HONOUR ETHNICS IN RAKHINE STATE SAFEGUARDING WESTERN BORDER OF THE NATION PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 240, 12th Waxing of Nadaw 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Wednesday, 15 December 2021

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.

The message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 47th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day which falls on 15 December 2021

Esteemed Rakhine ethnic nationals,

I extend greetings to national brethren residing in the Rakhine State and all ethnic national people from the whole nation to enjoy the physical and mental wellbeing with auspiciousness on today's 47th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day.

Rakhine State Day is a significant day among the important days of the Rakhine ethnic nationals in Rakhine State. The Day of Rakhine State was designated in accord with the Constitution approved by the government of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party in 1974.

The Rakhine State Day has been held since 1975, and this year's celebration will be 47th year.

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Priority must be given to the manufacturing of more quality textile products of the factory, says Senior General

PRODUCTS must be better quality if prices of goods are equal to others, and prices of products must be cheap if the quality of goods is equal to others, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Meiktila) in Meiktila of Mandalay Region yesterday afternoon.

First, Director of Ordnance Services of the Tatmadaw Maj-Gen Win Lwin reported to the Senior General on the production of quality sarongs, sale of school uniforms at fair prices, the undertaking of agriculture and livestock farms for staff welfare, and sale of costumes of ethnic national races and rural people at fair prices.

SEE PAGE-3

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the quality threads made by the Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Meiktila) in Mandalay Region on 14 December 2021.

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Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some causalities, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

Information Team
State Administration Council

The message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 47th Anniversary of Rakhine State Day which falls on 15 December 2021

FROM PAGE-1

The Rakhine State lies in the coastal area between the Rakhine mountain ranges and the Bay of Bengal. Being a long coastal line, the Rakhine State is teeming with valuable rivers, creeks, lakes and islands as a region to produce invaluable natural products for the country. And, the Rakhine State is rich in natural resources due to geographical conditions.

The Rakhine State possesses a long history of ancient Rakhine ethnic nationals with abundant cultural heritages. As the historical shreds of evidence prove that Rakhine literature has been flourishing since the Danyawady era, it is a state possessing invaluable ancient cultural heritages in literature, culture and customs arenas. Since the time from the reigns of ancient Rakhine kings to date, Buddhist monks and layman authors, as well as Rakhine national scholars and professionals, have emerged in the Rakhine State. And, it should take pride in those Rakhine nationals who served the State interests.

The Rakhine State is poor in the transport sector due to geographical conditions and it lags development behind other regions. Although successive governments carried out the development tasks, the Tatmadaw government in its tenure especially pays emphasis on the transport sector for the Rakhine State not to be less developed than other regions. Thanks to such kinds of efforts, ethnic nationals have easy access to other areas of national brethren of the Union by cutting the time, aimed at enhancing the friendly relations among the ethnic nationals.

The Rakhine State started enjoying the fruits of transport sector in better transport facilities in addition to electrification, agriculture, livestock, education, health, and socio-economic development sectors. Moreover, efforts are being made to further develop the tourism sites. Only when the tourism services develop, domestic products of Rakhine ethnic nationals can be sent to local and foreign markets with the aim of increasing the per capita income.

As the government is implementing the five-point road map and nine objectives, much progress can be seen in the security, peace and tranquility of the Rakhine State thanks to concerted efforts of the people from the state. As Myanmar is home to the rural people, accounting for more than 70 per cent, it is necessary to mitigate the development gap between the rural and urban areas to the least percentage, the government is considering the improvement of the life of rural people from the Rakhine State. Only then would the Rakhine State have the growth of long-term interests.

Currently, the government is making the utmost efforts in all aspects for taking preventive, control and treatment measures of the COVID-19 pandemic the globe is facing. In this regard, COVID-19 vaccines are distributed to the Rakhine State in the real-time, and the people in the state are being vaccinated. The government on its part has pledged to continuously assist in prevention, control and treatment activities of the COVID-19 to any ethnic nationals with momentum.

In looking back the history of the country, the impacts based on the political conflicts the people had faced in the Myanmar society since the time of the post-independence era to date cause the armed conflicts sparking the diversity of political doctrines, differences from concepts and attitudes, and doubts among the national brethren. Due to solving these conflicts, the country lags development behind neighbouring countries and regional States. As such, all ethnic nationals need to reside in the country together with sharing of the future through thick and thin by building mutual respect, understanding and trust in order to shape the Union based on democracy and federalism while fully exercising justice and fairness in the revitalization of the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy.

Buddhism has been flourishing in the Rakhine State. Hence, efforts are being made for putting the MraukU region into the list of world cultural heritage cities. Not only the people in the Rakhine State but also the entire citizens are responsible for safeguarding the national cultural characters by safeguarding the heritages and customs all the people should take pride in. Encouraging all ethnic nationals to perpetually serve the interests of the Rakhine State and the Union with the Union spirit and the patriotic spirit,

I send a message in honour of the 47th Anniversary of the Rakhine State Day, letting the national people perpetually serve the interests of the Rakhine State and the Union based on the Union spirit and patriotic spirit.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman of the State
Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Central Bank of Myanmar
Notification No 48/2021
11th Waxing of Nadaw 1383 ME
14 December 2021

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued this proclamation exercising its authority under Sections 17 and 22 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.
2. To increase Sino-Myanmar trade and facilitate the flow of goods, Yuan/Kyat direct payments were allowed on the Sino-Myanmar border to facilitate the two countries' payment and clearing systems and to increase domestic currency in line with the objectives of ASEAN Financial Integration.
3. Designated banks have been allowed to open yuan accounts of importers and exporters for cross-border trade.
4. Therefore, the designated banks are required to adhere to the Guidelines for the Direct Use of Yuan/Kyat in Sino-Myanmar border trade.
5. This notice shall take effect from the date of issue.

Than Nyein
Governor
Central Bank of Myanmar

Priority must be given to the manufacturing of more quality ...

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on the factory, its production and assignment of staff.

FROM PAGE-1

The factory manager reported on the brief history of the factory, work procedure, production of textile and threads and assignment of staff.

In his response, the Senior General pledged to add more staff for operating the factory at full capacity. More buildings will be constructed for staff. Efforts must be made for meeting the target of production and manufacturing surplus products more than the demand of the Tatmadaw. It is necessary to fulfil the needs of the staff. School uniforms must be produced to be sold at cheap prices for teachers and students. Priority must be given to the manufacturing of more quality textile products of the factory. Quality cotton strains must be imported to grow them through correct cultivation methods. Necessary raw materials and machinery will be provided to the factory for producing 2/80 threads at home. Products must be of better quality if prices of goods are equal to others and prices of products must be cheap if the quality of goods is equal to others. And, he attended to the needs of staff welfare.

The Senior General inspected quality sarongs, costumes of national races and uniform textile displayed in the factory. After viewing a round the sections of the factory, the Senior General fulfilled the needs of officials and presented cash awards to the staff. — MNA

> Products must be of better quality if prices of goods are equal to others and prices of products must be cheap if the quality of goods is equal to others. And, he attended to the needs of staff welfare.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays an inspection and abservation tour around the Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Meiktila) in Mandalay Region on 14 December 2021.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visit booths to mark 74th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Air)

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured pressing the button to inaugurate the 74th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Air) event in Meiktila Station on 14 December 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and senior military officers visited the booths in commemoration of the 74th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Air) displayed at the headquarters of Flying Training Base in Meiktila Station yesterday morning.

