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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 12 November 2021

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.

Plans are underway to fully provide healthcare services to people from the whole nation, Senior General says

DOMESTIC factories need to produce sufficient products to reduce import commodities, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of the Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Thamaing) and Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Factory (Insein) yesterday.

The Senior General heard reports on matters related to the factory, production of quality textile and equipment to meet the demand of the Tatmadaw and the market, arrangements for sales of products to the rural people and ethnic people, production of robes, and staff welfare.

In his response, the Senior General stressed that textile factories are built at home to meet the local demand for tile. Domestic factories need to produce sufficient products to reduce import goods.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays an inspection tour around the Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Thamaing) in Yangon Region on 11 November 2021.

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19,292 people receive second dose of vaccines in Thayet Township

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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

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.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health
Order No 483/2021

8th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1383 ME
11 November 2021

THE Ministry of Health hereby announced the order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health has taken preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in real-time. Therefore, the orders were issued for the people from some townships of Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states to stay at home in order to more effectively control the infection of the pandemic.
2. However, as the people from these townships exactly abide by the disciplines of preventing the COVID-19, further finding of confirmed patients within 14 days, declining of group-wise infection among the patients, the emphasis of the relevant governments, organizations and people in raising the health awareness during the stay-at-home period, further finding of confirmed patients and contact persons in laboratory tests within 14 days, and active participation of township administration bodies, health staff, those from relevant

departments and organizations and volunteers as well as the people in the prevention and control of the pandemic were seen.

3. Hence, the people residing in the following townships of the respective regions and states were removed from the list of Stay-at-Home programmes as of 4 am on 12-11-2021.
 - (a) Taninthayi Region
 - (1) Dawei Township
 - (2) Myeik Township
 - (b) Bago Region
 - (1) Ottwin Township
 - (2) Kawa Township
 - (3) DaikU Township
 - (4) Pyay Township
 - (5) Nattalin Township
 - (c) Magway Region
 - (1) Pakokku Township
 - (2) Salin Township

- (d) Mandalay Region
 - (1) Wundwin Township
- (e) Mon State
 - (1) Mawlamyine Township
 - (2) Thanbyuzayat Township
- (f) Yangon Region
 - (1) Hmawby Township
 - (2) Dagon Township
- (g) Ayeyawady Region
 - (1) Kangyidaunt township
 - (2) Kyonpyaw Township
 - (3) Thaboung Township

4. The people must strictly abide by the disciplines related to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health after deleting these townships from the list of stay-at-home programmes.

Daily newspapers available
online

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News and Periodicals
Enterprise

954 new cases of COVID-19 reported on
11 November, total figure rises to 510,725

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 510,725 after 954 new cases were reported on 11 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 482,007 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,882 after 13 died.—MNA

Political maturity

POLITICAL maturity and unity of stakeholders and the entire people play a crucial role in building the Union based on democracy and federalism. It is necessary to take lessons that Myanmar could not achieve the deserved development due to requirements in political maturity in successive eras. We must try hard to overcome such challenges. We need to build political maturity and unity with wise mental faculty for ensuring the peace of the nation.

(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 15 October 2021)

Plans are underway to fully provide healthcare services to ...

FROM PAGE-1
Machinery maintenance must be carried out for operating the machines in full swing. It is necessary to sell textiles such as towels, vests, blankets and mosquito nets to rural people and ethnic nationals at fair prices with sufficient production. Quality products must be sent to the domestic market with favourite types. Emphasis must be placed on the production of hotel use products and private utensils for seeking market shares. The government will provide assistance for sown acreage of cotton plantations at home to local farmers. As

textile factories are essential for the State, they need to produce goods meeting the State demand and sell them at fair prices to the people.
The Senior General viewed textiles and clothes produced by the factory and the production process of threads and textiles.
The Tatmadaw Textile Factory manufactures quality brown thread, tetrad textile, vests, towels, robes, T-shirts, sports shirts, bandages and beds in addition to various kinds of textiles in multicolour to meet the demand of the Tatmadaw and the domestic market.

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The Senior General is pictured viewing around the Tatmadaw Textile Factory and looking into its production lines yesterday.

Plans are underway to fully provide healthcare services to ...



The Senior General looks into the medicines and related items at the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Enterprise (Insein) on 11 November 2021.

FROM PAGE-3

At Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Enterprise (Insein), factory manager U Thaung Oo reported production of snake venoms, use of modern machinery, efforts for prevention of environmental impacts, plan to substitute the imported medicines with local ones, assistance for private pharmaceutical factories, and efforts to produce COVID-19 vaccines at home.

The Senior General said the production of medicines should not focus on just profits but interests for the State and the people. Plans are underway to fully provide healthcare ser-

vices to people from the whole nation. Market research needs to be done for sufficient availability of raw materials for the medicine production and distribution process. The factory needs to take care of environmental conservation meeting the set standards. Quality of medicines and prices must always be compared with that of foreign market. Production of medicines meets the domestic demand and reduces imported medicines so as to cut spending on foreign exchange.

The Senior General and party viewed around snake venom section, antibiotic medicine section, quality control section,

and medical production and inspected the storage of raw materials, finished goods and package materials.

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) was built on 23 April 1954 and completed on 23 August 1957. It was commissioned into service by former President U Win Maung on 23 April 1958. Prime Minister U Nu posted the monument for the factory in 1954. Currently, the factory following the guidelines of the WHO is manufacturing and distributing 195 reliable items of medicines for the people so as to contribute to the development of the health sector of the nation. —MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views around the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Enterprise (Insein) in Yangon Region on 11 November 2021.

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Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on national economy holds its 8th meeting

THE 8th meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy (8/2021) was virtually held yesterday afternoon, at Office No(1), Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working Committee Deputy Ministers from Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Commerce and representatives of the Ministries concerned attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chairman of the Working Committee discussed the process to provide loans under the COVID-19 Fund, including the support for the fishery and livestock sectors, registration process regarding loans for the Film, Music, Theatrical, Press and Media, and the upcoming plans of the committee.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by concerned ministries, future plans of action, and issues raised by the ministries and the business firms and corporations.—MNA



MoST Union Minister meets Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw held talks with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Saurabh Kumar at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed the opening of Myanmar University of Information Technology (MITI) as cooperation between Myanmar and India, the situation of improving human resources

development in the field of ICT, cooperation between Myanmar universities and India Institute of Information Technology – Bangalore (IIIT-B), and plans for cooperation in Myanmar's renewable energy and biotechnology sectors.

Next, the two sides cordially discussed further cooperation with the Remote Sensing Department at Mandalay Technological University. — MNA

MoLA Union Minister attends ALA governing council meeting

CHAIRPERSON of the ASEAN Law Association (Myanmar) Union Minister and Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo and officials attended the 42nd ASEAN Law Association Governing Council Meeting held through videoconferencing yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister and Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo said Myanmar, as a member state of ASEAN, is committed to the ASEAN Charter and respects its responsibilities contained in the charter. Myanmar joined the ASEAN Law Association in 2012 to strengthen the rule of law, judiciary and legal infrastructure, which are the objectives of ASEAN.

The ASEAN Law Association (Myanmar) was formed in 2013 and was amended in 2021, she added. The Association is chaired by the Union Minister for Legal Affairs and the Attorney-General of the Union and is formed with judicial officers, law officers, lawyers, and pro-

fessors from university law departments. She said the State Administration Council formed a 14-member Coordinating Body for the Rule of Law and Justice, chaired by the Union Minister and the Attorney-General of the Union on 19 June. The coordinating body is implementing the Strategic Plan for Justice for the People (2019-2022), she said. On 28 October, the Bar Council Act was amended and chaired by the Union Minister for Legal Affairs and the Union Attorney-General.

