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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.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chairman of Russian-Myanmar Military Technological Cooperation Joint Commission Deputy Director of FSMTC of Russia, Deputy Director-General of JSC "Rosoboronexport" Company and delegation



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the delegation headed by the Chairman of the Russian-Myanmar Military Technological Cooperation Joint Commission Deputy Director of FSMTC of Russia and the Deputy Director-General of JSC "Rosoboronexport" Company in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Chairman of the Russian-Myanmar Military Technological Cooperation Joint Commission Deputy Director of FSMTC of Russia Mr Vladimir Drozhzhov and Dep-

uty Director-General of JSC "Rosoboronexport" Company Mr AL Chekmarev at the hall of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They frankly focused on plans for further enhancement of existing military technology cooperation between two armed forces of both countries, the assistance of the Russian

Federation in providing human resources and technology in upgrading the Myanmar Tatmadaw as a modern armed force, promotion of cooperation in military technology and military weapon technologies, cooperation of both countries in the defence sector and raising the economic cooperation in all sectors.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Chairman of the Russian-Myanmar Military Technological Cooperation Joint Commission and the Deputy Director-General of JSC "Rosoboronexport" Company exchanged gifts.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Commander-in-Chief

(Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Russian delegation was accompanied by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Nikolay A Listopadov and Military Attaché Col Sergei Kurchenko. —MNA

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Kengtung university signs MoU with Philippines’ Iloilo science and technology university



The MoU Signing Ceremony between Kengtung University and Iloilo Science and Technology University of the Philippines in progress online.

WITH the aim of enhancing educational cooperation, Kengtung University, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Iloilo

Science and Technology University of the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) yesterday through video-conferencing.

The Signing Ceremony was attended by presidents and rectors of the ASEAN universities, Rector of the Kengtung University Dr San San Mar, the

pro-rectors, faculty members, the president and the vice-president of the Iloilo Science and Technology University, and the assistant president of the Chiang

Rai Rajabhat University of Thailand.

The MoU between the two universities included areas for cooperation such as student exchanges — field trips, on-the-job training, etc., university faculty and researcher’s exchanges, exchange of library holdings and other library linkages, industry-academic linkage, identifications of methods for academic collaboration, organization of joint research projects, including conferences, seminars, workshops, and joint organizer of international conferences and meetings, exchange of information and publications, and implementation of other activities mutually agreed upon by the two institutions.—Maung Maung Nang (Kengtung-IPRD)/ GNLM

Myanmar receives 1 million doses of Sinovac vaccine donated by China

THE People’s Republic of China donated one million doses of the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine to Myanmar yesterday. The donation ceremony was held through videoconferencing and attended by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and officials.

The Union Minister expressed words of appreciation for the donation at the ceremony and it was concluded in the evening after discussions on issues such as cooperation for COVID-19 immunization, increased monitoring and deployment of health workers along the border, including in Shan State and Kachin State, to reopen the border trade posts and to ensure timely treatment, and implementation of the Myanmar Centre



With the donated one million doses of the vaccine and another one million doses purchased from China, which both arrived yesterday, the vaccination against COVID-19 will be continued for the students over the age of 12 across Myanmar.

of Disease Control supported by China and the establishment of a training school for healthcare workers.

With the donated one million

doses of the vaccine and another one million doses purchased from China, which both arrived yesterday, the vaccination against COVID-19 will be continued for

the students over the age of 12 across Myanmar. These vaccines will be distributed to regions and states based on the requirement, via road transport or with the help

of the Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanmar airways by maintaining the cold chain. As of 11 November 2021, 9.3 million people have been fully vaccinated while 5.1 million people have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Myanmar, making the total dose 23.7 million.

As a measure to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, The Ministry of Health is administering the COVID-19 vaccines to the target groups. The people are urged to receive the COVID-19 vaccines, and those who have already received the first dose are encouraged to go to the nearest immunization centre and receive the second dose on the scheduled immunization date or near the due date, as well as to actively participate in the vaccination activities. — MNA

Mobile library service offered to government employees

THE Information and Public Relations of Department

(IPRD) conducted a mobile library field visit in Myebon



Government staff are seen borrowing books from the IPRD mobile library.

Township yesterday.

The books were rented to township general administration department staff for free.

“We can read the books due to the benefits of mobile libraries when we are free. We can also read at home in our spare time. We can return the books within one week and we also thank you for establishing the mobile library,” said a staff.

“Those who cannot go to the library can grab the opportunities to read from the mobile library. We will launch further services weekly for the people to be able to return the old books and bor-



Government staff are seen borrowing books from the IPRD mobile library.

row new ones,” said U Win Min Soe, deputy head of Myebon

Township IPRD. — Win Min Soe (IPRD)/GNLM

Carving of Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the highest stone sculptured Buddha image in the world and plans to build it explained

MARAVIJAYA Buddha Image is being carved with the aim of showing firmly flourishing of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar to the world, ensuring peace and tranquillity in the country, contributing to the visits of local and foreign travellers to the regional development and the State development, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in explaining carving and building the image in the Buddha Park of Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw to State level officials at the Buddha Park yesterday



The Senior General explains the plans to build the world-highest stone sculptured Buddha Image.

the throne, 18 feet high, totalling 81 feet. The image would have 1,782 tonnes of weight and the throne, 3,510 tonnes, totalling 5,292 tonnes.

Under the guidance of the former rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Silananda Bhivamsa, five State Ovadacariya Sayadaws supervise the work process to publish the Tri Pitaka treatises in Romanized language. Arrangements are being made to inscribe the stone plaques on the treatises in Romanized



morning.

The Senior General explained that seeking advice from State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, the marble rock was conveyed from the Sagyin Hill to the Buddha Park through waterway and motor roads. Upon completion, the Buddha image would be the highest among the world's stone sculptured Buddha images. Conceptual designs are being created for the image to be decorated with architectural works from Atumashi monastery and Shwezigon Pagoda based on the Yadanabon era. The main body structure of the image will be carved into four parts. Part one and part four are being carved with the use of a modern CNC machine.

Upon completion, the image would be 63 feet high and



The Senior General views the scale-model of the Buddha Image.

language with the use of modern machinery. Efforts are being made to symbolize the Pitaka chambers on stone inscriptions carved in conformity with the 5th Buddhist Synod at Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay, setting as the world largest book in the Guinness World Records. The preaching of the Lord Buddha will be placed in front of the Buddha image.

The Senior General and party viewed scale models of layout plans for the Buddha Park, scale models of the Buddha image, samples of Pitaka stone inscription chambers and stone inscriptions, placement of throne part one and two, and carving of part one and part 4 of the Buddha image with the use of the CNC machine. —MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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The acts beyond ASEAN Centrality, ASEAN Unity and ASEAN Way would affect not only all ASEAN member states but Myanmar at a time due to posing pressure, instigation and wedging on the unity of ASEAN: Vice-Senior General Soe Win

THE role of the military institution would play a key role to some extent in global countries where respective governments lead the rehabilitation tasks in short- and long-term plans, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the 22nd ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting through virtual conferencing yesterday morning.



