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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Commander-in-Chief of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces General Vong Pisen through videoconferencing



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing virtually holds talks with Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces General Vong Pisen on 8 December 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces General Vong Pisen yesterday afternoon through videoconferencing.

They cordially talked about common nationality and culture as well as Buddhism between Cambodia and Myanmar in the history of good relations, mem-

bership of CLMV and Greater Mekong Sub-Region, the full understanding of Cambodia to support the political progress in Myanmar and Rakhine issue, the full cooperation of Myanmar in respective sectors with Cambodia in serving the alternate chairmanship of ASEAN, unity in ASEAN countries, needs of all ASEAN countries to abide by the ASEAN Charter, and possible impacts of violating ASEAN Charter by some ASEAN countries upon all member

countries.

They also discussed diplomatic ties and friendly relations between the two countries and two armed forces, holding of the dialogue to enhance the friendly relations, situations to further beef up the cooperation in regional peace and stability issues, combatting narcotic drugs and transnational crimes, rescue in natural disasters, and prevention, control and treatment activities of COVID-19,

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks ...

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losses in various sectors caused by infection of COVID-19, exchange of goodwill visits between the two countries and the two armed forces, further cooperation in all sectors, plans of medical teams from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces for cooperation in the prevention of COVID-19, acts of Myanmar in taking pride of endeavours of the Cambodia's Royal Armed Forces in reducing infection rate of the pandemic in taking the preventive measures of COVID-19 in Cambodia, the decline of infection rate in Myanmar through concerted efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people in taking preventive, control and treatment activities of the pandemic, and the situation in cooperation in prevention of Omicron COVID-19 variant virus which occurs in some global countries.

The talks focused on the invitation to the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and senior military officers to personally attend the 19th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces' Meeting and related ASEAN meetings to be held in coming March in Cambodia in addition to goodwill visits of two countries and the two armed forces, and a plan to exchange the visits of naval vessels between the two navies of both countries. The Senior General urged Cambodia in its term of ASEAN chairmanship to implement the common interests of ASEAN countries without attachment in line with the ASEAN Charter.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo. The Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces was accompanied by Chief of Research and Intelligence Department Lieutenant-General Hann Sovann from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) to Cambodia Brig-Gen Thura Hla Min and officials of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. — MNA

MoEE ex-Union minister U Win Khaing, ex-deputy ministers Dr Tun Naing, U Khin Maung Win charged under Anti-Corruption Law

THE inspection team of the Anti-Corruption Commission inspected the complaint against former Union minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and other officials.

According to the inspection, former Union minister U Win Khaing and former Deputy minister Dr Tun Naing made an agreement with an international company on 12 March 2015 to conduct underground works for the upper Yeywa Hydropower project undertaken by the Department of Hydropower Implementation.

The deadline of the project is 40 months — up to 24 September 2018 and they extended the duration another 16 months till 24 January 2020 with the decisions of MC and EC meetings. In making agreements of government, amendments, abolishment and extension, they must submit it to the government and Economic Committee with the recommendations of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Union Attorney-General Office, Union Auditor-General Office and Central Bank of Myanmar. They did not follow that procedure by allowing to extend further 16 months and as it did not produce more than 1,800 kilowatt-hours (unit) that caused more than K30 billion loss to the State funds.

Moreover, the ex-Union minister the ex-deputy minister had permitted to grant more than K6 billion budgets of Electric Power Generation Enterprise in advance to the GGS company, which is controlled by Taninthayi Region Government in Dawei region, for gas procurement without seeking permission of the government.

Former Deputy minister U Khin Maung Win submitted more than K6 billion of the State budget for gas fees, while he served as Managing Director, did not make a firm agreement to get the gas fees back and he also did not submit the significant gas debt amount to EC meeting and did not follow sub-paragraph (d) of Myanmar Regulation on Financial Management Paragraph 123. Therefore, it caused more than K6 billion loss to the State funds. He also conducted activities that caused losses to the State Fund when he served as managing director.

Former Union minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and former Deputy minister Dr Tun Naing were charged under the Anti-Corruption Law Section 55, while former Deputy minister U Khin Maung Win under the Anti-Corruption Law Sections 55/63 at Phayagon Myoma police station of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. — MNA

Over 50,000 people received COVID-19 vaccines daily in Yangon

OVER 50,000 people have received the COVID-19 vaccines daily in the Yangon region, according to the Ministry of Health.

The vaccine is being given to 36.9 million people over the age of 18 in Myanmar. As of 4 December, there were 12.3 million people who had received two doses of the vaccine and 5.3 million people who had received one dose, over 17.61 million in total, according to the Ministry of Health.

About 35 per cent of the country's population has been vaccinated against the COVID-19 vaccine. Then, the country announced a goal to vaccinate 50 per cent of the country's population by the end of this year and 70 per cent of the population by mid-2022.

The country is providing COVID-19 vaccine for those who are over 55 years of age, and those over 45 will be vaccinated.

Earlier, the priority was given to above 65 years of age and now it has extended to above 55 years of age. As well, COVID-19 vaccines have been provided to above 45 years starting from 17 October and to above 40 starting from 9 November, according to Ministry.

Myanmar launched the COVID-19 vaccination programme in January 2021 across the country.

The Ministry also urged people to receive the full dose of the vaccine and those who have received the first dose to visit the nearest immunization location or near the scheduled date for the second dose. — Aye Maung/GNLM

MoC facilitates smooth import of anti-COVID devices from abroad

THE Ministry of Commerce (MoC) 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 sea-ports.

Anti-COVID-19 equipment was imported by seven companies using 14 vehicles. A total of 77 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by four bowzers and 74 tonnes of masks were imported via the Muse 105th-mile Trade Zone, Myawady Trade Zone, and Chinshwehaw trading post yesterday.

Out of four oxygen bowzers, two were transported to



Lorries are seen ready to transport Covid-related medical supplies to states—regions.

Mandalay from the Muse 105th-mile Trade Zone and another two to Yangon and Monywa via the Myawady Trade Zone.

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

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

Dairy cows are bred systematically with sound foundations for the production of dairy products so as to save spending of foreign exchange, says Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning inspected maintenance of ancient Tatmadaw guesthouses in PyinOoLwin Station, breeding of dairy cows and production of dairy products.

First, the Senior General inspected maintenance of ancient Tatmadaw guesthouses Thazin Myaing, Cherry Myaing and Yuzana Myaing. After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave instructions on systematic maintenance for ancient buildings in the original style, systematic keeping of records for maintenance of the

buildings as historical heritage despite much expenditure, use of ancient furniture and utensils in the maintenance of the buildings as much as possible, prevention of natural disasters, taking care of the fire, and special emphasis on maintenance. The Senior General then inspected the inside and outside the guesthouses.

In December Dairy Cow Breeding and Dairy Product Industry in Htonbo Village, the Senior General heard a report by the owner of the farm U San Hla on the breeding of dairy cows, the production of milk and dairy products and cultivation of feed-stuff plants.

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The Senior General inspects the maintenance works of Thazin Myaing Tatmadaw Guesthouse.



At Yuzana Myaing Tatmadaw Guesthouse.



At Cherry Myaing Tatmadaw Guesthouse.



Cherry Myaing: before renovation.



Thazin Myaing: before renovation.



Yuzana Myaing: before renovation.



Cherry Myaing: after renovation.



Thazin Myaing: after renovation.



Yuzana Myaing: after renovation.

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 at meeting 2/2021 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 26 October 2021)

Dairy cows are bred systematically with sound foundations for the production of dairy products so ...



The Senior General looks around the December Dairy Cows Breeding and Dairy Products Industry in Htonbo Village.

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The Senior General cordially greeted the business people of dairy cow breeding and dairy products industry.

In meeting with dairy cow breeders and cream producers in PyinOoLwin, the Senior General said PyinOoLwin must be a model for the production of dairy products.

Myanmar imports dairy products worth US\$50 million per year. Dairy cows are bred systematically with sound foundations for the production of dairy products so as to save spending on foreign exchange. Dairy cows can be fed green feeds of maize, paddy, bean,

barley and wheat. If breeding and feeding are systematically carried out, milk production will increase.

PyinOoLwin's quality cream must be produced in a proper packaging system for distribution to the whole nation. Its value-added products will have greater benefit. The government will provide necessary assistance for these industries as much as possible. The government assists in the implementation of the small-and medium-scale enterprises. Businesspersons need to systematically utilize the allotted plots for breeding. Dairy cow breeding must be carried out systematically in the PyinOoLwin region for meeting the local demand.