The Senior General pressed the button to open booths to mark the 74th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Air) and souvenir shops. Together with the attendees to the ceremony, the Senior General viewed around the records of aviation history, uniforms of the Tatmadaw (Air) in successive eras, documentary photos on the Tatmadaw (Air), documentary photos of those who served as the Commanders-in-Chief (Air), documentary photos on the performances of the Tatmadaw (Air) in the Mongyawng, Methawaw and Sisiwam-Tapan clashes, photos of those from the Tatmadaw (Air) who won gallantry medals, the commissioning ceremonies of airplanes and helicopters into services at the Tatmadaw (Air), training of officers, other ranks and files, and substituted staff of the Tatmadaw (Air), documentary photos on international relations, development of the Tatmadaw (Air) from 2012 to 2020, documentary photos in awarding outstanding fighters in the successive Commanders-in-Chief (Air), avionic devices used at airplanes and helicopters, scale models of modern new generation aircraft, pilot equipment, VNR-AF-1 of the Tatmadaw (Air), security of military personnel, preventive measures of the virus and machinery displayed at the booths.

The Senior General, wife and party signed the visitors' book of the 74th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Air), visited the souvenir shop, traditional foodstuffs shop, book shop and personal goods shops selling products from the Tatmadaw and cordially greeted officers, other ranks and families. —MNA

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views around the booths displayed at the Flying Training Base in Meiktila Station on 14 December 2021.

The government will provide necessary assistance for generating electricity through solar panels, says Senior General

VILLAGES need to install solar panels for generating electricity for contributing to the electricity consumption of the people as well as improvement of their living standards, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the 30-megawatt Thabyewa solar power plant project in Thabyewa Village of Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday morning.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured hearing reports on the 30-megawatt Thabyewa solar power plant project in Thazi Township yesterday.

Chairman of Clean Power Energy Co. Ltd U Thaung Kyaing reported on the implementation of the solar power plant project, efficient use of land plots, suspension of project and continuation, installation of machinery at the project, assistance for rural development, and feeding of electricity to the national grid, and the Senior General asked for further information.

The documentory photo during an inspection tour around the solar power plant project.

The Senior General viewed the documentary video on the solar power project implemented by Clean Power Energy Co. Ltd.

In his speech, the Senior General said the solar power plants must be built in the country for meeting the electricity demand of the State. Despite high investments, generating electricity via solar panels has advantages in the short term of construction and lesser cost later. Villages need to install solar panels for generating electricity for contributing to the electricity consumption of the people as well as improvement of their living standards. Solar power can be applied for taking agricultural water. The government will provide necessary assistance for generating electricity through solar panels.

The Senior General then visited the project site and left the necessary instructions.

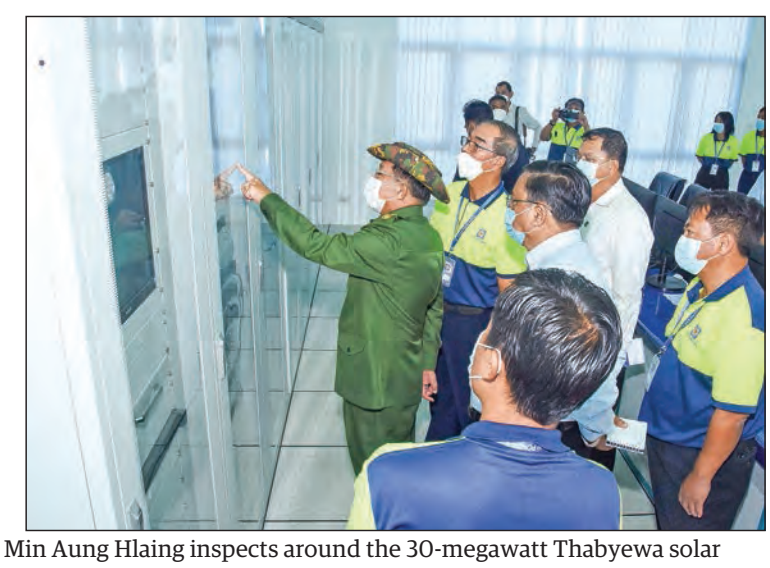
The 30-megawatt Thabyewa solar power plant project was implemented by Clean Power Energy (CPE) Co., Ltd. through a BOO (Build, Operate, Own) system. It was launched on 5 December to supply electricity. A total of 83,752 solar panels were installed at the plant in addition to 126 inverters and five box transformers for generating more than 200,000 kilowatt-hours per day and 70.599 million kWh per year. The electricity from the plant is fed to the national grid via Thabyewa main station for meeting the electricity demand of the nation on one hand.

At the Flying Training Base in Meiktila, the Senior General heard reports on the implementation of the Pankhinn project in cooperation with other ministries, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards in Mandalay Region and the interrelations between the Pankhinn project and e-ID system by Union minister U Khin Yi of the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

In his instructions, the Senior General said that citizenship scrutiny cards must be issued to all citizens born of Myanmar citizen parents. Relevant scrutiny cards must be released to those who are deserved for having citizenship and associate citizens under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law. As Meiktila Township has completed issuance of the CSC to local people, accounting for more than 77 per cent, and he urged all to complete the work process as the model of the whole nation.

The Senior General viewed issuance of CSC for the people of 10 years old, change of CSC with new ones for those of 18 years old in the precinct of the monastery in Hsekon Village in Meiktila Township and urged staff to systematically store the data in a computerized system.

Hsekon Village of Myinkan village-tract in Meiktila Township is home to 959 people in 198 households. As of yesterday morning, the work procedures are being run to issue the CSC to the people under the Pankhinn project. So far, 101 people of 138 persons who need the CSC have been issued the ID, accounting for 73.18 per cent completion.
—MNA


State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects around the 30-megawatt Thabyewa solar power plant project in Thazi Township on 14 December 2021.

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses National Committee on Social Protection 1/2021 meeting

The Vice-Senior General is pictured addressing the 1/2021 meeting of the National Committee on Social Protection in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 December 2021.

THE National Committee on Social Protection held its 1/2021 meeting yesterday. During the meeting, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as the chairman of the national committee, said the meeting is the very first one after reconstituting the National Committee on Social Protection. Social protection is an important activity for poverty alleviation and the development of human capital which is essential for the development of the country.

The "National Committee on Social Protection" was reorganized with 12 members under the SAC Notification No 14/2021 to implement the action plan of Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan and social protection activities effectively.

He also added that the Union minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement leads the "Working Committee" as a chairperson to perform duties more effectively.

If it reviews the implementation of the Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan issued in 2014, it shows signs of progress and there are remaining matters to be done better. The implementation of social protection funding programmes has been changed especially during the outbreak of the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

During the outbreak of the pandemic, the key role of social protection activities become more significant and the committee should draw a lesson based on the pandemic and prepare further plans to undertake proper emergency responses if the world faces such a pandemic in the future.

Currently, the Social Welfare Department develops a Social Management Information System (SMIS) and such doing is an improvement in implementing social protection procedures. The departments concerned should cooperate to effectively use the SMIS if it completes.

Moreover, the Electronic Cash Transfer will be used in providing cash assistance and it will be used as a pilot project in Ayeyawady Region and Shan State.

It is important to understand that there are success and development as well as difficulties and challenges in the field of social protection, especially during the COVID-19 period, there are certain restrictions in conducting a ground survey, changes of plans and other COVID-19 related challenges.

