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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 Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla join 1,000-oil light offering ceremony at Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend the 1,000-oil light offering ceremony at Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 November 2021.

THE month of Tazaungmon is the eighth month in the Myanmar calendar. The fullmoon of Tazaungmon was a significant day when the Lord Buddha delivered a sermon on the advantage of ordination called Samaññaphala Sutta to the congregation led by King Ajatasatta.

On the fullmoon of

Tazaungmon, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, members and families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) joined the 1,000-

oil light offering ceremony at Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in line with the health guidelines of COVID-19.

First, the congregation led by the Senior General and wife opened the 1,000-oil light offering ceremony with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

The Senior General and wife and attendees offered flowers, water and oil lights at Shwephonepwint Pagoda and illuminated 1,000 oil lights at the platform of the pagoda.

The Senior General, his wife and attendees recited Buddha Sasana Ciram Titthatu three times to conclude the ceremony.

The lighting festival was held in the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) decorated with the colourful lights following the COVID-19 restrictions.

Families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) leisurely and happily visited the lighting festival.—MNA

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla join 1,000-oil light offering ceremony at Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township

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The Senior General and wife illuminate the oil light at the event.



The Senior General and wife conclude the event.



The Vice-Senior General illuminates the oil light at the event.



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.

Famous pagodas in Yangon alive with pilgrims on fullmoon of Tazaungmon



A Golden Lotus Robe is offered at the Buddha Image on the upper terrace of Shwedagon Pagoda.



Devotees and worshippers are seen at Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO : LATT LATT (MNA)

FAMOUS pagodas in Yangon including the great Shwedagon Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda and Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, were alive with devotees on the fullmoon of Tazaungmon.

The fullmoon ceremony (Samaññaphala Day) organized by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees was held in the terrace of the pagoda yesterday morning. Members of the pagoda board of trustees offered golden lotus robes to the Buddha images located at the pavilions of the Shwedagon Pa-



At Tooth Relic Pagoda.



At Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda.



At Mei Lamu Pagoda.



At Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.

goda, and religious associations and staff offered alms, lighting, flowers, water, and fruits to the Buddha images. In the evening, members of the pagoda board of trustees and staff lit oil lamps around the stupa.

Members of the Botahtaung Pagoda also organized the reciting ceremony of Samaññaphala Sutta yesterday morning and offered offertories to the Buddha and shared good deeds. At the ceremony, the audience paid

homage to the Buddha Image, took Five Precepts, recited the background information of the Samaññaphala Day, the fullmoon of Tazaungmon, and shared good deeds.

At the ceremony held at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda yesterday morning, members of the pagoda board of trustees and religious associations, and staff took Nine Precepts from Vice-Chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga

Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Dhammabhandagarika Bhaddanta Aggadhamma. Afterwards, members of the pagoda trustees offered offertories to Sayadaws and senior monks who were present at the ceremony, and donors offered robes to the Buddha Images in the pagoda.

The 26th Buddha Pujaniya Buddha Abhiseka Consecration Ceremony of the Tooth Relic Pagoda was held yesterday morn-

ing in the pagoda compound. Vice-Chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja and Ovadacariya Sayadaw consecrated the Tooth Relic Pagoda.

Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered golden lotus robes to nine Buddha images in the compound of the Tooth Relic Pagoda. In the evening, oil lights were offered to surround the square of the

pagoda.

The fullmoon of Tazaungmon was also celebrated day and night at Mei Lamu Pagoda, Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, Aparazita Santawshin Kyaikwyne Pagoda and other pagodas across the city yesterday. Devotees paid homage to elderlies, teachers and parents, did good deeds on the streets in each township and lit various kinds of lamps.—Ko Ko Zaw/ Kyaw Kyaw/ GNLM

Nay Pyi Taw pagodas alive with visitors on fullmoon of Tazaungmon



Devotees and worshippers are seen at the Uppatasanti Pagoda.

PHOTOS : KO KO AYE

TAZAUNGMON is the eighth month of the Myanmar calendar and the Buddha delivered Samaññaphala Sutta to King Ajatasatta and his royal congregation on the fullmoon of Tazaungmon.

On that day, the Buddhists keep the Sabbath, recite Pathana and Paritta and donate Kathina robes to the monasteries.

Nay Pyi Taw Bodhgaya Pagoda, Maha Thakya Yanthi Standing Buddha Image, Yanaungmyin Shwelathla Pagoda, Yanaung Chantha Pagoda, Datusaya Datpaungsu Pagoda, Eternal Peace Pagoda, Hlaykwin Taung Pagoda, Koenawin Pagoda, Sutaungpyae Lawka Marazein Pagoda, Thantaya Nyeinaye Pagoda, Phaya Koesu, Koekhangyi Pagoda, Lawka Yanhnein Pagoda, Phaungtaw Chatma Pagoda, Latlote Taung Pagoda and other pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw area were crowded with members of the religious organizations, residents, government employees and other visitors from different regions yesterday.

The 13th Tazaungdine Golden Lotus Robe donation ceremony was also organized at Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing, Nay Pyi Taw Command

er Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun, Deputy Minister for Construction U Min Htein and officials among others. During the ceremony, officials donated the golden lotus robe to the Buddha image and other offertories.

Then, they took Nine Precepts and listened to the sermons delivered by Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees Presiding Nayaka of Paukmyaing Monastery in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda.

Afterwards, officials donated offertories to the monks and shared good deeds.



Golden Lotus Robe Donation Ceremony.



Devotees and worshippers are seen at the Uppatasanti Pagoda.



9000-oil light ceremony.

Moreover, Yadana White Elephant Camp, religious supply stores and souvenir shops in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda also hosted a crowd of visitors.

Similarly, the townships, wards and roads were also filled with vehicles and motorcycles, while the locals were conducting the Kathina festival and Nirvana markets festival. Moreover, the Ocean Super Centre, Junction Centre and Nay Pyi Taw Wholesale Centre were also crowded with people.

In the evening, people offered 9,000 oil lights to Uppatasanti Pagoda and the people donated Cassia flower bud salad.

The health officials and Myanmar Red Cross Society members distributed masks to the pilgrims on the fullmoon of Tazaungmon and the security force conducted patrol for the security of the public.—Hein Jaing/ GNLM

Cementing the Union Spirit

EVERYBODY needs to notice a saying that “If one does not know the past, one may commit mistakes again. Likewise if one is too eager to embrace the past, one may lose the road to the future”. The government has decided to further promote the process of cementing the Union Spirit and peace process before the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Independence Day.

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

People in Mandalay celebrates fullmoon of Tazaungmon event

PEOPLE in Mandalay yesterday celebrated the fullmoon of the Tazaungmon event (Samaññaphala Day).

Venerable Yaytaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ukkatha presided over the ceremony by donating water, foods and flowers to the Mahamuni Buddha Image, one of the most famous pagodas in Mandalay yesterday.

Buddhist monks and people paid homage to the pagoda and offered water, flowers, oil lights to the famous pagoda followed by reciting sermons and meditating.

At 5 am, the 32nd Mathoe Robe Weaving Ceremony was presided over by the Mahamuni Board of Trustees keeping in line with the COVID-19 preven-



Mathoe Robe Offering Ceremony is held at Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay.

