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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

State Administration Council together with citizens will emphasize making donations and other assistance to the Buddhism, Senior General says



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of conferring the Sasana Nuggaha titles to laypersons in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 December 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing conferred Sasana Nuggaha titles on recipient persons at Thabin Hall of the SAC Chairman Office yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said mem-

bers of the Sangha perform Ganthadhura and Vipassanadhura for the propagation of Buddhism while delivering sermons on ways of prosperity in the world to the citizens at an opportune time. Buddhists make donations for meals, robes, monasteries and medicines to members of the Sangha. Meanwhile, the gov-

ernment confers Sasana Nuggaha titles to laypersons for their meritorious deeds.

"Sasana Nuggaha" means significant donations to the Sasana with four kinds of prerequisites. Meals and medical trust funds are also set up for members of the Sangha residing at various monasteries, especially

in border and hilly areas.

The Senior General noted that venerable members of the Sangha have given advice saying that fading out and flourishing of the Sasana depend on those ruling the countries. If the persons ruling the country emphasize the propagation of Buddhism, it will develop. Otherwise, the

Sasana is sure to go down similar to flying of woodpeckers' nature.

The State Administration Council together with citizens will place emphasis on making donations and other assistance to Buddhism. The Senior General expressed his firm belief that as the State Administration Council

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order Number (198/2021)
13th Waning of Tazaungmon 1383 ME
1 December 2021

Appointment and Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Win Pe as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Construction under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

Sd/
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

MoC facilitates importation of anti-COVID-19 devices, medicines

THE Ministry of Commerce is working hard to ensure people have access to essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, arranging the continuous importation by airways, sea and border trade points. Three hundred empty oxygen cylinders were imported through international sea-ports yesterday.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is giving priority to the import of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in line with the SOPs coordinated with the relevant departments in order to avoid delays, and announcements and notices related to the import of medicines and related products have also been made available to the public on the Ministry’s website, commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

Elementary schools reopen in Lashio after cancellation of stay-at-home restriction



PHOTO : SAI AUNG KYAW SOE

BASIC education schools were reopened on 30 November after being cancelled from the stay-at-home programme on 25 November in Lashio, northern Shan State.

“Lashio has been cancelled from the stay-at-home programme since 25 November. In order to reopen the schools, spraying and prevention measures

against the COVID-19 disease have been prepared.

The basic education schools were reopened on 30 November with the permission of the Shan State government. In Lashio, a total of 39 schools, including high schools, middle schools and primary schools, has reopened.

The remaining regional schools are scheduled to open from 1 December. We are also working with the authorities to ensure the safety and health of the students, said U Chit Than Nyunt, a township education officer.

It is reported that the basic education schools are reopened with the permission of the Shan State government keeping in line with COVID-19 precautionary guidelines. — Sai Aung Kyaw Soe/GNLM

A classroom is seen reviving with schoolchildren in Lashio.

Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 1-12-2021 December

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Antibiotics				
1	PO Amoxicillin+ Clavulanic Acid	Box of 1x6's	1,800	Aorta
2	Injection - Levofloxacin 500 mg	1x1	3,000	Yadanar
3	Injection - Ceftriazone 1G	1's	700	KCL
4	Injection - Cefoperazone and Sulbactam 1G	Vial	4,900	Ready Medicine
5	Injection - Cefoperazone and Sulbactam 2G	Vial	9,300	Ready Medicine
6	Injection - Meropenam	1g/Vial	10,000	AA Medical
Anti-inflammatory				
7	PO Dexamethasone	Box of 10x10's	1,450	JDS
8	PO Prednisolone	Box of 10x10	2,000	Aorta
9	Injection- Dexamethasone	Vial	160	Aorta
Antiviral				
10	PO Favipiravir 400 mg	2X10 Tablet	50,000	AA Medical

Please visit the Website (www.mccpmd.org) and Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/323302521392189/posts/1720802588308835/?d=n> to know the prices of other medicines.

COVID-19 patients systematically accepted at quarantine centres

MILITARY hospitals and clinics, Transit Centre and military training schools in various areas of the respective Military Commands are working together to provide healthcare services for the COVID-19 confirmed patients, officials said.

In addition, quarantine centres are also set up in the relevant townships in collaboration with responsible personnel, officials from the Ministry of Health and other departments and charity organizations.

As of 7 pm yesterday, a total of 24 people — 15 men and nine women were under special surveillance at the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre.

Local medical teams and officials at the respective Regional Military Commands are assisting with the accommodation, health and medical care of the patients and laboratory-confirmed patients, officials added.—MNA

423 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 December, total figure rises to 522,825

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 522,825 after 423 new cases were reported on 1 December 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 498,050 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,111 after 7 died.—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)

State Administration Council together with citizens will emphasize making ...

FROM PAGE-1
confers Sasana Nuggaha titles on the laypersons as part of honouring the deserved persons in line with the 38 kinds of auspiciousness.

The Senior General urged those title recipients for the perpetual existence of Buddhism from Myanmar to the world and for joining hands with venerable members of the Sangha from the border and hilly areas with difficulties in their missionary works in addition to nuns to run monastic education schools and nunneries conveniently.

The Senior General conferred Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara titles on U Aung Aung, U Hla Tun, U Than Win, U Li Qang Chen (a) U Lyo Ah Pauk, and Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara titles on Dr Hla Win Aung, U Soe Than Tun and U Zeya Thura Mon respectively.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, also conferred Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Singi title on Daw Khin Myint Oo, Daw May Thet Maw, Daw Khin Shwe, Daw Shwe Ou, Daw Than Than Sein, Daw Than Mya, Daw Nan Khin Nyunt and Daw Win Myint and Daw Than Nwe, wife the Vice-Senior General, on Daw Myint Myint Than, Daw Htay Htay Thein, Daw Win Zarni Paing for Daw Kyi Pyar Khaing, Daw Thida San, Daw Khin Thant Zin and Daw Ei Thanda Bo respectively.

At today’s ceremony, Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara titles and regalia were conferred on seven men and Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Singi title on 14 women. Remaining religious titles on 33 men and 52 women in Nay Pyi Taw Council, region and state governments at designated places. —MNA



The Senior General confers the Agga Maha Siri Suddhamma Manijotadhara titles on recipient U Than Win.



The Vice-Senior General presents Agga Maha Siri Suddhamma Manijotadhara titles to recipient U Zeya Thura Mon.



The Senior General's wife confers Agga Maha Siri Suddhamma Singi titles on recipient Daw Khin Shwe.



The Vice-Senior General's wife presents Agga Maha Siri Suddhamma Singi titles to recipient Daw Ei Thanda Bo.

MoH Union minister attends 2021 world AIDS day in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the 2021 World AIDS Day ceremony yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, the Union minister said the World AIDS Day has been celebrated in the first week of December annually across the world since 1988 and it marks 34th times this year. In Myanmar, it aims to remember those who have died of HIV/AIDS, and eradicate the disease from a public health problem by working with the whole community, including public health workers, UN agencies, civil society groups and people living with HIV, he said.