Moreover, the access to long-term funding for the ongoing "cash assistance" and "social protection activities to be extended" could be a challenge, and so "a long-term funding strategy" must be drafted. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement starts drafting the strategic plan.

It is more important to have legal backing for the sustainability of funding programmes for social protection. Therefore, the MoSWRR, which serves the main role, should draft the social assistance law (draft) in this financial year.

The social protection activities also play a key role in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and they are such a practical plan for the commitment between the government and its citizens as the government is responsible to resolve the socio-economic challenges of the people.

He then highlighted the words of stone inscription by King Kyansittha at Shwezigon Pagoda "with the left hand, the king shall bring clothing while with the right he shall give rice and food like a mother care for her child so the king shall look after the people" as a guide for the social protection programmes of Myanmar nowadays.

He continued that, therefore, the "social protection activities" are the priorities of the country and that directly benefits the people, and so the ministries concerned and partner organizations should work together closely for effective implementation, cooperation and fundraising programmes.

Then, Union minister Dr Thet Thet Khine of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement reported on the current undertaking of social protection work plans.

The Union ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, States/Region chief ministers , deputy minister and other departmental heads clarified ongoing work plans, including future actions to be extended.

The deputy minister also reported on the drafted decisions made at National Committee on Social Protection 1/2021 meeting and the Chairman of the national committee SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister coordinated the discussion.— MNA

Myanmar to distribute second phase of ASEAN humanitarian assistance

THE 3rd coordination meeting of the Management Task Force of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance which is provided to Myanmar through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the task force Union minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing, and Union minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Union minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, who are the vice-chairpersons of the task force, and members attended the meeting.

At the meeting, Union minister U Ko Ko Hlaing said that the first phase of ASEAN humanitarian assistance was life-saving assistance for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities. The second phase of the assistance will start and relevant departments must coordinate more than the first phase to expand the distribution to the people in actual need.

Afterwards, Union minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said he received the first phase of the humanitarian assistance in line with the state policies and with the permission of the Central Committee for the Prevention, Control, and Treatment of COVID-19 and coordinated for the distribution. In addition, according to the requests of the donor organizations, distribution is made under permission. He also added that he is providing the necessary coordination to receive medicines that will benefit the people in need.

The Union minister Dr Thet Thet Khine said that she would coordinate with relevant departments under the rules and regulations based on the previous experiences regarding the second phase of the assistance. She also added that she would make arrangements for possible distribution challenges and distribute to those in real need.

The members of the task force provided suggestions on future plans. — MNA

SAC members, Union ministers inspect development works in Sittway

MEMBERS of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung, Daw Aye Nu Sein, and U Moung Har, together with Union minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Union minister Dr Nyunt Pe, Union minister U Min Thein Zan, and deputy minister U Zaw Aye Maung, made a tour to Sittway yesterday afternoon.

The members of the State Administration Council and the Union ministers visited the No (1) Basic Education High School, the District Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) retransmission Station during the tour. They cordially met school officials and alumni and discussed educational development matters at the school. After that, they arrived at district IPRD, held discussions on the promotion of library services, upgrading to a community-based centre, and provided cash assistance to the staff.

At the MRTV retransmission station, Director-General U Ye Naing and officials discussed the situation of television coverage in Rakhine State and Union minister U Maung Maung Ohn also briefed them on the reform of public service media. The members and Union ministers also inspected the station and handed out cash assistance to the employees.

MRTV broadcasts programmes through 258 relay stations nationwide, including 16 in Rakhine State, and it is learnt that coverage is also being provided by radio/FM.

The SAC members, Union ministers and party views the Sittway Sub-Printing House yesterday.

Afterwards, they observed the printing situation of the daily newspapers at the Sub-Printing House (Sittway), discussed matters related to increased circulation of the press, and provided financial support to the staff. In the evening, they visited the viewpoint, strand road and observed the development of Sittway. — MNA

Handover ceremony of upgraded National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna held

THE handover ceremony of the National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna was held at 9 am yesterday at the National Indoor Stadium(1) Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon.

First, Union minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Chan Hai signed the handover agreement for the upgrading of National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna.

Afterwards, the ambassador showed a video clip on the work of the project and said that the first National Indoor Stadium was built in 1983 with funding from the Chinese government and is a project that symbolizes the friendly relations between China and Myanmar.

"It was decided to renovate the stadium for free and the project was completed and handed over today. Sport is an important symbol for social development and human development. The People's Republic of China will host the 24th Winter Olympics and the 19th Asian Games in 2022.

China attaches great importance to cooperation in sports fields between the two countries.

A sports technical assistance project is being implemented for Myanmar to achieve good results at the 31st Southeast Asian Games to be held in Viet Nam in coming May, said the Ambassador.

He added that he would work with Myanmar to make bilateral cooperation and beneficial to the people of Myanmar based on the people-centred concept.

Afterwards, the ambassador and Union minister exchanged certificates of appreciation for the upgrading of National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna.

Then, the Union minister said that since the opening of the stadium with a capacity of 10,825 spectators, international-level sports competitions, domestic sports tourneys and events were successfully held and it is a gymnasium that has produced national team athletes.

"We are especially proud of the generosity of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Shanghai Construction Company for restoring the original structure of the building without any major changes in the event of a year-long deterioration of the stadium and electrical and mechanical equipment," the Union minister elaborated.

The project was launched on 11 August 2019 for 220 million Yuan with the help of the People's Republic of China and has been completed today.

The current stadium has been renovated within the stipulated time, leaving a milestone in Sino-Myanmar cooperation.

The Union Minister wished for the successful hosting of the 24th Winter Olympics and the 19th Asian Games in 2022 by the People's Republic of China.

Next, the newly renovated National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna was inaugurated by Union minister U Min Thein Zan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Chan Hai, and Economic Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Mr Tan Shu Fu. — MNA

Handover event of upgraded National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna in progress.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

15 DECEMBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Honour ethnics in Rakhine State safeguarding western border of the nation

THE Rakhine State teeming with hilly areas, valuable rivers, creeks, lakes and islands as a region to produce invaluable natural products for the country located in the western part of the Union likes a great fortress guarding the western gate of the nation.

Despite poor facilities in the transport sector, local ethnic nationals residing in the Rakhine State are still maintaining their lands, engaging in agriculture, livestock and breeding and fishery for solving the livelihoods of their families.

> In honour of residents and the Rakhine State, the Rakhine State Day which falls on 15 December every year has been celebrated since 1975. That is why all Rakhine ethnic people as well as various national races in Rakhine State are responsible for the sustainability of images of Rakhine nationals and the Rakhine State. All ethnic nationals are urged to perpetually serve the interests of the Rakhine State and the Union through the Union spirit and the patriotic spirit.

Thanks to ethnic national brethren including Rakhine ethnics in Rakhine State, Myanmar's western border can be safe for various penetrations. Those people in the Rakhine State also take preventive measures with their own culture and traditions against alien culture. Hence, it can be seen till today that fine arts, songs, traditions and culture of various national races including Rakhine ethnics residing in the Rakhine State are fresh, impressive and active for audiences.

The Rakhine State possesses a long history of ancient Rakhine ethnic nationals with abundant cultural heritages. As the historical evidence proves that Rakhine literature has been flourishing since the Danyawady era, it is a state possessing invaluable ancient cultural heritage in literature, culture and customs arenas.

Since the time from the reigns of ancient Rakhine kings to date, Buddhist monks and layman authors, as well as Rakhine national scholars and professionals, have emerged one after another in the Rakhine State. And, it should take pride in those Rakhine nationals who served the State interests.

