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.

Myanmar rejects politically motivated human rights mechanisms and their unprofessional conclusions

THE ongoing 48th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva organized three interactive dialogues against Myanmar in the absence of the country-concerned. Such decisions ignored the essence of dialogue and set a damaging precedent for the Human Rights Council. Myanmar questions whether such principled mechanisms as the Human Rights Council itself actually follows its principles and objectives or not. The context of the reports on Myanmar carries the same rhetoric with sweeping allegations and there is no added value in these multiple monitoring and reporting mechanisms on Myanmar.

Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) made its report to the Council on 13 September 2021. Myanmar has repeatedly made it clear since the establishment of IIMM that Myanmar does not recognize it due to the intent of its mandate derived from seriously flawed conclusions. The calls made by the IIMM is an unwarranted politicization under the pretext of human rights and the consequences of which can only produce overlapping and sweeping accusations like its affiliated mechanisms and reports.

The Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in Myanmar made oral updates on 22 September 2021. The Special Rapporteur violated the code of conduct which requires him to ensure the concerned government authorities are the first recipients of his conclusions and to indicate what responses were given by the concerned States when he made public statements concerning allegations of human rights violations. His failure to apply the code of conduct resulted in one-sided reporting and misled the international community. While many expressed their concerns about the declaration of the terrorist group of NUG on 7 September 2021 which causes a further escalation of violent attacks, it is found that the Special Rapporteur glorifies their terrorist acts.

SEE PAGE-3

MoC allows import process of anti-COVID-19 devices, medical aids daily

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, arranging continuous importation on public holidays.

On 25 September (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by five companies and transported by six vehicles, including two bowsers.

A total of 40 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by two bowsers, 430 empty oxygen cylinders, three oxygen plants and four tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw, and Myawady trading posts and seaports.

Two vehicles carrying liquid oxygen were transported to Yangon.

Out of three oxygen plants, two were transported to Yangon, another one to Bilin, respectively.

From 1 to 25 September, 470 vehicles carrying 708 tonnes of liquid oxygen bowser, 127 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 40 tonnes of oxygen gas, four storage containers, one liquid oxygen distributor, 94,650 empty oxygen cylinders, 247 oxygen plants, two oxygen refiling machines for hospitals, 18 oxygen generators, 12,647 oxygen concentrators for home use, 70,000 test kits, 1,000,000 sets of PPE, 122 tonnes of gloves and 2,536 tonnes of masks were allowed to be imported from 250 companies.

SEE PAGE-2

A lorry is seen transporting the imported COVID-19-related devices to the needed areas.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Health

Order 429/2021

5th Waning of Tawthalin 1383 ME
25 September 2021

THE Ministry of Health has issued this order in line with provisions stipulated in Section 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The ministry is working around the clock for the prevention of the acute respiratory disease Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and had previously issued the Stay-at-Home Orders in certain townships of Nay Pyi Taw and Regions/States.
2. However, due to the strict adherence to COVID-19 prevention by the people living in the respective townships, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has decreased in the last 14 days; lower chance of transmitting the infection to others by the patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19; public awareness programmes conducted by the department concerned, organizations and people during the stay-at-home period; the close contacts with confirmed cases are tested and it shows no new cases in past 14 days; and the considerable improvement in COVID-19 prevention measures conducted by township administration departments, health officials, organizations, volunteers and public, the number of new patients has dropped.
3. Therefore, it is hereby announced that the Stay-at-Home Orders issued for the following townships in respective Regions ended at 4 am on 26-9-2021.
   (A) Sagaing Region
      (1) Kalay
      (2) Sagaing
      (3) Tamu
   (B) Bago Region
      (1) Pyu
      (2) Bago
   (C) Ayeyawady Region
      (1) Myaungmya
4. Although these townships are removed from the stay-at-home list, they must follow the COVID-19 health rules of the Ministry of Health.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

Thailand transfers 197 Myanmar nationals

Returnees from Thailand queue up for reception process at the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 2 in Tachilek.

MYANMAR officials welcomed 197 people – 123 males and 74 females transferred from Thailand via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No. 2 in Tachilek Township of Shan State (East) yesterday.

U Myint Naing, chairman of the committee on welcoming and sending migrant workers and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

Among these returnees, 24 people – 20 males and 4 females have tested positive for COVID-19. The patients were sent to the treatment centres for proper medical treatment.

Another 173 negative patients undergo quarantine at Wang Lone centre and they can return to their respective regions if their second results show negative.

A total of 1,014 migrant workers were transferred by Thailand through the sixth repatriation process beginning 30 July. — Yar Say (IPRD)/GNLM

MoC allows import process of anti-COVID-19 devices. . .

FROM PAGE-1

In the same period, a total of 36 oxygen-carrying bowsers were allowed to be transported.

Among the 36 vehicles, 26 vehicles were transported to Yangon, four to Mandalay, two to Mawlamyine, and two to Bago, and one each to Monywa and Pyay respectively.

Out of 248 oxygen plants, 190 oxygen plants to Yangon, 14 to Mandalay, three to Pakkoku, three to Chauk, two to Lashio, two to Minbu, two to Maubin, another two to PyinOoLwin and one each to Mawlamyine and Monywa, respectively.

Myitkyina, Moegaung, Myinmu, Dedaye, Mudon, Pyay, Meiktila, Myaungmya, Wynemaw, Tachilek, Mohnyin, Kangyidaung, Phakant, Aunglan, Kawa, Singu, Myine, Gangaw, Htantalan, Tantyang, Paenwegon, Nyaung Shwe, Hakha, Kyaukphyu, Patheingyi, Thazi, Momeik and Amarapura were successfully transported.

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

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the 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

The government is ready to spend the fund on the prevention of COVID-19

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

(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)

Myanmar rejects politically motivated human rights mechanisms and their unprofessional conclusions

FROM PAGE-1

The High Commissioner for Human Rights presented her report to the Council on 23 September 2021 and the report contained the incident in Bago on 9 April 2021 and alleged there were over 80 deaths. On that day in Bago, some streets were occupied by armed men from unlawful and terrorist groups with an attempt to take control of several areas. While security personnel removing the blockages, onearmed man died and two police injured. The Government of Myanmar publicly released the news on that particular incident. The figure was intentionally exaggerated and its source stated victims' information as "54 unknown" while the rest do not include verifiable facts to identify the affected persons. Incorporating such unverifiable facts in the report of the High Commissioner raises the question of the professionalism and qualification of its authors who failed to distinguish facts because of their emotional conduct.

All the reports significantly neglect the root cause of the current political situation in Myanmar which is the electoral fraud in the 2020 general election with 11.3 million voter lists irregularities or 29 per cent of voters across the country. Furthermore, the reports ignore the terrorist acts committed by the NUG, CRPH and PDF and hide the terrifying figure of 799 deaths which include members of the lawful political parties, civil servants and innocent civilians for having different political opinions or for performing their profession but not joining the so-called Civil Disobedience Movement and for being accused of informers. It is too obvious to ignore the several attacks against COVID-19 facilities where healthcare personnel and civilians were killed and injured by the said terrorist groups.

It rarely sees success stories in the Human Rights Council due to its politically motivated resolutions and unfair mandates. These mechanisms only create mistrust and divisions within the country. Myanmar, therefore, strongly rejects and objects to the reports and deliberations made by the country-specific mechanisms which do not help address the challenges the country has been facing but they themselves became part of the problem.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
25 September 2021

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo inspects One-Stop Service (OSS) at Yangon Region Office and meets with investors

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo inspected the processes of the One-Stop Service (OSS), functioning at Yangon Region Office for Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) yesterday morning.

Firstly, the director for the Yangon Region Office of DICA, U Myo Khaing Oo, and departmental officials from OSS made a presentation about the operational procedures of the OSS. After the presentation, the Union Minister discussed extensively the plans for the use of an Online System to facilitate the servicing processes for investors, departmental cooperation for better services, facilitating investment processes by following the Standard Operating Procedures, the situation on the support of the departments in line with rules and regulations, facilitating processes for investment.

The Union Minister also focused on making every effort to become effective and reliable departments. Then, the Union Minister inspected the preparation of online services for investors and the operational processes of the OSS office.

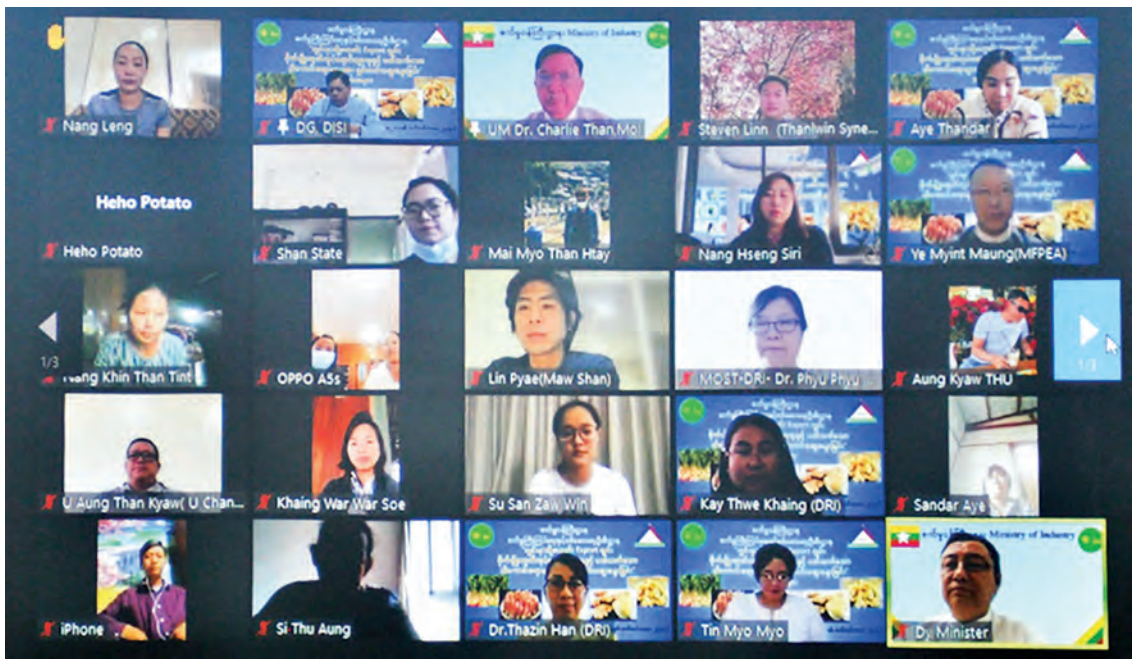
After that, the Union Minister initiated a meeting with responsible personnel from the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticides Entrepreneurs Association and discussed matters regarding the productivity of fertilizers, facilitation of investment activities for fertilizer production, advancement of the procedures for the production of fertilizer in the industrial sector and adequate distribution of fertilizers for seasonal crops.—MNA

The MIFER Union Minister holds talks with the responsible personnel from the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticides Entrepreneurs Association yesterday.