The Union Minister said Myanmar is working with ASEAN member countries to build the ASEAN Community and achieve regional cooperation, as well as it is actively involved in ALAWMM and ASLOM. She also explained that the Office of the Union Attorney-General was reorganized into the Ministry of Legal Affairs under Section 419 of the State Constitution on 31 August 2021. The Ministry is responsible for scrutinizing drafted laws, regulations, rules, orders, and directives submitted



by Union-level organizations and relevant ministries and providing legal advice. After receiving the recommendation of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the relevant ministry or organization shall submit the draft to the Security, Stability and Peace, and the Rule of Law Committee for approval at Cabinet meeting, she explained. After obtaining such approval, the State Administration Council promulgates it as a law.

The Union Minister and the Union Attorney-General

explained the legal developments in Myanmar, including the establishment of the Myanmar Law Information System (MLIS) Website to provide the people with easy access to legal information; publishing law officer ethics, fair judicial standards, and guidelines for drafting bills, and reviewing land lease agreements and joint venture agreements; enactment of the Arbitration Law concerning domestic and international arbitration in 2016; the issue of the Supreme Court of the Union on

the procedure for applying for a certificate of authenticity or a certified copy of liability related to the domestic arbitration. She continued that Myanmar ratified the ASEAN e-Commerce Agreement in 2018; it is also implementing the Digital Economy Road Map 2018-2025 and has formed the Myanmar e-Commerce Association. She said the e-Commerce Law was being drafted as part of the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community goals.

The 42nd ASEAN Law Association Governing Council Meeting approved the meeting record of the 41st ALA Governing Council, decided on the proposal to extend the term of ALA Chairman and Secretary-General, approved the ASNLI Annual Report and ASNLI Work plan 2022. The meeting also discussed best practices for the implementation of arbitration decisions in ASEAN countries and matters related to ASEAN law treaties and enhancing implementation. — MNA

MoTC Union Minister attends 27th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, Associated Dialogue Partner Meeting

CAMBODIA hosted the 27th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting yesterday via video conferencing while the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting and the US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC) on the same day.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San attended the meetings together with the Transport Ministers of 10 ASEAN countries and China including the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials of US-ABC.

During the 27th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, Mr Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia made an opening speech.

Then, Mr Sun Chanthol, Minister for Public Works and Transport of Cambodia made a greeting speech and the Transport Ministers exchanged views on the completion of the respective countries in the ASEAN-Kuala Lumpur Transport



Project (2016-2025), ASEAN Single Aviation Market and ASEAN Single Shipping Market, Singapore-Kunming Rail Link Project, ASEAN Transport Network and transport-related ASEAN framework, digitalization of logistics and cooperation work between ASEAN and China.

Regarding the “adoption of digital system in transportation and logistics to prevent the shortage of regional trade flows in the future due to COVID-19 pandemic”, the Union Minister highlighted the delays in transportation and logistics of the country as the government has to set the

certain COVID-19 restrictions like other countries, COVID-19 hit SMEs and the use of digital to over such challenges.

He then discussed the introduction of IT in the transport sector; upgrade of National Portal and establishment of Data Centre, drafting of e-Government Master Plan 2021-2030 and National Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Master Plan, development programmes based on the roadmap and objectives of the government and participation of Myanmar in switching to digital system.

At noon, the 20th ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting and US-ASEAN Business Council Meeting were convened.

The 19th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting, 12th ASEAN-ROK Transport Minister meeting and ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting and Associated Dialogue Partner Meeting continued to be held today. —MNA

Myanmar participates in 3rd International Symposium of AACC



THE Constitutional Tribunal of the Union members U Khin Maung Oo and Daw Nan Sandar San joined the 3rd International Symposium of the AACC – the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions on 10 and 11 November via videoconferencing.

The Republic of Korea that serves as secretariat of research and development affairs hosted the International Symposium of the AACC on 10 and 11 November under the topic of “Constitutional Rights and AACC Members”.

The event was attended by the Chief Justices, Chairpersons, Secretaries-General and legal experts of the Constitutional Courts/Councils/Tribunals of the 17 AACC member countries, Venice Commission and Singapore University, including Myanmar.

The International Symposium was organized with three sections and Myanmar discussed the topic of “Constitutional Rights — New Challenges in Myanmar”.

The discussion included the economy, culture, religious affairs of the citizens of the 2008 Constitution and constitutional rights, persons authorized to submit proposals to Constitutional Tribunal, seeking decision of Constitutional Tribunal in line with the procedures if there is a dispute over any stipulations of law during the trial of a court and other challenges of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Moreover, the legal experts of the AACC member countries read the papers and exchanged their experience and knowledge. — MNA

Kunhing Township provides free screening for COVID-19

WITH the aids of RDT test kits, free screening for the COVID-19 virus was provided to local people in Kunhing Township in southern Shan State yesterday morning to reduce the rate of the pandemic infection as soon as possible, officials said.

To help local people in the township and reduce the incidence of the virus, a total of

140 people were tested free of charge with the RDT Test Kit. A total of seven people were tested positive for the virus and are being treated at an established hospital.

Screening for the COVID-19 virus was carried out by Township Public Health Department staff and the Red Cross Society members provided necessary assistance.

U Win Naing, Chairman of the COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee and officials inspected the township level screening programme for the virus and urged those who have not yet been vaccinated to get the COVID-19 vaccine. — Pyae (Kunhing)/GNLM



Myanmar ships \$1.615 mln worth of fishery products to Bangladesh in past four weeks

MYANMAR has conveyed US\$2.261 million-valued fishery products and other goods to Bangladesh through two cross-border posts from 13 October. The export of fishery products amounted to \$1.615 million in past four weeks.

Two border checkpoints (Sittway-Shwemingan Port and Maungta-Kanyinchaung Port), which have been suspended for three months, was reopened on 13 October following the health prevention measures for COVID-19. As of 8 November, Myanmar delivered 4,841 tonnes of goods to Bangladesh through those two border posts, generating an export income of \$2.261 million. Of them, the exports of fishery products were worth \$1.615 million. The value of fishery products export constitutes 72.87 per cent of overall export earning, whereas other goods accounted for 27.13 per cent.

Rohu is processed in

Yangon and they are sent to Sittway border post by cold-storage trucks or ships after pre-shipment inspection. Then, they are shipped to Bangladesh by motorboats. The customs authorities visually inspect the rohu vessels in Yangon to separate the illicit from legitimate goods before sending them to the border posts, causing delay and damage to quality.

According to the meeting result decided by Rakhine State Government on 5 November, the traders are allowed to sell the seafood directly at the Bangladesh border post, in line with the procedures of the related ministries. The state government official urged to focus on security to find illicit goods.

The direct export system will be implemented soon to avoid unnecessary delay and quality degradation, Rakhine State Fisheries Department stated.

“If the equipment developed



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for the Customs to find drugs and other illicit goods are used in screening, it will secure the quality of the product. The detection technology will facilitate the Customs clearance procedures. It would be better if the government

provides technical assistance. The Fisheries Department is satisfied with the export income in the past four weeks,” said U Thet Oo, head of the department.

The exports of fishery products to Bangladesh generated \$6.318 million from

7,089 tonnes of seafood in the financial year 2019-2020. The trade flow plummeted drastically owing to the impacts triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020-2021FY. Myanmar earned only \$4.76 million by exporting 5,010 tonnes of fishery products last year.