Buddhism has been flourishing in the Rakhine State. Hence, efforts are being made for putting the MraukU region where a lot of religious edifices mushroom into the list of world cultural heritage cities. Not only the people in the Rakhine State but also the entire citizens are responsible for safeguarding the national cultural characters, the heritage and customs all the people should take pride in.

In honour of residents and the Rakhine State, the Rakhine State Day which falls on 15 December every year has been celebrated since 1975. That is why all Rakhine ethnic people as well as various national races in Rakhine State are responsible for the sustainability of images of Rakhine nationals and the Rakhine State. All ethnic nationals are urged to perpetually serve the interests of the Rakhine State and the Union through the Union spirit and the patriotic spirit.

■ ■ ■

More than half a billion pushed into extreme poverty due to health costs

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to halt two decades of global progress towards Universal Health Coverage, according to reports released on Sunday from the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank, which reveal more than half a billion people are being pushed into extreme poverty because they have to pay for health services out of their own pockets.

THE findings launched on International Universal Health Coverage Day, highlighting the devastating impact of COVID-19 on people's ability to obtain healthcare and pay for it.

In his message marking the Day, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that with the third year of the pandemic fast approaching, "we must urgently strengthen our health systems to ensure they are equitable, resilient and capable of meeting everyone's needs, including for their mental health."

Shockwaves

He added that "the shockwaves of this health emergency are hitting hardest those countries that lack health systems capable of providing quality, affordable care for all."

If the world is to reach the goal of achieving universal health coverage by 2030, there needs to be greater commitment from governments to investing in and scaling up proven solutions.

"This means making more and smarter investments in the foundations of health systems, with an emphasis on primary health care, essential services and marginalized populations", said Mr Guterres.

The best insurance for resilient economies and communities, is strengthening health systems before crises emerge. "The unequal distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in the past year has been a global moral failure. We must learn from this experience. The pandemic will not end for any country until it ends for every country", said the UN chief.

The pandemic also triggered the worst economic crisis since the 1930s, making it increasingly difficult for people to pay for lifesaving healthcare. **PHOTO: AFP**

Stresses and strains

In 2020, the pandemic disrupted health services and stretched countries' health systems beyond their limits. As a result, for example, immunization coverage dropped for the first time in ten years, and deaths from TB and malaria increased, said the news release from WHO and the World Bank.

The pandemic also triggered the worst economic crisis since the 1930s, making it increasingly difficult for people to pay for lifesaving healthcare.

"Even before the pandemic, half a billion people were being pushed (or pushed still further) into extreme poverty because of payments they made for healthcare. The organizations expect that that number is now considerably higher.

"There is no time to spare," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "All governments must immediately resume and accelerate efforts to ensure every one of their citizens can access health services without fear of the financial consequences.

"This means strengthening public spending on health and social support, and increasing their focus on primary health care systems that can provide essential care close to home."

Faltering progress

"Prior to the pandemic, many countries had made progress. But it was not robust enough. This time we must build health systems that are strong enough to withstand shocks, such as the next pandemic and stay on course towards universal health coverage."

The new WHO/World Bank reports also warn that financial hardship is likely to become more intense as poverty grows, incomes fall, and governments face tighter fiscal constraints.

"Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, almost 1 billion people were spending more than 10 per cent of their household budget on health," said Juan Pablo Uribe, Global Director for Health, Nutrition and Population, World Bank. "This is not acceptable, especially since the poorest people are hit hardest. Within a constrained fiscal space, governments will have to make tough choices to protect and increase health budgets," he added.

In the first two decades of this century, many governments had made progress on service coverage, said WHO and the World Bank.

In 2019, prior to the pandemic, 68 per cent of the world's population was covered by essential health services, such as reproductive health services; immunization services; treatment for HIV, TB and malaria; and services to diagnose and treat noncommunicable diseases like cancer, heart conditions, and diabetes.

But they had not made care more affordable. "As a result, the poorest groups and those living in rural areas are the least able to obtain health services, and the least likely to be able to cope with the consequences of paying for them."

SOURCE: UN

ADB trims Asia growth forecasts as Omicron threatens economy

THE Asian Development Bank warned Tuesday that the highly mutated Omicron coronavirus variant could have a "substantial" economic impact, as it trimmed its 2021 and 2022 growth forecasts for developing Asia.

Global surge

Despite a sharp drop in infections and increased vaccination across the region stretching from the Cook Islands in the Pacific to Kazakhstan in Central Asia, the global surge in Covid-19 cases suggested "the pandemic will take time to play out", it said.

The Philippines-based lender forecast growth of 7.0 per cent in 2021 — compared with its previous prediction in September of 7.1 per cent — and 5.3 per cent in 2022, down from its earlier forecast of 5.4 per cent.

While the region was expected to sustain a "strong rebound" and keep inflation at manageable levels, the emergence of Omicron had brought "additional uncertainty", the ADB said.

"Recent developments in Europe show that extensive virus outbreaks can occur even in highly vaccinated countries and force governments to retighten mobility restrictions," it said.

"As it (Omicron) appears to be significantly more transmissible than earlier variants, its economic impact could be substantial."

Across developing Asia

Vaccination rates have increased across developing Asia in recent months, with nearly half of the population fully protected against Covid-19 at the end of November, compared with less than a third at the end of August, the lender said.

That has enabled many economies to start reopening, boosting manufacturing activity and trade in the region.

But coverage remained uneven — 20 economies still have less than 40 per cent of their populations fully vaccinated, "leaving them susceptible to renewed outbreaks".

And the region still lagged the nearly 60 per cent coverage in the United States and more than 67 per cent in the European Union.

"New pandemic waves could reverse the current reopening trend in many economies owing to still-insufficient vaccination coverage," the ADB warned.

SOURCE: AFP

A lab worker wearing PPE at a COVID-19 testing facility. **PHOTO: AFP**

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and confirmed

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Dr Win Tun, Director-General of the Department of Education Research, Planning and Training of the Ministry of Education, as Director-General of the Department of Higher Education from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Ye Gyaw Mra	Director-General ASEAN Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(b) U Wunna Han	Director-General Protocol Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as heads of Service Organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. U Ye Yint Lwin Deputy Director-General (Election Affairs) Office of the Union Election Commission Union Election Commission	Director-General Office of the Union Election Commission Union Election Commission
2. U Thein Swe Deputy Director-General Customs Department Ministry of Planning and Finance	Director-General Customs Department Ministry of Planning and Finance

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 14 December 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15 December 2021: Weather will be generally fair in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin, Mon States and partly cloudy inthe remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 December 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 December 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 December 2021: Partly cloudy.

MoST Union minister joins Ministerial Special Meeting on ASEAN-China Science, Technology and Innovation

UNION minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw joined the Ministerial Special Meeting on ASEAN-China Science, Technology and Innovation hosted by Thailand yesterday.

The meeting was organized to mark the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and Mr Wang Zhigang, Minister for Science and Technology of China, Prof Dr Anek Laothamatas, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of Thailand, the Secretary-General and the Chinese Ambassador to ASEAN respectively made opening speeches.