MoI holds knowledge-sharing on export ginger cultivation, production

THE Ministry of Industry held a knowledge-sharing ceremony on ginger cultivation tips yesterday afternoon, and Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, in his capacity as the Chairman of the SMEs Development Committee, addressed the ceremony.

Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Lwin, the Director-General of the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Science and Technology, business persons from SMEs, ginger growers from Shan State and officials from the Ministry of Industry also attended the ceremony from respective areas.



The MoI knowledge-sharing event on giger cultivation tips in progress online.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than said if ginger-based medicines could be produced with high quality and value, they would gain success not only in the domestic market but also in the foreign market, and he believes that farmers can be able to successfully implement ginger cultivation in Myanmar by applying the discussions of agronomists, market experts and high-quality producers.

He said encouraging the cultivation of ginger will help local SMEs generate more revenue and improve socio-economic life, adding the State's economic objectives are also to develop the agricultural-based production with modern methods and to support local businesses, and to create job opportunities to produce more of the state's products, as well as to improve the socio-economic life of individual farmers.

He invited the farmers to openly discuss the discussions of the experts. Afterwards, U Nyi Nyi Aung from the Department of Agriculture discussed the tips on ginger cultivation. The Secretary-General of the Myanmar Food Producers and Exporters Association discussed the production, sales and markets of export ginger or ginger. Dr Thazin Han from the Department of Research and Innovation discussed value-added products of ginger and production processes. After the discussion, Director-General U Thein Swe of the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection added the issues that the department can support on SME entrepreneurs' discussions, and the Union Minister made the concluding remarks. —MNA

Over 40-year-olds get COVID jabs in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw

THE first dose of COVID-19 vaccine was given to people over 40 years of age, with a total population of 7,522 on the morning of 25 September (yesterday) at No. (1) Basic Education High School campus in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

On the same day, healthcare officials also gave the first dose of the vaccines to people over the age of 55 at the same venue.

The COVID-19 vaccine type is Sinopharm and healthcare officials used 1,606 vaccines for the first dose, and 1,000 vaccines for the second dose.

Vaccination teams from the Township Public Health Department and vaccination teams from Tatkon Battalion are continuing to vaccinate people over the age of 40 and those who have yet to be vaccinated for various reasons.

The chairman and members of the Township Management Committee visited the vaccination sites. The vaccination was carried out by the staff of the Township General Administration Department, Education staff, members of the Fire Brigade from the Township Fire Services Department, Township Police and Township Red Cross members. —Tin Soe Lwin/GNLM

People receive COVID vaccines in Tikyit, southern Shan State

OFFICIALS gave vaccines to local people who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 at Sekhaung Village Middle School, Tikyit Village-Tract, Pinlaung Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State yesterday morning.

The government is prioritizing vaccination drive to prevent and control COVID-19 disease and vaccination is being given to local people in Tikyit Village-Tract, Myingdwin Village-Tract, Payaphyu Village-Tract, Mwepyin Village-Tract, Pinkhin Village-Tract, Lwemaw Village-Tract, Banpyin and Lonepoe village-tracts. From 1 July to 23 September, a total of 458 people were infected with the COVID-19 virus in the village-tracts where healthcare is provided by the Tigyit District Hospital.

At present, 430 people have been discharged from the hospital. Four patients have died and three patients have been transferred. There are currently 21 COVID-19 positive patients and they are receiving healthcare at the District People's Hospital and Shan Cherry Hall Healthcare Centre, officials said. — Khun Aung (Naung Tayar)/GNLM

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Fresh chilli for export hover around K1,400 per viss

THE price of fresh chilli for export is now hovering around K1,400 per viss, said Chairperson Daw Ohnmar Kyaw of the Myanmar Chilli Market and Technical Development Association.

Although Myanmar fresh chilli is currently exported to Thailand and China, the major border checkpoints between Myanmar and China were halted starting from 8 July. Consequently, the chilli supposed to be sent to China was exported to Thailand through the Myawady border post, she added.

"The closure of the major border posts from China side, Myanmar exports them to Thailand. But, they are offered low prices," said Daw Ohnmar Kyaw.

Moreover, the fresh chilli to Thailand via cross-border trade sharply dropped this year.

Although Myanmar fresh chilli is currently exported to Thailand and China, the major border checkpoints between Myanmar and China were halted starting from 8 July. Consequently, the chilli supposed to be sent to China was exported to Thailand through the Myawady border post.

The acre of chilli plantation has dropped by half this year because of rising input costs. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure on chilli demand due to uncertainty about foreign markets and restrictions on cash withdrawals from the banks, according to Myanmar Chilli Market and Technical Development Association.

The number of export trucks drastically declines. About six trucks of fresh chilli are daily exported to Thailand through Myawady now. Earlier, Myanmar carried over 15 trucks of fresh chilli per day to Thailand.

Additionally, the fresh chilli is priced at extremely lower than the price registered last year, fetching only K1,300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). Last year, the price hit a record high of K5,000-6,000 per viss, the association stated.

It is commonly grown in the Ayeyawady Region and Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region. The export varieties of fresh chilli pepper are 692,777,999, Demon, Sunshine and Lucky one. — NN/GNLM

Garlic price rises because of high demand in local market

Based on their size and quality, the prices of garlic (Kyukok) vary from K2,650 to K2,750 per viss (3.6 pounds) in the local market. The garlic price has increased by K250 per viss in a week.

THE price of garlic (Kyukok) has increased within a week in the local market because of the high demand by the local consumers, according to the online and offline garlic markets.

Based on their size and quality, the prices of garlic (Kyukok) vary from K2,650 to K2,750 per viss (3.6 pounds) in the local market. The garlic price has increased by K250 per viss in a week.

Garlic is a commonly bought kitchen crop and a popular ingredient in cooking because of its strong smell and delicious taste. The crop is also used in making traditional medicines.

Garlic is mostly cultivated in Shan State and the Salin, Pwintphyu, Yenangyaung and Pakokku towns in Magway Region.

Also, the price of the online market is a bit stable these days. The price is not rising in the wholesale market because the onion is highly supplied to the market. In the retail market, the price of onion is ranging between K2,000 and K3,500 per viss. The price of onion has reached between K650 and K1,000 per viss in the Bayintnaung wholesale market.

In the 2017-2018 financial year, Myanmar earned over US$9 million from the export of 22,000 tonnes of onion. Myanmar also earned over $20 million from the export of 87,000 tonnes of onion in the 2018-2019FY. Myanmar has exported onion mostly to China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh.

The onion is grown mostly in Monywa, Myingyan, Taungtha, Pakokku, Kyaukse, Mandalay and Magway. —Aye Cho/GNLM

Domestic maize consumption drops by half this year

THE domestic maize consumption has dropped by half this year compared to last year, said U Min Khaing, chairman of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Although the domestic demand for maize was between 800,000 and 900,000 tonnes in the last financial year, the domestic demand for maize is dropped to only 400,000 tonnes this FY.

The domestic demand for maize has dropped because of reduced livestock production and the high cost of livestock feed, which is impacted as a result of COVID-19, said U Min Khaing.

The maize is sold to domestic feed mills. The price of maize this year is better when compared to last year. The maize price in the Yangon market fetched K600 per viss while the crop is ranging between K580 and K600 per viss in the Mandalay market. Last year, the price of maize was only K450-500 per viss.