Myanmar levied a two per cent tax on exported goods to Bangladesh. Additionally, the registration of a vessel is charged US\$50 and the weighted average price for the fishery is set at five dollars per tonne according to the Marine Fisheries Law. The direct export system will facilitate the trade flow and bring about more benefits to the exporters and the breeders.

The detection technology is crucial in Customs clearance procedures both for the direct export to Bangladesh's Port and the export via Myanmar's two border posts to improve the sustainable border trade. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM ■

Myanmar exports over 200,000 MT of rice through maritime route in October



An overseas-going vessel seen loading export rice at Yangon port.

MYANMAR shipped more than 216,375 metric tons of rice and broken rice in October, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

A total of 32 companies delivered over 211,759 tonnes of rice to foreign trade partners through maritime trade, whereas 4,616 tonnes were sent to neighbouring countries via border posts last month. The export volume in cross-border trade significantly plunged

owing to the closure of land borders.

In October, the prices of white rice varieties stood at US\$315-350 per metric ton depending on the different varieties and quality. The export price of Myanmar's rice was relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam. Yet, the prices were higher than those market prices of India and Pakistan, MRF's data showed.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Guinea. Meanwhile, Myanmar exported broken rice primarily to China, followed by the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and France.

Myanmar generated over \$800 million from rice exports in the financial year 2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — KK/GNLM ■

YRIC endorses 2 foreign projects, 2 domestic projects to create 2,753 jobs

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed two foreign enterprises and two domestic businesses in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US\$6.099 million and K8.64 billion. Those enterprises are to create 2,753 jobs for the residents, as per the YRIC's video conferencing convened recently.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, who also acts as chairman of YRIC, the committee members and the investors joined the video conferencing to ensure the foreign capital inflow during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those enterprises will execute manufacturing of freshwater and saltwater fish and prawn on contract processing system and normal system, and manufacturing of garment and production of plastic on Cutting-Making and Packaging (CMP) basis.

Furthermore, the committee members met with 16 companies to discuss the general matters of investment proposals.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the My-

anmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. The investors can inquire about the investment and submit the proposal by dialling (01-658263 and 01-658264) of YRIC located on Kaba Aye Road, Yankin Township. The proposals worth above K6 billion can contact the Myanmar Investment Commission located on Thitsar Road, Yankin Township via 01-658102 and 01-658103, YRIC stated. The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region. — Soe Myint Aung/GNLM ■

Don't look at everything with bias

ANYTHING or any event is triggered by something motives. No event can happen without any motives. Hence, everybody needs to analyze something special how the motive could influence the events.

In this regard, critical thinking plays a crucial role in analyzing the root causes of the events. Even though somebody committed a criminal case, action should not be taken against those persons directly. Authorities at different levels need to investigate all roots of causing the crimes and motives for the cases. If so, the authorities such as the judge can hand down the correct decisions. So also, we need to analyze everything in the secular world.

Hence, everybody needs to hold up consciousness before doing something. As such, everybody needs to intentionally and unintentionally avoid the acts of bias in doing everything without putting blame earlier over others by holding up the sympathy and compassion aimed at flourishing four cardinal virtues in the society.

may lead to wrongdoings. In fact, those wishing to remark something need to know all things to cause the event and they have to review all aspects of the event before making remarks so as to produce the truth.

Hence, everybody needs to hold up consciousness before doing something. As such, everybody needs to intentionally and unintentionally avoid the acts of bias in doing everything without putting blame earlier over others by holding up the sympathy and compassion aimed at flourishing four cardinal virtues in the society.



Festivals of Tazaungmon

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
(Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja, Sithu)

(CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY)

- (1) observed Purima Wa or first lent (the first waning day of Waso (July) to the full moon day of Thadingyut (October);
- (2) performed the Pawa Rana (a confession of monks to one another) on the full moon day of Thadingyut;
- (3) have no record of breach of lent vow;
- (4) shortage of robe;
- (5) being the most senior monk among those who are in real need of robes.

The selection of the deserving recipient of the Kahtein robe is carried out by an assembly of monks in the sima or ordination hall. The Kahtein robe is offered to the monk or monks who have the above-mentioned qualifications. The recipient has to discard the piece of the robe he is wearing which is corresponding to that of Kahtein robe offered him. Then he has to say in Pali the acceptance of the Kahtein robe offered to him. He makes a mark on the accepted Kahtein robe. He declares in Pali that the Kahtein robe has been offered and accepted in line with the rules of Vinaya laid down by the Lord Buddha. Then he requests all monks present. to share in the merit by exclaiming word of appreciation 'Sadhu' (well-done) three times.

Kahtein robe can be donated by anyone, lay or clergy, men or women, adult or youth. But each monastery is entitled to one Kahtein offering a year. Kahtein robe must be untainted, clean, new, not borrowed one or secondhand one. It is a pure religious offering by the voluntary will of the donor.

The origin of the Kahtein robe offering dates back to the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. While the Lord Buddha was residing at Jetavana Vihara in the city of Savatthi, thirty Bud-daveggi monks from Paveiyaka came to pay homage to the Lord Buddha. As it was a very long journey, they could not reach Savatthi before lent commenced. They had to stay in a small town named Thakayta during lent. When lent was over they continued their journey. On the way, a heavy rain came down soaking them wet and damaging their

robes. Since they were practising the 13 classes of austerities, they did not have extra robes to change. When they arrived at Jetavana Vihara, the Lord Buddha on seeing their plight, allowed offering and receiving of Kahtein robe, laying down rules and procedure, and expounding the merits gained from this religious deed.

Stone inscriptions and Myanmar literature bear evidence of Kahtein robe offering festival in Tazaungmon since the time of Bagan or even earlier. Myanmar chronicles have records of the Kahtein robe offering festival sponsored and participated by the royalty. In *Lawka Byuha Kyan* (Treatise on the Court ceremonies and festivals) compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana of Inwa Period, a contemporary account of Kahtein robe offering festival is given which reads as follows: -

"In the month of Tazaungmon, traditionally on the first and second waxing moon, the Minister in charge of the Royal Treasury issued 250 sets of Kahtein robes, from the Royal Store, and sent them to the monastery for sewing, 250 pillows and mats, 250 alms bowls were also sent there. Money was issued to high officials such as *Hmutaws* and *Mattaws* to prepare sweet cakes and light refreshments. "At 4 hours on the 14th waxing moon, the equestrian soldiers carried the robes and other offertories to *Phaung-taw Oo Zayat* (resthouse) and displayed them there. When everything was set, the king was informed."

How the procession carrying the Kahtein robes and other offertories went to the Palace was described as follows: -

"The procession is - the *Samyauing* (the pioneers to preserve silence and to keep the watching crowd in order) leading, followed by the royal drums and dancers, followed by 50 soldiers from Gunner, with helmets in two rows, followed by a palanquin on which were carried Kahtein robes, shaded by four royal white umbrellas, followed 250 robes, 250 pillows and mats, and 250 alms bowls, each borne by a person, finally followed by the Minister in charge of the Royal Treasury. On arrival at the front of the Palace, musical and dance en-



Competitions of Ma Tho thingan weaving

tainments were performed at the entrance. The palanquin carrying Kahtein robes entered the Palace compound via the right *Marabin Gate* and made a right turn round of the Palace. When it reached the north *Samote Saung* building the Inwa king performed the libation ceremony. Then the procession returned taking the same procedure and same route."

"On reaching Shwezigon Pagoda, Kahtein robes and all other offertories were displayed in *Phaungtaw Oo Zayat*. Musical and dance entertainments were performed. At 4 hours on the night of the 14th waxing moon, princes, princesses and courtiers came and got seated in the pavilions. Royal music was played. At 4 hours on the full moon, the Minister in charge of the Royal Treasury supervised the ceremony of Kahtein robe offering. *Hswan* or (cooked rice) and sweet cakes were offered (to the monks)."