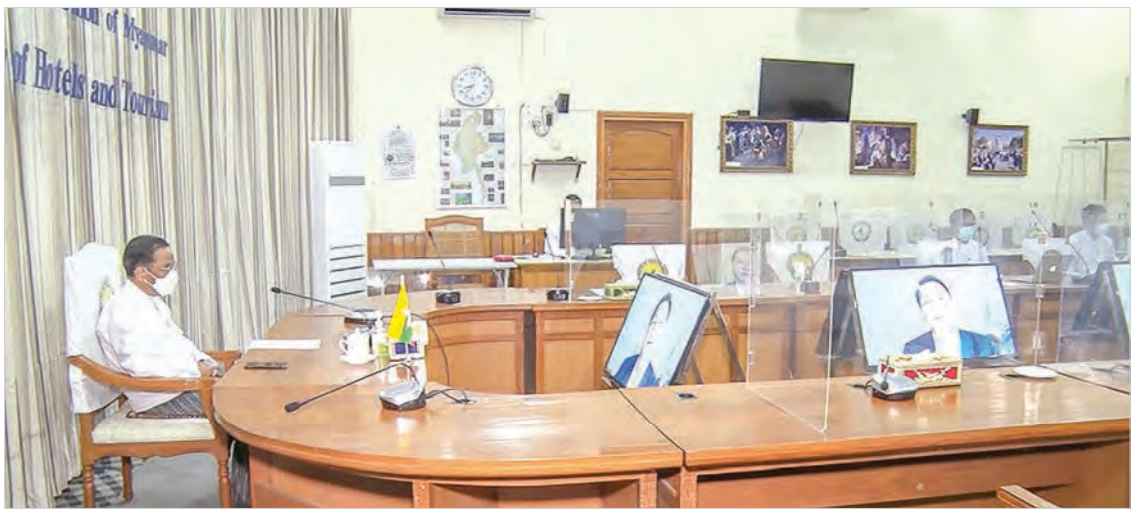
During the meeting, the Union minister talked about the important role of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action for a Closer Partnership of Science, Technology and Innovation for Future 2021-2025 –ACPASTI in regional development, including technology and digital economy.

He also said that ASEAN and China focus on public health, science and technology, education, culture, labour and social security, natural environment, media, young people and social development, including poverty alleviation and disaster management.

He then welcomed the action plan which strengthens the ASEAN-China cooperation and promotes regional peace, stability, prosperity and sustainability.

Finally, the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion. — MNA

Myanmar attends UNWTO Asia-Pacific workshop on measuring sustainability of tourism (MST)



THE UNWTO Asia-Pacific Workshop on Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) was held virtually on 14 and 15 December in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Department of Tourism of the Philippines, and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea.

Senior officials and subject experts led by Union minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended the virtual workshop. Myanmar is a member state of the UNWTO and the Pacific-Asia Tourism Association.

The workshop aimed to introduce Asia-Pacific member states to the use of statistical data to measure the sustainability of tourism, to raise awareness of the importance of tourism sustainability and to discuss indicators and strategies of the sustainable development of the tourism industry.

The Chief of Environment Economic Accounting Section of the Division led the discussion on the importance of measuring the sustainability of tourism in the Sustainable Development Agenda. During the discussion, the project of the UNWTO/UNSD, which measures indicators of sustainable development goals and the sustainability of tourism, was explained.

The discussions were also held on topics such as the link between tourism policies and indicators, measuring the sustainability of tourism, measuring the sustainability of tourism with marine data, estimating water resources and energy consumption in the Philippine tourism industry, developing a roadmap for measuring the sustainability of tourism in Fiji, expansion of Samoa's eco-tourism statistics, Thailand's linking business and environmental tourism information. — MNA

Qatar National Day celebrated in Yangon

DEPUTY minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut attended the Qatar National Day ceremony held at Lotte Hotel in Yangon at 2 pm yesterday.

First, the ceremony began with the National Anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the National Anthem of Qatar.

Then, Deputy minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut and Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Qatar to Myanmar Mr Mansoor Mubarak Al-Khayarin cut a cake to mark Qatar National Day.

After that, the deputy minister, the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Qatar posed for a group photo with guests at the reception.

Afterwards, the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Qatar hosted a luncheon for the guests.

Ambassadors from foreign embassies in Yangon, the Charge d'affaires of the Embassy and guests among others attended the ceremony. — MNA

The MoFA deputy minister and Qatar Embassy official are pictured cutting the cake to mark Qatar National Day yesterday.

363 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 December, total figure rises to 527,274

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 527,274 after 363 new cases were reported on 14 December 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 503,790 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,193 after 5 died.—MNA

MoC oversees daily import of anti COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce is overseeing the import of essential medical supplies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

Anti-COVID-19 equipment was imported by five companies using 21 vehicles. A total of 2,380 empty oxygen cylinders, 11,540 PPE suits, six tonnes of gloves and 134 tonnes of masks were imported via the Chinshwehaw trade zone and international seaports yesterday.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the standard operating procedures, including online registration for the import process.

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

Myanmar migrant workers from Laos tested for COVID-19

Covid test is underway for Myanmar migrant workers from Laos on 13 December. **PHOTO: YAR SAY**

SEVENTEEN Myanmar migrant workers from Laos, who were admitted to the Wamlong Quarantine Centre, were diagnosed with COVID-19 on 13 December.

Nose and throat samples were taken and tested, officials said.

A total of 17 — eight males and nine females — were examined by health workers on 11 December with the RDT Test Kit to prevent and control the COVID-19 disease.

No case of the virus was found at the Wamlong Quarantine Centre. On the third day, the nose and palate will be re-examined and the COVID-free persons will be transported back to their respective areas by vehicles arranged by district and township administration bodies.

More than 4,000 workers have returned to Myanmar from Laos since late July this year due to the COVID-19 virus. —Yar Say (IPRD)/GNLM

About 12.57 mln people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in Myanmar till 7 Dec

ABOUT 12.57 million people in Myanmar have been fully inoculated against COVID-19 until 7 December, according to a release from the Ministry of Health.

The country is providing vaccines to 36.9 million people aged 18 and above. As of 7 December, there were 12.57 million people who had received two doses of the vaccine and 5.59 million people who had received one dose, over 18.17 million in total, according to the Ministry of Health.

About 35 per cent of the country's population has been jabbed 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 the mid-2022.

Earlier, those above 65 years old were in the priority group to be vaccinated. Now, the priority lists for COVID-19 jabs have been increased and the lists include people above 55 years of age. Besides, COVID-19 vaccines have been provided to above 45 years starting from 17 October and to above 40 starting from 9 November, according to the ministry.

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

The ministry also urged people should 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

Nearly 260,000 people in NyaungU district inoculated against COVID-19

A total of 259,794 people in NyaungU district, Mandalay Region, have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as of 14 December, according to the NyaungU District Administration Body.

At 24 vaccination sites in NyaungU Township and Kyaukpadaung Township, a total of 115,614 doses of both Sinopharm and Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in NyaungU Township and 144,180 doses of the vaccines in Kyaukpadaung Township, respectively.

