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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Religious team of families of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) Office holds victorious ceremony of reciting five volumes of Maha Pathana Treatise

The Five Volumes of the Maha Pathana Treatise are recited victoriously by the religious team of families of Commander-in-Chierf (Army, Navy and Air) Office on 29 November 2021.

THE religious team of the families of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) Office held the victorious ceremony of reciting five volumes of Maha Pathana Treatise at Anawrahta Hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday morning, attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, swore and prayed at the ceremony and shared merits gained. Afterwards, she recited Buddha Sasana Ciram Titthatu three times together with the attendees to close the ceremony.

The religious team of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) recited five volumes of Maha Pathana Treatise for 11 days from 19 to 29 September dedicating the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to ensure the peace and tranquillity and overcome three catastrophes. — MNA

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Over 17 million people, 50 % of the target group, will be vaccinated by the end of December 2021, MoH Union minister says
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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.

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

BASED on a cooperative system, efforts must be made for the development of the rural area. Moreover, it is necessary to gather the raw materials at home and produce export-quality products. The Senior General also stressed the need to improve motor roads and railways for the development of public transport.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at meeting 2/2021 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 26 October 2021)

MTRV to introduce MRTV News Channel on test on 1 December

THE MRTV News Channel under the MRTV will be broadcast on the test as of 1 December 2021 for audiences to exclusively enjoy the news sector.

The MRTV News will carry local news and international news in real-time in addition to breaking news and update news with the crawler.

MRTV will continue the broadcast of the MRTV-HD as usual and launch the MTRV News on test from 6 am to 10 pm on a daily basis starting from 1 December 2021. Such a channel will be broadcast regularly as of 15 February 2022.

The MRTV News channel can be enjoyed with quality picture and sound through MRTV DVB T2 set-top box or LCD/LED TVs installed with DVB T2 tuner as MRTV Channel 2 in addition to DTH of Skynet and CANAL Plus. It can be watched on Analogue TV as MRTV Channel 2. —MNA

Chin State to produce value-added products of apple

THE Chin State Cooperative Department makes a plan to grow apples in Tiddim and Mindat Townships by organizing the cooperative societies to increase the apple cultivation rate, production and incomes of residents to improve their living standards.

The apple trees bear fruits within five years after planting and they can pluck the fruits for up to 15 years. An apple tree produces about three visses of apple per year while 582 visses with 194 trees per acre. If the price fetches K2,000 per viss, it earns K1.164 million. When the production cost is K500,000, the profit is K0.664 million per acre in one year. If a farmer grows three acres of apples, he can earn K2 million per year. If the apples are produced into apple wine as a value-added product, the profit is K760 per bottle. When there are 1,000 bottles, the profit will be K0.76 million. Currently, Tiddim and Mindat townships have 298 acres of apple cultivation. — Cooperative Dept / GNLM.

370 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 November, total figure rises to 521,931

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 521,931 after 370 new cases were reported on 29 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 496,660 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,097 after 9 died.—MNA

MoC conducts 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 products were imported by three companies and transported using 18 vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser, 305 oxygen concentrators for home use and 11 tonnes of masks were imported via the Myawady and Chinshwehaw trading posts, officials said. One bowser transported liquid oxygen to Yangon via the Myawady trading zone, officials added.

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 — ww.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccines delivered to Kengtung by military plane

Covid vaccines are received by Shan State health officials.

A total of 2,454 doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine were flown to Kengtung, Shan State (East) from Yangon by military aircraft and arrived at 3 pm on 29 November.

Director of State Medical Services and Public Health Department Dr Myint Kyaw and officials received the 2,454 doses of COVID-19 vaccine with needles delivered by military aircraft to Kengtung, Shan State (East).

A total of 2,454 Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, arrived in Kengtung, will be given to 12,270 people in eastern Shan State Townships against the COVID-19, officials said. — Aung Zin Myint (IPRD)/GNLM

MoI Union minister urges all to have books for young people in library

UNION minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn accompanied by Chairman of the Danu Self-Administered Zone Administration Body U Arkar Lin arrived at the Department of Information and Public Relations (IPRD) in Ywangan Township yesterday morning and inspected the conditions for coordinating information activities for the development of the region and operation of the library.

During the meeting with the staff, the Union Minister said information and knowledge dissemination activities are very important for the development of the region and the main task of the Department of Information and Public Relations is to disseminate accurate information and raise awareness among the people. He urged all to make effort to improve the appearance and services of the library and said it is necessary to organize the books and magazines that students and young people would like to read so that they will come to the library.

The MoI Union minister views the miniature version of the construction of Ananta Zina Thanbuddhe Pagoda in Ywangan on 29 Novenber 2021.

The Union minister highlighted the need to launch computer courses and other vocational training courses, the need for the staff to collaborate with relevant regional authorities for the development of the region that they are assigned. He called on them to openly present the difficulties and challenges in carrying out tasks and to work together amicably among them. He also stressed the need to be lookout for security concerns as unscrupulous people are now carrying out various forms of vandalism.

Chairman of the Administration Body U Arkar Lin presented the construction of the multi-purpose hall for community centre and public awareness activities. Afterwards, the Union minister observed the construction of the Ananta Zina Thanbuddhe Pagoda and donated cash.

Chairman U Arkar Lin explained the agricultural activities and regional development works of Ywangan from the hill of the pagoda. The Union minister said Pindaya and Ywangan have good foundations for nature-based tourism and he will provide media assistance to attract more local and international travellers. — MNA

Myanmar joins 59th Annual Session of Asian - African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

THE Government of the People's Republic of China hosted the 59th Annual Session of Asian - African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) via videoconferencing starting yesterday.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo joined the session together with other delegates of member countries.

During the opening ceremony, Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang made an opening speech. Then, Union minister and Attorney-General of the Union expressed words of thanks to China for holding the meeting despite the outbreak of COVID-19 and inviting to the session.

She also said that the Asian-African-Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) was established in 1955 as the outcome of the Bandung Conference. Myanmar is one of the countries that form the organization and also participates in annual meetings yearly. Holding the meeting via videoconferencing shows the unity between Asia-Africa countries and it is such a proud for publishing AALCO journal called "International Law and Global Pandemics."

The AALCO plays a key role for Asian-African countries and provides necessary things to develop the international law for other organizations such as the UN and Myanmar is proud of participating in the processes of the International Law Commission (ILC) of AALCO.

International law is the foundation for development in the fields of equality in international relations and international cooperation. During the outbreak of COVID-19, the countries should follow international law despite many challenges. The member countries also need to cooperate in resolving the challenges in economic, social and political issues during and beyond COVID-19 era. International cooperation is also absolutely essential as only one country cannot fight against transnational cybercrimes. Regarding such crimes, Myanmar drafts cyber security law accordingly to international norms.

Finally, the delegates of member countries exchanged views on processes of the International Law Commission, international law on cyber and international law related matters.— MNA

Over 17 million people, 50 % of the target group, will be vaccinated by the end of December 2021, MoH Union minister says

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win made an inspection tour at the Pyu Township Public Hospital in Bago Region and encouraged the health workers on duty on 28 November.

During the meeting with health workers, the Union minister said as the third wave of COVID-19 is under control to an extent and preparations for the next wave should be made on the experience gained, adding COVID-19 outbreak surveillance is strengthening to prevent the new COVID-19 variant enter from the borders or air travels.

RT-PCR equipment has been set up in border towns such as Muse, Kengtung, Lashio, Myawady and plans are underway to set up them in Dawei and Kalay. In case of an abnormal mass outbreak, the COVID-19 Gene Sequencing Screening is being carried out by the Ministry, Defence Services Medical Research Unit and Medical Research Department, he said.

The purpose of the visit is to provide the necessary facilities for the systematic preparation of the Specialized Treatment Unit for COVID-19 patients and the COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit in public hospitals, he continued.

Regarding the COVID-19 vaccination, more than 17 million people which is 50 per cent of the target group over the age of 18 are estimated to be vaccinated at least once by the end of December 2021. At present, 16.3 million people have been vaccinated once and the target will soon be achieved, the Union minister said. Of them, 11.5 million have been vaccinated twice and 4.8 million have been vaccinated once.

The Union minister coordinated the needs for basic health workers such as assistant health officers and midwives in carrying out the vaccination in villages to prevent further COVID-19 outbreaks and expand vaccine clusters to rural health centres and villages to reduce the incidence and severity of cases.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited the Toungoo Township Public Hospital and inspected the COVID-19 intensive care unit, installation of ventilators according to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan, laboratory, X-ray room, operation room, and installation of oxygen plants. He instructed officials to ensure that there is no shortage of laboratory equipment and reagents and to separate ICUs for COVID-19 and ordinary patients.