The Vice-Senior General speaks at the virtual conference of the 22nd ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting yesterday.

the Vice-Senior General said the Myanmar Tatmadaw has been supporting the Ministry of Health in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 with military medical personnel across the country. So far, the Tatmadaw has conducted COVID-19 testing for 564,777 people, including military personnel, their families and civilians. The Tatmadaw is also cooperating with the Ministry of Health in its vaccination processes, including in transporting the vaccines to remote areas. As



In his opening address, the Vice-Senior General said all global countries, including ASEAN countries, understand to carry out prevention of the disease, control of infection and rehabilitation tasks in the post-COVID-19 period depending on their finance, human resources and infrastructures. Hence, he expected the open discussions on ways to consider the post-COVID rehabilitation of the ASEAN army chiefs who participated in battling the COVID-19 in respective countries. Then, the Vice-Senior General led the discussions under the title of the Role of ASEAN Armies in the Process of Rehabilitation After the COVID-19 Pandemic, saying that the outbreak of COVID-19 lasts for about two years. Vaccines could be produced and vaccination

could be undertaken across the world. ASEAN countries need to consider fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-COVID rehabilitation tasks as the common interest and need to overcome the challenges for their interests. Governments of ASEAN countries should practically apply the capability of the military sources in responding to the pandemic. Military sources need to support the civilian health staff and assist in the operation of the hospitals for easing the burdens. If necessary, military affairs open the emergency treatment hospitals and deploy the military medical doctors and nurses to the relevant health centres and open the quarantine centres as part of efforts to contribute to the prevention, control and treat-

ment activities of COVID-19 of the government. It can be seen that the global countries because of the military history and political situations apply three types as seeking the techniques from the military sector; military-civilian cooperation and military leadership. Military sources assist in the production of vaccines on the test and perform spraying for disinfection in necessary places to support the healthcare services in the civil sector. The military transport of vaccines and medical equipment to the respective areas effectively contributes to the logistic measures. As such, the role of the capability of military sources can be seen in the prevention of disease infection, control and treatment activities of COVID-19. Especially, the implementa-

tion of military-civilian cooperation depends on the importance of mutual trust and respect. If so, all will thoroughly overcome the crises and challenges. The nature of military organizations can build the whole nation as a commanding system and possesses the necessary human resources. In some countries, the military organization is formed with permanent military service personnel and reserve forces. If the country faces an emergency in the country, the military organization is capable of assisting the frontlines. The armies from most of the countries have valuable experiences of solving the crises and difficulties of the pandemics in the past. In his speech related to the prevention, control and treatment measures of COVID-19,

a result of civil-military cooperation in Myanmar, the Tatmadaw has been able to bring down the test positivity rate of Delta variant to 4 per cent in October from its peak of 30 per cent in July and August following the start of the third wave of the pandemic in Myanmar. As a precautionary measure against the fourth wave of outbreaks, Myanmar Tatmadaw has set up 98 treatment centres with 9,500 beds for emergency COVID-19 patients at military hospitals across the country. To meet oxygen requirements for patients, we have also established oxygen and liquid oxygen plants in several regions and made preparations to distribute oxygen concentrators to those areas where the construction of oxygen plants is difficult.

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The acts beyond ASEAN Centrality, ASEAN Unity and ASEAN Way would affect not only all ASEAN member states but Myanmar at a time due to posing pressure, instigation and wedging on the unity of ASEAN: Vice-Senior General Soe Win



The Vice-Senior General presents the AARM Flag and ACAMM Stand to the Vietnamese Military Attache' in behalf of the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army at the handover event for host duty.

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He said he'd like to suggest that although the military sources are set up for responding to the pandemic, it is necessary to nurture the military sources in the future to improve their capability and qualification for ensuring high safety standard of each citizen and encounter the unconventional challenges. To more effectively solve the unconventional challenges, it is necessary to further improve the role of military-civilian relations.

The role of the military institution would play a key role to some extent in global countries where respective governments lead the rehabilitation tasks in short- and long-term plans. At that time, it is necessary to consider earmarking the military cost which would

not affect the economic infrastructure of the State.

In overcoming the challenges of COVID-19, a strategic power struggle among some powerful countries affects all regions of the world including ASEAN. Now, ASEAN Centrality, ASEAN Unity and ASEAN Way are under their threats. All ASEAN member states need to be united more than in the past. The principle "no interference in internal affairs of other countries" is very significant of the ASEAN symbol, which is different from other regional organizations.

He reiterated that the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister emphasized three points in the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24 April 2021. These were: Myanmar would take into con-

sideration suggestions depending on current internal events; Myanmar would consider proposals and trips of ASEAN depending on internal stability of the nation; and Myanmar will consider the constructive aid of ASEAN for the State interests if it is based on ASEAN charter, ASEAN roadmap and ASEAN spirit.

The alternate chairman of ASEAN's statement was contradictory paragraph 20(1), paragraph 2(2) (a), (e) and (f) of the ASEAN Charter. Hence, the government of the State Administration Council will firmly implement the five-point roadmap and cooperate with ASEAN in implementing the five-point consensus of the ASEAN.

The acts beyond the ASEAN Centrality, ASEAN Unity

and ASEAN Way would affect not only all ASEAN member states but Myanmar at a time due to posing pressure, instigation and wedging on the unity of ASEAN. Hence, it is necessary to build more mutual understanding, trust and respect among the ASEAN member states through ASEAN armies.

ASEAN army chiefs and senior military officers discussed the Role of ASEAN Armies In the Process of Rehabilitation After the COVID-19 Pandemic in detail.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-Senior General said that they all have a chance to exchange views on regional defence and security measures through corridors such as ACAMM and the ASEAN needs to seek ways to the response. He expressed his firm belief for

Vietnam to successfully host the ACAMM in the coming year.

In handing over the duty of host for the ACAMM XXIII, the 30th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet-AARM XXX and the 10th ASEAN Sergeant Major Army Meets-ASMAM X to Vietnamese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Nguyen Thanh Dong, on behalf of Lieutenant-General Nguyen Van Nghia, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, accepted AARM Flag and ACAMM Stand.

Lieutenant-General Nguyen Van Nghia extended greetings after the video clip on introduction to Vietnam.

The Vice-Senior General posed for documentary photos together with Myanmar-based ASEAN military attachés and embassy officials.—MNA



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives Indian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo received Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar of India to Myanmar at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. The meeting cordially discussed the matters of bilateral economic relations.—MNA

992 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 November, total figure rises to 511,717

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 511,717 after 992 new cases were reported on 12 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 482,877 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,899 after 17 died.—MNA

MoTC Union Minister attends ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting, related ASEAN meetings



UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San attended the 19th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministerial Meeting, 12th ASEAN-Korea Transport Ministers' Meeting and special meetings for ASEAN-Dialogue partners and development partners by videoconferencing system yesterday.

The 19th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting was held in the morning and Transport Ministers from Cambodia and Japan gave opening remarks.

Then, the implementation of joint transport projects between ASEAN and Japan and infrastructure and human resource development were discussed.

The Union Minister briefed on the ongoing cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, Japan's assistance in setting standards for transportation and storage to prevent food spoilage, and Japan-Myanmar transport cooperation under the bilateral programme on the promotion of ICT in road

safety.

Next, Transport Ministers exchanged views on the next steps to be taken.

At the 12th ASEAN-Korea Transport Ministers' Meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Transport Cooperation Roadmap (2021-2025).

The Union Minister discussed cooperation between Korea and ASEAN member countries for the development of the transport sector.

The Union Minister also discussed the final ratification of the ASEAN-Korea Aviation Agreement, which is being negotiated by Myanmar, to enhance aviation links.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister attended a special meeting of ASEAN Dialogue partners and development partners.

At the meeting, the Ministers of the member countries discussed the sustainable development of the transport sector in each country for the sustainable development of

the ASEAN transport sector during the post-COVID-19 period.

