

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.

People need to take care of their health to reduce spending on State funds, while government must strive for earning income by increasing trade and production: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the thirteenth meeting on the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 October 2021.

THE vaccination must cover the areas of EAOs, border areas and ethnic nationals while raising health awareness of COVID-19 and other diseases, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 13th meeting of the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address related to prevention, control and treatment activities of the COVID-19, the Senior General said, “We formed the central committee for the control of COVID-19. But the important persons only

were invited to the meeting. In July, the number of people who suffered from the pandemic increased. I said it last meeting. There were 7,083 positive patients on 14 July, accounting for 33.17 per cent, compared

with 5,506 on 23 July, accounting for 40.08 per cent. The central committee holds the weekly meetings. On a daily basis, the vice-chairman led the supervision for the preventive

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Law Amending Bar Council Act
State Administration Council Law No 61/2021

8th Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME
28 October 2021

THE State Administration Council has issued this law in accord with Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called Law Amending Bar Council Act.

2. Section 4 of the Bar Council Act shall be substituted as follows: -
“4. The Bar Council shall be organized as follows: -
(a) Union Minister/ Union Attorney-General
Ministry of Legal Affairs
(b) One Union Supreme Court Judge nominated by Union Chief Justice
(c) Deputy Minister/Deputy Attorney-General
Ministry of Legal Affairs
(d) Three advocates nominated by Union Supreme Court
(e) Three advocates nominated by Union Minister/Union Attorney-General
(f) Director-General, Union Supreme Court
(g) Director-General, Ministry of Legal Affairs

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Member
Member
Member
Member
Secretary
3. The Bar Council Act Section 5 shall be removed.

4. The word “Union Attorney-General Office” mentioned in Sections 20 and 21 of the Bar Council Act shall be substituted with “Ministry of Legal Affairs”.

5. The Bar Council Act Section 22 shall be substituted as follows: -
“22. The Ministry of Legal Affairs shall fix the contributions for the members of Bar Council who are not civil servants with the approval of the Union Government.”

I hereby is signed it under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Public Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

8th Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME
28 October 2021

AS measures are being taken for prevention and control of the COVID-19 infection, schools in the 46 under-mentioned townships of nine regions/states will continue to be temporarily closed, following the analysis of the infection rate and laboratory diagnosis rate per 100,000 people in the past 14 days. All basic education schools under the Basic Education Department, including private schools and monastic education schools in the rest of the regions/states, will be reopened starting from 1-11-2021.

- (1) Kachin State
(a) Nagmon Township
(b) Putao Township
(c) Bhamo Township
(d) Moegaung Township
(e) Mohnyin Township
(f) Chipwe Township

(2) Kayah State
(a) Pasawng Township
(b) Bawlake Township
(c) Meisei Township

(3) Kayin State
- (a) Papun Township
(b) Thantaunggyi Township

(4) Chin State
(a) Falam Township
(b) Haka Township

(5) Sagaing Region
(a) Leshi Township

(6) Magway Region
(a) Saw Township
(b) Htilin Township
(c) Kanma Township
(d) Sinbaungwe Township

(7) Mandalay Region
(a) Meiktila Township

(8) Rakhine State
(a) Gwa Township

(9) Shan State
(a) Nawngkhio Township
(b) Kengtung Township
- (c) Mongphyat Township
(d) Mongyawng Township
(e) Hsihseng Township
(f) Pindaya Township
(g) Pinlaung Township
(h) Yaksawk Township
(i) Hopong Township
(j) Kutkai Township
(k) Namhkam Township
(l) Mabein Township
(m) Monghsat Township
(n) Mongton Township
(o) Kunlong Township
(p) Lashio Township
(q) Hsenwi Township
(r) Mongnai Township
(s) Mongpan Township
(t) Maukmai Township
(u) Langkho Township
(v) Kunhing Township
(w) Namhsan Township
(x) Mongshu Township
(y) Laikha Township
(z) Loilem Township

Without satisfaction of traditional breeding systems

IT is necessary to modernize the livestock breeding tasks in technology without satisfaction of traditional breeding systems. To do so, the government needs to encourage and provide assistance to breeders. If so, agricultural products can be produced at high yield rate to earn foreign exchange for building the prosperous country.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the State Administration Council meeting 2/2021 on 25 October 2021)

People need to take care of their health to reduce spending ...

FROM PAGE-1
measures and the government effectively carried out the tasks. On the other hand, the people emphasized preventive measures. They abided by the health restrictions and helped provide requirements such as medicines, protective equipment and oxygen. Well-wishers bought the inputs from abroad. Their efforts remarkably reflected the work process. Yesterday, the infection rate of the disease was down to more than four per cent. I have told my target to reduce the infection rate to reach five per cent on 24 October and three per cent on 31 October. Now, the percentage reaches four. So, it is necessary to further decline the infection rate.”

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the stay-at-home programme was implemented to restrict travelling and close the offices. Now, as the infection rate declines, some townships were

rate declines. Such operations cannot be conducted around the country but some regions and states can resume the operations. Moreover, it is necessary to focus on the resumption of airlines, railways and bus lines step by step.
So far, the people accounting for 35 per cent have been vaccinated. If so, more than 50 per cent of the people can be vaccinated in December. The authorities need to consider allowing the travelling of the vaccinated people and visits of those from foreign countries. Moreover, the Senior General stressed the need to consider the measures not to infect the people more.

Concerning the production of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Senior General said, “We are trying hard to produce COVID-19 vaccines. We hold meetings with Chinese authorities as well as Russian ones. Yesterday, the delegation from Russia told me how they can do



The Chief Ministers of the states and regions attend the COVID meeting online.

be, the death rate declined in Myanmar due to the outbreak of the pandemic. Such a rate was high in July. Yesterday, the death rate showed just two digits, just more than ten. It is very satisfactory. Some countries face high infection and death rates while our country embraces the plummeted rates for both. It may be based on good fortune. In fact, we have to live together with this disease. No country says the disease would totally disappear. So, we need to accept vaccines once six months. There remain the children and adults who have not received the vaccine yet. The WHO and the FDA of the United States of America recommended that children can receive the vaccine. So, we will require more and more vaccines. In the coming year, we need to receive the vaccination every six months. So, we need to produce the vaccine at home without fail. We must produce some four to five million doses per month in minimum. So, we need to carefully calculate such amount.”

The government spent billions of kyat on the prevention of the disease alone. People need to take care of their health to reduce the spending of State

funds, while the government must strive for earning income by increasing trade and production. Regions and states need to focus on increasing production.
Then, the meeting participants discussed easing the townships from the list of stay-at-home programmes, plan to allow holding of festivities, allowing of travelling, running of international flights in the country, serving the office tasks with full strengths, installation of RT-PCR machines in border towns, preparation for control of the fourth wave, research to produce the COVID-19 vaccine with the use of traditional medicines, raising health awareness of the disease via newspapers, TV channels and radios, vaccinations for target groups, production of vaccines from China and Russia in Myanmar through ready to fill, resumption of aviation, marine and road transport services, vaccinations for students from universities, and inspection of infection in townships under the spot check.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said if efforts can be made to reduce the infection rate in border regions rather than now, trade flow will be swift and businesses smooth. Hence, vaccines must be sent

to border areas to control the infection rate.
Preparations must be made for prevention and control of the fourth wave of the pandemic, deployment of health staff, oxygen and hospital equipment. Airlines must be allowed under SOPs. Relief flights must be run to transport foreign returnees, medicines and medical equipment. Vaccines must be purchased more for fully vaccinating 50 per cent of the total population at the end of 2021.