He said the Ministry of Health has arranged to provide a monthly stipend to COVID-19 health workers, food allowance for night shift staff, and allowances for postgraduate students, and efforts are being made to provide risk allowance to radiology/laboratory health workers.

He also instructed officials to arrange oxygen in line with the need for oxygen, to install oxygen pipelines, to stock necessary medicines and antibiotics.

He also coordinated the presentation of the specialists, nurses and basic health workers and provided honorary cash awards.

The Union minister also visited the Nursing and Midwifery Training School in Toungoo and instructed officials to provide food, accommodation and security for the trainees, to be equipped with modern teaching aids and to do arrangements for them to enter the workplace after completing the trainees. They were also asked to assist in the public health service on one hand. — MNA

Myanmar Disaster Response Team Training Course No 1/2021 opened

THE opening ceremony of Myanmar Disaster Response Team Training Course No 1/2021 was held yesterday morning at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine addressed the opening speech during the ceremony.

The Union minister said that due to the outbreak of COVID-19 disease, many discussions were held with the responsible persons for the training.

"In-person training is more effective than online training because of participation. Due to the declining rate of the pandemic, the training is open in person in accordance with the COVID-19 rules, issued by the Ministry of Health," the Union minister said.

"This training is provided by the Department of Disaster Management. The first phase of the three-phase project of the Human Resource Development Project for Humanitarian Assistance for Myanmar is being coordinated by the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordinating Office for Humanitarian Assistance for Disaster Management (AHA Center).

The formation and training of Myanmar Disaster Response Team is the most important of the three steps to be taken.

Disasters are difficult to predict when and where they occur, so the government and the private sector need to work together to strengthen and sustain disaster risk reduction," the Union minister added.

The Union minister said that the training was intended to be implemented in other ASEAN countries as a model, so it was necessary for all to make efforts in their respective roles.

Then, Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khaing explained that the curriculum to be taught in this course is based on the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) which is teaching at the ASEAN level. Frequent natural disasters plus policies are written in accordance with the procedures.

ASEAN-ERAT has already been formed at the ASEAN level, so efforts are being made to unite the Myanmar Disaster Response Team with local forces, the Deputy minister said.

Then, the Executive Director of AHA Center explained the background and objectives of the training.

A total of 35 participants, including trainees from the Myanmar Red Cross Society and social organizations, are attending the course in person while representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Center join the online course.

The training will run for six days, an official said.—MNA

Terrorist groups destroy 23 workplaces, factories

THE State Administration Council has set out a plan for the stability and development of the country and for cooperating 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.

From 1 February to 20 November 2021, a total of 23 workplaces and factories were destroyed by terrorist groups.

List of private workplaces and factories destroyed by terrorists from 1-2-2021 to 20-11-2021

No	State/Region	Township	Workshops/Factories	Remark
1	Kachin	1	1	
2	Sagaing	1	1	
3	Magway	1	1	
4	Yangon	5	20	
Total		8	23	

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

Hlinethaya

Shwepyitha.

Myanmar Sunview အထည်ချုပ်စက်ရုံ မီးလောင်မှုဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သည့် မှတ်တမ်းများ

Suntime JCK အထည်ချုပ်စက်ရုံ မီးလောင်မှုဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သည့် မှတ်တမ်းများ

Hlinethaya (East) Industrial Zone 1.

Wanxinda အိတ်ချုပ်စက်ရုံ မီးလောင်မှုဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သည့် မှတ်တမ်းများ

GTIG Hubo အထည်ချုပ်စက်ရုံ မီးလောင်မှုဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သည့် မှတ်တမ်းများ

Hlinethaya (East)

Security forces arrest Monywa Iron (Thanmani) PDFs for committing bomb attacks, murder cases in Monywa Township together with firearms

ON 17 November, the police arrested Kyaw Oo (aka) Kyaw Kyaw Oo from Aung Chan Thar Ward of Monywa who was communicating with Monywa Iron (Thanmani) PDF. According to his confession, the police also arrested Aung Kyaw Zin, Wai Phyo Kyaw (aka) Athay Lay, Hein Htet Win and Win Ko at "Arr Thit" guesthouse in Chan Myawady Ward on 18 November.

According to the confession of Wai Phyo Kyaw (aka) Athay Lay, the security forces raided the house of Maung Toe (aka) Yan Aung Toe in Att Taw Ward of Monywa Township and seized 10 remote-controlled mines, gunpowder and arrested Maung Toe (aka) Yan Aung Toe.

According to the words of confessions, the combined security force arrested Ye Htet Nyein, Kaung Myat Pe and Zin Maung at chick breeding farm in Yadanabon Ward together with rockets, bombs, guns, magazines and other explosives.

In these cases, the police arrested nine male suspects and seized one 40mm rocket launcher, one AK-47, seven homemade guns, two magazines, 100 7.62 bullets, 14 40mm launchers, six grenades, 12 homemade bombs, one binoculars, materials used in creating guns and other explosives.

According to the admission of Wai Phyo Kyaw (aka) Athay Lay, he attended explosive training in KIA Brigade 8 area together with Aung Kyaw Zin, Win Ko and other still at large suspects Phyo Ko Ko, Aung Myint Myat, Shay Gyi, Yan Myo, Yazar Soe, Dai Mon Htwe, Phyo Thu, Thiha Kyaw, Nga Sai, Pyar Gyi and Sote Phwar between 7 and 23 April according to the communication of Hein Thawdar (still at large).

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Arrestees are seen along with weapons and ammunition in Monywa.

40mm launcher.

AK-47.

Seized handmade firearms.

FROM PAGE-6

After the training, he went to PDF station near Buu Hle village in Yinmabin Township and participated in Monywa Iron PDF together with Aung Kyaw Zin under the leadership of Zaw Myo Aung (aka) Than Mani (still at large).

Suspect Ye Htet Nyein admitted that Hlaing Myo (still at large) kept the ammunition at his chick firm on 17 October and these weapons must be transported to PDF station near Buu Hle village in Yinmabin Township.

The Monywa PDF committed bomb attacks as follows:-

On 16 August, Wai Phyo Kyaw (aka) Athay Lay and Thet Oo Maung (aka) Nga Thet (still at large) exploded one homemade mine in staff housing of township Customs Department office in Yonegyi Ward.

On 13 September, eight suspects, including Wai Phyo Kyaw (aka) Athay Lay and Hein Htet Win, exploded Mytel tower with four homemade mines near Yaykukan street in Chan Myawady Ward of Monywa.

On 15 September, Aung Kyaw Zin and Zaw Htet Aung exploded one homemade mine in front of the communication office of Mytel office in Myawady Ward of Monywa Township.

On 16 September, Aung Kyaw Zin, Zaw Htet Aung and Aung Myint Myat (still at large) exploded one homemade mine in front of Myanmar Beer office in industrial zone ward of Monywa Township.

On 13 November, Wai Phyo Kyaw (aka) Athay Lay exploded two homemade mines in "Khayay hall" near traditional medicine hospital on Monywa-Kyaukkar road together with Aung Kyaw Zin and Hein Htet Win.

The Monywa lron PDF also committed murder cases as follows:-

On 22 September, suspect Zaw Htet Aung and Nga Poke (still at large) shot a traffic police vehicle officer who was serving duties at Htan Taw traffic light in Aung Mingala Ward of Monywa Township.

On 23 September, suspect Zaw Htet Aung and Nga Pote(still at large) shot a security member who was serving duties in front of Mytel office in Myawady Ward of Monywa Township.

On 20 October, Aung Kyaw Zin and other suspects who are still at large Nga Sai, Sote Phwar and Pyar Gyi shot one innocent civilian in Punnami street in Nandawun Ward of Monywa Township.

On 24 October, Aung Kyaw Zin and other suspects who are still at large Zaw Myo Aung (aka) Thanmani, Nga Sai and Sote Phwar shot one innocent civilian from Mau Village.

On 26 October, Zaw Htet Aung, Nga Pote (still at large) and Tauk Tee (still at large) shot two innocent civilians in front of (81) KTV in industrial zone ward.

