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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.

If the economy of rural people can be uplifted, the country will have economic development: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 2/2021 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 October 2021.

AS the country needs the educated human resources in building the Union based on democracy and federalism without fail, regions and states with weak education should encourage academic matters, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 2/2021 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the office of State Administration Council Chair-

man yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the Senior General said it is necessary to prioritize food sufficiency. The number of producers of food-stuffs accounts for 70 per cent in the country. The products made of agriculture and livestock earn the largest amount of foreign exchange.

The Senior General stressed the need for region and state chief ministers to emphasize rural development, enhancement of rural economy and state devel-

opment in line with the policies of the State.

It is estimated that more than seven million people have learned high school education across the nation according to the census collected in 2019. Hence, it is necessary to prioritize the encouragement of education. "Only when the people have the school education, will they have the knowledge and then technologies." There is 8.1 per cent of the people who do not have the experiences of

learning the school education. In accord with the age-wise terms, the number of students is on the increase in learning primary education but the number is down from middle school education to higher education. Region and state governments need to emphasize the enhancement of education for the rural people.

Plans are underway to establish institutes of livestock and agriculture and then college institutions in all regions and states. If necessary, the uni-

versity of these subjects will be opened in order to improve the rural agriculture and livestock tasks for the uplift of the living standard of the rural people.

With regard to the fertilizer requirements at home, the Senior General said **that there are five fertilizer plants at home. Of them, two plants cannot be run and then the rest three are in operation. The plants in Kyawswa, Myaungtagar and Pathein are manufacturing fertilizers.**

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Five special criminal appeals sentenced, three special appeals heard in court

A total of five special criminal appeals were sentenced and three special appeals were heard at Office No. (1), Supreme Court of the Union yesterday morning.

Special appeals tribunal was led by Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Maung, U Kyi Thein, U Tin Hone, and Daw Khin Mary.

A total of five special criminal appeals: 5/2020 (Mandalay), 10/2020 (Mon), 1/2021 (Yangon), 2/2021 (Yangon) and 3/2021 (Mandalay) were sentenced.

In addition, three special appeals No. 4/2020 (Ayeyawady), 5/2020 (Ayeyawady) and 7/2020 (Yangon) were heard in line with the prevention and control guidelines of the COVID-19 pandemic. — MNA

Press Release

MYANMAR being an ASEAN Member State has the full rights to participate in the upcoming ASEAN Summits and Related Summits to be held from 26 October 2021 to 28 October 2021 as the ASEAN Charter guaranteed equality of all ASEAN Member States and thus an equal level of representation at the ASEAN Meetings in equal footing with the fellow ASEAN Member States.

However, the current ASEAN Chair, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam's invitation of non-political representative (Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to the upcoming ASEAN Summits and Related Summits is not in line with ASEAN Charter, ASEAN procedures and precedent. Moreover, Myanmar representative is denied equal rights enjoyed by the other ASEAN Member States. Therefore, downgrading the level of participant and limiting his role of discussions in the Summits is contrary to Article 5 of the ASEAN Charter on "Rights and Obligation".

Therefore, Myanmar has informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam that Myanmar can accept the participation of the Head of State or Head of Government or his Ministerial-level representative at the upcoming 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits to be held from 26 October to 28 October 2021.

Myanmar would be pursuing the due processes under the ASEAN Charter and the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms in resolving the differences in Myanmar's representation at the ASEAN Meetings and differences in interpretation of some relevant provisions of the ASEAN Charter.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Date, 25 October 2021

Myanmar warmly welcomes 401 returnees from Laos

MYANMAR officials warmly welcomed a total of 401 returnees (297 men and 154 women) repatriated from Laos at Wang Pong port in Tachilek, eastern Shan State yesterday afternoon.

The returnees were tested for COVID-19 under the COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health and one man was reportedly affected by the disease. He has been separately quarantined for medical treatment, and the rest of the returnees were transferred to Wang Long Quarantine Centres. The returnees who will be tested negative on the third day under the quarantine will be transported to respective regions and states.

Myanmar has been receiving returnees from Laos since 30 July, and yesterday was the 14th time acceptance of returnees. As of yesterday, a total of 4,075 Myanmar nationals have returned home from Laos. — Yasay (IPRD)/GNLM



Myanmar returnees from Laos check in at the reception site.

Two new special postage stamps featuring Myanmar's cultural heritage to be issued



Two new special postage stamps.

TWO new special postage stamps (K200) with pictures of men and women in the Bagan-era dresses will be sold at the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office, the Mandalay Post Office and post offices in respective re-

gions and states starting from 9 am on 27 October.

Myanmar Post of the Ministry of Transport and Communications aims to discover Myanmar's cultural heritage and make the public and new generations more aware of the dress code of traditional Myanmar men and women for generations.

As a special programme, dates will be stamped on the postage stamps purchased on 27 October at the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office and the Mandalay Post Office.

It is also reported that the postage stamps featuring the dresses of Inwa-era men and women will be issued. — MNA

e-Stay Extension for e-Visa (Business) holders to be conducted 1 November online

THE Ministry of Immigration and Population has officially launched the e-Visa website (<https://evisa.moip.gov.mm>) on 1 September 2014 to accelerate the implementation of Myanmar's e-Government processes and support the development of Myanmar's tourism industry and issued the Tourist Visa and Business Visa using Electronic System.

To further support the economic development of the country, the e-Stay Extension website (<https://estay.moip.gov.mm>) for Stay Extension and Re-entry Visa of the foreigners working in Myanmar with e-Visa (Business) applied online via e-Visa Website will be launched as a trial starting 1 November 2021.

Those who have obtained e-Visa (Business) and want to apply for online e-Stay Extension can contact the Immigration Department, Department of Foreigners Affairs; Office No. (48) Nay Pyi Taw, Telephone 067-3431515 or No. (112), Pansodan Road, Immigration Department in Yangon at 01-8372903. — MNA

711 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 October, total figure rises to 494,974

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 494,974 after 711 new cases were reported on 25 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 458,470 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,560 after 22 died.—MNA

If the economy of rural people can be uplifted, the country ...

FROM PAGE-1

The plant in Kyawswa came to a halt for the natural gas problem. Now, efforts are being made to resume its production. Even though this plant will produce the fertilizers with full capacity, it will produce some 300,000 tonnes of fertilizers per year. There are three fertilizer plants. And, 15 million acres of land is under monsoon paddy, three million under summer paddy, and then maize, sesame and cotton and so on. For example, 11 million acres of monsoon paddy are grown along Ayeyawady and Chindwin River banks in addition to more than 2 million acres of summer paddy, more than 400,000 acres of maize, 9 million acres of pulses and beans, over 6 million acres of edible oil crops and over 800,000 acres of industrial crops. Totally, some 30 million acres of crops are grown along the banks of two rivers. If we supply fertilizer to these crops, the volume will be tremendous. You look at the fertilizers imported last three years. Some 1.5 million tonnes of urea and compound fertilizers were imported per year. It cost some US\$280 million. This year, the price will double. It will be some US\$560 million. As we can produce fertilizers from three State-owned plants which produce 300,000 tonnes, we import 1.5 million tonnes of fertilizers. I mean we have requirements for the production of fertilizers. Its production is based on natural gas. So, we need to produce urea fertilizer plants.”

The Senior General stressed the need to implement river water pumping projects for the supply of adequate water to the farmlands near the water sources and efficiently use the irrigated water to achieve success in agricultural projects.

