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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Mandalay boasts of ancient material culture, wooden monasteries



The Shweinpin Monastery in Mandalay. PHOTO : KO THWIN

MANDALAY is where Myanmar's rich cultural heritage can be seen. Many ancient Myanmar wooden monasteries with late Konbaung dynasty's Inwa, Amarapura and Yadanabon eras' architectural and construction styles were built in Mandalay. The monasteries were treasured and well maintained and thus can be seen in magnificent forms today just in one place.

The ancient Myanmar people constructed monasteries for monks to live peacefully and conduct their religious duties. The treasured and well-maintained monasteries then became places where ancient traditional architectural and construction styles were retained and preserved together with the teachings and practices of Buddhism, according to the records.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

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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

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Sagaing Region Hotel Zones make tourism more sustainable



ALL the stakeholders in the tourism industry, in coordination with related departments and authorities concerned, are required to exert concerted efforts for more sustainable tourism in six tourism zones of the Sagaing Region, U Aung Thu Oo, head of the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism instructed.

Fifty-four tourism destinations have been explored in six tourism zones: Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Kalay, Katha and Hkamti.

“Sagaing Region has 54 tourism sites. The stakeholders involved in the industry needed to make efforts in order to make tourism more sustainable. More importantly, we need to promote local products and delicacies so as to enhance the economic benefits and the wellbeing of the residents. Also, we need to focus

on quality packaging and fair pricing,” said U Aung Thu Oo.

“The travellers usually like to buy souvenirs. We must promote our local products and culture for sustainable tourism,” he elaborated.

Authorities concerned and the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism are jointly striving for tourism development in the region, he added.

“The income is generated through the various services like hotels, restaurants, souvenir shops, domestic transport, etc. The local products with quality packaging will surely attract buyers,” he pointed out.

Local pilgrims mostly flock to Zalon Taung and the reclining figure called the Alaungdaw Kathapha. Normally, those places are crowded with pilgrims during the high season. — Lu Lay/GNLM



Fifty-four tourism destinations have been explored in six tourism zones: Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Kalay, Katha and Hkamti. PHOTOS : U AUNG THU OO

1,002 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 November, total figure rises to 503,981

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 503,981 after 1,002 new cases were reported on 4 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 473,903 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,766 after 22 died.—MNA

Gather the raw materials at home and produce export-quality products

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.

(Excerpt from the Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark the Sixth Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 26 October 2021)

MoHT Union minister attends global forum on tourism statistics, knowledge and policies hosted by South Korea

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung, representatives of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and officials virtually attended the second day of the 2021 Global Forum on Tourism Statistics, Knowledge and Policies held in Seoul, South Korea yesterday.

The forum was organized by South Korea in collaboration with its Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Korea Tourism Organization, on 3 November 2021.

On the first day of the forum, discussions were held on how to better prepare the



tourism industry for a stronger future based on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Union Minister for Com-

merce, Industry and Tourism of Columbia, and the Deputy Minister for Tourism and Antiquities addressed the forum, and senior officials from Portugal, South Africa, and Mexico, and leaders of the Asia-Pacific Tourism Association, Australia Chamber of Commerce and the European Future Tourism Agency participated in the discussion.

The second day of the forum continued yesterday with the theme of rebuilding better tourism with recovery, and the Minister for Tourism of Costa Rica addressed the forum online, and officials and experts participated in the discussion.

The forum aimed to respond with clear and firm policies to the economic, social and environmental impacts caused by the COVID-19, climate change and technology advances; to share policy support and experience with governments with the same aim of reviving tourism with the help of international organizations.

South Korea, the host country of the forum, established the ASEAN-Korea Centre for Investment and Tourism Development in 2009 with a focus on the development of trade, investment and tourism with the ASEAN member countries, including Myanmar.—MNA

Tatmadaw aircraft transports Sinovac vaccines to Kengtung Township

A Tatmadaw aircraft transported 4,808 units of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines from Yangon to Kengtung in eastern Shan State on 3 November.

Dr Myint Kyaw, head of

Shan State (East) Medical Services and Public Health Departments and other officials received the vaccines, needles and RDT testkits.

A single vial of the Sinovac vaccine can be used for two people each and the needed vaccines for 9,616 people will be allocated in the townships of eastern Shan State. — Aung Zin Myint (IPRD)/GNLM



Myanmar welcomes returnees at different border crossings

MYANMAR nationals from abroad are being welcomed at various land borders.

On 3 November, a total of 19 returnees—nine males and 10 females came back home through Chinshwehaw.

Similarly, four returnees, including two males and two females, came back home through Laukkai. Healthcare officials from relevant public hospitals and members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps conducted COVID-19 tests and

provided quarantine entry documents for the returnees.

Next, instructions of the Ministry of Health were explained systematically and departmental officials provided necessary assistance.

The township administration body then escorted them to their respective places in buses, and the infected people were kept in separate places to facilitate the necessary medical and administrative matters, officials said.—MNA

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.

Bagan archaeological museum reopens after 19-month shutdown

WITH the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in Myanmar, the Bagan Archaeological Museum was reopened to the public on 28 October.

The reopening has brought good news to art lovers and history enthusiasts who are now able to return after almost a nineteen-month shutdown since the first wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar. The museum was closed on 15 March 2020.

The Bagan Archaeological Museum has been reopened under the COVID-19 guidelines to prevent the spread of the disease, and it welcomes visitors from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm daily, except on Monday and public holidays.

The museum is located in the old Bagan, linking to the southern wall of the ancient Bagan, which is one of the World Heritage Sites of UNESCO in Myanmar. This two-storey museum was opened in 1998 although the very first museum in Bagan was established in 1902. Mr Taw Sein Kho, a specialist in the epigraphy of the formerly-known Depart-



An aerial view of Bagan pagodas.

ment of Stone Inscription, now the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, established the construction of the first museum on the north side of Ananda Temple to display ancient stone inscriptions and artefacts from around Bagan which was opened in 1904.

A new and grander museum was built and opened in 1979 on

the south side of the Katawpa-lin Pagoda as more and more artefacts were collected within 60 years. The current museum was built in 1995 and opened in 1998, explained Deputy Director Daw Khet Khet Hla, who is also the in-charge of the museum. The museum was also extended a new exhibition for children in 2017. — Ko Htein(KPD)/GNLM

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Maha Bandoola Park comes alive with people on Deepavali Day



ALL the parks and playgrounds in Yangon Region were opened for the public starting 1 November, and Maha Bandoola Park hosted crowds of people on Deepavali Day.

The government temporarily shut down 62 parks and playgrounds in Yangon municipal area in order to effectively conduct COVID-19 preventive measures. Currently, the disease reaches under control to a certain extent and so the recreational areas are reopened. Moreover, the opening hour of Maha Bandoola Park was also extended from 5 am to 6 pm as

of 3 November.

“We reopened Maha Bandoola Park beginning 1 November as usual. Those who love walking and doing exercises proposed us and so we extended the opening hours from 5 am to 6 pm on 3 November. The people can freely take rest but they have to follow the COVID-19 health rules,” said an official of YCDC.