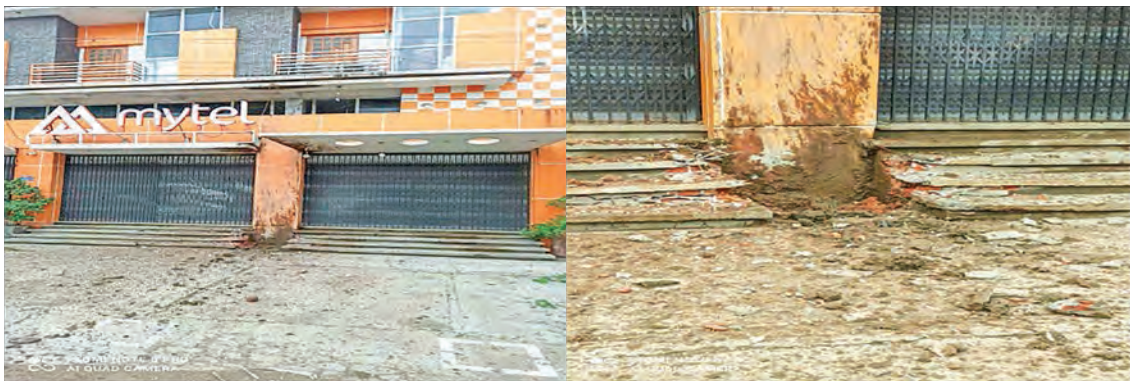
The suspects will face legal action in accordance with the law.

The people are urged to work together to prevent killing of good service personnel by the terrorists for ensuring development, peace and stability of the State, and if they receive information about the terrorist activities, they should secretly contact the nearest security forces and cooperate with them until the terrorists can no longer stand. — MNA

Civilians are killed by terrorists in Monywa on 26 October.

A civilian (injured) on 20 October.

A civilian (wounded) in Monywa on 24 October.



A handmade bomb blast in front of Mytel office in Monywa on 15 September.

Two terrorists hit security forces in Monywa on 23 September.

Township Customs Department in Monywa on 16 August.

A security member is killed by terrorists in Monywa on 22 September.

Implement National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy

TODAY'S young people are the powerful strength of tomorrow's nation, capable of readiness to shoulder the State responsibilities in their respective sectors in the future.

As governments in global countries understand the invaluable strength of young people, no matter what difficulties they face, they nurture them without fail to become reliable, qualified, educated ones.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement formulated and approved the National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy (2020-2024) for the development of young people. The Ministry, in collaboration with the international community including ASEAN, has participated in youth activities, meetings, seminars and workshops emphasizing youth affairs.

> In fact, children are the primary source of strength for young people. So also, the young people are the powerful force of the elderlies in nation-building endeavours. Hence, it is necessary to nurture the young people in capacity building for the future nation.

Myanmar has been providing services for the care and protection of vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities through the life cycle approach. As the youth sector, the government operates youth training schools for those in plains and border areas in need of care and behavioural reform.

Relevant ministries and organizations are striving to develop disciplined and qualified future leaders as the youth development sector is a cross-cutting issue. Currently, young people are facing challenges about technology, the economy, employment opportunities and drugs. As such, the authorities concerned need to help young people overcome the challenges for shaping a better future.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has supported the Government of Myanmar in formulating the Myanmar Youth Policy Strategic Plan through a youth-led process not only for the government but for the youths as well as for stakeholders who must now work closely together toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

The young people as frontline volunteers have been actively participating in different roles in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, showing their strength, leadership and unity through their actions and commitments.

It is necessary to support and advocate for the inclusion of young people from diverse backgrounds and identities in Myanmar including the disadvantaged and marginalized to fulfil every young person's potential and achieve sustainable peace and development for the country.

In fact, children are the primary source of strength for young people. So also, the young people are the powerful force of the elderlies in nation-building endeavours. Hence, it is necessary to nurture the young people in capacity building for the future nation.

Milestones in the State Administration Council's Ninth Month

By Kanaung

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

NyaungU (Bagan) City (Myanmar) was one of the recipients of the Fifth ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Awards. Other recipients were Yala (Thailand), Temborong (Brunei Darussalam), Preah Sihanouk City (Cambodia), Balikpapan (Indonesia), Xamnneau City (Lao PDR), Majilis Bandaraya Shah Alam (Malaysia), Marikina City (the Philippines), Nee Soon South Division (Singapore) and Can Tho City (Viet Nam).

On 28 October, Myanmar hosted the 11th ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force Meeting, held via videoconferencing.

On 26 October, Myanmar and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. Officials from the two countries are discussing the export of Myanmar agricultural products to Russia.

On 27 October, the SAC Chairman received a delegation from the Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral socio-economic cooperation between the two countries, notably, in investment, tourism, education, health, culture and transportation sectors.

On 29 October, the SAC Chairman in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services received the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Vice-Admiral Vladimir Lovich Kasatonov and delegation members on board the Russian warship Gremyashiy. The Senior General took the salute of the Guard of Honour on board the Russian warship. The two sides then discussed multisectoral cooperation between the two armed forces, exchange of goodwill visits to enhance relations and trust, and exchange of maritime technology and information.

Response to International Pressures

On 9 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement urging the international community not to ignore terrorism and extremism and to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. The statement emphasized that liaising with representatives of illegal terrorist groups such as Committee Representing Pyithu Hluttaw (CRPH), National Unity Government (NUG) and their affiliates, and allowing them to open representative offices in countries were tantamount to interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and undermined the Myanmar government's efforts to establish a disciplined democracy.

On 14 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on the visit of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar. The statement mentioned the efforts of Myanmar to ensure a successful visit and the difficulties in accommodating certain requests from some ASEAN countries which went beyond Myanmar's existing legal framework. The statement emphasized that Myanmar would welcome neutrality and impartiality as per the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and based on ASEAN Spirit.

In a statement issued on 16 October, Myanmar expressed its deep disappointment and strong opposition to the statements by some ASEAN Member States at the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held via video conference on 15 October, notably on the topics of attendance at ASEAN meetings and representation issues. The Union Minister asked to put on the record of the meeting that Myanmar objected to the decision made by ASEAN without reaching consensus and to unilateral actions, which were found to be contrary to the provision of the ASEAN Charter and Principles.

On 22 October 2021, Myanmar reminded ASEAN that during the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting on 15 October 2021, there had been no consensus reached on the issue of Myanmar representation at the ASEAN Summit. Therefore, Myanmar found it difficult to comply with the decision, which was not in line with the procedures of ASEAN and beyond the mandate of the Chair. Furthermore, the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting on 15 October 2021 had deliberately linked participation in ASEAN Summits to the domestic affairs within Myanmar. This violated Article 2 (2a, 2e and 2f) of the ASEAN Charter. This state (i) respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all ASEAN Member States, (ii) non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States; and (iii) respect for the right of every Member State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion and coercion. Under with Article 7.1, the Myanmar Head of State or Government is entitled to participate in the ASEAN Summits and, under Article 5 of the ASEAN Charter, is entitled to do so with equal rights and obligations. Therefore, Myanmar would not be in a position to accept any outcome of the discussions and decisions which were ultra vires and contrary to the provisions, objectives and cherished principles of the ASEAN Charter. Regardless of this, Myanmar will endeavour to find a peaceful solution based on ASEAN Spirit and ASEAN Way through consultation and negotiation. ASEAN member states should respect the principles of ASEAN.

On 26 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement regarding Myanmar's participation at the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits on 26 October 2021, which had been held under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam. The statement noted that limiting the level of participation from Myanmar violated the principles and procedures of the ASEAN Charter and was contrary to precedents set by ASEAN, especially with regard to Articles 2 and 5. Myanmar, therefore, exercised its rights as an ASEAN Member State in accordance with the principles enshrined in ASEAN Charter and declined to participate in the said ASEAN Summits under the terms set by Brunei Darussalam in the capacity of ASEAN Chair. Since Myanmar joined ASEAN, Myanmar had adhered to the principles and procedures enshrined in the ASEAN Charter in its contributions to the ASEAN Community Building process. Myanmar would continue constructively cooperating with ASEAN in its capacity as an ASEAN Member State.

On 24 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release condemning the Interactive Dialogues with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Myanmar and with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, which were organized at the Third Committee of the 76th United Nations General Assembly on 22 October 2021. The press release rejected the biased reports and allegations made against a sovereign country.

The peace process

On the occasion of the Sixth Anniversary of the signing of the Nation wide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) which fell on 15 October, a meeting was held between the National Unity and Peace Coordination Committee and ethnic armed organizations that had signed the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to date. Representatives and leaders of the ethnic armed organizations and members of the committee attended the meeting. To honour the Sixth NCA Anniversary, the State Administration Council issued an amnesty for 114 members or affiliates of ethnic armed organizations who had been detained for various reasons, closing all cases against them.