Chief Minister, the Commander of Central Command, Cabinet Ministers and members gave certificates of honour and cash awards to the weaving teams from Yekyi, Ohntaw, Pauk and Inlay.

Pilgrims visited Mandalay Hill Sutaungpyae Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Sandamuni Pagoda, Maha Lawka Yanhein Aungtaumu Sutaungpyae Pagoda, Shwekyimyint Pagoda, Phayani Pagoda, Sutaungya Pagoda, Sutaungpyae Pagoda, Chanthaya Pagoda, Tooth Relic Pagoda and Nannmyo Sutaungpyae Pagoda in Mandalay yesterday.

People donated water, flowers, gold foils, fruits and oil lights to the famous pagodas and recited the religious



Devotees and worshippers visit Jade Pagoda in Mandalay Region.



Mathoe Robe Offering Ceremony is held at Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay.

tive measures. During the ceremony, sewing teams and experts handed over Mathoe robes for the pagoda to the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, the Commander

of Central Command, Cabinet Ministers and members. With the supervision of Venerable Yaytaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ukkatha, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, the Com-

mander of Central Command, Cabinet Ministers and members donated robes to the pagoda. Wives of the region's chief minister and officials donated robes to the pagoda.

Similarly, the weaving team, reciting team, volunteering team and Pagoda Board of Trustees also donated robes to the pagoda. Next, the Mandalay Region

sermons and performed meditation. Well-wishers donated Myanmar traditional snacks to the pilgrims and reciting teams at the pagodas. —Tin Maung (Mandalay)/GNLM

MoI deputy minister meets staff of Bago District Information and Public Relations Department



DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected broadcasting programmes at the retransmission station of the Myanmar Radio and Television in Bago, Bago Region on 17 November.

After that, the deputy minister inspected the library and children's reading room at the Bago District Information and Public Relations Department and met the deputy director, district and township heads, manager and staff from the retransmission station.

During the meeting with the staff, the deputy minister urged the personnel to cooperate with local people in the development of their respective areas.

The deputy minister focused on the collaboration with young people in conducting storytelling, debates and awareness campaign activities for the COVID-19. — MNA

The MoI deputy minister inspects the MRTV retransmission station in Bago, Bago Region.

Total border trade value exceeds \$545 mln in mini-budget year

MYANMAR'S trade with foreign countries through land borders reached over US\$ 545.86 million as of 5 November in the mini-budget year of 2021-22 or a transition period from October to March this year, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

The total border trade value as of 5 November includes \$375.5 million in export and \$170.4 million in imports. Compared with the same period of last year, the export earnings dropped by \$487.11 million while the import value fell by \$45 million.

Myawady topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$242.51 million, followed by Hteekhee with US\$141.77 million.

From 1 October to 5 November 2021, the country's foreign trade totalled over \$2.5 billion, while its sea trade is valued at over \$2 billion, according to the ministry. The country conducts border trade with neighbouring China through Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei crossings, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaung and with India through Tamu and Reed border posts, respectively.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported to the country. — GNLM



Myawady Trade Zone.

Myanmar ships over 2.3 mln tonnes of corn to external markets in FY2020-2021



Of 2.3 million tonnes, the majority of them were delivered to Thailand, whereas the remaining corns were conveyed to China, India and Viet Nam.

MYANMAR has exported approximately 2.3 million tonnes of corn to the foreign trade partners in the financial year 2020-2021, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Of 2.3 million tonnes, the majority of them were delivered to Thailand, whereas the remaining corns were conveyed to China, India and Viet Nam.

This year, the corn fetched a good price of US\$260-270 per tonne. It was priced only \$200-230 per tonne during the year-ago period. Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand has granted tax exemption on corn imports between February and August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand. During last FY 2019-2020 ended 30 September, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the external market, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of corn among regional countries. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn. — NN/GNLM

Over 8,000 pilgrims flock to ancient Bagan pagodas on Tazaungmon fullmoon

PILGRIMS from all over the country came in flocks to celebrate the Tazaungdine holidays in the Bagan-NyaungU Archeological Zone on Fullmoon of Tazaungmon yesterday, according to U Htin Lin, member of the Lawkananda Tooth Relic Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Shwezigon Pagoda is one of the major pagodas where pilgrims usually pay visits in Bagan. The pagoda has extended visiting hours from 5 am to 8 pm during the holiday period although it is open from 6 am to 6 pm on regular days.

The Bagan-NyaungU Archaeological Site is attracting a large number of pilgrims from all over Myanmar, Lawkananda Tooth Relic Pagoda Board of Trustees added.

Visitors thronged Tuyintaung Tooth Relic Pagoda, Lawkananda Tooth Relic Pagoda, Shwezigon Pagoda, Kyaukgu



Devotees and worshippers are seen at Shwezigon Pagoda.

Oomin Pagoda, Hnget Pyittaung Pagoda, Bu Pagoda, Ananda Temple, Thabbyinnyu Pagoda, Kadot Palin Pagoda, Manuha

Pagoda, Shwesandaw Pagoda, Alotawpyae Pagoda, Dhammayangyi Pagoda, Culamuni Pagoda, Dhamma Yazaka Pagoda,

Pyatthatgyi Pagoda, Mahabhwadi Pagoda, Hteelominlo Pagoda, and Myazedi Pagoda in Bagan yesterday.

Similarly, pilgrims visited Nagayon Pagoda, Soemingyi Pagoda, Apal Yadana Pagoda, Nga Kywe Nadaung Pagoda, Pahtoe Thamyar Pagoda, Kheminga Pagoda, Yinmana Pagoda, Thajapone Pagoda, Thajahit Pagoda, Tarmani Ordination, Minn Nanthu Pagoda, Tayote Pyay Pagoda, Thanbula Pagoda, Thitsar Wady Pagoda, Anumyu Katkyaw Pagoda, Amyataw Pyay Pagoda, Ingyin Gu Pagoda, Buu Lethee Pagoda, Ywar Haunggyi Pagoda, Wutta Nahtaw Pagoda, Sulegone Pagoda, Ashin Izzagona Pagoda and Guni Pagoda respectively.

In addition to the pilgrimage, they have become more interested in ancient mural paintings and artistic decorations of the pagodas. More than 8,000 pilgrims reportedly visited the Bagan-NyaungU Archaeological Site on the Tazaungdine holidays. — Ko Htein(KPD)/GNLM

Visitors enliven Palin Kanthaya elephant camp, feeding elephants on Tazaungmon fullmoon



ON the fullmoon of Tazaungmon, Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp was alive with visitors from various parts of the country who provided feed to the elephants in the elephant camp, according to U Myo Min Ko, assistant manager of the elephant camp.

The Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp, located near the west Palin village beside the Myingyan-Pakkoku road in NyaungU Township, was opened by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation. It aims to include people in the elephant conservation activities, develop an income-generating green business for State by opening elephant camps and provide the

public with a closer look at the elephants as well as for recreation purposes.

Yesterday morning, visitors provided watermelons, cucumbers, sugarcanes, coconuts, corns, pumpkins and bananas to the elephants as a donation on the occasion of the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon. In addition, visitors made a tour to the Elephant Museum and enjoyed taking photos with elephants.

