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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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One million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine arrive at Yangon Int'l Airport

The second batch of one million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine and syringes arrive in Yangon International Airport on 20 November 2021.

THE Ministry of Health is targeting to control the COVID-19 disease and giving the COVID-19 vaccines to people in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, States and Regions according to priority groups.

On 12 November, the People's Republic of China donated another three million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Myanmar, and on the same day, the first batch of one million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine was received.

The second batch of one million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine and syringes arrived at Yangon International Airport at 4 pm yesterday and were received by a team led by head of the Yangon Region Medical Services and Public Health Department. The new vaccines will be given to students over 12 years of age and other designated groups, an official said.

These vaccines will be delivered by cold chain system to different regions and states with the help of the Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanma Airways, officials continued.

As of 19 November, a total of 15.2 million people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in regions and states to curb the disease.

About 10.3 million people have been received two-time full doses of the vaccine and 4.9 million have received the first doses.

As of 19 November, a total of 25.5 million people have been inoculated against COVID-19 in Myanmar.

The public should not miss a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Those who have received the first dose of the vaccine should also be actively involved in the vaccination programme systematically to receive the remaining dose, officials said.

The Ministry of Health has urged people to be jabbed if they have not yet received the full dose of COVID-19 vaccines. —MNA

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.

Migratory birds enter Moe Yoon Gyi sanctuary through two flyways

BIRD species from the North Pole migrate for the winter to various countries through nine flyways each year. In Myanmar, migratory birds fly in through the Central Asian and Australasian flyways, and the Bago Moe Yoon Gyi Sanctuary, where migratory birds usually enter, is now welcoming its guests.

Winter refuge birds are seen at the Moe Yoon Gyi Sanctuary in Bago Region. **PHOTOS : KANU**

These northern land birds enter Myanmar in mid-October and return in early April. In winter, between 30 and 40 species of birds spend the winter in the sanctuary and a new species of seagull entered the sanctuary for the first time last year. This year, 11 species of migratory birds have been entering the sanctuary, including endangered bird species such as the bar-tailed godwit.

Migratory birds enter Myanmar through thirteen countries such as Siberia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Russia, China via the East Asian and Australasian flyways. About 182 water birds spend the winter in Myanmar, and about 307 bird species also countries in Southeast Asia through 30 countries via the Central Asian flyway.

Officer of the Moe Yoon Gyi Sanctuary Daw Thin Thin Yu said, "There is plenty of food and many places for migratory birds to spend the winter and the department cares for the long-term sustainability of such birds." In winter, the northern hemisphere is frozen and the days are short. This is why they are coming to a land where food is plentiful, she said. As wintering birds include some of the world's most endangered species, she also urged local people to protect these birds that feed insects that cling to people's crops.

"Having wintering birds is also something to be proud of as a country," she added.

The Moe Yoon Gyi Lake was excavated in 1878 as a reservoir to facilitate the drift of bamboo and wood rafts into the Bago Sittoung tunnel in summer, and it has been transformed into a natural lake over the years. The Moe Yoon Gyi Sanctuary covers an area of 25,600 acres and was established in 1988 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Bird watching enthusiasts and researchers can visit Bago's Moe Yoon Gyi Sanctuary from November to February when most wintering birds visit, and visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of the lake by boat while on vacation. The sanctuary is situated about 42 miles apart from Bago.—Nyein Thu/GNLM

Erratum

PLEASE read "It is learnt that the resolution entitled "Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" was adopted without a vote on 17 November 2021 at the Third Committee …" instead of "It is learnt that the resolution entitled "Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" was adopted without a vote on 17 November 2017 at the Third Committee …" in the first paragraph of the MoFA press release on page 2 of The Global New Light of Myanmar on 20 November 2021.—Ed.

625 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 November, total figure rises to 517,395

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 517,395 after 625 new cases were reported on 20 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 490,015 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,011 after 11 died.—MNA

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

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

Anti-COVID-19 equipment and medical products, including liquid oxygen and masks, were imported by three companies and transported by four vehicles yesterday.

A total of 13 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser and 21 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw trading posts.

One bowser transported liquid oxygen to Yangon, officials said.

From 1 to 20 November, 248 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by 97 bowsers, six tonnes of oxygen gas, 8,028 empty oxygen tanks, 28 oxygen plants, 15 oxygen generators, 123 oxygen concentrators, 83,840 PPE suits, 37 tonnes of gloves and 537 tonnes of masks were imported by 50 companies.

In the same period, nine bowsers transported liquid oxygen to Yangon—two to Mawlamyine and one to Nay Pyi Taw, respectively. Out of 28 oxygen plants, 20 to Yangon, two each to Yesagyo, Myitkyina and Myothit and one each to Danuphyu, and Yenanchaung were transported, respectively.

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

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

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)

MoRAC organizes research paper reading on Myanmar history

THE opening ceremony of the "Historical Research Paper Reading" organized by the Historical Research and National Library Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, was held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko spoke about the importance of history in the social community. By reading and studying history, we will be able to gain historical knowledge and apply the lessons of history. "Every Myanmar citizen needs to know their history as well as every human needs to know their history, therefore, this ceremony is named as "Historical Research Paper Lecture," he elaborated.

The paper reading session of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is in progress.

The seminar aimed to approach the history of Myanmar from various perspectives in order to contribute to the country in the future, to develop multi-disciplinary research perspectives on Myanmar research and to develop historians and scholars, to develop a broader field of knowledge through the exchange of knowledge and intellectual experiences of professionals, to spread the great history of Myanmar with all national races to love the country and the people and to strengthen the spirit of the Union.

During the reading, Dr Tun Tun Oo presented a paper on "Myanmar Culture based on Buddhism"; Dr Lae Lae Win presented a paper entitled "Analyzing the historical evidence of the ancient city of Thaton"; U Swan Pyae presented a paper on "The Sino-Burmese War (1765-1769), the Chinese Perspective". Researchers also read research papers on various fields such as "A study of the historical facts found in some of the orders (1752-1780), "Outstanding Historical Records in Sagu Region", and "Myanmar traditional Chess". Those present at the ceremony discussed the presentation and raised questions.

Afterwards, Historian Dr Myint Thein gave an overview of the papers presented, and Deputy Minister U Tun Ohn concluded the meeting. — MNA

MoHT holds workshop on human resources development, future tourism

MINISTER for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended the workshop on "Human Resources Development and Future Tourism" held through video conferencing in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the workshop, the Union minister said it is necessary to have human resource development and experts in respective fields for the development of various sectors, in addition to the tourism sector, adding the Government also pays attention to this. He added the need to train qualified staff for long-term development, and employees are required to possess relevant skills as they are implementing the strategic and master plans of the country.

He said the need to develop and implement appropriate programmes that combine practical experience with ideas, the need to prepare to overcome the challenges in the resumption of the hotel and tourism industry that was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with the current human resources, and the need for employees of the ministry to balance what they have learned and their experiences.

Director of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism U Naung Naung Lin Aung and Director U Aung Zaw Moe discussed human resource development activities of the Ministry, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism, and further plans with the presentation of research papers by international organizations.

Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw presented the training of staff and the activities of the Ministry related to COVID-19 and the issues to be discussed in the second part of the workshop.

The MoHT workship on human resources development and future tourism is convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November 2021.

The Union minister said to fully participate in the second part of the workshop and to consider developing the tourism sector for the development of human resources with COVID-19. — MNA

Yangon-Myeik-Yangon regular flight resumes with COVID-19 rules

FOR the convenience of travellers, the Yangon-Myeik-Yangon flight was resumed on 19 November following the health standards and the COVID-19 precaution measures.

"Myanmar National Airlines will operate the current Yangon-Myeik-Yangon direct flight daily for the convenience of travellers. The service will be provided keeping in line with the guidelines set by the Ministry of Health to ensure the safe travel of passengers.