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "End inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics", aiming to reaccelerate the prevention and treatment of HIV in the world, in addition to the COVID-19 prevention and response efforts.

There are about 241,662 people living with HIV in Myanmar, with an estimated HIV prevalence rate of 0.57%, according to the AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM), the Union minister said. Activities to eradicate

the HIV/AIDS are being implemented in accordance with the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2021-2025), with an effort to make the essential packages for health services – HIV for all 330 townships accessible to those who are in need, he added.

In 2021, 362 ART clinics were opened in 273 townships to provide treatment for HIV/AIDS patients, making the ART medical services more accessible. In addition, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) has been extended to 330 townships nationwide this year. Preventive care and treatment have been stepped up since 2021 with increased funding from the government, he said. The government has been increasing the allocation of funds from the 2016-2017 financial year to make sure that there is no shortage of medicines and related medical supplies for ART medical services. In the 2020-2021 FY, up to US\$ 15 million was allocated and more are planned to be allocated in the coming years, he continued. As a result, out of an estimated 240,000 people living with HIV, more than



World AIDS Day 2021 in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

190,000 (approximately 78% of all HIV-infected people) have been treated as of September 2021.

New HIV prevention strategies, such as Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), pre-disease vaccination is being carried out in Yangon Region as a Demonstration project for gays. The incidence of new HIV infections in Myanmar peaked at 26,569 in 2000 and dropped to 9,081 in 2020 as a result of dedicated efforts to prevent and

treat HIV, however, there are still many tasks and challenges to be taken forward, such as the continuum of care for HIV-positive patients and the zero discrimination against them, he highlighted.

The Union minister urged those who are affected with HIV or who work in the HIV prevention and treatment activities to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as the Ministry of Health is giving priority to those with poor immune sys-

tem. He also said he believed that with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health, the people and partner organizations, a HIV-free society would emerge by 2030.

Those present at the ceremony included Deputy minister for Health, Directors General, officials from the respective ministries, partner organizations, and officials from the region/state public health departments attended through video conferencing. —MNA

Ex-deputy minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, ex-minister for Industry, Electricity and Transport U Than Win of Bago Region, directors-general U Aung Myint Oo, U Ye Min Zaw, U Nay Aung Ye Myint charged under Anti-Corruption Law

THE inspection team of the Anti-Corruption Commission inspected the complaint against the former deputy minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

According to the inspections, former deputy minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin used K368 million fund of the Highways Department without any estimated Capital Fund in the 2019-2020FY to conserve the Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa road section from (85/0) milepost to Kyapin Village, which must be carried out by the maintenance fund of the Department of Rural Road Development, to grab the supports of the public while he was making efforts to compete in 2020 General Election as Pyithu Hluttaw MP of Mingin Township NLD of Sagaing Region.

In 2020-2021FY, K194.43million fund of Highways Department without any estimated Capital Fund in carrying out the operation of the Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa road section was used and Director-General U Aung Myint Oo (now Permanent Secretary) permitted the

Union special maintenance fund.

In the 2019-2020FY, the new Kyauk Oh Bridge was constructed in Mingin Township in July 2020 without any permission of Capital Fund according to his directives. Director-General of the Bridge Department U Nay Aung Ye Myint used the K120 million fund of the department. Such doings were not in conformity with the Myanmar Financial Management Regulation paragraph 46 and 123 issued in Order No 35/2017 of the Ministry of Planning and Finance and it caused a loss to the State fund.

When former deputy minister U Kyaw Lin served his duties, he asked U Ye Min Zaw of the Building Department for K3 million with the reason for the construction of the NLD District Office in July 2020.

U Ye Min Zaw collected cash contributions from the staff of 16 task forces and gave the received K3 million to U Kyaw Lin. Such activities meant that U Kyaw Lin misused his rank and power and accepted the bribes and direc-

tor-general U Ye Min Zaw supported U Kyaw Lin regarding the bribes.

When U Kyaw Lin arranged to compete as Pyithu Hluttaw MP of Mingin Township NLD of Sagaing Region in July 2020, he donated cash and rice bags to the monasteries during his tour to Mingin Township. The donated 68 rice bags were arranged by the ministry's staff according to his instructions and he did not pay the costs. Therefore, he misused his rank and power and committed bribery.

U Kyaw Lin received more than K36.3 million of cash contributions from the ministry's staff and construction companies via his personal assistant with the reason of expenses for the election campaign of NLD in 2020 and he sued it in buying party flag, shirts, hats and pamphlets. He also took K60 million from two construction companies in July and September 2020 via his personal assistant. Such doings meant that he misused his rank and power and committed bribery.

Former minister for Industry, Electricity and Transport U Than Win of Bago Region selected a company which has a connection with former deputy minister U Kyaw Lin in inviting tender Lot. 3 to maintain Bago bypass road in 2020-2021 at more than K1,513 million without electing the one selected by the tender review committee at more than K1,481 million. The regional government cost about K32 million of government funds and it caused a loss to the State fund as he did not follow the directive of the President's Office 1/2017.

According to the inspections, former deputy minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and former minister for Industry, Electricity and Transport U Than Win of Bago Region were charged under the Anti-Corruption Law Section 55, while U Aung Myint Oo who served as director-general, directors-general U Ye Min Zaw and U Nay Aung Ye Myint under the Anti-Corruption Law Section 55/63 at the respective police stations yesterday. —MNA

MoHT Union minister joins “Training Programme on Interpretation 2021” of AJC



THE ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) conducted a “Training Programme on Interpretation 2021” under the topic of “Possibilities of Non-Personal Interpretation Services at Tourist Sites – Storytelling in the digital age” yesterday.

Union minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung, including the Director-General and heads of respective subjects joined the event via videoconferencing.

First, Secretary-General of AJC Mr Kunihiko Hirabayashi made an opening speech and the Founder and CEO Mr Keisuke Murayama of Yamatogokoro Inc discussed the condition of the tourism industry in the post-COVID-19 era. Then, the officials reported on Non-Personal Interpretation Services, the latest technologies and boosting the use of Audio Guide.

The event was organized for a review of the changes in tourism caused by COVID-19, the adoption of proper services for these changes, reduction of interactive services, providing digital services and resumption of tourism in the future.

A total of 82 representatives of the government and private sector hoteliers and travel agencies of ASEAN member countries that involved in tourism management and tourism promotion. — MNA

MoALI encourages to get high-quality oranges instead of imports

DEPUTY minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi and officials visited orange farms in Inn Nge Village, Pindaya Township and Kaung Boh village-tract, Yaksawk Township, southern Shan State respectively on 28 November.

During his visit, the deputy minister discusses current orange cultivation and crop disease prevention activities, issues related to departmental and farmer cooperation on the use of high-quality seeds and necessary research activities, soil conservation, and issues related to the use of modern irrigation systems for efficient use of irrigation water.

The deputy minister also stressed coordination with relevant departments is essential for the establishment of orange

farmers' cooperatives.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and party inspected the production and sale of budding orange seedlings and the propagation of budding in orange farms.