There are a total of seven elephants in the Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp. Elephant lovers are encouraged to buy a buffet for the food for elephants, which costs between K30,000 and K50,000. For those who want to donate one meal a day, they can donate up to K100,000. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/ GNLM

Kyaikminwa beach crowded with visitors in Lamine Town

THE Kyaikminwa mid-water pagoda festival was actively organized on the fullmoon of Tazaungmon in Kawdut Village of Lamine Town in Mawlamyine District.

The locals offer candlelights on the day before and on the full

moon of Tazaungmon, let adrift Soon (alms) to Shin Upagutta and offer Saduditha in respective wards/villages.

The beach was also crowded with visitors beginning from the noon of the fullmoon of Tazaungmon.

The visitors to Lamine Town have to follow the COVID-19 health rules of the Ministry of Health, and the beach areas, snack shops, fashion stores and souvenir shops attracted crowds of visitors. — Phyu Aye (IPRD)/ GNLM

Holidaymakers throng on Angu Beach in Rakhine state during Tazaungdine holidays

ANGU Beach in Myebon Township, Rakhine State, welcomed visitors during the Tazaungdine holidays, and the beach was crowded on the fullmoon of Tazaungmon yesterday.

“We come from Minbya town. We visited the beach during the Thadingyut holi-

days too. It is enjoyment and the scene is amazing. I’d like to say to make sure to visit this beach,” said Ma Htet Htet Naing, who came to the beach to spend time during the Tazaungdine holidays.

More and more visitors from various parts of the coun-

try come to this beach after they have heard of the beauty of the beach from other people or through social media, and travellers and local people came to relax on this beach in the holiday period, according to a local travel agent. — Win Min Soe/GNLM



Visitors are seen at Angu Beach in Myebon Township, Rakhine State. PHOTO : TIN WIN (IPRD)

Follow disciplines to control the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic

Relevant organizations are emphasizing the prevention, control and treatment activities of COVID-19. Thanks to the State Administration Council, the infection rate of the pandemic plummeted down less than three per cent at the end of October 2021.

Although the infection rate is not yet to reach three per cent in early November, such a rate stays between three and four per cents. Actually, if 15 townships facing the outbreak of COVID-19 are set aside, the whole country sees less than three per cent of the infection rate.

That is why not only the people but also relevant officials should deeply strive for a continuous decline of the COVID-19 pandemic infection rate to less than three per cent for ensuring the smoothness of education and health measures as well as socio-economy of the people. If so, all the entire people would have the fruits of unity as rewards for their endeavours to prevent, control and treat the COVID-19 pandemic.

status. But, as the COVID-19 pandemic would not disappear in total, the people need to continuously follow the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

People should not neglect the relevant disciplines although the government eases the stay-at-home programme. So also, officials taking responsibility for controlling the COVID-19 pandemic need to supervise the process of battling the disease in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

That is why not only the people but also relevant officials should deeply strive for a continuous decline of the COVID-19 pandemic infection rate to less than three per cent for ensuring the smoothness of education and health measures as well as socio-economy of the people. If so, all the entire people would have the fruits of unity as rewards for their endeavours to prevent, control and treat the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Currently, efforts are being made to reopen basic education schools, operate regular socio-economic machinery of the people, and resume halted works and machinery essential for the State and the people as the infection rate falls as expected. Hence, basic education schools resume academic measures in addition to the plan to start reopening of higher education institutions.

A special task force led by the deputy minister for Health was formed to effectively take preventive, control and treatment measures in 15 townships where the pandemic is still breaking out. The task force takes responsibility for control of the disease in three regions. Hence, the government is fulfilling the requirement and medical accessories for control and treatment measures for reducing the infection rate.

Meanwhile, the townships included in the stay-at-home programme are being removed one after another depending on the infection rate. People from the townships are enjoying the fruits of regular socio-economic

High freight rates cast a shadow over economic recovery

UNCTAD warns that global consumer prices will rise significantly in the year ahead until shipping supply chain disruptions are unblocked and port constraints and terminal inefficiencies are tackled.

THE United Nations warned Thursday that a surge in container freight rates could mean higher prices for consumers next year unless pandemic-fuelled problems are untangled.

The UN's trade and development agency (UNCTAD) said global import price levels could increase by 11 per cent and consumer price levels by 1.5 per cent between now and 2023.

"Global consumer prices will rise significantly in the year ahead until shipping supply chain disruptions are unblocked and port constraints and terminal inefficiencies are tackled," UNCTAD said in its Review of Maritime Transport 2021 report.

Global supply chains faced unprecedented demand from the second half of 2020 onwards as consumers spent on goods rather than services during coronavirus lockdowns.

But the upswing in demand hit several practical constraints, including container ship carrying capacity, container shortages, labour shortages, congestion at ports and Covid-19 restrictions.

The mismatch led to record

container freight rates "on practically all container trade routes", according to the report.

"The current surge in freight rates will have a profound impact on trade and undermine socio-economic recovery, especially in developing countries, until maritime shipping operations return to normal," said Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD's secretary general.

"Returning to normal would entail investing in new solutions, including infrastructure, freight technology and digitalization and trade facilitation measures," she said.

UNCTAD said the pandemic had magnified pre-existing industry challenges, particularly labour shortages and infrastructure gaps.

It also exposed vulnerabilities, such as when China's Yantian Port shut in May due to a coronavirus outbreak, causing significant delays, or when the giant container ship Ever Given blocked the Suez Canal in March, snarling global trade.

Maritime trade rebound

Still, the pandemic's impact on maritime trade volumes last



The pandemic magnified pre-existing industry challenges, particularly labour shortages and infrastructure gaps. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

year was less severe than initially expected, UNCTAD said.

Maritime trade contracted by 3.8 per cent to 10.65 billion tons in 2020, and is projected to increase by 4.3 per cent in 2021.

UNCTAD said the medium-term outlook remained positive but was subject to "mounting risks and uncertainties".

The agency predicted that

annual growth will slow to 2.4 per cent between 2022 and 2026, compared to 2.9 per cent over the past two decades.

"A lasting recovery... largely hinges on being able to mitigate the headwinds and on a worldwide vaccine roll-out," said Grynspan.

"The impacts of the Covid-19 crisis will hit small island developing states (SIDS) and least

developed countries (LDCs) the hardest."

The rise in consumer prices is expected to be 7.5 per cent in SIDS and 2.2 per cent in LDCs.

Stranded seafarers

Contending with lockdowns, border closures and a lack of international flights, hundreds of thousands of seafarers have been

stranded at sea, unable to be repatriated or replaced, UNCTAD said.

The UN agency urged governments and industry to work together to end the crew change crisis in the sector, which employs more than 1.9 million people worldwide.

UNCTAD also said the vaccination rate of seafarers was around 41 per cent and called for them to be jabbed as a priority.

"This is not acceptable if we want to see the supply chains moving again," said Shamika Sirimanne, UNCTAD's director of technology and logistics.

While bottlenecks have hindered the economic recovery, the pandemic could trigger far-reaching transformations in maritime transport, UNCTAD predicted.

The crisis has activated digitalization and automation, which should, in turn, deliver efficiency and cost savings.