The Yangon-Myeik-Yangon route will be operated daily. And Myeik-Dawei and Myeik-Kawthoung flights will be operated from time to time," said U Aung Moe San, an in-charge of the Myeik branch of the Myanmar National Airlines.

For the convenience of travellers, the Yangon-Myeik-Yangon flight was resumed on 19 November following the health standards and the COVID-19 precaution measures. **PHOTO: KHAING HTOO**

Ticket prices range from K61,000 to K101,000 for the Myeik-Yangon flight, and travellers can purchase air tickets at the Myanmar National Airlines branches and ticket agents for the dates they wish to visit.

For the convenience of passengers, the number of flights will be increased from one to two times on busy days.

When travelling by air, passengers must bring a COVID-19-free medical certificate within 48 hours of departure.

A recommendation for medical examination is scheduled at Kan Khaung Ward People's Hospital and Tatmadaw Hospital.

In addition to Myanmar National Airlines, Air KBZ and MAI Airlines are also operating the Yangon-Myeik-Yangon flight for tourists in Myeik, officials said. — Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD)/GNLM

Repatriated Myanmar sailors quarantined in Kawthoung Township

SAILORS transferred on an international cruise ship in the Andaman Sea near Kawthoung in Myanmar waters as four sailors aboard the Singapore-owned MV Shun Li and 11 sailors aboard the Korean-owned MT Golden Creation signed off yesterday evening.

Fifteen sailors who signed off from the ships will be kept in a 14-day hotel quarantine in Kawthoung to control the COVID-19 disease.

Officials from the Kawthoung District Public Health Department said they would be allowed to return to their homes only if they have tested negative for the COVID-19 as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Health.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)/GNLM

More visitors throng on Setse beach during Tazaungdine holidays

Revellers are seen on the Setse Beach. **PHOTO: AYE AYE MON**

THE people across the nation travelled to the Setse beach in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State on the full moon day of Tazaungmon.

The Thanbyuzayat officials conducted COVID-19 preventive measures keeping in line with health rules of the Ministry of Health. The beach area, snack shops, toy shops, fashion stalls and souvenir shops were also packed with visitors. – Aye Aye Mon (IPRD)/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Over 200,000 visses of onions enter Pakokku market daily despite weak demand

MORE than 200,000 visses of onions enter the Pakokku market in Pakokku Township, Magway Region on a daily basis but demand is still weak, local people said.

Farmers from Pakokku, Seikphyu, Pale-Minnaing, Paung and Yaw townships grow the onion yearly.

The market has been in operation since April, with a minimum of 15,000 visses and a maximum of more than 350,000 visses entering daily.

Today, 6,270 bags of onions: about 219,450 visses of onions came in and were sold for a maximum of K400 and a minimum of K50 per viss.

The price of garlic ranges from a maximum of K2,800 to a minimum of K1,200 per viss, and about 5,000 to 30,000 visses of garlic enter the market daily.

In previous years, onions cost between K1,800 and K2,000 per viss. Demand for onions in the local market has fallen sharply due to a huge drop in local demand.

More than 200,000 visses of onions enter the Pakokku market in Pakokku Township, Magway Region on a daily basis but demand is still weak. **PHOTO : SALAI KO KEE**

One viss of good quality onion costs K400. There is still a small number of purchases from foreign countries such as Bangladesh. More harvested onions will arrive soon, according to U Than Win, Chairman of Pakokku District Committee for Agricultural Products Management.

"This year, I have planted two acres of rainy onions with 198 pits per acre, said local farmer U Nyi Nyi Min.

"The cost is K120,000 for one acre of onion. Labour cost is K13,000 and fertilizer application cost is K120,000. The cost of farming is K140,000 and the cattle hire fee is K20,000. Irrigation cost is K11,000 and the cost for herbicides is K100,000. The total cost of harvesting was K300,000 and other capital was over K1.2 million.

"One pit of onion produces 20 visses and is still on sale, so it is not possible to estimate the value of profit. Summer onions were planted on two acres (land cultivation system) at the rate of four seedlings per acre. An onion seedling was bought for K50,000 and the total capital cost was K2.5 million.

The yield per acre is 5,000 visses and the acreage is 10,000 visses. As one viss of summer onion sells for between K300 and K400, there is a loss compared to the cost of investment and resale.

Farmers in our village mostly rely on onions, so we can only hope that we will be free from COVID-19 disease and sell more at good prices in foreign markets", local farmer U Nyi Nyi Min added. —Salai Ko Kee (Mahar Weikzar)/GNLM

Imported palm oil sold at K4,350 per viss in Yangon retail market

THE palm oil is sold at the promoted price of K4,350 per viss starting from 9 November in Yangon that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar, according to Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association (MEODA).

Earlier, the total volume of palm oil was sold at the supported price of K3,800 per viss which is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

As a result, the retail price of palm oil has raised K550 per viss than the previous selling price.

Palm oil is currently priced at around K4,350 per viss in the retail market. At the end of last September, the price of palm oil rose to around K5,000 per viss in the domestic market. The price hike in palm oil is attributed to Kyat depreciation in the local foreign market.

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

The association is trying not to occur unnecessary issues regarding edible oil amid the global pandemic impacts.

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

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

Pomelo cultivation succeeds in Mon state

THE farmers from Mon state are growing pomelo fruit around their town areas and they are successful in cultivation. Now, they are growing more perennial crops and other crops.

"Mon state is one of the prosperous states for rubber plantation and agricultural crops. There are 3,393 acres of pomelo plantation in the state and each acre of pomelo plantation can yield over 4,800 fruits. The pomelo is one of the profitable perennial crops and we are assisting to have the right cultivation method, said an official from Agriculture Department in Mon State.

Myanmar has over 20 species of pomelo. But only a few pomelo species are more marketable products in foreign countries. There are over 5,000 acres of pomelo across the country.

The pomelo can be cultivated by seeding or by grafting. After six years of cultivating, the fruit begins to bear and are yielded when the fruit is ready. By cultivating 12 pomelo trees, it can earn over 3 million annual income for the local farmers, said a pomelo farmer from Mudon township.

The pomelo fruit price is ranging between K1,000 and K5,000 per one depending upon the size. — Aung Myo Thu (Mudon)/GNLM

Myanmar has over 20 species of pomelo. But only a few pomelo species are more marketable products in foreign countries. There are over 5,000 acres of pomelo across the country. **PHOTO : AUNG MYO THU (MUDON)**

Terrorists arrested with weapons, ammunition on Phyo Zeyar Thaw's confession

A press release was issued on 17 November regarding the arrest of a total of 47 suspects – 40 males and 7 females who killed security forces at Thanlyin Bridge, North Okkalapa Bridge, Bargayar Traffic Light, under the order of terrorist NUG, and NLD party member Phyo Zeyar Thaw. They were arrested with 34 assorted small arms, 70 assorted magazines, 2,105 assorted rounds of ammunition, 17 40mm bombs, 10 homemade bombs, eight mines, five smoke bombs, seven bags of gunpowder, and one binocular.

Another press release was issued on 18 November that NLD party member Maung Kyaw (a) Phyo Zeyar Thaw, who has been behind the acts of violence in Yangon, including the killing of security forces, innocent civilians and civil service personnel was arrested together with two pistols, 48 rounds of 9mm ammunition, one M16 gun, 74 rounds of 5.56 ammunition in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in Yangon.

According to the statement of Maung Kyaw (a) Phyo Zeyar Thaw, 21 places rented for the accommodation of terrorist groups in Yangon were identified. Security forces conducted search operations in these places, and the following 18 places were found without any terrorists.