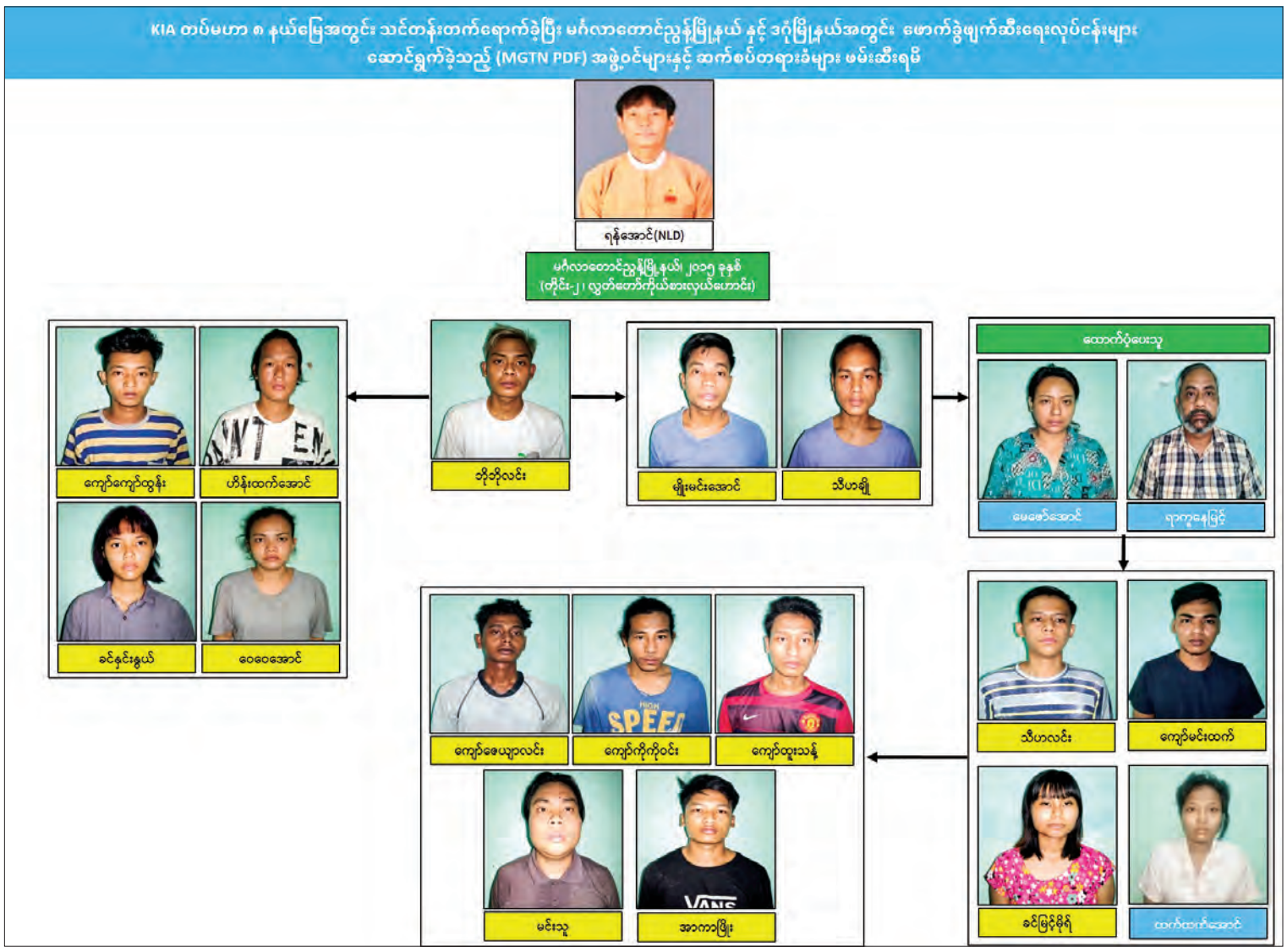
Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of maize among regional countries. At present, maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three maize seasons: cold season, summer and monsoon.

The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of maize. The domestic surpassed maize is shipped to foreign countries such as Thailand, China, India and Viet Nam.

During the last FY2019-2020, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of maize to the external market, with an estimated value of $360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of maize among regional countries. At present, maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

KIA explosive trainees linked to bombings in Mingala Taungnyunt, Dagon townships arrested



ACCORDING to the report of responsible citizens, security forces arrested a total of 18 terrorists (13 men and 5 women) who exploded bombs in Mingala Taungnyunt and Dagon townships after completing the terrorist explosive training course in KIA Brigade (8) territory.

Security forces captured terrorists named Bo Bo Lin, Myo Min Aung, Thiha Cho, Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Hein Htet Aung, Khin Hnin Nwe, Wai Wai Aung, May Zaw Aung, Raku Nay Myint, Thiha Lin, Kyaw Min Htet, Kyaw Zeya Lin, Kyaw Ko Ko Win, Kyaw Htoo Thant, Min Thu, Arkar Phyo, Khin Myint Moe and Htet Htet Aung, were arrested respectively on 23 and 24 September.

According to the confessions made by the arrested suspects, Hein Htet Aung attended the second batch of the terrorist bombing training course held in KIA Brigade (8) territory; Kyaw Ze Ya Lin, Kyaw Ko Ko Win, Min Thu and Kyaw Htoo Khant attended in the fourth batch; Khin Myint Moe, Thiha Lin, Khin Hnin Nwe, Wai Wai Aung, Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Kyaw Min Htet, Myo Min Aung, Thiha Cho, Bo Bo Lin and Arkar Phyo attended in the sixth batch of the training course.

They reportedly formed the Mingala Taungnyunt PDF (MGTN PDF) and had been carrying out bombings with the fund from U Yan Aung, former Regional Hluttaw Representative for Mingala Taungnyunt, and from their Facebook page, MGTN PDF Facebook Page.

According to them, Belu, Moe Htet, Pyae Phyo, and Zaw Min, the remaining suspects, and San Shay planted two homemade timebombs in the No (1) Basic Education High School in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and another two bombs at the traffic control room in Pha Sa Pa La ward in the same township on 8 May.

On 18 May, the remaining suspects and San Shay also planted a time bomb at building number (45) in Yawmingyi ward, in Dagon Township.

On 1 June, San Shay, Zaw Min, Man Gyee, exploded one homemade mine in the Shila store located on Myanmagonyi Road, Mingala Taungnyunt township.

Raku Nay Myint, who was arrested, was an ex-political prisoner.

He is the chairman of the We Love Mingala Taung Nyunt group, supporting riots and terrorist bombings and connecting terrorists from NUG, MFTN PDF groups for acts of violence, according to the investigation.

The arrested terrorists will be taken effective actions under the law and the people are requested to work together in the fight against terrorism in the country.

It is also reported that those who report information about them will be kept confidential and rewarded covertly. — MNA

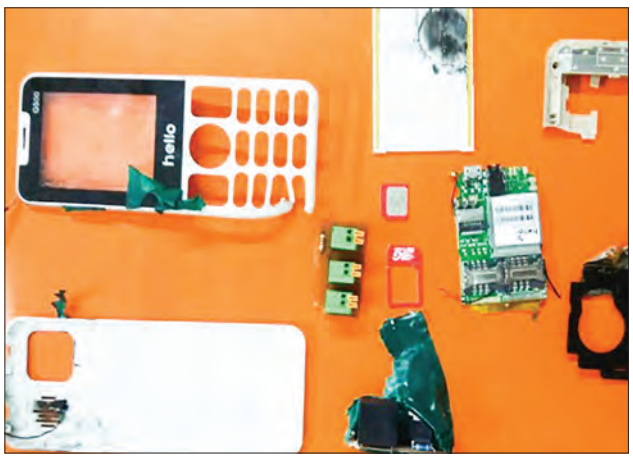
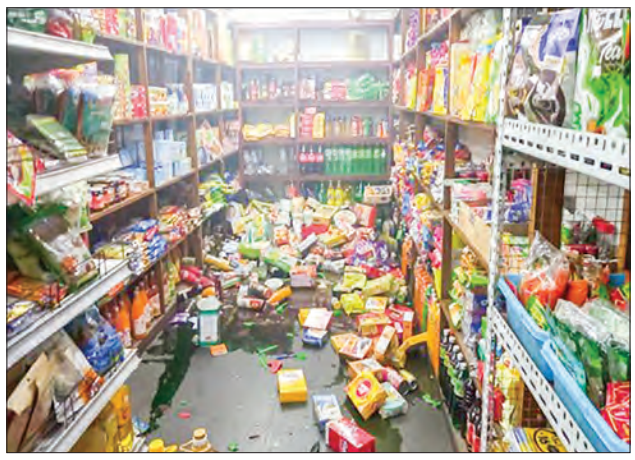


Photo records of the bomb blast at the Pha Sa Pa La traffic point on 8 May.



Damages are seen at the Shila store after the homemade mine explosion on 1 June.

1,546 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 September, total figure rises to 456,620

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 456,620 after 1,546 new cases were reported on 25 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 410,033 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,465 after 52 died.—MNA

Police arrest suspects who killed 3 department staff in Dawei Township

SECURITY forces make efforts to stop the arson attacks and murder cases committed by the insurgents who were instructed by terrorist group NUG.

On 18 September, the police arrested Naing Oo who lives in Kyatthayay street of Kyatsarpyin Ward of Dawei Township, and also detained Sett Oo from Minyet Kuutoe street and Tun Wai from Gandama street according to his confession.

According to the words of suspect Naing Oo, the police arrested Lay Lay Nwe from Gandama street of Kyatsarpyin Ward in Dawei Township on 19 September, Aung Thu Latt from No 2 street on 21 September, Yoon Kalayar Oo from Sanchi Ward and Hnin Nandar Aung from Bommaw Ward on 22 September, and Thet Paing Oo from Aungswedagon street of Kyatsarpyin Ward of Dawei Township on 24 September.

According to the confession of Thet Paing Oo, the security forces arrested further 9 suspects – Sai Min Thu, Atar Soe, Win Kyaw, Aung Naing Tun, Ko Oo, Myat Soe, Aung Phyo, Win Aung and Tin Tun- who stayed at the monastery in Kyauk Htauk Village in Yaypyu Township.

According to the words of Sai Min Thu, the police arrested Tun Tun OO and Min Sett Mhoo from Waekyun Hteinthit Ward of Dawei Township together with 1 shotgun, 2 9mm bullets and 1 motorcycle.