It is reported that the vaccination will continue depending on the availability of the vaccines and mobile COVID-19 immunization teams are also carrying out the inoculation in remote villages, according to U Toe Lwin, Chairman of the NyaungU District Administration Body. – Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They must be placed at well-ventilated sites.
4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.
8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

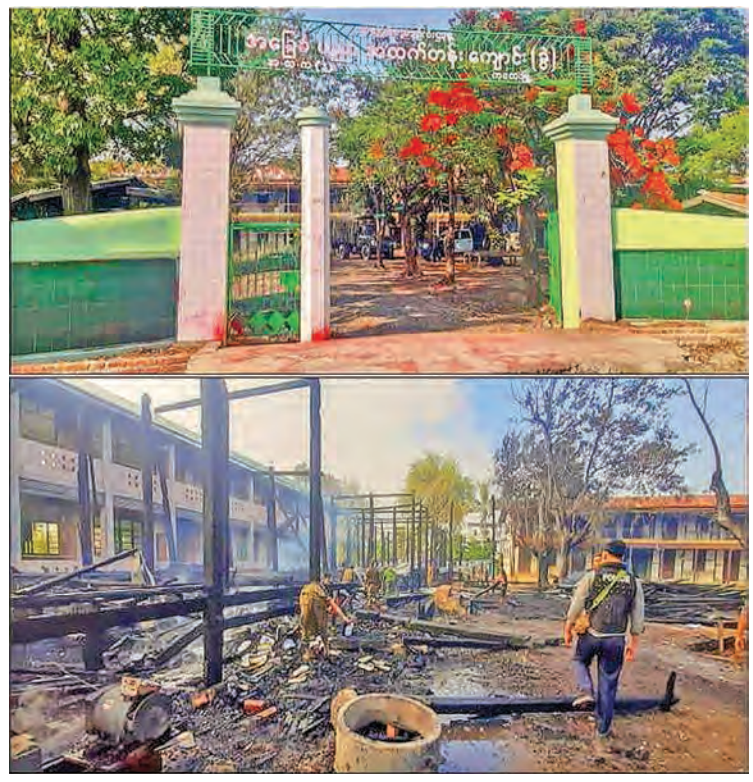
Press release issued on strong condemnation of terrorist acts of CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups

TERRORIST groups CRPH, NUG and PDF continue terror acts undermining peace and stability of the State and the rule of law with attempts to meet the political targets based on their interests. In such doing, those terrorists kill innocent people accused of informants, open fires at dutiful public service personnel, set fire to education and health-related buildings and blow up mines without considering the humanitarian instead of attacking the military targets. Not only Myanmar but also global countries set education and health sectors as the most important for their states and place emphasis on these sectors. According to international standards and ethics, it is unacceptable for committing terror acts to harm these sectors.

Since 1 February 2021, the State Administration Council has been implementing the five-point road map and political, economic and social objectives steadfastly since 1 February 2021 when it temporarily took sovereignty of the State in accord with the Constitution (2008) for standing tall among the global community. In this regard, a policy was adopted that nothing is more important than human life concerning the infection of COVID-19 the country is facing to vaccinate the people above 18 years old regardless of race, religion and gender in various ways and means, accounting for more than 50 per cent. Basic education schools closed for infection of COVID-19 were soonest reopened for students not to lose the learning opportunity. A plan is underway to reopen universities soon. Students above 12 years old are vaccinated for prevention of the infection of COVID-19 during the learning, and more plan was set to vaccinate students of universities to be reopened.

Although the State Administration Council is placing special emphasis on education and health measures which are important for the State, CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinate PDF terrorists intentionally assassinate and commit terror attacks on education and health personnel who did not hold any arms. In so doing, nurse Daw Chan Mya Nyein and her husband from Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region were assassinated by PDF terrorists on 12 December morning. Hence, dutiful health staff Daw Chan Mya Nyein was dead with injuries. Mine and bomb attacks of those terrorists destroyed 473 schools, and 14 education staff were dead in the assassination, leaving 23 injured from 1 February to date. Those terrorists blew up 25 hospitals and clinics, leaving four health staff dead and 12 injured, as a great loss for the State.

The State Administration Council strongly condemned the terrorists for their violent attacks and assassination to dutiful education and health staffs dedicated to the improvement of a single party they support. Moreover, those terrorists are warned to compulsorily stop terror acts against innocent ethnic national people including the attacks on members of the Sangha and places. If they continue terror acts, severe action will be taken against them under the law through fully collaborated efforts of the people and security forces. — MNA



Arson attack on the basic education middle school in Kalay on 16 May 2021.

Terrorists shot to death one teacher with another being wounded in Ngazun Township.

Gun attack on the vehicle leaving five dead and one wounded in Gangaw.

Mine blast in Bhamo People's Hospital.

Two security personnel died of landmine explosion in Taze

TWO security personnel who returned from Taze, Sagaing Region, after maintaining the situation of Ywathaya village where PDF terrorists set fire on houses and killed villagers, were assassinated in a landmine attack with several others being wounded.

According to the report on PDF terrorists who came to and blocked the village, killing villagers and burning their houses at around 4 pm on 13 December, a joint security task force went to the village to inspect the situation. Four village houses were burned down; one man (under investigation) was found dead with burn injuries; four men (under investigation) were found dead with bullet wounds and one man was injured. The villages were reportedly fleeing the village to escape the terrorists.

After maintaining the situation in the village, security personnel brought the wounded man for medical treatment and returned from the village by car. By the time they arrived near Hmanyin village, PDF terrorists detonated a landmine, killing two security troops and injuring several others.

The wounded security troops were taken to the hospital to receive medical treatment and it is reported that security forces are working together with local Tatmadaw forces to identify and take action against the perpetrators under the law. — MNA

Two security troops are assassinated in the landmine attack by terrorist groups in Taze.

Toyota sets global EV sales target of 3.5 mil. in 2030

TOYOTA Motor Corp. said Tuesday it aims to sell 3.5 million electric vehicles globally in 2030 as it builds momentum in its push for attaining carbon neutrality.

The Japanese automaker said it is ready to invest 8 trillion yen ($70 billion) on electrified cars by 2030, and launch 30 EV models globally by that year.

"The situation around energy differs from region to region. Therefore, Toyota wants to meet the situation and needs of different countries and regions by offering various choices in terms of carbon neutrality," President Akio Toyoda said at a press briefing.

Toyota had said earlier that out of the 8 million electrified cars it aims to sell by 2030, 2 million would be battery electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles.

The world's largest automaker by volume will also increase its investment in battery development to 2 trillion yen from 1.5 trillion yen announced earlier, Toyoda added.

The announcement comes as automakers worldwide are transitioning toward electrified cars to play their part in global efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Toyota has worked toward establishing a "full lineup" of electrified vehicles, including EVs and hybrids as well as fuel cell vehicles that run on hydrogen, saying it wants to offer different options to customers. But the approach has drawn flak at times as being pessimistic toward the development of EVs.

"We are serious about BEVs and (fuel cell hybrid vehicles). We are also serious about hybrid vehicles. We are still serious about gasoline vehicles," Toyoda said, stressing his business policy has been consistent.—Kyodo ■

Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 14 December 2021, about investment plans for electric vehicles. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NatWest fined nearly £265 million in money laundering case

NATWEST was on Monday fined nearly £265 million ($350 million, 310 million euros) for breaching Britain's laws on money laundering, the financial regulator said.

A judge imposed the penalty after the bank admitted offences relating to a customer's deposit of £365 million, some of which was brought in cash to a branch in bin bags.

The bank, part of the Royal Bank of Scotland group, pleaded guilty to three offences under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 in October.

The offences were committed between November 2012 and June 2016. Imposing the fine at a court hearing in south London, judge Sara Cockerill also ordered NatWest to pay $4.2 million in costs and made a £460,000 confiscation order.

"Throughout the indictment period, it is accepted NatWest sought to discharge its obligations under the regulations and that it failed to do so," she said. "It is not suggested there has been any deliberate flouting of the rules or any criminal intent."—AFP ■

Harley-Davidson says electric motorcyle unit will list on NYSE

ICONIC motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson announced Monday it will take its electric motorcycle division public through a merger with a special purpose company.