Legal affairs

Amendments to laws were made to bring them up to date. On 30 September, the State Administration Council enacted the National Planning Law for the six months of the 2021/2022 financial year, the 2021 Union Tax Law, and the Union Budget Law for the six-month period of October 2021 to March 2022, which all took effect on 1 October 2021. On 6 October, the Law amending the Foreign Exchange Management Law was enacted. On 11 October, the Adaptation of Expressions Law and the Law amending the Code of Civil Procedure were enacted. The State Administration Council also enacted the Law amending the 2018 Myanmar Historical Commission Law on 18 October and the Law amending the Bar Council Act on 28 October.

On 11 October, the Special Appeal Tribunal convened, adhering to COVID-19 regulations, and comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and judges of the Supreme Court of the Union. The Tribunal passed judgement on four civil special appeals and heard a total of six special appeals.

On 18 October, the Chairman of the State Administration Council granted pardons and commutations to 1,316 detainees and prisoners from various prisons and detention centres. In addition, the criminal cases of 4,320 people charged in connection with the riots were closed. These included 34 artists and social media celebrities who had been arrested for inciting unrest. The amnesty was intended to promote humanitarian values and enable those who had been released to contribute to nation-building efforts.

Population and election activities

On 1 October, the Ministry of Immigration and Population released its estimation of the population of Myanmar as 55.3 million people, comprising 26.5 million males and 28.8 females. The estimation was based on projections from the 2014 Population and Housing Census.

Throughout October, the Union Election Commission continued its inspection and reviews of the activities of political parties. The inspections focused on compliance with prevailing laws and regulations, party membership, party finances and assets, audits and liquidation.

Media and information

The Ministry of Information has been working on several fronts to develop the media and provide accurate information to the public. During a meeting with officials from the Copyrights and Registration Division, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn emphasized that while providing the necessary support for media development, action would be taken under the law against unethical media outlets and those who deliberately create and publish fake news.

In this regard, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, head of the State Administration Council Information Team, had to issue several statements throughout the month to expose fake news and to let the public know the truth, especially about the fire at Thantlang on 29 October. The Chin Defence Force had deliberately started the fire after they destroyed the bridge between that town and Haka. In response to biased allegations made by a certain country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a communiqué circulated to all embassies on the true sequence of events at Thantlang, backed up by detailed reports from the Ministry of Home Affairs and government security forces. The State Administration Council Information Team issued a press release on 23 October to let the Myanmar public know about the negotiations regarding the ASEAN Special Envoy. The Statement reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to the Five-Point Roadmap of the State Administration Council, which is the position of the Union Government. Myanmar would cooperate to the extent possible with ASEAN and would continue adhering to its foreign policy guided by the 2008 Constitution.

Winning the fight against COVID-19

On 28 October, the Prime Minister attended the 13th coordination meeting for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment. He underlined the need to monitor the transmission carefully although test positivity rates have declined, from starting the ward and village levels. He also emphasized the importance of vaccination and public education programmes for all ethnic nationals, including ethnic armed organizations and those in border regions.

By 31 October, Myanmar reported 500,073 cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 18,697 deaths. Nonetheless, the situation had steadily improved from July and August, with test positivity rates having declined to around 4 per cent by the end of October (29 October). By 31 October 2021, 12.9% of the total population of Myanmar had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 while 24.2% of the population had received at least one dose. The vaccines included those donated by China (4.6 million doses), India (2.5 million) and around two million from Russia. The rest were purchased, first from India, and then mainly from China.

SEE PAGE-10

The Senior General looks around the National Swimming Pool in Yangon on 29 October.

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာမသန်စွမ်းသူများနေ့
International Day of Persons with Disabilities

"Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world"

"အားလုံးအကျုံးဝင် လက်လှမ်းမီပြီး ရေရှည်တည်တံ့သည့် ကိုဗစ်-၁၉ အလွန်ကမ္ဘာဖြစ်ပေါ်ရေးမသန်စွမ်းသူများဦးဆောင်ပါဝင်ကြိုးစားပေး"

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 29 November 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 November 2021: A few cloud.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

Milestones in the State Administration Council's Ninth Month

FROM PAGE-9

The Tatmadaw and Ministry of Health ensured that the vaccines were transported and distributed to the respective regions and states in proper cold chain storage and using Tatmadaw aircraft as required. COVID-19 vaccination was systematically organized and administered without discrimination to various target groups, including Bengalis, internally displaced people, prisoners, ethnic armed organizations, and Salone ethnic nationals living on the seas.

The Ministry of Health issued a statement on 5 October regarding the negotiations with the GAVI COVAX Facility for COVID-19 vaccination. The COVAX programme has been widely administered in ASEAN and other countries, yet Myanmar has not received vaccines from this source.

The Government has started a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme for students aged 12 and above on 12 October. On 23 October, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win visited such a vaccination site and with words of encouragement to the students. The Ministry of Health has requested people who have been fully vaccinated to give priority to those who had never been vaccinated and not to ask for booster shots at the free vaccination centre.

The Ministry of Health has lifted the Stay-at-Home regulation from a total of 44 townships in various regions and states. In a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health, the Tatmadaw and community organizations, COVID-19 patients and those who need to be monitored were admitted to health facilities including military hospitals, converted military training schools and camps, and quarantine centres in the respective townships.

The Ministry of Commerce has been making necessary arrangements to facilitate the import of medical supplies and equipment required for the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment. Myanmar nationals who returned home have been systematically administered COVID-19 tests, medical check-ups, and treatment as necessary, and their return to respective regions and states has been facilitated by the authorities.The Ministry of Health is using the Vaccination Management Information System (VMIS) that was developed by the Information and Technology Department of the Tatmadaw to support the systematic management of the COVID-19 vaccine in Myanmar (In November, the VMIS won the Digital Government Award in ASOCIO ICT Award 2021 hosted by Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization).

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views renovation process at Maha Pasana Cave on 31 October 2021.

Opening up after the COVID-19 restrictions

With COVID-19 infections becoming more manageable, the government allowed filming activities to resume following COVID-19 rules and regulations. On 9 October, the Ministry of Information visited private television production facilities and on 12 October, he inspected the production work at Myawady Media Centre. In addition to regulating the sector, the Ministry of Information is also working with various artistes on entertainment projects.

The Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health, Yangon Region Government and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization coordinated to ensure that those artistes and their families who had not yet been vaccinated received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine on 5 October.

The Ministry of Information handed over 13 cinemas that are under its management to the respective region and state governments. The Ministry of Information also met with acting executives from the Myanmar Music Association (Central), Chairmen and executive committee members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on 12 October. The meeting focused on plans for the development of the film and music industries.

Domestic tourism has resumed under COVID-19 prevention guidelines. On the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut on 20 October, pagodas were alive with pilgrims, while people across the country celebrated the Thadingyut Festival of Lights and performed good deeds, all the while adhering to the COVID-19 regulations.

In October, the Chin State Government and the Tatmadaw cooperated with regard to the repatriation of internally displaced people and demining work in Chin State. However, during this same month, the projects were disrupted by the so-called Chin Defence Forces (CDF), which attacked the security forces.

Speedboat services for Myeik and the Myeik Archipelago resumed with limited passengers on 4 October. Myanmar National Airlines announced the resumption of flights between Yangon and Kawthoung and Yangon and Kalay from 16 October, following the guidelines and regulations of the Ministry of Health.

A number of stadiums, gyms, and sport training camps were opened in October. In addition, efforts are being made to open the Sport and Physical Education Institute in Sittway, which will host a training camp for track and field.

Helping citizens recover

Across the country, Tatmadaw families and other donors have been donating food, medicines and other essential items to Buddhist monasteries and nunneries, and to religious centres of other religions, conducting medical check-ups, and contributing necessary medical supplies. In October, Tatmadaw families and other donors were also seen donating medical equipment and supplies to Region and State Public Health Departments, public hospitals and various charitable organizations.

The Working Committee to address the Economic Impact of COVID-19 held a meeting on 18 October and arranged to help the livestock sector including shrimp and fish farming from the COVID-19 fund. The Committee announced that artists and journalists who have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis can apply for loans from the COVID-19 fund.

Efforts are being made by the government to address the high food prices which are affecting the public. The wholesale price of cooking palm oil was sold at K3,700 per viss and more than 7,522 tonnes were sold as of 6 October. Arrangements were set up across the country for gas stations to offer special prices to the public, and relevant authorities are monitoring the price of fuel. A number of regions and states, including Yangon, held pharmaceutical and food exhibitions to share information and facilitate purchase at affordable wholesale and retail prices. The prices of essential medicines are also announced to the public to prevent stopping price gouging by unscrupulous vendors. On 1 October, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, Ministry of Planning and Finance, announced that the deadline for farmers to repay the 2020 monsoon crop loan and the COVID-19 special loan had been extended until the end of December.