It is reported that 500,000 to 1,000,000 orange saplings are produced and distributed annually in Kaung Boh Village.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and party visited Zawgyi Reservoir, 28 miles north of Yaksawk Township, Taunggyi District, Shan State (South).

On the reports of the officials, the deputy minister called for the efficient and effective use of water resources which is important for the development of agriculture. The need to focus on the sustainable use of main dams and irrigation canals was also discussed.



The Zawgyi Reservoir has a catchment capacity of 517,863 acres and generates 30 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually with 12 megawatts (6 megawatts x 2 units) of hydro-power.

Through Myogyi Dam in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, the Zawgyi Dam is helping to rejuvenate the Meiktila Plain. —MNA

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DF terrorist groups have been perpetrating bombings in public areas and brutally killing civil service personnel across the country to disrupt the governance of the State government.

According to their statements, Zin Wine (a) Myo Chit was arrested with 1 homemade gun, 3 rounds of ammunition, 2 homemade mines in Amarapura Township. Shine Aung was arrested in Pyigyitagon Township and Htet Lin Khine (a) Dipa was arrested in Chanmyathazi Township.

According to the statement of Defendant Shine Aung, Phyo Thone Htun was arrested on 4 November in Pyigyitagon Township, and Myo Ko (a) Myo Kyaw, Aung Myoe Win, and Shin Thant Naing were arrested with one grenade, one homemade mine in Nweni village in Patheingyi Township.

According to the statement of Defendant Htet Lin Khine (a) Dipa, Thein Aung (a) Thein Soe, Thant Zin Win, and Poe Thinza Kyaw, were arrested in Pyigyitagon Township on 5 November. According to their confession, Aung Khant Zaw was arrested in Kyaukme village in Patheingyi Township on 18 November and thereby Khin Aye Maw was further arrested in Channyathazi Township respectively on 25 December.

According to the statement

of the defendants, Aung Thura Kyaw (a) Zee Kwat, Kyaw Swar Thet, Wai Yan Tun, Kyaw Min Thu, Si Thu Phyto, Thura Aung (a) Shan Poke, Zin Min Htay, Thiha Zaw, Hline Oo, Ko Htwe (a) Min Thet Htwe, Moe Win, Chaw Su Su Wai, Ei Myat Noe Oo, and Chit Hpoo Ngone, were arrested at GIZA Bar Restaurant in Chanayethazan Township on 30 November.

According to the statement of defendants security forces conducted a search operation in areas nearby Lakekya waterfall in Taung Khaung vil-

lage, Madaya Township on 30 November and found and confiscated KIA insurgents-made seven foldable buttstocks KA-2-5 firearms, seven KA-2-5 firearms, Six 81 TYPE firearms, one M79 launcher, 20 magazines, 1,450 rounds of 5.56 ammunition, 500 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 61 rounds of 12-bolt ammunition, 15 40mm bombs, 20 grenades, two home-made mines, 993 electric detonators, 134 detonators, and three MPDF flags.

According to the statement of Defendant Aung Thura (a)

Zee Kwat, security forces arrested Win Hlaing, Thiha Ko and Wai Thu Aung in Pyigyitagon Township, Sai Zaw Oo in Amarapura Township and Phyo Wai in Myittha Township.

A total of 28 men and 5 women, altogether 33 terrorists were arrested with 22 firearms, 1 homemade gun, 22 magazines, 2,026 rounds of ammunition; 15 40mm bombs, 21 grenades, five homemade mines and related explosives.

According to their statements, Thura Aung, Zin Win (a) Myo Chit attended the terrorist

training course conducted in the KIA Brigade (8), and Htet Lin Khine (a) Dipa attended the training course in the KIA Brigade (3), and the rest of them completed the PDF terrorist training.

They also revealed that Aung Phyto (a) Ko Phyto exploded a bomb in the school compound near Bogyoke park located between 125th and 126th streets in Pyigyitagon Township in the first week of September under the order of Ko Zaw (a) Kaba (in hiding) from Naungyoe group.

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Arrestees for bombings and killings in Mandalay Region.



Seized weapons and ammunition in Madaya.



Seized handmade firearm and bomb along with arrestees.

PDF terrorists perpetrating bombings.....

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On 21 October, YDF terrorist Phyo Thone Tun exploded a homemade bomb at Shwengar Store between 48th and 49th streets in Pyigyitagon Township.

On 22 October, YDF terrorists Myo Ko (a) Myo Kyaw and Aung Myo Win (a) Myo Gyi exploded a homemade bomb at the Mya Dagon and Aung Than Su Lottery Ticket shop at the corner of 62nd street and 32 (A) in Chanayethazan Township.

On 31 October, Shin Thant Naing, Aung Myo Win and Wunna Ko (in hiding) from the YDF terrorist groups exploded a homemade bomb at the Royal One KTV on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road. On 24 September, Aung Phyo (a) Ko Phyo shot an innocent civilian to death in Pyigyidagun Township. On 25 September, he killed another innocent civilian in Aungthaya ward, Chanmyathazi Township. On 20 October, Htet Lin Khine (a) Dipa from Naung Yoe terrorist group killed ward administration body member U Kyaw Kyaw from Aungpinle ward, Chanmyathazi Township.

On 30 October, Aung Phyo (a) Ko Phyo killed an innocent civilian in Maha Myaing (1) ward in Mahaangmye Town-

ship under the order to Kway Kway (on the run). On 3 November, YDF terrorist Phyo Thone Tun (a) Ko Phyo killed an innocent civilian from the Motorcycle showroom at the corner of 110th and 59th streets in Kanthaya ward, Chanmyathazi Township.

According to the statement of the arrested suspects, they attended the terrorist training course in the KIA Brigade (6) and (8) through Kyaw Soe Lin, former Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of the Pyigyidagun Township NLD party, and the weapons and ammunition were sent from the KIA insurgents.

They also revealed that Nakhat (a) Naing Naing Tun and Kyaw Soe Lin, who are remained to be arrested, commanded them to carry out destructive acts in Mandalay and they have been funded by NLD party supporters and some organizations abroad.

The arrested suspects will be taken action under the law and the people are requested to work together to fight against the terrorists and to secretly report any information or movement of them to the relevant authority and that they will be rewarded, it is reported.— MNA



Seized weapons and ammunition.



Seized weapons and ammunition in Chanmyathazi Township on 20 October.



Ward administrator U Kyaw Kyaw was shot to dead in Chanmyathazi Township on 20 October.



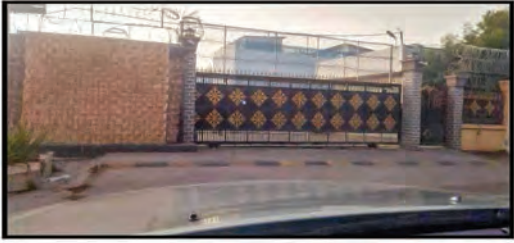
An innocent citizen was shot to dead in Chanmyathazi Township on 25 September.



A handmade bomb blast at the lottery shop of U Shwe Win in Chanayethazan on 22 October.



A handmade bomb blast nearby Royal One KTV at the roadside in Mahaangmyay on 31 October.