The people usually gather at Maha Bandoola park, the western area of Shwedagon Pagoda and Inya Lake to exercise on the morning of cold season but they have to strictly follow the health rules. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

Maha Bandoola Park comes alive with people on Deepavali Day. **PHOTOS : LIN YAMA**



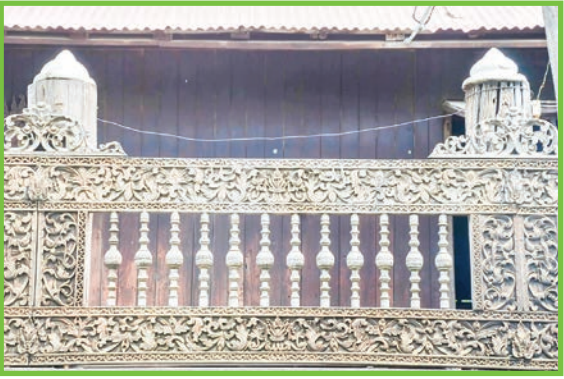


Mandalay boasts of ancient material culture, wooden monasteries

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The ancient monasteries are constructed with the style of the monastic building, tier-roofed building, the hall connecting two main halls, main monastic building and store-room. These wooden monasteries are currently repaired and protected by the monks. Although many ancient wooden monasteries with ancient artworks can be seen in Mandalay, the model wooden monasteries

can be seen in Shweinpin Monastery and Tharkawun monastery of Kinwun Mingyi Monastery in Maha Aungmyay Township, Thingaza Monastery in West Daewun Ward, Bhamo Monastery, Kyay Myin monastery and Yamethin monastery in Aungmyaythazan Township and Maha Min Htin monastery in Chanmyathazi Township. – Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



PHOTOS : KO THWIN



MoC oversees daily import processes for anti-COVID-19 equipment

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 the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 4 November, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including masks and oxygen generators, were imported by two companies using four vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by two bows-



Chinshwehaw

ers, two oxygen plants and 10 tonnes of masks were imported

via Chinshwehaw and Myawady trading zones and Yangon Inter-

national Seaports.

One bowser transported ox-

ygen to Nay Pyi Taw and another one to Yangon via the Myawady land border.

Two oxygen plants were also transported to Yangon from the trading posts, officials said.

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

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

PDF terrorists launch bomb attacks on public hospitals, schools

TERRORIST groups intentionally commit bomb and arson attacks on the roads, bridges, state-owned and private factories and industries. During the reopening of schools, they also perpetrated mine and arson attacks on schools, public hospitals and station hospitals for health system collapse.

On the morning of 3 November, two terrorists riding a motorcycle threw a homemade bomb into the staff housing of nurses in Tamu Township of the Sagaing Region and they ran away.

The M-67 bomb featuring 10.74 HAND Grenade letters did not explode and no one was injured.

Similarly, about 20 PDF members exploded two homemade mines at B.E.P.S of Sin Kyun Village of Singu Township of the Mandalay Region yesterday and the windows of one school building were broken while the wall collapsed.

According to the cases, the insurgents intentionally launched attacks to affect the COVID-19 preventive measures, healthcare services at the hospitals and centres, learning opportunities of new generations, the prosperity of the public. Therefore, the security forces work together with the public to arrest such terrorists. — MNA



School building seen hit by handmade mines in Singu Township, Mandalay Region.

380 people get jabbed against COVID-19 in Dawphonyang



Vaccination programme in progress in Kachin State.

HEALTHCARE officials gave the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to 380 local people who are over the age of 18 at Basic Education High School in Dawphonyang, Bhamo District, Kachin State on 4 November.

Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Oo closely monitored the second vaccination while health officials measured the body temperatures, blood pressure and monitored oxygen levels before the vaccination.

A total of 200 people, including three monks, eight civil servants, 21 other income earners, 166 dependents and two persons with disabilities, received the COVID-19 vaccines for the second time and health officials presented immunization certificates to the vaccinated persons.

The remaining 180 people will be vaccinated continuously on 5 November, according to the Township General Administration Department. — Dawphonyang IPRD/GNLM

COVID-19 inoculation continues in Mongyai, Shan State (North)

PEOPLE over the age of 18 in Mongyai Township, Shan State (North) were vaccinated against COVID-19 yesterday at Man Kyaung Rural Health Branch, Man Pong Rural Health Branch, and Loi Ngin Rural Health Branch at the Township Public Hospital respectively.

A total of 640 people received

their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 65 people received their first dose.

The vaccination was carried out under the coordination of the Chairman of the Township Administration Body and members, healthcare professionals, and department officials. — Daw Khin Malar/GNLM

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 Tatmadaw hospitals, military training depots, and 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 responsi-

ble citizens, are opening quarantine centres in respective townships.

As of 7 pm last night, the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre received a total of 164 people – 90 men and 74 women—who need to be monitored.

Local medical teams and officials in respective military commands are assisting with the accommodation, health and medical care of the patients, it is reported. — MNA

Myanmar maritime trade up by \$115 mln as of 22 October

THE value of Myanmar’s maritime trade between 1 and 22 October of the current mini-budget period for 2021-2022 climbed up to US\$1.166 billion, which reflected an increase of \$115 million as against the last FY.

The figures rose from \$1.05 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$560 million, imports have registered \$300.45 million. Compared to the same period in the 2020-2021 financial year, imports fell by \$144.7 million, while exports registered an increase of \$259.7 million.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through the border this FY was estimated at \$234.9 million, which plunged drastically from \$613 million registered last FY.



Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and industrial raw materials.

Myanmar’s sea trade generated \$19.8 billion out of an overall trade value of \$29.5 billion in the last FY2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics indicated. Myanmar exports agricul-

tural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and industrial raw materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar’s maritime trade and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port.

Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port received over 152 larger ships of above 30,000 DWT (deadweight tonnage) in the past five months (February-June) this year after the draft limit is extended up to 10 metres with the new navigation channel accessing to inner Yangon River. — KK/GNLM

\$12 million worth of palm oil to be sold constantly at reasonable prices



According to the Consumer Affairs Department, palm oil, with an estimated value of US\$12 million, will be imported and distributed at a fairer price.

ACCORDING to the Consumer Affairs Department, palm oil, with an estimated value of US\$12 million, will be imported and distributed at a fairer price.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association is making efforts to distribute palm oil continuously, which is equivalent to \$12 million in that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The volume of palm oil that was sold at the promoted price of K3,700 per viss is equivalent to \$19 million that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar. Over 16,000 tonnes (7.877 million visses) were sold last September.

“The palm oil, with the estimated value of \$19 million, has

been sold. It has been distributed wholesale through relevant companies. But retailers are still selling them. More volume of palm oil, which is equivalent to \$12 million, is planned to import. In this case, the price may change again,” said an official from the Consumer Affairs Department.

Palm oil is currently priced at around K4,800 per viss in the retail market. The price hike in palm oil is attributed to Kyat depreciation in the local foreign market.

The association is also making concerted efforts along with organizations concerned and related departments to secure edible oil sufficiency and offer reasonable prices to the consumers, as per the state-

The association is attempting to prevent undesirable oil-related incidents in Myanmar due to the impact of the worldwide pandemic.

Besides, Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association is attempting to maintain price stability, prevent market manipulation, import palm oil from foreign countries sustainably for self-sufficiency and distribute the edible oil at a reasonable price to the consumers.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar-India border trade down in 2021-2022 mini-budget year

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India hit US\$1.42 million as of 22 October in the mini-budget year of 2021-2022 or transition period from October 2021 to March 2022, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

The border trade during the period decreased by \$0.87 million compared with the same period of the previous financial year. The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was shared by Myanmar’s export of \$1.35 million and its import of \$0.07 million.

The two countries carry out border trade mainly through Tamu, Reed and Thantlang cross-border trade camps, while a major part of

bilateral trade is delivered through ships.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the total border trade volume from the Tamu border trading post in the mini-budget year was \$0.56 million with exports valued at \$0.56 million. Total trade volume via the Reed border trade post in the same period was \$0.86 million with exports valued at \$0.79 million and imports \$0.07 million.