In his conclusion, the Senior General said that figures on infection of the disease must be accurate to be able to correctly analyze the control and prevention of the disease. **Since the assumption of the State responsibilities, the government has been releasing the true information on the outbreak of the COVID-19, the number of patients under medical examination, the number of positive patients and the death rate until today.** Townships and wards/villages need to monitor the infection of the disease without losing sight.
The vaccination must cover the areas of EAOs, border areas and ethnic nationals while raising health awareness of COVID-19 and other diseases. — MNA

Since the assumption of the State responsibilities, the government has been releasing the true information on the outbreak of the COVID-19, the number of patients under medical examination, the number of positive patients and the death rate until today.

removed from the list of stay-at-home programmes and staff members are allowed to offices as usual. As part of efforts to open schools, students aged 12 and above are vaccinated.
It is necessary to consider the resumption of operations at suspended education and production machinery as well as the transport machinery under the limit at a time when the infection

the production. So, we need to carry out such tasks as much as possible as it is a long term plan. Now, we purchase vaccines. China sells it. If China does not supply it to me, we cannot reach this situation of controlling the disease. So, I on behalf of Myanmar express thanks to China for the supply of the vaccines to Myanmar in time. Whatever it may

It is necessary to take special care of security as the Kathina robe offering ceremony will be held at national level: Vice-Senior General

A coordination meeting of the Leading Committee on Organizing the Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony for 2021 of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture yesterday afternoon, with an address by Patron of the Leading Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said the Kathina robe offering ceremony was organized by the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Myanmar ten times as of 2012. This year, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture selected Aungsitha monastery in Pobbathiri Township to accept the Kathina robes and supplicated the abbot of the monastery for the ceremony.

The leading committee and the working committee have been formed to successfully hold the ceremony. The ministry also formed 11 subcommittees for systematic carrying out of the assigned duties.

Kathina robes will be donated to 18 members of the Sangha—nine Ovadacariya Sayadaws



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win makes the address at the coordination meeting to hold the 2021 SAC Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

of Uppatasanti Pagoda, four members of the Sangha from Nay Pyi Taw Sangha Nayaka Committee and five from the Kathina accepting monastery.

Emphasis must be placed on offering meals to the monks in a healthy manner. The health subcommittee must be ready to provide healthcare services

if necessary. The Vice-Senior General underscored the need to open the western clinic and traditional medicine clinic at the monastic halls and spray Sasana Maha Beikman, Sangharama halls and other halls for disinfection of the disease.

It is necessary to take special care of security as the Kathi-

na robe offering ceremony will be held at the national level.

Chairman of the leading committee Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Ko Ko reported on arrangements to successfully hold the 2021 Kathina robe offering ceremony of the State Administration Council and Deputy Minister U Aye Tun

on tasks of the working committee.

Officials from respective subcommittees discussed matters related to their subcommittees and deputy ministers gave supplementary reports.

Later, the Vice-Senior General gave a concluding remark.— MNA

Primary foodstuffs sold at fairer prices by mobile markets in Thongwa

PRIMARY foodstuffs such as rice and cooking oil are sold at fairer prices in Thongwa Township yesterday morning, under the collaboration of the Myanmar Rice Traders Association and the Township Development Committee.

The foods were exhibited on two mobile markets in the back of Thongwa Market, and it is reported that a half viss of cooking

oil was sold for K1,850, per pyi of Pawsan Hmwe rice for K1,700 and one pyi of ordinary rice was sold for K1,000 respectively.

Chairman of the Township Administration Body U Soe Thein and members, members of the township police force and officials from the Township Development Committee provided necessary assistance. — Township IPRD/GNLM



Consumers are seen purchasing basic foodstuffs from the mobile market vehicle in Thongwa.

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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.

State Administration Council
Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

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

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations leads
Meeting for implementation of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

THE Meeting for the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) led by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Aung Naing Oo, was held on 28 October 2021 at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Office No (1), Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and representatives from relevant ministries of the AEC pillar.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, AEC Council Minister, U Aung Naing Oo discussed way forwards for addressing remaining AEC measures to be implemented by Myanmar based on the outcomes of the 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings in September and 20th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting in 3rd week of October.

He highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to address implementation constraints of remaining measures and plan for conducting technical level meetings. He shared the experiences of the 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings.

In addition, Union Minister urged all to pay special attention to the human resources development of respective AEC related departments and to conduct the monitoring and evaluation of AEC measures in future.

After that, a member of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Than Aung Kyaw explained the remaining AEC measures to be implemented by Myanmar and ways for addressing these issues in detail.

Moreover, he discussed the possibility of Bilateral Free Trade Agreements with major



The meeting on the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in progress.

trading partner countries and Bilateral Investment Treaties with potential investor countries.

And then, Myanmar SEOM Lead, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Dr

Wah Wah Maung briefed them on the implementation status of AEC measures including mid-term review of AEC Blueprint 2025 and cost and benefits analysis of Myanmar's accession to ASEAN.

Then, Permanent Secretar-

ies, Directors-Generals, Deputy Directors-Generals and the officials reported the implementation status of respective AEC measures and Deputy Minister provided necessary guidance and coordinated among the relevant agencies. — MNA



Over 18-year-old Sinbaungwe residents
receive first dose of vaccines

THE second day of vaccination for the third batch of people aged above 18 was organized at four vaccination sites in Sinbaungwe Township of Thayet District in Magway Region on Thursday.

The township deputy ad-

ministrative officer U Win Shwe, Dr Mon Soe Yi and other officials participated in the processes in line with the health rules and a total of 580 people received their first dose of vaccines.

A total of 1,200 vials of

vaccines are allocated for Sinbaungwe Township to jab 6,000 people aged over 18. A total of 965 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 until 27 October, according to township administrator U Thein Zaw Oo. — Cho Cho Win(IPRD)/GNLM

Myanmar-Russia discuss to promote bilateral economic cooperation

U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received the delegation headed by Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov, 1st Vice-President of the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation at Office No(1) in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 October 2021.

At the meeting, the Union Minister encouraged the guests

to promote the bilateral economic cooperation particularly for Russia's investment in the areas of electricity, oil and gas exploration and production, financial sector cooperation, cement and steel-related products to provide for construction projects, production of fertilizer, information technology, value-added food processing, as well as pharmaceutical produc-

tion.

Then, the 1st Vice-President discussed the expansion of bilateral economic cooperation emphasizing the financial sector cooperation in order to ensure smooth bilateral trade and investment activities, to enhance the economic cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), and to explore potential investment pro-

jects based on mutual interests.

Afterwards, they exchanged views on the process of bilateral strategy for the development of economic cooperation, participation of a business delegation from Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation in the upcoming 2nd Myanmar-Russia B2B Dialogue, and measures to protect foreign investments in ac-

cordance with Myanmar Investment Law.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Than Aung Kyaw, Permanent Secretary Dr Wah Wah Maung, Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations Department Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt and the relevant officials.—MNA

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs attends ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan attended the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-6) and 3rd ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (3rd AMMS+Japan) via the video-conferencing system, hosted by Singapore(in picture).

Sports ministers from ASEAN member countries also attended the meeting.

Chairman and Minister of Social Affairs and Youth for Singapore Edwin Tong, delivered an opening speech during the conference.

Next, the chairman reported on the decision-making process of the 10th, 11th and 12th SOMS meetings.



Secretary-General and the general discussions were held by the Sports Ministers of the other ASEAN Member States.

The next AMMS-7 will be hosted and chaired by Thailand in October 2023, officials confirmed.

Then, the 3rd ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (3rd AMMS + Japan) was continued and Minister of Culture, Community and Youth Affairs of Singapore Mr Edwin Tong, explained what had been prepared.

Discussion on the Joint Statement of the 3rd AMMS + Japan Meeting and the 4th AMMS + Japan Meeting will be held in Thailand in October 2023, according to the conference.

After that, the other ASEAN members who attended the ceremony held a general discussion followed by a concluding speech given by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Affairs of Singapore Mr Edwin Tong. —MNA

Then, the documents to be submitted to the 40th ASEAN Summit and the discussions for the AMMS-6 meeting were approved.