Civil service recruitment and skills development

Recruitment efforts are underway to fill vacancies in the civil service after disruptions caused by the civil disobedience movement. In early October, following COVID-19 prevention procedures, the Union Civil Service Board conducted interviews with candidates who had passed the written examinations for 195 gazetted officer vacancies in 10 ministries and government organizations. The Supreme Court of the Union issued certificates to 20 senior lawyers on 4 October.

The Department of Human Resource for Health opened 31 nursing/midwifery training schools on 7 October. To date, 781 third-year nursing and second-year midwifery students are enrolled, with 56 attending the Nay Pyi Taw Nursing Midwifery Training School. The Union Minister for Health said that arrangements are being made for the trainees to be appointed as civil service personnel immediately after the end of the training period on 16 October.

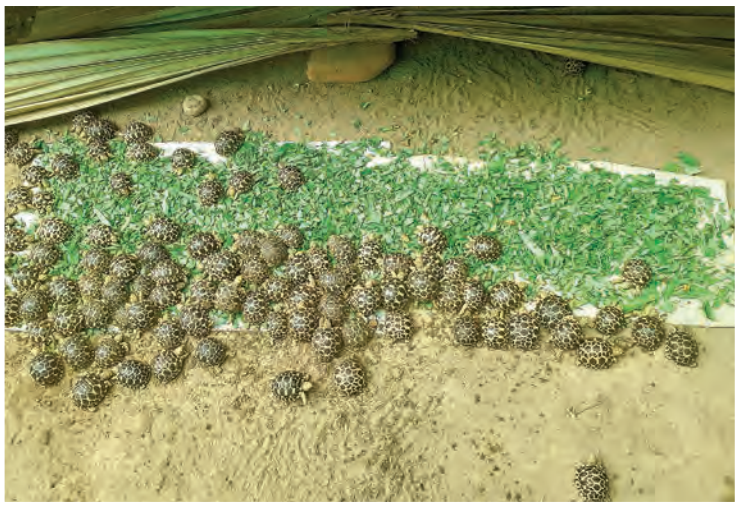
On 28 October, the basic education teachers Refresher Course No. 67 commenced at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), attended by 960 trainees.

The Myanmar National Skills Standard Authority (NSSA) issued National Vocational Skills Certificates on 6 October. The Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Science and Technology are collaborating to provide job opportunities for skilled workers. According to the Ministry of Labour, 437 skilled workers who passed the skill levels of 13 occupations in the 2020-2021 financial year were issued skills certificates.

Conclusion

In October, people turned out in demonstrations across the country to show their support for the government and the Tatmadaw, condemn the violent terrorist acts carried out by NUG/PDF, and denounce the interference from certain foreign governments. These foreign governments have been supporting NUG/PDF through their actions at the United Nations and ASEAN, and by extension, are supporting the NUG/PDF's terrorist tactics and killings of unarmed civilians and monks. Clearly, these foreign governments do not want peace and development in Myanmar but want a government that they can manipulate. Their efforts have strengthened the surge of national pride and feelings of patriotism among those who want peace and development in the country. Despite the pressures being exerted by certain governments, Myanmar will remain steadfast in asserting its sovereignty and following the roadmap set by the State Administration Council.

■ ■ ■



Lawkananda Sanctuary planned to hold a ceremony to mark its success of breeding more than 10,000 star tortoises with people interested in star tortoises, however, it hasn't been implemented yet due to various reasons. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (KPD)**

Lawkananda Sanctuary has become home to 10,000 endangered star tortoises

LAWKANANDA Sanctuary in Bagan has become home to over 10,000 star tortoises, which are critically endangered tortoise species, native to the dry, deciduous forests of Myanmar.

The Department of Forest in Bagan, NyaungU Township, has been engaging in a captive-breeding programme with 82 star tortoises — 42 males and 40 females — to attempt to increase the population of this tortoise since 2001. The programme also aims to release the offspring into their native places and for the public and researchers to observe.

A total of 10,484 star tortoises of various sizes have been grown in the sanctuary over the years and 1,650 of them have been reintroduced into the wild. The warden of the sanctuary U Shwe Htay Aung said numbers of the tortoise have increased due to the changes in techniques based on the experience in the past years. With the close supervision of the sanctuary warden, the medical and clinical expertise of Dr Tint Lwin, a veterinarian from WCS/TSA, and the dedication of the staff, star tortoises could consume nutritious food, making them in good health which eventually led to the increased hatching rate. The hatch rate was recorded at 68 per cent, U Shwe Htay Aung further explained.

"We have been able to increase the egg production rate of star tortoises by feeding them nutritious food and taking care of their health from the time of ovulation," he said. Care was also taken to the eggs until they hatch, and if they did not come out of the egg hole at the appointed time during the breeding season, the egg holes were dug to collect the tortoises that had already been hatched out and put them in a prepared place, he explained.

It took a lot of care and specific activities to decrease the mortality rate of the tortoises in the sanctuary such as re-burying unripe eggs in a soil container, putting medicines in the navel of the offspring, feeding foods rich in vitamins to the young tortoises, health check-up at daily feeding, putting the unhealthy tortoises under quarantine and providing treatment, feeding natural foods, water and fluids daily, putting them in pools, and providing pools and drinking cups even the temperature is high to ensure clean water.

U Shwe Htay Aung said only between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of the young tortoises are estimated to survive and reach the ground from the pit as they are not able to be cared by humans, as well as a natural cause. The eggs could be eaten by wild animals in the forest or natural disasters can cause landslides and cover the pits, blocking the offspring to come out. Even they could pass those stages, they are at high risk of extinction due to the destruction of ecosystems and human and wild animals in the forests, he added.

Lawkananda Sanctuary planned to hold a ceremony to mark its success of breeding more than 10,000 star tortoises with people interested in star tortoises, however, it hasn't been implemented yet due to various reasons. "We have the plan to hold a ceremony at a suitable time, and we are very delighted to see the star tortoises living on Myanmar soil forever and it is such an honour to the country," U Shwe Htay Aung proudly said.

As a matter of fact, Lawkananda Sanctuary is home to one of the largest tortoise farms in the world, with more than 1,000 tortoises breeding each year, which has also been dubbed the Star Tortoise Factory.

— Ko Htein(KPD)/ GNLM

Motorboat carrying 228 Bengalis arrested about 38 miles northwest of Sittway

THE Tatmadaw (Navy) is conducting day-to-day surveillance by warships to prevent illegal exploitation of natural resources, smuggling of drugs and goods, and trafficking of people in the territorial waters of Myanmar.

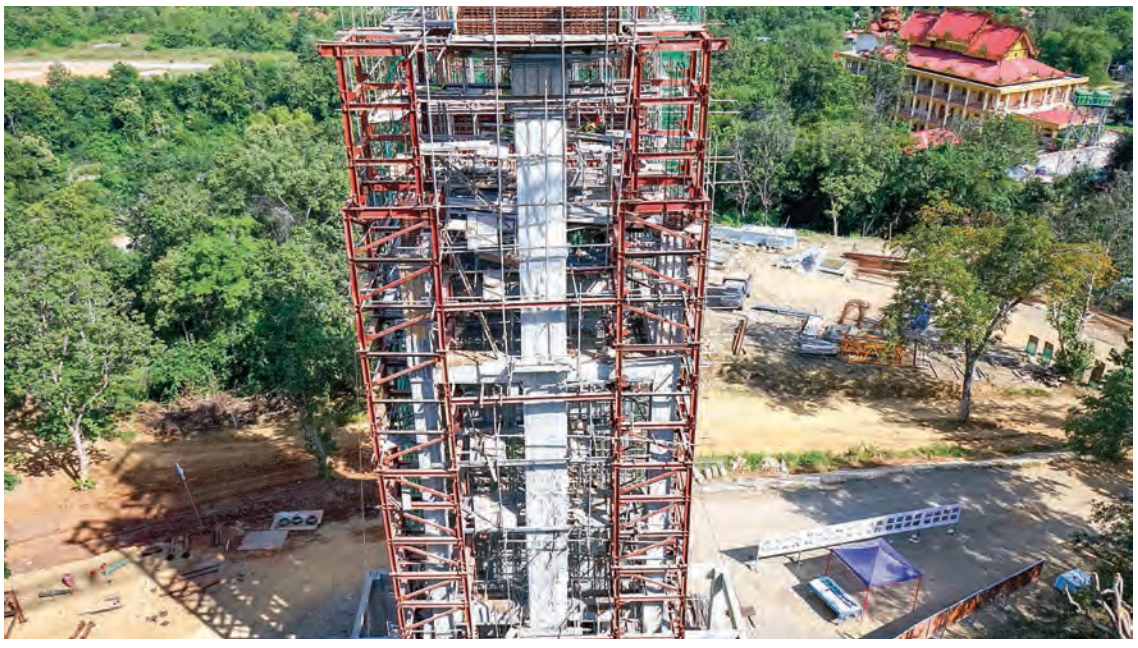
In such doing, a suspicious motorboat was found 38 miles northwest of Sittway and during the inspection, 228 Bengalis – 70 males, 125 females and 33 children) were arrested with five Myanmar nationals working onboard the boat named Wadi Tun (5), which is 59 feet and 1 inch-long, 14 feet and 9 inch-wide and 5 feet deep with a wooden hull.