Myanmar mainly exports to India fruits and vegetable, fishery and forestry products, while importing from India medicines, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials. — ACM/GNLM



Answer the best questions for booming businesses

BUSINESSPERSONS need to emphasize two good questions for their businesses—what is workable and what is unworkable?

They have to manufacture various kinds of products. Practically, some of the products are favourite among the consumers but some are dull in sales in the market. Business people need to always review their workplaces and products whether they are in a downtrend or not.

If they find any false in the workplaces or manufacturing process, it is necessary to repair the work process in line with the best way. If they fail to do so or if they delay doing so, they will face unexpected losses or unprecedented difficulties in their businesses.

As such, businesspersons need to build their capacity for answering these questions to solve the problems and fulfil the needs of workplaces with farsightedness to be able to meet the goals.

These questions are very crucial for the improvement of their businesses. Businesspersons must really know who is workable and who is not in the workplace. Those who shrink in the workplaces are sparks to collapse the workplaces and businesses because such a move is a tool to disintegrate the unity of the workplaces. If the workplace is not in unity, the businesses will break down in a short time. Thanks to the questions, businesspersons can manage the manpower in the workplaces by shuffling the workable and unworkable employees in time.

That is why two kinds of questions are crucial for the development of businesses. If the businesspersons can seek the answers to these questions, they are sure to secure success in their arenas with the capability to boom their businesses.

These four questions in two types adopted as the future plans are the most important for operating the businesses. As such, businesspersons need to build their capacity for answering these questions to solve the problems and fulfil the needs of workplaces with farsightedness to be able to meet the goals.



WHY SHOULD WE GO ON LEARNING?

By U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

1. It is a tradition for us to start learning during the first or the youthful phase of our life, to accumulate wealth during the second or the prime of our lives and to work for our own deliverance from this Samsara, during the third or the waning period of our life. Well, I hope you will agree with me if I say you have already passed your first phase of life. Now you are in your prime of life. In other words, by now, you have learnt a lot—you are highly educated. But I think, you have or shall I say, we have quite a lot more to learn. Learning should never stop. Learning is a never-ending process, it's a life-long process.

2. So, let me say, in plain and simple language, that we must go on learning. And the urge for knowledge should be the hallmark of our lives. Knowledge should always be at the top of our minds.

Concerning the powerful urge to learn, I would like to reproduce what Mr Roland Gelatt, a late famous writer had once said. It reads as follows: -

“All normal human beings are born with a powerful urge to learn. Almost all of them lose this urge, even before they have reached maturity. It is only the few who are so constituted that lack of learning becomes a nuisance. This is perhaps the most insidious of human tragedies. Children are wonders at increasing their vocabularies because of “their powerful urge to learn”.

“The adults, who “lose this urge” and who no longer feel that “lack of learning become a nuisance”, stop building their vocabularies. They stop learning, they stop growing intellectually, they stop changing.

When and if such a time

comes, then, “this is perhaps the most insidious of human tragedies”. But fortunately, this process is far from irreversible.

If you have lost “the powerful urge to learn, you can regain your need to discover; to figure out, to understand to know. And thus, you can start increasing your vocabulary at the same rate as when you were a child”.

“I am not spouting airy theory. For over thirty years I have worked with thousands of adults in my college courses in vocabulary improvement, and I can state as a fact, and without qualification, that: -

If you can recapture “the powerful urge to learn”, with which you were born, “you can go on increasing your vocabulary at a prodigious rate”. No matter what your age. “After all, age is no barrier to learning.”

I am sure, you can do it. Believe me, the constancy of effort is always crowned with success. Regularity is the source of success. The only thing you must have is whatever your age, “the powerful urge to learn”.

3. To sum up, I would like to quote some old sayings as follows: -

“Brain is just like a muscle. Use it or lose it. In fact, learning, like ageing, is a natural process. Once you stop learning, your brain stops changing, developing and working.”

4. I am a retiree, in my 85 years of age. But I am still learning and writing some articles. Due to his kind-heartedness, and rich experience, some of my articles are kindly seen in print in the esteemed newspaper – The Global New Light of Myanmar. Many, many thanks to the chief editor

and staff. Through this article, I pay homage and deep respect to all my teachers, as part of the Five Infinite Venerables: What do you say, my dear reader?

Definition

- (1) Deliverance = Setting free
လွတ်မြောက်ခြင်း၊ ဝင်္ကုတ်ခြင်း။
- (2) Insidious = Operating in a slow or not easily apparent manner; more dangerous than seems working or to do in a hidden or secret way, curing or treacherous
လန့်လျှိုးကွယ်လျှိုး
- (3) Spouting – spout = to spout words in a hasty, irresponsible manner: အာဝဇ္ဇန်းရွတ်ပြော
- (4) Airy = Lighthearted, vivacious, gay.
- (5) Urge = (N) strong desire (VT) drive forcibly (or) encourage (or) entreat earnestly (or) persistently



WHO grants India's Covaxin jab emergency approval

Covaxin becomes the eighth vaccine against Covid-19 on the WHO's list, including others from Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sinopharm and Sinovac.

THE World Health Organization on Wednesday issued an emergency use listing for the India-made Covaxin in vaccine, in a move expected to increase Covid-19 jabs available in poor countries.

The vaccine, made by India's Bharat Biotech and with a 78-per cent efficacy rate after two doses over a month “is extremely suitable for low- and middle-income countries due to easy storage requirements,” the UN body said.

Covaxin is the first vaccine completely developed and manufactured in India to receive WHO approval.

Unlike mRNA vaccines by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna that have emerged as leading jabs against Covid-19, Covaxin uses the more traditional “inactivated” technology that has been used for decades in vaccines against diseases like polio, seasonal influenza and rabies.

The technology uses a dead version of a germ that causes a disease to boost the immune response.

One of the main advantages

of such vaccines is that they are more easily stored than mRNA jabs, which need to be kept at sub-zero temperatures. This makes them easier to distribute, especially in poor countries that may lack the needed facilities.

Covaxin can be stored between 2-8 degrees Celsius (36-46 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the company website.

India welcomed the move, with Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar tweeting that it “facilitates travel for many Indian citizens and contributes to vaccine equity.”

Group of eight

Covaxin becomes the eighth vaccine against Covid-19 on the WHO's list, including others from Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sinopharm and Sinovac.

WHO emergency approval, which includes an assessment of clinical trial data, can speed up international recognition of vaccines.

It also allows their use by fellow UN agencies and the



Foreign envoys take a tour of Bharat Biotech facility where its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin is being developed, in Hyderabad in December 2020. PHOTO: ANI

global Covax initiative, set up to immunise people in the world's least-well-off countries.

India has administered 121.2 million shots of Covaxin, around 11 per cent of the total.

The vaccine, developed by Indian drug maker Bharat Biotech together with the Indian Council of Medical Research, was

given “emergency approval” in India earlier this year without completion of phase 3 human trials.

Despite criticism from doctors and health workers over the lack of data, the company and India's drug regulator insisted it was safe for use.

The firm says it has com-

pleted phase 3 trials but has yet to publish the results. In July, releasing “pre-print data,” the company claimed that an overall efficacy of 77.8 per cent against symptomatic Covid-19 patients had been found.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the vaccine in March this year as India started

rolling out its mammoth vaccination programme, which has now seen more than a billion shots given.

The delay in WHO approval has been a cause of worry for many Indians, in particular students, who have had problems returning to their universities abroad.