Moreover, Yaza Tun, Myo Kyaw, Kyaw Min Oo and Kyaw Swar Lin from Ohlote Ward of Dawei Township were arrested together with 3 Point-22 rifles, 1 homemade .22 shotgun, 3 single-shot rifles, 7 homemade bombs, 4 sound bombs and drugs based on the confession of Tun Tun Oo.

The police arrested 23 suspects- 20 males and 3 females and seized 1 homemade shotgun, 3 .22 rifles, 1 homemade .22 shotgun, 3 single-shot rifles, 4 9mm bullets, 7 homemade bombs, 4 sound bombs and drugs.

According to the confession of suspects, Thet Oo and Min Sett Mhoo killed Deputy Director U Thaung Dan of the Education and Training Department of region ethnic development training school and driver Wai Lin Aung at the back of the training school located in Seikkan street of Kyatsarpyin Ward in Dawei township on 29 August with other suspects – Aung Khine, Waidi Gan, Su Mar Lay, Phone Mae, Khine Khine Mar, Htike Htike, Kaung Htet Zaw, Myat Kyaw Thu and Aung Paing Oo who are still at large.

Similarly, on 20 September, Tun Tun Oo, Yaza Tun and Min Sett Mhoo used the drugs and killed Daw San San Wai, clerk of Bommaw Ward, General Administration Department, in front of the Ma Li Nga Pi guesthouse in Shwe Taungsar pagoda road of Peinnetaw Ward of Dawei Township together with Kaung Htet Zaw and Myat Kyaw Thu, who are still at large.

The suspects admitted that they killed U Thaung Dan and Wai Lin Aung as they did not join CDM, and Daw San San Wei for participating in healthcare services without joining CDM.

Moreover, Aung Thu Latt, Yoon Kalayar Oo, Hnin Nandar Aung and Lay Lay Nwe provided the cash assistance to buy the firearms. The NLD executive committee member Zaw Lay (still at large) communicated with Aike Soe (still at large) from Dawei township and Aung Aung (still at large) from Myitta township to buy the weapons.

Naing Oo, Tun Wai and Sett Oo took the purchased firearms/ammunition and transferred them to Tun Tun Oo, Yaza Tun, Thet Paing Oo, Sai Min Thu and Min Sett Mhoo.

The main heads of assassinating innocent civilians and departmental staff and bombing attacks were Moe Moe Thu (still at large), former Region Hluttaw MP of Dawei Constituency 2 of NLD and NLD executive committee member Zaw Lay (still at large).

The arrested suspects will face legal actions under the law. Security forces will also investigate to arrest the absconders. Moreover, announcements are also released that the entire people can participate in the fight against terrorism in order to arrest perpetrators as quickly as possible, confidentially report to the officials about their hiding places and activities, and the whistle-blowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded. — MNA

Damages are seen after the manmade bomb blast in Patheingyi Township.

Two men arrested for explosive violence in Mandalay Region

TWO men have been arrested for firing a grenade at the COVID-19 disease prevention, control and treatment team near Shwekyin checkpoint in Patheingyi Township.

The COVID-19 disease prevention team took their duties near Shwekyin checkpoint on the Mandalay-Madaya Road, Patheingyi Township, on the morning of 25 September.

A man on a motorcycle fired a hand grenade, which exploded in a sandbag bunker north of the checkpoint.

The bomber named Lwin Htoo, a 47-year-old man, who lives in Oo Yin Quarter, Aungmyaythazan Township was arrested by security forces and bystanders.

Next, a son of the bomber, Kyaw Zin Min, a 17-year-old teen, was also arrested, according to his statement.

Three young women from Nanthar Myaing village, Madaya Township, received blisters during an explosion of the manmade bomb.

Those arrested will face effective legal actions, officials said. — MNA

26 SEPTEMBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Firmly erect milestones of life with investment of honesty and morals

EVERYBODY has unforgettable experiences related to past events which have been stored in their hearts for many decades. Sometimes, they ruminate over these experiences to permanently keep most of these past events in their hearts not to disturb any others.

In their experiences, they unavoidably accepted some results and experiences even though they wish or did not. Despite some of these events stored in their hearts, they wish to talk about such events to others. Wonderfully, they could keep suppressed their feeling over some bitter experiences in some cases. Actually, everybody needs to keep sympathy and morals for avoiding the events of losing the other's dignity.

> Everybody needs to take lessons from the past events in which they have posted better and better milestones by removing the inappropriate parts of the past events. If so, their future will be brighter and they will be idols for the people. To have such a situation, they themselves need to enhance capacity with wider knowledge which helps uplift the willpower to immediately make decisions for solving the problems they face.

These milestones were built of their blood and sweat based on their strength. In fact, these milestones reflect their lives as well as retell their experiences. They cannot cover the history of their milestones not to be shown to all. At least, they themselves know the root causes of their milestones. Some of these milestones can be revealed to the public but some should be kept secret if these may harm the prestige of others.

Everybody has been building the milestones one from their childhood after another along with their lives till the dying days whether they wish or not. Some of the milestones are concerned with themselves but some milestones are related to all. Significantly, some milestones about famous events are concerned with the entire people as well as the country. If so, these milestones are commonly owned by the State and symbols of the people and the nation. How wonderful it is!

Everybody needs to take lessons from the past events in which they have posted better and better milestones by removing the inappropriate parts of the past events. If so, their future will be brighter and they will be idols for the people. To have such a situation, they themselves need to enhance capacity with wider knowledge which helps uplift the willpower to immediately make decisions for solving the problems they face.

Naturally, all the peoples across the world are experiencing various forms of life. They commit sinful cases and meritorious deeds with an investment of their honesty and morals on a daily basis, leaving good and bad experiences. These will be the text of life dubbed as milestones for them.

■ ■ ■

WHO backs antibody treatment for high-risk Covid patients

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday recommended the synthetic antibody treatment Regeneron for Covid-19, but only in patients with specific health profiles.

PERSONS with non-severe Covid-19 who are nonetheless at high risk of hospitalization can take the antibody combo, as should critically ill patients unable to mount an adequate immune response, according to a WHO finding published in BMJ.

Regeneron is only the third treatment for Covid to be recommended by the global health authority, which added it to its "living WHO guideline" on drugs for Covid-19.

In July, WHO gave the nod to a class of drugs that act to suppress a dangerous overreaction of the immune system to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid.

These medicines work well in tandem with corticosteroids, which were first recommended by WHO for use in Covid patients in September 2020.

Monoclonal antibody treatments use COVID survivors' own antibodies. **PHOTO: CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP**

The Regeneron cocktail of synthetic antibodies — casirivimab and imdevimab — has been found to reduce the risk of hospitalization for unvaccinated, elderly or immunosuppressed patients with Covid, according to three clinical trials that have yet to be peer reviewed, according to the BMJ.

For the second category of patient covered by the new WHO recommendation, another trial has reported a reduced number of deaths, and cases requiring mechanical ventilation, in patients taking the drugs.

"For all other covid-19 patients, any benefits of this antibody treatment are unlikely to be meaningful," the WHO concluded.

Designed by biotech firm Regeneron and marketed by pharmaceutical giant Roche under the name Ronapreve, the treatment was given to former US President Donald Trump during his brush with coronavirus.

When used together, the monoclonal antibodies casirivimab and imdevimab bind to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, neutralizing the virus's ability to infect cells.

The World Health Organization "welcomes the addition of another therapeutic to the world's arsenal against COVID-19", but expressed concern about the impact of high prices on health inequality.

"Given the high cost and low availability of the combination therapy, [global health agency] UNITAID is negotiating with Roche Pharmaceutical … for lower prices and equitable distribution across all regions, especially in low- and middle-income countries," WHO said in a separate statement. "WHO is also in discussions with the company for a donation and distribution of the drug through UNICEF." The UN health authority also called on other manufacturers to submit "bio-similar" versions of the drug for approval. In July, Japan had become the first country to fully approve Regeneron's antibody treatment for patients with mild to moderate Covid-19. The antibody combination has been authorized for emergency or temporary pandemic use in a number of countries and regions, including the European Union, United States, India, Switzerland and Canada.

SOURCE: AFP

Turn the page on COVID? Not so fast, say experts

With global COVID cases declining and pandemic fatigue on the rise, many countries are easing restrictions put in place to block the spread of the virus.

BUT it's far too soon to declare victory, say experts, who warn that unequal vaccine access could still lead to the emergence of new and more deadly variants of the virus.

Positive signs

On 14 September the World Health Organization (WHO) announced "the first substantial decline in weekly [COVID] cases in more than two months" after new infections during the week of 6 September totalled four million.

That number fell again the following week to 3.6 million as did the number of deaths, to "just under 60,000", the WHO said in its most recent update this week.

In Europe – where a large percentage of adults are now vaccinated – the pandemic seems to be waning after spikes of infections caused by the Delta variant.

"I believe that most of the world (including most of Europe and the Americas) is entering the final phase of the pandemic," Francois Balloux of the University College of London tweeted last week.

"There will be outbreaks over the coming months/years but I don't anticipate COVID-19 waves comparable to those we've experienced over the last 18 months." Epidemiologist Mircea Sofonea, a specialist on the evolution of infectious diseases at the University of Montpellier, said COVID is spreading differently now, especially in Europe.

"We are seeing the transition from a wave pattern to more scattered spikes that aren't as high," he explained.

This improvement has emboldened several European countries to end some or even all pandemic-related restrictions, as Denmark did on 10 September.

"We will know in two or three weeks whether the results of Denmark's experiment are positive or not," epidemiologist Antoine Flahault said.