The Senior General and party viewed the dairy cow breeding process and technical requirements and attended to the needs.

The Senior General and party also visited the Sham Cream production industry in Nawngkhamgyi Village and viewed sales of dairy products and market distribution at the Parami Cream Shop near the clock tower in PyinOoLwin. — MNA



The Senior General cordially greets the business people of dairy cow breeding and dairy products industry.



At Sham Cream production industry.



At Parami Cream Shop.

Title recipients must have deserved performance for titles, honourable for their prosperities, says Vice-Senior General

PATRON of Scrutiny Committee on Conferring the Honorary Titles and Medals Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered an address at the meeting of the committee at office No 8 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said the preliminary scrutiny committees and the scrutiny committee scrutinized to award honorary titles and medals to those who performed excellent efforts in nation-building tasks, those who sacrificed their lives in safeguarding the Our Three Main National Causes as a national duty, those who significantly strived for prevailing peace and tranquillity and the rule of law as well as the development of the nation in accord with the political, economic and social objectives, those who initiated the successful creation of sci-



The Vice-Senior General addresses the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on Conferring the Honorary Titles and Medals in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

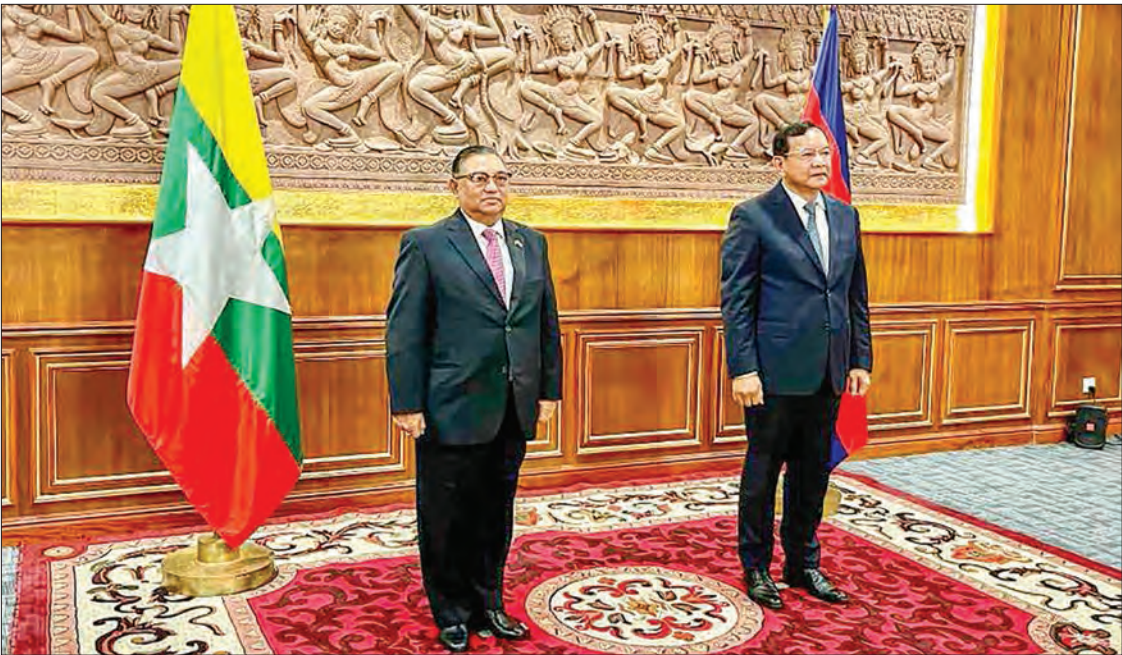
ence and arts arenas and those who presented an excellent performance in literature and fine arts. Moreover, 12 kinds of honorary medals will be conferred on those for their excellent performance in building a modern, developed nation with might and main and those who benefit the

development of the State and human resources through their professions. The Office of the State Administration Council will release notifications on 4 January 2022, Independence Day, to confer the titles and medals on them. Findings of the scrutiny to

confer honorary titles and gallantry medals on reserved persons, Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members and public service personnel for their excellent performances in 2021 will be submitted to the meeting of the Union government for conferring the titles

and medals on them. In addition, the report of the religious title offering scrutiny committee will be submitted to the meeting of the Union government to offer the titles to members of the Sangha, nuns and laypersons in 2022. The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to confer the titles and medals to the deserved persons not to be left. Title recipients must have deserved performance for titles, honourable for their prosperities. Secretary of the Scrutiny Committee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing reported on conferring the honorary titles and medals. Meeting participants discussed conferring 12 gallantry medals for members of the Myanmar Police Force, Tatmadaw members and religious titles. The meeting ended with a remark by the Vice-Senior General. — MNA

Union minister for Foreign Affairs pays working visit to Cambodia



MoFA Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin meets Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia in Phnom Penh.

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs paid a working visit to Cambodia from 6 December to 7 December 2021 as a Special Envoy of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of

the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and at the invitation of Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

and International Cooperation of Cambodia. While in Phnom Penh, the Union Minister paid a courtesy call on Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom

of Cambodia on the morning of 7 December 2021 and discussed matters related to further consolidation of existing friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Cambodia as well as prioritized areas of cooperation during Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022 on the basis of ASEAN way and spirit. On the same day, the Union minister also held a meeting with Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing friendship and bilateral relations between Myanmar and Cambodia, the possibilities of further strengthening the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries and closer collaboration at both regional and multi-

lateral arenas. Furthermore, they also discussed matters related to Myanmar-ASEAN cooperation and future collaboration under the ASEAN frameworks on the basis of ASEAN family spirit and ASEAN solidarity. During the meeting, the Union minister also apprised the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia of recent developments and foreign policy of Myanmar and political, economic and social objectives laid down by the State Administration Council. The Union minister and Myanmar Delegation also attended the luncheon hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia on the afternoon of 7 December 2021. The Union minister and delegation arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw on the evening of 7 December 2021. — MNA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Lisu ethnic history book and Lisu costumes donation ceremony held



Donation event of Lisu ethnic history book and Lisu costumes in progress.

THE Ministry of Ethnic Affairs held the donation ceremony of Lisu Ethnic History Book and Lisu Costumes to welcome the 75th Diamond Jubilee Union Day yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Union minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung and officials and donors.

At the ceremony, Historian Dr Khin Saw Nwet (Retired Professor), Yangon University, donated the Lisu Ethnic History Book. U Ze Daung (a Lar Arr Sar, on behalf of the Lisu Ethnic people, handed over the Lisu Ethnic Costumes to the Union minister and received the certificate of honour. The Union minister and deputy minister also addressed the ceremony and discussed general matters with the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association.

Afterwards, the Union minister said the third edition of the "Toward Festival of the National Brethren" will be successful as the first and the second festival, if it will be carried out in unity by broadcasting through a virtual celebration, despite the difficulties and challenges. — MNA

China's CITIC Group, Myanmar Rice Federation ink MoA

THE Ministry of Commerce held the virtual signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between CITIC Group, the People's Republic of China, and the Myanmar Rice Federation yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San said that he believed that it would be better to include a short-term and immediately beneficial trade component in the MoA, in addition to the long-term investments in the agricultural sector. He said his ministry strongly encourages trade in rice, maize and fertilizers by annually bilateral negotiations, adding that it is very important for Myanmar, as an agricultural country, to export quality agricultural products and to gain a stable market.

He also said that he believed the China-Myanmar friendship can be further enhanced through agricultural cooperation, and it is important to improve regional food security and economic opportunities for farmers, as well as rural development, by connecting with the Belt and Road programme of China.

The two sides signed MoA to expand cooperation for agricultural products. — MNA



62nd Graduation Ceremony of Defence Services Academy held



THE 62nd Graduation Ceremony of Defence Services Academy was held yesterday morning at the Convocation Hall of the Academy in PynOoLwin Station.

Commandant of the Defence Services Academy Brig-Gen Zaw Min Latt, Rector Col Thein Lwin and members of the Dean of Fac-

ulties attended the ceremony.

First, the commandant rector and members of the Dean of Faculties entered the Convocation Hall and took their seats at the designated places. Then, the National Anthem was played and the graduation ceremony was opened.

Afterwards, the rector announced holding of the graduation ceremony and pledged to abide by the code of conduct for the graduates.