- 4th floor, No (26), Laeyar Shwemye street, Myitta Nyunt ward, Tamway Township
- 4th floor, No (764), Marlar Nwe street, Myitta Nyunt ward, Tamway Township
- 3rd floor, No (512), Wunna Theinga street, Myitta Nyunt ward, Tamway Township
- 4th floor, No (83), Tagaung (5) street, South Okkalapa Township
- 4th floor, No (64/A), Theingi (2) street, Thakayta Township
- 4th floor, No (64/B), Theingi (2) street, Thakayta Township
- 1st floor, No (42), Strand Road, Kyimyindine Township
- Room number (106), Building A, Bo Myat Tun Tower, Maha Bandula Road, Botahtaung Township
- No (4,3,76), ward (12) Thukha Yeiktha road, Yankin Township
- 1st floor, No (314/5), Banya Dala Road, Tamway Township
- 5th floor, No (374), Strand Road, Kyimyindine Township
- 3rd floor, No (177), Migathi

SEE PAGE-7

ရန်ကုန်မြို့အတွင်း အကြမ်းဖက်လုပ်ငန်းများဆောင်ရွက်ရန် စေခိုင်းနေသော တရားခံ မောင်ကျော်(ခ) ဖြိုးဇေယျာသော်အား လက်နက်/ခဲယမ်းများနှင့်အတူ ဖမ်းဆီးရမိသည့် မှတ်တမ်းဓာတ်ပုံ

Phyo Zeyar Thaw

မောင်ကျော်(ခ)ဖြိုးဇေယျာသော် နေထိုင်သော ဒဂုံဆိပ်ကမ်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရတနာလမ်း၊ ရတနာနှင်းဆီအိမ်ရာ၊ တိုက်အမှတ်(3/B)၊ အခန်းအမှတ်(B-0907)နေအိမ်မှဖမ်းဆီးရမိလက်နက်များ မှတ်တမ်းဓာတ်ပုံ

Seized weapons and ammunition from the room of Phyo Zayar Thaw.

တာမွေမြို့နယ်၊ မေတ္တာဥယျန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ မာလာနွယ်လမ်း အမှတ်(၇၆၄)၊ (၄)လွှာ မှတ်တမ်းဓာတ်ပုံ

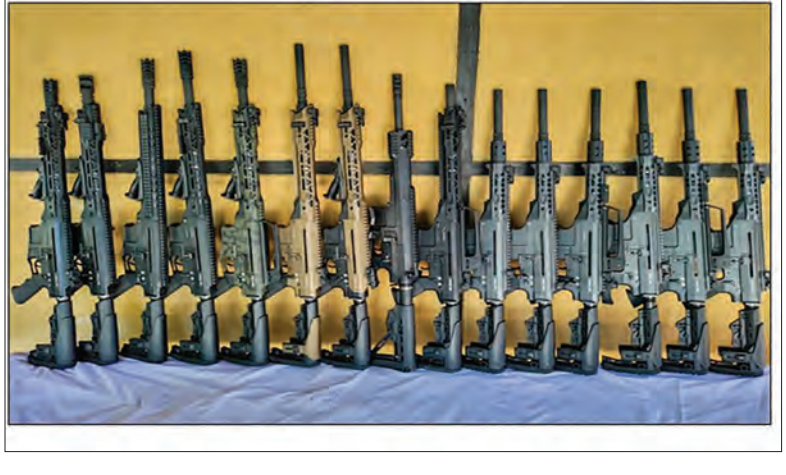
Myitta Nyunt ward, Tamway Township.

တာမွေမြို့နယ်၊ မေတ္တာဥယျန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝဏ္ဏသိဂီလမ်း၊ အမှတ်(၅၁၂)၊ (၃)လွှာ(B) မှတ်တမ်းဓာတ်ပုံ

Myitta Nyunt ward, Tamway Township.

သဃ်နိန်းကျွန်းပြိုနယ်၊ သုဝဏ္ဏ၊ (၂၉)ရပ်ကွက်၊ သုခိတာလမ်း၊ အမှတ်(၆၇)နေအိမ်မှ သိမ်းဆည်းရမိသော M-16 မှတ်တမ်းဓာတ်ပုံ

သဃ်နိန်းကျွန်းပြိုနယ်၊ သုဝဏ္ဏ၊ (၂၉)ရပ်ကွက်၊ သုခိတာလမ်း၊ အမှတ်(၆၇)နေအိမ်မှ သိမ်းဆည်းရမိသော MK-12 မှတ်တမ်းဓာတ်ပုံ



Confiscated M16s and Mk12s in Thingangyun Township.

Terrorists arrested with weapons, ammunition on Phyo Zeya Thaw's confession

FROM PAGE-6

Road, South Okkalapa Township
- No (23), Khanmarsaung road, Taunglonepyan ward, Mingala Taung Nyunt Township
- No (710), Ngamoeyate (3) street, Thingangyun Township
- No (523), Ngamoeyate (4) street, Thingangyun Township
- 5th floor, No (291), Thamein Bayan Road, Kyipwayay ward, Thingangyun Township

Security forces continued the operation in the rest of the places, and found and confiscated five smoke bombs, 5 22-point

Seized weapons, ammunition and explosives in Thingangyun Township.

bullets and related items used in homemade bomb in No (878), Thadayone street, 47 ward, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, and seven M16 guns, eight AK-47s, 15 Mk12s, three M4 A1, three FCG-9s, two Snipers, one Carbine, 11 pistols, 128 homemade pistols, 50 M16 magazines, 14 AK-47 magazines, 30 Mk12 magazines, 6 FCG-9 magazines, 30 magazines of pistol, 3,850 rounds of 5.56 ammunition, 250 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 610 rounds of pistol ammunition, 2,700 rounds of 12-volt ammunition, 150 rounds of point-45 ammunition, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 26 40mm bombs, six bombs, 30 items related to Mk12, 18 grenades, 15 grenades, 138 homemade bombs, three big homemade bombs, 39 homemade bombs, 25 bags of gunpowder, 43 bags of homemade gunpowder, 800 detonators, 9 rounds of 1.25 pounds C4 gunpowder, 153 rounds of 0.25 pounds of TNT gunpowder, 14 transistors, 16 keypad phones, seven watches, 12 satellite phones, one radio, five visses of 2.5 inches iron nail (altogether 50 assorted firearms, 128 homemade pistols, 130 assorted magazines, 8,560 assorted rounds of ammunition, 26 40mm bombs, six mines, 33 assorted

Myitta Nyunt ward, Tamway Township.

Kyaukmyaung Gyi ward, Tamway Township.

grenades, 180 homemade mines, 163 TNT rounds of ammunition, 9 rounds of C4 ammunition, 800 detonators, 12 satellite phones and related explosives) at No 67, Thukhita road, (29) ward, Thingangyun Township.

Security forces also found and confiscated 39 assorted firearms, 76 assorted magazines, and 5,200 rounds of ammunition in No (142), Ngwe Taik Soe, Pyithaya lane (2), (za) northward, Thingangyun Township, and arrested Hla Moe Than, 42, and Aung Win Naing, 45, who came to the place to carry weapons/ammunition, together with 1 pistol, 10 rounds of ammunition, and 1 Probox car.

According to the statement of defendant Aung Win Naing, security forces searched No (818/B), Singu ward, Kyaw Zeya (2) street, Insein Township, and found and confiscated 60 rounds of 9mm ammunition, one homemade bomb, four walkie-talkies, one binocular, two bulletproof vests, and two swords.

According to the statement of Maung Kyaw (a) Phyo Zeya Thaw, security forces searched the place where he was arrested and found and confiscated one Lenovo laptop, one MacBook, one hard disk, one satellite phone, two handphones, ATM cards of CB Bank and AYA bank, one passport, lists of places to be carried out terrorist acts, lists of people to be killed and women accessories.

According to his statement, women accessories belong to Thazin Nyunt Aung (in hiding) who helped in writing party victory songs and short films for the NLD party. She had been living with him and the condo was rented with Ko Nyan (in hiding), Ku Ku (in hiding) to live with her.

According to the initial statement of Maung Kyaw (aka) Phyo Zeyar Thaw, pistols and homemade pistols were issued based on the mission presented by the assassination group, and it was intended to kill ward/village administrators, civil service personnel, members of the USDP party and other opposing political parties and their families, in order to disrupt the administration of the State Government.