The transaction will combine LiveWire, the electric unit of Harley-Davidson, with AEA-Bridges Impact, establishing an entity valued a $1.8 billion, according to a joint press release.

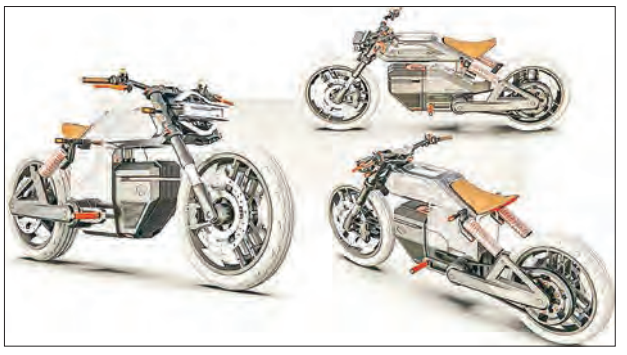
Known for its signature growling motorcycles, Harley-Davidson launched its electric division a decade ago to appeal to younger, more environmentally-conscious consumers at a time when its legacy clientele was aging.

First established in 1903 in the Northern state of Wisconsin, the company established LiveWire as a separate division in 2019. The electric model has been available since the end of that year, and start at around $30,000.

Taking the unit public will raise $545 million to enable LiveWire to accelerate its production and distribution plan and invest in new product development.

"By building on Harley-Davidson's 118-year lineage, LiveWire's mission is to be the most desirable electric motorcycle brand in the world," said Harley-Davidson Chief Executive Jochen Zeitz.

Zeitz plans to stay on as chief executive of LiveWire for up to two years after the transaction closes, according to the announcement. Harley-Davidson will hold 74 per cent of the new company.—AFP ■



Iconic motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson announced Monday it will take its electric motorcycle division public through a merger with a special purpose company. **PHOTO: AUTOEVOLUTION/AFP**

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Central Committee for Holding Myanma Gems Emporium
The Information on 2021 Mini Gems Emporium

1. The significant **2021 Mini Gems Emporium**, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held on December 17 to 22, 2021 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, Genuine Myanma pearl and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. In accordance with the Myanma Gemstone Law local gems entrepreneurs who got permit to make gems mining and local gems merchants who got licence to operate the finished gemstone making and dealings will be allowed to attend and purchase the lots at 2021 Mini Gems Emporium according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase lots at 2021 Mini Gems Emporium, can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanma Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanma Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

Four Paws International Myanmar Company Limited
(Company Registration No.118600975)
Notification under rule 15 of Insolvency Rules 2020 of appointment of liquidator for members voluntary winding up under section 152 of Insolvency Law 2020

1. The sole shareholder of Four Paws International Myanmar Company Limited has resolved under a written resolution, dated 10 December 2021, to approve the liquidation of the company by way of a members voluntary winding up under the Insolvency Law 2020.
2. The sole shareholder has further resolved to appoint U Kyawt Mg B.A, R.A, C.P.A., ICMA Part II (London) of U Kyawt Mg & Associates Accountancy and Audit Firm, No.3, 105th Street, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon (phone 095176165) as the liquidator of the company.
3. Therefore, any person claiming to be a creditor of Four Paws International Myanmar Co., Ltd. is requested to submit relevant evidence of such claim(s) to the liquidator at the above address within one month from the date of this notification.

U Kyawt Mg
Liquidator
Certified Public Accountant & Auditor

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2164N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2164N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-12-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
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Myanmar's foreign trade value drops by nearly $322 mln in mini-budget year

MYANMAR'S foreign trade value has seen a decrease by nearly US$322 million over the past two months of the current mini-budget period as both export and import decline, according to the official report of the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October to 26 November in the 2021-22 financial year, the foreign trade value was $4.309 billion, whereas the same period of the last FY saw $4.632 billion. This year saw a drop of over $321.862 million compared to the same period of last year.

This mini-budget year, the export value was over $2.206 billion with a decline of over $113 million, while the import value hit $2.102 billion with a decrease of over $208 million.

This mini-budget year, the export value was over $2.206 billion with a decline of over $113 million, while the import value hit $2.102 billion with a decrease of over $208 million.

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

According to the annual data released by the commerce ministry, the country's foreign trade value was $18,045.929 million in the 2012-2013FY, $27,714.826 million in the 2015-2016FY, $29,209.607 million in the 2016-2017FY, $33,578.052 million in the 2017-2018FY, $18,728.815 million in the 2018 mini-budget year and $35,147.012 million in the 2018-2019FY.

Agro-based food production, textile and clothing, industry and electronics, fisheries production, forestry production, digital production and services, logistics services, quality management, trade information services and innovation and entrepreneurship sectors are the main priority areas of the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-25. — ACM/GNLM

1,700 companies struck off register due to AR absence in past five months: DICA

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

A total of 1,700 companies was struck off the register in the past five months (July-November) as they fail to submit an annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended, under section 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

All registered companies need to file 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), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to 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, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended 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, totalling K250,000.

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.

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. The number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, topped more than 6,900 in the past 11 months of this year. Earlier, MyCO received more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA. — GNLM

Black gram price down by K100,000 per tonne within two weeks

THE price of black gram (urad called in India) significantly fell by over K100,000 per tonne within two weeks, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre).

The black gram fetched only K1,307,000 per tonne in the domestic market on 14 December, whereas it touched a high of K1,425,000 per tonne (FAQ/RC) on 1 December.

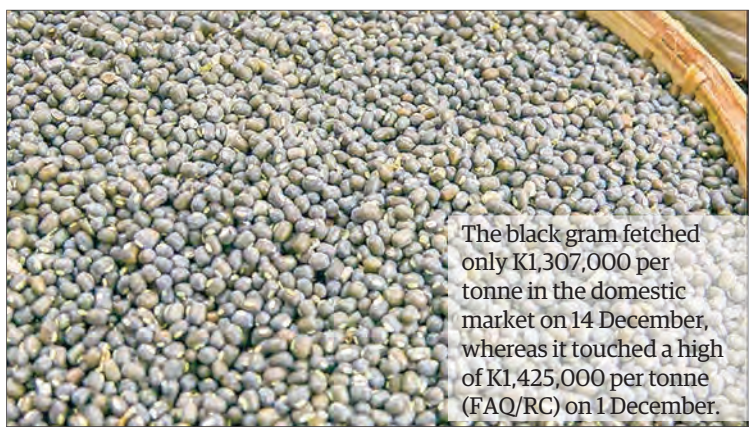
The supply of the newly harvested beans is attributed to the price drop. Furthermore, the black grams will be harvested in January as well. Consequently, the price is turning to a downside.

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

The rumours of the issuance of new currency notes (K20,000 and K50,000) shook up the local forex market. The exchange rate slightly rose from K1,880 on 8 December to above K1,900 on 9 December. Kyat weakening against the dollar will also cause the price to increase.

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.

Over 88,328 tonnes of black grams with an estimated value of US$77.5 million were shipped to the foreign trade partners as of 19 November in the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). 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 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans valued at $966.4 million to foreign markets through the sea route and a $604.3 million value of 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land borders. — NN/GNLM



The black gram fetched only K1,307,000 per tonne in the domestic market on 14 December, whereas it touched a high of K1,425,000 per tonne (FAQ/RC) on 1 December.