The country generates electricity through hydropower, wind power and solar power. Region and state chief ministers need to operate small and medium-scale electricity generation projects depending on the situation. He also pointed out the efficient use of natural gas under the energy policy and systematic use of coal. In addition, it is necessary to manufacture cement as well as advanced bricks for construction projects of the State.

Regarding the adequate production of cement and iron rods at home, the Senior General

said that there are 19 cement plants—16 private-owned plants and three State-owned ones. They can produce 16.17 million tonnes of cement at full capacity. Some plants can produce it in a dry process and some in, wet process. Actually, Myanmar is skilful in the production of dry processes. So, cement plants need to be transformed to produce the stocks in the dry method. So, the government will disburse the loan to these projects. We will loan foreign exchange for the purchase of materials abroad. It must be under the work procedures. Encouragement must be given to produce cement at home. In the collection of data, we can produce 16 million tonnes of cement and consume 10-11 million tonnes. I mean it is sufficient to use cement. It is nothing to import cement. But some said they imported cement is quality one. So, we have to improve the quality of cement at home. Our products must meet the standards of EU, UK, US, China and Japan. Our plants need to set aims to meet these standards. If not, the plants must be closed. Otherwise, our products will not be quality. So, I instructed region and state chief ministers to inspect cement plants in their regions such as Shan State and Mandalay Region as well as Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. And then, these plants must produce the products under the policy. If so, the import volume of cement will decline. And, we

The country generates electricity through hydropower, wind power and solar power. Region and state chief ministers need to operate small and medium-scale electricity generation projects depending on the situation. He also pointed out the efficient use of natural gas under the energy policy and systematic use of coal. In addition, it is necessary to manufacture cement as well as advanced bricks for construction projects of the State.

need to drop the import volume to zero. Moreover, we have iron materials to be used in the production of steel materials. Such a kind of production can rely on some sites on a commercial scale for many years. Iron rods are imported. So, I encourage the construction of

Based on a cooperative system, efforts must be made for the development of the rural area. Moreover, it is necessary to gather the raw materials at home and produce export quality products. The Senior General also stressed the need to improve motor roads and railways for the development of public transport.

steel mills. We should not be satisfied with the production of small iron rods. We need to produce various sizes of iron rods such as H beam and I beam for the construction of bridges. It is a must. If we don't use raw materials at home and import all kinds of stocks, the country will be poor. So, we are making efforts for an adequate volume of cement. We invite anyone at home and abroad to establish new fertilizer plants. We will coordinate the supply of natural gas and electricity as main inputs for the production of fertilizers. Moreover, if we can generate electricity from renewable energy and reduce the consumption of natural gas and supply it to plants, the project will succeed. So, we need to consider it but there are no easy ways for the projects. We need to keep the concept of how to develop the nation in mind. So, we have adopted an energy policy. I'd like to highlight the steel. We will encourage the establishment of steel

In respect of the transport sector, the Senior General said: “We need to encourage public transport. Efforts must be made to use trains, circular train and bus lines. So, I have ordered them to resume rail transportation with losses. I arrange the running of trains even though destructionists commit the sabotages. And, I order to upgrade the railways as it is beneficial for the State but unbeneficial for the economy. We need to encourage public transport. If we transform public transport to electric ones, the benefit will be greater. So, I urge all to generate electricity. The plan must be implemented to operate the electric trains across the nation. Circular trains must be run along the circular railways. All the vehicles must be electric ones in the urban area. So, we review such a policy. Upon completion, we will declare that steps of implementing the electric car for private cars must be implemented yearly. Heavy machinery and vehicles may be transformed into electric ones. We will observe the technical know-how similar to other countries. Private cars and buses can be transformed into new ones. We will adopt the plans to transform these vehicles into electric ones. If not, our country will lag behind the development of others. The country will be poor for the value of the fuel.”

The Senior General also gave guidance to reduce the import of foodstuff and personal goods as much as possible and urged all to produce these products at home.

He also stressed the need to cultivate cotton plants to meet the standard of yielding products from the international community. So, cooperation is being conducted with foreign countries to improve the techniques of growing cotton plants.

It is necessary to implement the politically adopted policies and enhance the economy and enforce the disciplines. If the economy of rural people can be uplifted, the country will have economic development. As the country needs the educated human resources in building the Union based on democracy and federalism without fail, regions and states with weak education should encourage academic matters. Only when the people have high education, will they have knowledge and techniques and understand the democracy as well as Union level and Union spirit.

The Union ministers submitted their reports and sought approvals.

In his concluding remarks, the Senior General stressed the need to appoint the full strength of teachers at basic education schools. The Ministry of Education needs to turn out qualified education staff.

He stressed the need to produce economists and legal experts as well as agriculturists to the enhancement of the rural economy. Those who studied modern techniques abroad must be deployed in the correct positions.

Based on a cooperative system, efforts must be made for the development of the rural area. Moreover, it is necessary to gather the raw materials at home and produce export quality products. The Senior General also stressed the need to improve motor roads and railways for the development of public transport.

Efforts must be made to stabilize the economy in order to firm the value of Myanmar currency. Arrangements are being made to control the currency value in order to stabilize the banking system as much as possible. Ministries need to supervise the tasks with far-sightedness.—MNA

Promoting and cementing Union Spirit

LIKEWISE if one is too eager to embrace the past, one may lose the road to the future. The government has decided to further promote the process of cementing the Union Spirit and peace process before the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Independence Day.

(Excerpt from the Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark Sixth Anniversary of signing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15-10-2021)

MoC opens commercial attaché training course (2021)

THE Ministry of Commerce held the opening ceremony of the commercial Attaché Training Course (2021) yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San said The Commercial Attaché Training Course was scheduled to open in July, however, it was temporarily suspended due to the high rate of COVID-19 infection, and the course is conducted under the COVID-19 guidelines and permission of the COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Central Committee. Commercial Attachés have been sent to foreign trading partners since 2012, and this will be the fourth time, he said.

He said it is necessary for commercial attachés to focus on trade and investment promotion. A total of 38 officials from related ministries will attend the training and qualified candidates will be carefully selected. The Head of

the State also relies on commercial attachés as frontline fighters for the economic development of the country, the Union Minister continued.

The training plans to deliver subjects that must be known as a commercial attaché, and he urged the trainees to learn with interest and try to be ready to serve by connecting with current commercial attachés' experience and information.

He ordered them to study the lectures diligently as ways to export a variety of products for the development of the country's exports, compliance with standards, finding new markets and export market expansion, negotiation and trade law procedures with other countries must be studied and applied in practice.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister said that in the current situation, the western countries where commercial attachés have been sent have little cooperation



The Commercial Attache' Training Course in progress.

in trade, however, it is found that the social and economic situation is being studied and presented. Myanmar has sent a total of 4 commercial attachés to China, a major trading partner of the country. As Commercial Attachés sent to China were able to co-

ordinate with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to export Myanmar's agriculture products, fishery products, fruits, cows and buffalos to China, which has greatly benefited the country. He also urged trainees to focus

on the subjects delivered during the course.

The opening ceremony was also attended by the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Senior Officials of the Ministry of Commerce, and a total of 38 trainees. — MNA

20th ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting goes online



THE 20th ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) was held online yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs U San Lwin, in his capacity as Deputy Attorney-General attended the meeting as a Chairperson of ASLOM, and the Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Naing also joined the event together with the legal officers of ASEAN countries.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attor-

ney-General U San Lwin talked about the approved matters related to the legal assistance of SOM-MLAT and AMAG-MLAT in criminal cases while serving as the host country of the 19th ASLOM, achievements of ASLOM, holding of coordination meeting on the transfer of suspects in April, participation of Myanmar in various ASEAN meetings, and he handed over the Chairmanship of the 20th ASLOM to Malaysia.