Then, the rector presented certificates to 60 bachelor's degrees, 20 graduates in economics, 10 graduates of commerce, 276 science graduates, 114 graduates of computer science and 108 graduates of computer technology, respectively.

The rector then allowed the graduates to wear uniforms corresponding to the degrees and signed the Graduation Record Book.

After that, the rector delivered the graduation speech and announced the end of the ceremony.

Then, the commandant, rector and members of the Dean of Faculties left the Convocation hall.

DSA has conferred basic degrees on 33,065 graduates from the first graduation ceremony up to the 62nd graduation. — MNA

398 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 December, total figure rises to 525,403

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 525,403 after 398 new cases were reported on 8 December 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 501,520 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,157 after 5 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 7-12-2021, a total of 18,178,494 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 12,579,888 people have been vaccinated two times and 5,598,606 people once.— MNA

Myanmar hosts 10th meeting of Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Mekong Sub-Region

MYANMAR hosted the 10th meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region via videoconferencing yesterday.

The Union minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation presided over the meeting and the representatives of Mekong Sub-Region countries, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre joined the event.

During the meeting, the Union minister said, the world is threatened by environmental problems and challenges such as scarcity of natural resources, deforestation, destruction of ecosystems,



tems, degradation of biodiversity, water pollution and air pollution.

Although the Mekong region is rich in various ecosystems such as forests, native plants and animals, minerals, wetlands and marine resources, regional cooperation is now important to prevent the occurrence of such challenges, especially the wildfire and transboundary haze pollution are the environmental challenge to resolve urgently by the ASEAN region countries, including

Mekong regions.

Myanmar drafts the national level haze pollution management plan and will closely cooperate with Mekong regions in implementing the pledges to reduce the transboundary haze pollution.

Then, ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre discussed the haze condition of the Mekong regions, while Myanmar delegate clarified the report of the 16th Mekong Sub-Regions Transboundary Haze Pollution Committee and representative of ASEAN Secretariat reviewed the ASEAN cooperation roadmap towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control and ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy.

The ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre released a statement to support the techniques, implement plans to reduce fire outbreaks, promote regional cooperation and reduce hot spots according to Chiang Rai 2017 Plan of Action. Afterwards, the participants coordinated the discussion.

Then, the Union minister conducted an inspection tour to 500 acres training forest of the Myanmar Forest School in the Maymyo forest reserve of Pyin Oo Lwin.

During the visit, he instructed the necessary things to the officials of the forest reserve. — MNA

Mekong nations hold 16th Transboundary Haze Pollution Technical Working Group Meeting

THE 16th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region was convened by Myanmar on 7 December at Office No. 58, Department of Environmental Conservation.

Representatives and Senior environmental officials from the Mekong Sub-Region: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam, representatives from ASMC, EU, IUCN, GIZ, GEC, CIFOR and IFAD, international partners and officials from related agencies in Myanmar, and Department of Forest, officials from Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology, Department of Agriculture, Representatives from Department of Land Management and Statistics, Department of Disaster Management, and the Department of Public Health attended

the meeting.

At the meeting, Dr San Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation chaired the meeting, and Mr Athapol Charoenshunsu, Director-General of the Department of Environmental Pollution Control of Thailand, co-chaired the meeting.

At the meeting, Dr San Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environmental Conservation, said that cross-border smog, one of the effects of ground fire, was a significant impact on ASEAN member countries.

“The Mekong Sub-region countries have formed technical working groups to jointly implement cross-border smog

problems. Myanmar suffers from forest fires and we are coordinating with relevant departments and organizations to prevent smog,” he added.

Dr San Oo said that coordination is also being made between ASEAN countries and other international organizations.

Next, ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC) analyzes the situation of smog in the Mekong Sub-Region discussion.

Then officials presented the national implementation of the 2017 Chiang Rai Action Plan and the implementation of the 2017 Chiang Rai Action Plan by Mekong Sub-region countries including Myanmar in the dry season.

ASMC also provided meteorologically and smog analysis



and Thai officials discussed joint indicators to reduce fires by 20 per cent.

Discussions were made at telecommunication conferences in the Mekong Sub-Region.

The ASEAN Secretariat discussed cooperation in fire and smog control in the Mekong Sub-Region and progress has

been made in cooperation with the Mekong Sub-Region, according to the meeting.

The ASEAN Secretariat will review the ASEAN Roadmap for Cooperation in Steering of Transboundary Haze Pollution (2016-2020). It will be approved at the Ministerial Meeting on Transboundary Haze Pollution. —MNA

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No “1111” for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No “1111” and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer “1111” to fight against corruption
Answer “1111” to improve services
Let’s work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

Dream truly to shape the green city, clean city, smart city

MOST of the cities across the nation can be seen with weakness in sanitation, landscaping, town plan, road networks, electrification, water supply and proper drainage system.

It is necessary to create a good environment for each city to attract the people to reside there. But, residences are the most important for the creation of a good environment. It is because their behaviours and soul can shape the nature of each city to be pleasant.

Characteristics of a good environment comprise greening tasks as the growing of trees and the creation of landscaping. Trees and forests can mitigate the impacts of climate change as well as contribute to environmental degradation as part of shaping the green city. Consequently, residents have the chance to avoid the situation of bad weather such as much more coldness, hotness and raining.

Importantly, the good discipline of local people is a backbone of building a pleasant town. Their disciplined acts can remove the disorders of process in all aspects of the town. If so, local people will have the chance to taste the fruits of a better lifestyle and booming businesses. As their disciplined moves cannot affect others, their relations will be strengthening and their environs will be pleasant.

for building a smart city. In consequence, such an environment can contribute to giving birth to the well-versed new generations. The dream can be true.

The proper town plan is of importance. The good management of local authorities is crucial. The concerted efforts and active participation of local people are essential. All residents need to dream the best dream for the town in unison. The dreams will be true in the future. Such a future is not far from today.

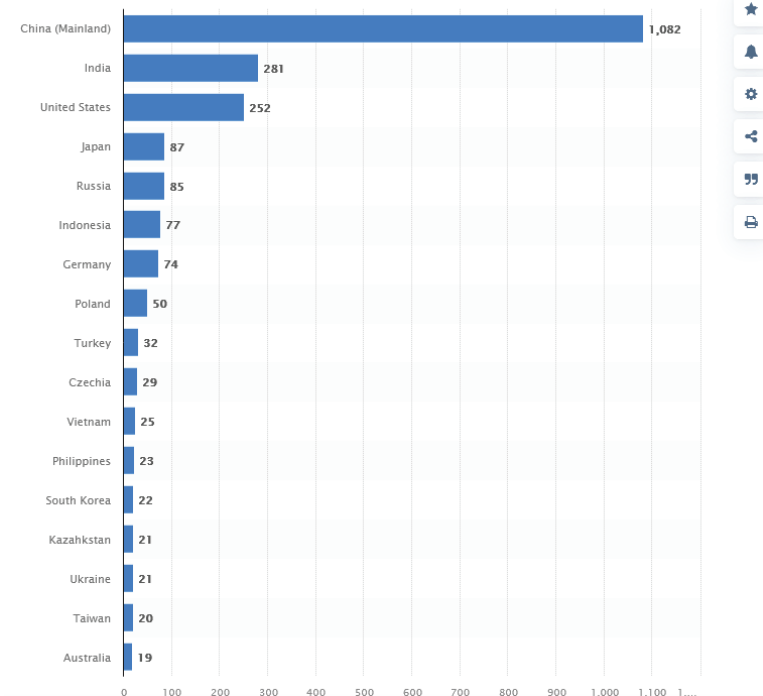
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Reducing CO2 Emissions from Coal-Fired Power Plants (CFPPs) to meet the Target: Net Carbon Footprint of Zero by 2050

By Ye Han

(PREVIOUS FROM YESTERDAY)

Worldwide there are about 8,500 coal-fired power stations totalling over 2,000 gigawatts capacity, about a third of the world's electricity. The number of operational coal power plants in (17) countries worldwide in 2021 are as follows:—



Mainland China has the greatest number of coal-fired power stations of any nation in the world. China is the world's largest coal-fired power generating country, having produced 4,631 TWh (terawatt hours) of the fuel in 2020 — making up 61% of its total electricity output. As of 2021, there were 1,082 operational coal power plants in the country. This was nearly four times the number of such power stations in India, which ranked second. Datang Tuoketuo power station in China is the largest operational coal power plant in the world. As of 2021, the power station has a capacity of roughly 6.7 gigawatts. Ranking second and third, Taean power station and Dangiin power station had a gross generating capacity of 6.4 and 6.04 gigawatts, respectively.