Russia vetoes UN resolution on climate change as global security threat

The United Nations Security Council. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LI MUZI/FILE**

RUSSIA on Monday vetoed a Security Council resolution formally linking climate change and global security that was supported by a majority of UN member states.

Backed by Niger and Ireland, the draft resolution called on Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to "integrate climate-related security risk as a central component into comprehensive conflict-prevention strategies."

The text won support from 12 of the Council's 15 members.

China abstained, while India voted against, arguing that global warming was chiefly an issue related to economic development, rather than international security.

The resolution had called on the UN chief to report within two years "on the security implications" of climate change on issues addressed by the Security Council, and sought recommendations on how these risks could be addressed.

For diplomats speaking on condition of anonymity, Russia's opposition was hard to understand given that the resolution itself "was not radical", according to one of them.

The US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said there was "no justification" for Moscow's veto.

"The climate crisis is a security crisis," she said.—AFP ■

French soldiers lower flag after years in Mali's Timbuktu

FRENCH troops were preparing to leave the Malian city of Timbuktu on Tuesday, in a symbolic departure more than eight years after Paris first intervened in the conflict-torn Sahel state.

It was there that then French president Francois Hollande formally declared the start of France's military intervention, in February 2013, designed to root out jihadist insurgents.

A few days prior, French legionnaires and Malian troops had liberated Timbuktu, a northern desert city, after an eight-month Islamist occupation.

"Some people were overcome by emotion, women were crying, young people were shouting, I myself was overwhelmed," said Yehia Tandina, a Timbuktu television journalist, recalling the day.

Mohamed Ibrahim, the former president of the Timbuktu regional council, also described the day as "joyful" and "beautiful".

But now French troops are leaving their base in Timbuktu, raising questions about the future of jihadist activity as militants put down roots in the countryside.—AFP ■

Soldiers fly out of the French army base at Timbuktu on 5 December. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

No US troops to be punished over deadly Kabul drone strike

The scene of the US drone strike in Kabul on 29 August 2021 – which the Pentagon now admits mistakenly killed 10 people, including seven children, who were not a threat. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Pentagon said Monday that no US troops or officials would face disciplinary action for a drone strike in Kabul in August that killed 10 Afghan civilians, including seven children.

Spokesman John Kirby said Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin had received a high-level review of the strike that made no recommendation of accountability.

"He approved their recommendations," Kirby said. "The secretary is not... calling for additional accountability measures."

"There was not a strong enough case to be made for personal accountability," Kirby added. The August 29 drone strike took place in the final days of the US-led evacuation of Kabul after the Taliban seized control of the country.

US officials said they had intelligence of a possible Islamic State attack on the evacuation operations at Kabul airport, and launched a missile from a drone at a target that was thought to be a car laden with munitions.

In fact, they struck a family that included an Afghan man who worked for a US aid group and seven children.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran losing 'precious time' with nuclear stance: European diplomats

IRAN'S positions in talks over its nuclear development programme are "inconsistent" with the terms of the deal to limit it, diplomats from the western European countries negotiating with Tehran, said on Monday.

After a five-month pause, talks resumed on salvaging the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in Vienna on 29 November.

The 2015 agreement aimed to prevent Iran from developing an atomic bomb, a goal Tehran has always denied. The deal ensured sanctions relief in return for tight curbs on Iran's nuclear programme, which was put under extensive UN monitoring.

Diplomats from Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia, the signatory countries to the 2015 agreement, are attending the current talks.— AFP ■

Solomon police arrest opposition party figure

POLICE in the restive Solomon Islands said Tuesday they had arrested a leading member of the opposition in connection with deadly riots that rocked the country last month.

United Party president John Kwaita was reportedly arrested by armed police at his home late Monday on unspecified charges.

"We can confirm that a prominent Solomon Islander has been arrested yesterday evening in relation to the rioting," a police spokesman told AFP.

Late last month anti-government protests sparked widespread looting and arson in the capital Honiara, causing US$67 million worth of damage and leaving the city's Chinatown district in ruins.

At least three people died in the violence, which also caused the snap deployment of around 200 peacekeepers from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

The protests were sparked by opposition to veteran Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, who is keen to forge closer ties with Beijing.— 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 inves tment 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.

Thai, Singapore bag victories; no hopes for Myanmar in Suzuki

WITH the wins of Thailand and Singapore, Myanmar will be eliminated from the group stage of the Suzuki Cup Tournament which is being held in Singapore.

The ASEAN Suzuki Cup Group A matches continued on 14 December, with the victories of Thailand and Singapore securing the three-point score each, while the Myanmar team said good-bye to the group stage.

On the fourth day of the group, Thailand beat the Philippines 2-1, and Singapore beat Timor-Leste 2-0 and secured the Semi-final spot each.

Myanmar and the Philippines teams, who had 3 points in 3 matches and Timor-Leste, who have not scored in the last four games, have been knocked out of the group stage.

The final day of Group A will be played on 18 December. The match between Thailand and Singapore will be played for the first place in the group and the match between Myanmar and the Philippines will be played for dignity.

The Myanmar team has reached the semi-finals only twice in the history of Suzuki in 2004 and 2016 and has been knocked out of the group stages in the rest of the competition. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Man Utd's clash at Brentford postponed after Covid outbreak

MANCHESTER United's English Premier League match at Brentford was postponed Tuesday after a Covid-19 outbreak closed the Old Trafford club's training facility. The Premier League took the decision to postpone "based on guidance from medical advisors", said a Manchester United statement issued late Monday.

The decision comes after United became the latest top-flight team to be hit by a coronavirus outbreak, which forced the closure of their Carrington training complex. The Premier League reported 42 new Covid-19 cases on Monday -- a record since testing figures started being released in May 2020. Also on Monday United halted first-team operations at Carrington for 24 hours after several players and staff tested positive for the virus.

Ralf Rangnick's squad had not travelled to London.

Aston Villa and Brighton also revealed positive tests on Monday as the virus threatened to wreak havoc on the midweek fixture list.

"Manchester United can confirm that our Premier League fixture at Brentford FC, on Tuesday 14 December at 19:30, has been postponed and will be rescheduled in due course," a United statement said. "Following PCR confirmation of positive LFT Covid-19 tests among the first-team staff and players, the outbreak requires ongoing surveillance.

Manchester United's Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo (L) and Interim head coach Ralf Rangnick (R) shake hands.
PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS/AFP

"A decision was taken to close first-team operations at the Carrington Training Complex for 24 hours to help minimize risk of further infection, and individuals who tested positive are isolating in line with Premier League protocols.—AFP ■

Barcelona coach Xavi has set his team the target of winning the Europa League. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Barcelona to play Napoli in Europa League knockout play-offs

BARCELONA will face Napoli in the Europa League knockout round play-off stage after the Catalan giants crashed out in the Champions League group stage for the first time since the 2000-01 season.

Xavi Hernandez's Barca will continue their European campaign in the second-tier competition, with the winner of their tie with Napoli advancing to the last 16.

"Napoli are a great team of real European pedigree. They've got a lot of experience so we're aware it's going to be really hard," said Barca director of football Mateu Alemany.

"Obviously the draw hasn't been very generous to us but that's how these competitions are."

The first leg will take place at the Camp Nou on February 17 with the return on February 24 at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples. The late Argentine great played for both Barca and Napoli during his career.

Napoli and Barca met in the last 16 of the 2019/20 Champions League, with Barca advancing 4-2 on aggregate. — AFP ■