Meanwhile, e-commerce — accelerated by the pandemic — has changed consumer shopping habits and spending patterns, according to the report.

SOURCE: AFP

US drug overdoses top 100,000 in pandemic year



Family and friends of people who died after being poisoned by pills containing fentanyl protest near the California headquarters of Snapchat — the social media firm has vowed to crack down on drug dealing that has proliferated on the platform. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

US ANNUAL drug overdose deaths surged to more than 100,000 for the first time during the Covid-19 pandemic, a crisis driven mainly by fentanyl and exacerbated by a flood of fake online pills, officials said Wednesday.

Experts say people with substance use disorders have been hit hard by daily life disruptions, while authorities are seizing record numbers of counterfeit and sometimes deadly medicines from Mexico. "As we continue to make strides to defeat the Covid-19 pandemic, we cannot overlook this epidemic of loss, which has touched families and communities across the country," President Joe Biden said in a statement.

Between April 2020 and April 2021, the country saw 100,306 fatal overdoses, an increase of 28.5 percent compared to

the same period the previous year — equal to one death every five minutes.

Synthetic opioids

Overall, opioids accounted for 75,673 of the 100,306 fatalities, with the vast majority from synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl.

"It's time to face the fact that this crisis seems to be getting worse. We need all hands on deck," health secretary Xavier Becerra said in a call with reporters.

"We see it in the faces of grieving families and all those overworked caregivers. You hear it every time you get that panic 911 phone call.

"You read it in obituaries of sons and daughters, who left us way too soon... and since Covid-19 hit, it's gotten worse."

Deaths from psychostimulants like

methamphetamine, as well as from natural and semi-synthetic opioids, such as prescription pain medication, and cocaine were also up.

Covid-19 killed around 508,000 people in the same time frame, according to Our World in Data. "Many of the challenges left behind by the pandemic will actually make people more vulnerable to mental illness and substance use disorders," Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse said in the briefing.

At the same time, the US Drug Enforcement Administration has warned Americans about prescription pills available online that are made to look like real Oxycontin, Vicodin, Xanax or Adderall, but contain lethal doses of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

SOURCE: AFP



BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over the Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal (off North Tamilnadu -South Andhra Pradesh coasts, India) has moved to West-Northwestwards and reached over the Southwest Bay of Bengal (off North Tamilnadu, India). It is centered at about (715) Nautical miles West- Southwest of Coco-Island, (800) Nautical miles Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), (105) Nautical miles Southeast of Chennai and (95) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Puducherry(India). Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19 November, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon States and partly cloudy 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 off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

Depression News, No.2, 2021

18 November, 2021 19:00 MST Today

Depression

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over the Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal (off North Tamilnadu -South Andhra Pradesh coasts, India) has moved to West-Northwestwards and reached over the Southwest Bay of Bengal (off North Tamilnadu, India). It is centered at about (715) Nautical miles West- Southwest of Coco-Island, (800) Nautical miles Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), (105) Nautical miles Southeast of Chennai and (95) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Puducherry (India). It is not moving towards Myanmarcoasts, the present stage of the depression is coded yellow stage.

Position of depression, center pressure and wind

Depression is located at Latitude (11.7) degree North and Longitude (81.4) degree East, centre pressure of depression is (1002) hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is (35) miles per hour at (17:30) hrs MST today.

During next (18) hrs Forecast

The depression is continuous to move West-Northwestwards and forecast to cross North Tamilnadu Coast and adjoining South Andhra Pradesh Coast between Puducherry and Channai (India) during next (18) hrs.

General caution

Due to the depression, likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States during (18.11.2021) to (19.11.2021). Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

Due to the depression, people should be aware rain or thundershowers with strong wind and domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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Terrorist groups kill 198 administration officers, leaving 148 injured

THE State Administration Council has set out a plan for the stability and development of the country and the cooperation with the ethnic peoples, officials said.

Terrorists are trying to block the implementation of the future activities of the State Administration Council and to overthrow the government’s administrative machinery.

Township, village and ward administration officers have been assassinated by the terrorists, officials added.

During the period, from 1 February to 16 November 2021, about 198 administrative officials were killed and 148 were injured in the assassination attempt by terrorist groups.

List of administration officers killed by terrorist groups from 1.2.2021 to 16.11.20201										
No	State/Region	Officers		Head of Hundred Households		Community Clerk		Total		Remark
		Dead	injured	Dead	injured	Dead	Injured	Dead	Injured	
1	Nay Pyi Taw	1						1		
2	Kachin	3	1	2	1			5	2	
3	Kayah		1						1	
4	Kayin	7	1			1	1	8	2	
5	Chin	1	1					1	1	
6	Sagaing	49	19	4	1	2	2	55	22	
7	Taninthayi	6	3	2	1	1		9	4	
8	Bago	7	1	5	3			12	4	
9	Magway	11	12	4	2	2		17	14	
10	Mandalay	31	23	13	18		1	44	42	
11	Mon	8	5	4	6			12	11	
12	Rakhine	1						1		
13	Yangon	14	15	16	21		1	30	37	
14	Shan		2	1				1	2	
15	Ayeyawady	1	4	1	2			2	6	
Total		140	88	52	55	6	5	198	148	

The public is urged to work together to prevent the terrorists, and if they receive information about the terrorist movement, they should contact the nearest security forces and cooperate with them until the terrorists can no longer stand, officials stated. —MNA



100-household administrator U Tin Soe (dead) in Sintgu Township.



Ward administrator U Ye Tun (dead) in Taze Town.

Officials welcome back Myanmar returnees at different land borders



MYANMAR nationals from abroad are being welcomed back at various border crossings this month.

On 17 November, a total of 303 returnees — 163 males and 140 females — came back home through Chinshwehaw, northern Shan State.

Similarly, a total of two returnees — one male and one female — came back home through Laukkai.

Healthcare officials from relevant public hospitals and members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps conducted COVID-19 tests and provided quarantine entry documents for the returnees.

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

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

Returnees check in for reception processes.

587 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 November, total figure rises to 516,146

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 516,146 after 587 new cases were reported on 18 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 488,253 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,989 after 14 died.—MNA

World Trade Report calls for multilateral trade cooperation amid pandemic shocks

THE World Trade Organization (WTO) on Tuesday published the 2021 edition of World Trade Report, calling for more multilateral and regional trade cooperation after analyzing vulnerabilities and resilience in global trading system amid pandemic.

“While the WTO already contributes to economic resilience in important ways, it can and must do more, as we confront a future of increasing natural and man-made risks and disasters,” WTO Director-General Ngozi Okon-

jo-Iweala said in her foreword to the report titled “Economic resilience and trade”.

“Today’s highly connected global economy is more exposed to risks and vulnerable to shocks, from supply chain cut-offs to infectious disease outbreaks, but that it is also more resilient to shocks when they do strike,” she said. The report emphasized that multilateral and regional trade cooperation is conducive to the global response to future crises.

Noting that the ongoing

health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been a massive stress test for the world trading system, the report said the system has proved itself more resilient than many expected at the outset of the crisis, and many economies have gradually begun to recover.