After that, the ASEAN Ministers who attended the ceremony participated in the discussions.

The Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs representing Myanmar said that Myanmar is cooperating with all ASEAN member countries in implementing all ASEAN cooperation projects.

“Myanmar has five actions as a leading country under the

2021-2025 ASEAN Sports Action Plan,” the Union Minister said.

“Among them, it is expected to implement the Youth Ethics Leadership through Sports in 2021, but it is not possible to do so at present due to the outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic and the current situation in Myanmar;”

the Union Minister added.

The Union Minister continued that programmes for youth development at the national level and strategies were being drawn up.

Afterwards, the ASEAN Secretary-General’s discussions were reviewed by the ASEAN

Bago Region Chief Minister inspects solar-powered irrigation activities in Thanatpin Tsp

A team led by Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and officials inspected the solar-powered irrigation network for the summer paddy farm on 27 October in Thanatpin Township, Bago Region(in picture).

Director U Ko Ko Oo of Bago Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department explained a solar-powered irrigation system for summer paddy. A renewable resource is aimed at sustainable energy. Solar irrigation is expected to cover

the remaining acres. The region chief minister instructed the officials to encourage the local farmers to cultivate the summer paddy as well.

Afterwards, the team visited the Minywa river water pumping station and directed the officials to utilize the solar irrigation system. The region chief minister also urged the officials from Rural Road Development Department to submit a report regarding the upgrade of Thanatpin-Minywa rural road into concrete roads.

There are 22 irrigation projects in Bago Region. Kyaungsu irrigation project in Thanatpin Township was operated with the use of diesel in the 2005-2006 financial year and used the electricity pumps in the FY2007-2008. Solar-powered irrigation is carried out, for now, saving energy and cost. This system covers over 300 acres of summer paddy in the township. Renewable energy resource also helps achieve environmental sustainability. — Tin Soe(Bago)/ GNLM



Exports of cattle, animal products down by \$88.9 mln in FY2020-2021

MYANMAR'S exports of animal products in the financial year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$18.8 million, a sharp drop of \$88.9 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2019-2020FY since live-stock trading was suspended by China.

In the 2019-2020FY, animal products exports were registered at \$107.7 million.

Animal products exports are solely driven by the private sector.

Live cattle trade is booming on Myanmar's black market, with 2,000 heads of cattle daily sent to China, said U Soe Nang, chair of Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association.

Chinese traders are constantly purchasing cattle on the black market across the border between Myanmar and China, despite the suspension of cross-border trade.

At present, the black market has been stronger. The legitimate market has halted since late 2020.

Following about 15,000 heads of cattle stranded in Muse last year, traders em-



Myanmar's live cattle export is heavily relying on the China market due to a good price although Myanmar has other external markets such as Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

barked on illegal sales. Around 6,000 heads of cattle are still stuck in Muse, he continued.

For legitimate trade, China permits live cattle import only after ensuring the cattle is free from 20 diseases, including Foot and Mouth Disease, along with vaccination certificates,

health certificates, and farming registration certificates. Those import criteria do not matter on the black market.

Myanmar's live cattle export is heavily relying on the China market due to a good price although Myanmar has other external markets such as

Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

The Ministry of Commerce grants a permit to each company for 100 cattle export and the permit is valid for three months. The companies can be taken legal action if they do not sell the cattle during the

three months. Live cattle export was allowed in late 2017, with a view to eradicating illegal exports, creating more opportunities for breeders and promoting their interests.

The country exports cattle that are above five years old, along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

The authorities have issued cattle export licences to more than 300 companies in the Magway region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licences across the country.

Since 2017, Myanmar has exported more than 540,000 heads of cattle beyond domestic consumption, the association stated.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will also strive for investments in dairy farming and value-added production businesses. — GNLM

Domestic black bean price plummets to K680,000 per tonne in one month



Currently, Myanmar shipped 2,013,125.777 tonnes of beans and pulses to foreign markets through border routes and sea routes from 1 October 2020 to 24 September 2021 in the current financial year 2020-21, fetching over US\$1,556.659 million, according to the figure released by the ministry.

THE price of black bean plummeted to K680,000 per tonne in a month in the local market, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Exchange).

The price of black bean continuously plummeted under K1 million per tonne in the local bean market for lack of

demand for the black bean from India, according to the trade data stated by the YRCCI.

Although the black bean touched a high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September, the price speedily fell to K1,320,000 on 28 October.

Myanmar Kyat depreciation against the US dollar is the main reason for decreasing

black bean prices. The local dollar exchange rate was at over K3,000 per dollar at the end of September, but it downturned to around K1,800 per dollar on 28 October.

Besides, there are fewer stockpiles in the domestic market.

Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans,

including black bean, green gram and pigeon pea under the Indian government pulse foreign trade policy for 2015-2020.

Nevertheless, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India issued proclamation S.O.1858 (E) on 15 May 2021 that the three pulses have been changed from a restricted commodity to a free import commodity as of 31 October 2021.

The issuance of bill of lading to import pigeon pea, green gram and black bean needs to be completed by 31 October 2021 and the port clearance of imported cargos should be completed by 30 November, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India notified.

A memorandum of understanding was signed on 18 June to export a total of 350,000 tonnes of Myanmar pulses, including 250,000 tonnes of black bean and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea to India in five consecutive years (from the 2021-2022 to the 2025-2026), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Currently, Myanmar

shipped 2,013,125.777 tonnes of beans and pulses to foreign markets through border routes and sea routes from 1 October 2020 to 24 September 2021 in the current financial year 2020-2021, fetching over US\$1,556.659 million, according to the figure released by the ministry.

Among those beans and pulses, black beans are the main export item. The country exported a total of 668,633.659 tonnes of black bean, generating an income of \$518.749 million.

The black bean plantations yielded around 400,000 tonnes annually in Myanmar, and the bean is mainly exported to India. Similarly, Myanmar has also produced about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon pea yearly and exported them chiefly to India.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black beans that India demands. Besides Myanmar, other beans such as pigeon pea, green gram and yellow pea, are also grown in Australia and Africa, the association stated. — NN/GNLM

Do meritorious deeds while taking care of the COVID-19 pandemic

THE Buddhist Lent has already ended. Most of the Buddhist people in Myanmar have enjoyed the Thadingyut lighting festival during the three days starting from the eve of the full moon of Thadingyut, the full moon of Thadingyut and the day after full moon day.

It is traditional festivities of Myanmar Buddhist people. They annually enjoy the lighting festivals in multicoloured fireworks as well as releasing of hot-air balloons into the sky. Moreover, well-wishers serve the visitors with traditional light foods or snacks during the period. They serve the guests whether they are friends or not with meals.

Everybody needs to clearly analyze their movements which may lever up the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and flourish of Buddhism. They all need to opt for the middle path in line with the preaching of the Lord Buddha to avoid edges of the path leading to the goal without harming anyone.

attractive to the travellers as well as local people. All the festivities are always crowded with visitors for their leisureliness. Hence, they have to wear the COVID-19 protective equipment before joining the crowds.

Hence, not only the Buddhist devotees but other people need to pay special attention to their movements whether or not to join more and more public crowds or religious ceremonies. Only when they abide by the disciplines and restrictions for COVID-19 released by the Ministry of Health, will they cut the subsequences of the third wave occurrence successfully.

Everybody needs to clearly analyze their movements which may lever up the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and flourish of Buddhism. They all need to opt for the middle path in line with the preaching of the Lord Buddha to avoid edges of the path leading to the goal without harming anyone.

■ ■ ■

Any other Buddhists spend their spare time at the religious edifices for taking Sabbaths or insight meditation or performing meritorious deeds. Some are travelling to significant and magnificent religious edifices and monuments as a study tour and the leisureliness. During the period, these venues are crowded with Buddhists.