Associated with the festival of Kahtein robe offering is the weaving of *Matho Thingan* which if literally translated means 'non-stale' robe. *Matho Thingan* is a priestly garment

made all at once within the period of the night. It has to be woven on the night of the full moon of Tazaungmon. If the weaving of this garment takes longer than the allotted period the garment is regarded as 'stale'.

In the lifetime of the Lord Buddha, his foster mother Gotami made a robe for him. It was of the finest cotton and skillfully woven. The weaving was done at the palace by master weavers. Gotami herself took part in the weaving. When finished she took it with pomp and ceremony to the Lord Buddha residing at Nijorda Vihara and offered it to him. This great event set a good precedent for Myanmar Buddhists to perform the weaving of *Matho Thingan* on the full moon night of Tazaungmon and offer it to the Buddha image. Myanmar kings held competitions of *Matho Thingan* weaving at the palace and winners were awarded prizes. The *Konbaung Set Maha Yazawuntaw Gyi* Vol. 3 (The Great Royal Chronicle of Konbaung dynasty) mentions the holding of such competition at the Mandalay Palace in the time of King Thibaw (A.D. 1878-85), as follows: -

"On the 11th waxing moon of Tazaungmon at the pandals and pavilions constructed on both sides of west *Samote Saung* building preparations were made for the annual weaving of *Matho Thingan* by wives of high officials. Weaving equipment and tools from spinning wheels to handlooms, and skilled female weavers were placed in readiness to weave *Matho Thingans* for offering to Man Aung Yatana Pagoda, Maha Muni Image, Loka Tharapu Pagoda, Shwegu Pagoda etc., altogether 39 pagodas. Minister and clerk in charge of the Western Palace and their wives were posted in the royal theatre hall of west *Samote Saung* building in which Their Majesties later made an appearance. Music was played and dances were performed. When the Bahosi (Clock Tower) struck two at night the competition for the weaving of *Matho Thingan* began. There should be no trick nor breach of rules. The whole process must be run strictly according to the traditional procedure. Wives of high officials were encouraged to compete with a sporting spirit."

"All competitors were awarded scarves, fine clothes and felt shawls. The first winner was awarded a gold bowl. The wife of the officer in charge of royal horses was found with skeins which she surreptitiously brought from her home to be used in weaving. By way of punishment for this trick she had to dance around the Palace compound with the accompaniment of *dobat* music."

"39 *Matho Thingans* that had been woven in the period between the evening and morning 4 hours of the 15th waxing moon and other offertories were ceremonially displayed in south *Samote Saung* building. Their Majesties made an appearance and performed a libation ceremony. Then, the high officials took away the *Matho Thingans* and other offertories to offer them to the pagodas in the list."

Competitions of *Matho Thingan* weaving on the full moon night of Tazaungmon are annually held until today. At the great pagodas like Shwedagon, Botahtaung and Sule Pagodas in Yangon and at prominent pagodas in other towns, individual and group competitions are held

on the pagoda precinct, throughout the night. A large crowd is gathered to watch and cheer up the competitors while music and dance are performed to entertain and create a festive atmosphere. The winners are awarded silver bowls or handsome cash. The *Matho Thingans* are worn on the Buddha images.

Two other types of robes offered either to Buddha images or monks in Tazaungmon are "*Pant Thaku*" robe and *Kya* robe. *Pant Thaku* is a word derived from Pali, meaning clothing, food or anything discarded on the ground for anyone to take. During the first twenty ordained years of the Lord Buddha, there was no donor of the robe. The Lord Buddha and his disciples had to go round to collect clothing discarded on the ground for making robes by themselves. Such robes were called *Pant Thaku* robes meaning robes made of clothing discarded on the earth. Later, *Pant Thaku* came to acquire a wider meaning - any offering by an anonymous donor to an anonymous recipient. Greater merit is gained by making *Pant Thaku* offering because no personal attachment is involved as both the donor and the recipient are anonymous and unknown to each other. On the full moon night of Tazaungmon robe or any priestly utensil or dry ration is placed by the donor on the ground in the neighbourhood of monasteries. The monk who finds it takes it to the superior monk who decides whether it is a *Pant Thaku* offering or lost property. The monk who finds *Pant Thaku* offering is entitled to use it.

Kya robe is a lotus robe woven with threads made out of lotus stems. The lotus flower is the symbol of Buddhism. Four lotus flowers represent the four Buddhas already and one lotus bud represents the future Buddha. Lotus robe is fine and light. It makes the wearer cool in summer and warm in winter. The Lord Buddha had worn lotus robes offered by some donors. In Myanmar, lotus robes are woven in the Shan State, the Mon State and the Rakhine State for offering to the reputed learned head monks on the full moon day of Tazaungmon.

SEE PAGE: 10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 11 November 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West central Bay of Bengal has moved Northwest and it is centred at about (760) Nautical miles West - Southwest of Coco Island and (830) Nautical miles West - Southwest of Hainggyikyun (Myanmar), (15) Nautical miles Southeast of Chennai and (65) Nautical miles Northeast of Puducherry (India). Weather is a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea, Northeast Bay and Eastcentral Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 12 November 2021: Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Magway Regions and Kachin State. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern) Shan State, scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Shan, Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 November 2021: one or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Depression News, No.4, 2021

11 November 2021 19:00 MST Today

Depression

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West central Bay of Bengal has moved Northwest and it is centred at about (760) Nautical miles West - Southwest of Coco Island and (830) Nautical miles West - Southwest of Hainggyikyun (Myanmar), (15) Nautical miles Southeast of Chennai and (65) Nautical miles Northeast of Puducherry (India).

It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the depression is coded yellow stage.

Position of depression, center pressure and wind

Depression is located at Latitude (12.9) degree North and Longitude (80.4) degree East, centre pressure of depression is (1000) hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is (32) miles per hour at (17:30) hrs MST today.

During next (6) hrs Forecast

The depression is forecast continuous to move Northwestwards and cross North Tamilnadu Coast and adjoining South Andhra Pradesh Coast near Chennai (India) around tonight.

General caution

Due to the depression, likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah States during commencing tonight to next (36) hrs.

Advisory

People should be aware vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

MoH Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Saurabh Kumar and discussed health cooperation and COVID-19 vaccine issues yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting discussed the use of COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by India in Myanmar to prevent and control COVID-19 in the country, easing travel restrictions with the evidence of completion of immunization recognized by the two countries, bilateral cooperation for COWIN Platform for COVID-19 vaccination, the

inclusion of Covaxin COVID-19 vaccines in the list of vaccines recognized by Myanmar as it has been approved by the WHO for emergency use, current vaccination under the National Vaccine Deployment Plan with the COVID-19 vaccines purchased by the Government or donated under the friendship relations between the two countries, sending medical specialists by the Ministry of Health to India for education and the possibility of further cooperation with India on the construction of a state-of-the-art hospital in Myanmar. — MNA

Festivals of Tazaungmon

FROM PAGE-9

Shin Ma Lei was a great monk who resided in a village monastery in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Legend says that by means of the supernatural powers he gained through intense concentration of mind he went up to Tavatimsa the Celestial Kingdom to worship Culamani Pagoda in which the hairs of Prince Siddhattha and the sacred tooth of the Lord Buddha were enshrined. There at the Pagoda, he met a deva (god) who was the future *Miteya Buddha*. The deva requested *Shin Ma Lei* to preach to the people *Vessandara Jataka* (the story of the last life of the future Gautama Buddha) on every full moon day of Tazaungmon. The great monk consented and he preached the said Jataka with one thousand Pali poems to the people on every full moon day of Tazaungmon. To commemorate this event, one thousand fruits, one thousand lotus flowers, one thousand fistfuls of *Hswan* or cooked rice and one thousand lights of oil lamps placed on a *Hlaw Ka* boat are offered to *Shin Ma Lei*. One thousand represents his one thousand Pali poems, and the

Hlaw Ka boat represents the ferry (the Dhamma or the teaching of the Buddha) to save the sentient beings from the whirlpool of rebirths (Samsara) to the Land of Nivvana, the end of sufferings.