As of now, around a dozen countries recognize the two-dose vaccine, including Greece, Iran, Mexico, Nepal, Zimbabwe and as of this week, Australia.

India has also exported Covaxin to a number of countries, including Iran, Myanmar and Zimbabwe.

Brazil suspended a deal to import 20 million doses of Covaxin from India after corruption allegations.

Owned by husband and wife, Krishan and Suchitra Ella, Bharat Biotech set up in 1996 and has delivered over three billion vaccines for several diseases including Zika and Hepatitis-B.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 4 November 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 5th November, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mandalay Region and (Northern and Southern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Eastern Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Magway Regions and Chin, Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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 slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Northern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 November, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 November, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 November, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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New Mazda system to control car if driver sleeps or has medical issue

MAZDA Motor Corp. plans to release a car in 2022 featuring technology that can safely bring the vehicle to a stop on the roadside and make an emergency call if the driver falls asleep or becomes incapacitated.

The Mazda Co-Pilot system will be able to detect when it needs to intervene judging from the driver's posture and line of sight.

The vehicle will automatically honk the horn and flash its indicators if the driver has lost control, according to the automaker, while taking over and bringing the car to a safe stop.

Mazda unveiled in June the concept of the co-pilot system. The automaker then revealed on Thursday that a model equipped

with the driver monitoring system that enables the car to automatically change lanes on an expressway will be launched in 2025 or later.

"We aim (for the car) to protect (the driver) and ensure safety like an aircraft's co-pilot," said Takahiro Tochioka, who is responsible for the system's development.—Kyodo News ■



As for onboard technological advancements, Mazda is now working on deploying its human-centric autonomous driving system called "Mazda Co-Pilot" in its models which should be out by 2022.
PHOTO: MAZDA/KYODO NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan PM Kishida pledges \$10 bil. to aide Asia's zero emission path

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged at a UN climate summit on Tuesday up to \$10 billion in funds over five years to assist Asia along the path to zero carbon emissions, using his world stage debut to show his leadership in curbing global warming.

"Japan will press onward to undertake efforts toward net zero emissions in Asia, the engine of global economic growth," Kishida said in an address on the second day of the leaders' session of UN climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland.

Kishida unveiled the aid, which came on top of \$60 billion in climate finance Japan has committed, as he marked his first overseas trip since becoming prime minister on Oct. 4.—Kyodo News ■

China first makes protein from carbon monoxide

CHINESE scientists have made breakthroughs in producing protein from carbon monoxide, according to Science and Technology Daily, which is of great significance for China in making up the agricultural weakness and achieving the "Dual Carbon" goals which refer to China's two climate goals that China would reach its carbon emissions peak before 2030 and become "carbon neutral" before 2060.

According to Xue Min, chief scientist of the project and a researcher at Feed Research Institute, the mass artificial production of protein from natural carbon monoxide and nitrogen sources can break the limit of the natural synthesis of protein.—Xinhua ■

Leaders of more than 100 countries pledge to end deforestation by 2030



Mamiraua Institute biologist Daiane da Rosa gets back a drone during the field work of EcoDrones expedition at Mamiraua Sustainable Development Reserve in Amazonas state, Brazil, on 27 June 2018. **PHOTO: AFP/MAURO PIMENTEL**

WORLD leaders will conclude a two-day climate summit on Tuesday with a multibillion-dollar pledge to end deforestation by 2030—a date too far away for campaigners who want action sooner to save the planet's lungs.

The pledge was to be issued

at the UN's COP26 conference, which will continue for another fortnight to try to craft national plans to forestall the most devastating impacts of global warming.

The summit's chair, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, said the agreement on deforest-

ation was pivotal to the overarching ambition of limiting temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"These great teeming ecosystems—these cathedrals of nature—are the lungs of our planet," he was expected to say in Glasgow, according to Downing Street.

"Forests support communities, livelihoods and food supply, and absorb the carbon we pump into the atmosphere. They are essential to our very survival," Johnson said.

"With today's (Tuesday's) unprecedented pledges, we will have a chance to end humanity's long history as nature's conqueror, and instead become its custodian." The pledge is backed by almost \$20 billion in public and private funding, and is endorsed by more than 100 leaders representing over 85 per cent of the world's forests, the UK government said.—AFP ■

World's highest ski resort a Bolivian memory



Rising 5,300-metres above sea level, Chacaltaya was a popular family weekend retreat for inhabitants of La Paz, just 30 kilometres away. **PHOTO: EXPLORE-SHARE.COM/AFP**

BERNARDO Guarachi's eyes light up as he reminisces about the glory days of Chacaltaya—once the highest ski resort in the world but now a crumbling relic to climate change in the Bolivian Andes.

"Today, it's a cemetery," said Guarachi, pointing to the rusted poles and cables from the old chair lifts.

His eyes scan the 400-metre slope he once shot down at speed on a blanket of snow, now covered only in rocks.

"It used to be full of skiers on Saturdays and Sundays," said the mountaineer.

Rising 5,300-metres above sea level, Chacaltaya was a pop-

ular family weekend retreat for inhabitants of La Paz, just 30 kilometres away.

By 1998, the Chacaltaya glacier had been reduced to just seven per cent of its size in 1940, while it disappeared entirely in 2009.

Bolivia has lost around half of its glaciers in the last 50 years and experts say things will get worse as global warming continues. According to the Andean Glaciers and Waters Atlas, published in 2018 by UNESCO and the Norwegian foundation GRID-Arendal, "the expected warming will provoke the loss of 95 per cent of the permafrost in Bolivia by 2050," including the loss of almost all its glaciers.—AFP ■

Duterte orders military to bypass vaccine ‘gridlock’

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte ordered military and police to airlift Covid-19 vaccines across the country’s provinces to bypass “gridlocks” in jab distribution that he blamed on local governments.

While nearly 90 per cent of adults in the capital region are fully vaccinated, only about 35 per cent of adults in the country have had both jabs.

“(Supplies) will no longer pass through the provincial government because that would be another gridlock,” Duterte said in a meeting with pandemic

advisers on Tuesday that was broadcast Wednesday.

Duterte has leaned heavily on the armed services to fight the pandemic. They enforced one of the world’s most severe lockdowns and transported medical supplies across the country and internationally.

“Upon delivery by plane and arrival at the (vaccine operations centre), the helicopters there will take over. They would be the ones to take them to the municipal governments,” the president said.

“The armed forces have the

lift capability,” military spokesman Colonel Ramon Zagala told AFP Wednesday.

At the same meeting Tuesday, Carlito Galvez, head of the country’s COVID-19 task force, acknowledged that local governments needed to “boost their capacity” to inject more people per day as well as to “procure their own cold chain system” to store more vaccines.

Health secretary Francisco Duque told Duterte coronavirus cases were on a “downward trend” across the country after a September peak.—AFP ■



Philippine police man a checkpoint on the border between Quezon city and Manila districts on 18 March 2020, as the government imposed measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.
PHOTO: AFP/TED ALJIBE

Indonesia is first to approve Novavax Covid vaccine



Indonesia, the world’s fourth most populous nation, is the first country to approve the new COVID-19 vaccine created by US-based Novavax.
PHOTO: AFP

INDONESIA, hard-hit by the coronavirus pandemic, became the first country to approve the new vaccine for COVID-19 created by US-based Novavax, the company announced Tuesday.

The approval will give Indonesia, which has strained to obtain adequate supplies of coronavirus vaccine for its 270 million people, first access to the vaccine, which will be manufactured in India under the brand

Covovax.

The vaccine uses a different technology than those which already have gained general approval and circulated around the world.