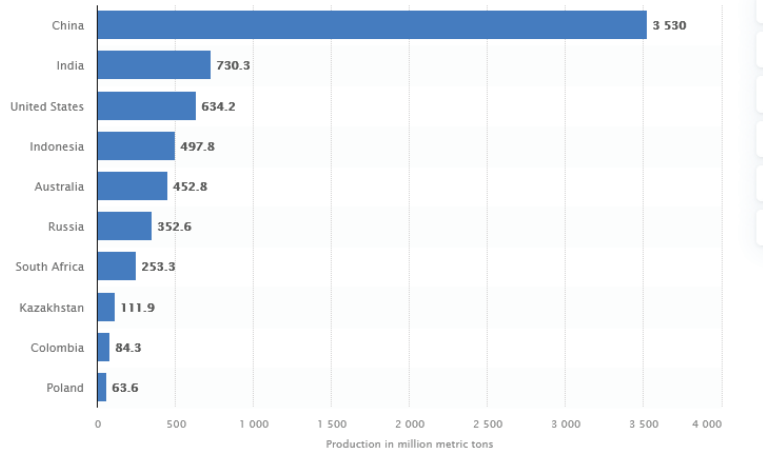
Much of the electricity produced in the United States and the world comes from the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal. In 2019 there were 241 coal-powered units across the United States which generated 23% of the United States electricity. A typical coal-fired power plant as in the Kingston Fossil Plant near Knoxville, Tennessee, U.S.A., generates about 10 billion kilowatt-hours a year, or enough electricity to supply 700,000 homes. To produce 10⁹ kWh/year of power, the plant burns 14,000 tonnes of coal every day. Georgia Power's Plant Scherer is one of the largest coal-fired thermoelectric power-production facilities in the United States. It is a 3.52-gigawatt coal-fired facility that provides electricity for Georgia. It burns a lot of coal, about 11 million tonnes per year.

Power stations burning coal, fuel oil, or natural gas are often called fossil fuel power stations. Fossil fuels are formed from the remains of ancient organisms. Because coal takes millions of years to develop and there is a limited amount of it, it is a nonrenewable resource. The conditions that would eventually create coal began to develop about 300 million years ago, during the Carboniferous period. (The Carboniferous Period is a geologic time that took place from 286 to 360 million years ago. The Carboniferous Period is named after the rich coal deposits that are present in rock layers from this period.). Coal is a combustible black or brownish-black sedimentary rock, formed as rock strata called coal seams. Coal is classified into four main types, or ranks: anthracite, bituminous, sub-bituminous, and lignite. The ranking depends on the types and amounts of carbon the coal contains and on the amount of heat energy the coal can produce. Coal is mostly carbon with variable amounts of other elements, chiefly

hydrogen, sulfur, oxygen, and nitrogen. Coal is primarily used as a fuel. It is predicted that we will run out of fossil fuels in this century. Oil can last up to 50 years, natural gas up to 53 years, and coal up to 114 years. But coal is abundant — there are over 1.06 trillion tonnes of proven coal reserves worldwide. This means that at current rates of production, there is enough coal to last us around 132 years.

If coal and petroleum will get exhausted it will be very difficult for us to transport because most vehicles depend on petroleum, Transport on Earth will become complicated, and if coal will get exhausted we will lose a unique fossil fuel. Aside from power plants, coal is also used for various domestic and industrial purposes. Yet, renewable clean energy is not popular enough, so emptying our reserves can speed up.

Leading hard coal producing (10) countries worldwide in 2018 (In million metric tons) were as follows:—



As many coal-fired power stations approach retirement, their replacement gives much scope for 'cleaner' electricity with supplanting nuclear power plants and renewable energy (wind, solar, etc.) sources. But one hope to survive this is via 'clean coal' technologies, such as carbon capture and sequestration, also called carbon capture and storage (both abbreviated as CCS) or carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS). Clean coal technologies (CCTs) are a new generation of advanced coal utilization processes that are designed to enhance both the efficiency and the environmental acceptability of coal extraction, preparation, and use.

Carbon capture and storage or sequestration (CCS) is the process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide (CO₂) before it is released into the atmosphere. It could help mitigate global warming. The technology can capture up to 90% of CO₂ released by burning fossil fuels in electricity generation and industrial processes such as cement production. It involves collecting, transporting and then burying the CO₂ so that it does not escape into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. With post-combustion carbon capture, the CO₂ is separated from combustion exhaust gases after the fossil fuel is burned. With pre-combustion carbon capture, carbon is trapped and removed from fossil fuels before the combustion process ends. Using a black coal power plant retrofitted with (CCS) can be cheaper per megawatt-hour than with a solar power system.

Carbon capture, utilization and storage or sequestration (CCUS) is a process that captures carbon dioxide emissions from sources like coal-fired power plants and either reuses or stores it so it will not enter the atmosphere. (Captured carbon dioxide can be put to productive use in enhanced oil recovery and the manufacture of fuels, building materials, and more, or be stored in underground geologic formations.). It involves the geological storage of CO₂, typically 2-3 km deep, as a permanent solution. According to the IEA (International Energy Agency), CCUS projects could reduce global carbon dioxide emissions by almost a fifth and reduce the cost of tackling the climate crisis by 70%. According to the IEA report in 2020, CCUS will be needed to put the world on the path to net-zero emissions. It is the only group of technologies that contributes both to reducing emissions in key sectors directly and to removing CO₂ to balance emissions

that cannot be avoided (i.e. including direct removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere).

Currently, coal-fired power stations are built without carbon capture facilities but this is likely to be required at some point during the third decade of the 21st century. It is also likely that plants built before that time are required to be retrofitted with post-carbon-capture technology. All these needs have to be taken into account when considering construction for future new coal-fired power generating facilities. The IEA said: "CCUS can be retrofitted to existing power and industrial plants that could otherwise emit 600 billion tons of CO₂ over the next five decades."

The coal-fired power plants were promoted by governmental decision-makers around the world as well as by the industry for a long time. But meanwhile, the phase-out or at least a cutback of coal-fired power plants is considered to be a key strategy for the transformation towards a sustainable society. Existing coal-fired power plants can be improved to generate electricity more cleanly and economically in the future. The development toward new advanced 'clean coal' technologies (CCTs) are a new generation of advanced coal utilization processes that are designed to enhance both the efficiency and the environmental acceptability of coal extraction, preparation, and use. For comfort and hope, it attempts to address this problem so that the world's enormous resources of coal can be utilized as long as they exist for future generations without contributing to global warming. Much of the challenge is in commercializing the technology so that coal use would remain economically competitive despite the cost of achieving low, and eventually 'near-zero' emissions. The technologies are both costly and energy-intensive.

In 2018, a landmark report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the U.N.'s climate science body), warned that allowing the planet to warm any more than 2°C above preindustrial levels would drive hundreds of millions of people into poverty, destroy coral reefs and leaves some countries unable to adapt. To keep temperatures from rising past the 1.5°C goal, the global greenhouse-gas emissions should be cut 7.6% every year for the next decade, according to a report from the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP). The world has already warmed 1.1°C since the Industrial Revolution. Research from the UNEP released in 2019 shows that if nations stick with current plans to reduce emissions, and even maintain the status quo, global temperatures will rise more than 3°C (5°F or 6°F) by the end of this century. (If we let the planet warm that much, we won't be able to have civilizations like the ones we're used to). The year 2050 will be the middle of the century, which many countries have pledged to have a net carbon footprint of zero by then.

After 2020, we began to collectively realize a few basic things about greenhouse emissions (which include burning of coal and other fossil fuels): **One:** The story of climate change due to greenhouse emissions have been unfolded over decades, but its trajectory is much the same.

SEE PAGE-10 >>



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 8 December 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea, Southeast and East central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy else where over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 9th December 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and isolated in Magway Regions and Kachin, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Taninthayi Region and Shan State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2021: Partly cloudy.