Rifles and powerful ammunition were to be used in the level-2 attacks to the pillars of the Government's defence, political and administration starting from 15 November under the operation name "Pyanhlwar Aung). Their attacks intended to explode bombs in public areas, administration buildings, schools, and to kill security forces.

Since 12 November, a total of 50 terrorists – 43 males and seven females, including Maung Kyaw (a) Phyo Zeyar Thaw, have been arrested together with weapons and ammunition stated above and stimulant tablets. The landlords of the apartments/houses where terrorists rented and stayed will be taken action under the law and the acts of violence committed by Maung Kyaw (a) Phyo Zeyar Thaw will further be reported.—MNA

Create learning opportunities for students to become good citizens

LEARNING is a chance as well as an obligation for children and youths. Hindering the attending to the school breaches the rights of the children adopted by the United Nations. Hence, parents, teachers and officials need to encourage school-age children to have learning opportunities.

The school must be just a teaching centre as well as a venue where students must be trained to have the knowledge, critical thinking, citizen ethics and social ethics. If so, good and able citizens with physical and mental strength can be turned out to benefit themselves, their society and the State.

Teachers need to steer the youths not to derail from their goals, not to lose their future, not to suffer any discrimination for school-age children adopted by the Ministry of Education, not to leave anyone for learning and not to drop out from the school.

> As teachers are born of the people, they have to build the capacity themselves to give back gratitude to the people while nurturing the new generations to become good citizens who would be reliable human resources for the State and the entire ethnic national people.

Youths must be strengthening with physical and mental health for shaping the beauty of the nation in the future. Hence, the graduates of the UDNR need to nurture the students to be healthy and fit.

Only when all public service personnel, civil society organizations and the entire people cooperate with the Tatmadaw in building the Union based on democracy and federalism, will they successfully meet the goal in a short time.

Money power, material power and human resource power must be effectively deployed in the nation-building endeavours. Myanmar is rich in human resources. According to the estimated population in 2021, there are more than 18 million of the population between the aged 15 and 35, accounting for some 33 per cent of the total population. If those human resources are qualified with cooperation in serving the State interests through the spirit of a good citizen.

"Union Spirit" is a firm concept to recognize the whole Union as a family or a household. As wish to help each other, help solve the problems, mutually cooperate with one another, sympathy and tolerance are nobly basic needs of the Union Spirit, those from the university need to participate in forging the Union Spirit as much as they can.

As teachers are born of the people, they have to build the capacity themselves to give back gratitude to the people while nurturing the new generations to become good citizens who would be reliable human resources for the State and the entire ethnic national people.

■■■

North America: The Third Largest Continent on Earth

By THAN HTUN
(MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)

NORTH America, the third-largest of the world's continents, lies for the most part between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer. It extends for more than 5,000 miles to within 500 miles of both the North Pole and the Equator and has an east-west extent of 5,000 miles. It covers an area of 9,355,000 square miles.

North America occupies the northern portion of the landmass generally referred to as the New World, the Western Hemisphere, or simply the Americas. Mainland North America is shaped roughly like a triangle, with its base in the north and its apex in the south; associated with the continent is Greenland, the largest island in the world, and such offshore groups as the Arctic Archipelago, the West Indies, Haida Gwaii (formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands), and the Aleutian Islands.

North America is bounded on the north by the Arctic Ocean, on the east by the North Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the Caribbean Sea, and on the west by the North Pacific Ocean. To the northeast, Greenland is separated from Iceland by the Denmark Strait, and to the northwest, Alaska is separated from the Asian mainland by the much narrower Bering Strait. North America's only land connection is to South America at the narrow Isthmus of Panama. Denali (Mount McKinley) in Alaska, rising 20,310 feet above sea level, is the continent's highest point, and Death Valley in California, at 282 feet below sea level, is its lowest. North America's coastline of some 37,000 miles — the second-longest of the continents after Asia — is notable for the great number of indentations, particularly in the northern half.

The name America is derived from that of the Italian merchant and navigator Amerigo Vespucci, one of the earliest European explorers to visit the New World. Although at first the term America was applied only to the southern half of the continent, the designation soon was applied to the entire landmass. Those portions that widened out north of the Isthmus of Panama became known as North America, and those that broadened to the south became known as South America.

Geology and Resources

North America contains some of the oldest rocks on Earth. Its geologic structure is built around a stable platform of Precambrian rock called the Canadian (Laurentian) Shield. To the southeast of the shield rose the ancient Appalachian Mountains; and to the west rose the younger and considerably taller Cordilleras, which occupy nearly one-third of the continent's land area. In between these two mountain belts are the generally flat regions of the Great Plains in the west and the Central Lowlands in the east.

Geologically, Canada is one of the oldest regions in the world, with more than half of the region consisting of Precambrian rocks that have been above sea level since the beginning of the Palaeozoic era. Canada's mineral resources are diverse and extensive. Across the Canadian Shield and in the north there are large iron, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, and uranium reserves. Large diamond concentrations have been recently developed in the Arctic, making Canada one of the world's largest producers. Throughout the Shield, there are many mining towns extracting these minerals. The largest, and best known, is Sudbury, Ontario. Sudbury is an exception to the normal process of forming minerals in the Shield since there is significant evidence that the Sudbury Basin is an ancient meteorite impact crater. The Shield is also covered by vast boreal forests that support an important logging industry.

The geology of Alaska is typical of that of the cordillera, while the major islands of Hawaii consist of Neogene volcanic erupted over a hotspot.

Central America is geologically active with volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occurring from time to time. Fertile soils from weathered volcanic lavas have made it possible to sustain dense populations in agriculturally productive highland areas. Central America has many mountain ranges; the longest are the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, the Cordillera Isabelia, and the Cordillera de Talamanca. Between the mountain ranges lie fertile valleys that are suitable for the production of coffee, beans, and other crops.

North America has rich and varied resources. Although it contains less than 10 per cent of the world's population, it has an extraordinarily high proportion of the world's resource wealth. It produces a substantial percentage of the world's oil, iron ore, steel, copper, lead, and zinc. With a significant percentage of the world's coal and oil output and electrical power production, it possesses the critical elements of modern industry.

Economy

The continent is richly endowed with natural resources, including great mineral wealth, vast forests, immense quantities of freshwater, and some of the world's most fertile soils. These have allowed North America to become one of the most economically developed regions in the world, and its inhabitants enjoy a high standard of living. North America has the highest average income per person of any continent and an average food intake per person that is significantly greater than that of other continents. Although it is home to less than 10 per cent of the world's population, its per capita consumption of energy is almost four times as great as the world average.

People

North America's first inhabitants are believed to have been ancient Asiatic peoples who migrated from Siberia to North America sometime during the last glacial advance, known as the Wisconsin Glacial Stage, the most recent major division of the Pleistocene Epoch (about 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago). The descendants of these peoples, the various Native American and Eskimo (Inuit) groups, largely have been supplanted by peoples from the Old World. People of European ancestry constitute the largest group, followed by those of African and Asian ancestry; in addition, there is a large group of Latin Americans, who are of mixed European and Native American ancestry.

Physical Regions

North America can be divided into five physical regions: the Mountainous West, the Great Plains, the Canadian Shield, the varied Eastern Region, and the Caribbean.

Young mountains rise in the west. The most familiar of these mountains are probably the Rockies, North America's largest chain. The Rockies stretch from the province of British Columbia, Canada, to the US state of New Mexico. The three major desert regions of North America — the Sonoran, Mojave, and Chihuahuan — are all in the American southwest and northern Mexico. These large deserts are located in the rain shadows of nearby mountains. The northern part of the western region of North America also has the richest deposits of oil and natural gas on the continent.

Map of North American Continent. Source: India Today Web Desk

The Great Plains lie in the middle of the continent. Deep, rich soil blankets large areas of the plains in Canada and the United States. Grain, which is grown in this region called the "Breadbasket of North America", feeds a large part of the world. The Great Plains are also home to rich deposits of oil and natural gas. The grassland or prairie regions of the Great Plains make up the largest biome in North America.