Whatever it may be, they unexpectedly join the crowds and visit public places. Currently, such moves are very dangerous for all. COVID-19 does not commit discrimination against living beings. The pandemic is waiting for persons with weakness of immunity at any time and anywhere. Only when people take care of dangerous diseases, can they try hard to be free from the impacts.

As such, the Buddhist people need to take care of the dangers of diseases in society. It is because they have to enjoy more and more festivities in the open season, at least one month for Tassaungdine lighting festival

WHO keeping close eye on Delta subvariant

The lineage has three additional mutations compared to the original variant.

THE WHO said it was closely tracking a Delta subvariant to determine whether it was more transmissible than the original strain, as Covid-19 cases rise globally again.

It was also examining whether people were more resistant to the particular subvariant, called AY.4.2, which has been detected in at least 42 countries.

AY.4.2 sequence submissions

“An increase in AY.4.2 sequence submissions has been observed since July,” the World Health Organization said in its weekly epidemiological update.

“Epidemiological and laboratory studies are ongoing” to see if there was a change in transmissibility of the variant, or a decrease in the ability of human antibodies to block the virus, said the WHO.

The lineage has three additional mutations compared to the

original Delta variant, including two in the spike protein — the part of the virus which latches on to human cells. Some 93 per cent of all detected cases of the subvariant were in Britain, according to data uploaded to the GISAID global science initiative.

The lineage accounted for an estimated 5.9 per cent of all Delta cases reported in Britain in the week beginning 3 October.

European and Western Pacific regions

The WHO also said that as a proportion of all infections, an increase in the number of cases among those aged under 25 had been reported since early July, particularly in the European and Western Pacific regions.

The reason could be that older people are more likely to be vaccinated, or that young people are more likely to be mixing socially.

It could also be that the virus is circulating at schools, with more young people back in classrooms.

The WHO said it had data on the gender of 123 million recorded Covid cases. Of these, 51 per cent were female.

But males accounted for 58 per cent of deaths.

The death rate

The WHO said that among those aged over 65, the death rate has plummeted since September 2020. That is likely because more people in the age bracket have been vaccinated but also improved clinical care.

It said that 47 per cent of the world’s population had now received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.

SOURCE: AFP



Some 93 per cent of all detected cases of the Delta subvariant were in Britain PHOTO: AFP

Merck strikes deal for global access to COVID drug

The global Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) said it had signed a voluntary licencing agreement with Merck to facilitate affordable worldwide access for its investigational oral Covid-19 antiviral medicine molnupiravir.

UNITED States (US) drugmaker Merck & Co. on Wednesday announced a deal that could see generic versions of its COVID-19 medication widely distributed in poorer countries, in a first during the pandemic.

The global Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) said it had signed a voluntary licencing agreement with Merck to facilitate affordable worldwide access for its investigational oral antiviral medicine molnupiravir.

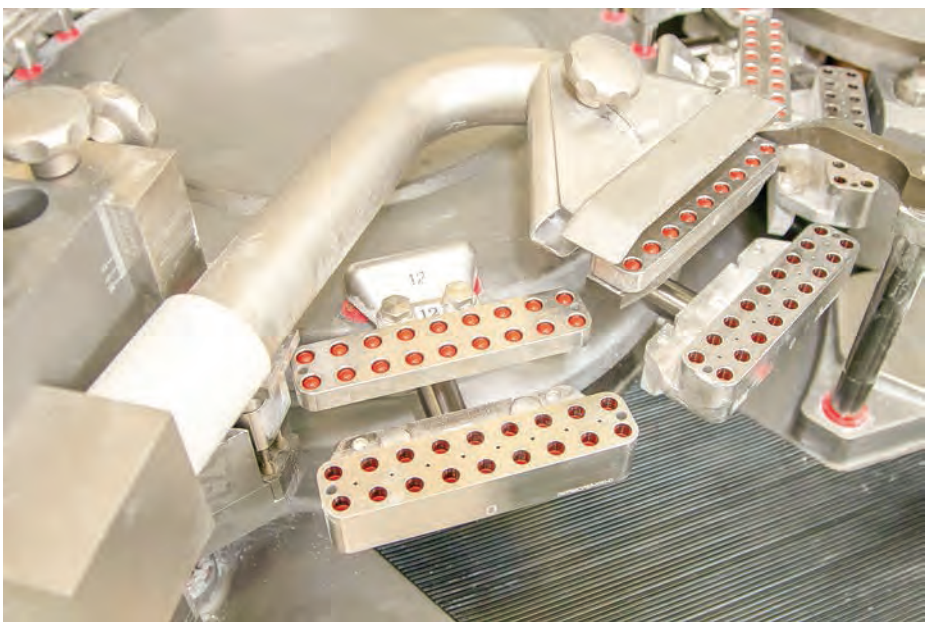
Subject to regulatory approval, the deal will help create broad access to molnupiravir in 105 low- and middle-income countries.

The US and European Union (EU) medicines regulators are reviewing the drug.

Antivirals like molnupiravir work by decreasing the ability of a virus to replicate, thereby slowing down the disease.

Given to patients within days of a positive test, the treatment halves the risk of hospitalisation, according to a clinical trial conducted by Merck, also called MSD outside the US.

Merck’s deal with MPP is “a positive step towards creating broader access to treatment as quickly as possible,” the World Health Organization (WHO) said



Merck has said it can manufacture 10 million courses of the Covid-19 drug by the end of the year PHOTO: MERCK/AFP

in a statement.

But it urged the drugmaker to “provide data of clinical trials to WHO as soon as possible so the agency can evaluate the medicine for global use”.

It also pressed Merck to “include other key countries in the scope of the agreement in the near future”.

The Geneva-based MPP is a United Nations (UN)-backed international

organization that works to facilitate the development of medicines for low- and middle-income nations.

Under the deal, Merck grants a licence to the MPP, under which the organization can then sub-licence to makers of generic drugs.

The deal means the drug’s developers will not receive sales royalties while COVID-19 remains classified as a public

health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) by the WHO.

A PHEIC is the highest alarm the WHO can sound and its emergency committee last week reconfirmed the pandemic’s top-alert status.

Price Not Yet Set

“The interim results for molnupiravir are compelling and we see this oral treatment candidate as a potentially important tool to help address the current health crisis,” said MPP executive director Charles Gore.

Merck is jointly developing molnupiravir with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics. The Miami-based company’s chief executive Wendy Holman said the deal meant “quality-assured generic versions of molnupiravir can be developed and distributed quickly following regulatory authorization”. The MPP was founded by Unitaid, which works on innovations to prevent, diagnose and treat major diseases in poorer countries.

Molnupiravir prices have not yet been determined, but its simplicity, plus competition among generic manufacturers should mean low prices in the 105 poorer countries, said Unitaid spokesman Herve Verhoosel.

He said in countries with low vaccination rates, millions would need the drug to prevent progression to serious illness. “We also need to see this licence followed by others as soon as possible for other key promising products expected to come out of the pipeline soon, for which we also need to ensure broad supply and affordability,” Verhoosel added.

IP Waiver Call

While the search for vaccines has resulted in multiple products being approved for emergency use in the pandemic, the hunt for treatments for those who have already caught the disease has not been as fruitful.

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) welcomed the announcement but said it did not go far enough.

“The licence excludes key upper-middle-income countries like Brazil and China from its territory, where there is strong, established capacity to produce and supply antiviral medicines,” MSF senior policy advisor Yuanqiong Hu said.

“Furthermore, the licence contains an unacceptable clause undermining the rights to challenge patents on molnupiravir.”

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 28 October 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining off Sri Lanka Coast still persists. It is forecast continuous to move Westwards. Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and East central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in (Southern and Eastern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Northern Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4–6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours M.S.T on 28-10-2021

ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining off Sri Lanka Coast still persists. It is forecast continuous to move Westwards.

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MoC oversees daily import processes for anti-COVID-19 medical aids



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 airports and seaports with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 28 October, anti-COV-

ID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by one company using one vehicle.