Two traditional practices which Myanmar people perform on the full moon night of Tazaungmon are the *Me Zali* feast and *Kyi Mano* festival. Both are associated with the festival of constellations and planets. Legend has it that on the full moon night of Tazaungmon when the constellation *Kyattika* and the moonshine together, the guardian gods of herbal plants and trees come together to attend on the guardian god of *Me Zali* tree (Cassia Siamea). Another version says that it was on the full moon night of Tazaungmon that the guardian god of constellation *Kyattika* which is also a Fire god, used to come down to earth and stayed with the guardian god of *Me Zali* tree. The guardian gods of herbal plants and trees came to *Me Zali* tree to pay respect to *Kyattika* god. So, it is believed that on this full moon night all curative properties of herbal flora are concentrated in *Me*

Zali tree. *Me Zali* tree grows in any part of Myanmar. Its leaves and flower buds are edible. Myanmar treatises on herbal medicine mention that *Me Zali* is medicinal. This is the reason why Myanmar people eat slightly bitter but appetizing *Me Zali* salad made out of its buds boiled and seasoned with ingredients like peanut, fried garlic, sesamum, fresh peeled onion, cooking oil and salt.

Kyi Mano festival is, in fact, a customary prank played by youths. The literal meaning of *Kyi Mano* festival is a performance done before crows wake up. It is a prank played while people and even crows are asleep. It is sometimes and at some places known as “thief’s night”. On the full moon night of Tazaungmon when all heavenly bodies appear, *Sawya Net Khat* or Thief’s constellation also appears which exercises, so it is said, its influence upon the youths who thus suffer temporarily from kleptomania on that night. So, at midnight of the full moon of Tazaungmon, youths play their pranks. Individually or in groups, they “steal” anything found in the house compound (not from inside the house) – pots, pans, clothing,

baskets, utensils, skirts, woman’s underwear, chamber pots etc., and leave them at the public places and road crossing. Skirts and underwear are hung up on prominent trees. The following morning everyone is amused and moved to laughter to see the owners searching for their missing properties only to find them at public places: Youths laugh heartily when old ladies come out to reclaim the skirts and underwear on behalf of their real owners who being young are inhibited by feminine modesty. Nowadays this prank is played in some small towns and countryside. In cities, youths collect money from the adults to hold midnight picnics and play pop music and sing love songs the whole night to attract the attention of the girls in the neighbourhood.

Besides the full moon day, another public holiday of this month is ‘National Day’. It was on the 10th waning moon of Tazaungmon in the Myanmar Sakarit Year 1282 (1920) that the Yangon University Boycott broke out. The immediate cause of the Boycott was the passing of the Yangon University Act by the British Government without paying

heed to the public demand for some reforms of the Act. But the principal motivating force behind it was Myanmar dislike of colonial education which only trained the youths to become servants of British colonial administration. Myanmar people wanted national education which would nurture Myanmar youths in national culture, history, and literature, and train them in vocational subjects. The boycotters set up their headquarters on the Shwedagon Pagoda platform and formed the Council of National Education to open a National College and National Schools throughout the country. The British Government gave in and later recognized national schools by giving them financial aid. The success of this boycott was so important and its effects were so far-reaching upon Myanmar struggle for national freedom that the date of the Boycott was chosen as ‘National Day’ which Myanmar people have been commemorating annually ever since.

No other month of the Myanmar calendar has more festivals than Tazaungmon.

Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products continue

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airports and seaports with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Anti-COVID-19 equipment and medical products, includ-

ing oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by four companies and transported using five vehicles.

A total of 16 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser, 960 empty oxygen cylinders, one oxygen plant and 28 tonnes of gloves and 18 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung trading posts and Yangon International Seaports.

One bowser transported liquid oxygen to Yangon via

the Myawady land border and one oxygen plant led to Yangon, officials said.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including on-line 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 ■

Over 15,000 students vaccinated against COVID-19 in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw



An above 12 year-old student gets jabbed against COVID-19.

THE COVID-19 vaccination programme for the students aged 12 and above has started since 12 October in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, and a total of 15,884 students — 73.89 per cent have

been jabbed as of 10 November.

The vaccination continued yesterday at the Lewe Township Sports Training Camp (2) and students received the first dose of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines. Healthcare profession-

als screened them for contraindication and precaution before inoculation. After getting vaccines, students were observed for 30 minutes to ensure no immediate reaction occurs. — Nay Zaw Chit (IPRD)/GNLM ■

19,292 people receive second dose of vaccines in Thayet Township

THE health officials delivered the second dose of vaccines to the people aged over 18 as the third batch in Thayet Township of the Magway Region at the religious hall of Shwethetlut pagoda yesterday.

The township received 5,500 vials to vaccinate the locals including monks in the third batch. Moreover, a total of 27,500

people received the second dose of vaccines at six vaccination sites under the supervision of district and township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, and 19,292 people received their second shots (third batch) until 10 November, according to the Public Health Department. — Zaw Wun Tun (Aunglan)/GNLM ■



Over 32,000 people get vaccinated against COVID-19 in Dala



Inoculation drive in Dala Township.

TO prevent the spreading of COVID-19 in Dala, the township authorities designated a priority group for receiving the COVID-19 vaccines.

As of 8 November, a total of 32,278 people has been vaccinated, including full doses and single doses of vaccines. Besides, authorities from Dala township, have been administering COVID-19 vaccine shots to 3,067 middle and high school students aged above 12, according to the township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee.

The vaccines were administered in line with the COVID-19 guidelines set by the Ministry of Health, and health awareness lectures were given

to the vaccinated people.

Currently, the population aged above 40 is already included in the prioritized age group for COVID-19 vaccination and they are being administered in four designated places.

The COVID-19 vaccinations for students are being carried out under the guidance of the township education department, with the assistance of the public health staff and township general administration staff and township education staff.

Vaccines were given systematically by the physicians, and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated. — Naing Lin Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

US markets fall as inflation concerns rise

US stock markets retreated further on Wednesday as the bogeyman of inflation returned to spook investors, but European equities mostly rose and bitcoin reached a new record — temporarily.

The three major US indices were in the red, with the broad-based S&P 500 shedding 0.8 per cent after official figures showed the US consumer price index rose to a 30-year high in October.

London's FTSE 100 and the DAX in Frankfurt closed higher while the CAC 40 in Paris finished flat.

Gold, silver and Bitcoin all gained initially as investors flooded into assets viewed as a hedge against the corrosive effect of inflation on their savings, but later retreated.

"Investors are seeing bitcoin as a tool for beating inflation. And who can blame them?" said City Index analyst Fiona Cincotta. "As ironic as it seems for such a volatile asset, bitcoin's safe haven status could surge." — AFP ■

Mexico City sets world record for free Wi-Fi hotspots

MEXICO City has set a world record for free Wi-Fi access thanks to thousands of public internet access points across the capital, Guinness World Records announced Wednesday.

Official adjudicator Carlos Tapia presented the award for the most hotspots -- 21,500 -- in a single free urban Wi-Fi network to Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum.