He said that what happens in Denmark will determine "whether we can encourage other European countries to lift the widespread use of health passes and even mask-wearing without risking a new spike in the pandemic."

"The measures could always be reinstated if infections go up again," he added.

Reasons to be cautious

So, is the pandemic in its final phase?

"I think it is too early to say just yet for everyone, though in the highly vaccinated parts of the world, this will be more true," virologist Julien Tang told AFP by email.

For now, he said, statements about how the pandemic is progressing "have to be very country- or region-specific".

"There are now clear inequalities in terms of vaccination coverage across the world," Tang said. Less than two per cent of the world's poorest populations have received even a first dose of vaccine, noted Flahault, director of the University of Geneva's Institute of Global Health.

A health worker wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) administers a COVID-19 coronavirus nasal swab during a round of testing of workers outside a market in Bangkok on 4 September 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

"In certain places – eastern and central Europe, Africa, Asia, Israel, Canada, El Salvador, Belize – cases are increasing exponentially, so we can't say the pandemic is behind us," he said.

Even in rich, well-vaccinated countries showing a downward trend, things could reverse, experts caution. As the northern hemisphere approaches winter, people will once again gravitate towards large, indoor gatherings that boost circulation of the virus.

SOURCE: AFP

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 25 September 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the deep depression over the Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bangal has moved Westwards and centred at about (260) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Sittway, (340) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Gwa, (355) Nautical miles Northwest of Hainggyikyun (Myanmar), (165) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Paradip and (225) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Gopalpur(India). Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26 September 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

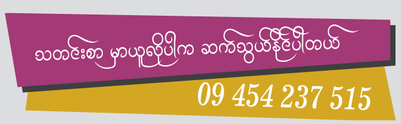
STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9 -12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 September 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 September 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 September 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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


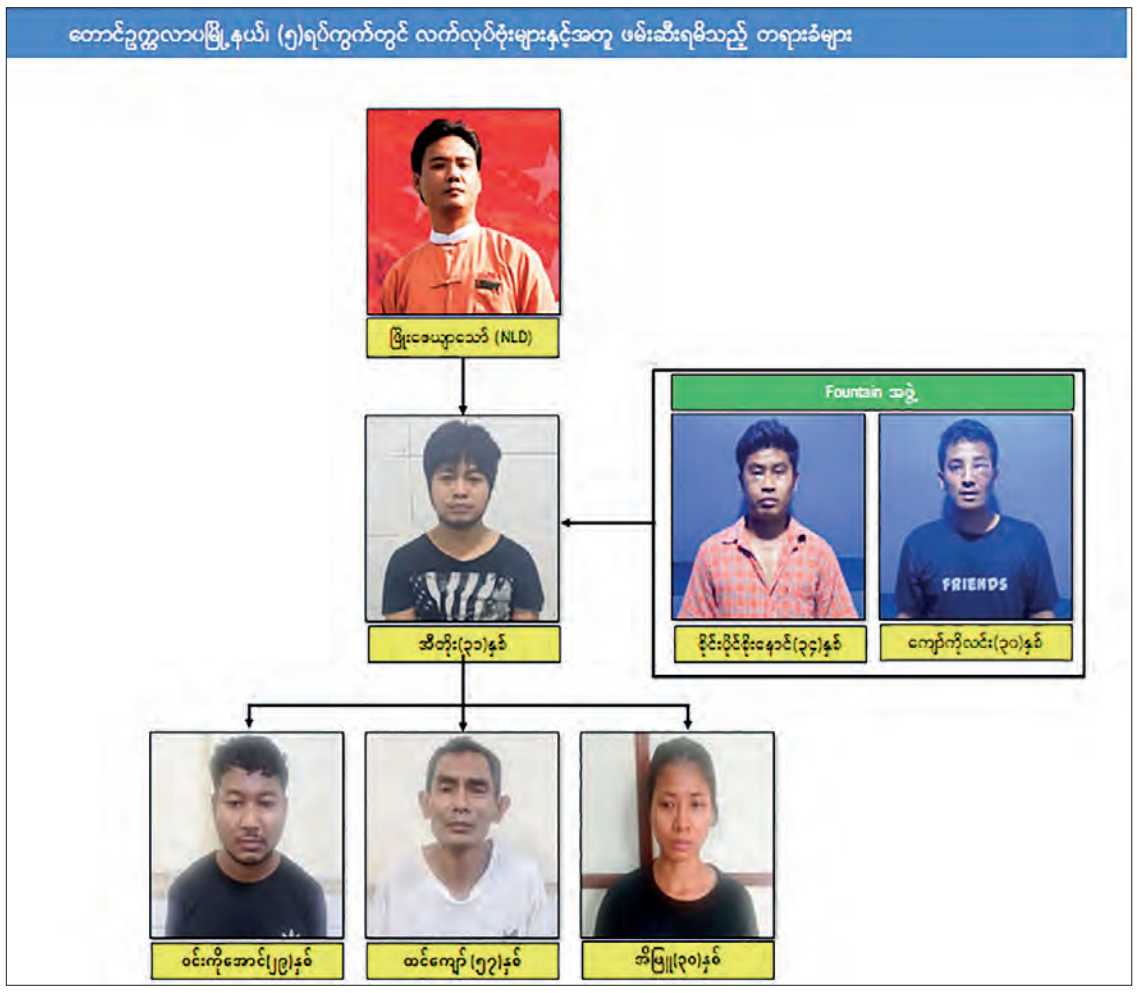
Homemade mine makers arrested in South Okkalapa

ON 5 September, while patrolling the streets, security forces arrested Kyaw Ko Lin (a) AJ and Sai Paing Soe Naung (a) Mawi with PVC pipe and four homemade mines connected to a keypad phone in their car at the corner of Pinya road and Bramaso road, ward (5), in South Okkalapa Township.

Following the confession of Kyaw Ko Lin, security forces searched house number 31A, on Masoeyein street, ward (5) in Mayangon township on 8 September, and arrested Win Ko Aung, Htin Kyaw and Ei Phyu with 7 rounds of 9mm bullet, 7 rounds of .22 bullet, 1 grenade fuse and other related materials.

According to the confession of the detainees, Win Htut Thaw Tar (a) E Toe was arrested at house number (9), Nawaday road, ward (7) in Mayangon Township.

Kyaw Ko Lin (a) AJ, Sai Paing Soe Naung (a) Mawi, and remaining suspects, Mary Yan, Aung Myint Myat (a) Kabyar, Thant Zin (a) Kywal Gyi, Htet Wai Yan Min Lwin (a) Yoe Yoe, reportedly attended terrorist training courses held by TNLA Brigade (6) and TNLA group, through the connection of Htar Htet Htet.



On 4 September, AJ and Mawi held a Zoom Meeting with the remaining suspects, Nay Shoon Ko (a) James, Mary Yan, Tiron and Aung Ye (a) Poe U to discuss destroying CCTV at traffic lights to prevent the perpetrators from being identified.

E Toe revealed that he transported four men to a Palaung village on the Nawnghkio-Mogok road to attend the terrorist training course at TNLA by his car in May. He also sent letters of recommendation for disaster management plans via Signal to the NUG group through Pyo Ze Ya Thaw from the NLD party (Former Zabuthiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative in 2015).

Sai Paing Soe Naung (a) Mawi revealed that he attended the terrorist training course and urban guerrilla course conducted online by NUG from 29 to 31 August, together with other 6 trainees.

Ei Phyu revealed that she attended the bombing training held in Shin Mway Loon school compound in Thanlyin Township in April.

It is also learned that Htin Kyaw was in charge of the information team of ABSDF, and received 7 rounds of 9mm bullet, 7 rounds of .22 bullet and a fuse from Zarni (a) Saw Zarni Aung. AJ and Mawi revealed that they took four homemade time bombs sent from Mary Yan, who is still on the run.

Win Ko Aung, together with Ko Ko Maung and Nanda Sit Aung who were arrested in Thakayta township with explosives on 8 May, involved in producing homemade mines and mine explosion at the administration office in Thakayta Township.

The arrested terrorists will be taken effective action under the law and the people are requested to work together in the fight against terrorism in the country. It is also reported that those who report information about them will be kept confidential and rewarded covertly. —MNA

Seized ammunition and related materials in Mayangon Township.

Confiscated manmade bombs in South Okkalapa Township.

Local people receive 2nd dose of COVID vaccines in Monywa

HEALTHCARE officials gave the first batch of the second COVID-19 vaccines in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, according to the Township COVID-19 Disease Control and Emergency Response Committee.

In Monywa Township, those who completed the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (Sinopharm) were vaccinated for the second time on 31 August at the Regional Public Health Department.

Vaccinations were given to monks and nuns over the age of 65, people over the age of 18, including civil servants and private healthcare workers, bank employees, industrialists and workers, hotels, motels, and guesthouse business employers and staff, workers in the transport industry, and vendors under the supervision of the Township Development Affairs Committee, members from social welfare organizations and people from a total of 17 villages.

The township police, township fire brigade and departmental officials and humanitarian organizations assisted in the vaccination work.

To date, 12,508 people in Monywa Township have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (Sinopharm), according to the COVID-19 disease control and emergency response committee. —Htein Lin (Monywa)/ GNLM

Israel bans unvaccinated teachers from teaching

ISRAELI teachers who have not been vaccinated against the COVID-19 will be banned from entering schools unless they present a negative test result, Israeli Ministry of Education said on Thursday.

Under the decision, teachers who do not present the Green Pass, which is a proof of COVID-19 vaccination or recovery from the disease, are required to present a rapid antigen test performed up to 84 hours earlier.

The ban is part of the Israeli government's efforts to reduce the high COVID-19 morbidity in the country, and particularly in the unclosed education sector amid the rapid spread of the virus.