The Union Minister called for the upgrading of railways in line with the priorities of the National Transport Master Plan drawn up with the assistance of Japan for the long-term and sustainable development of Myanmar's transport sector.

Discussions were also held on the construction of ports, airport upgrade and improving waterways.

Next, the Union Minister said that public transport is important for environmental conservation and aims to reduce the socio-economic impact of road accidents on the people and carbon dioxide emission.

The government is planning to provide electric trains in cities and the use of electric cars, the Union Minister said.

Preparations are underway to increase the use of public transport systems instead of private vehicles, the Union Minister added. — MNA

Myanmar wins digital government award hosted by ASOCIO with VMIS

THE Vaccination Management Information System-VMIS that was developed by the Information and Technology Department of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and used by the Ministry of Health to support the systematic management of the COVID-19 vaccine in Myanmar, won the Digital Government Award in ASOCIO ICT Award 2021 hosted by Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) yesterday.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win delivered a video message to the Digital Government Award Ceremony and officials from the Ministry of Health, and the Department of Information and Technology of Tatmadaw attended the ceremony through video conferencing.

In his video message, the Union Minister expressed words of thanks for the award and explained that Myanmar

is implementing the COVID-19 vaccination nationwide regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, standards of living, or political affiliation, and efforts are being made to provide the vaccine to everyone eligible according to the National Deployment Plan. He said Myanmar received the help of ICT in this nationwide operation, and ICT will be widely used in the post-COVID-19 health development of the people of Myanmar.

Intending to enhance productivity, livelihood, education and health activities with the widespread use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in countries in Asia and the Pacific, the Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) invited 24 member countries to participate in the competition for five types of ICT applications in 2021: (1) ASOCIO Outstanding Tech Company Award; (2)



ASOCIO Outstanding User Organization Award; (3) ASOCIO Digital Government Award; (4) ASOCIO EdTech Award; (5)

ASOCIO Health Tech Award, and the Ministry of Health participated for the 2021 ASOCIO ICT Award through the Myan-

mar Computer Association, a member of ASOCIO, and won the Digital Government Award. — MNA

Onion price falls by over K200-K300 per viss

THE price of onion has decreased by over K200-K300 per viss depending on the variety and size of the onion, according to the onion market.

Last October, the onion, an essential staple crop, the price was ranged between K950-K1,100 per viss in the local market as Bangladesh already bought Myanmar onions. However, the prices dropped to K600-K780 per viss on 12 November because onion merchants cannot export them to China due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Although China purchased the onion from Myanmar in the previous years, this year the price has been falling due to the closure of the Sino-Myanmar border checkpoints during the COVID-19 period.



The price of onion has decreased by over K200-K300 per viss depending on the variety and size of the onion, according to the onion market.

Besides, the quality restrictions on onion exports were one of the reasons for the declining price of onion. The onion commodity prices have been falling from

March to August this year until farmers lost their plantation costs, according to the local traders.

However, the onion which is domestically consumed and exported largest volume to foreign markets may fluctuate depending on the market demand.

The onion traders predict that Myanmar's onion market is likely to be good as it will have export to neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Thailand via border routes. Those neighbouring countries usually import onions from India. Now, India has suspended exports of onions to the countries because their onion plantations were destroyed by heavy rain. — NN/GNLM

Avocado prices rise to record high



The avocado was introduced into Myanmar over 70 years ago and has become a major fruit in the country.

THE prices of avocado have risen to a record due to reduced harvests from major producers, it is learnt.

The avocado is sold for K500-1500 per one depending upon the size. Last year, around 5,000-10,000 tonnes of Myanmar avocados are exported to China and Thailand annually with an order system, according to the Myanmar Avocados Producer and Exporter Association.

As avocado is perennial, the department is making efforts to grow high-quality avocado fruit in the Naga zone. Besides, Myanmar avocados of around 3,000 tonnes are consumed in the domestic market annually. The avocados are consumed more in the tour season.

There are around 25,000 acres of avocado plantations in Myanmar and they are most-

ly grown in Chin Mountain, Naga Mountain, Shan plateau, Nawngkhio and PyiOoLwin. There are more than a thousand Myanmar avocado species and the residents are also growing foreign avocado species. Myanmar avocados are highly harvested from October until April.

Avocado fruit has high oil content and a very nutty, rich taste. Its flesh is smooth textured and it has a thick skin casing.

The fruit ripens between September and February. The hot tropical climate and rich soil in Myanmar make it a perfect place for avocado cultivation.

The avocado was introduced into Myanmar over 70 years ago and has become a major fruit in the country. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Myawady border trade up by US\$179 mln in 2021-2022 mini-budget period

THE border trade through Myawady between Myanmar and Thailand jumped to US\$242.5 million between 1 October and 5 November in the current mini-budget period 2021-2022, reflecting an increase of \$179.34 million as against a year-ago period.

The trade through the Myawady border stood at over \$63.16 million in the corresponding period of the financial year 2020-2021. Myawady-Mae Sot border trade remains normal amid the COVID-19 restrictions, according to the Myawady Chamber of Commerce.

We have experienced trade suspension via Myawady in October 2020. The halt in trading undoubtedly harms the traders and truck drivers from both sides. It is good that trade does not stop at present, said a trader from

Myawady.

At present, the Myawady border does not have trade barriers except for transaction problems, as per the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Myanmar ships tonnes of corn to Thailand through the Myawady border. Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Maesot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. Consequently, the export through the Myawady border stopped temporarily. The small volume of corn is, therefore, exported only through the sea route at present.

Myanmar has exported more than 2.2 million tonnes of corn to foreign countries in the financial year 2020-2021, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Of 2.2 million tonnes, about

1.6 million tonnes of corn were delivered to Thailand, whereas the remaining corn was conveyed to China, India and Viet Nam.

There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Hteekhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Meisei.

The majority of the border trade with Thailand is conducted via Myawady.

Myanmar primarily exports corn, natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — KK/GNLM



Myawady border trade zone.

Emphasize fulfilment of three primary requirements for farmers

THE government is fulfilling the three primary needs of farmers in the sustainable food production system. Currently, the global countries are facing challenges in a trading process triggered by the outbreak of COVID-19. During the period of 2019-2020 financial year when COVID-19 spreads across the nation, Myanmar exported 2.58 million tonnes of rice, 1.6 million tonnes of pulses and beans, 2.2 million tonnes of maize, 0.17 million tonnes of sesame and 0.67 million tonnes of marine products as part of contributing to the food security for Myanmar as well as for the world.

This being so, the government is fulfilling the three primary requirements of the farmers involved in the sustainable food

production system — for ensuring market availability, technical requirements for agricultural productivity and boosting quality, and monetary need.

As such, farmers need to respond to the efforts of the government and relevant ministries with vigorous efforts for boosting the per-acre yield of crops and livestock farming tasks so as to serve their interests as well as the State interests.

As part of fulfilling the first need, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in cooperation with relevant ministries and private businesspersons emphasizes the signing of bilateral agreements with trade partner countries for seeking the markets of Myanmar's export goods, further agreements for the prevention of pests at crops and animals and seeking the market for export of new export items.

With regard to the second requirement, proper production is being arranged to boost the productivity and raise nutrition of agricultural products, livestock and fish products in a long run through Good Agricultural Practices-GAP, Good Animal Husbandry Practices-GAHP and Good Aquaculture Practices-GAqP.