More trade cooperation at the multilateral or regional level, backed by strong international trade rules, can support the various domestic strategies deployed to avoid and mitigate risks and to



A crane loads containers at Erenhot Port in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 11 April 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIAN ZHEN/FILE

prepare for, manage and recover from shocks, the report said.

The World Trade Report is an annual publication that aims to deepen understanding about trends in trade, trade policy issues and the multilateral trading system.—Xinhua ■

Beijing tightens Covid-19 entry rules ahead of Olympics



Beijing is taking no chances with Covid-19 ahead of the Winter Olympics opening in February. Picture shows the official renderings of the Winter Olympic Village of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, in Beijing, China. PHOTO: XINHUA

STRICT new Covid-19 restrictions come into force in Beijing on Wednesday for visitors to the Chinese capital, requiring negative tests and dramatically cutting domestic flights as the city raises the drawbridge against the coronavirus ahead of the Winter Olympics.

With less than 100 days to go to the games in February, China is bracing for a challenge to its zero-Covid strategy when thou-

sands of international athletes descend on Beijing after months of strict border controls.

All visitors to the capital must now show a negative Covid test result from the past 48 hours, while flights from higher risk areas within China will be cancelled or limited to one a day at reduced capacity.

“Beijing is the capital and has strong regional and international connections... The vi-

rus must not be introduced into Beijing and it must not spread in Beijing,” city spokesman Xu Hejian said at a press conference on Tuesday.

The new restrictions also include Covid tests every three days for the more than 30,000 people working with cold-chain imports in the city.

China has said that earlier outbreaks among Beijing market workers and dock workers in eastern China’s Qingdao were linked to cold-chain products.

Case numbers in China remain far lower than in most countries, with only eight domestic infections on Wednesday.

But authorities are taking no chances as international attention focuses on Beijing in the run-up to the winter games.

No spectators from outside China will be allowed to attend the Olympics, which will be held from February 4 to 20 in a “closed-loop” bubble. And the estimated 2,900 athletes must be fully vaccinated or face 21 days’ quarantine upon arrival. They will also be tested daily.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan to expand COVID-19 inoculation to kids under 12 from February

JAPAN’S health ministry said on Wednesday that the COVID-19 vaccination programme is likely to be expanded to children under 12 years old in February next year at the earliest.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare notified municipalities across the country to begin preparation for the vaccination programme of kids aged between 5 to 11.

Medical institutions responsible for the programme should fully explain the effectiveness and safety of vaccines to children and their parents or guardians, and obtain their consent, according to the ministry.

Those institutions also need to provide proper initial treatment on the occasion when people being inoculated develops side effects, the ministry said.—Xinhua ■

Ireland reverts to work from home as Covid-19 cases rise

IRELAND said Tuesday it was asking people to work from home again while expanding its Covid-19 vaccination booster programme and certification scheme, as case rates and hospitalizations rise nationwide.

In a televised broadcast, the prime minister Micheal Martin said it was increasingly clear the country was experiencing “another surge of Covid infection” and that he needed “to act now”.

“Our advice is now that everyone should work from home unless it is absolutely necessary that they attend in person,” he added. Martin noted Ireland’s Covid passes scheme, based on vaccination or recovery from the virus, would now legally include cinemas and theatres, while bars and pubs would now be required to close by midnight. — AFP ■

US capital to lift indoor Covid-19 mask mandate

RESIDENTS of Washington will no longer be required to wear masks indoors as of next week, except in certain places like public transport and schools, the US capital’s mayor said on Tuesday (16 Nov), as the city’s coronavirus caseload levels off.

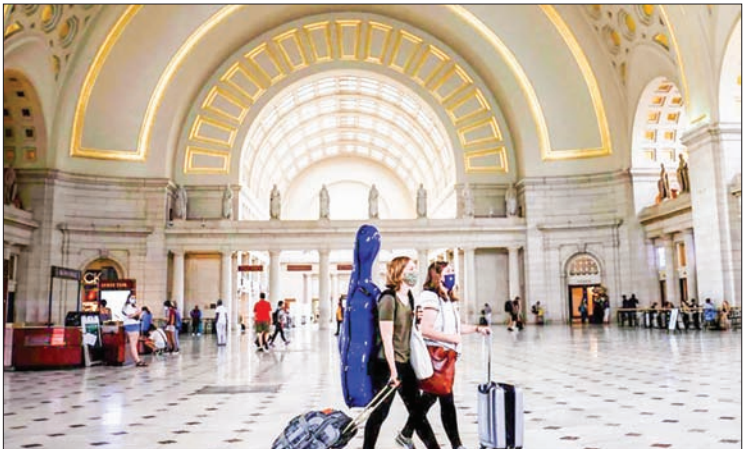
“Beginning Monday, 22 November, DC will lift the current indoor mask mandate,” Muriel

Bowser announced on Twitter.

Private businesses can continue to make their own rules, she said, adding that masks would also still be mandatory in ride-share vehicles, libraries, nursing homes, prisons and some city government offices. Washington had put the mask mandate in place in late July, for both the vaccinated and unvaccinated,

amid a surge in infections tied to the rise of the Delta variant.

The city has implemented relatively strict measures to curb the spread of Covid-19, as compared with other places in the United States. However, the new guidance appears to be at odds with the standards set by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.—AFP ■



People wear masks as they walk through Union Station in Washington, DC, in July 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Modi warns bitcoin could ‘spoil’ young Indians

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday warned that bitcoin presents a risk to younger generations, sounding a hawkish tone as his government prepares to introduce legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies.

Speaking at an online cybersecurity forum, Modi framed virtual money -- which is highly popular in India and exists beyond state and central bank control -- as a domain that needs to be closely policed.

“Take cryptocurrency or bitcoin, for example,” he told a forum hosted by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. “It is important that all democratic nations work together on this

and ensure it does not end up in the wrong hands, which can spoil our youths.”

Critics of cryptocurrencies allege that largely anonymous unregulated transfers make them a perfect tool for drug traffickers, people smugglers or money laundering.

Several countries have begun to legislate to introduce oversight over cryptocurrencies, and exchanges in many jurisdictions are now subject to the same regulations as other financial service providers.

India effectively outlawed crypto transactions in 2018, only for the country’s top court to strike down the ban two years later.



Critics of cryptocurrencies allege that largely anonymous unregulated transfers make them a perfect tool for drug traffickers, people smugglers or money laundering. **PHOTO: AFP**

That led to a boom in the sector as the country’s vast young population took heed of

an advertising blitz by Bollywood and cricket stars.

Today, more than 100 mil-

lion Indians have embraced virtual currencies, ranking the country behind only the United States, Russia and Nigeria in terms of users, according to a report last month by investment portal BrokerChooser.

There have been growing calls for India to issue another ban, but Modi’s government appears set to stop short, preferring instead strict legislation that could be passed before the end of the year.

Reserve Bank of India chief Shaktikanta Das has been sharply critical, saying last week that cryptocurrencies are a serious threat to the financial system if not properly regulated.—AFP ■

Japan to spend record 55.7 trillion yen for economic stimulus



Department store chains in Japan such as Izutsuya are closing branches, especially in regional cities, amid the pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO /FILE**

JAPAN will spend a record 55.7 trillion yen (\$488 billion) on an economic stimulus package aimed at easing the impact from the coronavirus pandemic, gov-

ernment sources said Thursday.