Unlike the mRNA products from BioNTech/Pfizer, Moderna and Curevac, Novavax’s two-jab vaccine relies on a more traditional technique, using proteins to carry fragments of the coronavirus rendered harmless to

produce an immune reaction.

In addition, the vaccine can be held at higher temperatures than others—2-8 degrees Celsius —making its transportation and storage easier, especially in developing countries.

“The first authorization of Novavax’s COVID-19 vaccine exemplifies our commitment to equitable global access and will fill a vital need for Indonesia, which despite being the fourth most populous nation on earth, continues to work to procure sufficient vaccine for its population,” said Novavax chief executive Stanley Erek.

The vaccine will be produced by the Serum Institute of India, and deliveries will begin “imminently,” according to a statement from Novavax. In June, the company reported that tests of the vaccine on 30,000 people in the United States and Mexico demonstrated that it is 90.4 per cent effective in preventing symptomatic infection and 100 per cent effective against moderate and severe disease.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Only photos left as Peruvians mourn their Covid dead

IDYLLIC images of dead loved ones walking in flowery fields or drifting in the clouds grace the walls of too many a humble home in Piura, northern Peru: they are retouched photos of coronavirus victims.

The pictures, many in the form of large posters, provide small comfort to survivors in the region hardest hit by the pandemic in the country with the world’s highest death rate per capita.

“This damn disease took my parents. It’s a wound so deep you cannot erase it,” said Esmilda Alvarado, 58, showing AFP a photo of her mother and father superimposed on a scene of snow-topped mountains and blue sky.

A granddaughter brought the virus when she came to visit, Alvarado said.—AFP ■

Latvia declares emergency after surge in Covid cases

LATVIA has declared a three-month state of emergency starting from Monday following a surge in Covid-19 infections to record levels, as its vaccination rate remains one of the lowest in the EU.

The number of daily infections is now well over 1,000 in the Baltic country of 1.9 million people, overtaking the peak infection rate seen during the pandemic earlier this year.

Under the new rules, masks are now obligatory in all buildings accessible by the general public and anyone employed in government must have a vaccine by 15 November at the latest.

Unvaccinated people will only be allowed to shop for food and other essential items in designated stores and only shops considered essential will be allowed to open at weekends.—AFP ■

S.Korea donates additional COVID-19 vaccines to Vietnam

SOUTH Korea has decided to donate an additional 290,000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines to Vietnam, Seoul’s foreign ministry said Thursday.

South Korea provided 1.1 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines for Vietnam and 470,000 doses of the vaccines for Thailand on 12 Oct, while

donating 1 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Iran on Oct. 25.

The Seoul ministry said in a statement that the additional donation would contribute to the improved friendly ties between South Korea and Vietnam and the global efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

It came as South Korea’s full vaccination rate topped 70 per cent of the population, a major precondition set by the government to ease antiviral measures.

In the latest tally, the country administered COVID-19 vaccines to 80.5 per cent of the population, with 75.9 per cent being fully vaccinated.— Xinhua ■



As one of the world’s largest cargo carriers, Korean Air has been at the forefront of the global vaccine distribution. **PHOTO: KOREANAIR/XINHUA**

Experimental AI lending helping hand to fruit producers

RESEARCHERS in Japan have been conducting experiments using robotics and artificial intelligence to alleviate fruit farmers' reliance on scarce labor while supporting those who are ageing and have no successor.

Trials are under way in Chiba Prefecture, a major production area for Japanese pears near Tokyo, and Yamanashi Prefecture, the country's main grape-growing region, in central Japan.

In spring this year, a consortium made up of the Chiba prefectural government, agricultural cooperatives, and other concerns launched a two-year experimental project at pear-growing properties in the cities of Ichikawa and Narita.

According to Tokyo-based consulting company NTT Data



Supplied photo shows a robot cargo vehicle transporting fruit. **PHOTO: CHIBA PREFECTURAL PEAR CULTIVATION CONSORTIUM/ KYODO NEWS**

Institute of Management Consulting Inc., which oversees the experiments, a robot cargo vehicle automatically follows workers as

they harvest pears, transporting the fruit to a designated location. An integrated camera shoots photographs of the prepicked

pears and surrounding foliage, AI analyzes the data and provides information on the best time for the fruit to be harvested based on its growth.

"The age will come when AI-controlled technology is capable of performing complicated manual tasks such as pollination and bagging of fruits," an expert in the field said.

The consortium has also developed an app that is being trialed to see how it can help prevent leaf blight caused by a fungus, which attacks the leaves, fruit, and stems of pears. Sensors installed in pear fields collect meteorological data, such as temperatures and rainfall, and recommend the appropriate amount of pesticides to ward off the disease.—Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

British minister in France for talks on fishing row

BRITAIN'S Brexit minister is due in Paris Thursday for talks on the fishing rights crisis that has further strained already tense relations between the two countries.

The meeting comes a day after a French court released a British trawler impounded for a week as part of the deepening dispute.

David Frost will sit down with French Europe Minister Clement Beaune to continue negotiations after several days of tense exchanges between the leaders of the two countries.

Frost is a staunch defender of Brexit while Beaune is a close ally of President Emmanuel Macron, not shy of making clear his belief that France should not pay for what he sees as Britain's mistake of leaving the EU.

The two have also sparred on social media. Their meeting is set to be held behind closed doors and no press conference is planned.—AFP ■

Fed announces tapering of bond-buying program amid economic recovery

THE U.S. Federal Reserve said Wednesday it has decided to scale back a massive bond-buying programme amid the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, a major shift toward normalization of monetary policy.

After a two-day meeting of the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee, the central bank said it will begin reducing monthly purchases in Treasuries and mortgage securities by \$15 billion, while maintaining its target range for the federal funds rate at 0 to 0.25 per cent, as widely expected.

On growing inflation pressure in the United States, the central bank strengthened its warning slightly from the previous policy meeting in September, saying, "Inflation is elevated, largely reflecting factors that are expected to be transitory."

"Supply and demand imbalances related to the pandemic and the reopening of the economy have contributed to sizable price increases in some sectors," it added.—Kyodo News ■

Oil-rich UAE to burn waste to make power

WITH rubbish piling up in the desert, the United Arab Emirates has found a new way to get rid of its trash—incinerators that will turn it into electricity.

The UAE, one of the world's top oil exporters, is building the Gulf region's first waste-to-power plants to ease its chronic trash problem and, at the same time, its reliance on gas-fuelled electricity stations.

Green groups are unconvinced. They say advanced recycling, composting and changing habits amid grossly wasteful rates of consumption would be better for the environment, warning of pollution risks from the greenhouse gas-inten-

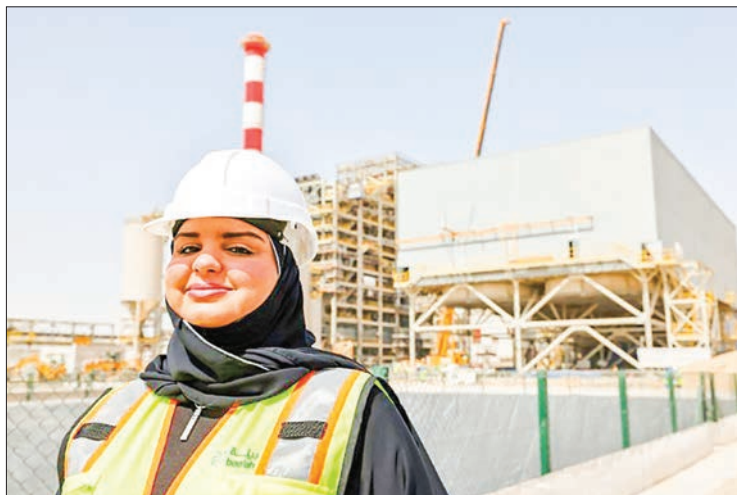
sive incinerators too.