Secondly, the government and private sector are in harmony with using quality strains of crops and animals for increased production of quality crops, meat and fish, conducting research to improve the post-harvest technology, sharing the research results with local farmers and upgrading the laboratories to give better quality test services.

In implementing the third point, arrangements are being made for enabling the farmers to engage the contract farming system based on mutual interests and to purchase agricultural machinery in instalments in cooperation with the Cooperative Department, the Agricultural Mechanization Department, private companies and monetary organizations as well as loans from the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank in order to improve the socio-economic life of farmers.

As such, farmers need to respond to the efforts of the government and relevant ministries with vigorous efforts for boosting the per-acre yield of crops and livestock farming tasks so as to serve their interests as well as the State interests.

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WHO looking forward to oral, nasal Covid-19 vaccines

THE World Health Organisation's (WHO) chief scientist said on Tuesday (Nov 9) she was looking forward to the "second generation" of Covid-19 vaccines, which could include nasal sprays and oral versions.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan said such vaccines could have advantages over the current crop as they would be easier to deliver than injections and could even be self-administered.

Dr Swaminathan said there were 129 different candidate vaccines that have reached as far as clinical trials - being tested on humans - while a further 194 are not yet that advanced in their development and are still being worked on in laboratories.

"This covers the entire range of technologies," she told a live interaction



A laboratory worker tests a nasal spray at the Pharma and Beauty factory in Saint-Chamas, south eastern France, on 21 January 2021. PHOTO: AFP

on WHO social media channels.

"They're still in development. I'm sure some of them will prove to be very

safe and efficacious and others may not.

"There could be advantages to some of the second-generation vaccines...

clearly if you have an oral vaccine or an intra-nasal vaccine this is easier to deliver than an injectable.

"Ultimately we'll be able to choose the ones that are most appropriate.

"If not for Covid-19, we're going to use these platforms for other infections in the future."

Dr Swaminathan explained the advantages of a vaccine being sprayed into the nose, as happens in some countries with influenza vaccines.

"If there's a local immune response then it will take care of the virus before it even goes and establishes itself in the lungs and starts causing a problem," she said.

The WHO has given emergency use authorisation only to seven Covid-19 vaccines: Those created by Pfizer/BioN-

Tech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sinopharm, Sinovac and last week, Bharat Biotech.

"None of the vaccines are 100 per cent. Nobody has ever claimed that the vaccines are going to be 100 per cent protective. But 90 per cent is a wonderful amount of protection to have, compared with zero," Dr Swaminathan said.

"Till now, with the vaccines that we have approved, there has not been any signal which has been so worrying that we need to say, well, we need to rethink this vaccine."

More than 7.25 billion vaccine doses have been administered around the world, according to an AFP count.

SOURCE: AFP

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Vietnam's COVID-19 cases hit 1 mln amid resurgence

Vietnam has hit the grim milestone of 1 million COVID-19 cases amid a new resurgence of infections, testing the Vietnamese government's determination on reopening the economy with flexible adaptation to the pandemic.

WITH 8,162 new COVID-19 cases confirmed on 11 November, Vietnam's total infections amounted to 1,000,897. The mark was surpassed 22 months after the country detected its first COVID-19 case on 23 Jan 2020.

The total deaths stood at 22,849, or 2.4 per cent of the infections, said the Vietnamese Ministry of Health.

Keeping the virus under control

Vietnam had succeeded in keeping the virus under control for over a year with aggressive contact tracing and quarantine procedures but has been hit hard by the highly contagious Delta variant, which brought in the fourth wave of the outbreak since late April.

As many as 995,903 community cases have been registered in the ongoing wave, which has just been put under relative control for weeks. With its fast spread, the Delta variant has created a major public health emergency for the Southeast Asia country.

"The quickly escalating outbreaks within a short period of time have overloaded the medical system and increased death rates, especially in Ho Chi Minh City and some southern localities," the

National Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control said in a recent report, adding that Vietnam's high population density and vaccine shortage have added to the troubles.

During the deadliest weeks of the wave, between 300 and 400 deaths were reported per day.

Major socio-economic activities in Vietnam, especially southern cities, were halted for several months, or at least being disrupted from time to time. COVID-19 restrictions, typically the stay-home ruling, have caused both material and mental hardships for people.

In late October, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said the country's GDP growth this year may fall far below the 6-per-cent target with between 3-3.5 per cent. In the first nine months, Vietnam reported a GDP growth of 1.42 per cent due to fall-out of the raging COVID-19 wave.

As such, bringing the country to the new normal as soon as possible in 2021 is a mission that the government of Vietnam has tasked itself with after COVID-19 paralyzed its economy for months.

Under the government's resolution on "Safe, Flexible and Effective Control of COVID-19 outbreak" adopted on 11 Oct, Vietnam seeks to protect people's lives, mitigate fatalities, and map

out recovery plans in pursuit of the goal of containing the virus while developing the economy.

The resolution also categorized virus risks into four levels from low to very high, a basis for respective levels of socio-economic opening and public health measures to be applied.

Socio-economic activities

With the new guidance, some socio-economic activities have been resumed in low-risk areas, including in-person classes, indoor restaurants, tourism, and interprovincial traveling.

However, lifting COVID-19 restrictions for reopening the economy means greater risk of virus transmission, warned the health authorities. Over the past days, Vietnam has witnessed increasing cases and clusters including those with unknown sources of infection. During the past week, daily new cases averaged at 7,821, up remarkably from 5,656 cases one week earlier, according to the Vietnamese health ministry.

The Vietnamese capital Hanoi on Tuesday logged the highest daily tally of 268 cases, many related to those traveling from COVID-19-ravaged regions.

In the latest circular released on Tuesday, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh called for further step-



A man walks past a Covid-19 fight poster in the capital city of Hanoi, Vietnam, on 1 April 2020. PHOTO: VNA / HANDOUT TO XINHUA

ping up COVID-19 prevention measures as the number of new cases continued to grow nationwide. Chinh asked local authorities to improve the capacity of their health systems, especially at the grassroots level, get ready to immediately establish mobile medical stations in case of outbreaks, and speed up vaccination drives.

Accelerating procurement of COVID-19 vaccines

The country has been accelerating procurement of COVID-19

vaccines to inoculate people as the key armour for reopening. In this hard times, Vietnam treasured every single COVID-19 vaccine dose it could get amid global supply shortage. Calling for international support, Vietnam has been generously responded by many countries, notably China. The large amount of COVID-19 vaccine timely provided by China is now proved to play an increasing role in Vietnam's inoculation campaign and help mitigate consequences of COVID-19. In a speech made in

late September, Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Xiong Bo said China had so far assisted Vietnam with 6.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and provided the country with another 15 million doses via commercial procurement.

At the same time, Chinese localities neighboring Vietnam such as Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province have donated a variety of medical supplies to help the Southeast Asian country in its COVID-19 fight.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Kyaw Htin, Director-General of the Customs Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, as Director-General for the Union Minister's Office of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 12 November 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Northeast and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 13 November, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Eastern Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%). **STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts and about (4-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 November, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 November, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 November, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon Regions.

Depression News, No.5, 2021

12 November 2021 22:30 MST Today

Depression

According to the observations at (21:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved Northwest wards and crossde North Tamilnadu and adjoining South Andra Pradesh Coast near Chennai (India).

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, KayahStates during commencing tonight to next (36)hrs.