Including private sector funds, the package, to be approved by the Cabinet on Friday, will be worth 78.9 trillion yen, the

sources said.

The package has turned out to be larger than expected as the government of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will increase support for households and companies in an attempt to meet his goal of redistributing wealth.

The key measures in the package include handouts of 100,000 yen in cash and vouchers for children aged 18 or younger, wage hikes for nurses and care workers, and financial aid of up to 2.5 million yen each for smaller companies reeling from the pandemic.

To fund the package, the government aims to pass a supplementary budget in an extraordinary parliamentary session to be convened by the year-end. The size of the budget is expected to be 31.9 trillion yen, according to the sources.—Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden urges government regulator to examine high gas prices

PRESIDENT Joe Biden called on US regulators Wednesday to look into the causes of the nationwide spike in gasoline prices, which he said is hurting workers.

The president last week made fighting inflation a top priority after data showed consumer prices hit a 30-year high in October, fueling a slump in his public approval.

In a letter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Biden took aim at oil companies he says are raising prices at the pump even as their expenses decline and profits soar.—AFP ■

French minister says ‘optimistic’ of ending Russia champagne row

FRANCE’S Trade Minister Franck Riester on Wednesday said he was “quite optimistic” that a resolution could be found to a dispute with Russia over labelling champagne bottles.

Home of the original champagne, France jealously guards its right to use the term and has been in talks with Moscow about a law signed by President Vladimir Putin in July that bars French champagne producers from using the word on their bottles sold in Russia.

In late October, Paris obtained a two-month delay in implementing the rule, which specifically forbids the use of the Russian translation of champagne — “Shampanskoe” — on imported bottles.—AFP ■

US, Australia agree to collaborate on rare earth metals supply

US and Australian officials agreed in Singapore on Wednesday to further collaborate on the supply of rare earth materials that are critical in the production of clean energy technology such as electric vehicles.

The meeting between US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan comes

as the United States seeks to reduce its reliance on China for rare earth elements, with Australia being the world’s second-largest producer of the critical minerals after China.

Raimondo is in the region to lay the “groundwork” for negotiations on a new Indo-Pacific economic framework proposed by the United States, which left the Trans-Pacific Partnership free

trade deal in 2017 under President Joe Biden’s predecessor Donald Trump.

At a four-way meeting held separately, Raimondo, Tehan and their counterparts from Singapore and New Zealand agreed to continue strengthening efforts to enhance supply chain resilience and promote infrastructure investment in the Indo-Pacific.—Kyodo ■



Lynas Rare Earths’ rare earth element mine at Mount Weld in western Australia. **PHOTO: LYNAS RARE EARTHS LTD/KYODO**

UAE seeks to bolster arms industry to reduce imports



Abu Dhabi-based defence consortium EDGE exhibits its QX-6 cargo delivery unmanned helicopter system at the Dubai Airshow. PHOTO: AFP

DRONES, guided missiles, simulators: the United Arab Emirates is on the offensive to develop its defence industry in a bid to wean itself off dependence on imports.

Khalid Al-Breiki heads one of five clusters of the Emirati defence consortium EDGE, formed two years ago and bringing together 25 Emirati arms firms in a bid

to develop “national capacities”.

According to him, the Abu Dhabi-based defence consortium is an indicator of the “maturity of our industry in the UAE”.

EDGE became the first Middle Eastern company to rank among the top 25 military firms in the world last year, with gross sales of over \$5 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

“We realized that we needed to bring our capabilities under one roof to focus on what we want to manufacture and service in the country, and now we

can go global with that,” Breiki told AFP.

“We have a start-up mentality, but with an economy of scale.”

The group has 13,000 employees “from all over the world”, but it wants to hire more UAE citizens, with a focus on striking agreements with universities in the country or abroad. Its targets align with a country-wide “Emiratization” strategy that has seen the authorities push for more local hires in an oil-rich Gulf country, where the foreign population outnumbers citizens at almost nine to one. —AFP ■

Amazon to end Visa card payments in UK over high fees

ONLINE retail giant Amazon on Wednesday said it plans to stop accepting payments in the UK made with Visa credit cards, blaming the move on high fees.

“These costs should be going down over time with technological advancements, but instead they continue to stay high or even rise,” Amazon said in a statement.

Amazon’s UK online site will no longer accept the cards as of 19 January. Customers can continue to use Visa debit

cards, Amazon said.

“With the rapidly changing payments landscape around the world, we will continue innovating on behalf of customers to add and promote faster, cheaper, and more inclusive payment options to our stores across the globe,” Amazon added.

Visa hit out at the move, with a spokeswoman saying the card payments giant was “very disappointed that Amazon is threatening to restrict consumer choice”.



UK customers will still be able to use Visa debit cards to order from Amazon. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

“When consumer choice is limited, nobody wins. We have a long-standing relation-

ship with Amazon and we continue to work toward a resolution,” she added in a statement. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan's animation industry contracts on COVID-19 while overseas sales stays strong

ACCORDING to a report released this month from the Association of Japanese Animations, the animation industry sales last year marked the first year-on-year decline in 11 years, but sales overseas market stayed strong and exceeded the domestic market for the first time, local media reported Thursday.

The report showed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry’s sales amounted to around 21.3 billion dollars, decreasing 775 million dollars from 2019 when the industry marked a record high.

The association determines the annual market size by surveying sales figures of animation-related companies in Japan.

Among the nine categories surveyed, online distribution saw a growth of 36 per cent from the previous year. However, live entertainment, including anime music events, fell sharply by 65 per cent. Overseas sales, including from online distribution contracts and anime-related goods, stood at around 10.9 billion dollars with online distribution contracts expanding to nearly 20 per cent more regions compared to the previous year. —Xinhua ■

Apple announces Self Service Repair

APPLE on Wednesday announced Self Service Repair, which will allow customers who are comfortable with completing their own repairs access to Apple genuine parts and tools. Available first for the iPhone 12 and iPhone 13 lineups, and soon to be followed by Mac computers featuring M1 chips, Self Service Repair will be available early next year in the United States and expand to additional countries throughout 2022, the announcement said.

The new store will offer more than 200 individual parts and tools, enabling customers to complete the most common repairs on iPhone 12 and iPhone 13.

Customers can join more than 5,000 Apple Authorized Service Providers (AASPs) and 2,800 Independent Repair Providers who have access to these parts, tools, and manuals, the company said. The initial phase of the programme will focus on the most commonly serviced modules, such as the iPhone display, battery, and camera. The ability for additional repairs will be available later next year, according to the announcement. —Xinhua ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (177W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (177W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2161N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2161N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

NEWS
IN BRIEFCambodia frees 27
activists, political
prisoners

CAMBODIA has released 27 activists jailed over charges of incitement against strongman Hun Sen's government as the country prepares to host international talks.

Among those released in the past 12 days were members of environment group Mother Nature Cambodia as well as outspoken union leader Rong Chhun, said Am Sam Ath, deputy director of rights group Licadho, on Wednesday.

He said courts reduced their sentences or granted them bail, but the charges against the individuals had not been completely dropped.