The access points are spread across the sprawling city of some nine million people, particularly in public transport, although at times the network can become saturated.

When schools closed for more than a year during the Covid-19 pandemic, some students turned to the service to take part in online classes. Sheinbaum said that the aim was to make internet access a right for all, in particular disadvantaged families with no connection at home. — AFP ■

Japan's "Go To Travel" subsidy programme to resume possibly in February

JAPAN'S "Go To Travel" domestic tourism subsidy programme may resume in February after being suspended late last year amid a resurgence in coronavirus cases, with the campaign to include compulsory virus countermeasures, government sources said Thursday.

While the number of new and serious COVID-19 cases in the country has sharply declined recently along with the progress of the vaccination programme, the government believes it still needs to evaluate whether oral drugs to prevent serious cases will be available by the end of the year, the sources said.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said at a press conference Wednesday that oral medications will be an "ace in the hole" against the coronavirus. He also said the government will drastically review the tourism campaign to make it safer.

The government is planning to require people taking advantage of the "Go To Travel" programme to show proof of vaccination or a negative virus test result when they check into



A sign promoting the government's Go To Travel subsidy program is put up in a shopping street in Tokyo's Asakusa area on 19 December 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

accommodation and on other occasions, according to the sources.

The tourism-boosting campaign, which covers 50 per cent of travel costs up to 20,000 yen (\$175) per person per night, began in July 2020 to support the industry amid the pandemic-caused downturn, with virus-hit Tokyo added to the programme in October that year, but was suspended last December due to the rapid spread of infections.

The government is considering lowering the per night subsi-

dy cap to 13,000 yen as the relatively large original discount was criticized for benefiting luxury hotels rather than more reasonably priced operations, according to the sources.

It is also studying a plan to run the nationwide campaign until the end of the Golden Week holidays in May and then switch to subsidizing prefectural governments' own tourism campaigns that promote travel for residents within their home prefectures, they said. — Kyodo ■

UK sets out post-Brexit financial regulation aims

BRITAIN on Tuesday outlined plans for new financial regulation laws following its departure from the European Union, with the aim of securing long-term UK economic growth and international competitiveness.

The country finalized its divorce from the European Union late last year, but a Brexit trade deal omitted the powerhouse financial services sector and has hampered its access to the continent.

The UK's key financial sector known as the City and based in the heart of London is already facing fierce competition from Amsterdam, Frankfurt, New York and Singapore.

"Reflecting the importance of the sector as an engine for growth, the government will set UK regulators an objective to facilitate the long-term growth and international competitiveness of the UK economy," a statement from Britain's Treasury said Tuesday.

UK regulators will be



Commuters not wearing facemasks cross London Bridge in London on 19 July 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

handed powers to set their own rules, it added.

Finance minister Rishi Sunak said the "proposals will support the future strength of the UK as a global financial centre".

This he added would ensure "an agile and dynamic approach to regulation that supports the growth of the UK economy, without diverging from our continued commit-

ment to high international standards".

The Treasury said its proposals would allow for the "repealing of the majority of retained EU financial services law that is no longer appropriate for the UK".

In its recent budget, the government cut taxes on Britain-based banks, meeting a demand of financial sector's lobby group. — AFP ■

Duty-free shopping heats up as Singles' Day shopping bonanza approaches

TAO Chaoran, a newlywed shopaholic, has prepared a long wish list as China's Singles' Day shopping carnival draws near, choosing south China's island province of Hainan as the perfect destination to fill up her shopping cart.

"I'm having my honeymoon in Hainan, and duty-free shops here are definitely an important part of my itinerary," said Tao while showing her memo that includes a smartphone, skincare products, jewelry and handbags.

"With cheaper products and high-quality services, Hainan

has long enjoyed the reputation of 'shopping paradise' in China and the increased tax-free shopping quota is very attractive. Special discounts are also underway for Singles' Day," she said.

Since 1 Jul 2020, Hainan has raised its annual tax-free shopping quota from 30,000 yuan (about 4,691 US dollars) to 100,000 yuan per person. The previous tax-free limit of 8,000 yuan for a single product has been lifted, and the duty-free purchase limit for cosmetics has also been raised from 12 items to 30. — Xinhua ■



Workers sorting out packages at a centre in Lianyungang in eastern Jiangsu province on 11 November 2020 during the record-breaking Singles' Day shopping spree. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

S.Korean banks’ loan delinquency ratio hits record low in September

SOUTH Korean banks’ loan delinquency ratio hit a record low in September owing to the near-record-low policy rate, financial watchdog data showed Thursday.

The ratio of bank loans, overdue at least one month, came in at 0.24 per cent of the total at the end of September, according to the Financial Supervisory Service.

It was down 0.05 percentage points from a month earlier, logging the lowest since data began to be compiled.

The country’s central bank raised its benchmark interest rate from an all-time low of 0.50 per cent to 0.75 per cent in August, but the policy rate

remained near the record-low level.

The newly delinquent loan stood at 800 billion won (676 million U.S. dollars) in September, down 200 billion won (169 million U.S. dollars) from the previous month.

The resolved non-performing loan amounted to 1.7 trillion won (1.4 billion US dollars) in September, up 1 trillion won (845 million US dollars) from the prior month. The delinquency ratio for bank loan to households declined 0.02 percentage points from a month earlier to 0.17 per cent at the end of September, while the ratio for corporate loan slipped 0.06 percentage points to 0.30 per cent.—Xinhua ■



South Korean banks’ loan delinquency ratio hit a record low in September owing to the near-record-low policy rate, financial watchdog data showed on 11 November 2021. PHOTO: WOORI FINANCIAL, SHINHAN BANK/XINHUA



Subaru Corp. President and CEO Tomomi Nakamura stands next to the Solterra sport utility vehicle, the automaker’s first all-electric vehicle to be sold globally, during an unveiling event in Tokyo on 11 November 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

Subaru unveils its first EV to be sold globally, to launch mid-2022

SUBARU Corp. unveiled Thursday its first all-electric vehicle to be sold globally, with it set to be launched in Japan, the United States, Europe and China by mid-2022.

Named the “Solterra,” the sport utility vehicle was jointly developed with Toyota Motor Corp. as Subaru looks to make a smooth transition from internal combustion and hybrid power-trains to zero-emissions mobility.

“As the EV market has not yet matured, we will deal with it by deepening collaboration with Toyota,” said Tomomi Nakamura, president and CEO of Subaru, at a press conference in Tokyo. Toyota is Subaru’s largest shareholder.

Subaru sold an EV in the Japanese domestic market from 2009 but the Solterra is its first attempt at marketing an all-electric model globally.

The four-wheel-drive model of the Solterra has an approximate range of 460 kilometres on a single charge while the two-wheel-drive version can travel 530 km. The four-wheel-drive model features a vehicle stabilization system to improve the SUV’s off-road capabilities, the automaker said. Subaru has not revealed the suggested retail price of the new vehicle nor how many it aims to sell. — Kyodo ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Apple introduces Apple Business Essentials

APPLE on Wednesday announced Apple Business Essentials, a new service that brings together device management and iCloud storage into flexible subscription plans for small businesses with up to 500 employees.

The company also unveiled a new Apple Business Essentials app that enables employees to install apps for work and request support, the announcement said.