But engineer Nouf Wazir, from waste management company Bee'ah, argues they are a way to make use of refuse that cannot be recycled.

"Not everyone knows that waste has value," said Wazir, a senior engineer on the project. The Sharjah facility is expected to launch this year, burning more than 300,000 tonnes of waste per year to power up to 28,000 homes.

In the neighbouring emirate of Dubai, another plant is being developed at a cost of \$1.2 billion, according to Hitachi Zosen Inova, one of the partner companies.

When it is completed in 2024, the Dubai plant will be one of the



Engineer Nouf Wazir is pictured in front of a waste management facility under construction in the Gulf emirate of Sharjah. **PHOTO: AFP**

largest in the world, capable of gobbling up 1.9 million tonnes of waste per year—about 45 per

cent of the household waste currently produced in the emirate.—AFP ■

Top oil producers to assess output as prices soar



A partial view of Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq oil processing plant, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, Sept. 20, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

MAJOR oil producers on Thursday are expected to continue planned moderate output increases despite pressure to further ramp up production amid soaring prices.

The 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and their 10 allies meet from 1300 GMT for their regular monthly meeting via videoconference and are expected to re-confirm their July decision. The powerful producers led by Saudi Arabia and Russia in the so-called OPEC+ grouping agreed in July to modestly step up production after steeply slash-

ing it last year as the pandemic hit global markets.

"While there is plenty of pressure on OPEC+ to increase output more aggressively, members continue to resist and instead seem to prefer to stick to their plan of easing cuts by 400,000 barrels per day per month," ING analysts said in a note this week.

With prices for the benchmark WTI contract rising to \$85, the highest since 2014, US President Joe Biden appealed on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome over the weekend to OPEC to pump more.—AFP ■

China to advance agricultural and rural modernization, promote rural revitalization

THE State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday adopted the 14th Five-Year Plan for Agricultural and Rural Modernization, to advance rural revitalization and fairly fast income growth of rural residents.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), the country will advance agricultural and rural modernization in a science-based, region-specific manner, in line with the national realities and agricultural conditions, the meeting noted.

Efforts will be made to enhance the capacity of agriculture in supporting and underpinning economic and social development, and raise farmers' living standards on a sustained basis.

"We must give top priority to the development of agriculture, rural areas and farmers in our endeavour to comprehensively build a modern socialist country. Stability on these three fronts is essential to the country's overall safety and security," Li said.

Stable agricultural production must be guaranteed. Cultivated land will be better protected and its quality enhanced, grain acreage



Visitors examine a corn harvester at the China International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition 2012 in Shenyang, Liaoning province, on 27 September, 2012 . PHOTO: PAN YULONG / XINHUA

will be maintained at a stable level, and annual grain output will be kept at no less than 650 billion kilograms. Efforts will be made to ensure the supply of grains and other major agricultural products, and enhance reserves and market regulation, the meeting noted.—Xinhua ■

Lufthansa flies back into first profit since pandemic began



The Franz-Josef-Strauss airport in Munich. PHOTO: CHRISTOF STACHE/AFP

GERMAN national carrier Lufthansa said Wednesday that it was back in the black in the third quarter of this year—for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic—as restrictions are lifted and air travel takes off again.

"With rising demand for business travel and a record result of Lufthansa Cargo, we have mastered another milestone on our way out of the crisis: we are back to black," chief executive Carsten Spohr said in a statement. The airline said its revenues almost doubled in the period from July through September, and it posted a small underlying, or operating, profit of 17 million euros (\$20 million), compared with a loss of 1.3 billion euros a year earlier.

Looking ahead, Lufthansa said it expects to narrow its full-year operating loss to "less than half" the 5.5 billion euros it booked for 2020 when travel restrictions shut down large parts of the airline industry.

Its third-quarter performance this year was driven mainly by record operating profit of 301 million euros at its Lufthansa Cargo division, the statement said. The global supply chain crunch has increased already high demand for air freight.

A week before the United States opens its borders to vaccinated travellers—a key route for the group—Lufthansa said bookings had reached 80 per cent of pre-pandemic levels in 2019.—AFP ■

Toyota joins opposition to proposed US EV tax credit

TOYOTA urged Washington on Tuesday not to "play politics" with environmental issues by offering tax credits for US-made electric vehicles, joining a chorus of foreign opposition to the issue.

President Joe Biden's focus on helping blue-collar American workers led to a proposal in his Build Back Better legislation to offer \$4,500 in tax credits for electric vehicles built in the United States by union workers.

Toyota, with 10 US-based auto plants employing 36,000 workers, favours "incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles to speed the transition" to all-electric, the company said in a statement.

However, the Japanese automaker said the proposed credits for union-made vehicles devalue the work of those who chose not to join a union, and send a message that promoting unions is more important than combating climate change. "Let's not play politics with the environment, the American autoworker or the American consumer," Toyota said.

"This isn't fair. This isn't right."

Washington's major trading partners Canada and Mexico also sent letters to American congressional leaders in the past week objecting to the tax credits, saying they violate US commitments under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement governing trade.—AFP ■



A proposed US tax credit for electric vehicles made by unionized American auto workers has drawn a chorus of foreign opposition. PHOTO: GETTY/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharp's 1st-half profit up 79% on steady sales of office devices

SHARP Corp. said Thursday its net profit in the April-September period surged 78.9 per cent from a year earlier to 42.52 billion yen (\$372 million), helped by rising sales of office devices and increased profitability in its display business.

Sales in the first half of fiscal 2021 through next March rose 6.5 per cent to 1.22 trillion yen, while operating profit advanced 31.6 per cent to 39.02 billion yen, according to Sharp, a unit of Apple Inc.'s key supplier Hon Hai Precision Industry Co.

In the hope of driving growth, the Osaka-based company is looking to reenter the U.S. television market next spring, five years after withdrawing due to poor performance.

"We want to regain our reputation as a 'premium brand' by providing high quality, high resolution products," Sharp President Katsuaki Nomura said at a press briefing.

The company reported growth in its smart office technology business, which includes interactive smartboards, as more people are expected to return to offices as coronavirus infections decline.

Although sales of displays for personal computers and tablet devices continued to increase, Sharp said it was affected by a slide in demand for smartphone displays due to a global semiconductor shortage.

Sharp maintained its full-year earnings forecast because of uncertainty over the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing supply chain issues. It is expecting a net profit of 76 billion yen, up 42.7 per cent from the previous year. It also kept its operating profit forecast at 101 billion yen, up 21.5 per cent, on sales of 2.55 trillion yen, up 5.1 per cent.—Kyodo News ■

Eurozone unemployment dips again in September

THE unemployment rate in the eurozone dropped again in September, official figures showed on Wednesday, as the economic bounceback from the pandemic kept hiring strong.

The EU's Eurostat agency said the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate—which measures the number of people out of work as a proportion of the active population as a whole—dipped to 7.4 per cent in September from 7.5 per cent in August and 7.6 per cent in July.

In the 27-member European Union, which includes countries not in the single currency bloc, unemployment fell to 6.7 per cent in September from 6.9 per cent in August.