A handmade bomb blast at No 39 Basic Education High School in Pyigyidagun on 5 September.



Ward administrator U Thet Naing was shot to dead in Mahaangmyay Township on 30 October.



An innocent resident in Pyigyidagun Township was shot to dead on 24 September.



An innocent citizen was shot and injured on 3 November in Chanmyathazi Township.



Focus on increased income for the State and the people

TRADING is of great importance in earning income for increasing the finance of the State and the people. Only when a country has an adequate fund, will it manage various sectors with the allotment of finance to be spent on implementation of the development projects.

With regard to the trading process, a trading volume handled by relevant countries comprises export volume and import volume. Only if the trade surplus increases in the exportation, the country will generate increased income. As such, the developing countries and the least developed countries are focusing on securing the trade surplus in the export and import process.

A total of 273 countries traded with Myanmar in the 2020-2021 financial year. The trade volume between these countries and Myanmar generated US\$30,012.100 million, including US\$15,334.442 million worth of export goods and US\$14,677.658 million worth of import products.

As such, both government and private sectors of Myanmar need to emphasize the increased trade surplus from the total trade volumes to raise the gross domestic products and per capita income of the motherland for ensuring the economic development of the country.

assigned in Beijing, Nanning, Kunming and Hong Kong of China.

Those commercial attaches are assigned duties to negotiate trade process with partner countries, solve the trade problems and arrange participation of Myanmar government sector as well as the private sector to participate in the international expositions hosted by its trade partner countries.

Thanks to sending back the trade information from the commercial attaches, businesspersons in Myanmar have chances to make preparations for their marketable products not only to export but to import the products.

As such, both government and private sectors of Myanmar need to emphasize the increased trade surplus from the total trade volumes to raise the gross domestic products and per capita income of the motherland for ensuring the economic development of the country.

■ ■ ■

Japan stops flight bookings despite WHO Omicron travel ban warning

Japan suspended all new flight bookings into the country from Wednesday in response to Omicron, ignoring a World Health Organization warning against blanket travel bans as the new coronavirus strain spread further around the world.

BRAZIL reported the first cases in Latin America of Omicron, which has pushed dozens of countries to impose travel restrictions — mostly targeting southern African nations.

And while the likely futility of such broad curbs was underscored by Dutch authorities reporting that Omicron was present in the country before South Africa reported its first cases on 25 November governments pressed ahead with emergency travel measures.

“We have asked airlines to halt accepting all new incoming flight reservations for one month starting 1 December” a Japanese transport ministry official told AFP adding that existing bookings would not be affected.

First Omicron case

Japan confirmed its first Omicron case on Tuesday, and it had already tightened its tough Covid border measures.

Japanese authorities on Wednesday announced they had

detected a second infection of the new strain in an arriving traveller — this time in a person arriving from Peru.

Governments elsewhere in Asia also continued to expand curbs Wednesday, with Indonesia adding Hong Kong and Malaysia listing Malawi on their travel ban lists.

Hong Kong placed Japan, Portugal and Sweden on its highest travel restriction category after the discovery of Omicron there.

These came despite the WHO saying Tuesday that such “blanket” moves risked doing more harm than good.

In a travel advisory, it warned the bans could ultimately dissuade countries from sharing data about the evolving virus.

But it did advise unvaccinated people vulnerable to Covid-19, including over-60s, to avoid travel to areas with community transmission of the virus.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was understandable for countries to seek

to protect their citizens “against a variant we don’t yet fully understand”. But he called for “rational, proportional risk-reduction measures”.

Vaccine-resistant?

So far, well over a dozen countries and territories have detected Omicron cases, including Australia, Britain, Canada, Israel, Italy and Portugal.

Latin America reported its first two cases of the variant Tuesday — in people who travelled from South Africa to Brazil.

Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, also reported its first Omicron cases on Wednesday.

The same day, Canada banned travellers from Nigeria, Malawi and Egypt.

President Joe Biden said the US travel bans on just the southern African nations would stay in place, without referencing the other places where Omicron has been detected.

Asked how long travel restrictions that took effect Monday on South Africa and seven other southern African countries



Japan has asked airlines to stop new incoming flight bookings for a month because of the Omicron coronavirus variant. Airline passengers check in at Tokyo International Airport on 4 July 2020. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

would remain, Biden said it “kind of depends”.

“We’re going to learn a lot more in the next couple weeks about the lethality of this virus, about how much it spreads, what we have to control it, etcetera,” he told reporters.

Asked if any expansion of the

travel restrictions to other countries could be made suddenly, as happened under former president Donald Trump, Biden said: “Unlike Trump I don’t shock our allies.”

The WHO believes the high number of mutations on this variant may make it more transmis-

sible or resistant to vaccines, but it could take weeks to determine whether and to what extent Omicron is vaccine-resistant.

Its detection and spread, however, have highlighted that the global fight against Covid-19 is far from over.

SOURCE: AFP

Omicron in Europe before S Africa reported first cases

THE Omicron coronavirus variant was present in Europe before the first cases were reported in South Africa, new data from the Netherlands showed Tuesday, as Latin America reported its first two cases in Brazil.

In the week since the new virus strain was reported to the World Health Organization by

South Africa, dozens of countries around the world have responded with travel restrictions — most targeting southern African nations.

But the World Health Organization warned Tuesday — as Canada expanded its restrictions to also include Egypt and Nigeria — that “blanket” travel bans risked doing more harm than good.

And the likely futility of broad travel restrictions was underscored as Dutch authorities reported that Omicron was present in the country before South Africa officially reported its first cases, on 25 November.

The new variant — whose high number of mutations the WHO believes may make it more transmissible or resistant to vac-

cines — was found in two Dutch test samples from November 19 and 23, with one having no travel history.

With countries now on alert for the Omicron variant, a clearer picture is emerging by the day of where it has been circulating, and for how long. So far, well over a dozen countries and territories have detected cases, including Australia, Britain, Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy and Portugal.

Among European countries, Belgium and Germany have both reported cases of the new strain prior to 25 November but both linked to foreign travel.

Latin America reported its first two cases Tuesday — in people who traveled from South Africa to Brazil — and a first case was confirmed in Japan, one day after it barred all foreign arrivals.

Vaccine-resistant?

While much is still unknown about the Omicron variant — it could take weeks to determine whether and to what extent it is vaccine-resistant — it has high-

lighted that the global fight against Covid-19 is far from over.

Asian, European and US markets all fell on Tuesday, while the benchmark US oil price tumbled more than five per cent after the boss of vaccine manufacturer Moderna warned existing jabs might be less effective against the new variant.

“All the scientists I’ve talked to... are like ‘this is not going to be good,’” Moderna boss Stephane Bancel told the Financial Times, warning against a “material drop” in the effectiveness of current jabs against Omicron.

Moderna, US drugmaker Pfizer and the backers of Russian vaccine Sputnik V are already working on an Omicron-specific vaccine. On the treatment front, meanwhile, a panel of US health experts voted Tuesday to endorse Merck’s Covid pill for high-risk adult patients, which is already authorized in Britain.