The Canadian Shield is a permafrost keeps moisture near the soil's surface, promoting vegetation growth even in the extreme, Arctic conditions of the tundra.

The varied Eastern Region includes the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic coastal plain. North America's older mountain ranges, including the Appalachians, rise near the east coast of the United States and Canada. These areas have been mined for rich deposits of coal and other minerals for hundreds of years. Wetland areas are a biome of the eastern region and consist of areas of land whose soil is saturated with permanent or seasonal moisture. The Florida Everglades is the largest wetland system in the United States, covering more than 4,300 square miles of southern Florida.

The Caribbean Region includes more than 7,000 islands, islets, reefs, and cays. The region's islands and smaller islets are varied in their topography; some have relatively flat and sandy terrain while others are rugged, mountainous, and volcanic. The coral reefs and cays of the Caribbean Sea are among the most spectacular biomes in North America. A reef is a ridge of jagged rock, coral, or sand just above or below the surface of the sea. Some coral reefs surround islands, such as the Bahamas, Antigua, and Barbados. Others are found off the Florida Keys, a chain of cays—small islands situated on a coral reef platform — near the southern coast of the US state of Florida.

Natural Wonders

North America has varied landscape features with many natural wonders. It has deep canyons, such as Copper Canyon in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Denali, the continent's highest peak, stands at 20,320 feet within Denali National Park and Preserve in the U.S. state of Alaska. Yellowstone National Park, in the US states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, has some of the world's most active geysers. Canada's Bay of Fundy has the greatest tidal range in the world. The Great Lakes form the planet's largest area of freshwater. The Mississippi River, at 2,320 miles long, is one of the longest river systems in the world and drains all or parts of 31 US states.

Lakes of North America

Lakes abound in North America. Most of them are products of glaciation, which has had a vast effect on the continental drainage pattern — notably by widening the passes through the northern Appalachians and the Cordilleras and by forming big lakes in ice-deepened basins. The significant lakes are the Great Lakes, Lakes Superior and Huron, Lake Champlain, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Agassiz, Lake Athabasca, Great Slave, Great Bear lakes, Lahontan, Great Salt Lake and Lake Chapala in Mexico.

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1. Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia
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■■■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 20 November 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar water. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Sagaing, Mandalay, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHB0URING AREA FOR 21 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

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Terrorist groups destroy 444 schools to date

HUMAN resource development plays a key role in the development of a country and higher education is the most important factor for human resource development.

THE State Administration Council has set out a plan for human resources and education, authorities said.

Authorities stated that terrorists are trying to block the implementation of the future activities of the State Administration Council and to overthrow the government's administrative machinery.

During the period, from 1 February to 15 November 2021, about 444 schools were destroyed by terrorist groups, authorities added.

List of schools destroyed due to the attacks of terrorists between 1-2-2021 and 15-11-2021

Sr	Region/State	Township	School	Remark
1	Nay Pyi Taw	5	13	
2	Kachin	8	23	
3	Kayah	1	3	
4	Kayin	4	12	
5	Chin	3	6	
6	Sagaing	21	65	
7	Taninthayi	2	3	
8	Bago	10	22	
9	Magway	16	44	
10	Mandalay	25	83	
11	Mon	7	39	
12	Rakhine			
13	Yangon	30	78	
14	Shan	15	24	
15	Ayeyawady	15	29	
Total		162	444	

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, authorities stated. — MNA

Ravages are seen after arson attack in Kalay.

Sagaing Education Degree College on 18 May 2021

Kawkareik Township on 26 June 2021.

Pyigyidagon Township on 24 May 2021.

Falan on 26 May 2021.

Vaccination of Sinopharm COVID-19 continues in Bahan Township

Vaccination drive in Bahan Township.

TO curb COVID-19 disease in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, COVID-19 vaccination continued in the township and people, including elderly persons and civil servants, participated in the activities yesterday at Mingala Market Dhamma Hall and Workers' Dhamma Hall separately.

Vaccination activities are documented by Red Cross members followed by measuring body temperatures, blood pressure, and monitoring oxygen levels.

Vaccines were given systematically to the people, and only those with normal health conditions are inoculated.

There are 22 wards in Bahan Township and vaccines are administered to priority groups according to their age groups, officials said.

The second dose is given on 19 November at the same place and a total of 125 people were jabbed.

Similarly, the COVID-19 vaccines are given at the Workers' Dhamma Hall for over 40-year-olds and 165 people were injected for the first time.

Township Public Health Department staff, Township Social Welfare Department staff, township police, township fire brigade, township Red Cross, ward administrators and charity organizations assisted in the vaccination activities, officials said. —Aung Myint (IPRD)/ GNLM

Students in Sedoktara receive second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

STUDENTS aged over 12 in Sedoktara Township, Magway Region, received their second dose of COVID-19 vaccines in respective immunization sites yesterday.

The COVID-19 immunization was carried out under the supervision of the Chairman and members of the Township Administration Body. A total of 228 students have been fully inoculated with their second dose of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccination will continue for the rest of the students so that they could access education as soon as possible as well as to effectively prevent the spread of the COVID-19 disease. – Township IPRD/GNLM

Inoculation programme is underway in Sedoktara.

12-year-old students get jabbed against COVID-19 in Pauk Township.

Students in Pauk Township receive second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

STUDENTS aged over 12 in Pauk Township, Pakokku District in Magway Region, received their second doses of COVID-19 vaccines in respective immunization sites yesterday.

The inoculation drive was carried out under the supervision of the Chairman and members of the Township Administration Body. A total of 624 students have been fully inoculated with their second doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccination will continue for the rest of the students so that they could access education as soon as possible as well as to effectively curb the spread of the COVID-19 disease. — Nyan Toe IPRD/GNLM

One Buddhist monk killed by terrorist group in Myaung Township

MYANMAR is a country with a culture based on the teachings of the monks, and is recognized by the world as one of the most prosperous countries in the world due to the religious efforts of the monks, authorities said.

A monk was killed by a terrorist group on 19 November and his body was cremated in Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, authorities added.

The incident took place on 19 November at 3:30 pm in Myaung Township.

Monk U Pita (lay name U Ba Myint), who was worshipping at the monastery in Bukaing village, was killed by about 30 members of a terrorist group and his body was cremated (in picture).

Security forces are continuing to identify and prosecute the terrorists and bring them to justice. —MNA

Japan weighs oil reserves release to stabilize crude prices: sources

THE Japanese government is mulling a release of crude oil reserves to help stabilize oil prices, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday.

There are, however, voices in the government cautioning against releasing oil reserves at times other than supply shortages, the sources said.

Japan has never previously released crude oil stockpiles in response to rising prices. Past decisions to tap reserves were made to address supply concerns following natural disasters and overseas political turmoil.

Reserves releases will likely be implemented in collaboration with the United States, the sources said. Responding to a question in a press briefing Friday about the possibility of a coordinated emergency stockpiles release with Japan and other countries, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Washington has been in discussions with leaders from various countries to ensure there is adequate supply of crude oil, but stopped short of elaborating.

Photo taken on 13 Oct 2021, shows a gas station in Tokyo. The average price for regular gasoline stood at 162.10 yen ($1.4) per litre in Japan on 11 Oct, hitting its highest level since October 2014 amid a recent global surge in crude oil prices. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan, which relies on oil-producing countries in the Middle East for around 90 per cent of its consumption, started keeping crude oil reserves in the 1970s.

Japan has its national oil reserves at military bases across the country and at private oil firms.

As of the end of September, Japan has reserves for 242 days of domestic consumption, including joint stockpiles with oil-producing countries.— Kyodo ■

Despite a predicted record holiday spending season, prices rising at the fastest pace in 30 years in the United States will dampen the Christmas spirit for one in ten Americans. **PHOTO: AFP**

Inflation to dampen one tenth Americans' holiday season: media

DESPITE a predicted record holiday spending season, prices rising at the fastest pace in 30 years in the United States will dampen the Christmas spirit for one in ten Americans, local media cited Bloomberg as reporting.