The meeting focused on the

progress on the agreement on the transfer of suspects in ASEAN, ASEAN law officials, ASEAN Legal Information Authority, ASEAN Government Law Directory, ASEAN trade law, transfer of suspects among ASEAN member countries, crime prevention and criminal justice, judicial cooperation and other legal assistance related matters among ASEAN member countries.

It is reported that the meeting will be held until 26 October. — MNA

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

World largest bamboo pagoda constructed in Nay Pyi Taw

THE largest bamboo pagoda is constructed in the compound of Taung Thone Lone Zetawun Pariyatti monastery of Sayadaw Baddhanta Vepula in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory.

The stake driving ceremony was conducted on 12 June and it was completed up to 15 feet in October.

There will be a cave underneath the pagoda and the pagoda is 150 feet in girth and 180 feet in height. There will be also three lakes with full of lotus

in the pagoda compound.

“Before the bamboo pagoda was constructed, Saya Gyi U Kaung of Pyana Pantine of Pyinmana and U Kyaw Win, Chairman of Myanmar Bamboo Growers Association met and the Sayadaw ordered to build the bamboo pagoda in a circular shape. We make sure to keep the cash contributions not to be wasted with the auditors systematically,” said U Mingala Tin.

It is important to use the best quality and mature bamboo in building the pagoda and it will



The stake driving ceremony was conducted on 12 June and it was completed up to 15 feet in October.



take time to be sustainable existence of the pagoda. Although it was intended to use Dendrocalamus, they used Brandis.

“Before we construct the bamboo pagoda, we estimated to build RC pagoda. When we got a contact from Sayadaw, he told us that he wanted to build a bamboo pagoda. As we have to build the body of the pagoda over the RC foundation, it becomes higher,” said U Kyaw Win, chairman of Bamboo Growers Association.

“We use Brandis instead of Dendrocalamus in building the pagoda. The Brandis does not

grow naturally and so we have to order from the bamboo farms. We get three-year-old bamboo and we use it for foundation and Kya Thaung bamboo for the roof,” he continued.

It will cost millions of kyats to construct the pagoda and so the officials will systematically choose the quality bamboo to occur rosy processes.

“First, we have to choose the quality bamboo and wash them and make wholes on them. After that, we boil them with chemicals and dry them in the sun. Although we estimate to complete within one year and

two months, it might take much time due to some restrictions of COVID-19,’ he added.

The structure of the bamboo pagoda will be like a Dome-shaped Bodh Gaya Maha Bodhi pagoda. The interior design of the pagoda is a cave and Myanmar language Tripitaka will be depicted on the wall of the pagoda. Even the foundation is used only bamboo and it will be the very first bamboo pagoda in the world.

The well-wishers can donate the bamboo at K1,200 via 09-77777245. — Hein Htet Zaw/GNLM

Myanmar welcomes 500 returnees through Myawady Friendship Bridge II

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

On 24 October, a total of 500 returnees came back home through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in Myawady.

From 26 September, the number of Myanmar returnees has increased from 200 to 500 a day.

Officials conducted COVID-19 tests and provided quarantine entry documents for the returnees.

Next, officials explained

instructions of the Ministry of Health to the returnees and departmental officials provided necessary assistance.

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

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

A total of 500 returnees: 265 males and 235 females came back home on 24 October. — Htein Lin Aung/GNLM



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COVID-19 positive patients, patients to be monitored admitted to COVID-19 centres

COVID-19 positive patients and those required to be monitored are systematically admitted to the Tatmadaw hospitals, military training schools, transit centres in respective military commands and are being provided with healthcare services.

In addition, officials from the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with relevant departments, charitable organizations and responsible citizens, are opening quarantine centres in respective townships.

As of 7 pm last night, the Nay Pyi Taw transit centres received a total of 167 people (99 men and 68 women) who needs to be monitored, and Hline Township transit centres



Health staff examine one of the COVID patients at the centre.

received a total of 2 women who were diagnosed with COVID-19. Local medical teams and officials in respective military commands are assisting with accommodation, health and medical care of the patients, it is reported. — MNA

Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 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 (SOPs).

On 25 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 products were imported by five companies and transported by 11 vehicles.

A total of 530 empty oxygen tanks, one oxygen plant, 1,000 oxygen concentrators for home use, 41,250 PPE suits, 10

tonnes of gloves, and 30 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw and Myawady trading posts and Yangon International Seaport.

One oxygen plant was transported to Yangon via seaports, officials said. Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website—www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

Over 12-year-old students receive COVID vaccines in Hopin



An above 12-year-old student gets jabbed.

HEALTHCARE officials gave the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines to above 12-year-old schoolchildren from Youth Training Centre in Hopin, Mohnyin District,

Kachin State on 24 October.

A total of 105 students: 37 schoolboys and 68 schoolgirls from high school received the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine (Sinovac) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus as primary and secondary schools have been set up to provide students with basic education.

The second round of vaccinations will be given to students who have already been vaccinated in November.

The vaccination was carried out by township-level officials, COVID-19 Prevention and Control Committee and members, health workers, members of the fire brigade, members of the Women's Affairs Committee and the Social Welfare Association. — Zwe Thura (IPRD)/GNLM

People in Pakokku continue to receive first dose of COVID vaccine

THE 3rd batch of COVID-19 vaccination to the priority groups, including the people over the age of 55, civil service personnel, monks, nuns and volunteers in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, continued yesterday morning.

A total of 225 people were vaccinated against the COVID-19 disease yesterday in Pakokku and department officials, charitable organizations, volunteers, and ward/village administrators collaborated for the successful immunization process. As of yesterday, a total of 24,553 people have been fully vaccinated, and a total of 10,288 people have received the first dose of the vaccine in Pakokku Township. It is also reported

that plans are underway to vaccinate the rest of the people in the township, according to Chairman U Moe Kyaw of the Pakokku Township COVID-19 Prevention and Emergency Response Committee. — Salai Ko Kee (IPRD)/GNLM



A Pakokku local aged above 55 receives vaccination.

Schoolchildren receive COVID-19 vaccines in Taungup



Inoculation roll-out for schoolchildren in Taungup.

HEALTH officials gave Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to above 12-year-old students at basic education high schools in Taungup Township, Thandwe District, Rakhine State yesterday.

The COVID-19 vaccine, which is being introduced in primary schools, is a Sinovac vaccine manufactured in the People's Republic of China.

A total of 9,353 schoolchildren from 34 basic education primary school and one high school have been vaccinated against the COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine was given to a total of 278 students from middle school and high school at Kyaw Kaing High School. —San Win (Taungup IPRD)/GNLM

Above 55-year-old people receive second dose of COVID vaccine in An, Rakhine state

PEOPLE over the age of 55, including monks in An Township, Rakhine State, received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at 9 designated vaccination sites in the township yesterday.

The vaccination was carried out with the assistance of members of the Township COVID-19 Prevention and Emergency Response Committee, township healthcare workers, department officials, members of the township police force and the fire brigade, ward/village administrators and volunteers.

It is reported that the Township Public Health Department is administering a total of 2,274 doses of COVID-19 vaccines as the second dose of the people in the target groups in An Township. — Soe Min Tun (Township IPRD)/GNLM

Domestic rice price falls slightly

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), the price of domestic consumption high quality and low-quality rice has fallen slightly.