‘Heavy burden’

In a briefing to WHO member states, the body’s chief Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was understandable for countries to seek to protect their citizens “against a variant we don’t yet fully understand”.

But he called for the global response to be “calm, coordinated and coherent”, urging nations to “take rational, proportional risk-reduction measures”.

The UN agency cautioned in a travel advisory that “blanket” travel bans risked placing a “heavy burden on lives and livelihoods” and could ultimately dissuade countries from sharing data about the evolving virus — as South Africa did in reporting the latest variant.

But it did advise that people not fully vaccinated and considered vulnerable to Covid-19, including over-60s, should put off travel to areas with community transmission of the virus — after correcting a previous statement that indicated all over-60s should defer travel.

SOURCE: AFP

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International Day of Persons with Disabilities



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

“အားလုံးအကျိုးဝင် လက်လှမ်းမီပြီး ရေရှည်တည်တံ့သည့် ကိုဗစ်-၁၉ အလွန်ကမ္ဘာ့ဖြစ်ပေါ်ရေးမာန်စွမ်းသူများဦးဆောင်ပါဝင်ကြိုးစားပေး”

နေပြည်တော်

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 1 December, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over the Central Andaman Sea still persists. It is forecast continuously move to West- Northwestwards and further intensify into a depression over Southeast Bay and adjoining East Central Bay of Bengal around (2.12.2021) and into a cyclonic storm over Central Bay of Bengal around (3.12.2021). 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 NOON OF THE 2 December 2021: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago Region and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 December 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 December 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 December 2021: Generally fair weather.

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours M.S.T on 1-12-2021

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over the Central Andaman Sea still persists. It is forecast continuously move to West- Northwestwards and further intensify into a depression over Southeast Bay and adjoining East Central Bay of Bengal around (2.12.2021) and into a cyclonic storm over Central Bay of Bengal around (3.12.2021).

Terrorists destroy 360 houses

TERRORIST groups CRPH and NUG organized PDFs and intentionally committed destructive attacks to overthrow the government’s administrative machinery.
From 1 February up to 20 November 2021, a total of 360 houses were destroyed by terrorist groups.

Data of houses destroyed by terrorists from 1-2-2021 to 20-11-2021

Sr	Region/State	Township	Houses destroyed	Remark
1.	Nay Pyi Taw	7	13	
2.	Kachin	5	14	
3.	Kayah	2	3	
4.	Kayin	6	7	
5.	Chin	5	10	
6.	Sagaing	27	89	
7.	Taninthayi	5	10	
8.	Bago	12	25	
9.	Magway	14	29	
10.	Mandalay	19	88	
11.	Mon	8	21	
12.	Yangon	17	29	
13.	Shan	7	15	
14.	Ayeyawady	7	7	
Total		141	360	

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



Mine blast in Mongyawng.



Arson attack on security checkpoint in Tiddim.



Setting fire in Kanpetlet.



Setting fire in Thantlang.



Arson attack in Launglon.



One handmade bomb blast in Kyaikto.

Terrorists destroy basic education schools in Pwintbyu, Taze townships

TERRORISTS are perpetrating violent attacks in some areas intending to injure government officials, as well as bombing schools.

Terrorists detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) near a basic education high school in Shauktaw village, Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region on the morning of 30 November, damaging three motorbikes parked at the front of the security gate of the school.

U Aung Ba Hein, 45-year-old, a member of the village support group, was taken to Pwintbyu Township People's Hospital for treatment after suffering landmine injuries near the security checkpoint.



Damages are seen at No 1 Basic Education High School in Taze Township.

Similarly, terrorists detonated a mine near the fence of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Paw Oo Ward, Taze

Township, Sagaing Region yesterday morning. Detonator pieces attached to electrical wires were found and confis-



U Aung Ba Hein (injured)

cated.

As terrorists continue to carry out their activities, the public as a whole need to be

vigilant and, if any terrorist activity is found in their area, cooperate and report it secretly. —MNA

COVID-19 vaccination continues in different states, regions



Inoculation is underway for locals in Mon State.



Immunization drive is in progress in Shan State.

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of

COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is being given daily to target groups regardless of race or religion including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, peo-

ple in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students respectively.

Doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers have already given COVID-19 vaccines to 1,144 people from three townships in northern Shan State, 7,054 people from five townships in eastern Shan State, 16,888 local people and monks from 14 townships in Mon and Kayin states, 7,968 people from four townships in Yangon Region, 41,084 people from 26 townships of Ayeyawady Region, 5,145 people from five townships in Rakhine State, 270 people from Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, 9,654 people from seven districts of Mandalay Region and 520 people from Htantabin Township in Bago Region respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 5,947 students from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 178 students from Paletwa, Chin State.

It is reported that officials from the respective military commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. —MNA

Stimulant tablets seized in PyinOoLwin

PSYCHOTROPIC drugs were seized in PyinOoLwin Township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A joint team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched for the drugs in PyinOoLwin at 9 pm on 30 November. A total of 131,800 tablets of ecstasy were seized during a search of a passenger vehicle between Mileposts 47 and 48 near bypass road, Py-

inOoLwin Township.

At 10 pm on 30 November, a combination team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force raided Thein Zaw (alias) Aik Sai's house in Ward 19, PyinOoLwin and confiscated 1,062 stimulant tablets.

They are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, Myanmar Police Force said. —MNA



Thein Zaw (alias) Aik Sai



Ma Hsan Aye and Khant Zin Thwe

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade hits \$3.88 mln as of 19 Nov

THE bilateral border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh stood at over US\$3.88 million as of 19 November in the mini-budget year of 2021-2022, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to statistics, the bilateral trade during this period has seen a drop, decreasing by \$1.95 million, compared with that of the same period when the last year border trade was \$5.84 million.

As of 19 November, Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade included Myanmar export of \$3.86 million its imports of \$0.02 million.

Myanmar exports goods



Cargoes are loaded on board the ship on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sittway and Maungtaw points of entry. In the early period of bi-

lateral border trade, trade through the Sittway gate totalled \$2.75 million, with \$2.7 million in exports and \$0.008 million in imports, while trade at the Maungtaw border exceeded \$1.14 million, including \$1.12 million in exports and \$0.02 million in imports.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, salt-water prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages, according to the ministry. — ACM/GNLM

Number of companies registered on MyCO stands around 7,000 in 11 months: DICA



THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached 6,928 in the past 11 months this year, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 keeping in line with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

During the January-November period, the number of registered companies on MyCO was 1,373 in January, 188 in February, 163 in March, 254 in April, 686 in May, 775 in June, 433 in July, 360 in August, 733 in September, 1,027 in October and 936 in November, the DICA's statistics showed.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, the DICA stated.

Last year, the figures of registered companies stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February and 1,015 in March, only 348 companies in April, 798 in May, 1,314 in

June, 1,650 in July, 1,551 in August, 1,378 in September, 1,693 in October, 1,099 in November and 1,521 in December, as per statistics of the DICA.

In 2019, the figure stood at 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, and over 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August and 1,181 in September. The figures reached a fresh new peak of 2,059 in October 2019. Then, 1,615 new companies in November and 1,772 in December were recorded, data of the DICA showed.