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Reducing CO2 Emissions from Coal-Fired Power Plants (CFPPs) to meet the Target: Net Carbon Footprint of Zero by 2050

FROM PAGE-9

TWO: People began to understand that the biggest reason for not making full, fast use of these new clean energy technologies was the political power of the fossil-fuel industry. **Three:** The giant heavy blow of carbon that the world had put into the atmosphere was more since 1990 than in all human history before, which acted like a time-delay fuse, and the temperature just kept rising. **Four:** Aiding and funding for the rapid deployment of solar panels and wind turbines are urgently needed from rich and developed countries to poor and underdeveloped countries. **Five:** It appeared that scientists had systematically underestimated just how much damage each tenth of a degree would actually do. It can't be analyzed specifically upon the warning signs of disastrous climate change occurrences (flooding, wildfires, storms, heavy rainfall, temperature rise, glacier ice melting in the north and south poles, etc.) gradually happening around the world, worsening and extending more year by year.

The climate change we're experiencing today is in large part the result of greenhouse gas emissions that had happened more than a decade ago. **Six:** Coal is the world's most abundant and widely distributed fossil fuel source. Despite the variation of embedded resources, it can be found in most countries around the world. Coal-fired power stations are relatively expensive to build since their construction involves both large quantities of expensive materials, such as iron and steel and large volumes of labour. Electricity produced from coal-fired power plants has now been in operation for more than two centuries around the world. Its technology is thoroughly experienced and has been exploited with good management due to long-term use. **Seven:** The U.S. Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has assumed that carbon capture and storage will be necessary for 2025. Therefore, 'clean coal' technologies (CCTs)' (which involve CCS and CCUS) have to be promoted and installation should be compulsory and mandatory in all CFPPs around the

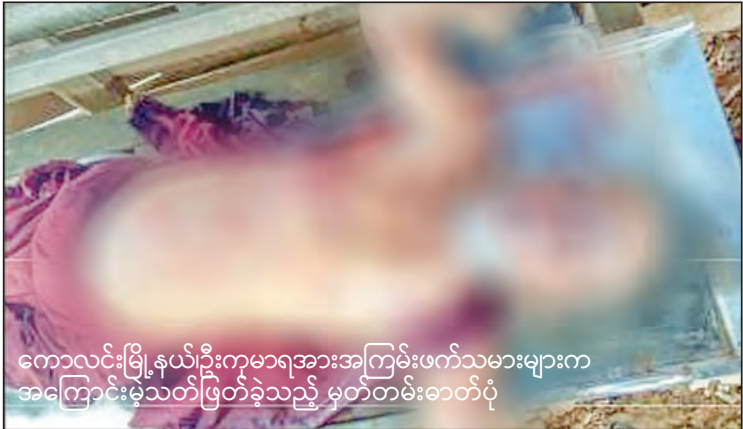
world, and if required, rich countries should give aid and assist technology transfer to the most needed countries. Each country builds various types of electrical power plants, including coal-fired power plants, in strategic areas that are eligible with both technical feasibility and economic suitability for needed electricity demand to support the development of the community and industrialized firms. Upon accumulation, all the constructed electrical power grids around the country are combined and interconnected to form the National Electricity Power Grid Network Infrastructure (The link between generation sources and customers. It consists of a high voltage transmission system, which connects electricity from power stations to substations and smaller local networks which transport electricity into homes and businesses.). Therefore, to phase-out even one or a number of collective coal-fired power plants suddenly or in a short period of time, before they are supplanted by clean energy power plants, can dismantle the power distribution system

and operation of the country's National Electricity Power Grid Network infrastructure partially or even over a certain percentage, depending upon the existing entrenched or established footprint situation. To substitute with clean energy electrical power station with efficient capacity can't be constructed overnight. It depends upon budget allotment and proved technical accomplishment. Therefore, step by step implementation is required to complete the project, within a reasonable time limit. But on the other hand, as most of the COP26 summit participant countries want all the fossil fuel power plants, especially coal-fired power plants, around the world to be "phased-out" (to discontinue the use of coal in phases) before 2050, to meet the target of having a net carbon footprint of zero by then. If this is the case, will the countries that own the existing coal-fired power plants be willing to comply and conduct either decommission or surrender the operations within the time frame specified? The Yes or No answer depends upon the situation in the country con-

cerned. Even rich countries with many existing coal power plants, such as China, the US, India, etc., have now proposed changing the terminology to "phase down" (to reduce the size or amount of by-products) of coal. Other countries that are not rich may have many difficulties doing so. Will the net carbon footprint of zero by 2050 be fully achieved by dubious conditions and delayed actions upon the reduction of carbon emissions that the world is currently facing? Based upon the efforts that the whole world contributes from now onwards, we will have to wait and see what our planet will experience in 2050. The younger generation will have to pray and expect, hope for the best and prepare for the worst. As a result, all people around the world should beg their concerned religious Gods to miraculously save the planet from disastrous climate change and maintain a sustainable society and livable conditions for all human beings, inhabited creatures, and the environment for eternity. *References:- TIME*

People urged to actively work together against recurrence of terrorist acts to religious entities

CRPH and NUG terrorist groups have been targeting acts of violence in some areas since they announced the launch of terrorist acts in Myanmar on 7 September. They have been perpetrating violent arrests, tortures and killings of monks as a political weapon in addition to the disruption of roads, communications and health issues of local people. As a result of these terrorist acts, a total of 14 monks have been killed to date, and monasteries in some areas have been burnt down. Moreover, Presiding Abbot of the Lonpi Sasana Rekkhita Pariyatti Missionary Monastery Chair of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Nyanika and Deputy Staff Officer U Chit San of the Falam Township Youth Training School were abducted by PDF terrorists on the way back to the monastery on 6 December. The monk reportedly arrived back at the monastery; however, the deputy staff officer is still missing due to the arrest of the terrorists. Similarly, on 7 December, PDF terrorists attacked the vehicle carrying four monks and one lay attendant from the Lumbini Mon-



U Kumara was killed in Kawlin.



In Wundwin township.

astery in Tamu, Chin State, on their way back to the monastery from a donation ceremony in Hleseik village at around 2 pm. It is also reported that terrorists also set fire on Hilly Missionary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pinnajota, who was residing in Mindat Township, Chin State, in a car on the evening of 12 June. It is important to note that despite the freedom of expression and the right to political dissent in every country in the world, such acts of violence against religion are not committed in any country, nor should be tolerated. It is reported that any organization in Myanmar that repeats any acts of terrorism against religion, including threatening, arrests and killings related to religious matters, are strongly warned, and the people are urged to cooperate with security forces in order to prevent any recurrence of such acts of violence against religion. — MNA



In Kalay township.



In Mindat township.

Myanmar records trade surplus on lower import

MYANMAR'S lower import nearly two months of the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022) resulted in a positive trade balance of US\$103.9 million, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's exports surpassed imports in international trade although overall trade value declined in comparison with the same corresponding period of the 2020-2021 financial year.

Between 1 October and 26 November, the country's exports were estimated at \$2.2 billion, imports were valued at \$2.1 billion this FY. The external trade drastically sank to \$4.3 billion from \$4.6 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

"This is a positive balance of trade. A trade surplus is harmful only when the government



Myanmar's exports surpassed imports in international trade although overall trade value declined in comparison with the same corresponding period of the 2020-2021 financial year.

uses protectionism," a trader points out.

Myanmar witnessed a slump in exports and imports triggered by the coronavirus impacts. Myanmar's maritime trade climbed up yet the coun-

try witnessed a drop in border trade amid the coronavirus impacts and political changes. The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and restrict trading in certain border areas.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. The country mainly imports essential goods, construction materials, capital goods, hygienic material and supporting products for export promotion and import substitution.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.3 billion in the 2019-2020FY, \$1.14 billion in the 2018-2019FY, \$1.3 billion in the previous mini-budget period (April-September 2018), \$3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization. — MM/GNLM

New Chinese customs regulation forces Myanmar drivers to retreat

CHINA'S new Customs regulation prompted Myanmar watermelon truck drivers in the Muse 105th Mile trade zone to return, said Sai Khin Maung of the Khwanyo Fruit Depot.

In recent days, Myanmar conveyed the watermelon to China through Chinese trucks when they unloaded their goods in Myanmar. However, those trucks have not arrived on the market yet.

The watermelons and muskmelons stranded at the Shwelwein terminal, therefore, are going to go off. Consequently, 10 per cent of watermelon trucks stuck in the Muse 105th mile trade zone are prepping for return.

"Chinese Customs regulation increased delay. And, watermelons and muskmelons delivered in the early batch have turned bad. The watermelons stranded in the Shwelwein Yard are waiting for the permit to trade", Sai Khin Maung elaborated.