Available in beta now, the service supports small businesses through the total device management life cycle - from device setup to employee onboarding and device upgrades - while providing strong security, prioritized support, and secure data storage and backup, according to the announcement.—Xinhua ■

Japan’s Hotel Okura to open its 1st luxury hotel in Philippines

JAPAN’S Hotel Okura Co. will open a luxury hotel in Manila on 28 December, its first premier brand hotel in the Philippines, after a delay caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The 11-story, 190-room Hotel Okura Manila will be located inside the compounds of the Resorts World Manila casino complex adjacent to the third terminal of Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Hotel Okura said. The Tokyo-based hotel chain said it started accepting bookings on Wednesday.—Kyodo ■

China factory-gate inflation hits new high in October

CHINA’S factory-gate inflation hit a 26-year high in October while fresh virus outbreaks and soaring food and energy prices sent consumer prices up more than forecast, official figures showed Wednesday.

The producer price index

(PPI) has been rising for four straight months, putting pressure on authorities to stop costs from running out of control, just as officials battle to kickstart a recovery in the world’s number two economy.

The reopening from lock-

downs around the world has ramped up energy demand just as stockpiles are low, with supply struggles made worse by China’s drive to meet environmental targets.

The PPI, which measures the cost of goods at the factory gate, jumped a bigger-than-expected 13.5 per cent on-year in October, said the National Bureau of Statistics.

“The rise in PPI expanded due to the combination of imported global factors and the tight supply of major domestic energy and raw materials,” said NBS senior statistician Dong Lijuan.

These include a sharp increase in domestic coal prices, rising oil and gas prices globally and supply chain disruptions, said Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit.—AFP ■



Factory-gate inflation in China has been rising for four straight months. A robot sorts goods at an intelligent distribution center in Changshu, Jiangsu province, on 24 May 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

NEWS
IN BRIEFNobel Prize winning
activist Malala gets
married

NOBEL Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Pakistani Taliban for campaigning for girls' education, got married on Tuesday in a small ceremony in Birmingham, central England, she announced on social media.

"Today marks a precious day in my life. Asser (Malik) and I tied the knot to be partners for life," she wrote on Twitter, where she also posted images of herself and her new husband on their wedding day. "We celebrated a small nikkah ceremony at home in Birmingham with our families. Please send us your prayers. We are excited to walk together for the journey ahead," she added.—AFP ■

Explosion injures 11
university students
in Cameroon

AT least 11 students were injured on Wednesday when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded on a university campus in Cameroon's restive Anglophone region of Southwest, according to witnesses and authorities. The explosion in the University of Buea happened at about 3:30 pm local time in one of the classrooms where lecture was in progress.—Xinhua ■

Up to 5,000 Afghan
refugees a day
entering Iran: aid
group

Up to 5,000 Afghan refugees a day are crossing into neighbouring Iran, compounding the already heavy burden it faces hosting an estimated 3.6 million Afghans, a relief group said Wednesday.

The Norwegian Refugee Council called for more international support for Iran, which despite facing tough US economic sanctions, operates what the council described as one of the most inclusive refugee policies in the world. "Iran cannot be expected to host so many Afghans with so little support from the international community," the council's secretary general Jan Egeland said after a visit to Iran this week.—AFP ■

Iran say won't sign climate deal while under sanctions



An oil facility on Iran's Kharg Island. PHOTO: AFP

IRAN won't ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change while the Islamic republic remains under sanctions, the head of its environment department said Wednesday.

"For Iran to sign and commit, the first condition is for the oppressive sanctions to be lifted," Ali Salajegheh was quoted as saying by state-run IRNA news agency.

Iran is party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change but never signed the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming.

That same year, Iran struck

a landmark deal with major powers to limit its nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.

That agreement has been on life support since 2018, when then US president Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out and reimposed crippling sanctions.

"Our principal message in this summit is that countries commit to discussing lifting the sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran as a priority," Salajegheh was quoted saying in Glasgow, on the sidelines of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference.

He also said about his oil-rich country that "Iran's condition for reducing greenhouses gases by four per cent by 2030 was the lifting of all sanctions, as it would cost Iran \$56 billion dollars to achieve this objective".—AFP ■

Despite dangers, many
Iraqi Kurds dream of
reaching Europe

"OUR life is awful," says Iraqi taxi driver Himen Gabriel, who no longer believes he has a future in his war-battered country and says he is about to try to reach Europe.

He won't say whether he will try to enter the EU across the Belarus-Poland border like thousands of others, but is determined to leave his home in Arbil in Iraq's Kurdistan region.

Sporting a long, black beard and a fashionable haircut, Himen,

28, says he has no professional prospects, blaming local systems of patronage and nepotism.

He pointed to his four brothers, saying "all have degrees and none has found a job in the public sector because they do not belong to any political party".

He prefers not to say whether his itinerary will run via Belarus where up to 4,000 migrants, many of them Kurds, now huddle in an improvised camp in freezing weather.



Migrants shown at the Belarus-Poland border on 8 November 2021.

PHOTO: BELTA/AFP/FILE

As troops mass on both sides of the border, Poland has accused Russia of orchestrating a wave of migrants trying to illegally enter via Belarus in a bid to destabilize the European Union.

One Iraqi man now in Belarus, who asked not to be named, told AFP by telephone that he and his family had made it all the way to the razor wire fence at the Polish border.—AFP ■

At Raqa 'roundabout of hell', Syria lovers find new meeting spot

ONLY a few years ago, Al-Naim square was the grim stage for Raqa's public executions. Today, Nader al-Hussein sits in its new arched design, waiting for his date to arrive. "This is the best meeting point for lovers, families and friends," the 25-year-old says, sitting on one of the rare public benches in the bustling, war-ravaged north Syria city.

"Before, we used to avoid passing near it so that we wouldn't see blood and horror," Hussein says. The Al-Naim (Paradise) traffic circle was anything but heavenly when the Islamic State group reigned over Raqa, its former de facto Syrian capi-

tal, between 2014 and 2017. Residents dubbed it the "roundabout of hell". Jihadists flaunted their implementation of Islamic sharia law in the square, carrying out flagellations, crucifixions and even decapitations on those deemed apostates or criminals.

Their marauding morality police made it impossible for lovers to meet, even in private, without risking death.

"I never dared to meet with my girlfriend in person; we used to speak only over the phone, out of fear that we may be stoned as punishment," Hussein says.

Two years after IS was declared defeated in Syria, the re-



The Al-Dallah roundabout was also a former IS punishing ground. Raqa residents have since dubbed it 'the workers' square', in reference to the day labourers who usually dot its sidewalks in the hope of being picked up for odd jobs. PHOTO: AFP

vamped square is a far cry from the barren dirt mound that host-

ed some of the jihadist group's most repulsive acts.—AFP ■

Thailand's Constitutional Court bans calls for monarchy reform

THAILAND'S Constitutional Court on Wednesday banned pro-democracy leaders from calling for reform of the monarchy, ruling that they had attempted to overthrow the country's constitutional monarchy.

The ruling against lawyer Arnon Nampa and two other prominent figures in the largely student-led movement concerned their speeches and actions since August 2020, including at a rally that month on a university campus in the Bangkok suburbs.

The court found that the leaders' calls for reform of the monarchy were unconstitution-



Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday banned pro-democracy leaders from calling for reform of the monarchy, ruling that they had attempted to overthrow the country's constitutional monarchy.

PHOTO: THAI WOMAN TALKS/KYODO/FILE

al, and ordered them and others to end all actions against

the highest institution of the country.

Previously criticism of Thailand's monarchy was taboo. But as King Maha Vajiralongkorn put part of the military under his direct control and took personal ownership of royal assets that had been managed by the Crown Property Bureau, protesters started calling for reform of the monarchy, in addition to other changes.