Quoting Bloomberg, Singapore's Chinese language newspaper Lianhe Zaobao reported that more than 11 per cent of Americans do not plan to spend at all, the greatest share in at least 10 years and more than double that in 2020.

Inflation is especially taking a toll on lower-income families, who spend roughly a third of their earnings on essentials like food and energy, said the report.

"Anything that in the very short run puts a lot of pressure on family budgets across the board will cause more stress and damage to low-income households because they just have less scope to absorb it," said Josh Bivens, director of research for the Economic Policy Institute, according to the report. —Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

WTO members on track to conclude trade in services talks

WORLD Trade Organization talks on facilitating trade in services are on course to reach a successful conclusion at the WTO ministerial conference starting later this month, reporters were told Thursday.

The negotiations, launched at the end of 2017, aim to facilitate trade in services by simplifying administrative regulations and technical standards.

"Participating members are on the right track to adopt a ministerial declaration that will announce the successful conclusion of the negotiations," said Jaime Coghi, chair of the talks on services domestic regulation.

The WTO's 12th ministerial conference takes place at the global trade body's headquarters in Geneva from 30 November to 3 December.

The 66 WTO members negotiating on services domestic regulation are still finalising their schedules of commitments ahead of the conference.—AFP ■

Digital exhibition endeavours to bring Silk Road history to life

A digital exhibition platform has been set up in Dunhuang, a city along the Silk Road in northwest China's Gansu Province, showcasing the country's 40 world heritage sites and cultural relics along the Silk Road, the Dunhuang Academy said Friday.

The online platform, operated by the academy, offers the public a glimpse of 27 world cultural heritage sites and 13 key cultural relic sites under state protection in Shaanxi, Gansu, Xinjiang and Henan.

Popular historical sites viewable on the platform include the terra-cotta warriors, Mogao Grottoes and Kizil Grottoes, said Wu Jian, director of the academy's conservation and research department.

"This platform is a new endeavor to protect and promote traditional culture, and bring the cultural relics back to life virtually," said Wu.—Xinhua ■

Stocks, euro retreat on Austria Covid lockdown

US and European stock markets fell Friday and the euro slumped as Austria announced a new strict lockdown to try to curb surging Covid cases, triggering heavy losses for oil prices.

The lockdown in Austria will begin Monday and vaccination against Covid-19 in the eurozone country will become mandatory from February, said Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg. European stocks "turned red… as a new lockdown in Austria and the prospect of similar action in Germany wiped out earlier gains", said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda trading group. Wall Street followed Europe down as the Dow Jones and the tech-heavy Nasdaq were off around a half per cent in early trading. Fawad Razaqzada, market analyst at ThinkMarkets, warned of a "short-term correction as investors wake up to the risks facing the eurozone economy", despite the prospect of a weaker euro boosting exports. — AFP ■

An Austrian police officer checks a driver's digital vaccination certificate. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tokyo luxury hotel offers lantern-inspired dining for COVID era

FANCY having dinner with your own private lantern-styled pod hanging from above your head? That's what one luxury hotel in Tokyo has come up with as a stylish way to protect customers against the coronavirus.

The unique dining experience comes courtesy of Hoshinoya Tokyo, a luxury "ryokan" traditional Japanese inn located in the capital's Otemachi business district.

The open bottom hanging partitions, added to the hotel's private banquet room on Oct. 13, are offered with a Japanese cuisine dinner prepared by the head chef.

"As the installation of partitions in restaurants and eating spaces has become standard, we wondered if we could propose an experience that would make the dining experience more enjoyable," said General Manager Ryosuke Akahane.

Lantern dining experience offered at Hoshinoya Tokyo to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. **PHOTO: HOSHINO RESORTS INC. / KYODO**

While the hotel first came up with the idea of lanterns to match the property's atmosphere, it soon found that the design was also practical in terms of operability and comfort.

The hotel's operator Hoshino Resorts Inc. produced the partitions styled like traditional paper lanterns, known as "chochin," in collaboration with Kojima Shoten, a Kyoto-based paper lantern maker that has been in business since the Edo period (1603-1868).

According to Akahane, they have been modified to consider visibility, customer height, and convenience when sitting down, standing up, and having food served by waitstaff, so "they are more comfortable than they appear".

While the top section is made of paper, it transitions to clear plastic part-way down so that customers can see their dinner companions while not worrying about droplet spray as they wine and dine.

"The purpose of a dinner party is to deepen friendship and build a relationship of trust among the people gathered through food and conversation. So we want our customers to enjoy the original purpose of the dinner party by having a meal and conversation without holding back," said Akahane.

Each lantern pod is 102 centimetres in height and 75 centimetres in diameter and possesses its own light source to ensure customers can clearly see the food in front of them. Each has an open back to improve ventilation.—Kyodo ■

China's Guizhou launches first direct China-Europe freight train service

THE first direct China-Europe freight train service linking southwest China's Guizhou Province and Russia's Moscow started service Thursday.

Loaded with goods including guitars, electronics and ceramics, the inaugural train is expected to arrive in Vorsino, Moscow on 3 Dec, according to Guizhou provincial commerce department.

There is no transit stop along the new route and the train will leave China via the land port of Manzhouli on the China-Russia border for its destination.

The new route is expected to cut the transportation time to 15 days, compared to 53 days by the sea.

Previously, goods in Guizhou mainly relied on China-Europe freight trains launched by cities including Chongqing, Chengdu and Xi'an to reach European and Central Asian countries.

The inland province plans to launch more China-Europe freight train services to destinations such as Poland and Germany.—Xinhua ■

The first direct China-Europe freight train linking southwest China's Guizhou Province and Russia's Moscow sets out from Guiyang, southwest China's Guizhou Province, 18 Nov 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/YANG WENBIN**

French cosmetics company apologizes for price mix-up

A visitor walks past the booth of L'Oreal at the Consumer Goods exhibition area during the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, 7 Nov 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

FRENCH cosmetics brand L'Oreal Paris has apologized after consumers filed complaints over the price differences in the label's mask products during this year's Singles Day shopping spree.

Both Li Jiaqi, a top livestreaming host, and Viya, another top-tier livestreamer, issued statements on 17 Nov that they will suspend all collaborations with L'Oreal's flagship store on Tmall, as the promotional prices offered during their livestreaming shows do not match the price that L'Oreal promised.

Nearly 20,000 consumers complained the mask products they purchased at the livestreamers' sales are more expensive than those offered at the L'Oreal flagship store on Tmall.

L'Oreal said in its reply on Nov. 18 that the company has set up a team to respond to inquiries from consumers and has been working with relevant government departments in a bid for solutions.—Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

S.Korea's producer price keeps record-breaking trend in October

PRICE for goods and services among South Korean suppliers kept a record-breaking trend on expensive crude oil, central bank data showed Friday.

The producer price index (PPI) gained 0.8 per cent from a month earlier to 112.21 in October, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The index has continued to break previous records for the seventh consecutive month since April. From a year ago, the index surged 8.9 per cent in October, marking the fastest increase in 13 years since October 2008.

The producer price for industrial products, including oil products, rose 1.8 per cent in October from the prior month, maintaining an upward momentum for 17 straight months.—Xinhua ■

British stocks down 0.45 pct

BRITISH stocks decreased on Friday, with the benchmark FTSE100 Index down by 0.45 per cent, or 32.39 points, to close at 7,223.57 points.

Ocado Group, an online grocer, soared 6.84 percent, the top gainer of the blue chips. Royal Mail and Rightmove increased by 3.70 percent and 2.91 per cent, respectively.

