseen in a century and the COVID-19 pandemic.

BEATING COVID-19

Right now, COVID-19 is still raging in the world, with the number of new cases rising every day globally. “We must beat COVID-19 and win this decisive fight crucial to the future of humanity,” Xi said, voicing confidence that “we humanity will surely overcome it and prevail” despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic may appear overwhelming. He called for putting people and their lives first, taking a science-based approach in origins tracing, enhancing coordinated global COVID-19 response and minimizing the risk of cross-border virus transmission.—Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taliban says girls to return to school ‘soon as possible’

THE Taliban said on Tuesday Afghan girls will be allowed to return to school “as soon as possible”, after their movement faced international fury over their effective exclusion of women and girls from education and work.

The hardliners’ spokesman meanwhile announced the remaining members of Afghanistan’s all-male government, weeks after the militants seized Kabul in an offensive that shocked the world.

The Taliban were notorious for their brutal, oppressive rule from 1996 to 2001, when women were largely barred from work and school, including being banned from leaving their homes unless accompanied by a male relative.

One month after seizing power and pledging a softer version of their previous regime, the Islamists have incrementally stripped away at Afghans’ freedoms. “The work is continuing over the issues of education and work of women and girls,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said at a press conference, saying schools will reopen “as soon as possible”, without providing a timeframe.

“More time is needed— instructions on how to deal with their work, their services and their education are needed because the system has changed and an Islamic system is in place.”— AFP ■

US to hand over 3,500-year-old ‘Gilgamesh’ tablet to Iraq

THE United States will formally return an illegally imported 3,500-year-old tablet recounting the epic of Gilgamesh to Iraq this week, the United Nations’ cultural body UNESCO announced Monday.

The ancient tablet, which a wealthy US collector had acquired along with other Iraqi artifacts to display in the Washington Museum of the Bible, will be handed over to Iraqi officials at the Smithsonian Institution on 23 September. UNESCO called the repatriation of the tablet, along with 17,000 other artifacts sent back to Iraq in July, “a significant victory in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects.” “The theft and illicit trafficking of ancient artefacts continues to be a key funding source for terrorist groups and other organized criminal organizations,” the Paris-based agency said in a statement.

It said that when the Islamic State extremist group controlled large parts of Iraq and Syria over 2014-2019, Iraqi archaeological sites and museums were systematically looted.

The rare fragment, which recounts a dream sequence from the Gilgamesh epic in Akkadian cuneiform script, is one of many ancient artifacts from Iraq and the Middle East collected by David Green, the billionaire owner of the Hobby Lobby craft store chain.— AFP ■

Protest over Kosovo ban on Serbian-registered cars

HUNDREDS of ethnic Serbs on Monday blocked roads in Kosovo’s north leading to its only two border crossings with Serbia to protest Pristina’s ban on entry of cars with Serbian registration plates. The row erupted over Kosovo’s use of plates with RKS (Republic of Kosovo) on them, which implies its status as an independent nation, something bitterly disputed by Serbia.

Until now, vehicles with Serbian registration plates have been entering Kosovo freely.

But since Serbia refuses to allow cars with RKS plates, demanding that they take temporary plates on arrival, Pristina



Hundreds of ethnic Serbs on Monday blocked roads in Kosovo’s north leading to its only two border crossings with Serbia to protest Pristina’s ban on entry of cars with Serbian registration plates. **PHOTO: AFP**

says its ban is just a reciprocal measure.

Protesters used trucks and cars to completely shut down traffic on the roads towards the Jarinje and Brnjak crossings, an AFP journalist noted. They also set up tents, saying they would spend the night on the barricades. The Kosovo govern-

ment on Sunday sent armoured vehicles and a special police unit to the mainly ethnic-Serb area to monitor the implementation of the ban.

“Pristina demonstrates force and nothing else,” one of about 500 protesters gathered near the Jarinje crossing told AFP.—AFP ■

Los Angeles to open ‘Parthenon of film museums,’ says Tom Hanks



This undated handout photo obtained 23 November 2020 courtesy of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures (AMPAS) shows the sole surviving full-scale model of the 1975 ‘Jaws’ shark, donated by Nathan Adlen. **PHOTO: AMPAS/MICHAEL PALMA/AFP**

LOS ANGELES is finally getting a museum for movies — and it’s

about time, said Tom Hanks, as he welcomed journalists to a spe-

cial pre-opening event Tuesday.

The world capital of film-making and home of Hollywood boasts museums for everything from natural history to selfies, but until now has never had one dedicated to the silver screen.

After decades of delays, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures opens to the public next week. “It matters for Los Angeles to have this film museum,” said double-Oscar winner Hanks, who serves as a trustee.