When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies registered on MyCO. The figure stood at 2,218 in September 2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November and 1,364 in December 2018.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section

97 of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, about 17,000 companies were suspended so far for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. —NN/GNLM

Black gram price up by K40,000 per tonne within one week

THE price of black gram (urad called in India) significantly rose by K40,000 per tonne within one week, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre).

The black gram fetched only K1,382,000 per tonne in the domestic market on 24 November, whereas it touched a high of K1,425,000 per tonne (FAQ/RC) on 1 December.

The price is attributed to the strong demand by India, the bean traders said.

India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved not only black gram but also other pulses being imported from Myanmar, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 December 2021.

The pulses price is direct-

ly related to the international market so the price will fluctuate following the exchange rate. The prices of beans are unlikely to fall this month.

Last September, the prices hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne tracking Kyat weakening against the US dollar in the local forex market when the black gram was highly demanded by the foreign trade partners.

Myanmar conveyed US\$1.57 billion worth of over 2 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued at 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$604.3 million valued 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

— NN/GNLM



Last September, the prices hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne tracking Kyat weakening against the US dollar in the local forex market when the black gram was highly demanded by the foreign trade partners.

Lockdowns cause Australian economy to shrink

LOCKDOWNS and border controls shrank Australia's economy by 1.9 per cent in the third quarter, official statistics showed Wednesday, a decline more modest than expected but worse than in many other wealthy nations.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics said the quarterly downturn — the first since it contracted at the start of the pandemic in the first half of 2020 — was due to “extended lockdowns” in the country's most populous states.

The downturn was out of step with other major economies such as Canada, India, Japan and the United States — which all saw growth in the same period.

Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra were all locked down for chunks of the quarter, causing households to spend dramatically less on services.

There was a 21 per cent drop in spending on hotels, cafes and restaurants and a 40 per cent drop in spending on transport.

Economists had forecast growth would drop around 2.8 per cent, but increased exports appear to have come to the rescue — buoyed by high coal and gas prices. The economy is expected to bounce back in the final quarter of the year, but Wednesday's figures will further raise local concern about the impact of the Omicron variant.

Moody's Investor Service



Economists had forecast growth would drop around 2.8 per cent, but increased exports appear to have come to the rescue — buoyed by high coal and gas prices. PHOTO: AFP

said the strain “poses new risks to the global economic growth and inflation outlook”.

Australia is among the countries that have tightened travel restrictions as a result of the

strain. Eight-seven percent of Australians over 16 years old have been fully vaccinated.—AFP ■

China's manufacturing goes digital, green for high-quality growth



A worker rides an electric self-balancing vehicle to check the production status of machines in a smart manufacturing workshop of a socks company in Zhuji, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 23 October. PHOTO: XINHUA

IN the blink of an eye, a laptop is churned out from the busy production lines at LCFC (Hefei) Electronics Technology Co., Ltd., the largest PC R&D and manufacturing base of Chinese tech giant Lenovo.

The once-complicated process of computer manufacturing, which includes product ordering, design, production and testing, can now be accomplished by tapping on a few keyboards in the factory located in east China's Anhui Province.

At the ongoing fourth World Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, the provincial capital of Anhui, LCFC showcased not only its latest products, but also a world-class industrial internet system that enables it to produce nearly 39 million units of all types of computers and servers in the fiscal year of 2020.

The convention, which saw the participation of over 400 enterprises, kicked off Friday under the theme of “innovation-driven, digitally empowered: global manufacturing industry aligned for high-quality growth.” The four-day event is set to promote high-quality manufacturing and boost cooperation between China, a global manufacturing powerhouse, and the rest of the world.

GOING DIGITAL

In manufacturing, production scheduling is a complex step that must take into consideration various factors, such as personnel, equipment and materials. To produce a laptop that contains thousands of components, workers have to process over 300 raw materials, a job that requires a high degree of precision. — Xinhua ■

EasyJet warns ‘too soon’ to know Omicron impact

BRITISH airline EasyJet warned Tuesday it was “too soon” to assess the impact of the Omicron Covid variant on the aviation sector, after logging narrowing annual losses as skies reopened.

The emergence last week of Omicron, a new concerning Covid variant first detected in southern Africa, has prompted some nations including Britain to tighten travel curbs. “It's too soon to say what impact Omicron may have on European travel and any further short-term restrictions that may result,” EasyJet said in a results statement. “However, we have prepared ourselves for periods of uncertainty such as this.” Elsewhere in Europe, Scandinavian airline SAS expressed optimism despite the emergence of Omicron — but cautioned over “prevailing uncertainties” in the industry.



Easyjet and other airlines face renewed challenges as the Omicron coronavirus variant prompted fresh travel restrictions. PHOTO: AFP/File

Demand pick-up

EasyJet meanwhile revealed “some softening of trading” in the current first quarter, or three months to December.

However, the carrier forecast the fourth quarter would see “a return to near pre-pandemic” capacity levels as people take long-awaited summer holidays.

EasyJet's net loss improved to £858 million (\$1.1 billion, 1.0 billion euros) in the reporting year to September, aided by the reopening of air travel.

That contrasted with a vast loss of £1.1 billion last time around, when Covid grounded flights and hammered demand.—AFP ■

UK gas firm says to supply Morocco electricity company

A British gas company is to supply Morocco's state-owned power firm with gas from the country's east, it said Tuesday, as the kingdom looks to replace supplies hit by a crisis with Algeria.

The deal between Sound Energy and Morocco's ONEE comes a month after Algeria said it would not renew an expiring 25-year deal for a pipeline that

had exported Algerian gas via Morocco to Spain.

That decision cut the kingdom out of supplies it had long received as transit fees, and coincided with a global spike in gas prices.

London-based Sound Energy said it has signed a “binding gas sale and purchase agreement” with ONEE “for the sale of natural gas from the (Sound-

owned) Tendirra Concession in eastern Morocco over a 10-year period”. Under the deal, the upstream gas firm “committed to producing, processing and delivering” up to 350 million cubic metres of gas per year, which will feed into and revive the Gas Maghreb-Europe (GME) pipeline formerly used for Spain-bound Algerian supplies.—AFP ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Germany jails Iraqi jihadist for life for Yazidi genocide

A Frankfurt court on Tuesday handed a life sentence to an Iraqi man who joined the Islamic State group for genocide against the Yazidi minority, in the first verdict worldwide to use the label.

Taha Al-Jumailly, 29, was found guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity resulting in death, war crimes, aiding and abetting war crimes and bodily harm resulting in death after joining IS in 2013.

Proceedings were suspended as the defendant passed out in court when the verdict was read out. The Yazidis, a Kurdish-speaking group hailing from northern Iraq, have for years been persecuted by IS militants who have killed hundreds of men, raped women and forcibly recruited children as fighters.

In May, UN special investigators reported that they had collected “clear and convincing evidence” of genocide by IS against the Yazidis.