At present, the trucks have passed the border crossing, yet they are in the red zone for 24-hour quarantine. Then, they have to pass the yellow zone for Customs clearance and F zone to be tested the COVID-19 as China's Customs need the COVID-19 free certificate for the imported food.

Moreover, China's Customs in the border post will prac-

tise higher import duty as if it does in maritime trade. Therefore, the trucks are waiting for new Customs regulation, the Khwanyo Trading Depot stated.

Those 26 trucks in the first batch are expected to enter China's market in two days. After that, Myanmar traders can calculate the transport costs and the market prices.

As a result of this, the growers are encouraged to harvest watermelons depending on market conditions.

Last 6 December, Muse-Namkham Border Trade Chamber of Commerce and the respective warehouses of fruits, rice, pulses and beans discussed the trade barriers and disruption in the border route.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, trade facilitation is unlikely to happen according to China's trade policy. Trade will go back to normality after China eases rules and restriction measures for COVID-19.

Kyinsankyawt border post between Myanmar and China, which was previously closed down from 8 July, has been reopened starting from 26 November on a trial run. — NN/GNLM



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Potato growers quit despite potato prices soaring in Naungtaya



On 8 December, the potato in Aungban township are priced at K2,200 per viss for S2 size, K2,100 for S1 size, K1,700 for ok size and K1,200 for A1 size. Currently, the number of potato growers has dropped by half in the Naungtaya region.

THE number of potato growers in the Naungtaya region, Pinlaung township, Shan State (South), have declined this year compared to that of last year, according to the Sandar Kham Naungtaya Potato Association.

"Only a few people are growing the potato plantation this year because of they are facing soil problem, agricultural technology, import of potato from external countries and rising of potato seeds and fertilizer. In line with the spiraling cost of other daily essentials, the retail price of potatoes has also risen sharply. But the growers don't dare to grow the potato because they worry to face the loss when the other species of potato will come out in the market," said U Khun Hsan Oo, chairman of the association.

The potatoes from the Naungtaya region are conveyed to the Aungban and Yangon Bay-intnaung commodity depots.

On 8 December, the potato in Aungban township are priced at K2,200 per viss for S2 size, K2,100 for S1 size, K1,700 for ok size and K1,200 for A1 size. Currently, the number of potato growers has dropped by half in the Naungtaya region.

Naungtaya is one of the largest potato growing regions in Myanmar. The potato is grown mainly in monsoon and winter in Shan State.

There are over 90,000 acres of potato plantations across Myanmar. About 600,000 tonnes are produced yearly. Local potato consumption is estimated at 350,000 tonnes. — Khun Aung (Naungtaya)/GNLM

**NEWS
IN BRIEF****Swedish PM steps down from IMF steering committee**

MAGDALENA Andersson, who last week became the first woman to hold the post of prime minister in Sweden, will step down as chair of the IMF's steering committee, the Washington-based crisis lender announced Tuesday.

Andersson had last January been appointed to a three-year term atop the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the group of finance ministers and central bankers that advises the institution's board.

She was the first woman to hold that post, and at the time was the finance minister in Sweden's government. In November, she ascended to the prime minister's office, though her initial stay lasted only hours after her budget failed to pass through parliament and the Green Party quit her coalition government.

Parliament elected her to the post again five days later.—AFP ■

US trade deficit saw big export-fuelled drop in October: govt

STRONG American export business caused a large drop in the US trade deficit last month, even as imports also rose, according to government data released Tuesday.

The gap between imports and exports of goods and services dropped 17.6 per cent to \$67.1 billion last month, bringing the trade deficit down from a record hit the month before, the Commerce Department reported.

Exports jumped \$16.8 billion from September to \$223.6 billion, while imports rose by a small \$2.5 billion to \$290.7 billion.

Sales of goods jumped the most with a \$15.8 billion increase led by industrial supplies and materials, while services exports rose only \$1 billion.

Meanwhile, the value of goods purchased from abroad rose \$1.8 billion, particularly of cars, parts and engines, which rose \$1.5 billion. Service imports rose \$700 million.—AFP ■

UAE shrinks work week, shifts to Western-style weekend

THE United Arab Emirates is slashing its official working week to four-and-a-half days and moving its weekend to Saturday and Sunday in a major shift aimed at improving competitiveness, officials said on Tuesday.

The “national working week” is mandatory for government bodies from 1 January and bucks the regional norm of a full day off on Friday for Muslim prayers.

While becoming the only Gulf country not to have a Friday-Saturday weekend, the resource-rich and ambitious UAE now comes into line with the non-Arab world. Under the new timetable, the public-sector weekend starts at noon on Fridays and ends on Sunday. Friday prayers at mosques will be held after 1:15 pm all year round.

The move is intended to “better align the UAE with global markets”, said state news agency WAM, calling the new working week the shortest in the world.



The United Arab Emirates is slashing its official working week to four-and-a-half days and moving its weekend to Saturday and Sunday in a major shift aimed at improving competitiveness. Visitors walk past the exterior of the Iraqi pavilion at the Expo 2020 in the Gulf Emirate of Dubai, on 13 October 2021. **PHOTO: KARIM SAHIB / AFP**

“The UAE is the first nation in the world to introduce a national working week shorter than the global five-day week,” WAM said. The Western-style week-

end, rumoured for years, was announced less than a week after the former British protectorate celebrated the 50th anniversary of its formation.

The UAE observed a Thursday-Friday weekend until 2006, when it moved to Fridays and Saturdays with the private sector following suit.—AFP ■

Brexit: a boon and a bane for N.Irish businesses

Northern Irish businesses like Brookvent, which sells ventilation systems to Poland, are thriving under post-Brexit arrangements. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN a factory in Dunmurry on the edge of Belfast, black and green boxes of ventilation systems destined for Poland are piled high, each bearing the European energy label. The EU member state is Brookvent's largest market, despite the UK's departure from the bloc and disputes about post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland. Unlike the rest of the UK, Northern Irish businesses still have one foot in the European single market. “We find ourselves in a unique position and having a foot in both camps is a great competitive advantage,” Brookvent's managing director

Declan Gormley told AFP. The Northern Ireland Protocol, designed to govern trade in the British province and recognise its special status, has been a thorn in the side of EU-UK relations since January. The agreement is designed to avoid the return of a physical border with Ireland — a key part of the 1998 peace deal that ended violence over British rule in Northern Ireland. To prevent unchecked goods heading into the single market via EU member Ireland, checks were agreed on goods entering Northern Ireland from mainland Great Britain.—AFP ■

US eyes NordStream pipeline as Russian pressure point over Ukraine

IN the showdown over Russia's implicit threat to invade Ukraine, the United States and European allies are eyeing what they see is a major vulnerability for Moscow — the just-completed Nord Stream 2 pipeline to carry natural gas to Europe.

US officials made clear Tuesday after President Joe Biden's two-hour video call with Vladimir Putin that if the Russian leader does take military action against Ukraine, freezing the pipeline and its money-earning potential would be a key mode of retaliation. “It is leverage for the West, because if Vladimir Putin wants to see gas flow through that pipeline, he may not want to take the risk of invading Ukraine,” said White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.—AFP ■



If Russia invades Ukraine, the United States wants to block the opening of the new \$12 billion Nord Stream 2 pipeline that is to carry natural gas from Russia to Europe and earn Moscow billions of dollars each year. A worker walks at the construction site of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline in Lubmin, northeastern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP / TOBIAS SCHWARZ**

US plans to crack down on shell companies

THE US Treasury is moving to combat corruption, money laundering and tax evasion by shell companies by requiring firms disclose their ownership, according to proposed rules announced Tuesday.

The crackdown comes as President Joe Biden launches a government-wide effort against graft ahead of International Anti-Corruption Day on Thursday.

The proposal would create a database to record “beneficial owners” of all companies and many trusts, meaning anyone who owns 25 per cent of a firm or can make decisions for the company, Treasury said.

“The proposed rule for beneficial ownership reporting is a major step toward addressing the gaps in our corporate transparency framework

that allow corruption to flourish and illicit funds to flow into the United States,” Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement.

The rule “will help close the loopholes that undermine US national security, bolster economic fairness and protect the integrity of our financial system.”