Cambodia is due to host an online summit of Asian and European leaders next week.

It also faces growing calls to improve its human rights record as it prepares to take the helm of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2022.—AFP ■

Legoland Shanghai
Resort under
construction

CONSTRUCTION of the Legoland Shanghai Resort kicked off Wednesday and the resort is expected to open in 2024, according to local authorities.

Covering an area of 318,000 square metres, the resort is located in the Jinshan District of southwestern Shanghai.

The facility will include eight themed areas covering most of the signature and popular attractions and rides of Legoland Parks around the world.

The resort will also integrate local cultural elements such as setting up a Monkey-King-themed zone that takes on references from traditional Chinese architectural style and natural landscape. With an investment totaling 550 million U.S. dollars, the resort is funded by several parties, including China's state-owned assets. "The LEGO brand has increased its presence and contribution in China in the past few years," said Jorgen Vig Knudstorp, executive chairman of the LEGO Brand Group. "We have been thrilled with the positive response the LEGO brand has received in China," he added.—Xinhua

Ten bodies found in migrant boat off Libya: charity

THE bodies of 10 people were found in an overcrowded boat carrying migrants off the coast of Libya, apparently having suffocated, Doctors Without Borders said Wednesday.

The charity's Geo Barents rescue ship pulled 99 people from the sinking boat on Tuesday before making the gruesome discovery in the lower deck.

"At the bottom of the overcrowded wooden boat, 10 people were found dead," tweeted the charity, known by its French initials MSF.

In a later statement, it said the air was filled with the smell of fuel, saying the victims prob-



Doctors Without Borders' Geo Barents rescue ship pulled 99 people from the sinking boat. **PHOTO: MSF/AFP**

ably suffocated from the fumes after 13 hours adrift at sea.

It took two hours to bring

the bodies on board the Geo Barents, where they will be kept pending a dignified burial.

MSF described them as "10 avoidable deaths", adding: "How can we accept this in 2021?"

Tens of thousands of people seek to enter Europe each year via the central Mediterranean, leaving from Libya and Tunisia and heading most often for Italy.

But the route is deadly -- 1,236 people have died in the central Mediterranean so far this year, compared with 858 in the same period of 2020, according to Flavio Di Giacomo of the UN's Migration Agency, the IOM. He tweeted that the Geo Barents rescue "probably avoided other victims", saying it showed "the need to increase patrols at sea".—AFP ■

Israeli court sentences Spanish aid worker to 13 months



Spanish aid worker Juana Rashmawi appears in the dock flanked by Israeli police officers as she is sentenced to 13 months in prison on charges of illegally funding a Palestinian militant group. **PHOTO: AFP**

AN Israeli military court on Wednesday sentenced Spanish aid worker Juana Rashmawi to 13 months in prison after convicting her of illegally funding a

Palestinian militant organization.

Her lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, told AFP that Israel's military court had confirmed the sentence requested by prosecutors

as part of plea agreement last week and ordered her to pay a 50,000 shekel (\$16,000) fine.

Israel's military has said Rashmawi confessed to her role as a "fund raiser for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)" a description Feldman rejected. Rashmawi had been working for the Union of Health Work Committees, which Israel banned from the occupied West Bank in 2020, claiming it was a civilian arm of the PFLP, a Marxist militant group blamed for previous attacks on Israelis.

"The defendant Rashmawi was not involved in passing money to the PFLP. She was working with the health organization, she brought the money to the health organization, she had no idea this money was brought to the PFLP,"

Feldman told reporters.

Rashmawi was first detained in April. Her daughter Maria Rashmawi told reporters Wednesday's sentencing was "important because the uncertainty of the last months led to a lot of anguish and it was very hard to bear."

Rashmawi's sentencing comes weeks after Israel outlawed six prominent Palestinian civil society groups, alleging they were also fronts for the PFLP.

The groups -- Addameer, Al-Haq, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Defence for Children International -- Palestine (DCI-P), the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (UPWC) -- deny those allegations.—AFP ■

Qatar accused of ignoring women after
'traumatic' airport searches

ONE of the women pulled off a plane at Doha airport and forced to undergo an invasive gynaecological search told AFP Wednesday that she feels "disrespected and disregarded" by Qatari authorities and is still "terrified" of travelling a year later.

The French woman in her fifties, who asked not to be named, was among a group who were subjected to intrusive examinations in October 2020 as authorities tried to identify the mother of a newborn abandoned in an airport bathroom.

Seven women are now launching legal action against

Qatar Airways and Qatari authorities, seeking redress for an ordeal that sparked condemnation and global attention ahead of the country hosting the 2022 World Cup. The woman said she remained "absolutely terrified" at the thought of travelling again.

"I don't think that there's been a single day when I haven't thought about it," she told AFP. "It's still very much present in my mind." She was among a group of female passengers escorted off a Sydney-bound plane late at night without explanation.

The woman said she grew increasingly nervous as they were



The women were subjected to the search at Hamad International Airport in the Qatari capital Doha **PHOTO: KARIM JAAFAR/AFP**

led through Hamad International Airport and split into smaller groups, before being taken to

the tarmac where armed officers stood near several parked ambulances.—AFP ■

US, Gulf countries accuse Iran of causing ‘nuclear crisis’

THE United States and its Arab allies in the Gulf accused Iran Wednesday of causing a nuclear crisis and destabilizing the Middle East with ballistic missiles and drones.

The warning came in a joint statement issued after a meeting of the US and Gulf Cooperation Council working group on Iran, which was held in Saudi Arabia.

“All participants urged the new Iranian administration to seize the current diplomatic opportunity” stemming from the resumption of talks in Vienna aimed at salvaging the Iranian nuclear accord, and “prevent conflict and crisis,” the statement said.

These indirect talks be-



A handout picture provided by Iran's Defence Ministry on 20 August 2020, shows a ballistic missile named “Ghassem Soleimani” (Qasem Soleimani), after the late commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) who was killed in a US drone strike earlier in the year.
PHOTO: IRANIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP

tween the US and Iran were suspended after Iran elected a new president in June and are now scheduled to resume late

this month.

They are aimed at resurrecting the 2015 multinational accord aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

The US under then president Donald Trump pulled out of the accord in 2018, and in response Iran has abandoned many of the commitments it made under that agreement to curb its nuclear programme.

“Iran has taken steps for which it has no civilian need but that would be important to a nuclear weapons programme,” said the statement from representatives of the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

‘Differences’ between Japan and South Korea derail US press conference

A joint press conference in Washington between the deputy foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea was cancelled at the last minute because of “differences” between the two US allies, said US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, who had been due to host the event.

“As has been the case for some time, there are some bilateral differences between Japan and the Republic of Korea that are continuing to be resolved,” Sherman said.

“And one of those differences which is unrelated to today's meeting, has led to the change in format for today's press availability,” she said, standing alone on the podium where she had been scheduled to be joined by Choi Jong Kun of South Korea and Mori Takeo of Japan.

She did not give any details on what that “difference” entailed.—AFP ■

Corruption and Covid in spotlight as Tonga votes

TONGANS headed to the polls Thursday with corruption and the recent arrival of a single case of Covid-19 top of the agenda for voters in the tiny South Pacific kingdom.