“We all know that films are made everywhere in the world, and they are wonderful films. And there are other cities with film museums.—AFP ■

Iran new president backs nuclear talks but berates US

IRAN'S new ultraconservative president voiced support Tuesday in his international debut for reviving a nuclear accord even as he berated the United States, hailing what he described as its failures.

President Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline cleric who succeeded a government that sought better relations with the West, called on the United States to fulfill its promises to end sanctions under the 2015 nuclear accord.

"The Islamic Republic considers useful talks whose ultimate outcome is the lifting of all oppressive sanctions," Raisi said in a recorded speech to the UN General Assembly.

Indirect talks brokered by the European Union have been on hiatus since June after months



A picture shows the inside of reactor at the Russian-built Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran. **PHOTO: AFP**

of negotiations with the previous government failed to secure a path forward.

Raisi repeated the clerical state's stance that nuclear weapons are religiously prohibited, a position that has been met with

skepticism notably by Israel, which has carried out a sabotage campaign to delay Iran's nuclear work.

Nuclear weapons "have no place in our defense doctrine and deterrence policy," Raisi said.

Push for quick resumption

Raisi is notorious among human rights advocates for his role as a judge during mass executions in 1988 when the Islamic republic was solidifying control, with some activists encouraging the West to shun him.

But Western powers, as well as China and Russia, say they see the value in restricting Iran's nuclear program peacefully under the 2015 agreement, from which US President Joe Biden's predecessor Donald Trump withdrew the United States.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said he will meet Tuesday at the United Nations with Iran's new foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and push him to restart the talks in Vienna "soon."—AFP ■

Anger as US progressives object to Israeli Iron Dome funding

A group of leftist US Democrats came under heavy fire Tuesday after reportedly vowing to nix a short-term spending bill over a \$1 billion allocation for Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system. The party leadership vowed there would be no interruption in funding, with the cash being sourced elsewhere — but not before being berated by Republicans for capitulating to "anti-Semites" on their left flank.

Steny Hoyer, the Democratic House of Representatives majority leader, said there would

be a vote "before the end of this week that will fund fully Iron Dome." He added he had talked to Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid "and assured him that that bill was going to pass this house."

He said the House would use an accelerated procedure known as a suspension bill that requires a bill be approved by two thirds of the members present, or a unanimous oral vote. The Senate will then have to adopt it.

Tuesday's drama was



Israeli soldiers walk past an Israeli Iron Dome defence system on 25 February 2016. **PHOTO: AFP/GIL COHEN-MAGEN**

sparked by House Democrats removing a provision originally included in a bill to keep the federal government funded that would have helped boost the Israeli air defense system.

The about-face came after a group of leftist representatives objected to the allocation, US media reported, threatening to tank the bill when it comes up for a vote later Tuesday.—AFP ■

Tunisia party says president's power grab risks 'dismantling state'



This picture taken on 6 October 2019, shows Seifeddine Makhoul, an official of the pro-Islamic Ennahdha party after casting his ballot at a polling station in the capital Tunis, during the third round of legislative elections since the North African country's 2011 revolution. **PHOTO: AFP**

TUNISIA'S Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party said Tuesday that

President Kais Saied's recent measures to extend his powers

risked setting in motion the "dismantling" of the state.

On 25 July, Saied sacked the government, suspended parliament, removed lawmakers' immunity and put himself in charge of the prosecution.

On Monday, he said he would appoint a prime minister, but that the emergency measures unveiled nearly two months ago would remain in place.

Ennahdha, Saied's arch-foe, formed the largest bloc in parliament before the president's shock move. "The maintenance of the exceptional measures indefinitely, along with the absence of a

legitimate government and the suspension of the elected parliament threaten to lead to the dismantling of the state," Ennahdha said in a statement.

Such factors also risk "exacerbating the economic, financial and social" crisis currently besetting the country, the party added.

The president also said he would put forward a new electoral law, without elaborating on what it would entail. Saied's desired "transitional measures" amount to a "determination to repeal the constitution that Tunisians unanimously adopted", Ennahdha added.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

United States compensates civil servants affected by "Havana syndrome": report

THE US house unanimously passed legislation to compensate CIA personnel and diplomats affected by the so-called "Havana Syndrome" while serving in Cuba, China and elsewhere.

US diplomats were first diagnosed with the Havana syndrome in Cuba in 2016 and then in China in 2018. The diplomats said they experienced piercing sounds that have caused longer-term health effects. US diplomats in Russia, Tajikistan, Austria and in several African countries have also reported having experienced Havana syndrome symptoms, such as nausea and dizziness.—ANI ■

Soaring high: Pentagon's Space Force gets new uniform

THE US Space Force unveiled its new dress uniform design Tuesday, aiming to make a future-forward mark for the Pentagon's newest uniformed service.