Compass Group, a British multinational contract foodservice company, was the worst performer in the blue chips, with its shares losing 5.22 per cent. Melrose Industries, a London-based company that specializes in buying and improving underperforming businesses, dropped 4.41 per cent. Kingfisher, an international home improvement company, fell 4.36 per cent.—Xinhua ■

21st Macao Food Festival opens for business

WITH over 100 local unique restaurants and more than 100 types of Chinese and western dishes, the 2021 Macao Food Festival will showcase the city's offerings as a 'Creative City of Gastronomy' for 17 consecutive days until 5 December.

The event organized by the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macao at Sai Van Lake Square will take place between 5:00pm to 11:00pm from Mondays to Thursdays, and from 3:00pm to 12:00 midnight Fridays to Sundays.–Xinhua ■

Pakistanis welcome Indian Sikhs for founder Guru Nanak's birthday

Pilgrims surround a bus carrying the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh holy book) on the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE scent of flowers and perfume hangs in the air as thousands of Sikhs from India were welcomed to Pakistan on Friday for one of the world's biggest birthday celebrations: the 552nd birth anniversary of the Guru Nanak.

The festivities were taking place at the shrine to the founder of the Sikh religion in Nankana Sahib, the Pakistani city where he was born in 1469.

The emotion is heightened this year, as devotees from Pakistan's arch-rival India were unable to cross the border in 2020, due to coronavirus restrictions.

"I have goosebumps, I can't explain how I'm feeling," Darshan Singh, a 70-year-old farmer from India, tells AFP.

"I never thought we would get this sort of love from our Pakistani brothers," he says. "These women are not Sikh, these children know nothing about our faith, but they are standing up to welcome us with open arms and clean hearts."

Many others were similarly swept up in the rare sense of cross-border unity between Pakistanis and Indians, divided when the subcontinent was partitioned at independence in 1947.

Annie Munjal, a 24-year-old from Delhi, says her grandparents often told her stories of growing up in Pakistan's Lahore, near the Indian border, before partition.

"We had heard from them how Pakistan was, but we never got to see," she says. "Now we are here... they are just like us."— AFP ■

All but 1 HK poll candidate approved under "patriots-only" system

ALL but one of the 154 candidates nominated for Hong Kong's legislative election next month have been approved to run, including a handful of non-establishment candidates, the city government said Friday.

The political affiliation of the rejected candidate, disqualified because he is a government employee, was not confirmed, ahead of the polls to be contended by mostly pro-Beijing candidates under the new electoral system imposed by the mainland aimed at ensuring that only "patriots" govern the city.

This year's nominations saw no candidates from the city's major democratic parties, including the Hong Kong Democratic Party that will not be contesting a local election for the first time in over two decades.

Chief Secretary for Administration John Lee told reporters that Lau Tsz-chun, a nurse who had filed for candidacy, was barred from running in the 19 Dec election by the government's eligibility review committee, which assesses candidates, because he is a public servant.

The city's No. 2 leader praised the revamped electoral system, pointing out that the candidates were from a "mix of different backgrounds and strata." He also warned those intending to boycott the election that calling on others to cast blank votes would be in violation of the law and strict action would be taken.

People walk in Hong Kong on 19 Nov 2021, in front of a banner that reads "Ensure Patriots Administering Hong Kong", ahead of a legislative election in December. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The Legislative Council election will be the first since the legislature approved sweeping changes to the city's electoral system in May.—Kyodo ■

US prosecutors seek four-year sentence for wife of 'El Chapo'

THE US Justice Department has requested a four-year prison sentence for the wife of jailed Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

Arrested in February at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, Emma Coronel Aispuro pleaded guilty in June to all three counts against her, including drug trafficking and money laundering.

Prosecutors also asked that she be sentenced to five years of supervised release and a payment of $1.5 million, according to a court document released Thursday. Guzman was the leader of the Sinaloa cartel, one of Mexico's most notorious drug trafficking groups. He ran an operation that delivered hundreds of tonnes of narcotics into the United States and was behind multiple murders of those who crossed him, according to court filings.

Emma Coronel Aispuro pleaded guilty in June to all three counts against her. **PHOTO: AFP**

The cartel imported more than 495 tonnes of cocaine, 99 tonnes of heroin, 49 tonnes of methamphetamine and 99 tonnes of marijuana over 25 years, according to the US Justice Department.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rare original copy of US constitution auctioned for $43 mn

AN extremely rare original copy of the US Constitution sold Thursday for $43 million -- a world record for a historical document at auction -- with a cryptocurrency consortium that coveted the text outbid by another investor.

Sotheby's auction house, which staged the sale, said the item was one of only 13 known surviving copies of the US charter, signed on September 17, 1787 at Philadelphia's Independence Hall by America's founding fathers including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison.

The winning bidder was not immediately identified.

A group of cryptocurrency investors had raised $40 million to try to buy the document but failed to secure the prize, the consortium said. – AFP ■

Fujimori's ex-strongman sentenced to 17 years for Peru kidnapping

VLADIMIRO Montesinos, the jailed former intelligence chief of Peru's disgraced ex-president Alberto Fujimori, has been handed a 17-year prison sentence for the 1990s kidnapping of a journalist.

Montesinos has been imprisoned since 2001 on a 25-year jail term for human rights violations, and under Peruvian law is considered to have already served the additional, shorter sentence handed down late Thursday.

Gustavo Gorriti, a harsh critic of Fujimori's autocratic regime, was kidnapped from his home by soldiers late on April 5, 1992 -- the night Fujimori, with support from the armed forces, announced he was dissolving parliament and suspending Peru's constitution.

The journalist, who worked for Spanish newspaper El Pais, was kept at a military prison until his release several days later following diplomatic pressure from Spain. Montesinos was a hardline security chief to Fujimori during his decade-long presidency, from 1990 to 2000.–AFP ■

EU, NATO condemn Russia's anti-satellite missile test

THE European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Friday denounced a recent anti-satellite missile test by Russia.

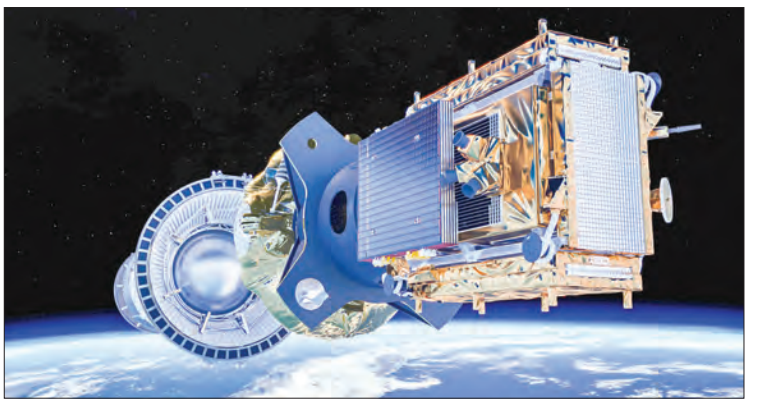
In separate statements, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and the North Atlantic Council, the decision-making body of NATO ambassadors, said the test generated a large amount of orbital debris that posed a long-lasting risk to crewed and uncrewed space activities, including to the safety of astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station.

Borrell described it as "a clear act of irresponsible behavior in outer space," while the North Atlantic Council said that "Russia's actions demonstrate a pattern of irresponsible behavior and endanger the security, economic, scientific and commercial interests of all nations and actors seeking to explore and use outer space for peaceful purposes."

The statements were issued after Russia on Monday conducted a kinetic direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon test against its own satellite, COSMOS 1408.

Russia's Defense Minister Army General Sergei Shoigu confirmed the successful test of the anti-satellite system on Wednesday. "We've really tested a successful promising system. It hit the old satellite," he said.