Campaigning for this year's poll has been muted because of travel restrictions imposed after Tonga recorded its first coronavirus case earlier this month -- a traveller who tested positive while in quarantine after arriving from New Zealand. The case ended Tonga's run as one of the last virus-free locations in the world, although it was later found to be a weak positive result.

However, there are concerns about the health system's ability to cope if the virus does spread into the community.

The nation of 106,000 was under feudal rule until 2010, when the monarchy boosted democratic representation in the wake of rioting four years earlier that razed the capital Nuku'alofa's downtown area.—AFP ■

Clearing Afghanistan's landmines one careful step a time



Education about the risks of unexploded munitions saves lives. **PHOTO: AFP**

WEEKS after the Taliban took over Afghanistan, families who fled the fighting in one southern village returned home to find something strange: the cricket ground had been circled in rocks

and painted red and white.

White, it turned out, meant it was safe for children to play. But red signalled buried landmines and other ordnance -- the explosive remnants of war that have killed or maimed tens of thousands of Afghans over the past four decades.

The village of Nad-e-Ali in Helmand province became a front line in the final days of the war between the Taliban and Western-backed government forces in Kabul.

It was besieged for two months until the Islamists took control of the country in mid-August.

When its residents returned

in September they found the village school riddled with gunfire, its roof blackened by smoke, and the children's swings reduced to just a metal frame.

They also found that the area had been “totally mined” in the fighting, according to Juma Khan, the local coordinator for the HALO Trust, the main mine-clearing NGO operating in Afghanistan.

Newly laid mines and other booby traps were buried beneath doors of buildings and beside windows. “The rooms inside had mines and there were mines on the main street,” Khan told AFP during a visit to Nad-e-Ali this month.—AFP ■

Mexico announces tourist protection battalion to safeguard popular beaches

MEXICO on Wednesday pledged to create a “tourist battalion” of 1,500 National Guard police officers to protect its popular Caribbean beaches in Cancun and Tulum from organized crime.

Tulum was the scene in October of a shooting that killed two young tourists, one from Germany and the other from India. Three others were injured.

In November, a shoot-out in Puerto Morelos, close to Cancun



Mexican soldiers walk outside the Hyatt Ziva Riviera hotel in Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, on 4 Nov 2021, after a shooting.
PHOTO: AFP

in Quintana Roo state, said Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio Sandoval.

Authorities plan to eventually introduce similar battalions in other tourist hot-spots.—AFP ■

Myanmar trounce Turkey amateur club 8-0 in friendly match

THE Myanmar national team, which is under training in Turkey ahead of the ASEAN Suzuki Cup, won the friendly match against Turkish amateur club Antalya Hal Spor Kulubu by eight goals on 17 November.

The Myanmar national team played against Antalya Hal Spor Kulubu before a friendly match against Indonesia.

Head coach Antoine Hey

wrote on his Twitter account that Myanmar national team showed good form during the friendly match against Antalya Hal Spor Kulubu.

Myanmar youth player Aung Kaung Mahn scored three goals during the friendly match.

The Myanmar national team has played three matches in the tour of Turkey and won two matches and have lost one match.

The Myanmar national team beat Turkish amateur club Manevgatspor 2-1 in their friendly match on 10 November and team Myanmar has lost 1-2 to the African team Burundi on 13 November.

The Myanmar national team will play another friendly match against Indonesia on 25 November; Myanmar Football Federation stated. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Three athletes positive for Covid inside Beijing Olympic bubble



The National Sliding Centre in Yanqing was among 12 Beijing 2022 venues to pass pre-homologation tests earlier this year.

PHOTO: XINHUA

THREE athletes attending training events for the Beijing Winter Olympics have tested positive for Covid-19, Chinese officials said Thursday, with the country on high alert against the coronavirus ahead of the Games.

Beijing 2022 organizers have left nothing to chance with the games set to start in February, restricting entry to the capital and insisting on daily virus tests

for thousands of athletes who will be kept within a “closed-loop” bubble.

One of the athletes, a foreign luger, tested positive at the airport when entering the country and was sent to a quarantine hotel along with another infected teammate as they had no symptoms, officials said last week.

But a third person has now tested positive — another luger

and a close contact of the earlier cases, Zhao Weidong, an Olympics organizing committee member, said on Thursday.

The latest patient is asymptomatic and has also been transferred to a quarantine facility for “medical observation”, Zhao said at a press conference.

Authorities are continuing to “test people, materials and the environment, as well as conducting health monitoring and disinfecting the environment,” Zhao added.

China is gearing up to tackle one of the largest challenges to its zero-Covid strategy as thousands of athletes are expected to descend on Beijing for the games, which will be held from 4 to 20 February.

City authorities this week imposed strict new rules on inbound travellers, requiring all visitors to Beijing to show a negative Covid test result from the past 48 hours and cancelling flights from higher risk areas within the country.— AFP ■

Djokovic reaches ATP Finals semis by thrashing Rublev

NOVAK Djokovic moved into the last four of the ATP Finals for the 10th time with a comfortable victory over Andrey Rublev in Turin on Wednesday.

The world number one, bidding to equal Roger Federer’s record of six titles at the season-ending event, brushed aside fifth seed Rublev 6-3, 6-2 to secure his 50th match win of the year.

Djokovic, thanks to successive straight-sets victories, has wrapped up top spot in the Green Group.

“I served well (and) that helped tremendously,” Djokovic said. “I wanted to put him out of his comfort zone, taking away the time and mix up the pace. It was a great performance overall.”

Norway’s Casper Ruud overcame British alternate Cameron Norrie 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the night match to keep alive his chances of reaching the last

four. The 34-year-old Djokovic is looking to cap off a remarkable year which saw him only just miss out on completing a calendar Grand Slam with defeat by Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final. He plays Norrie in his last round-robin match on Friday. A rematch with second-ranked Medvedev in the final in Italy is still a possibility, with the Russian reigning champion sitting top of the Red Group.

Djokovic is bidding for back-to-back titles after returning to action earlier this month with success in the Paris Masters, beating Medvedev in the final.

The Serb has not won the ATP Finals since 2015, losing finals in 2016 and 2018 to Andy Murray and Alexander Zverev respectively, while also falling in an epic last-four clash with Dominic Thiem last year.— AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Manchester United wage bill soars after Ronaldo return

MANCHESTER United’s wage bill rocketed by 23 per cent during the period in which they re-signed Cristiano Ronaldo, the club’s latest set of financial results showed on Wednesday.

Figures for the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year show a rise of £16.6 million (\$22 million) in “employee benefit expenses” compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. The total amount

spent on salaries during the quarter ended 30 September, when the club re-signed Ronaldo and also brought in Raphael Varane and Jadon Sancho, was £88.5 million. This rise was offset by £17.4 million brought in through player sales, principally Dan James’ move to Leeds, although the club did also earn a sell-on fee from Romelu Lukaku’s transfer from Inter Milan to Chelsea.— AFP ■



Manchester United’s wage bill rocketed by 23 per cent during the period in which they re-signed Cristiano Ronaldo, the club’s latest set of financial results showed on Wednesday.

PHOTO: MARCO BERTORELLO / AFP