The prototype for the new uniform for the Space Force's Guardians, as they have been officially designated, is a short navy blue jacket with a large flap over the right breast, secured by a diagonal line of six silver buttons.

It has a standing collar, and the service badge, with a delta-shaped rocket pushing into a star, is worn below the left breast.

The jacket is matched with grey trousers or skirts.

"Modern, distinctive, professional" the Space Force called it in a tweet.

"Every winning team needs a uniform! We started with the female design and then created the male prototype," wrote Chief of Space Operations General Jay Raymond.

Launched officially in December 2019, the Space Force was organized to address challenges of fighting war in the exosphere, seen as a distinct theatre from the air force.—AFP ■

Myanmar to play Singapore in ASEAN Suzuki Cup opener



Myanmar football star Kyi Lin (No 33) dribbles the ball amid Singapore team defenders during the 2014 AFF Suzuki Cup group match at Singapore National Stadium on 26 November, 2014. **PHOTO: POWER SPORT IMAGES**

THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) has announced the group matches of the 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup, and the Myanmar men’s national football team will play against the Singapore team in the tourney’s opener.

The football federation has confirmed the fixtures after the

drawing ceremony which was held on 21 September.

Myanmar is placed in Group A together with ASEAN powerhouse Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and one qualifier team (Timor Leste or Brunei).

Defending Champion Viet Nam is placed in Group B with

Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Laos.

According to the fixture, Myanmar will play against Singapore on 5 December, one qualifier team (Timor Leste or Brunei) on 8 December, Thailand on 11 December and the Philippines on 18 December.

Group A matches will be played from 5 to 18 December and Group B matches from 6 to 19 December.

The first leg of the semi-final will be played on 22 and 23 December, and the second leg on 25 and 26 December. The first round of the finals will be held on 29 December and the second round on 1 January.

Myanmar met with Singapore and Thailand teams in the 2014 version of the tourney and the Philippines in 2012.

According to the match schedule, the Myanmar team will play three matches in 6 consecutive days but will get 6 days off before the last match against the Philippines.

Matches against Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines are crucial for team Myanmar to reach the semi-final. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Inter fire title warning shot at Fiorentina to reclaim top spot



Edin Dzeko (L) has scored four goals for Inter Milan after nodding them in front at Florence. **PHOTO: AFP**

INTER Milan underlined their desire to retain the Serie A title on Tuesday after coming back from a goal down to win 3-1 at Fiorentina and move top of the pile.

Simone Inzaghi’s side came away from an intense match against a revitalised Viola in Florence with all three points thanks to two quickfire strikes early in second half from Matteo

Darmian and Edin Dzeko and Ivan Perisic’s tap-in late on.

That completed a turnaround after the break as Inter were deservedly losing at half-time through Riccardo Sottil’s opener for Fiorentina, who had come into the game in form but fell to a painful second defeat of the season. Champions Inter are unbeaten in their first five

games and sit first with 13 points, one ahead of Napoli who are at Sampdoria on Thursday looking to maintain their 100 percent start to the campaign.

“This win today was one of a really good team, because we’re a really good team. We definitely struggled in the first half and thank goodness it was only 1-0 at half time,” said Dzeko to DAZN after scoring his fourth goal for Inter since moving from Roma in the summer.

“In the second half we were more solid and we scored those two goals which changed the match.”

A further two points back are local rivals AC Milan and Atalanta, who won a frenetic match with Sassuolo 2-1 thanks to goals in the first half from Robin Gosens and Davide Zappacosta and take on Inter at the San Siro on Saturday. — AFP ■

Over-40 Westwood, Garcia could be Ryder Cup danger men

ENGLAND’S Lee Westwood and Spain’s Sergio Garcia, part of Europe’s largest 40-something Ryder Cup contingent in 60 years, could be danger men, three-time major winner Jordan Spieth warned Tuesday.

Garcia, 41, was sixth at the BMW Championship and 14th at the Tour Championship last month to end a solid US PGA campaign while Westwood, 48, had back-to-back runner-up efforts at Bay Hill and the Players Championship last March.

“The fact they both have been playing the calibre of golf they’ve been playing this year to make this team with the experience they have makes them very dangerous,” US standout Spieth said.

“I mean, you step on the

first tee and you know you’re going to play two of the best players in the world.”

Westwood will be the oldest player to represent Europe since Christy O’Connor Sr. in 1973. Together with 45-year-old Ian Poulter and 44-year-old Paul Casey, Westwood and Garcia comprise the largest over-40 European Ryder Cup group since there were five in 1961.

“It’s crazy. They bring so much history into this event,” said 13th-ranked Norwegian Viktor Hovland. “Those guys are the reason why this tournament is what it is, because they’ve brought so much passion and blood, sweat, and tears into this event that it makes it so much more special to be on the same team as them.— AFP ■