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MoC processes daily imports of 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).
Anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including

oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by three companies using nine vehicles yesterday.
A total of 3,602 empty oxygen cylinders, two oxygen plants, six oxygen generators, and 17 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady, and Chinshwehaw trading posts and Yangon International Sea-ports.
Two oxygen plants were transported to Yangon from the seaport, 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

Health officials give COVID vaccines to people in Kyaukgu Village-tract

HEALTHCARE officials gave the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to over 18-year-old people, people with disabilities, and people with chronic diseases at Basic Education High School in Kyaukgu Village-tract, Intaw Town, northern Shan State yesterday morning.
Township Administrator U

Sein Hlaing Tint and departmental officials, staff from the General Administration Department and the ward administrator assisted in the vaccination works.
The current vaccine is a Chinese version of Sinopharm, which is given at a rate of five people per bottle.

Staff from the district health department vaccinated 534 people on the first day of the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and the remaining people will be vaccinated on the second day, according to the General Administration Department. — Aung Khaing (IPRD)/GNLM



Inoculation drive is underway in northern Shan State.

Hopang residents receive Sinopharm vaccines



A Hopang local gets jabbed against COVID-19.

THE health officials offered the second dose of vaccines to people aged over 18 at City Hall in Yone Gone Ward of Hopang Township of Wa Self-Administered Division in Shan State (North) yesterday.
The relevant COVID-19 committee officials, including township administrators, members of the fire brigade

and volunteers, conducted the needed health checks before the vaccination.
The health workers used 660 Sinopharm vials to vaccinate a total of 3,300 people — 1,622 males and 1,678 females — so far in Hopang Township, according to the COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee.— Zin Zin (IPRD)/GNLM

Homalin residents aged over 45 receive first dose of vaccines

THE people aged over 45 in Homalin Township in Hkamti District of Sagaing Region received their first doses of vaccines in the fourth batch at the respective vaccination sites yesterday.
The vaccination was adminis-

tered at the monasteries of Khataung Pwint Setkya, Pokethoe and Naung-sankyin villages and B.E.H.S Branch in Natnan Village. A total of 915 people — 366 males and 549 females were vaccinated against COVID-19. — E Set (Homalin)/GNLM



An above 45-year-old female gets inoculated in Homalin Township.

Domestic exchange rate on US dollar down below K1,800

THE exchange rate on the US dollar plunged below K1,800 in the local exchange market, it is learnt.

The US dollar against Myanmar Kyat has fallen because the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) issued the instruction on 9 November that the foreign exchange transitions must be carried out within ± 0.5 per cent of the reference rate established by the CBM.

Since the instruction takes effect on 10 November, the US dollar against Kyat fell to K17,83 in the foreign exchange market.

The US dollar exchange price in Myanmar has dropped by about K160 and one dollar was priced at K1,950 before 9 November. The CBM issued that instruction to control the instability of the US dollar exchange

rate, the foreign exchange traders said.

On 11 November, Myanmar kyat value was K1,784 per US dollar. Many people want to buy the US dollar at the exchange counters and the counters are closed, they added. If they fail to follow the instruction, action will be taken against them under the Foreign Exchange Management Law and rule. The dollar exchange rate against Myanmar Kyat stood at around K1,330 per dollar at the end-January. Then, the dollar's value reached the highest of over K3,000 per dollar in history last September-end.

CBM is selling the US dollar at an auction rate intending to keep the exchange rate stable. The bank reportedly sold \$30 million in November in the auction market. The CBM reportedly sold



The US dollar against Myanmar Kyat has fallen because the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) issued the instruction on 9 November that the foreign exchange transitions must be carried out within ± 0.5 per cent of the reference rate established by the CBM.

\$110 million in October, \$63 million in September and \$28 million in August. The bank also sold \$39 million in July, \$12 million in June, \$24 million in May, \$12 million in April and \$6.8 million in February at an auction rate.

In the ten months of 2021,

3,200 in September and K1,850-1,990 in October.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In the last six months in 2019, the rates were fixed at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit a record high of K1,650 in the local exchange market. — NN/GNLM

300,000 fingerlings added into Ayeyawady River in Minbu Township



THE Pwintbyu Township Fisheries Department added 300,000 newborn fish into the Ayeyawady River in Minbu Township of Minbu District under the supervision of the Magway Region Fisheries Department yesterday.

The Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation freed 300,000 Labeo rohita with two inches in size into the Ayeyawady River in Minbu Township for the sus-

tainable development of the fish resources.

District/Township Administration Chairmen, Magway Region Fisheries Department Head Daw May Thanda Wint, District Fisheries Department in charge U Thein Ko Ko Tun, Pwintbyu Township Fisheries Department in charge U Soe Hlaing and other officials joined the ceremony to free the fish species. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/GNLM

Terrorists disrupt COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities

TERRORISTS are disrupting the activities for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 across the country with bomb explosions and armed attacks.

Yesterday morning, a homemade mine planted by terrorists blasted near the Din Gar Chaung COVID-19 checkpoint in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region.

Similarly, staff housing in the Mindat District Public Hospital, where COVID-19 patients are being monitored and provided treatment, was attacked with arms by CDF terrorists on the morning of 11 November. Following the report of the incident, security forces rescued 63 COVID-19 patients from the building after they were hit by bullet holes in the windows

and walls of the building. The patients are now being treated at a private ward inside the Myoma Church compound in Mindat, it is reported.

It is also reported that security forces are conducting a search operation to arrest and take action against the perpetrators of the above incidents. — MNA



The place of incidence.

Monk shot dead in Wundwin Township

PRESIDING Sayadaw Bhaddanta Somana of Mingalamhan Monastery in Thetawlay Village of Wundwin Township in Mandalay Region was shot to death on 11 November.

According to the report, two terrorists riding a motorcycle entered the monastery precinct when the Sayadaw was having a 'Soon' (alms-meal) and they shot the

Sayadaw who died on the spot with the gunshot wound at his head.

The security members inspected the incident place and found one 9mm Luger

bullet and then they took the body of the Sayadaw to Wundwin Township Public Hospital.

The terrorists brutally kill innocent people, includ-

ing children and monks, for different reasons. Therefore, the security forces investigate to arrest the suspects by cooperating with the public. — MNA

Japan's new stimulus to include wage hikes for care workers, nurses

JAPAN'S new stimulus package with fiscal spending expected to exceed 30 trillion yen (\$263 billion) will include wage hikes for care workers, nursery school staff and nurses, government sources said Thursday.

The monthly salaries of such workers, whose pay is regulated and said to be insufficient compared with other industries, will be raised by 3 per cent, or 9,000 yen, in February, according to the sources.

The package aimed at easing the pain from the coronavirus pandemic will be finalized by the government on Nov. 19 following Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's pledge during campaigning for last month's general election to achieve economic growth and narrow wealth disparities.

The government is seeking to pass a supplementary budget during an extraordinary parliamentary session to be convened by year-end to fund the package, which will also include a subsidy program for domestic tourism and financial support for struggling households and students.



Japan's new stimulus package with fiscal spending expected to exceed 30 trillion yen (\$263 billion) will include wage hikes for care workers, nursery school staff and nurses. Children draw pictures at the Iwaya Nursery School in Kyoto. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Some measures will also be financed by a budget for the next fiscal year starting April.

In Japan, the average monthly income, including bonuses, was 352,000 yen in 2020. But care workers and children's nurses earned 293,000 yen and 303,000 yen, respectively, on average per month.

The government's regulation of hospital and care facility charges makes wage increases difficult,

even if there is a labor shortage.