During these days, the high-quality Pawsan was priced at K47,000 per bag, whereas the price dropped to K 46,000 per bag, right now. Similarly, the price of rice for Kyarpyan moved in the range of K49,000-K50,000 per bag, but the price declined to K47,500-K48,000 per bag.

Likewise, the low-quality rice price was set at K26,500 per bag in earlier days, it has dropped to K25,000 per bag presently. The 90 days rice was being traded for K31,000 per bag earlier. Now, it is priced at only K30,000 per bag.

The decrease in the do-



Farmers are seen harvesting the rice.

mestic price of rice is likely due to less demand for rice, said U Zaw Khaing, CEC of the Myanmar Rice Federation. This scheme is implemented by MRF, Myanmar Rice and

Paddy Traders Association, rice wholesale centre (Wahdan), traders and brokers, with

a view to offering the rice at a fairer price starting from 14 September 2021. About 5,000 108-pound rice bags have been sold as of 20 October 2021.

Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan, Pawkywel, short matured rice varieties (90 days) and sticky rice are being sold at a cheaper price between K23,500 and K54,000 per bag.

About one to five 108-pounds bags can be individually purchased. Those who want to buy them can come and buy at the Wahdan rice wholesale centre located at No 100 between Lanthit and Wahdan Street, Port Compound, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon through the contact numbers (09421167474 and 01218266-68) of the centre. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar’s border trade reaches over \$135 mln in mini-budget year



Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others to foreign trade partner countries while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country.

MYANMAR’S trade with neighbouring countries through land borders reached over US\$135 million as of 15 October in the mini-budget year of 2021-2022 or transition period from October to March this year, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

During the period, the country’s export via border gates amounted to \$60.21 million while its import shared \$75.07 million.

This financial year’s border trade decreased by over

\$358 million, compared to the same period of last FY when it amounted to \$493.48 million, the ministry’s figures said.

Myawady topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$102.05 million, followed by Kawthoung with \$13.41 million.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others to foreign trade part-

ner countries while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country.

The country conducts border trade with neighbouring China through Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung; with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei border checkpoints, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaung and with India through Tamu and Reed border crossings, respectively. — ACM/GNLM

Ripe areca nuts fetch higher prices in Myeik Township

THE price of areca nuts is offered higher price compared to the rate registered last year, said the growers.

“Last year, the ripe areca nut was worth only K3,000-3,500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in the early season and it was valued at K5,000-6,000 per viss during the late harvest season. This year, the opening price of areca nut is over K6,000 per viss. The remaining dried areca nut that was stored last year is priced at over K10,000 for now. The dried areca nut is offered higher price owing to better quality,” said a farm owner from Kyaukpyu village.

The betel nut is primarily produced in the villages of Myeik Township. They are sent to

the warehouses in Palaw and Dawei towns in Taninthayi Region, Mawlamyine, Yangon and Taunggyi.

Mon State, Kayin State, Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region and Taninthayi Region are the main producers of betel nuts. The betel nuts from Toungoo and Myeik are popular in the market. There are 20,483 acres of betel nut trees in Taninthayi Township, 5,572 in Kyungsu, 4,523 in Myeik and 11,090 in Palaw, totalling 41,668 acres in Myeik District of Taninthayi Region. About 12.649 million visses of betel nut are produced in the district, according to the data of the Myeik District Agriculture Department.—Myint Oo(Myek) /GNLM



Mon State, Kayin State, Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region and Taninthayi Region are the main producers of betel nuts. The betel nuts from Toungoo and Myeik are popular in the market.

About 2,000 pilgrims throng Bagan Archaeological Zone

BAGAN archaeological zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is receiving about 2,000 pilgrims per day at present, said U Than Myint Oo from Shwezigon Pagoda Trustees Board.

The local pilgrims are interested to observe the temples, stupas and mural paintings. They usually learn about the history of the temples before the visit. The majority of the visitors were seen in the famous historical temples of Bagan city; Shwezigon Pagoda, Tuyintaung Pagoda, Tantkyitaung Pagoda, Htilominlo Temple, Ananda Pagoda, Bu



The pilgrims must strictly obey the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

Pagoda, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple, Sulamani Temple, Mahabodhi Temple,



Manuha Temple, Shwesandaw Pagoda, and other famous pagodas. Now they also like to observe

the structure, building and mural paintings of Khayminga pagoda, Yinmanawin pagoda, Wuttana

Htaw pagoda, Sulegon Pagoda, Thagyarpon and Thagyahit pagodas precinct, Shweleiktu, Ingyin Cave pagoda, Kyaukmyatmaw pagoda, and other pagodas in the cultural zone.

The pilgrims must strictly obey the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health. Thadingyut fullmoon day recorded the highest number of over 9,000 pilgrims in Bagan Archaeological Zone in the last two years. About 5,500 visitors were seen on the 1st waning day after the full moon. The zone was crowded with 2,000 visitors on 25 October. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

Myanmar avocado association to conduct cosmetic course in post-COVID-19 era

MYANMAR Avocado Producers and Exporters Association will offer a cosmetic course with extensive knowledge of cosmetic formulation, manufacturing and marketing based on natural avocado oil, U Myo Nyunt, vice-chair of the association said.

At present, the avocado market is experiencing a slowdown as the tourism industry is suspended. That is why the cosmetic course based on avocado oil will be conducted. The cosmetics such as body lotion and soaps are planned to be manufactured with the use of avocado oil.

“Those interested trainees can enrol on this cosmetic course. Those who want to set up a business and are interested in cosmetic manufacturing will be prioritized. The value-added products are to be sold,” he elaborated.

The department’s further objectives for the avocado growers in the post-COVID-19 era is to provide courses regarding avocado cultivation under the Good Agricultural Practices, the cosmetic technology based on avocado oil and avocado recipe. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



The department’s further objectives for the avocado growers in the post-COVID-19 era is to provide courses regarding avocado cultivation under the Good Agricultural Practices, the cosmetic technology based on avocado oil and avocado recipe.

Myanma Thanaka selling well during Thadingyut Festival



Pakokku Thanaka warehouse, Mandalay Thanaka warehouse and Ayadaw Thanaka warehouse are the main suppliers of Myanmar Thanaka.

THE Thanaka market has recovered during Thadingyut Festival (mid-October) after the market slowdown during the pandemic, said Thanaka growers from Ayadaw Township.

Thanaka, a yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from ground bark, is a natural cosmetic in Myanmar.

“Thanaka is selling well during Thadingyut Festival. Myanmar people love to use Thanaka as a cosmetic. The collapse of the Thanaka market during the COVID-19 resulted in decreasing Thanaka farms. At present, Thanaka growers cultivate them again,” said a grower.

Additionally, the value-added Thanaka products such as Thanaka powder are also seen in the domestic market, said a seller.

“The fullmoon day of Tabodwe is designated as Myanmar Thanaka Day. After that, the number of consumers has significantly risen,” said a trader.

The prices of a Thanaka plant move in the range of K5,000 and K10,000. The plant which was earlier worth about K15,000 is sold at K10,000 in maximum at present. Some farm owners turned to other crops and harmed Thanaka quality a bit.

“Thanaka has grasped a market share in the domestic market. The neighbouring country Thailand is eyeing Thanaka powder and so, it has market potential,” said a member of the Myanmar Thanaka Planters and Producers Association.

Pakokku Thanaka warehouse, Mandalay Thanaka warehouse and Ayadaw Thanaka warehouse are the main suppliers of Myanmar Thanaka, said the traders.