The data were a marked improvement over a year earlier when the jobless rate stood at 8.6 per cent in the euro area and 7.7 per cent in the wider EU.—AFP ■

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Lawmakers introduce bill in US Congress to declare Diwali as federal holiday

A new bill introduced in the US Congress can bring good news for all the Indian workers and students currently residing in the United States of America. The bill requests to make Diwali a federal holiday in the United States of America, promoting its celebration across the country.

In recent news, Congresswoman Carolyn B Mahoney announced introducing a bill in US Congress, legislation that would make Diwali, which is one

of the biggest and most notable festivals in India, a nationally recognized federal holiday.

On Wednesday, the Democrat congresswoman from New York joined with Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Congressman Gregory Meeks Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee announced the introduction of the Deepavali Day Act.

"I want to start by wishing a Happy Diwali to all those cel-

ebrating around the world this week as the time of reflection and renewal that marks the Hindu New Year comes to a close," said Rep Maloney.

"This beautiful festival celebrates lightness over darkness, goodness over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. My bill today recognizes the importance of this beautiful holiday and gives it the respect and acknowledgement it deserves," added Maloney.—ANI ■



Indian Sikh devotees light candles in the early morning during Diwali Festival at the illuminated Golden Temple in Amritsar on 19 October 2017. Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, marks the triumph of good over evil, and commemorates the return of Hindu deity Rama to his birthplace Ayodhya after victory against the demon king Ravana. **PHOTO: AFP / NARINDER NANU**

Hackers release Israeli LGBTQ dating site details

ISRAEL'S justice ministry said Tuesday Google had blocked sites of a hacking group that leaked user details of an Israeli LGBTQ dating site, an attack some security experts blamed on Iran.

"The Google search engine blocked access to the sites of the group Black Shadow," the justice said ministry said, a move it said was taken at the request of the government's Cyber Unit.

Messaging application Telegram had also suppressed Black Shadow groups, it added.

The announcement came hours after Black Shadow dumped a large file online, that was said to contain as many as a million users of the Atraf dating site.

Black Shadow had already released a batch of Atraf user profiles over the weekend, and on Sunday demanded \$1 million within 48 hours to prevent the wider leak.

Atraf is owned by CyberServe, an Israeli web develop-



Atraf's mostly male clients feared their details could be revealed, saying for some the leak was "life threatening" (participants at Jerusalem Gay Pride pictured June 2019). **PHOTO: AFP**

ment company.

Keren Elazari, a cyber security expert and a researcher at Tel Aviv and Reichman universities, said the hack of CyberServe bore many similarities with previous Iran-linked attacks.

"It was the use of the same technique, the same technical tools and the behaviour, the online leak, the threat, the victim

blaming, and the requirement for ransom," she said.

Hilda Peer, a board member of The Aguda—The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel—told AFP that calls to the group's hotline had doubled.

Atraf's mostly male clients feared their details could be revealed, saying for some the leak was "life threatening", Peer said.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dutch museum opens entire collection in 'world first'

Normally museums exhibit only a small proportion of their collections, but the Boijmans Van Beuningen gallery in Rotterdam will this week become the first in the world to show off the lot.

Housed in a huge mirrored, bowl-shaped depot attached to the museum in the Dutch port city, its collection of 151,000 artworks by artists, including Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet, will be accessible to visitors from Saturday. Dutch King Willem-Alexander will formally open the depot on Friday. "It is the only fully accessible depot, public depot that is open in the world," museum director Sjarel Ex told AFP as media toured the building on Tuesday ahead of the opening.

"What happens here is that you do not follow the script that was written by a curator... you see things by coincidence, and you feel that you are discovering things and that you connect things."—AFP ■

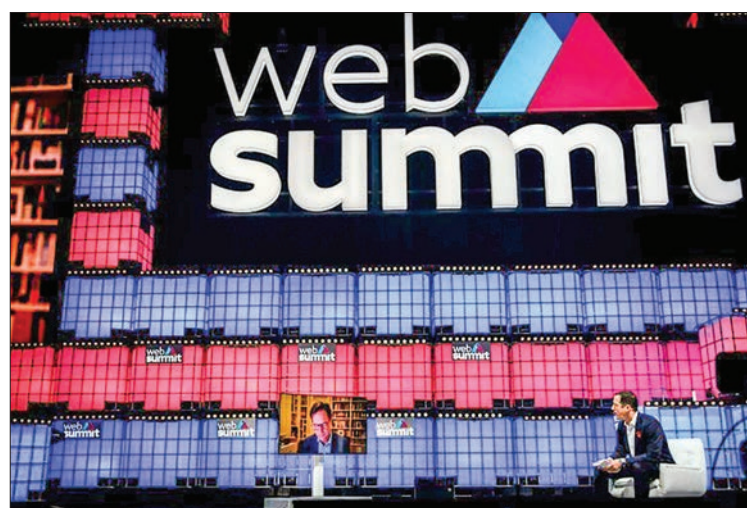
Iran nuclear talks to resume 29 November after five months

IRAN agreed Wednesday to resume talks on 29 November with world powers on reviving a nuclear deal after a five-month gap, with the United States urging a quick resolution.

The indirect negotiations in Vienna come amid mounting pressure on Iran, with Western nations warning that the clerical state's nuclear work is advancing to dangerous levels and Israel threatening to attack.

EU envoy Enrique Mora, who led six rounds of talks earlier this year and recently flew to Tehran to seek progress, will again chair the 29 November meeting, the European Union announced.

President Joe Biden took office hoping to return to the 2015 agreement from which his predecessor Donald Trump bolted.—AFP ■



Clegg told the Web Summit in Lisbon that 'legitimate questions' had been raised about Facebook's work in 'fragile' countries. **PHOTO: AFP**

Facebook on defensive over work in 'fragile' countries

FACEBOOK'S vice-president Nick Clegg hit back 1 November at criticism that the tech giant's efforts to combat misinformation are woefully inadequate outside the West, though he acknowledged: "We need to do more."

The "Facebook Papers", a massive trove of leaked internal documents, have cast a light on the company's struggles to stop false information and hate speech

from spreading in emerging economies, notably India.

Some 87 per cent of Facebook's anti-misinformation budget is focused on the United States even though the vast majority of its users are elsewhere, the papers revealed.

Addressing the Web Summit tech conference in Lisbon via video-link, Clegg—Britain's former deputy prime minister—said

"legitimate questions" had been raised about Facebook's work in "fragile" countries. But he insisted the company has poured "significant resources" into improving the situation. "We now have content moderation in over 70 countries, and we're adding them all the time," he said, adding that moderators in 12 new languages, including Haitian Creole, had been hired this year.—AFP ■

Egypt to move govt to new administrative capital in Dec



This picture taken on 3 August 2021 shows a view of the “Iconic Tower” skyscraper (C) and other construction work ongoing at the “business and finance district” of Egypt’s “New Administrative Capital” megaproject, some 45 kilometres east of Cairo. **PHOTO: AFP/KHALED DESOUKI**

“THE Egyptian government will start the process in December of moving offices to the new administrative capital for six-month trial,” Xinhua news agency quoted Bassam Rady, spokesman of the presidency, as saying on Wednesday.

The move will start after the ongoing preparations for the

government buildings and headquarters are completed, he said. Being built some 50 kilometres east of the capital Cairo since 2015 on an area of 714 square kilometres, the new administrative capital is planned to accommodate 6.5 million people, starting with half a million in the first stage, making some space for congested

and overpopulated city with about one fifth of the country’s 100 million population. The new capital will be home to most government buildings, including the cabinet headquarters and ministries, in addition to Parliament. The government also expects the new capital to create around two million job opportunities.—Xinhua ■

Andersson in sight of becoming Sweden’s first woman PM



Magdalena Andersson during the traditional walk from the Finance department to Parliament to present the 2022 budget proposal in Stockholm, on 20 Sept. **PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP**

SWEDEN inches towards getting its first woman prime minister with left-wing politician Magdalena Andersson, dubbed the “bulldozer”, set to be elected head of the main ruling party on Thursday.