“This is a historical moment for the Yazidi community,” Natia Navrouzov, a lawyer and member of the NGO Yazda, which gathers evidence of crimes committed by IS against the Yazidis, told AFP ahead of the verdict.

“It is the first time in Yazidi history that a perpetrator stands in a court of law for genocide charges,” she said.—AFP

Convicted Maldives ex-leader released from house arrest

FORMER Maldives president Abdulla Yameen was released from house arrest Tuesday after winning an appeal on his money laundering conviction.

The former strongman ruled the Indian Ocean archipelago — best known for opulent beachside resorts and their frequent celebrity guests — until his shock election loss in 2018.

He was convicted a year later for illegally holding millions of dollars in his bank accounts that had allegedly been stolen from a tourism development agency.

But the Supreme Court freed the 62-year-old after finding the earlier trial had not established a proven link between the agency and the money in Yameen's accounts, a court official said.—AFP

S. Korea resumes tours at Panmunjeom border village

SOUTH Korea on Tuesday resumed tours of the Panmunjeom border village inside the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, after they were suspended in early July due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The resumption comes after the South Korean government eased virus curbs in early November as part of its “living with COVID-19” policy, but the country has since seen a surge in daily new cases.

The Unification Ministry has said each tour will consist of fewer people than before, or a total of 20 people, and that participants must either be fully vaccinated or test negative for

the virus within three days before the tour date.

The tour capacity could be expanded if the pandemic situation improves.

Panmunjeom tours were earlier suspended in December due to the pandemic. But they resumed in April and continued until early July, according to local media.

The border village is in a buffer zone between South Korea and North Korea and on the Military Demarcation Line between them.

Concerned about the virus's spread, North Korea continues to keep its border with China closed.—Kyodo ■



Tourists take a selfie in front of a North Korean facility at the truce village of Panmunjeom from the South Korean side on 23 July 2019.

PHOTO: KYODO

Vintage cars show racy past of Iran's toppled royalty



Visitors look at a 1972 MPV automobile by the three famous German car manufactures Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and Volkswagen at the Iran Historical Car Museum. PHOTO: AFP

BEFORE they were ousted by the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran's royal family enjoyed a lavish lifestyle with a taste for fast

cars quite unlike any ever built.

Now, after half a century hidden away, the royal racers are back on show, with the Iran

Historical Car Museum drawing in thousands since it opened to the public in recent weeks.

“We consider that these cars are part of Iranian cultural heritage,” the museum director Mohammed Faal said. “They belong to the people, not to the royal family.”

It is run by the Islamic republic's Bonyad Mostazafan organization — “The Foundation of the Oppressed” — which manages the confiscated property of the toppled regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The line-up is staggering, and includes a car combining a unique engineering collaboration.

In 1972, knowing the shah liked German engineering, Mercedes, Porsche and Volkswagen teamed up to build an unprecedented automobile.

They created the “MPV Tehran”, a bright orange painted single-seater; that was a “gift” to help crown prince Reza, who was then 12, learn how to drive.

It has two keys. One, made of silver, limits the powerful engine to a gentle 30 kilometres per hour (18 miles per hour). The other, in gold, allows the vehicle to speed at 170 kph.

While the car hasn't raced since 1979, its sleek lines still inspire those who come to the museum.—AFP ■

Izumi elected leader of Japan's main opposition party

THE main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan elected its policy chief Kenta Izumi as its new leader on Tuesday, tasking the 47-year-old with reforming the party and leading it into the next summer's House of Councillors election after it suffered a humiliating election loss in October. Izumi won in a runoff against veteran lawmaker Seiji Osaka, 62, in a four-way race to choose the successor to Yukio Edano, who stepped down to take responsibility for the CDPJ's loss in the general election against Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's ruling coalition.

“I believe the top priority is rebuilding the party again,” Izumi

said at a press conference, vowing to better challenge Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito in the upper house poll.

Izumi expressed willingness to cooperate with the Democratic Party for the People on topics the two parties agree on. But he suggested reviewing the building of an alliance with the Japanese Communist Party and other opposition parties as they did for the Oct. 31 House of Representatives election. Despite election cooperation among the opposition camp, the CDPJ lost 14 lower house seats it held prior to the vote, leaving it with a total of 96, in comparison to the LDP's 261.—Kyodo ■



Kenta Izumi, policy chief of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, celebrates at an extraordinary meeting of party members in Tokyo after being elected leader of the main opposition party on 30 November 2021. Izumi beat Seiji Osaka, a former special adviser to the prime minister, in a runoff held after voting on four contenders. PHOTO: KYODO

As Merkel bows out, Europe seeks new leader



Angela Merkel has been lauded for her steady hand in steering the bloc through crisis after crisis.
PHOTO: AFP

ANGELA Merkel's departure from the political stage after 16 years as chancellor has not only ushered in a new era in Germany but also shakes up the power balance in the EU.

Her successor-in-waiting to lead Europe's biggest economy, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, as well as France's President Emmanuel Macron and Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi have all been touted as candidates to take over Merkel's mantle as the leader of Europe.

But analysts warn that none may be immediately capable of assuming the task, given the European Union's myriad of unresolved challenges — ranging from an internal dispute over the rule of law to the risk of geopolitical marginalization, to the after-shocks of Brexit.

Lauded for her steady hand in steering the bloc through crisis after crisis, Merkel, who will quit politics when Scholz is officially elected chancellor in December, is leaving the stage

while still immensely popular at home and abroad.

During her 16 years in office, she has at times been vilified for stubbornly sticking to her plans despite her partners' protests, while at others, praised for holding the line. "Angela Merkel is perceived as one of the most significant politicians in a generation, as the de facto leader of the European Union and the 'leader of a free world'," wrote Sebastian Reiche of the IESE Business School in Spain.—AFP ■

French right contenders in final push ahead of presidency choice



Five contenders from France's conservative Republicans party crossed swords in a final debate on Tuesday ahead of party members choosing its candidate to take on President Emmanuel Macron in next year's elections. PHOTO: AFP

FIVE contenders from France's conservative Republicans party crossed swords in a final debate on Tuesday ahead of party members choosing its candidate to take on President Emmanuel Macron in next year's elections.

For the Republicans, who have been wrangling over the choice since last spring, the declaration by far-right pundit Eric

Zemmour earlier Tuesday that he will stand raised the stakes even further.

With no polling among the party members who will make the choice, the race remains wide open even in the last hours ahead of the party congress beginning Wednesday which will have a crucial impact on the shape of the April 2022 election.

With both Zemmour and veteran far-right leader Marine Le Pen in the contest, the Republicans will see how attractive their traditional platforms of security and pro-business policies remain with French voters.

Tuesday's prime-time debate on France 2 television was the last of four featuring the five contenders for the candidacy, before the two-round vote by party members this week with a winner announced on Saturday.

The candidates have tried to dismiss Zemmour's meteoric rise and his bid to woo right-wing voters, with polls showing him outpacing any Republican rival — though still trailing both Macron and Le Pen.