There are nearly 200,000 acres of Thanaka in Sagaing Region and Ayadaw Township has over 100,000 acres. — Lu Lay/ GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Cambodia bans top politicians from holding dual citizenship

CAMBODIAN lawmakers on Monday approved an amendment to the kingdom's constitution barring political leaders from holding dual citizenship, a move seen as targeting the country's most prominent opposition figure.

Strongman leader Hun Sen had requested the Ministry of Justice to look into the amendment, saying in an October 6 post the change was needed in order "to show loyalty to the nation and avoid foreign interference."

After the amendment was approved, he added, "the door will be closed forever for dual citizenship people who have attempted to hold top posts, especially the prime minister post."

On Monday, the rubber-stamp parliament — with all 111 lawmakers from the premier's Cambodian People's Party — voted to pass the amendment after a brief discussion. — AFP ■

Nearly 400 still at large after Nigeria jailbreak

NIGERIAN security forces recaptured 446 inmates who escaped from prison in a mass jailbreak over the weekend with nearly 400 others still at large on Monday, officials said.

Heavily armed men used grenades to storm the Abolongo prison in southwest state Oyo late Friday, the facility said, in the third mass prison outbreak this year in Africa's most populous nation. Nigerian Interior Minister Rauf Aregbesola said 446 had been recaptured and 392 were still at large after visiting the prison on Sunday.

"The attack was unconscionable," he said. "The federal government will pursue not just those who attacked our facility, but those who have escaped lawful custody," he added. "You can run, but you can't hide," the minister said, adding that plans were underway to release "details" on the inmates in the media.

On Monday, a spokesman for the prison, Olanrewaju Anjorin told AFP that in total 837 escaped and 446 had been recaptured. — AFP ■

Fire 'stabilized' on cargo ship spewing toxic gas off Canada

THE Canadian Coast Guard said Sunday that a fire spewing toxic gas from a container ship had been "stabilized" and that it now planned to deploy firefighters to the vessel to quell the rest of the blaze.

The Zim Kingston is anchored off the city of Victoria in British Columbia, in the Strait of Juan de Fuca which marks the maritime border between Canada and the United States, according to the marine tracking site MarineTraffic.

It was bound for Vancouver when the fire broke out, with the blaze reported to the Coast Guard at around 11:00 pm local time Saturday, CBC News reported. A total of 16 people were evacuated from the ship, with five remaining onboard.

The Canadian Coast Guard announced Sunday that the fire had now "been stabilized", while saying that strong West Coast storms expected for Monday could thwart plans to send firefighters aboard.

"Depending on weather tomorrow (Monday), hazardous materials firefighters will board the ship to fight any remaining fires and ensure the fire is out," the Coast Guard said. Accounts vary as to the extent of the fire, with the Coast saying the blaze "broke out in ten containers" while the vessel's Cypriot owner, Danos Shipping, saying it occurred in two. Despite the "toxic gas" that the Coast Guard said was emanating from the ship, there was no current risk to people on the shore, it insisted. The fire was caused by "excessive listing due to extreme weather," Danos has said, adding that no injuries were reported.

The firm said it was sending claims adjusters on board "to ensure that conditions are appropriate for the safe return of the vessel's crew."

Emergency tow vessels, tugs and the Canadian Coast Guard were set to monitor the ship overnight to ensure that it remains secured. — AFP ■

Tokyo Disneyland holds first Halloween event in 2 years

TOKYO Disneyland held its first Halloween programme in two years on Monday after the park's operator had suspended special events as part of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Visitors with limited-edition tickets can dress up in Halloween costumes and enter the park from 8 am, two hours earlier than usual.

People waved their hands and took photos in a special parade joined by Mickey Mouse and other characters appearing in Disney films.

"I'd been looking forward to dressing up after two years," said 41-year-old

Sachiko Tsukuda, who visited the theme park in costume with a friend. "I want to enjoy taking photos."

Starting Monday, Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea will gradually lift the maximum number of visitors they admit every day from 10,000, respectively, according to the parks' operator Oriental Land Co. Their business hours will also be extended from November.

"We would like visitors to enjoy the Halloween atmosphere while obtaining cooperation for safety measures," an Oriental Land official said. — Kyodo News ■

Visitors to Tokyo Disneyland in Urayasu near Tokyo pose for a photo during a Halloween event on 25 October 2021. The event was cancelled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



London expands zone charging drivers of worst polluting cars



New signs for the ultra-low emission zone (Ulez) are pictured in central London on 8 April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON greatly expanded from Monday the area in which it charges the drivers of older polluting cars to help clean up the city's air, despite objections from some that it is too costly.

The British capital's devolved government introduced its original ultra-low emission

zone (ULEZ) in April 2019, forcing owners of more polluting vehicles to pay £12.50 (\$17.20) per day to drive in the city centre.

This zone has now been expanded to encompass a far bigger area — between northern and southern orbital roads — which is home to nearly four million

residents.

The long-planned measure comes just a week before the UK hosts a major summit on climate change in Scotland's biggest city Glasgow.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan tweeted that the measure would bring "cleaner air to millions of Londoners". The original ULEZ scheme has led to a "reduction in toxic air by almost a half: a reduction in particulate matter; a reduction in carbon emissions," Khan told the BBC.

The first year of the expanded scheme is projected to reduce the amount of carbon emitted by 100 kilotons, he added. "That's about 60,000 vehicles being taken off the road."

Those who drive a vehicle in the city centre at the busiest times also have to pay a congestion charge of £15, a measure first introduced in 2003.

Some have opposed the ex-

panded ULEZ measure, arguing that it is a "tax" on poorer drivers least able to afford to replace their polluting vehicles and that it will hit small businesses. The charge is applicable to cars, motorcycles, smaller vans and minibuses and based on their declared emissions rather than age.

However, petrol cars first registered after 2005, and diesel cars after September 2015, typically meet the ULEZ standards and are exempt. Khan told the BBC that "of course there has been opposition," but said that for him "this is an issue of social justice".

Long-term exposure to the capital's pollution has serious consequences for its population of around nine million, causing some 4,000 people to die prematurely in 2019 and stunting the growth of children's lungs, according to Khan's administration. — AFP ■

Into the 'plastisphere': Scientists comb Japan waters to study new eco threat

A boat's crew casts a net into the seemingly clean waters off Japan's Izu peninsula, but not to catch fish — they are scooping up microplastics to learn more about the pollution's impact on marine life.

Tiny floating fragments from plastic packaging, synthetic clothing and fishing nets have proliferated over the past four decades, and are now found in every part of the world's oceans — even the deepest trench.

The planet's seafloor is littered with an estimated 14 million tonnes of microplastics, according to a study released last year, and scientists say more research on them is urgently needed, including their effect on ecosystems, the food chain and human health.

So a team of French and Japanese researchers is analyzing samples from the archi-

pelago's coastal waters to study how microplastics make their way into the sea, and how much seeps into the ocean floor.

They are also examining the so-called "plastisphere", where micro-organisms live among discarded plastic.

"It's a new ecosystem that didn't exist before the 1970s. So we don't really know which types of microbes are associated with this plastic," Sylvain Agostini, scientific director of the Tara-Jambio project, told AFP.

Having left the funnel-shaped net nicknamed "the sock" to drift for 15 minutes near the surface, the crew hoisted it back on deck to inspect their catch.