They will be handed over to the Myanmar Police Force, Township Immigration Department and officials to proceed according to the procedures, it is reported.

— MNA

A motorboat carrying 228 Bengalis is apprehended by Myanmar Navy.

Construction of elevator tower at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda completes 74%



The elevator tower is 210 feet in length and 119 feet high. The tower also includes a 12-foot-wide walkway. The total cost is estimated to be about K1.6 billion. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)**

THE construction of elevator tower and skywalk Way Bridge was completed by 74 per cent, said U Than Lwin, construction project manager.

The construction phase-1 of the elevator tower (lift tower and walkway bridge) is being prepared to concrete for the elevator wall of the C3 column and lift tower which is 24.5 meters high. For the second part of the lift walkway bridge, the steel handrails, iron installation and roofing have been conducted. For the third part of the elevator walkway, the walkway braces will be installed in next coming days while the remaining project will be carried out. So far, 74 per cent of the construction project have been completed and it will be completed in January 2022, said the project manager.

The elevator tower is 210 feet in length and 119 feet high. The tower also includes a 12-foot-wide walkway. The total cost is estimated to be about K1.6 billion. Upon completion of the project, two elevators will be installed as phases-2 with the allowance of about K2,300. Each elevator in the pagoda can carry a maximum of 20 persons. The Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda project started on 29 June 2021 and will complete on 9 January 2022, according to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda's board of trustees. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/GNLM

Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago reopens for public recreation

THE Kanbawzathadi palace in the Bago region, which is constructed in 1553 during the reign of the Toungoo King Bayintnaung, has been reopened as per the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

The palace is one of the popular destinations not only for local people but also for foreign travellers. Most of the visitors are from Thailand and China, with an average of nearly 200,000 tourists and over 600,000 local travellers every year.

Kanbawzathadi Palace located near the southern archway of the magnificent Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago is a landmark in the Bago Archaeological Zone, covering an area of 64 acres.

Archaeological digs uncovered the location of the original foundations and well as 167 of the original teak pillars and over 2,000 Buddha statues. Many of these original parts of the Kanbawzathadi Palace are on display in Bago.

Now, it is reopened daily from 9 am to 5:30 pm since 10 November following the rules of COVID-19 rules and regulations. Domestic travellers are visiting daily in addition to the special days.

Kanbawzathadi Palace located near the southern archway of the magnificent Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago is a landmark in the Bago Archaeological Zone, covering an area of 64 acres. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)**

As of 31 December, the admission to the Kanbawzathadi palace is K3,000 for foreign travellers, K1,000 for adults and K500 for children. The local travellers will get a discount price by half, it is learnt. — Tin Soe (Bago)/GNLM

Kanan residents use traditional ways in producing peanut oil, sesame oil

THE locals of the Kanan region in Bamauk Township of Katha District of Sagaing Region are still using the traditional way to produce peanut oil and sesame oil such as placing them under a heavy block.

They peel the peanut and sesame and dry them in the sun. Then, they pound them in the large motor and place them in the pot to boil. Moreover, they put it in the material (nhyat taung) made of Tazaungmon bamboo strips with 8 inches each in width and height, and make holes in mango trees, tamarind tree or Albizzia lebbek, use the Rosewood block with 8 feet in length and a girth of 10 feet to press over it and another Rosewood flat-block with 3 inches in height and 4 feet in width. Then, they put the nhyat taung between the two blocks and make a hole with bamboo with 2 inches in seize to flow the oil. After that, the people put heavy stone or wood over them, climb on them to produce oil. It can produce more than 30 kyattha (ticals) of oil after three hours.

More than 30 years ago, there was no oil miller in the villages of Bamauk Township and so the people created the ox-driven oil grinders. Currently, such tradition becomes disappeared in some villages and only 23 villages in the Kanan region still use such traditional ways. **PHOTO: HLAING BWA**

"We adopt such way so far. We do not buy any oil. We make the oil that way using the peanut and sesame grown in our fields. We can get quality peanut oil and sesame oil. There is plenty of fake oil during this time. We do not eat much oil as they are not good for our health," said Daw Than Yin, aged over 83 from Sauk Phar village. More than 30 years ago, there was no oil miller in the villages of Bamauk Township and so the people created the ox-driven oil grinders. Currently, such tradition becomes disappeared in some villages and only 23 villages in the Kanan region still use such traditional ways. — Hlaing Bwa/GNLM

Myanmar targets 2 mln tonnes of corn export for 2021-2022 season

MYANMAR has planned to deliver two million tonnes of corn to the external market in the current 2021-2022 corn season, U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

At present, Myanmar's corn is exported to China via border posts and they are also conveyed to the Philippines, India, Viet Nam, Laos and Singapore.

The corn price remains on the high side compared to the rates recorded in the previous years, U Min Khaing continued.

The prevailing prices of corn move in the range of K690-K710 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), whereas the FOB price is approximately US$240-260 per tonne.

Approximately 2.3 million corns were shipped to the foreign trade partners in the past 2020-2021 (Oct-Sept) financial year, Myanmar Corn Industrial Association stated.

Of them, the majority of them went to Thailand and the remaining was also sent to China, India and Viet Nam.

Thailand gives 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.

During the 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.

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 the 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

Fresh sesame supply brings down price

Normally, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. Myanmar's sesame is shipped to China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, European Union countries and China Taipei (Taiwan).

THE supply of newly harvested sesame seeds cut the prices to K220,000 per three-basket bag in November-end, which is a sharp decrease of K20,000 per bag as against the price registered in early November.

The price of black sesame seeds stood only K145,000 per three-basket bag in July, whereas it increased up to K240,000 in early November. Then, fresh sesame supply reduces the price to K220,000 per bag, Soe Win Myint pulses depot in Mandalay stated.

Both raw sesame seeds and value-added sesame seeds are conveyed to China. When the COVID-19 cases fall and transportation barriers are eased, the sesame market will raise its head again for sure, a depot owner from Bayintnaung wholesale market said.

Normally, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. Normally, Myanmar's sesame is shipped to China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, European Union countries and China Taipei (Taiwan).

The EU markets prefer to purchase organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar. Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. At present, the country is relying solely on the Chinese market and facing a hurdle to place the sesame on other foreign countries.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation. About 600,000-800,000 tonnes of sesame seeds are yearly produced. — KK/GNLM

Lablab bean price up by K30,000 per bag within two weeks

THE prices of lablab bean stay in the bull market on the back of high demand, with a sharp increase of K30,000 per bag within two weeks, according to Mandalay market's price data.

It hit a high of K215,000 per bag in the domestic market on 8 November and now reached a fresh peak of K245,000 per bag in the last week of November, Mandalay market stated.

The prices of lablab bean went up in Mandalay market based on Chinese demand, coupling with competitive demand from local warehouse owners, according to Mandalay pulses market.

Lablab bean is highly consumed in domestic market and it is also exported to foreign markets. Earlier, China did not buy lablab bean. Since 2013, it has started purchasing lablab bean. Chinese demand drove the lablab bean price up. The Kyat depreciation in the local forex market is another reason of price hike.

At present, China is the main buyer of Myanmar's lablab bean. The beans are also shipped to India and Japan. Additionally, Myanmar achieved to export lablab bean as instant roasted beans to Singapore after value-adding.

The exports of lablab bean exceeded 19,422 tonnes in the financial year 2020-2021, generating revenue of US$11.6 million, as per the Ministry of Commerce's data.