A total of 450 empty oxygen cylinders, 10 oxygen generators, four oxygen concentrators for home use, and seven tonnes of gloves were imported via Chinshwehaw trading post and Yangon International Seaports.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating

to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for better importation.

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

Locals get second dose of COVID jabs in Pinlaung Township

ABOVE 18-year-old people received COVID-19 vaccines at the Cyclone Shelter in Pinlaung Township and Basic Education High School (Naungtaya), Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, southern Shan State yesterday.

A total of 15,572 people were vaccinated against the COVID-19 for the first time from 19 Sep-

tember to 11 October in Pinlaung Township. As of 26 October, 2,210 people have been vaccinated by the deadline.

A systematic census was conducted for those who had completed their second vaccinations yesterday and 775 people received the second dose of vaccines at the Cyclone Shelter

in Pinlaung Township and 850 people got the COVID jabs at the Basic Education High School (Naungtaya).

The remaining people will be vaccinated on the scheduled dates, according to the COVID-19 Disease Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee. —Tun Lin (Pinlaung IPRD)/GNLM



Over 4,000 students in Moegaung vaccinated against COVID-19



Students aged 12 and above get jabbed in Moegaung, Kachin State.

HEALTHCARE officials gave Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to students aged 12 and over at No.2 Basic Education High School in Moegaung, Mohnyin District, Kachin State at 9 am yesterday.

Officials conducted body temperature measurements to students aged 12 and above before the vaccination.

Systematic documentation was carried out by the township administration members,

health workers, members of the Red Cross Brigade, members of the fire brigade, and village administrators accordingly to the COVID-19 precautionary measures.

According to the July census of the 2021-2022 academic year, 5,397 students will be vaccinated in Moegaung Township.

A total of 4,008 school children: 1,951 at No. 2 Basic Education High School, 880 at Basic Education High School, (Namti) 1,177 at Pinbaw Village Public Hall already received the COVID-19 vaccines, according to the Township General Administration Department. —Than Lwin Oo (IPRD)/GNLM

Above 12-year-old students get COVID jabs in Hsiseng Township

Health officials gave the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines to over 12-year-old students in Hsiseng Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, southern Shan State yesterday.

Health officials measured the body temperatures, blood pressure and monitored oxygen levels before the vaccination.

Hand-washing basins were also set up at the vaccination sites to prevent COV-

ID-19 disease.

Officials also distributed masks and face shields to the students before the vaccination.

Students were allowed to leave after waiting for 30 minutes after the injection.

Students aged 12 and above from basic education schools in the remaining townships will be vaccinated at designated areas accordingly to the COVID-19 regulations, officials said. — MNA



Inoculation drive is underway in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

799 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 October, total figure rises to 497,700

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 497,700 after 799 new cases were reported on 28 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 463,349 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,622 after 19 died.

Regular commuters of motorboat jetties seen in Dala Township



A powerboat is seen commuting passengers at one of the boat jetties in Dala.

THE motorboat service businesses have recovered and the jetties in Dala Township receive over 66 per cent of the passengers, said an in-charge of the township motorboat supervision team. Earlier, the number of passengers has registered only 25 per cent.

“The number of commuters increased to two-third. The motorboats are running between 4 am and 9 pm. During the pandemic, only one-fourth of passengers were seen.

“At present, the motorboat businesses are running regularly,” said U Kyaw Nyein of the team.

“The motorboat service is available for up to 10 passengers per route. Some boats are providing service even

if the number of passengers on a boat has not reached the maximum,” he continued.

“The boats are running from Thamata, Zayseik, Kamaraung, Tanhlat, Kamakathwe, Setmyay, Kamakakit, Hmawset, Sarparchaung and Kyaungsu jetties in Dala Township to Botahtaung, Pansodan, Sin-o-dan, Mawtin Lanthit, Mawtin Kaingtan No 2 and Seikkyi Khanaungto jetties in the commercial hub Yangon.

There are a total of 10 motorboat jetties in Dala Township, providing service with a total of 485 motorboats, Dala Township Department of General Administration stated. — Naing Lin Kyaw(IPRD)/GNLM

Returnees warmly welcomed in respective border checkpoints

MYANMAR officials have welcomed the returnees repatriated from abroad through the respective land borders.

On 27 October, 371 Myanmar nationals – 187 men and 184 women returned to Muse, northern Shan State; 159 people – 77 men and 82 women returned to Chin-shwehaw; 15 people – 13 men and

2 women returned to Laukkai respectively. And a total of 496 Myanmar nationals: 266 males and 210 females were repatriated to Myawady, Kayin State yesterday.

Healthcare officials and members of the Tatmadaw medical team carried out the COVID-19 tests, provided documents required for quarantine,

and explained the instructions of the Ministry of Health. Officials from the respective military commands and departments provided necessary assistance as well.

The returnees were transported to their respective home townships by buses arranged by the township administration bodies, and those diagnosed with



Returness queue up for reception process.

COVID-19 disease were sent to quarantine centres to provide the necessary medical and administration support. – MNA

Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 28-10-2021

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Antiviral				
1	PO Favipiravir 400 mg	2x10 Tablet	50,000	AA Medical
2	Injection - Remdesivir	Vial	70,000	GHI
Anti thrombosis				
3	Injection Enoxaprim 40 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	7,000	Nyi Lay Naing
4	Injection Enoxaprim 60 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	9,000	Nyi Lay Naing
Symptomatic				

5	PO Paracetamol 500 mg	10x10's tablets/Box	1,500	AA Medical
6	PO Dextromethophan	10x10's	1,450	AA Medical
7	PO Bromhexine	10x10's tablets/Box	1,000	Medi Myanmar
8	PO Cetrizine	10x10's / Box	2,200	AA Medical
Supportive				
9	P.O Multivitamin with/without zinc	3x10's / Box	5,600	OLIVE
10	PO Vitamin C	10x10's / Box	700	Pai Brother

PLEASE visit the Website (www.mccpmd.org) and Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/323302521392189/posts/1720802588308835/?d=n> to know the prices of other medicines.

Hotel staff receive COVID-19 vaccines in Sagaing

A total of 423 employees from the hotel industry have been vaccinated in the Sagaing region, according to the Ministry of Health.

“The hotel and guesthouse owners appointed a total of 511 employees. Out of them, 423 employees have already been vaccinated against COVID-19.

The seven employees from five travel and tour companies were also inoculated by the department of public health. Currently, about 83 per cent of the tourism industry has received the jabs. The remaining staff are also cooperating to get the vaccines,” said U Aung Thu Oo, head of Sagaing Re-

gion Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Of 58 hotels and guesthouses in the Sagaing region, it is allowed to reopen 51 accordingly to the COVID-19 rules and regulations issued by the ministry.

The closure of the hotel business due to the ongoing

COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in difficulties for the hotel workers and their families. Most of them want to return to work as the number of COVID-19 cases is dropped.

“The main thing is to trust local and foreign travellers in our tourism industry. Now, the hoteliers working together

with the government officials from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism to become a reliable tourism industry,” said U Aung Thu Oo.

Between January and September 2021, a total of 31,896 visitors entered the region for various purposes. — Lu Lay/GNLM



COVID-19 restrictions that were in place until recently have delayed a recovery in the services sector. Visitors to Tokyo Disneyland in Urayasu near Tokyo pose for a photo during a Halloween event on 25 Oct 2021. The event was cancelled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

BOJ cuts economic growth, price forecasts, keeps easing policy

THE Bank of Japan on Thursday trimmed its economic growth and inflation forecasts for the year through March, keeping its ultraloose monetary policy intact to buttress a fragile economic recovery from the COVID-19 malaise.

The BOJ gave the bleaker economic outlook after a two-day policy meeting, as parts shortages have hit automakers such as Toyota Motor Corp. that have been forced to cut output. COVID-19 restrictions that were in place until recently have delayed

a recovery in the services sector.