Shoigu added that the "resulting fragments do not pose any threat to space activities."—Xinhua ■



Sentinel-1B is a European radar imaging satellite launched on 25 April 2016. It is the second of two satellites in the Sentinel-1 constellation, part of the European Union's Copernicus programme on Earth observation.
PHOTO: EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY/XINHUA/FILE

Ceremony held to mark restart of nearest port to Fukushima reactor

Photo shows Namie Mayor Kazuhiro Yoshida (L, front row) cuts the ribbon at a ceremony in Fukushima Prefecture on 20 Nov 2021.
PHOTO: KYODO

A ceremony was held Saturday to mark the resumption of operations at the fishing port nearest to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant stricken by the 2011 quake and tsunami disaster in northeastern Japan.

With the completion of reconstruction of Ukedo Port situated around 7 kilometers north of the nuclear plant, all 10 ports in Fukushima Prefecture that suffered damage in the quake disaster have been restored.

"It is a big step forward for the town" of Namie where the port is located, Mayor Kazuhiro Yoshida said at the ceremony, which was postponed from earlier in the year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The seawalls and quays of the port were severely damaged in the disaster, but as the area was in the no-entry zone where radiation levels remained high following the nuclear plant meltdowns no reconstruction work took place until October 2013.

Reconstruction was completed in March and the port is already in operation.

After the disaster, fishermen in Fukushima conducted trial operations off the prefecture's coast before starting preparations earlier this year for full-fledged fishing.

Among the disaster-hit prefectures in the northeast, reconstruction of all 31 fishing ports run by Iwate Prefecture was finished in August 2019, while 18 out of 27 ports operated by Miyagi Prefecture were rebuilt by March.— Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colombian president declares 'end' of Gulf Clan cartel

COLOMBIA'S President Ivan Duque on Friday declared the "end" of the Gulf Clan drug cartel, formerly the country's largest, after the capture of its leader and dozens of other members.

Dairo Antonio Usuga, also known as Otoniel, was arrested on 23 October in a raid involving 500 police and military personnel.

The 50-year-old is waiting to be extradited on drug trafficking charges to the United States, which had offered a $5-million reward for his capture. In recent days, authorities arrested another 90 suspected members of Colombia's largest cocaine cartel, which operates in concert with Mexican drug gangs in almost 30 countries.—AFP ■

UK moves to ban Hamas as 'terrorist organization'

SHOWING support for Hamas in Britain could be punished with 14 years in prison if the government succeeds in banning the group as a terrorist organization, the Home Office said Friday. Home Secretary Priti Patel announced the move to bring Britain into line with the United States, which designated Hamas a terror group in 1995, and the European Union. Parliament will vote on the proposals next week and if successful, could become effective from next Friday.

Patel argued an outright ban under the Terrorism Act 2000 was necessary because it was not possible to distinguish between Hamas' political and military wing.—AFP ■

Hundreds try to cross Polish border despite signs crisis easing

POLAND on Friday reported that hundreds of migrants had again tried to breach its border with Belarus, as Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said it was "absolutely possible" his forces had helped people cross into the EU but denied inviting them.

The West has accused Belarus of artificially creating the crisis by bringing in would-be migrants from abroad and taking them to the border with promises of an easy crossing into the European Union.

Belarus has denied the claim, instead criticizing the EU for not taking in the migrants.

"We're Slavs. We have hearts. Our troops know the migrants are going to Germany... Maybe someone helped them," Lukashenko told the BBC.

"But I didn't invite them here," he added.

Polish border guards said there were attempted crossings by two groups on what is the eastern border of the European Union and NATO -- one involving 500 migrants, some of whom threw rocks and tear gas canisters.

The guards said they had detained 45 migrants.

However, there were signs of the crisis easing after Belarusian state news agency Belta reported 2,000 migrants had left a makeshift encampment on the freezing border to spend the night in a nearby warehouse.

Belta published photos of the migrants lying on mats in the facility and wrote that "for several it was their first warm night".

Also, hundreds of Iraqis who had failed to cross into the EU from Belarus returned home Thursday on the first repatriation flight organized by Baghdad.

According to the Kremlin, Lukashenko and his main ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin, spoke by phone Friday and stressed "the importance of the establishment of cooperation between Minsk and the EU to resolve the problem".— AFP ■

Iraqi migrants preparing to fly home from Minsk airport, Belarus.
PHOTO: AFP

Watford inflict more misery on Man Utd, Chelsea extend lead

Manchester United's Norwegian manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (R) reacts at the final whistle during the English Premier League football match between Watford and Manchester United at Vicarage Road Stadium in Watford, southeast England, on 20 November 2021. **PHOTO : IAN KINGTON / AFP**

MANCHESTER United slumped to another damaging defeat for manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in losing 4-1 at Watford on Saturday as Chelsea thrashed Leicester to extend their Premier League lead to six points.

Solskjaer has clung onto his job despite a run of just one win in seven Premier League games to slip to seventh, 12 points adrift of the leaders.

A managerial change made an instant impact for Aston Villa as late goals from Ollie Watkins and Tyrone Mings beat Brighton 2-0 to give Steven Gerrard a winning start to his coaching career in the Premier League. However, Newcastle slipped to the bottom of the table in the absence of their new boss Eddie Howe, who tested positive for coronavirus on Friday, as the Magpies were held 3-3 at home by Brentford. —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.

Haaland-less Dortmund try to keep pace with Bayern

DESPITE the ongoing absence of star striker Erling Braut Haaland because of a persistent hip injury, second-placed Borussia Dortmund will try to keep pace with Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich when they host Stuttgart on Saturday.

Dortmund currently trail in the table by four points, a deficit which stood with Bayern's surprise loss to strugglers Augsburg on Friday.

This will be Dortmund's sixth consecutive match without Haaland and hopes are fading that the Norwegian will return before their league showdown at home to Bayern in two weeks.

Dortmund's form without Haaland has been erratic, culminating in a 2-1 defeat at RB Leipzig before the international break.

Club captain Marco Reus will lead Dortmund's attack alongside Dutch striker Donyell Malen knowing the hosts can ill afford another slip-up against Stuttgart if they want to challenge Bayern.

"We have to be incredibly consistent and be ready when they (Bayern) falter, but they hardly ever do," Reus told Sport1.de.

Raphael Guerreiro, Emre Can and Mahmoud Dahoud could all return after recovering from injuries.

Dortmund want to exorcise memories of the 5-1 thumping Stuttgart handed them when the teams met at Signal Iduna Park last December.

The freak result saw Dortmund sack former coach Lucien Favre as Stuttgart's Congolese striker Silas Katompa Mvumpa netted twice in the rout.

It is also a tune-up for Wednesday's Champions League match at Sporting Lisbon, where Dortmund must win to stay on course for the last 16. — AFP ■

France's Boutier leads LPGA Tour Championship

France's Celine Boutier lines up a putt on the way to a four-shot lead through 36 holes at the US LPGA Tour Championship in Florida. **PHOTO: AFP**

CELINE Boutier fired six of her eight birdies on the back nine on Friday on the way to a second straight seven-under 65 and a four-shot lead in the US LPGA Tour Championship.

France's Boutier, coming off a confidence-building seven-under effort on Thursday, was even par through eight holes after a birdie at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida.

She caught fire with back-to-back birdies at nine and 10, then added two more birdies at 12 and 13 -- where she chipped in from in front of the green.

After picking up a shot at the 15th, she closed with another brace of birdies at 17 and 18 to pad her lead.

"I was frustrated with my front, I left a couple of shots out there," Boutier said. "My long game was really solid all day, and I was able to put my shots close, and it was helpful on the back," added the French player, who is among the European Solheim Cup players still riding the momentum of their victory over the United States in the match-play showdown in September.

Boutier has won two titles since then: the Ladies Open de France on the Ladies European Tour and the LPGA ShopRite Classic in October.

Mexico's Gaby Lopez, Australian Minjee Lee and American Mina Harigae were tied for second on 134 with world number one Nelly Korda and overnight leader Lee6 Jeong-eun tied on 135 alongside England's Georgia Hall and South Korean Ji Eun-hee.

Korda, who is leading South Korean Ko Jin-young in the race for Player of the Year, had four birdies and a bogey in her three-under 69.—AFP ■