Under the instructions of the ministry, the teachers of schools and kindergartens who do not meet these conditions will not be paid for the days of absence, nor will they be allowed to teach remotely through Zoom.—ANI ■

A woman looks at Israeli pupils wearing protective face masks upon their return to the new school year amid a surge of Covid-19 cases in Israel, at Beit Hakerem elementary school in Jerusalem, on 1 Sept 2021. **PHOTO: ANI**

Covid supply woes hit alcohol in the US

Bourbon bottles are seen on a liquor store shelf in Louisville, Kentucky in June 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

FIRST it was computer chips, and now spirits: Global supply chain woes are shaping up as the party pooper in some parts of the United States.

In Pennsylvania, authorities have limited the sale of certain brands to two bottles per person per day since 17 September, due to persistent disruptions in the supply chain and a shortage of products, the state alcohol commission said.

The limits apply to stores selling alcoholic beverages, as well as bars and restaurants in states like Pennsylvania, which have a monopoly on the sale of some types of alcohol.

"We regularly impose bottle limits on products for which we know demand will exceed supply in order to distribute the product as fairly as possible," said Shawn Kelly, press secretary for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

On the list of 43 products with sales limits are brands of bourbon, whiskey, champagne, cognac and tequila.

According to US media, several states such as Vermont, Ohio, New Jersey and Alabama are experiencing difficulties, some since July, while several studies have shown an increase in alcohol consumption since the beginning of the pandemic.

Mac Gipson, the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control administrator, said that the problem was "partly a global supply chain issue," with shortages of glass in some places and bottle caps in others. American producers were also facing labor shortages, delivery problems and increased demand from restaurants and bars that were reopening at the same time after the end of restrictions caused by the pandemic.—AFP ■

'Tiger King 2' promises 'more madness and mayhem' this year

A follow-up to "Tiger King," the documentary series that captivated millions around the world in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, will be released this year, Netflix said Thursday.

The original series followed "Joe Exotic," a gay, mullet-wearing private zookeeper who ruled over a menagerie of big cats, wacky employees and misfit lovers, but ended up in prison for attempted murder.

It was watched by 64 million households in its first four weeks alone after its March 2020 premiere. "Tiger King 2" promises "more madness and mayhem," with a trailer featuring Exotic apparently phoning in from prison, where he is serving his 22-year sentence. The brief teaser also features footage of Carole Baskin -- the animal rights activist Exotic tried to have killed -- although she told Fox Business she declined to participate after her "false portrayal" in the first series.

The original "Tiger King" focused on the rivalry between Exotic and Baskin, who had for years accused the flamboyant businessman of abusing the animals in his park. It also heavily featured wild and unsubstantiated rumours that Baskin fed her husband to their sanctuary's tigers. Baskin denies any involvement in her husband's disappearance.

The trailer for the sequel series includes a billboard asking "Who murdered Don Lewis" and offering a $100,000 reward for information about the fate of Baskin's husband.

"Tiger King 2" will apparently feature Joe Exotic phoning in from prison where he is serving time for attempted murder. **PHOTO: NETFLIX US/AFP**

In May, US officials seized 68 lions, tigers and lion-tiger hybrids from the former animal park of Joe Exotic, now run by Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Festival of the Dead' halted after Covid outbreak

CAMBODIA has cancelled its "Festival of the Dead" -- an annual holiday where the Buddhist faithful pay respects to deceased relatives -- after a coronavirus outbreak among monks in the capital.

Worshippers around the country visit pagodas during the two-week Pchum Ben festival to offer prayers and food to the spirits of their ancestors.

This year's observance began on Tuesday but will come to an early end on the weekend after nearly 50 Buddhist monks tested positive for coronavirus and authorities locked down their temple in Phnom Penh.

The festival cancellation was "necessary to control the spread of Covid-19... at the time that Cambodia is reopening schools and is planning to reopen the country," Prime Minister Hun Sen said in a Thursday night statement.—AFP ■

US biotech billionaire to make Covid, cancer vaccines in S. Africa

BIOTECH billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong on Thursday said he will begin transferring technology to make Covid-19 and cancer vaccines in South Africa.

The South African-born and now United States-based doctor, provided details of the plan that will see coronavirus vaccine production starting next year in an online press conference with President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Soon-Shiong's company NantWorks will transfer the technology within the next three months and vaccine production is expected to begin in 2022.

The government's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the South African Medical Research Council and the Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation, as well as four local universities, according to a statement from Ramaphosa's office.

In addition to the vaccines, the NantWorks initiative will work on cell-based immunotherapies that could lead to new cancer treatments.—AFP ■

China's central bank rules all crypto transactions are illegal

The global values of cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin have massively fluctuated over the past year partly due to Chinese regulations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CHINA'S central bank on Friday said all financial transactions involving cryptocurrencies are illegal, sounding the death knell for digital currencies in China after a crackdown on the volatile trade.

The global values of cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin have massively fluctuated over the past year partly due to Chinese regulations, which have sought to prevent speculation and money laundering.

"Virtual currency-related business activities are illegal financial activities," the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said in an online statement Friday, adding that offenders would be "investigated for criminal liability in accordance with the law."

The notice bans all related financial activities involving cryptocurrencies, such as trading crypto, selling tokens, transactions involving virtual currency derivatives and "illegal fundraising".

The central bank said that in recent years the "trading and speculation of Bitcoin and other virtual currencies have become widespread, disrupting economic and financial order, giving rise to money laundering, illegal fund-raising, fraud, pyramid schemes and other illegal and criminal activities."

In June, Chinese officials said more than 1,000 people had been arrested for using the profits from crime to buy cryptocurrencies. Several Chinese provinces had already banned the operation of cryptocurrency mines since the start of this year, with one region accounting for eight percent of the computing power needed to run the global blockchain -- a set of online ledgers to record bitcoin transactions. Bitcoin values tumbled in May on the back of a warning by Beijing to investors against speculative trading in cryptocurrencies.—AFP ■

UK urges public calm over shut fuel stations

THE UK government on Friday urged the public against panic-buying fuel as some petrol stations closed pumps due to a lack of tanker drivers.

The Sun newspaper headlined its front page "We're running on empty", as fears grew of a repeat of 2000, when protests over high fuel prices brought the country to a virtual standstill.

This time, the coronavirus pandemic and Brexit have created a shortage of lorry drivers, hitting the supply chain and leaving shelves empty at some supermarkets and shops.

But Transport Secretary Grant Shapps insisted there was no fuel shortage and the government would get more lorry drivers delivering stock.

"The advice would be to carry on as normal," Shapps told Sky News after a number of UK petrol stations run by BP and ExxonMobil-owned Esso were forced to close.

Drivers were seen queuing outside some petrol stations, where some said they had run out of some types of fuel.

At Hildenborough in southeast England, a BP petrol station was closed entirely and its pumps wrapped in plastic.

"Sorry we're out of fuel. We are working hard to fix this," signs read.

At least 50 of BP's 1,200 service stations were out of at least one type of fuel, The Times reported, while BP told AFP a "handful of sites" had temporarily closed.

Motorists have been told not to rush to fill up. "There is no shortage of fuel in the UK and people should continue to buy fuel as normal," Downing Street said Thursday.

'Supply pressure'

Industry insiders said the lack of fuel deliveries was confined to southeastern England and appeared to be temporary, but was part of a wider problem.

BP blamed "industry-wide driver shortages across the UK".

Gordon Balmer, of the Petrol Retailers Association, cited "supply pressure from a lack of trained HGV (heavy goods vehicle) drivers," despite demand at 92 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.—AFP ■

In late 2000, anger over high fuel prices and the government's refusal to waive or reduce duty triggered a blockade of oil refineries, bringing the country to a virtual halt. **PHOTO: AFP**

Emerging market of South African wines

CURRENTLY, most of the exported South African wines are ended in Europe, but the wine industry is seeing good growth in the Chinese market and for South African wines the Chinese market is getting more and more attention, CEO of Wines of South Africa Siobhan Thompson told Xinhua in an interview at the organization's headquarters in Stellenbosch Tuesday, about one hour's drive from Cape Town's central business district.

Thompson will be together with 22 members of the organization to participate in an online wine exhibition, namely South Africa-China Wine Digital Exhibition, Wednesday to deliver education and information on South African wines, inform Chinese customers and grow the user base of South African wines in China.

Hosted by China Construction Bank Johannesburg Branch, the exhibition aims to promote ongoing cooperation between South African high-quality wine producers and Chinese importers.— Xinhua ■

Photo taken on 21 Sept 2021 shows wine barrels in a wine cellar at Vondeling Wines in Paarl, Cape Winelands, South Africa. With traditional markets in Europe, the South African wine industry is now seeking to export more of its products to a developing market -- China, which has already become a focus market of South Africa. **PHOTO: LYU TIANRAN/XINHUA**

India shares hit record high as rally gathers steam

INDIAN shares rallied to a record high Friday as investors rode a global rally fuelled by optimism about the economic recovery outlook.

The Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex index crossed the 60,000 mark for the first time to touch 60,333 in the first five minutes, while the blue-chip Nifty50 index also hit a new peak of 17,947.

India's markets have enjoyed whirlwind growth despite the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, more than doubling in value since an April 2020 low.

"Expectations of solid economic recovery and sustained growth in the next couple of years is keeping the bulls enthused," Sandeep Bharadwaj of IIFL Securities said.

Heavyweight IT stocks including Infosys, TCS and HCL Technologies led Friday's rally, surging up to three per cent after overseas rival Accenture forecast strong revenue growth for the year.