The lablab beans are winter crop and they are primarily grown in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. It is harvested in January.— KK/GNLM

Mandalay Region Agriculture Dept to cultivate 25,000 sugarcane acres

MANDALAY Region Agriculture Department projected to cover 25,000 acres of sugarcane in four townships this winter, the department stated.

The pedigree sugarcane strains are to be distributed to the growers in four townships in PyinOoLwin District. It will be cultivated on 2,008 acres in Madaya Township, 7,500 in Singyu, 5,200 in Thabeikkyin and 10,400 in Tagaung in PyinOoLwin District, totalling 25,108 acres. The cultivation will commence in December, said Daw Khaing Mo Mo Zin, deputy head of Mandalay Region Agriculture Department.

"The growing season is from December to March. It is annual crop. Sugarcane likes regular moisture. It is mostly cultivated under the temperate climate. The government helps the growers to discuss with the sugar millers for contract farming and support agricultural loan. It is cash crop so the growers had better plant the sugarcane. Additionally, the price of sugar is on the upward trend, allowing the growers to earn a handsome profit," she elaborated.

"The sugarcane cultivation contributes to self-sufficiency. In addition to the domestic market, the industry is trying to penetrate external market. The locally produced sugar is also competing with the imported products. The industry is trying to boost the packaging quality. The sugarcane has grasped a market share," she added.

There are 18 types of sugarcane varieties. The local origins are CO-775, Yezin-1, VM C-74, 527 and Yezin-2, and other high-yielding 13 varieties are also seen. All of them are grown in the region. An acre costs approximately 1 to 1.1 million depending on the prices of fertilizer.— Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/GNLM

NEWS IN BRIEF

High-stakes Iran nuclear talks to restart

FIVE months after they were suspended, international talks on Iran's nuclear programme will restart on Monday in Vienna with analysts foreseeing major obstacles to any speedy resumption of the 2015 nuclear deal.

The talks paused in June on a positive note, with diplomats saying they were "close" to an agreement, but the arrival of ultraconservative Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in office has changed the outlook. Iran ignored appeals from Western countries to restart the talks for several months, all the while strengthening the capabilities of its nuclear programme.

While the talks are now finally restarting, the mood music is downbeat. The US Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley has said that Tehran's attitude "doesn't augur well for the talks".— AFP ■

Fiji sends troops to Solomon Islands as hunger fears grow

FIJI joined an international peacekeeping force keeping a lid on simmering tensions in the riot-hit Solomon Islands on Monday, as the Red Cross warned of food shortages in the Pacific nation's devastated capital.

Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama deployed an initial 50 Fijian troops to maintain law and order in the wake of deadly anti-government protests, lifting the number of peacekeepers to about 200 – mostly Australian with a contribution of at least 34 from Papua New Guinea.

Bainimarama said another 120 troops were on standby if the security situation deteriorated in Honiara, where a massive clean-up was under way after the unrest that claimed at least three lives. "I also wish to take this moment to convey my thoughts and prayers to our brothers and sisters in Solomon Islands for the turmoil they are currently experiencing," the Fijian leader said. The Solomons crisis erupted last Wednesday when protests over government policies turned violent, fuelled by poverty, unemployment and inter-island rivalries in the nation of 800,000.— AFP ■

WHO calls for treaty to shield against next pandemic

This handout picture made available by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 29 November 2021 shows WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (L) addressing the special session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva. The world must study the wreckage of Covid-19 and say "never again" by striking a pandemic preparedness treaty, the WHO said as countries gathered to build a new accord. **PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER BLACK / WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION/AFP**

THE world must study the wreckage of Covid-19 and say "never again" by striking a pandemic preparedness treaty, the WHO said Monday as countries gathered to build a new accord.

World Health Organization director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said another disastrous pandemic was bound to happen unless countries showed the resolve to strengthen global defences.

Nations are meeting in Geneva from Monday to Wednesday to discuss an international agreement setting out how to handle the next pandemic — which experts fear is only a matter of time.

The gathering comes with the planet still besieged by Covid-19, nearly two years on from the first recorded cases, and now shaken by Omicron, the new Covid variant of concern.

WHO member states reached a consensus Sunday on kick-starting the process towards a pandemic treaty.

The draft decision was secured after countries agreed to compromise — notably the United States, which is luke-warm on whether the outcome needs to be a legally-binding treaty.

The decision should be formalised on Wednesday.

Shadow of Omicron

"The emergence of the highly-mutated Omicron variant underlines just how perilous and precarious our situation is," Tedros told world leaders at the start of the three-day gathering.

"Omicron demonstrates just why the world needs a new accord on pandemics.

"Omicron's very emergence is another reminder that although many of us might think we're done with Covid-19, it's not done with us. — AFP ■

'Cold will kill us' - Yemen's fleeing families face desert winter

FORCED to flee fighting in Yemen's brutal war, Yehya Hayba and his family find themselves crammed into a desert tent with dozens of others, fearing the onset of winter.

Hayba, his wife and their seven children escaped to the Al-Sumya camp east of Marib city, the government's last northern stronghold, after clashes escalated nearby.

The family, displaced for the second time in the seven-year civil war, have nothing but two blankets to keep them warm during the cold nights.

"It is part of the Empty Quarter desert. There are no humanitarian services, no schools, no hospitals or any other services," Hayba, 39, told AFP.

Ali Yehya Hayba (R) and his children, who fled fighting between Huthi rebels and the Saudi-backed government forces, stay at the al-Sumya camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) east of Marib city, the last remaining government stronghold in northern Yemen, on 24 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Al-Sumya, with its clusters of makeshift tents, has witnessed an influx of displaced people, with hundreds arriving in a month, according to the International Organization for Migration.

The camp, with scant resources, bears testament to a conflict that has forced millions from their homes, creating what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. "We have been displaced two or three times now," said Ali Abdullah, another of the camp's residents. "We have not received blankets or mattresses, and the cold is going to kill us." The Hayba family share a tent with six other families, with only two bales of straw for around 35 people to sleep on. "We suffer from a lot of issues here," he told AFP. "We can't put up a curtain for privacy, and we don't even have the capability to set up a proper bathroom... Every three or four children share one blanket." — AFP ■

G-7 health ministers to hold emergency talks on new COVID variant

HEALTH ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations will hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss their responses to a new coronavirus variant spreading in Europe and elsewhere, the British government said Sunday.

The Omicron variant, first detected in southern Africa and designated as a variant of concern by the World Health Organization, is feared to be highly transmissible and has been already confirmed in four of the G-7 members — Britain, Canada, Germany and Italy — after South Africa reported a case to the WHO on Wednesday.

The G-7 health ministers, also including those from France, Japan and the United States, are expected to agree on coordinated efforts to counter the spread of Omicron in the urgently convened meeting, probably online, under the chairmanship of Britain.

Japan's National Institute of Infectious Diseases raised its coronavirus variant alert for Omicron to its highest level Sunday.

Canada confirmed two Omicron infections in Ottawa on Sunday, the first such cases reported in the Americas. The individuals concerned had recently travelled to Nigeria, according to authorities in Ontario.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Saturday, the day the first Omicron case was detected in the country, that restrictive measures will be implemented to contain the spread of the new variant, such as mandatory mask-wearing in shops and on public transport in England.

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday his government is dealing with the variant with a "strong sense of crisis" and is considering further border controls to prevent its spread. Japan over the weekend suspended new entry of foreign nationals from nine African countries, including South Africa.

The WHO has said it is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible compared to other variants, including Delta, or whether it causes more severe illness.Amid concerns that currently available vaccines may be less effective against the heavily mutated variant, vaccine makers Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE said they can adapt their mRNA vaccines within six weeks and start shipping batches within 100 days, according to media reports. — Kyodo ■

Japan to revive ban on new foreign arrivals Tuesday over variant

THE Japanese government will bring back its blanket ban on new entries by foreigners on Tuesday amid concerns over the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday.

Kishida told reporters he decided on the measure "to avoid the worst-case scenario," adding, "It is a temporary measure until information about the Omicron variant becomes clear."

On 8 November, Japan eased its ban on new entries by foreigners to allow businesspeople, students and technical interns into the country on the condition their host organization agrees to take responsibility for monitoring their movement.

Japan has already suspended the exemption for people who have recently been to any of nine African countries — Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Kishida revealed that a person who has arrived from Namibia has tested positive for the novel coronavirus, and analysis to verify which variant the person is infected with is under way. He said it will take four to five days to obtain the results.

The man arrived at Narita airport from Namibia on Sunday, according to the health ministry.