"This blue stuff is microplastics, and that's polystyrene, I believe," Agostini said. — AFP ■



This photo taken on 14 October 2021 shows a researcher pulling a funnel-shaped net nicknamed "the sock" on the water's surface during a joint project of the French Tara Ocean Foundation and Japanese marine-station network Jambio onboard a boat off the coast of Shimoda, Shizuoka prefecture. A boat's crew casts a net into the seemingly clean waters off Japan's Izu peninsula, but not to catch fish — they are scooping up microplastics to learn more about the pollution's impact on marine life. **PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU / AFP**

Greenhouse gas levels reach new record high: UN

GREENHOUSE gas concentrations in the atmosphere reached new record levels last year, the United Nations said Monday in a stark warning ahead of the COP26 summit about worsening global warming.

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin from the UN's World Meteorological Organization said the annual rate of increase last year was above the yearly average between 2011 and 2020 — and the trend continued in 2021.

The WMO said the economic slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic triggered a temporary decline in new emissions, but had no discernible impact on the atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases and their growth rates. The organisation said that as long as emissions continue, global temperatures will continue to rise.

And given the long life of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero. COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference, is being held in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

"The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin contains a stark, scientific message for climate change negotiators at COP26," said WMO chief Petteri Taalas.

"At the current rate of increase in greenhouse gas concentrations, we will see a temperature increase by the end of this century far in excess of the Paris Agreement targets of 1.5 to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. "We are way off track."

The three major green-

houses gases are CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide. CO₂ is the most important, accounting for around 66 per cent of the warming effect on the climate.

CO₂ concentrations reached 413.2 parts per million in 2020, up 2.5 ppm, and is at 149 per cent of the 1750 pre-industrial level, the WMO said. The report said that roughly half of the CO₂ emitted by human activity remains in the atmosphere, with the other half ending up in the oceans and the land.

"The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO₂ was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3C warmer and sea level was 10-20 metres higher than now. But there weren't 7.8 billion people then," said Taalas. — AFP ■

UK announces £6 bn health spending ahead of key budget

THE British government will provide an extra £6 billion to its National Health Service to tackle backlogs built up during the pandemic, finance minister Rishi Sunak will announce in this week's budget. All eyes will be on Sunak Wednesday as he outlines the government's tax and spending plans for the next year.

He is grappling with a range of problems thrown up by the pandemic and lockdowns, with many anticipating tax hikes to deal with record borrowing.

Sunak told the BBC on Sunday that the country would have to wait until Wednesday to find out his tax plans.

But his office released details of the £6 billion (\$8.25 billion, seven billion euros) health fund for

patients waiting for diagnostic tests and non-emergency operations.

Part of the funding will go towards creating 100 "one-stop-shop" diagnostic centres across England to catch life-threatening diseases such as cancer.

Sunak called it a "game-changing investment... to make sure we have the right buildings, equipment and systems to get patients the help they need." The minister will also announce a £5 billion fund for innovative health-related projects, according to his office.

Health Minister Sajid Javid said the investment would add to coronavirus treatments and vaccines developed in the UK to battle the pandemic. — AFP ■

Oil-reliant Saudi Arabia faces questions over 'net zero' pledge

SAUDI Arabia's pledge to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060 must go hand-in-hand with a plan to phase out fossil fuels, experts said on Sunday.

They questioned plans by the world's top oil exporter to raise its production capacity despite the pledge, and Greenpeace raised doubts over the timing of Saturday's announcement.

The watchdog accused Saudi Arabia, one of the world's biggest polluters, of trying to divert criticism at next week's

COP26 climate-change summit in Glasgow.

With increasing global urgency to limit global warming, COP26 aims to set the world on a path to net zero by mid-century.

"We question the seriousness of this announcement, as it comes in parallel with plans for the kingdom to increase its oil production," Greenpeace MENA campaigns manager Ahmad El Droubi said in a statement.

Saudi state oil firm Aramco said this month it plans to in-

crease production capacity from 12 million to 13 million barrels a day by 2027.

Riyadh's net zero pledge "seems to simply be a strategic move to alleviate political pressure ahead of COP26", El Droubi said.

For Ben Cahill, senior fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, the kingdom "will have to make a massive push on energy efficiency and decarbonizing the power sector". — AFP ■



(FILES) In this file handput photo provided by Saudi oil giant Aramco on 11 February 2018, shows its Dhahran oil plants, in eastern Saudi Arabia. The climate crisis threatens a double blow for the Middle East, experts say, by destroying its oil income as the world shifts to renewables and raising temperatures to unlivable extremes. **PHOTO: AHMAD EL ITANI / SAUDI ARAMCO / AFP**

ECB charts lonely course through inflation spike

PRESSURE is growing on the European Central Bank to respond to rising inflation in the eurozone, as its counterparts in the United States and the United Kingdom signal willingness to take action.

ECB policymakers will meet on Thursday, with markets hoping for hints on when the bank might start raising historically low interest rates or tweak the pace of bond buying under its massive pandemic-era stimulus programme.

Bottlenecks have pushed up prices and

pinched industrial production in the eurozone, drawing a tightrope for policymakers to walk as withdrawing stimulus to quash inflation risks further crimping the economic recovery.

In September, prices in the euro area rose 3.4 per cent year on year, a 13-year high pushed by the cost of energy, and well above the bank's two-per cent target.

At the same time, material shortages linked to the pandemic have stalled the economic recovery in parts of the eurozone.

Eurozone business sentiment in October was at its lowest point since April, according to an IHS Markit survey published last week, with shortages being felt particularly in European powerhouse Germany and its vital automotive sector.

President Christine Lagarde has however said the ECB would not "over-react" to what the bank's economists see as "transitory" inflation driven by one-off pandemic effects.

'Getting closer'

At the end of September, the heads of the

world's biggest central banks came together at the ECB's monetary policy summit to discuss the problems facing them.

The US Federal Reserve was "getting closer" to meeting its targets to start winding down its own stimulus programme, its chair Jerome Powell said in a panel discussion with Lagarde and colleagues from the UK and Japan.

Members of its policy-making committee also expect the Fed to start raising interest rates at the end of 2022 — a pros-



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 11 March 2021 the headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) is pictured in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. Pressure is growing on the European Central Bank to respond to rising inflation in the eurozone, as its counterparts in the United States and the United Kingdom signal willingness to take action. ECB policymakers will meet on 28 October 2021. **PHOTO : ARMANDO BABANI / AFP**

pect which has yet to medium-term inflation officially materialize at forecasts continue to sit the ECB as the bank's below its target. — AFP ■

Australia's Telstra to acquire Digicel Pacific

AUSTRALIAN telecommunications firm Telstra will buy Digicel Pacific for \$1.6 billion, in a government-supported move reportedly aimed at shutting out China-backed players from acquiring the regionally dominant company.

Telstra announced Monday it had received \$1.3 billion in funding from Canberra to buy the South Pacific's leading mobile and internet provider, which operates in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Nauru.

Australia's government said the deal reflected its "Pacific Step-Up" commitment to support the development of secure and reliable infrastructure in the region.

"This is fundamentally in the interests of both Australia and our Pacific family," a foreign and trade ministries joint statement said.

Canberra announced its renewed Pacific engagement strategy in 2018 as

a political counterweight to China in the region, which has seen Australia offer greater financial aid to its developing neighbours.

The Australian Financial Review reported Canberra backed the Digicel acquisition amid concerns the strategically important asset could fall under Beijing's control if a Chinese state-owned firm bought it.

Telstra, which will contribute \$270 million of equity toward the purchase price, said the deal presents a "unique commercial opportunity".

"The financial arrangements make it very attractive for Telstra and it strengthens our relationships with the Australian government and the Pacific region," CEO Andrew Penn said.

The purchase from current owner and founder, billionaire Irish businessman Denis O'Brien, is expected to be completed within six months.

— AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Daw Aye Thazin Myo, (Advocate)
For **Techtronic Cordless GP**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,
221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township,
Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated: **26 October 2021**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1095W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1095W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-10-2021** 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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1111)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1111)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (141W/142E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (141W/142E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-10-2021** 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

More than half of Afghans face ‘acute’ food crisis: UN agencies

MORE than 22 million Afghans will suffer “acute food insecurity” this winter, UN agencies said Monday, warning the already unstable country faces one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.

“This winter, millions of Afghans will be forced to choose between migration and starvation unless we can step up our life-saving assistance,” said David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Programme.

The crisis is already bigger in scale than that facing Yemen or Syria, and worse than any food insecurity emergency apart from the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials told AFP.

“Afghanistan is now among the world’s worst humanitarian crises – if not the worst – and food security has all but collapsed,”



A worker collects corn cobs in a field in Panjwai district on 24 October 2021. **PHOTO : JAVED TANVEER / AFP**

Beasley said in a statement.

“We are on a countdown to catastrophe and if we don’t act now, we will have a total disaster on our hands.”

According to the statement

issued by the World Food Programme and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, one in two Afghans faces Phase 3 “crisis” or Phase 4 “emergency” food shortages.

Phase 4 is one step below a famine, and officials told AFP that Afghanistan — already struggling to emerge from a 20-year civil war — is facing its worst winter in a decade.

In August, the hardline Islamist Taliban overthrew the US-backed regime and declared an interim government, vowing to restore stability.

But the Taliban still face a range of international sanctions and a campaign of bloody attacks by rival hardliners the Islamic State — while climate change has made Afghanistan’s droughts more frequent and intense.

In the west of the country, thousands of poor families have already sold their flocks and fled, seeking shelter and assistance in packed temporary camps near major cities.

Asked about the humanitarian crisis, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP on Sunday: “We are trying to get our people out of the current situation and help them. Global humanitarian aid has also arrived.”

“We are trying to arrange and distribute, including food and clothing. All worries will be resolved,” he promised.

“Regarding the drought, we hope to have a wet winter. But if the drought continues we will take appropriate measures in the spring.” The UN agencies warned that their humanitarian response plan is only a third funded as it stands.

The FAO is seeking \$11.4 million in urgent funding and a further \$200 million for the agricultural season into 2022. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 dead, 3 missing after avalanche on Ecuador volcano: officials

AN avalanche Sunday on a snow-capped Ecuadoran volcano, the highest peak in the country, killed at least three climbers and left three others missing, officials reported.

The avalanche struck a group of 16 mountaineers while at an altitude of 6,100 metres (20,000 feet) on the dormant Chimborazo volcano, according to responders.

“There are three missing mountaineers, three dead, three injured and seven rescued, out of a total of 16 people,” Quito firefighters, who provided emergency support, said in a statement.

A previous report from the country’s ECU911 security service had said four climbers had died and one was injured.

Authorities did not identify the climbers or their nationalities, but the Quito newspaper El Comercio reported that all were Ecuadoran.

The avalanche was spurred by “weather conditions” and was not caused by any volcanic activity, according to the firefighters.

Rescuers as well as police and military personnel specialized in high-elevation operations set up a command centre at Chimborazo to coordinate search-and-rescue operations. The volcano, which rises more than 6,200 metres high, is covered in snow and glaciers year-round and is located about 130 kilometres (80 miles) south of Quito.

Chimborazo attracts both Ecuadoran and foreign climbers. The towns of Riobamba and Ambato lie at its base. — AFP ■

German IS bride sentenced to 10 years for Yazidi girl murder

A Munich court on Monday sentenced a German woman who joined the Islamic State group to 10 years in prison over the war crime of letting a five-year-old Yazidi “slave” girl die of thirst in the sun.

Presiding judge Reinhold Baier of the superior regional court in the southern German city handed down the verdict to Jennifer Wenisch, 30, one of the first conviction anywhere in the world related to the Islamic State group’s persecution of the Yazidi community. — AFP ■

‘Simple’ life in Iraqi desert village cut off from the grid

IN Iraq’s vast western desert, some 200 families live in a hamlet largely cut off from the rest of the world, their only neighbour one of the country’s biggest military bases.

“We live a simple, primitive life,” said Abu Majid, one of the elders from Al-Sahl.

“Our village is over one hundred years old and it still has no electricity, no medical centre,” said the man in his 70s, wearing a traditional robe and a red-and-white keffiyeh scarf. Lost in rocky hills and surrounded by humble palm groves, Al-Sahl is around 250 kilometres (155 miles) north-west of the capital Baghdad.

Yet the closest hospital is more than half an hour’s drive away along a bumpy road, the only education facility is a primary school, and residents rely on livestock and farming to survive.



A picture taken on 16 September 2021, shows a view of the Iraqi village of Al-Sahl in Wadi Houran, in the central Anbar governorate. In Iraq’s vast western desert, some 200 families live in al-Sahl, a hamlet largely cut off from the rest of the world, their only neighbour one of the country’s biggest military bases. **PHOTO : PHOTO: AFP**

To communicate with the outside world, people use old mobile phones instead of smartphones — the 3G network doesn’t reach here.

Iraq is the second-biggest

producer in the OPEC oil cartel, yet the country has been ravaged by decades of war and endemic corruption, and blighted by ailing infrastructure and crumbling public services. — AFP ■

West braces for Turkey’s possible expulsion of 10 envoys

TURKEY’S relations with Western allies edged Monday toward their deepest crisis of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s 19-year rule as world capitals braced for Ankara’s possible expulsion of ambassadors from the US and nine other countries.

The lira touched new historic lows ahead of a cabinet meeting that could prove fateful to Turkey’s economic and diplomatic standing for the coming months — and possibly years, analysts say.

The cabinet session will address Erdogan’s decision Saturday to declare the Western envoys “persona non grata” for their joint statement in support of jailed civil society leader, Osman Kavala.

Expulsion orders are officially issued by foreign ministries and none of the Western capitals had reported receiving any by early Monday.

Some analysts said Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and a few other cabinet members were still trying to talk Erdogan out of following through on his declaration and to change his mind.

But the Turkish lira — a gauge of both investor confidence and political stability — lost more than one per cent in value on fears of an effective break in Ankara’s relations with its main allies and most important trading partners. — AFP ■

Japan's foreign minister hopes for improved ties with China

JAPANESE Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Monday expressed hope that his country's relations with China will improve, as the two Asian powers mark the 50th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral diplomatic ties next year.

In a message to an online forum attended by experts well versed in the two nations, Motegi said that Sino-Japanese relations "remain in a serious and difficult situation," given that the Asian countries

have different values and rules.

At the event, co-hosted by Japanese nonprofit think tank Genron NPO and the China International Publishing Group, Motegi also emphasized the necessity of people-to-people communication and dialogue to build a constructive and stable relationship.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, meanwhile, said in a video message to the forum that started Monday, mutual exchanges should be promoted in various fields between the

two countries.

But Wang warned that issues such as Taiwan are "serious and sensitive," apparently urging Japan not to interfere in what the Communist-led government claims are its internal affairs.

The forum, which is scheduled to end Tuesday, has been held every year since 2005 as a public diplomacy platform and aims to facilitate communication despite difficulties in bilateral relations.