Treasury’s corruption and terrorism watchdog,

the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), will collect public comments on the proposed rule through 7 February, but officials could not provide a timeline on when a final rule might be adopted. The beneficial ownership information reporting provisions are required under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) that Congress approved in early January.—AFP ■



The United States will crack down on shell companies that exploit loopholes to launder money or evade taxes.
PHOTO: AFP/ CRIS FAGA /FILE

Aramco, BlackRock sign \$15.5bn gas pipeline deal



Saudi Arabia’s cash cow Aramco is seeking to monetize its once-untouchable assets to generate revenue for the Saudi government as it accelerates efforts to diversify the oil-reliant economy. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SAUDI Aramco said it has signed a \$15.5 billion lease and leaseback agreement for its gas pipeline network with a consortium led by BlackRock Real Assets and Hassana Investment Company in its

second major infrastructure deal this year.

The deal signed on Monday underscores how Aramco — the kingdom’s cash cow — is seeking to monetise its once-untouchable assets to gener-

ate revenue for the Saudi government as it accelerates efforts to diversify the oil-reliant economy.

In June, Aramco sold a 49 per cent stake in its oil pipeline business to a consortium led by US-

based EIG Global Energy Partners for \$12.4 billion.

Under the new deal, a newly formed subsidiary, Aramco Gas Pipelines Company, will lease usage rights in Aramco’s gas pipeline network and lease them back to Aramco for a 20-year period, the Saudi oil firm said in a statement. In return, Aramco Gas Pipelines Company will receive a tariff payable by Aramco for the gas products that flow through the network, backed by minimum commitments on throughput.

Aramco will hold a 51 per cent stake in Aramco Gas Pipeline Company and sell a 49 per cent stake to investors led by BlackRock and Hassana, a Saudi state-backed investment management firm.—AFP ■

Kaisa share suspension furthers China property sector fears

CHINESE property firm Kaisa suspended share trading in Hong Kong on Wednesday as questions swirl over its ability to make repayments and contagion spreads within the country’s debt-ridden real estate sector. The Chinese government sparked a crisis within the property industry when it launched a drive last year to curb excessive debt among real estate firms as well as rampant consumer speculation.

Companies that had accrued huge debt to expand suddenly found the taps turned off and began struggling to complete projects, pay contractors and meet both domestic and foreign repayments. Kaisa, China’s 27th-largest real estate firm in terms of sales but one of its most in-

debted, became the latest company to spook investors when it announced on Friday that it had failed in a bid for a debt swap that would buy it crucial time.

On Wednesday morning the firm announced it was suspending trading in Hong Kong, where it is listed, “pending the release by the Company of an announcement containing inside information”.

It is the second time the company has suspended trading in the last month.

Kaisa last month announced a plan to delay the repayment timeline for some of its bonds, offering an exchange for at least \$380 million of notes, which would have given it some room to find money further down the line.—AFP ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (239N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (239N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (179W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (179W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

NEWS
IN BRIEF

US billionaire returns \$70 mn worth of stolen antiquities

A prominent US art collector and billionaire philanthropist has returned 180 works of art and antiquities stolen from around the world — some from ancient Greece — that are estimated to be worth \$70 million, Justice Department officials in New York said Monday.

The move, announced by Manhattan attorney-general Cyrus Vance's office, allows 80-year-old Michael Steinhardt to avoid indictment and trial for the time being, but bans him for life from acquiring antiques on the legal art market.

The works of art include a Greek drinking vessel fashioned in the shape of a deer's head dating from 400 BC and worth \$3.5 million, and an ancient Greek larnax — a kind of funerary box — dating from between 1200 to 1400 BC and worth a million dollars. —AFP ■

Second accuser takes stand in Maxwell sex trafficking trial

A woman testified Monday that Ghislaine Maxwell groomed her to engage in sexual activity with Jeffrey Epstein, the second of four women alleging abuse to take the stand in the British socialite's sex trafficking trial.

Speaking under the pseudonym "Kate", the witness explained how Maxwell would coordinate her sexual encounters with Epstein, inviting her over and escorting to her to massage rooms to meet the late financier.

The 59-year-old Maxwell, who has pleaded not guilty to six counts of enticing and transporting minors for sex, is accused of grooming underage girls to be exploited by her long-time partner Epstein, a wealthy American who killed himself in jail two years ago while awaiting trial.

Kate, now 44, said she was introduced to Maxwell by a then-boyfriend during a trip to Paris in 1994, when she was 17 years old. —AFP ■

Napoleon's sword, pistols sold at US auction for \$2.9 mn

THE dress sword carried by Napoleon Bonaparte when he staged a coup in 1799 and five of his firearms sold at auction for nearly \$2.9 million, US auctioneers announced Tuesday.

The lot, which was put up for sale by the Illinois-based Rock Island Auction Company, was sold on 3 December via phone to a buyer who has remained anonymous, company president Kevin Hogan told AFP.

The sword and five orna-

mented pistols had initially been valued at \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million.

With the \$2.87 million sale, "the buyer of the Napoleon Garniture is taking home a very rare piece of history," Hogan said. "We are pleased to have provided the opportunity for them to acquire such a historic object."

The sword, with its scabbard, was the "crown jewel" of the collection, according to the auctioneers. —AFP ■



After being crowned emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have presented the sword to general Jean-Andoche Junot, but the general's wife was forced to sell it to pay off debts. PHOTO: THOMAS COEX

New Caledonia to hold tense final vote on independence from France



New Caledonia gets to vote one last time on independence from France. Les Nouvelles Calédoniennes (The Caledonian News) is a daily, French-language newspaper published in New Caledonia since 15 June 1971. PHOTO: THEO ROUBY/AFP

THE Pacific territory of New Caledonia goes to the polls on Sunday for a third and final referendum on independence from France with campaigning marked by angry demands to call off the vote because of the Covid pandemic.

The territory, some 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles) east of Australia, was allowed three independence referendums under a 1988 deal aimed at easing tensions on the island group.

Having rejected a breaka-

way from their French former colonial masters in 2018 and then again last year, the territory's 185,000 voters will be asked one last time: "Do you want New Caledonia to accede to full sovereignty and become independent?" The vote comes against the backdrop of increasingly strained ties between Paris and its allies in the region.

France regards itself as a major Indo-Pacific power thanks to overseas territories like New Caledonia.

Australia infuriated France in September by ditching a submarine contract in favour of a security pact with Britain and the United States.

Behind the recent spat looms China's growing role in the region, with experts suspecting that an independent New Caledonia could be more amenable to Beijing's advances, which are partly motivated by an interest in the territory's mining industry. China is already the biggest single client for New Caledonia's metal exports, especially for nickel.

China's 'pearl necklace'

"If the French safeguard disappears, all elements would be in place for China to establish itself permanently in New Caledonia," said Bastien Vandendyck, an international relations analyst specializing in the Pacific.

Other nations in the Melanesia region, which also includes Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, had already become "Chinese satellites", Vandendyck told AFP. —AFP ■

Tokyo to recognize same-sex partnership: governor



Lawyers and supporters outside the Sapporo district court after 17 March decision that the denial of marriage benefits to same sex partners violates the country's constitution, a breakthrough for gay rights in a country which has seen few of the legal reforms that have taken place elsewhere. PHOTO: KYODO

TOKYO will move to recognize same-sex partnerships, its governor said, becoming the largest city in Japan to do so, as activists push for national recognition.

Japan is the only nation of the Group of Seven countries that does not recognise same-sex unions, and its constitution stipulates that "marriage shall be only with the mutual consent of both sexes".

But in recent years, local

authorities across the country have made their own moves to recognize same-sex partnerships, and activists have filed lawsuits hoping to push the national government to reverse course.

"In response to the wishes of Tokyo residents and those concerned by this issue, we will draft a basic principle to recognize same-sex partnerships this fiscal year," Governor Yuriko

Koike announced late Tuesday.

She added that the city planned to introduce the policy by the end of the following financial year, ending March 2023.

Activist group Marriage for All Japan welcomed the news in a tweet but noted "partnership doesn't have the same legal effects as marriage".

"National government, hurry up on (recognizing same-sex) marriage!" they added.

Tokyo's Shibuya district in 2015 became the first place in Japan to begin issuing symbolic "partnership" certificates to same-sex couples.

Many areas have followed suit, with activists saying 110 local governments now recognize same-sex partnerships, granting couples rights including the ability to visit a partner in hospital and rent property together. But not all LGBT couples in Japan live in areas with such certificates — and even those who have them find they are sometimes not recognized. —AFP ■

Scholz takes reins from Merkel for new German era



Olaf Scholz narrowly beat Angela Merkel's conservatives in a September election. SPD leader Olaf Scholz speaks to the media a day after the German election **PHOTO: AFP**

OLAF Scholz will become chancellor of Germany on Wednesday, turning the page on 16 years with

Angela Merkel at the helm as a new centre-left-led coalition takes the wheel of Europe's top

economy.