Wednesday's ruling carried no penalty for the three activists. But they have already been indicted on a charge of violating the country's lese majeste law, under which criticism of the king is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.—Kyodo ■

US warns Russia against another 'serious mistake' on Ukraine

THE United States on Wednesday warned Russia against making another "serious mistake" on Ukraine as it sought clarity about troop movements near the border.

Welcoming Ukraine's foreign minister to Washington, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the United States was "concerned with reports of the unusual Russian activity near Ukraine." "We don't have clarity into Moscow's intentions, but we do know its playbook," Blinken told a joint news conference. "Our

concern is that Russia may make the serious mistake of attempting to rehash what it undertook back in 2014 when it amassed forces along the border, crossed into sovereign Ukrainian territory and did so claiming falsely that it was provoked," he said.

"Our commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, to its independence, to its territorial integrity is ironclad, and the international community will see through any Russian effort to resort to its previous tactics," Blinken said.



War veterans take part in a march of nationalist movements in Kiev on 14 October 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Ukraine has been ensnared in a deadly war with pro-Moscow separatists in its largely Russian-speaking east since 2014 when Russia seized the Crimea peninsula. Russia took action after mass protests led to the ousting of the president who

had suspended efforts to move closer to the European Union.

Russia in March also amassed 100,000 troops on Ukraine's borders. It pulled back, but both Ukraine and the United States said at the time that the withdrawal was limited.—AFP ■

Brazil anti-graft crusader Moro joins party, eyes poll



Supporters of former Brazilian judge Sergio Moro arrive at an event where he announced his affiliation with the Podemos party in Brasilia, on 10 November 2021. PHOTO: AFP

SERGIO Moro, the ex-judge behind "Operation Car Wash", the biggest corruption crack-down

in Brazilian history, joined a centrist political party Wednesday and said he was weighing

a run in presidential elections next year.

Moro, who sent a laundry list of political heavyweights and business executives to jail as lead judge in an investigation into massive corruption at state-run oil company Petrobras, held a news conference in Brasilia to announce he had joined the Podemos party and was eyeing the 2022 polls.

The 49-year-old anti-corruption crusader's name has been floated as a potential "third-way" candidate in what is shaping up to be a heavyweight showdown next October between far-right President Jair Bolsonaro and the biggest figure of all jailed by Moro, leftist ex-president Luiz

Inacio Lula da Silva.

But Moro trails well behind both in opinion polls, and would face a crowded field of other "third-way" contenders if he decides to enter the race.

"If it's necessary to lead that project, my name will always be available to the Brazilian people," Moro said. "There are other good names that have been presented to help the country escape these two extremes of lying, corruption and backsliding.

"But I won't shrink from that fight, even though I know it will be difficult." However, Moro's brand has been damaged since he quit the judiciary to become Bolsonaro's justice minister in 2019.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brussels pushes for EU reaction force by 2025

BRUSSELS is pushing to launch a 5,000-strong EU rapid response force by 2025 as the bloc seeks to bolster its defence capacity, a document seen by AFP said.

The proposal contained in a "Strategic Compass" review of threats facing the EU is to be presented to foreign and defence ministers of the 27 member states next Monday by foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. The West's chaotic departure from Afghanistan and a new alliance between the US, Britain and Australia that saw France lose a major submarine deal have fuelled calls for the EU to act more independently.

Paris has spearheaded the push for greater "strategic autonomy". But there is resistance from eastern EU members wary of loosening ties with ally Washington, which they see as the key bulwark against Russia.—AFP ■

Cyprus seeks to suspend asylum applications

Cyprus said Wednesday it would seek to suspend asylum applications to cope with an influx of irregular migrants entering the eastern Mediterranean island that it blames on Turkey.

Data showed European Union member Cyprus was facing "demographic change" and "acute socio-economic effects" as a result the migrant crisis, said government spokesperson Marios Pelekanos.

"A request will be submitted to the European Commission to take action in favour of the Republic of Cyprus, including granting it the right to suspend asylum applications by people entering the country illegally," he told reporters.

The Republic of Cyprus says it has the highest number of first-time asylum applications among all 27 EU members relative to its population of roughly one million.

It accuses Turkey of orchestrating the crisis by allowing irregular migrants to cross over from the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).—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.

Myanmar beat Turkey Club Manavgatspor 2-1 in friendly match

IN preparation for the ASEAN Suzuki Cup, the Myanmar national team, which is under training in Turkey, won its first tune-up match against the Turkish amateur club Manavgatspor FC on 10 November by 2-1.

The Myanmar national team has been taking training in Antalya, Turkey since 28 October and the match was the first win for team Myanmar.

The first goal for Myanmar national team was scored in the first half while the second or winning goal was scored in the other half. Several substitutions were

made throughout the match.

Win Naing Tun and Maung Maung Lwin scored the winning goals for Myanmar national team at the 41 and 65 minutes mark.

A single goal for Manavgatspor FC was seen at 75 minute-mark.

Goalkeeper Myo Min Latt, defenders: Aung Wunna Soe, Ye Min Thu, Win Moe Kyaw, Hein Phyo Win, midfielders Maung Maung Win, Nay Moe Naing, Aung Naing Win, Myat Kaung Khant, Myo Ko Tun, and striker Win Naing Tun were included in the team's line-up in the first

half.

Next goalkeeper Soe Arkar, defenders: David Htan, Nyein Chan, Zaw Ye Tun, Win Moe Kyaw, midfielders: Hlaing Bo Bo, Lwin Moe Aung, Htet Phyo Wai, and Maung Maung Lwin and striker Than Paing played for the second half.

Manavgatspor is a team competing in the Turkish Amateur League.

The Myanmar national team will play against the African team Burundi on 13 November in their second friendly match.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Manavgatspor FC players (red) are seen in attack position while Myanmar players (yellow) are looking for places in their defence line during their friendly match on 10 November. PHOTO: MFF

Italy eye return to World Cup as Switzerland come to town



The mood around the Italy team is positive after an impressive revival under Roberto Mancini. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ITALY head into Friday's crunch visit of Switzerland with their World Cup hopes still in the balance, as the newly-crowned European champi-

ons aim to definitively banish the ghosts of their disastrous 2018 qualifying campaign.

Still on a high from triumph at Euro 2020, Italy lead

Group C on goal difference from the Swiss, with the pair battling for a single guaranteed place in next year's tournament in Qatar.

Roberto Mancini took control of the Azzurri in the toxic aftermath of their failure to make the last World Cup in Russia, the first time they had missed out on a place in six decades, and is well aware of the significance of making it this time round. "It's important that we play well because after the Euro it's the biggest match of the year. We know we have to win," said Mancini.

However Mancini tried to maintain a semblance of calm for a fixture that would put Italy back on football's biggest stage after eight years. — AFP

Howe braces for relegation battle at 'perfect-fit' Newcastle

NEWCASTLE'S new manager Eddie Howe said Wednesday he can cope with soaring expectations at the Premier League club after their Saudi-led takeover as he braces for a tough relegation battle.

Howe has replaced Steve Bruce at St James's Park after his predecessor departed by mutual consent in October, 13 days after the ownership changed hands.

The 43-year-old former Bournemouth boss was appointed on Monday and took his first training session 24 hours later. The Magpies, winless in three games under interim boss Graeme Jones, are second bottom of the Premier League after failing to win any of their first 11 matches this season. Howe, whose first game will be at home to Brentford on

20 November, knows there is huge pressure to drag Newcastle away from the relegation zone and set the foundations for a more successful future. While he has never managed a club of Newcastle's stature, he said his time at unfashionable Bournemouth, whom he led from the fourth tier to the Premier League during two spells in charge, would stand him in good stead. — AFP



Newcastle manager Eddie Howe. PHOTO: AFP