The Japanese central bank said the economy will likely grow 3.4 per cent, rather than the 3.8 per cent projected in its previous policy-setting meeting in July.

Core consumer prices excluding volatile fresh food are forecast to stay at 0.0 per cent, lower than its earlier projection of a 0.6 per cent increase.

The BOJ kept its “yield curve” control program to set short-term interest rates at minus 0.1 per cent and guide 10-year Japanese government

bond yields around zero per cent to keep borrowing costs low for companies and households.

“Japan’s economy has picked up as a trend, although it has remained in a severe situation due to the impact of COVID-19 at home and abroad,” the BOJ said in maintaining its assessment.

Taking a hit from supply-side constraints, exports and industrial output have been “weak” in some areas, though they have continued to increase, the BOJ said, changing its wording from “affected.”—Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU court fines Poland 1 mln euros daily in judiciary row

THE EU’s top court on 27 October ordered Poland to pay one million euros a day for not suspending a controversial “disciplinary chamber” at the heart of a bitter feud between Warsaw and Brussels.

The European Commission requested the fine last month after the Polish authorities did not comply with an earlier ruling from July ordering to immediately suspend the activities of the chamber.

Poland’s Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has yet to deliver on a promise to close down the chamber that is seen by critics as a way to keep judges in line with government policy.

The latest move risks deepening a bitter standoff over judicial independence and the primacy of EU law which some fear has put Poland’s membership in the bloc in question.—AFP ■

Brazil hikes interest rate by most in two decades

BRAZIL’S central bank raised its benchmark interest rate by 150 basis points on 27 October, to 7.75 per cent — its biggest hike since 2002 as it struggles to tame surging inflation. The increase, which was in line with analysts’ expectations, is the sixth straight for Latin America’s biggest economy, whose pandemic recovery is taking a hit from soaring prices.

It was decided unanimously by the nine members of the bank’s monetary policy committee, who said in a statement a hike “of the same magnitude” was likely at its next meeting, in early December.

The Selic rate started the year at an all-time low of two percent, as policy makers sought to kick-start the economy after the devastation of the pandemic.—AFP ■

Saudi says 44 global firms to set up regional HQs in Riyadh

SAUDI Arabia said Wednesday it has licensed 44 international companies to establish regional headquarters in Riyadh, competing with Gulf neighbours, particularly Dubai, for the position of regional business hub.

In February, the oil-rich kingdom issued an ultimatum to foreign firms that those seeking state contracts must have their Middle East headquarters in the country by 2024.

The ultimatum was seen as a direct challenge to Dubai, which has long dominated as the region’s business hub, against the backdrop of Saudi efforts to diversify its oil-reliant economy.

“Forty-four companies from various sectors and countries have signed agreements to move (their regional headquarters) and have obtained final licences,” Investment Minister Khalid al-Falih told AFP on the sidelines of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in Riyadh.

He did not disclose the names of the firms.



Saudi Aramco’s Dhahran Research and Development Centre: the new measure will include contracts made by foreign companies with the state oil company. PHOTO: ARAMCO/AFP

“We have a short-term goal to reach up to 400 or 500 companies, but there is no cap,” added Falih. Saudi Arabia will offer companies incentives, such as zero percent corporate tax for 50 years, a 10-year waiver from the state’s “Saudization” policy to reserve jobs for Saudis and “preferential” treatment in government contracts, according to a document seen by AFP.

“The direct and indirect benefits from the presence of companies (in Saudi Arabia) amount up to 170 billion riyals (\$45 billion),” said Falih.

Saudi officials are putting the finishing touches to launch the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFFD), a multi-billion-dollar project announced in 2006, with many companies expected to be based there.—AFP ■



Indigenous people block a road linking the coast and the mountain areas, near Zumbahua in Ecuador on 26 Oct 2021 ahead of a protest against the economic policies of the government, including fuel price hikes, amid a state of emergency. PHOTO: AFP/RODRIGO BUENDIA

Indigenous Ecuadorans hold day of protest over economic policies

THOUSANDS of Ecuadorans took to the streets throughout the country Tuesday, blocking roads with rocks and burning tires in protests called by indigenous organizations over soaring fuel prices as the country grapples with a state of emergency and battles challenges on multiple fronts. The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie)

called for the disruptions, with some 1,500 people showing up to protest in the capital of Quito, according to police chief Cesar Zapata.

“I came for my three children, who have been unemployed since last year. They helped me to eat and we are all suffering, we are desperate,” 58-year-old Maria Elena Ponce told AFP. The

government had warned it would move to “prevent the closure of roads” to passengers and goods, and police and soldiers were deployed countrywide to monitor protesters. By late afternoon, clashes had erupted near the cordoned-off presidential palace between rock-throwing protesters and police, who responded by firing tear gas.—AFP ■

Sony lifts operating profit outlook to 1 tril. yen, movie, music sales

SONY Group Corp. on 28 October raised its operating profit forecast for the full fiscal year to 1.04 trillion yen (\$9.2 billion), as strong movie and music businesses are expected to make up for slower-than-expected growth in its electronics product segment.

The chief financial officer said the same day that the Japanese electronics giant is considering cooperating with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. in building a chip plant in Japan, the company's first comment on the matter.

Sony now expects its operating profit to top the 1 trillion yen mark for the first time in the current fiscal through March 2022. The company started reporting earnings under International

Financial Reporting Standards from this fiscal year, changing from U.S. accounting standards.

The latest outlook compares with 980 billion yen projected in August and represents an 8.9 per cent rise from the previous business year.

The company lifted its net profit projection for the full year to 730 billion yen from the 700 billion yen forecast earlier, and sales are now seen at 9.90 trillion yen, up from its previous forecast of 9.70 trillion yen.

Sony is studying joining hands with TSMC after the Taiwanese chip manufacturer said earlier this month that it is planning to build an advanced chip-making factory in Japan in 2022 and start operations there in 2024.—Kyodo News ■



The Sony logo is displayed at an electronic goods store in Tokyo on 28 April 2021. PHOTO: YUKI IWAMURA / AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Autumn trade fairs open in Hong Kong to boost business deals

Seven autumn trade fairs, organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), opened here Wednesday, showcasing a range of cutting-edge tech products, solutions, services and intelligence.

The seven fairs, held in the form of "physical + online", featured more than 1,700 exhibitors from 18 countries and regions. The physical fairs will run until 30 October at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and the online fairs will run until 6 November.

Under the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries and regions have imposed travel restrictions and the exhibition industry has been inevitably affected. To help small and medium-sized enterprises capture new opportunities, the HKTDC brought together its seven autumn trade fairs into a single "physical + online" platform this year.

The fairs showcased products and services presented by different industries, including electronics, information technology, healthcare and lighting.

Benjamin Chau, Deputy Executive Director of the HKTDC, said earlier that given October was traditionally the peak sourcing season, the adoption of a hybrid exhibition format would enable buyers and suppliers to continue their meetings and seize business opportunities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.—Xinhua ■

Shell posts quarterly loss as charge offsets oil surge



Shell said adjusted earnings benefited from higher oil and gas prices. PHOTO: SHELL/AFP

ROYAL Dutch Shell on Thursday reported a net loss for the third quarter as a huge sum written off by the energy giant offset a surge in oil prices.

Shell also announced plans to cut carbon emissions but its target was far from meeting a recent Dutch court order for a 45-per-cent reduction in its greenhouse gases by 2030.

Shell said its loss after tax came in at \$447 million in the three months to the end of September after writing off \$5.2 billion linked to commodity derivatives.

Stripping out the charge, adjusted earnings soared to \$4.13 billion from \$955 million in the third quarter of 2020.

Earlier this month, the group had already warned of a financial hit from the recent Hurricane Ida of about \$400 million.

Shell said adjusted earnings benefited from higher oil and gas prices.