However, as the average income of nurses is higher than that of all other sectors, the pay rise will be limited to those working at key medical facilities tasked with emergency care.

To support child-rearing, the government will widen the scope of households that are eligible to receive rent subsidies if they live in designated houses and apartments.—Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Zealand food prices fall for 1st time since February

FOOD prices in New Zealand fell 0.9 per cent in October 2021 compared with September 2021, mainly influenced by lower prices for fruit and vegetables, non-alcoholic beverages, and meat, poultry, and fish, the country's statistics department Stats NZ said on Thursday.

October's movement was the first monthly fall since February 2021, when prices also fell 0.9 per cent, Stats NZ said.

Fruit and vegetable prices fell 5.9 per cent in October, with lower prices for tomatoes, iceberg lettuce, capsicums and cucumbers. These falls were partly offset by rising prices for kiwifruit, broccoli and carrots, it said.

Although the weighted average price of tomatoes was down from the price in September, tomato prices are still 47 per cent higher than they were in October 2020, consumer prices manager Katrina Dewberry said.

Lettuce, capsicum, and cucumber prices were also all higher than they were in October last year, Dewberry said.—AFP ■

Black homebuyers underrepresented in US real estate boom

THE Covid-19 pandemic has changed the nature of homebuying in the United States, but one constant is that Black Americans do not have the same access to a home of their own.

Black purchasers made up just six percent of the total homebuyers this year -- a figure that has changed little over the past two decades, a National Association of Realtors (NAR) report released Thursday said.

Pandemic dynamics have allowed many Americans to get caught up on student loans and build savings, since spending opportunities like travel and eating in restaurants were off limits.—AFP ■

Afghanistan 'at brink of economic collapse', warns Pakistan



Customers choose dried lentils sold by a vendor at a roadside stall. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AFGHANISTAN is "at the brink of economic collapse" and the international community must urgently resume funding and provide humanitarian assistance, Pakistan's foreign minister warned Thursday at a meeting with US, Chinese, Russian and Taliban diplomats in Islamabad.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi spoke at the opening of the so-

called "troika plus" meeting, which included Thomas West, the new US special envoy for Afghanistan. The delegates are also expected to meet later Thursday with Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

"Today, Afghanistan stands at the brink of an economic collapse," Qureshi said in remarks opening the meeting, adding that any further downward slide

would "severely limit" the new Taliban government's ability to run the country.

"It is, therefore, imperative for the international community to buttress provision of humanitarian assistance on an urgent basis," he said.

That included enabling Afghanistan to access funds frozen by Western donors since the Taliban took control of the country in August, he said.

Resuming the flow of funding "will dovetail into our efforts to regenerate economic activities and move the Afghan economy towards stability and sustainability", Qureshi said.

Doing so would benefit Western countries also, he argued in later comments to state media. "If you think that you are far, Europe is safe and those areas you imagine will not be affected by terrorism, don't forget the history," he said. "We have learned from the history and we don't want to repeat those mistakes made in the past."—AFP ■

Brazil expects record 2022 grain harvest: forecast

BRAZIL'S grain production should reach a record 270.7 million tons in 2022, some 7.8 per cent more than this year, according to an official forecast Thursday by the IBGE statistics institute.

The projection for next year was 19.5 million tonnes higher than this year's harvest, which was slightly down from 2020 levels.

The projected rise was mainly due to better expectations for the maize harvest, recovering after being hard hit by drought.

The IBGE forecasted growth of 11.1 per cent in maize production for the first harvest of 2022 to 2.8 million tons, and of 26.8 per cent for the second harvest of some 16.3 million tonnes.

Brazil is the world's number three maize producer, and number one for soybeans.

The IBGE forecast an increase of 0.8 per cent or 11 million tonnes for soybean production in 2022. Projections for wheat and rice are down.—AFP ■



Brazil is the world's largest soybean producer, and number three for maize. Combine harvesters crop soybeans during a demonstration for the press, in Campo Novo do Parecis, in Mato Grosso, Brazil, on 27 March 2012. **PHOTO: YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP/FILE**

Climate and Covid recovery loom large over Dubai air show

THE embattled aviation industry will flock to a major air show in Dubai on Sunday as it emerges from pandemic travel restrictions and faces pressure to reduce its impact on climate change.

The five-day event in the United Arab Emirates will be the industry's first large gathering since Covid-19 clipped the sector's wings last year, when border closures left airports deserted and hundreds of aircraft idle.

Air traffic has bounced back since then, though it was still 53 per cent lower in September than its pre-pandemic levels. Air shows usually serve as a platform for companies to announce orders of aircraft, but expectations are



Official unveiling of the world's first electric race plane at Dubai Airshow 2019. The E-Racer model on display at the Dubai Airshow is nicknamed 'White Lightning'. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP/ FILE

-muted in Dubai. "I won't be surprised to see some announcements," said International Air Transport Association Director-General Willie Walsh. "There are always some surprises at these airshows but I don't expect anything out of the ordinary to be announced," he said. Airlines are still deep in the red, with losses expected to extend by another \$51.8 billion (45.2 billion euros) this year, according to IATA. International travel has picked up gingerly as some countries have been slower at reopening their borders than others.—AFP ■

Toshiba to split into 3 firms as shareholder pressure mounts



In this 20 July 2015, file photo, shoppers watch air conditioners displayed at an electronics store in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

TOSHIBA Corp. said Friday it will split into three listed firms that would focus on infrastructure, devices and semiconductors, in a major overhaul of the embattled Japanese conglomerate facing intense pressure from foreign activist shareholders.

The envisaged split-up of the behemoth, with a history spanning over a century, would streamline business operations and appease shareholders disgruntled by lackluster efforts to boost growth and corporate value. Toshiba aims to complete the listing of the firms in the latter half of fiscal 2023.

Under the plan, Toshiba will create two spinoff firms -- infrastructure and devices. The remaining company will hold a roughly 40 per cent stake in chipmaker Kioxia Holdings Corp.—Kyodo ■

Tanzania's "Coffee City" looks forward to expanding Chinese market

ON a coffee plantation at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Cleopatra Mambo was checking the growth of coffee trees in the scorching sun. The rainy season was later than usual this year, so she decided to increase irrigation to ensure the coffee crop.

"It takes two to three years for beans to go from planting to harvest, and any failure at any point in the process can affect the final yield," Mambo told Xinhua.

Mambo, 38, is the plantation's administrator and has worked there for 10 years. Since her parents worked on coffee plantations in the area, Mambo was familiar with the growing cycle and habits of coffee beans from an early age.

According to Mambo, Kilimanjaro is Tanzania's leading coffee-producing region, and its high altitude and fertile volcanic ash provide excellent conditions for growing beans, producing high-quality beans.

Moshi, a small city near Mount Kilimanjaro, is known as the "Coffee City" because of an integrated industry system for growing, processing, and selling coffee beans.

In downtown Moshi, the Fine Coffee Competition was into the final. During the competition, judges scooped up the coffee in turn and rated its aroma, acidity, sweetness, balance, and other factors.

The Moshi-based Tanzanian Coffee Board (TCB) has held the competition since last year, selecting the top 10 coffee varieties of each category and posting the scores and rankings online.—Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 29 May 2021 shows INK, a cafe in the Hongqiao Business District of Shanghai, east China. PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG XIANG

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PNT MIGHTY

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PNT MIGHTY VOY.NO. (09)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-7** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEWSUN BLUE

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEWSUN BLUE VOY.NO. (2110)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW HIGHEST SHIPPING PTE LTD

Biden, Xi expected to hold virtual summit on Monday: US media



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with US Vice-President Joe Biden (L) inside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 4 December 2013. **PHOTO: LINTAO ZHANG/AFP/FILE**

US President Joe Biden is expected to hold a hotly awaited virtual summit with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Monday, US media reported, as tensions mount over Taiwan, human rights and trade.