"Eric Zemmour is not my kind of right-winger", said Xavier Bertrand, the boss of the northeastern Hauts-de-France region, who polls have predicted would be the strongest candidate if chosen. —AFP ■

US Supreme Court to hear challenge to Mississippi abortion law

ABORTION in America faces its fiercest challenge in a generation when a US Supreme Court dramatically reshaped by Donald Trump hears opening arguments Wednesday in a case that could roll back 50 years of reproductive rights.

The nine justices — among them six conservatives — will sit from 10:00 am (1500 GMT) to examine a 2018 law in the southern state of Mississippi that prohibits most terminations after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The court is expected to render a decision by next June, and supporters and opponents alike agree the case ruling regarding a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy.

In the landmark 1973 de-

cision *Roe v. Wade*, the court held that access to abortion is a woman's constitutional right, striking down state laws that restricted the procedure.

In a 1992 ruling, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the court guaranteed a woman's right to a termination until the fetus is viable outside the womb, which is typically 22 to 24 weeks.

The Supreme Court's rulings did not put an end, however, to conservative and religious opposition to the procedure, and anti-abortion activists believe their moment may have finally arrived after years of political and legal battles.

"We recognize the magnitude of what we are asking," Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch wrote in *The Washington Post*.—AFP ■



Abortion rights and anti-abortion demonstrators rally outside the US Supreme Court. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan seeks probe on US jet dumping fuel tanks before landing

JAPAN has requested the US military to investigate the dumping of two fuel tanks by an F-16 fighter jet before it made an emergency landing at an airport in northeastern Japan, officials said Wednesday.

The US fighter jet landed at Aomori Airport at around 6:10 pm on Tuesday. While there were no reports of injuries, at least one of the two fuel tanks apparently landed in a residential area in Aomori Prefecture, as police spotted bits of metal and liquid believed to be fuel about 20 to 30 metres from some homes.

The 35th Fighter Wing of the Misawa Base said in a statement that an F-16 fighter jet experienced a problem during a flight and its pilot jettisoned the fuel tanks into an unpopulated area close to Mt. Iwaki in Aomori Prefecture.

The accident is the latest in a series of fuel dumping incidents by US fighter jets in the northeastern prefecture in recent years and has stirred safety concerns among local residents.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a press conference Wednesday the Japanese government has conveyed to the US forces in Japan that the dumping of the fuel tanks was regrettable.

The Defense Ministry called on the US forces Tuesday to conduct an investigation to get to the bottom of the accident, the officials said.—Kyodo ■

Myanmar national team arrives in Singapore for Suzuki Cup

THE Myanmar national team arrived in Singapore on 30 November to compete 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup, Myanmar Football Federation stated.

Teams competing in the Suzuki Cup, including the Myanmar national team, have been arriving in Singapore in advance due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

The Myanmar national team trained in Turkey for more than a month in preparation for the

Suzuki Cup and came directly to Singapore from Turkey.

The Myanmar national team played four friendly matches in the tour of Turkey, winning two and losing two.

A total of 24 players plus 12 coaching members is included in the squad and Hein Htet Aung from the Malaysian Selangor Club will also join the team, officials said.

The Myanmar squad has

been training in Singapore since 1 December and the final list will be released in a few days.

Myanmar national team is falling in the same group with Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Timor Leste. Team Myanmar will play an opener against Singapore on 5 December.

The Suzuki Cup will be held in Singapore from 5 December 2021 to 1 January 2022. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Ronaldo hits back at claim he wants to beat Messi's Ballon d'Or haul

MANCHESTER United star Cristiano Ronaldo has hit back at a "disrespectful" claim that his only remaining ambition is to win the Ballon d'Or more times than Lionel Messi.

Paris Saint-Germain forward Messi won the prestigious award for a seventh time on Monday.

Ronaldo, who finished sixth in this year's voting, has earned the Ballon d'Or five times.

The Ballon d'Or, given to the best male and female footballers of the year, is voted on by 180 journalists and presented by France Football.

Pascal Ferre, the editor in chief of France Football, was quoted in the New York Times recently saying Ronaldo told him his primary motivation was to retire having won the accolade more often than his old rival Messi. Ronaldo, 36, took to Instagram to deny that suggestion.

"Today's outcome explains Pascal Ferre's statements last



Manchester United striker Cristiano Ronaldo.
PHOTO: Ben STANSALL / AFP

week, when he said that I confided in him that my only ambition was to finish my career with more Ballon d'Ors than Lionel Messi," Ronaldo wrote. "Pascal Ferre lied, he used my name to promote himself and to promote the publication he works for.

"It is unacceptable that the person responsible for awarding such a prestigious prize could lie in this way, in absolute disrespect

for someone who has always respected France Football and the Ballon d'Or.

"The biggest ambition of my career is to win national and international titles for the clubs I represent and for the national team in my country.

"The biggest ambition of my career is to be a good example for all those who are or want to be professional footballers.—AFP ■

Juve see off Salernitana, Atalanta close in on summit

JUVENTUS escaped Salernitana with a hard-fought 2-0 win on Tuesday which brought some positivity after a difficult week, while Atalanta are on the heels of Serie A's leaders following a Mario Pasalic-inspired 4-0 win over Venezia. Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata struck the goals which gave struggling Juve the points at the Stadio Arechi but they stay seventh, seven points behind Atalanta who sit fourth in the final Champions League spot.

"Right now more than ever

we need a sense of responsibility. We don't need to do anything out of the ordinary, we need to do the normal things but with intelligence... today we did that," said Giorgio Chiellini to DAZN.

Dybala lashed home the opener in the 21st minute after a neat one-two with Dejan Kulusevski and 10 minutes later Juve thought they had doubled their lead through captain Chiellini.

However after the veteran defender had celebrated pushing home the rebound following Juan

Cuadrado's free-kick thwacking the post, the goal was ruled out by VAR officials who spotted Moise Kean straying fractionally offside as the Colombian struck his shot.

From there Juventus dominated proceedings but could count themselves very lucky not to enter the final half an hour level with their promoted opponents when, after a confused Juve defence allowed a cross to wriggle out to Luca Ranieri, the 22-year-old could only fire onto the post from close range.—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.

England women rewrite record books in 20-0 thrashing of Latvia

ELLEN White broke England Women's all-time scoring record as the Lionesses recorded their biggest ever victory by crushing Latvia 20-0 in World Cup qualifying on Tuesday.

White scored twice early on to take her level with and then past Kelly Smith's mark of 46 goals, before completing her hat-trick shortly after the break.

The Manchester City striker was one of four hat-trick-scorers on the night. Lauren Hemp netted four times, while Beth Mead and substitute Alessia Russo also registered trebles.

Beth England notched

a brace, and there were also goals from Ella Toone, Georgia Stanway, Jess Carter, Jill Scott and Jordan Nobbs on a historic evening in Doncaster.

The result smashed the Lionesses previous record win of 13-0 against Hungary in 2005.

England also hit double figures last month when the sides met in Riga with a 10-0 win.

It was a sixth win from six Group D games for England, their first six fixtures under Sarina Wiegman - a sequence in which they have registered 53 goals and conceded none.—

AFP ■



Ellen White became England women's all-time record goalscorer on Tuesday.
PHOTO: AFP