Energy prices have soared over the past year, pushing up inflation which threatens to weigh on the global economic recovery.

Shell chief executive Ben van Beurden said that the group

had "generated record cash flow and maintained capital discipline" in the third quarter.

Reducing emissions

The group added that its so-called Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions will be cut in half by the end of the decade compared with levels in 2016. Those concern its direct production emissions and those from purchased electricity.

But it excludes Scope 3 emissions, which concern the emissions from customers burning Shell's oil and gas, and are 90 per cent of the total.—AFP ■

Chip shortage takes shine off Volkswagen's third quarter

VOLKSWAGEN'S underlying profits tumbled in the third quarter as a global chip shortage left the German auto giant unable to meet demand for its vehicles, it said on Thursday.

In the third quarter the company "lost some 600,000 vehicles

that could not be delivered to customers compared to the second quarter", chief executive Herbert Diess said in a conference call.

"The global semiconductor bottlenecks particularly impacted on the business performance of the Volkswagen Group in the

third quarter," the carmaker said in a statement, forcing it to pause production at some of its plants due to missing components.

The shortage of semiconductors, a key component in both conventional and electric vehicles, had "intensified throughout the industry", Volkswagen complained.

Operating profit before special items, VW's preferred yardstick for underlying earnings, fell 12 per cent to 2.8 billion euros (\$3.2 billion) in the period from July to September.

By contrast, bottom-line net profit rose by 5.6 per cent to 2.9 billion euros. A year earlier, earnings had been hit by the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. Vehicle deliveries were down 24 per cent in the third quarter, while demand in key market China "could also not be met", VW said.—AFP ■



An employee checks the surface of an "ID 3" electric car of German carmaker Volkswagen, at the "Glassy Manufaktur" (Glaeserne Manufaktur) production site in Dresden, Germany, 8 June 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Pope to visit Canada after indigenous school scandal

POPE Francis will visit Canada as the Catholic Church seeks to rebuild bridges with the indigenous community following a horrifying scandal of abuse at Church-run residential schools, the Vatican said on 27 October.

"The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has invited the Holy Father to make an apostolic journey to Canada, also in the context of the long-standing pastoral process of reconciliation with indigenous peoples," it said.

"His Holiness has indicated his willingness to visit the country on a date to be settled in due course."

The Catholic Church in

Canada in September apologised "unequivocally" to Canada's indigenous peoples for a century of abuses at Church-run residential schools set up by the government under a policy of assimilation.

More than 1,200 unmarked graves have been discovered at three sites where indigenous children were forced to attend the schools, and searches are continuing for more sites.

Pope Francis has expressed his "pain" at the scandal but has not gone so far as to offer the apology that indigenous leaders are still calling for.

Assembly of First Nations national chief RoseAnne Archibald told AFP she is ready to welcome to pontiff when he comes to Canada "to issue a long overdue apology" to former students and their families.

"The Catholic Church must be accountable and acknowledge their responsibility for implementing and running these institutions of assimilation and genocide," she said.

Her comments were echoed by Canada's Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Marc Miller, who told reporters in Ottawa the visit is "welcome news" and that the hope is Pope Francis will present "a full and complete apology to indigenous people" during the trip.—AFP ■



Pope Francis has expressed his 'pain' at the scandal surrounding former Church-run schools for indigenous children in Canada but has not gone so far as to offer the apology that indigenous leaders are still calling for.
PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS/AFP

The human faces behind Germany's surge in migrants via Belarus



More than 6,100 illegal migrants who have entered Germany via Poland from Belarus since the beginning of this year, most of them from the Middle East, according to German authorities. **PHOTO: AFP**

AT the Eisenhuettenstadt reception centre for refugees on Germany's border with Poland, 19-year-old Iraqi asylum seeker Sibani dreams of making a new life for himself after an exhausting journey from Belarus.

"I want to live here," he says in broken German, learned

through a few months of online courses. Sibani spent eight days trekking across Poland by foot to get to Germany after flying to Minsk from Turkey.

"I had no water, no food, it was cold. It was very tiring," he tells AFP.

Sibani is one of more than

6,100 illegal migrants who have entered Germany via Poland from Belarus since the beginning of this year, most of them from the Middle East, according to German authorities.

The EU accuses Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of flying migrants from the Middle East and Africa to Minsk and then sending them into the bloc on foot in retaliation for sanctions imposed over a crackdown on the opposition. German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer has branded the alleged scheme "a hybrid threat, in which migrants are used as political weapons".

The migrants are initially crossing from Belarus into Poland and the Baltic States, but many are then travelling on to Germany — seen as welcoming to migrants after Angela Merkel's decision to leave the borders open to hundreds of thousands in 2015-16.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to be held in person this year

The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, held online last year due to the pandemic, will go ahead in person in December with the 2021 laureates both in attendance, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Tuesday.

Investigative journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia won the prestigious award earlier this month for their work promoting freedom of expression at a time when liberty of the press is increasingly under threat.

The gala ceremony takes place, as tradition dictates, in Oslo on 10 December, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of prize creator Alfred Nobel.—AFP ■

Iran agrees to restart nuclear talks as pressure grows

IRAN said Wednesday it will resume talks with world powers in November on reviving a nuclear deal after a five-month gap in the face of mounting warnings that international patience was wearing thin.

Iran held six rounds of indirect negotiations in Vienna with President Joe Biden's administration on returning to the 2015 deal, but talks went on hiatus in June as a new hardline government took office in Tehran.

On a visit to Brussels, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri said he saw progress in talks with European Union mediator Enrique Mora, who also went to Tehran earlier this month.—AFP ■

Spain's Renfe eyes high-speed rail link to London

SPANISH railway company Renfe wants to begin a high-speed train service between Paris and London, taking advantage of the slots still available in the tunnel under the English Channel, the company said on 26 October.

"Renfe wants to operate on the Paris-London high-speed line through the Eurotunnel, and has already started initial contacts to compete with Eurostar," the company behind the service 55 per cent owned by France's SNCF,

the Spanish company told AFP, confirming a report in Spanish daily El Pais. "At the moment there are available paths and capacity to operate on the High Speed line," Renfe added, specifying that it had already carried out a market study showing that it would be "profitable".

The high-speed line between Paris and London, operated by Eurostar, connects the two capitals in 02H15 through the tunnel opened in 1994. Before the pandemic, it was used by nine million passengers annually. Eurostar train traffic fell sharply from 2020 due to the health crisis, but "it was growing until COVID-19, a trend expected to recover next year," Renfe stressed.

The Spanish company expects to operate its service with its own trains, starting with a minimum of seven, and believes taking a share of the London-Paris line will help it enter the French market.—AFP ■



Spanish railway company Renfe wants to begin a high-speed train service between Paris and London, taking advantage of the slots still available in the tunnel under the English Channel, the company said on 26 October. **PHOTO: AFP**

G20 leaders to meet in the shadow of Mussolini's palaces

G20 leaders will meet this week-end in Rome's historic surroundings of EUR, a neighbourhood created by Benito Mussolini to glorify his fascist regime and its links with ancient Rome.

The summit of the world's major economies will be held away from Rome city centre, home to the Colosseum and the Pantheon, where the tourists, historic buildings and tiny streets pose a nightmare for security and access.

Instead, leaders will gather in a futuristic convention centre known as the "Nuvola" (cloud), featuring a suspended structure inside a glass and steel box, in a southern suburb with more easily



A view of the futuristic 'Nuvola' centre. PHOTO: AFP

policed boulevards and its own unique charm.