Both CNN and Politico, citing unnamed sources, said the meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday. Relations between the world's two largest economies have deteriorated in recent weeks, in particular over Taiwan, a self-ruling democracy claimed by China, which last month made a record number of air incursions near the island. Washington has

repeatedly signalled its support for Taiwan in the face of Chinese aggression, but the United States and China reached a surprise agreement on climate at a summit in Glasgow.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said this week that the two presidents, who have not met in person since Biden took office in January, will hold virtual talks "soon". Biden and Xi have talked by phone twice since the veteran Democrat moved into the White House. The pair also met extensively when Biden was serving as vice-president to Barack Obama, and Xi was vice-president to Hu

Jintao.

Biden had hoped to meet Xi at a recent Group of 20 summit in Rome, but the Chinese leader has not travelled since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and instead agreed to virtual talks by the end of the year. The US president has largely kept the tougher approach on Beijing of his predecessor Donald Trump, with both administrations considering a rising China to be the top challenge of the 21st century.

"Attempts to draw ideological lines or form small circles on geopolitical grounds are bound to fail," he said.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

India sends thousands more troops to restive Kashmir

INDIA has sent thousands more paramilitary troops into its section of Kashmir, already one of the world's most militarized zones, after a string of targeted killings by suspected rebels in recent weeks, officials said on November 10.

New Delhi has for decades stationed at least 500,000 soldiers in the divided Himalayan territory, which is also claimed and partially controlled by arch-rival Pakistan.

"Around 2,500 troops have arrived and they were deployed all over Kashmir valley," Abhiram Pankaj, a spokesman for the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), told AFP.—AFP ■

S.Africa's last apartheid president FW de Klerk dies

FW de Klerk, South Africa's last white president, died on Thursday aged 85, his foundation announced.

De Klerk and South Africa's first black president Nelson Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for leading the "miracle" transition from white rule in the country. He died after a battle with cancer, his foundation said in a statement. De Klerk had announced his diagnosis on his 85th birthday, on 18 March this year.

"It is with the deepest sadness that the FW de Klerk Foundation must announce that former president FW de Klerk died peacefully at his home in Fresnaye earlier this morning following his struggle against mesothelioma cancer," it said.—AFP ■

Court pauses release of Trump White House documents

A US court Thursday granted former president Donald Trump's request to temporarily halt release of White House documents that could implicate him in the 6 January attack on the Capitol.

The documents have been sought by the House Select Committee investigating the riot, and had been ordered released Tuesday by a US district judge.

The US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit said Thursday, however, that it had granted what it called an administrative injunction and scheduled arguments for 30 November.

The three-judge panel specified that the move "should not be construed in any way as a ruling on the merits" of the case.

On 6 January, hundreds of Trump rampaging supporters overran Congress and delayed a joint session to confirm that Joe Biden had won the November 2020 election and would become



Pro-Trump supporters storm the US Capitol in Washington in January. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

president.

Biden has already approved release of the records, which are held by the National Archives. The House panel was to receive its first batch on Friday.

Overall the House has requested more than 770 pages of documents including records from Trump's top aides and memos to his press secretary.

Among the records are documents from Trump's former chief of staff Mark Meadows, his former senior advisor Stephen Miller and his former deputy counsel Patrick Philbin.

Trump had also hoped to block the release of the White House Daily Diary — a record of his activities, trips, briefings and phone calls.—AFP ■

Ethiopia sets out terms of possible talks with Tigray rebels

ETHIOPIA on Thursday outlined conditions for possible talks with rebels from the country's war-hit Tigray region, following days of frantic diplomatic efforts by international envoys to head off another surge in fighting.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has been locked in a year-long war with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which has pushed south in recent months and has not ruled out a possi-

ble march on the capital Addis Ababa.

Foreign ministry spokesman Dina Mufti told reporters that one of the conditions for possible talks -- which he stressed have not been agreed to -- would be for the TPLF to withdraw from the Amhara and Afar regions bordering Tigray.

"In order for there to be a peaceful solution, they say it takes two to tango," Dina said.

"There are conditions: First, stop your attacks. Sec-

ondly, leave the areas you have entered (Amhara and Afar). Third, recognize the legitimacy of this government," he said.

"By the way, don't misunderstand, it's not being said a decision has been made to enter into negotiations," he added.

TPLF spokesman Getachew Reda told AFP at the weekend that pulling out from Amhara and Afar before talks begin is "an absolute non-starter".—AFP ■



Rebels in Ethiopia's Tigray region have taken control of the regional capital Mekele. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Thousands march in Warsaw in annual protest called by far right

THOUSANDS gathered in Warsaw Thursday for an annual independence day march called by the far right and backed by the nationalist government, with protesters defying the EU at a tense time between Poland and the bloc.

Patriotic songs blasted out of loudspeakers on the capital's large central square, which was covered with red and white smoke — the colour of the national flag — from firecrackers

and other smoke devices.

Shouting the traditional slogan "God, Honour and Country", protesters also cried out that "independence is not for sale".

Poland and the European Union have been locked in a tense fight over controversial judicial reforms in the country and other moves by Mateusz Morawiecki's populist government seen as rolling back EU democratic norms.

At stake are billions of eu-

ros in EU grants and loans that Poland has requested but that Brussels has yet to sign off on given the stalemate. Armoured vehicles and armed security forces were out en masse in the centre of the capital, with several main roads closed to traffic.

Poland regained its independence on November 11, 1918 after it was partitioned between the Russian empire, Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire for 123 years.—AFP ■



Warsaw's central square was covered with red and white smoke -- the colour of the national flag. PHOTO: AFP/NOEL CELIS

300-pro-Haftar mercenaries to quit Libya

FORCES of Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar said Thursday 300 foreign mercenaries fighting on their side would leave the country, at the request of France, which will host a conference on Libya.

The announcement, which gave no timeline for their exit, comes on the eve of an international conference in Paris aimed at ensuring Libya sticks to plans to hold elections in December, in a bid to restore stability in the North African country.

The UN estimates that 20,000 mercenaries and foreign fighters are deployed in Libya, including from the Russian private security firm Wagner, as well as from Chad, Sudan and Syria.

Haftar, who has been accused by critics of wanting to establish a military dictatorship in Libya, was backed by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia and France, while Turkey provided military aid to the internationally-backed Tripoli administration.

A "first group of 300 mercenaries and foreign fighters" are to be repatriated "at the request of France", representatives of Haftar's east-based forces said in a statement.

It said the decision was taken by the military command of Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army, and the withdrawal of foreign fighters would be coordinated with the UN mission in Libya and the home countries

of the fighters. The nationality of the fighters was not specified.

The statement, a copy of which was received by AFP, was released by pro-Haftar delegates to the so-called 5+5 military commission made up of rival camps in Libya's conflict.