Concerns are growing over the Omicron variant, which was first reported to the World Health Organization by South Africa last week and has since been confirmed in several European countries as well as Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and Israel. The WHO has named the strain a "vaiant of concern," warning it has a large number of mutations that mean it may be highly transmissible and pose an increased risk of reinfection to people who have previously caught the coronavirus.

While it is unclear whether existing vaccines are effective against the Omicron variant, Kishida said the government will carry on with its plan to begin administering booster shots later this week while looking to health experts to provide additional data. The emergence of the variant comes as Kishida aims to restart economic activity that has been restricted by the pandemic, and could hold up plans to restart the government's "Go To Travel" programme, meant to shore up the domestic tourism industry.— Kyodo ■

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo on 29 November 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Singapore, Malaysia ease Covid curbs at busy border crossing

Passengers wait to board a bus in Singapore on 29 November 2021 to cross the border overland to Malaysia's southern state of Johor under the vaccinated travel lane (VTL) between the two countries. **PHOTO: AFP**

SINGAPORE and Malaysia eased coronavirus travel restrictions on one of the world's busiest land borders Monday after nearly two years, allowing some vaccinated people to cross without quarantine.

Before the pandemic, about 300,000 people used to commute across the border from Malaysia every day to the neighbouring city-state, to work in areas ranging from public transport to electronics manufacturing.

But most travel was abruptly halted in March last year, leaving many who previously commuted, and other Malaysians in Singapore, effectively stuck there as they needed to continue working.

From Monday, vaccinated Singaporean and Malaysian citizens, those holding permanent residency status and work permits can cross the one-kilometre (0.6-mile) causeway separating the countries without having to quarantine.

"I feel happy to be able to go back and meet my family finally after two years," Eunice Teoh, a Malaysian getting the first bus from Singapore under the scheme, told AFP.— AFP ■

Philippines suspends decision to allow vaccinated tourists entry

THE Philippines has temporarily suspended a decision to allow fully vaccinated tourists entry in a bid to prevent a new, heavily mutated coronavirus variant taking off in the country where most of the population remains unvaccinated.

It comes as the Southeast Asian nation on Monday launched a three-day vaccination drive targeting nine million people as young as 12 in an effort to accelerate the roll-out of jabs.

So far, the country has not reported any cases of the Omicron strain, which was first detected in South Africa and has since spread around the globe.

Manila announced plans last week to allow fully vaccinated tourists from most countries to enter from 1 December as it seeks to revive the nation's battered economy.

But the government's Covid-19 task force reversed course over the weekend as it announced the suspension of flights from seven European countries, in addition to an earlier ban on arrivals from several African nations.

"The IATF deemed it necessary to suspend the entry of foreign tourists, given worldwide concerns over the Omicron variant," Bureau of Immigration commissioner Jaime Morente said Monday, using the acronym for the task force. The decision is a major blow to tourism operators across the archipelago nation, which have been devastated by a plunge in international visitors and restrictions on domestic travel since borders shut in March 2020. — AFP ■

JR East conducts mock attack following violent incidents on trains

EAST Japan Railway Co conducted a mock attack Monday on a bullet train in northeastern Japan to prepare staff for a possible incident like those seen recently on trains in Tokyo.

The simulated incident was attended by JR East's Sendai branch and local police. It involved a woman acting as an assailant who slashed a passenger and started a fire with a lighter after spraying liquid around the carriage.

An actual train car was used in the exercise conducted at Shiroishi-Zao station in Miyagi Prefecture.

JR East employees evacuated passengers, helped those who were injured and restrained the attacker while a conductor and security guard who responded bought time for police to arrive by engaging with the woman.

Employees were given limited information in advance about the scenario, the train operator said.

Following a series of violent incidents on trains recently, JR East has boosted security measures such as notifying passengers of the locations of emergency buttons and implementing patrols by security guards on the Tohoku Shinkansen bullet train line connecting the region with Tokyo.

The recent incidents include one in which a man stabbed a passenger and ignited a fire inside a limited express train on the Keio Line in Tokyo on the night of Halloween on 31 October.

The incident followed another knife attack in August this year when a man injured 10 passengers on an Odakyu Electric Railway commuter train in the capital.— Kyodo ■

A mock attack is conducted on a bullet train at Shiroishi-Zao Station in Miyagi Prefecture on 29 November 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Events confirmed for Sepak Takraw in SEA Games

THE types of competitions that will be included in the Sepak Takraw sport of the SEA Games have been confirmed, according to the SEA Games Organizing Committee.

There will be both men's and women's events in the Sepak Takraw game with six single's and team-wise events.

A total of eight women's events were planned previously, but host Viet Nam reduced the men's and women's doubles' event.

Visitor teams will be allowed to compete in only two men's events and two women's events.

The host countries of the SEA Games usually include most of their favourite sports, except for the essential sports, and do not include any sporting events if they are weak.

The Viet Nam SEA Games, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is scheduled to resume from 12 to 23 May 2022.

Myanmar Sepak Tekaraw team is under training in Nay Pyi Taw for the upcoming SEA Games. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Klopp's mentor Rangnick brings studious approach to Man Utd

MANCHESTER United's new interim manager Ralf Rangnick once mentored Jurgen Klopp and Thomas Tuchel and now "The Professor" will use his studious approach to revive his troubled Premier League club.

United hired Rangnick on Monday after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was sacked last week following a humiliating 4-1 defeat at Watford that featured the kind of confusion and lethargy that are anathema to the German.

Solskjaer's failed reign was defined by an acute lack of coherent game-planning. But Rangnick's role in championing the "gegenpressing" (counter-pressing) philosophy popularised by Liverpool boss Klopp suggests United are about to be dragged into the 21st century. United lured Rangnick from his role as Lokomotiv Moscow's head of sports and development after learning Paris Saint-Germain were not willing to part with Mauricio Pochettino at present. That could turn out to be a blessing in disguise if the 63-year-old can emulate the success enjoyed by his devoted pupils at Liverpool and Chelsea. Klopp used Rangnick's tactics to become a Premier League and European champion at Liverpool, while Chelsea boss Tuchel is an ardent admirer after United's new manager gave him his first coaching job at Stuttgart. — AFP ■

Leipzig's US head coach Jesse Marsch (R) shakes hands with Ralf Rangnick (L), former head coach of RB Leipzig, prior tothe UEFA Champions League, Group A, football match RB Leipzig v Paris Saint-Germain in Leipzig, eastern Germany on 3 November 2021. **PHOTO: RONNY HARTMANN / AFP**

Club World Cup to be held in UAE in February

THE FIFA Club World Cup, initially set to be held in Japan in December, will now be held in the United Arab Emirates in February, world football's governing body announced Monday.

The Club World Cup will run from 3-12 February, featuring eight matches between the champions of the six continental confederations along with the top team in the host nation.

The competition draw will be held in Zurich later Monday (1600 GMT).

Teams include Champions League winners Chelsea, Copa Libertadores champions Palmeiras of Brazil, Mexican club Monterrey and Al-Ahly of Egypt.

Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia, Emirati club Al Jazira and Auckland complete the line up.

Japan pulled out as host because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Club World Cup is usually played in December, but this is the second successive year in which it has been delayed — the 2020 edition in Qatar was played in February this year. Bayern Munich won the most recent edition of the Club World Cup, which has been held in the UAE on four previous occasions, most recently in 2018 when Real Madrid were the winners.

A lucrative, revamped 24-team Club World Cup, including eight sides from Europe, was due to be played in China this year before the pandemic put that project on hold. — 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.

Olympic bid city Sapporo cuts budget for 2030 Winter Games by 20%

THE northern Japanese city of Sapporo announced Monday a significant cut to its projected hosting costs for the 2030 Winter Olympics and Paralympics, slashing the budget by 90 billion yen ($790 million) or 20 per cent of its initial estimate.

Sapporo, which hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics, is considered a leading candidate to win the right to host the events, but local residents have expressed concern there would be a repeat of this year's Tokyo Games budget blowout.

In its initial budget in 2019, the city expected costs to total between 310 billion yen and 370 billion yen. On Monday, Sapporo revised that downward to a range of 280 billion yen to 300 billion yen. "I believe we can substantially dispel the anxiety of the public with the amendment," Sapporo Mayor Katsuhiro Akimoto told a press conference.

Tokyo spent 1.64 trillion yen to stage the 2020 Summer Games that were postponed for a year due to the coronavirus pandemic and related issues. — Kyodo ■

File photo taken on 12 November 2021, shows an Olympic rings monument outside the Sapporo Olympic Museum in Hokkaido. **PHOTO: KYODO**