EUR, which stands for Esposizione Universale Romana, or

Rome World Expo, was conceived in the 1930s as a showcase for modernist architecture and as the home of the 1942 edition of

the world expo. The event, which would have coincided with the 20th anniversary of the fascist regime, never took place due to World War II. The conflict also forced Mussolini's architects to leave EUR half-finished. Located in the southern outskirts of Rome, between the historic centre and the seaside suburb of Ostia, EUR is characterised by monumental buildings in white marble and travertine stone, typical of the fascist era. Its best-known landmark is the so-called Square Colosseum, a white cube with arches originally meant to host the Palace of Italian Civilisation, and now the headquarters of Italian fashion house Fendi.—AFP ■

Early polls likely as Portugal MPs reject budget

PORTUGAL'S parliament rejected the government's budget on Wednesday for the first time since democracy was installed in the 1970's, pushing the country towards early elections.

Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa lost the support of some smaller left-wing parties, who voted with the opposition against his budget.

Costa, who has led minority governments since 2015 but faced increasing opposition from his allies, vowed before the vote not to resign.

"The last thing the country needs in these circumstances is a political crisis," he said.

The vote does not automatically trigger an early election

-- the next one is scheduled for late 2023.

But President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has the right to dissolve parliament in his role as crisis moderator. He had warned he would call elections if the spending plans were blocked.

"If parliament is unable to adopt a budget that's fundamental for the country, it would be positive to hear the voices of the Portuguese people, so they can say what they think about a future assembly," Rebelo de Sousa said on Wednesday.

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa warned he would call elections if government spending plans were blocked. PHOTO: PATRICIA DE MELO MOREIRA /AFP



President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa warned he would call elections if government spending plans were blocked.

PHOTO: PATRICIA DE MELO MOREIRA /AFP

'Political hara-kiri'

Before the president can dissolve parliament and set the date

for elections, he must consult the various political parties and his state council.—AFP ■

Jan 6 Capitol riot probe focuses on luxury hotel 'war room'

A "war room" set up in a luxury Washington hotel by advisors of president Donald Trump has become the focus of the congressional investigation into the violent 6 January attack on the US Capitol.

Trump strategist Steve Bannon and legal consultants Rudy Giuliani and John Eastman worked in suites at the Willard InterContinental across the street from the White House in the days surrounding the at-

tack, in which Trump supporters stormed Congress to halt certification of Democrat Joe Biden's presidential election victory.

They and others are suspected of maintaining communications between the White House and groups involved in so-called "Stop the Steal" protests, according to a congressional resolution holding Bannon in contempt last week.

Bannon, who rejected a subpoena to testify in the Jan-



Investigators are examining whether a group of powerful Trump backers used a "war room" in the luxury Willard InterContinental hotel in Washington to incite the 6 January attack on the US Capitol.

PHOTO: AFP

uary 6 investigation, was cited for his "role in constructing and participating in the 'stop the steal' public relations effort that motivated the attack."

That included, the resolution said, "his participation in the events of that day from a 'war room'" at the Willard.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Erdogan says 'likely' to meet Biden in Glasgow

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he expects to meet his US counterpart Joe Biden on the margins of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, Turkish media reported on 27 October.

The meeting, which would be the two leaders' second since Biden was elected president, comes with Turkey seeking \$1.4 billion in compensation after Washington kicked the NATO ally out of its F-35 fighter jet programme for buying a Russian missile defence system.

Erdogan's comments to reporters on his return flight from a trip to Azerbaijan came after the White House released Biden's schedule at this weekend's G20 summit in Rome that included no meeting with the Turkish leader. "The agenda for Rome and Glasgow appears to have changed," Erdogan was quoted as saying. "We are likely to meet in Glasgow instead of Rome." The COP26 UN climate conference opens in the Scottish city on Sunday and runs to 12 November.—AFP ■

France threatens UK with sanctions in fishing row

A smouldering row between London and Paris over post-Brexit fishing rights has flared up, with France threatening trade disruptions from next week if its boats are not granted more access to British waters.

The measures targeting British fish exports from November 2 would include "systematic customs and sanitary checks on products brought to France and a ban on landing seafood", French government spokesman Gabriel Attal told reporters on 27 October.

Europe Minister Clement Beaune said extra checks could also be extended to "other merchandise" by "reinforcing our procedures and controls compared with current practices".

Tweeting in response to Beaune, London's Brexit minister David Frost posted a government statement that "France's threats are disappointing and disproportionate, and not what we would expect from a close ally and partner".—AFP ■

Myanmar placed in tough group for 2022 AFC Women’s Cup Championship

FOLLOWING the official draw ceremony held yesterday virtually in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Myanmar women’s football team are set in a tough Group C together with Japan, South Korea and Viet Nam.

According to the group vote, host India is falling in Group A together with China, China Taipei and Iran.

Meanwhile, ASEAN superstar team Thailand is placed in Group B with Australia, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

The tournament will be held in India from 20 January to 6 February 2022, with the first and second-placed teams from three groups, best two teams in the third place will advance to the quarter-finals.

The quarter-finalists are expected to qualify for the Women’s World Cup in 2023, co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

FIFA has increased the number of teams in the upcoming Women’s World Cup, with five teams having direct access to join the tourney, host Australia and two teams from the other continents are allowed to compete in the play-offs.

Therefore, the Myanmar team are aiming to qualify for the 2023 Women’s World Cup but is likely to work harder in the group stage.

This is the fifth time that the Myanmar women’s team have qualified for the final round of the Asian Cup Women’s Champion-



A group table for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup.

ship in 2006, 2010 and 2014 but the team were eliminated from the group stage. —Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

CONMEBOL shoots down biennial World Cup idea



Picture of the Copa Libertadores, left at right, and Copa Sudamericana trophies taken during the draw for the next rounds of the football tournaments at the South American Football Confederation headquarters in Luque, Paraguay, on 23 Oct 2020. PHOTO: AFP

SOUTH American football governing body CONMEBOL on 27 October rejected a FIFA proposal to hold the World Cup every two years.

“There are no reasons, benefits or justification for the change driven by FIFA” to hold the World Cup every two years instead of four, CONMEBOL

said in a statement after its council met in Luque, Paraguay.

“The ten countries that make up CONMEBOL confirm that they will not participate in a World Cup organized every two years,” it added.

FIFA will hold a summit in December with president

Gianni Infantino still hoping to find consensus on plans to stage the men’s tournament more frequently.

However, opposition has been so widespread from leagues, players and supporters groups that the chances of a biennial World Cup actually happening appear remote.

In its statement, CONMEBOL said the proposal to shorten the gap between World Cups “turns its back on almost 100 years of world football tradition, ignoring the history of one of the most important sporting events on the planet.”

The current system, it added, “has proven to be a successful model” that “rewards effort, talent and planned work.”

The CONMEBOL council also decided Wednesday on Colombia as the host of the 2022 Copa America for women.—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.

‘A disgrace’ - Mueller apologizes to Bayern fans for 5-0 cup thrashing

BAYERN Munich veteran Thomas Mueller has apologized to their fans and admitted the 5-0 thrashing at Moenchengladbach in the German Cup was the worst defeat he has experienced during 13 years playing in the famous red shirt.

“We were picked apart from A to Z in the first half,” the 32-year-old Mueller, who made his Bayern debut in 2008 and is approaching 600 appearances for the Bavarian giants, told ARD.

“I don’t know if I’ve ever experienced anything like that before in an FC Bayern shirt. We have to apologize to our fans.”

A full-strength Bayern team was pole-axed Wednesday when Gladbach took the lead at Borussia Park with barely

a minute gone. After Kouadio Kone’s early goal, Algerian defender Ramy Bensebaini netted twice to make it 3-0 at half-time.

Bayern’s bright start to the second-half was obliterated when Swiss striker Breel Embolo scored two rapid-fire goals.

Furious Bayern sports director Hasan Salihamidzic described the visitors’ performance as “a collective black-out – we simply didn’t turn up”. Gladbach fans started celebrating long before the final whistle as the song ‘Oh, wie ist das schoen’ (Oh, how beautiful this is) echoed around the stands.

“Of course, this was a disgrace for us,” added Mueller who said the Bayern team sat stunned in the dressing room afterwards.— AFP ■