The commission is tasked with implementing a ceasefire brokered by the UN in October last year between the rival eastern and western camps.—AFP ■



Members of the pro-Haftar eastern Libyan National Army gather in the city of Benghazi in June 2020; the UN estimates that 20,000 mercenaries and foreign fighters are deployed in Libya. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Western countries slam Belarus over 'destabilizing' migrant crisis



Pressure is building to address the plight of hundreds of migrants, mainly Kurds from the Middle East, who are stuck at the Belarus-Poland border in freezing weather. PHOTO: BELTA/AFP

EUROPEAN countries and the US condemned Belarus Thursday over a crisis that has seen hundreds of migrants trapped on its border with Poland, after an emergency meeting at the UN Security Council on the tense standoff between Minsk and the EU.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has urged the EU to start talks with diplomatically isolated Belarus over the roughly 2,000 migrants, mainly Kurds from the Middle East, who are living in a tent camp on the border between Belarus and Poland in near-freezing temperatures.

Poland is refusing to allow the migrants to cross, accusing Minsk of luring them to Belarus to send across the border in revenge for sanctions.

After an emergency meeting at the UN Security Council on the crisis the US and European delegations condemned "the orchestrated instrumentalization of human beings whose lives and wellbeing have been put in danger for political purposes by Belarus."

Minsk is aiming at "destabilizing neighbouring countries and the European Union's external border and diverting attention away from its own increasing human rights violations," they said in a joint statement. The statement made no mention of Belarus ally Russia, which before the meeting rejected western allegations that it was working in conjunction with Minsk to send the migrants over the EU's eastern border into Poland.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentina votes in bellwether legislative election

ARGENTINIANS choose new lawmakers Sunday in a vote that could determine President Alberto Fernandez's ability to govern effectively for the remaining two years of his term, marked so far by economic hardship worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

The mandatory vote for nearly half the Chamber of Deputies and a third of the Senate follow on September primaries in which Fernandez's centre-left Frente de Todos (Front of All) ruling coalition suffered a battering.

In shock results, Frente garnered only about a third of votes cast compared to nearly 40 per cent for the centre-right opposition group, Juntos por el Cambio (Together for Change), led by former president Mauricio Macri.

The September vote to pick candidates for Sunday's elections revealed deep-seated disillusionment with the government of Fernandez, who said afterwards that "we must have done something not right".

The outcome unleashed a political crisis pitting Fernandez against his deputy president and coalition partner Cristina Kirchner, who pressured her boss into a cabinet reshuffle in the hopes it would help appease an increasingly-frustrated electorate.

Frente de Todos has 120 of 257 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, which is the lower house of Congress, with 124 up for grabs on Sunday.—AFP ■

Popov to manage team Myanmar in Viet Nam SEA Games

THE Myanmar U-22 team, which will compete in the XXXI Viet Nam SEA Games to be held in May next year, will be coached by Bulgarian Popov, Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) said.

The Myanmar Football Federation signed a one-year contract extension last October to keep Popov in charge until the Viet Nam SEA Games.

Popov was appointed head coach of the Myanmar U-22 and U-23 teams in early 2019 and has been reappointed twice.

The MFF has appointed

Popov on a two-year contract, which was extended by one year at the end of 2020, and postponed until 2022 when the Viet Nam SEA Games could not be held until the end of 2021.

Popov has been in charge of the Myanmar junior football teams for about three years but has only handled four international tournaments due to the epidemic.

The team Myanmar, headed by Popov, won a bronze medal at the 2019 SEA Games but was knocked out of the group stage at

the 2019 ASEAN U-22 Championship and failed to qualify for the 2020 AFC U-23 Championship.

The Myanmar team was not qualified for the 2022 Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers, held from 27 October to 2 November this year.

The Myanmar U-22 team is expected to start preparing for the Vietnam SEA Games later this year or early next year, and player selection will be based on the team that competed in the AFC U-23 Championship, Myanmar Football Federation official said. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Brazil qualify for Qatar 2022 World Cup with Colombia win



Lucas Paqueta scored the only goal of the game against Colombia to send Brazil to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. **PHOTO: AFP**

LUCAS Paqueta's instinctive strike gave Brazil a 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Colombia on Thursday to book their place at Qatar 2022. The five-time world champions join the hosts and Europeans Germany and Denmark as early qualifiers for next year's finals. The have produced a near

perfect qualifying campaign, winning 11 of 12 matches – their only blemish a goalless draw in Colombia last month – to qualify with six games to spare.

"This is the fruit of the work we've been building for some time," said the match-winner. "Now I have to keep working

hard to find my space" in the World Cup squad, he added.

Brazil were made to graft as Colombia had the better of the first half, but an attacking tactical switch from coach Tite at half-time paid dividends as the Selecao dominated after the break. Colombia's defeat saw them drop out of the four automatic qualifying positions in the single South American group as Chile overtook them after a third successive win, 1-0 away to Paraguay. Wilmar Barrios had the first chance of the match, lashing a half volley narrowly over the bar as Colombia made a bright start.

A typically muscular run into the box by Duvan Zapata saw him get off a shot that flashed past the post. Colombia were proving tough opponents and creating the clearer chances. William Tesillo should have done much better at the back post when picked out by Juan Cuadrado's deep cross but headed into a crowd of players. — AFP ■

Hard-hitting Golovkin returns with unification bout in Japan

GENNADY Golovkin will return to the boxing ring for the first time in a year when the hard-hitting Kazakh star takes on Ryota Murata in Japan next month, broadcaster DAZN said Friday.

IBF middleweight champion Golovkin faces Japanese WBA super-titlist Murata on 29 December in a unification bout in Saitama, north of Tokyo.

The 39-year-old Golovkin, also known as "GGG", last fought in December last year when he stopped Kamil Szeremeta in the seventh round after knocking the Polish challenger down four times.

"I am really excited to be bringing the 'Big Drama Show' to Japan, a country where boxing is very popular," Golovkin, a famously ferocious

puncher with a 41-1-1 record, said in a statement.

"Ryota Murata has been an outstanding champion. It is going to be a special night when we fight in the ring to unify our titles."

Murata (16-2), a gold medallist at the 2012 London Olympics, will be returning to action for the first time in two years. The 35-year-old beat Canada's Steven Butler in December 2019 to defend his WBA regular title. But he then moved up to super champion when Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez vacated the belt to move up to super-middleweight.

"I feel that my entire amateur and professional boxing career has been a preparation for this fight against Gennady Golovkin," Murata said.—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.

Badosa steamrolls Sabalenka in WTA Finals opener

SPAIN'S Paula Badosa roared past Belarus's top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 6-0 on Thursday in round-robin action at the season-ending WTA Finals.

Badosa, who has climbed into the top 10 after starting the season ranked 70th in the world, looked every inch the player who lifted the trophy at Indian Wells last month — when world number two Sabalenka was sidelined with Covid-19.

Although she had played only two matches since the US Open, Sabalenka grabbed an early 4-2 lead. But she couldn't maintain the momentum in the challenging high-altitude conditions, and Badosa won 10 games in a row to claim the upset.

"I think I played pretty good," Badosa said. "The conditions are tough here to play, but I think I played an amazing match. She's an amazing player. I knew I had to play like this. I'm really happy with my match."

The Spaniard next faces Greece's Maria Sakkari, who



Spain's Paula Badosa celebrates her victory over Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the WTA Finals in Guadalajara, Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

beat former French Open champion Iga Swiatek 6-2, 6-4, while Sabalenka will face Swiatek as round-robin play continues. The eight singles players in the elite season-ending event are split into two groups of four for round-robin play, with the top two finishers in each group advancing to the semi-finals.

The tournament was moved to Guadalajara from its usual home in Shenzhen, China, due to the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■