The 54-year-old finance minister and heir apparent to Swedish Prime Minister Stefan

Lofven will face a fight for political survival in taking the reins of the Social Democrats ahead of combative general elections scheduled for September 2022.

The only candidate standing, the academic and former competitive swimmer is set to be elected party leader at the Social Democrats’ annual con-

gress in Gothenburg at 4:00 pm (1500 GMT).

Lofven has announced he will resign after she becomes party leader, albeit with no time-frame. When he goes, the only thing standing between Andersson and making history as the first woman to form a Swedish government is a vote in parliament.

The feat almost sounds anachronistic in a country that has long championed gender equality, but which has at times cursed senior women in politics.

Anna Lindh, foreign minister and fellow Social Democrat, died after a stabbing attack in a department store in 2003.

Mona Sahlin, the first woman to head the Social Democrats and a deputy prime minister, was sidelined first by a spending scandal in 1995 that involved Toblerone chocolate, and later resigned in 2011 after electoral defeat.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Congress ups pressure on Nicaragua ahead of polls

THE US Congress on Wednesday approved legislation to sharply increase diplomatic pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, who has arrested a slew of leading opponents running against him in elections this weekend.

The so-called RENACER Act was adopted by 387 votes in favour and 35 against in the House of Representatives, after approval by the full Senate in August and amendments made on 1 November.

The bipartisan legislation, which was supported by more Republicans than Democrats, must now be signed into law by President Joe Biden.—AFP ■

UN renews mandate of EU military mission in Bosnia

THE UN Security Council voted unanimously Wednesday to renew for one year the mandate of the European military mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite Russian opposition to the existence of an international high representative to the Balkan country.

The Security Council’s vote took place as the leader of the country’s Bosnian Serbs has been stepping up separatist threats and is accused of putting peace in jeopardy.

Russia, a powerful backer of the Bosnian Serbs, has strongly criticized the post of high representative.

Moscow refuses to even recognize incumbent Christian Schmidt of Germany, who has just succeeded the Austrian Valentin Inzko after 12 years in office.—AFP ■

Iran says stopped US navy seizing tanker in Sea of Oman

IRAN said Wednesday it had thwarted an attempt by the US navy to seize a tanker in the Sea of Oman carrying its oil, state television reported.

It gave no details of the date of the incident or the country where the vessel is registered.

The report comes amid faltering efforts to revive Iran’s nuclear deal with world powers that would see a lifting of US sanctions on its oil exports.

The sequence of events reported by the television report left key questions unanswered.

“The United States stopped a tanker exporting Iranian oil and transferred its cargo to another tanker which it directed towards an unknown destination,” it said.

“The naval arm of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards then captured the tanker with air support,” it said, without specifying which vessel it was referring to.

“US forces again tried to block the passage of the tanker using a warship and several helicopters but again failed.

“The tanker is now in Iranian territorial waters.”

Under the 2015 nuclear deal, Washington had lifted its sanctions on Iran’s oil exports in return for strict limits on its nuclear activities.—AFP ■



Iran’s Mehr news agency said this relates to a confrontation between speedboats of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards and an American ship. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar women's team to start training in 2nd week of November

THE Myanmar women's team will start preparing for the final round of the 2022 Asian Cup Women's Championship in the second week of November.

The finals of the 2022 AFC Women's Cup, hosted by India, will be held from 20 January to 6 February 2022, and the Myanmar team will spend more than two months of preparation.

The Myanmar women's team is currently building with 25 preliminary players based

on the players who competed in the previous AFC Women's Cup Qualifiers and will make adequate preparations before the Women's Asian Cup tournament.

The Myanmar women's team will face defending champions Japan, Asian powerhouse South Korea and ASEAN giant Viet Nam in Group C of the finals.

Team Myanmar is likely to struggle to reach the quar-

ter-finals, football experts said.

Meanwhile, host India is placed in Group A with China, China Taipei, and Iran while three ASEAN teams Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia are falling in Group B with world-class team Australia.

In the previous qualifiers, the Myanmar team was in the same group with the UAE, Lebanon and Guam and collected three straight big wins to make the finals.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Japan 'backs to wall' for must-win World Cup qualifiers

JAPAN manager Hajime Moriyasu said his team have their "backs to the wall" in their bid to qualify for the 2022 World Cup as he named his squad Thursday for two must-win matches.

The Asian heavyweights took only three points from their opening three fixtures in Group B, but gave themselves hope with a 2-1 home win over second-place Australia last month.

The result may well have saved Moriyasu his job, with Japanese media speculating he could have been fired with anything less than a victory.

Moriyasu knows his side, who are fourth in Group B with only the top two automatically qualifying for Qatar, cannot afford any setbacks in away games against bottom-placed Viet Nam on 11 November and third-placed Oman five days later.

"I'm aware that we're in a very difficult situation," Moriyasu said, with his team on six points from four games, six behind group leaders Saudi Arabia



Japan's head coach Hajime Moriyasu acknowledged Thursday that his team are facing a "critical moment" if they are to qualify for the 2022 World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

and three behind Australia and Oman.

"We have our backs to the wall and we have to give everything to give everything to take as many points from our last six games as possible. I strongly believe we can qualify for the World Cup."

Moriyasu named a 27-man squad featuring Arsenal defender Takehiro Tomiyasu, Liverpool attacker Takumi Minamino and Celtic forward Kyogo Furuhashi.

There was also a first call-up for Kaoru Mitoma, on loan from Brighton at Belgian side Union Saint-Gilloise.—AFP ■

Liverpool and Ajax reach Champions League last 16, PSG denied at death

LIVERPOOL and Ajax kept up their perfect records in the Champions League this season to qualify for the last 16 on Wednesday, while a Paris Saint-Germain side missing Lionel Messi were held by RB Leipzig. Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool blew Atletico Madrid away in a whirlwind start at Anfield, with Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane scoring in the first 21 minutes to secure a 2-0 win against opponents who finished with 10 men.

Atletico's Brazilian defender Felipe was sent

off for a foul on Mane before half-time, as the 2019 Champions League winners made it four wins out of four in Group B.

Liverpool are now guaranteed to top the group, sitting seven points clear of Porto with two games remaining, while Atletico are another point back in third. "You earn a lot of money to win Champions League games. The first target was to get through this group but we did it with two games to go," Klopp told BT Sport.—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.

Manchester United's Varane ruled out for one month

MANCHESTER United have revealed Raphael Varane will be ruled out for up to a month after suffering a hamstring injury, adding to the French defender's troubled start at Old Trafford. Varane was forced off in the first half of United's 2-2 draw at Atalanta in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The 28-year-old had only just returned to the United side in Saturday's victory at Tottenham after a groin prob-

lem sustained in the Nations League final.

Now the World Cup winner faces another spell on the sidelines and will miss Saturday's derby against Manchester City and a host of other key fixtures for club and country.

"The club confirms that Raphael sustained a hamstring injury, which is expected to keep him out of action for around a month," United said in a statement.—AFP ■



Manchester United have revealed Raphael Varane will be ruled out for up to a month after suffering a hamstring injury, adding to the French defender's troubled start at Old Trafford. **PHOTO: AFP**