The event took place on-



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (on screen) speaks during the Tokyo-Beijing Forum on 25 October 2021, held virtually amid COVID-19 worries. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

line for the second consecutive year against a backdrop of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, first detected in China's central city of Wuhan in late 2019. — Kyodo News ■

China battles new Covid outbreak with eye on Winter Olympics



Germany's Christopher Grotheer competes during the men's skeleton in an IBSF sanctioned race, part of a 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games test event, at the Yanqing National Sliding Centre in Beijing on 25 October 2021. **PHOTO: WANG ZHAO / AFP**

TENS of thousands of people in northern China were placed under strict stay-at-home orders on Monday as authorities sought to stamp out a growing Covid outbreak in the run-up to the Beijing

Winter Olympics.

Residents of the Chinese capital were also advised not to leave the city unless necessary, although regular transport services out of the city continued as

normal. China reported 39 new cases on Monday, bringing the tally from the latest Delta variant-linked outbreak to more than 100 cases over the past week.

The numbers are extremely low compared with most other places in the world, but China has pursued a zero-case strategy throughout the pandemic and authorities are determined to stamp out the latest outbreak with the Winter Olympics just over 100 days away. Several housing compounds in the capital have been locked down, and organisers on Sunday indefinitely postponed a marathon at which 30,000 runners were expected.

And at a Sunday press briefing, Xu Hejian, vice minister of Beijing's publicity department, advised people against large gatherings and "unnecessary" travel out of the capital. — AFP ■

S Korea's Moon vows to continue striving for talks with North

SOUTH KOREAN President Moon Jae In said Monday his government will continue to pursue peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula through talks and diplomacy with North Korea until the end of his presidency in May.

"The talks (with North Korea) are yet incomplete. I will strive until the last moment to create a new order for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula," said Moon as he delivered his last budget speech at the National Assembly in the capital Seoul.

Moon reiterated that he plans to strengthen the alliance with the United States and enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries while increasing the defence budget to 55.2 trillion won (\$47 billion).

Regarding Japan's regu-

lations on South Korea-bound exports of materials imposed in July 2019, Moon praised his country for using it as an opportunity to create local, independent industries to produce the materials crucial in the making of semiconductors and display panels.

Moon's government will also make its utmost efforts to deliver economic support to those whose lives have been severely hit by coronavirus outbreaks, while protecting people's health through the provision and procurement of vaccines, he said.

He stressed that measures to assist the economically disadvantaged will be bolstered, especially small businesses that suffered a toll during the pandemic and younger people who are hunting for work. — Kyodo News ■

Tokyo, other areas lift COVID curbs on eateries amid resurgence worries

CORONAVIRUS restrictions on eateries were lifted in the Tokyo area and Osaka on Monday despite concerns over a resurgence of COVID infections.

Tokyo and its three neighbouring prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba as well as Osaka eliminated curbs on the serving of alcohol and the operating hours that had been introduced to keep coronavirus infections from spreading.

For the capital and Osaka, this is the first removal of such countermeasures against COVID-19 in 11 months, with Tokyo reporting 19 daily cases

on Sunday, the fewest since 17 June last year.

Nationwide coronavirus cases dropped to 236 Sunday, compared to over 25,000 reported in mid-August in the fifth wave of infections.

Some 102,000 eateries in Tokyo have been certified as having taken the necessary coronavirus measures and are no longer subject to a request to stop serving alcohol by 8 pm. Around 18,000 noncertified dining establishments will remain under the old restrictions and must stop serving by 9 pm.

"I am grateful that we can



work normally now," said a 40-year-old female member of staff at a bar in Tokyo's Kabukicho nightlife district.

In the western prefecture of Osaka, a senior staff member at a Japanese-style "izakaya" pub said he had long awaited the removal of COVID-19 restrictions.

"I want customers to come and drink more often," the 70-year-old said. — Kyodo News ■

People pose for photos in front of the Kaminarimon gate in Tokyo's Asakusa area as COVID-19 restrictions on restaurants and bars are lifted in the capital the same day in response to the recent downturn in infections. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

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.

Myanmar, UAE club tie 2-2 in international friendly match

THE Myanmar U-23 team trained in the UAE in preparation for the 2022 AFC U-23 Championship drew 2-2 with the UAE first division club Al Jazeera Al Hamra FC in an international friendly football match played in Dubai on 24 October.

The Myanmar U-23 team played its first international

match since training camp for the Asian Cup and garnered the draw result against the strong team.

As it was the last preparation for the upcoming Asian Championship, Myanmar U-23 head coach Popov used main players and made many substitutions to test their skills.

The Myanmar U-23 team

trained in Dubai from 21 to 24 October and left the UAE for Kyrgyzstan on the evening of 25 October.

The Asian Cup U-23 Championship (I) matches will be held in Kyrgyzstan from 27 October to 2 November and Myanmar is included in the same group with China Taipei and Viet Nam teams. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Myanmar team player (green) tries to clear the ball against the UAE first division club player (red) during their international friendly match in Dubai, the UAE on 24 October. **PHOTO: MFF**

Messi muted as 10-man PSG draw with Marseille



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) heads the ball and misses the target next to Marseille's Spanish goalkeeper Pau Lopez Sabata (2nd R) during the French L1 football match between Olympique Marseille (OM) and Paris Saint-Germain's (PSG) at Stade Velodrome in Marseille, southern France, on 24 October 2021. **PHOTO: NICOLAS TUCAT / AFP**

LIONEL Messi was kept quiet as 10-man Paris Saint-Germain settled for a 0-0 draw with bitter rivals Marseille in a heated atmosphere in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

The meeting of French football's biggest rivals was briefly held up on more than one occasion as objects were thrown from the stands when

PSG players went to take corner kicks.

There was another interruption in the second half when one young man invaded the pitch and approached Messi before being escorted off by a legion of security staff.

It was that sort of night for PSG, who could not get into

their stride and were reduced to 10 men when Achraf Hakimi was sent off in the second half following a VAR review for a last-man challenge on Cengiz Under just outside the box.

The game was also marked by two goals disallowed in the first half for tight VAR offside decisions, one an own-goal by Marseille defender Luan Peres and another at the opposite end from Arkadiusz Milik.

It is a perfectly acceptable result for Mauricio Pochettino's side, who have lost just one of their opening 11 matches in Ligue 1 and are seven points clear at the top from Lens in second.

"I think we played very well, but we just couldn't get the goal," Pochettino told broadcaster Amazon Prime.

"The team showed great character, and of course identity and style."

However, the performance of PSG's attacking superstars will again come in for scrutiny. — AFP ■

Unvaccinated players can compete at Australian Open: leaked email

UNVACCINATED players will be allowed to compete at the Australian Open but must do 14 days in quarantine, according to a leaked WTA email Monday, although a government official insisted the matter was "not settled".

The rules would also likely apply to the men's tour, leaving the door open for world number one Novak Djokovic to defend his title at Melbourne Park in January.

The email to players from the women's governing body was leaked to New York Times tennis writer Ben Rothenberg, who posted it on Twitter, and contradicts officials' earlier statements implying unvaccinated players would not be granted visas.

The email said that players fully inoculated against coronavirus would not have to quar-

antine or remain in bio-secure bubbles, enjoying "complete freedom of movement".

Unvaccinated players can come to Australia but would have to undergo two weeks' mandatory hotel quarantine and submit to regular testing, it stated.

"We feel the need to reach out to you all to clear up false and misleading information that has recently been spread by other parties about the conditions the players will be forced to endure at next year's Australian Open," the email read.

"Because Victoria's vaccination rate will hit 80 per cent at the end of the week and 90 per cent next month, it has been confirmed that conditions for players at the Australian Open will improve significantly." — AFP ■