Real estate, banking and financial services companies also gained, with the Nifty Realty Index hitting an 11-year-high.

India's stock market could grow to more than $5 trillion to become the fifth-largest in the world by 2024 as more technology start-ups go public, Goldman Sachs said in a research note this week.

"We estimate nearly $400 billion of market cap could be added from new IPOs over the next two to three years," the Wall Street giant said.

Mumbai is currently the seventh largest by market capitalization.— AFP ■

Chinese companies calculate emissions caused by oil from mining to consumption

Workers change the billboard at a Sinopec gas station in Fuzhou, Fujian province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

HOW many carbon emissions will be generated if 30,000 metric tons of crude oil, mined from Angola, West Africa, is transported all the way to China, made into refined oil products, and finally burned by terminal facilities?

Three Chinese companies, China Petroleum &Chemical Corp (Sinopec), China COSCO Shipping Corp Ltd, and China Eastern Airlines, have cooperated to calculate carbon footprint and offset emissions of the crude oil journey, marking the first of its kind ever certification to be issued in the world.

The certification ceremony was held on Wednesday, and the three companies were given certificates by Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange, China's first environment and energy product trading platform authorized by Shanghai municipal government.

Lyu Dapeng, a Sinopec spokesperson, created a metaphor to explain the company's move. Lyu said the process of extracting crude oil, refining and processing, as well as consumption of refined oil were like "overdrawing the allowance of carbon emissions from their credit card in the bank of environment around the world", and the move was to cover the overdraft to make their carbon account balance.

Lyu said the cost of calculating and offsetting carbon emissions will be borne by the three companies, and will not lead to a price rise for retail oil.

According to Lyu, Sinopec will gradually expand the proportion of refined oil and chemical products that are carbon-neutral in the future.— Xinhua ■

US power company charged over deadly California forest fire

A US power company whose cables sparked a devastating California fire that killed four people has been charged with manslaughter, prosecutors said Friday. More than 56,000 acres (22,000 hectares) were set ablaze when power lines operated by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) came into contact with a tree in September 2020, igniting what became known as the Zogg Fire.

Prosecutors said the company knew the tree in Shasta County was dangerously close to a powerline and should have removed it three years earlier.

"We have sufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the Pacific Gas and Electric Company is criminally liable for their reckless ignition of the Zogg Fire and the deaths and destruction that it caused," the county's district attorney Stephanie Bridgett said.

"Their failure was reckless and was criminally negligent, and it resulted in the death of four people" including an eight-year-old girl. The county also levelled charges over three other fires. PG&E is one of California's biggest power companies, and is responsible for maintaining large swathes of the state's creaking electricity infrastructure.—AFP ■

A US power company whose cables sparked a devastating California fire that killed four people has been charged with manslaughter, prosecutors said Friday. **PHOTO: CHCF.ORG/AFP**

Huawei executive released by Canada after 3-year detention

THE chief financial officer of Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co., who has admitted to fraud charges, was released by Canadian authorities Friday around three years after she was detained in Vancouver on behalf of the United States, the Justice Department said.

Making a remote appearance from Canada for a proceeding of a federal district court in New York, Meng Wanzhou "entered into a deferred prosecution agreement and was arraigned on charges of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud, bank fraud and wire fraud," the department said in a press release. Under the terms of the deal, Meng, 49, confirmed the accuracy of a four-page statement of facts regarding her knowingly false statements to a financial institution, and could face prosecution on all charges if she breaches the agreement such as through further criminal conduct. For its part, the U.S. government withdrew its request that Meng be extradited from Canada.—Kyodo ■

Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou walks out of her home on 28 September 2020 in Vancouver, Canada. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rolls Royce wins US Air Force contract worth up to $2.6 bn

The US arm of Britain's Rolls Royce won a contract worth up to $2.6 billion Friday to supply engines for the US Air Force's B-52H bomber fleet, the Air Force announced.

The company's Indianapolis, Indiana manufacturing unit was awarded a $500.9 million "indefinite-delivery/indefinite quantity" contract over six years for replacement engines for the B-52s, the long-range Stratofortress bombers that have been a mark of US strategic power since the 1950s.

The contract has a potential total value of $2.6 billion "if all options are exercised," the Air Force said.—AFP ■

UK to issue visas to ease lorry driver shortage: reports

THE UK government is poised to temporarily ease visa rules to attract more foreign lorry drivers, reports said Saturday, as it grapples with a growing shortage that has now hit fuel supplies.

The lack of tanker drivers has led to huge queues at petrol stations in recent days, as people ignore government pleas not to panic-buy fuel after some garages closed due to the lack of deliveries.

Up to 5,000 temporary visas could be issued under the short-term scheme, according to media reports, amid an estimated shortfall of around 100,000 heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (235N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (235N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Biden hosts Australian, Indian, Japanese leaders for Quad summit

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Friday deepens his bid to cement US leadership of the Indo-Pacific against a rising China with the first in-person summit of the regional Quad group.

Meeting in the White House, Biden and the leaders of Australia, India and Japan will discuss a Covid vaccines drive, regional infrastructure, climate change and securing supply chains for the semiconductors used in computer technology.

While China is not officially on the agenda, the Quad will stress backing for a "free and open Indo-Pacific," a senior US official told reporters. That's a phrase often standing in for ensuring that communist China will not end up dominating the region, including vital international sea lanes.

For Washington, the Quad meeting marks another step to reviving a US focus on diplomatic efforts, following its dramatic exit from the 20-year Afghanistan war.

And "the Biden administration understands that the challenges of the 21st century will largely play out in the Indo-Pacific," a senior administration official, who asked not to be named, said. "We are doubling down on our efforts."

Of three regional groupings that Washington leads in its strategic chess game to manage China's ascent, the Quad is deliberately the most open.

The other two are the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance, comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, and the newest arrival on the block -- AUKUS.— AFP ■

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison meets with US President Joe Biden at the UN ahead of a Quad regional meeting in the White House. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

World 'better place' 25 years after nuclear test-ban treaty

TWENTY-FIVE years after its adoption, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has made the world a safer place, experts say, despite never being ratified and concerns over North Korea.

The Americans conducted the world's first nuclear test in the desert of New Mexico on 16 July 1945. Between then and 24 September 1996, when the treaty opened for signature, more than 2,000 nuclear tests were carried out, says Robert Floyd, head of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), a UN body.

Since 24 September 1996 there have been only a few dozen tests, carried out by India, North Korea and Pakistan.

Robert Floyd is the head of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nevertheless eight nuclear powers, including China, North Korea and the United States have refused to ratify the landmark treaty, preventing it from entering into force and despite increasing pressure, there is little sign that they will change their minds, analysts say.

"We're in a much better place," insists Floyd, an 63-year-old Australian, during an interview with AFP in his bright office on the seventh floor of one of the UN towers in Vienna.

The accord has set a "global norm against testing," he adds. "The only country to test this century is North Korea."

To ensure the absence of nuclear tests, the CTBTO, which operates with an annual budget of around 111 million euros ($130 million), has set up more than 300 monitoring stations around the world, which are capable of detecting the slightest explosion in real time.—AFP ■

Stallion statues and cocaine: Rome has a new mafia

THEY threatened to dissolve her in acid. But Debora Cerreoni would not be cowed, and her testimony in Italy has proved decisive in exposing a new mafia – the Casamonica. The organized crime family hit the headlines in 2015 when it laid on a flashy funeral in Rome for "uncle" Vittorio Casamonica, with his coffin borne on a gilded horse-drawn carriage. Rose petals were dropped from a helicopter and posters outside the church in the east of the capital declared him the "King of Rome", while mourners were greeted with music from the film "The Godfather". Despite family members boasting in wiretapped conversations of being powerful enough to challenge Italy's storied mafias, the Casamonica were long seen as a local, if violent, criminal gang.

The villas revealed the 'eccentric aesthetic taste' of a clan of particularly fierce loan sharks with a penchant for bling. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

But that all changed this week, when a Rome court classified it as a mafia association and sentenced five of its chief members to up to 30 years each, under Italy's strict prison regime for mobsters.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU says US tech talks going ahead despite French anger

THE European Union said on Thursday that trade and tech talks with the United States would go ahead as planned next week, despite France's submarine spat with Washington putting them in doubt.

A furious Paris had floated the idea of delaying the meeting of the new Trade and Technology Council in Pittsburgh on 29 September in retaliation for a pact between the US, Australia and Britain – dubbed AUKUS – that saw Canberra scrap a multi-billion-dollar sub order from France.

But Brussels announced the talks were still on a day after French leader Emmanuel Macron and US President Joe Biden sought to defuse the tensions in a phone call.

"Strategic alliances are about shaping common approaches and also overcoming difficulties," tweeted Valdis Dombrovskis, EU trade commissioner.

EU allies expressed solidarity with France over the row that saw Paris recall its ambassador to Washington, but numerous member states were wary of steps that could worsen ties with the Biden administration. –AFP ■

Peru's coca farmers caught between drug gangs and starvation

In an impoverished village in Peru's largest coca-growing region, Angelica Lapa mourns her 19-year-old son, killed four months ago by remnant Shining Path guerrillas who maintain a grip of terror over the forgotten region.

On May 23, a Sunday, armed men stormed the far-flung settlement of San Miguel del Ene – population 300 – and attacked two taverns, mowing down 16 people. Four were children.

Lapa's son Luis Fernando was among the victims.

"My son was innocent, humble. His death was very difficult for us," the 67-year-old said as she wept on the small farm where she ekes out a living growing mainly coca – the leaf used to make cocaine.