Scholz, who will be formally elected by the Bundestag lower house of parliament and then sworn in by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, has pledged broad "continuity" with the popular Merkel while making Germany greener and fairer.

The finance minister under Merkel led his Social Democrats to victory in the 26 September election — an outcome considered unthinkable at the start of the year given the party's then festering divisions and anaemic support.

Scholz, 63, who turned emulating Merkel in style and substance into a winning strategy, has now cobbled together

Germany's first national "traffic light" coalition with the ecologist Greens and the liberal Free Democrats, nicknamed after the parties' colours.

Their four-year pact sealed late last month is called "Dare for More Progress", a hat tip to Social Democratic chancellor Willy Brandt's 1969 historic pledge to "Dare for More Democracy".

"We have a chance for a new beginning for Germany," Scholz told his party at the weekend as it gave its blessing to the coalition agreement with 99-per-cent support.

The alliance aims to slash carbon emissions, overhaul decrepit digital infrastructure, modernise citizenship laws, lift

the minimum wage and have Germany join a handful of countries worldwide in legalising marijuana.

Gender balanced

The incoming foreign minister, Annalena Baerbock, has also pledged a tougher line with authoritarian states such as Russia and China after the business-driven pragmatism of the Merkel years. Greens co-leader Baerbock is one of eight women in Germany's first gender-balanced cabinet. "That corresponds to the society we live in — half of the power belongs to women," Scholz, who describes himself as a "feminist", said this week.—AFP ■

Pearl Harbor victims remembered on 80th anniversary of attack

US veterans and survivors gathered at a ceremony in Pearl Harbor on Tuesday to mark the 80th anniversary of the 1941 Japanese attack that brought the United States into World War II, with the two nations stressing how their former enmity has been replaced by a close alliance.

About 800 people, including some 40 survivors, observed a moment of silence at 7:55 am, the time the attack began, for around 2,400 US military personnel and civilians who lost their lives during the event organized by the National Park Service and US

Navy. In an audio message, US President Joe Biden said that while the attack led to "enormous sacrifices we made as a nation and the hard-fought victory by our allies," it was also followed by "decades of diplomacy and international leadership that followed to rebuild a world devastated by war."

He added that it "transformed forever former enemies into close allies" and led to an international order that spurred over seven decades of peace.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the memorial was scaled

back and only people who received invitations were allowed to attend the event held on a pier at the harbor.

US Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro said in a speech that the attack was not only against the United States, but also "the very future of freedom and democracy around the world." He vowed to carry on the legacies of those who fought for freedom.

In Tokyo on Wednesday, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the anniversary is an "important occasion



This US Navy file image shows the USS Detroit burning after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

PHOTO: AFP/US NAVY

to look back on Japan-US history to reaffirm the value of the reconciliation between Japan and

the United States and renew our determination to never repeat the horrors of war."—Kyodo ■

India defence chief among 13 dead in helicopter crash

INDIAN defence chief General Bipin Rawat was among 13 people killed in a helicopter crash on Wednesday, raising questions over the future of military reforms he was leading.

Rawat was India's first chief of defence staff, a position that the government established in 2019, and was seen as close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The 63-year-old was travelling with his wife and other senior officers in the Russian-made Mi-17 chopper, which crashed near its destination in southern Tamil Nadu state.

Modi said Rawat was an outstanding soldier and "true patriot" who had helped modernise the country's armed forces.



Firemen undertake rescue operation next to the debris of an IAF Mi-17V5 helicopter crash site in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu, on 8 December 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

"His passing away has saddened me deeply," the prime minister wrote on Twitter. "India will never forget his exceptional service." Strategic analyst and author Brahma Chellaney tweet-

ed that Rawat's death "couldn't have come at a worse time" when "China's 20-month-long border aggression has resulted in a war-like situation along the Himalayan front".—AFP ■

Malaysian appeal court upholds ex-PM Najib's 1MDB conviction

A Malaysian appeal court Wednesday upheld former leader Najib Razak's conviction and 12-year jail term over the multi-billion-dollar 1MDB scandal, which contributed to his government's downfall in 2018.

"We dismiss the appellant's appeal," judge Abdul Karim Abdul Jalil told the Court of Appeal in administrative capital Putrajaya. "We affirm the High Court conviction on all seven charges."

The 68-year-old was found guilty on all counts last year in the first of several trials he is facing related to the

looting of the 1Malaysia Development Berhad sovereign wealth fund.

Najib and his cronies were accused of stealing billions of dollars from the investment vehicle and spending it on everything from high-end real estate to pricey art. The first trial related to the transfer of 42 million ringgit (\$9.9 million) from a former 1MDB unit to Najib's bank accounts.

The ex-premier is now expected to lodge a last-ditch challenge at Malaysia's top court, and could remain free on bail until that appeal wraps up. —AFP ■

Myanmar beat Timor-Leste 2-0 for first winning match of Suzuki Cup



Myanmar striker Than Paing (white) jumps high for his header during the match against Timor-Leste in Singapore on 8 December. **PHOTO: AFF SUZUKI CUP**

MYANMAR national men's football team shaped a 2-0 win over Timor-Leste during their second match of the ASEAN Suzuki Cup tournament in Singapore yesterday.

Myanmar lost to Singapore in the opening match but won this match and can still hope to advance to the next level.

The Myanmar team has three points from two matches. Team Myanmar is struggling to reach the semi-finals with two games left to play against the Philippines and Thailand.

Myanmar head coach An-

toine Hey made a new line-up including goalkeeper Myo Min Latt, David Htan, Win Moe Kyaw, Hein Phyto Win, Suam Lamang, Hlaing Bo Bo, Lwin Moe Aung, Myat Kaung Khant, Hein Htet Aung, Maung Maung Lwin and Than Paing.

Both Myanmar and Timor-Leste played against each other to collect full points.

In the 14th minute, the Myanmar team got an icebreaker as striker Than Paing scored with a header.

After conceding the goal, Timor-Leste tried to counterat-

tack and had seven chances to score, but Myanmar defenders and goalkeeper Myo Min Latt were able to prevent all the efforts of the opponent.

In the 50th minute, the Myanmar team garnered the second or winning goal, scored by team captain Maung Maung Lwin.

After that, the Myanmar team controlled the match and won by 3 points.

Myanmar will play the third match against team Thailand on 11 December. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Error-strewn Leicester head to Napoli seeking Europa League spot



Napoli's Victor Osimhen scored the winner when they met Leicester in September but misses this week's game through injury. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

LEICESTER coach Brendan Rodgers said his side's errors have cost them dearly before they head to Napoli on Thursday needing just a draw to secure a Europa

League last 16 place.

Rodgers' side have won just twice since the end of October.

The Foxes lost 2-1 at Aston Villa on Sunday after conceding

from a second-half corner as they failed to win for the sixth time in eight games since winning at Brentford on 24 October.

"Defending set-pieces, it's really starting to hurt us. It starts to sap our confidence when you concede the goals we've been conceding. That's a big concern," Rodgers told the BBC.

"The story for us is we can play well but we have to cut out mistakes. Even if we've won games recently we've made some mistakes. It's a worry for us. But we'll find a solution," he added. Napoli, who lost top spot in Serie A at the weekend for the first time since late September, need to match Spartak Moscow's result at Legia Warsaw due to their superior goal difference, to claim a knock-out spot. — 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.

Djokovic on entry list for Australian Open, no Serena

MEN'S world number one Novak Djokovic was named among the entries for the Australian Open on Wednesday, following intense speculation about his vaccination status, but women's great Serena Williams was missing.

The Serbian had cast doubt on whether he would defend his Melbourne title next month, refusing to reveal whether he was inoculated against coronavirus, a requirement to play.

But after being named on

Tuesday as part of the Serbia team for January's ATP Cup in Sydney that will precede the opening major of the year, he was also listed for the Grand Slam.

Williams, who is marooned on 23 Grand Slam titles — one short of the all-time record held by Margaret Court — had been expected to play, but she is not fully fit. The American superstar turned 40 in September and may have played her last Australian Open. — AFP ■



Novak Djokovic was on the entry list for the Australian Open. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**