The plant is much coveted by drug dealers the government says work in cahoots with Shining Path rebels – a convergence of interests that places the community in constant peril.

This was not the first time Lapa – her hands worn by many years of labor in the earth and sun – had loved ones killed by Shining Path.

In the 1980s, at the height of Peru's war, she lost cousins, uncles and grandparents to the Maoist guerrillas fighting to overthrow the government.

After so much suffering, she told AFP, it was time for "the government to send the army to put pressure on those who have killed so many innocent people."

Shining Path is labelled a terrorist organization by Lima, the European Union and United States. – AFP ■

India raises tone as Pakistan appeals to work with Taliban

INDIA on Friday upbraided Pakistan both in Washington and at the United Nations as Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan appealed to the world to work with Afghanistan's triumphant Taliban.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised concerns about Pakistan during talks with US President Joe Biden as well as a broader four-way summit with the leaders of Australia and Japan, according to Indian officials, who said the others concurred.

"There was a clear sense that a more careful look and a more careful examination and monitoring of Pakistan's role in Afghanistan -- Pakistan's role on the issue of terrorism -- had to be kept," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told reporters after the White House talks.

Khan, addressing the UN General Assembly, said that the Taliban have promised to respect human rights and build an inclusive government since taking over last month, despite global disappointment in a caretaker cabinet.

"If the world community incentivizes them, and encourages them to walk this talk, it will be a win-win situation for everyone," Khan said.

"We must strengthen and stabilize the current government, for the sake of the people of Afghanistan."

Khan spent much of his speech defending the record of Pakistan, which was the main supporter of the Taliban's 1996-2001 regime that imposed an ultra-austere interpretation of Islam and welcomed Al-Qaeda, triggering the US invasion after the September 11 attacks.

US President Joe Biden meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Oval Office of the White House. **PHOTO: AFP**

Khan, a longstanding critic of the 20-year US war ended by President Joe Biden, blamed imprecise US drone strikes for the flareup of extremism inside Pakistan and pointed to Islamabad's cooperation with US forces.

"There is a lot of worry in the US about taking care of the interpreters and everyone who helped the US. What about us?" Khan said in a speech, pre-recorded by video due to Covid-19 precautions.

"At least there should have been a word of appreciation. But rather than appreciation, imagine how we feel when we are blamed for the turn of events in Afghanistan." US officials have long accused Islamabad's powerful intelligence services of maintaining support for the Taliban, leading Biden's predecessor Donald Trump to slash military aid.— AFP ■

Merkel's final push for party and stability in knife-edge polls

'To keep Germany stable, Armin Laschet must become chancellor,' Merkel said, refering to the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) leader. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel travels Saturday to Aachen, hometown of her would-be successor Armin Laschet, in a last-ditch push to shore up his beleaguered campaign 24 hours before Germans vote.

Laschet, 60, has been trailing his Social Democrat challenger Olaf Scholz in the race for the chancellery, although final polls put the gap between them within the margin of error, making the vote one of the most unpredictable in recent years.

Merkel had planned to keep a low profile in the election battle as she prepares to bow out of politics after 16 years in power. But she has found herself dragged into the frantic campaign schedule of the unpopular chairman of her party, Laschet.

In the last week of the campaign, Merkel took Laschet to her constituency by the Baltic coast and on Friday headlined the closing rally gathering the conservatives' bigwigs in Munich.

Merkel tugged at the heartstrings of Germany's predominantly older electorate on Friday, calling them to keep her conservatives in power for the sake of stability -- a trademark of Germany.

"To keep Germany stable, Armin Laschet must become chancellor, and the CDU and CSU must be the strongest force," she said.—AFP ■

Nicaragua's presidential campaign kicks off, with no rivals

NICARAGUA'S presidential election campaign officially kicks off on Saturday with incumbent Daniel Ortega's main rivals all under arrest.

The 75-year-old, in power since 2007, will be seeking a fourth consecutive term in the 7 November vote despite international condemnation of his government's detention of 37 opposition figures since June.

Running on the ticket of his Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), Ortega has again chosen his wife Rosario Murillo,70, vice-president since 2017, as his running mate.

They will be up against candidates from five little-known right-wing parties — the only ones cleared to participate by the government electoral body.

"People know that the electoral process will be anything but transparent and that, to a certain extent, it is pre-ordained that the Sandinista Front will win," said former Nicaragua diplomat and analyst Edgar Parrales.

Ortega's government has been accused of political persecution for its rounding up of opposition figures in a series of house and night-time raids since June 2, including seven aspiring presidential candidates.

The charges against them are rooted in a law initiated by Ortega and approved by parliament in December, widely criticized as a means of freezing out challengers and silencing opponents.

The president accuses those arrested of seeking to overthrow him with US backing. —AFP ■

Nicaragua's long-time President Daniel Ortega will take part in a presidential election with all his main rivals under arrest. **PHOTO: AFP**

Clashes as Chile police evict migrant squatters

CHILEAN police clashed with undocumented migrants in the Pacific port city of Iquique Friday as authorities evicted hundreds who have been squatting in a public square for months.

About 100 police took part in the operation that left one person injured and resulted in five arrests on the Plaza Brasil, officials reported.

Thousands of illegal migrants, mainly Venezuelan families, started arriving in Iquique a year ago, living on the streets in tents and surviving through charity donations, begging or doing odd jobs for cash.

Many of them arrived on foot after an exhausting journey via Bolivia. Many had lived in Peru before coming to Chile, and told AFP they left there due to heightened anti-Venezuelan xenophobia.

As police moved in to expel them on Friday, some resisted as residents of the neighbouhood looked on — some in support of the police, others denouncing the action.

"It cannot go on like this," said one neighbor, who identified herself only as Mariela. —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.

AFC U-23 Group I matches featuring Myanmar team to be held in Kyrgyzstan

GROUP I matches of 2022 AFC U-23 Championship in which the Myanmar team are participating will be held in Kyrgyzstan, according to the Asian Football Confederation.

The group was previously scheduled to be held in China Taipei, but the team had resigned for the right to hold the tourney and the host nation was re-elected.

Group I includes Viet Nam, Myanmar and China Taipei. Following the withdrawal of China Taipei, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has decided to hold the event in Kyrgyzstan, a non-partisan country, as Myanmar has not applied for host country since before the group stage draw and Viet Nam also rejected to host the tourney.

Due to the change of the host country, the schedule of Group I matches will be changed from 27 October to 2 November.

Previously, it was scheduled to be held from 25 to 31 October.

According to the new fixtures released by the Asian Football Confederation, Vietnam will play against China Taipei on 27 October.

Myanmar will take on China Taipei on 30 October and Viet Nam on 2 November, respectively.

The Myanmar U-23 men's football team is preparing the best for the tournament and is headed by coach Velizar Popov. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Simeone seeks right attacking blend to reignite Atletico Madrid

"THE gunman is back," read the headline in Marca and Atletico Madrid fans will hope the team is too.

Luis Suarez scored twice, including a 90th-minute winner, to complete a late turnaround against Getafe on Tuesday and return the reigning champions to the top of the La Liga table.

They would quickly surrender first place to Real Madrid, who put six past Mallorca a day later, but the sight of Suarez settling games again rekindled memories of what took Atleti to the title three months ago.

Suarez's 21 goals were the driving force but there have been concerns about the Uruguayan this season, his fitness, sharpness and ability to stoke the fires that burned so bright after his bitter departure from Barcelona.

Angel Correa (left) and Luis Suarez (right) celebrate Atletico Madrid's late goal against Getafe on Tuesday. **PHOTO: JAVIER SORIANO/ AFP/FILE**

Scruffy touches and rusty finishing have been symptomatic of Atletico overall, a flatness raising suspicions these players may lack as champions some of the hunger and tenacity they had as challengers. "We're not where we want to be," said Diego Simeone on Tuesday.

Atletico can still defend – they have conceded five times in their opening seven games – and their knack of snatching points in the dying minutes remains very much intact. Suarez's late winner against Getafe came after goals in the 90th minutes against Villarreal and Espanyol.

Unlike Real Madrid and Barcelona, Atletico were bolstered not weakened in the summer transfer window, with Antoine Griezmann and Rodrigo de Paul arriving and the framework of last season's side left almost entirely untouched. —AFP ■

French football wrestles with violence in stadiums as fans return

After a year of football in empty stadiums the return of supporters this season should have been a cause for celebration, but France is reeling from a series of incidents involving fans in and around Ligue 1 games. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFTER a year of football in empty stadiums the return of supporters this season should have been a cause for celebration, but France is reeling from a series of incidents involving fans in and around Ligue 1 games.

The latest came on Wednesday when supporters invaded the pitch and flares were thrown at the game between Angers and Marseille, while stones were thrown at a bus taking Bordeaux fans to their match in Montpellier, with 16 suffering minor injuries. These incidents come after last weekend's northern derby between Lens and Lille was overshadowed by a pitch invasion that delayed the start of the second half.

Riot police intervened when dozens of Lens supporters stormed the pitch at half-time to confront Lille fans, while both sets of supporters hurled seats at each other over a partition wall.

Lens have been ordered to play home matches behind closed doors until further notice, denying them of the crowd that usually creates one of the best atmospheres in France at the Stade Bollaert-Delelis.

Previously Nice were docked one point after the abandonment of their game against Mediterranean rivals Marseille on 22 August.

Nice were also ordered to play three home games behind closed doors at the Allianz Riviera, where Marseille's Dimitri Payet was hit by a bottle thrown from the crowd and supporters streamed onto the pitch as a melee ensued involving players, staff, fans and stewards.

The abandoned game will be replayed at a neutral ground next month, behind closed doors. —AFP ■