

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 7 November 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 State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 66th Anniversary of Kayin State Day (7 November 2021)

Esteemed national brethren in Kayin State,

I extend greetings to all on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Kayin State Day today while praying for all national people of the Union in the entire nation to be physical and mental well-being.

Kayin State is located in the south of Myanmar and enriches in beautiful natural scenes.

Papun area of Thanlwin District was designated as Kayin State in accord with Amendment Act No 62 of the Constitution in 1951. Kayin State was expanded with Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, Kawkareik Township, Hlaingbwe Township, Hpa-an Township and Thandaunggyi Township, totalling five related to Thanlwin District as the second phase in accord with the Extension of Karen State Act 14 in 1952. The Kayin State was reconstituted again with seven townships with setting Myawady as a township on 1 March 1960. As 7th November 1955 was designated as Kayin State Day when the President signed the 1951 Constitution Amendment Act to set Thanlwin District as Kayin State, today falls on the 66th Anniversary.

The Thanlwin River, a significant symbol of Kayin State, is streaming in Kayin State which possesses abundant greening landscaping and natural beauties.

Natural resources are rich in Kayin State with valuable forests in addition to successful agricultural businesses in favourably climatic conditions.

Kayin State is full of beautiful natural scenes, caves and waterfalls as well as lovely customs and traditional cultural heritage of local ethnicities. As such, it is a region capable of implementing community-based tourism, and local and foreign tour services. Happy and active Kayin don dance and music of Phasi drum of Kayin ethnic nationals are an attractive tradition that can catch the attention of those at home and abroad.

SEE PAGE-3

COVID-19 vaccines delivered to various states/regions

IN collaboration with civil society groups, COVID-19 vaccines are being transported to different states and regions in line with the Cold Trail Standards, which are provided by the Air Force.

Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, which are being stored at the expanded vaccine storage centre on Mindhamma Road in Yangon, are being transported by Cold Chain Delivery Logistics trucks by military planes to various regions and states as per the quality control standards, officials said.

On 6 November, 132,695 COVID-19 vac-

ination doses to Mandalay, 29,540 to Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 30,821 to Monywa, 52,360 to Taunggyi, 158,353 to Patheingyi, 40,000 to Mawlamyine, 100,492 to Magway, 217,757 to Yangon, 48,645 to Pyaw, 69,383 to Bago, 41,004 to Lashio, and 24,000 doses to Hpa-an were transported by Cold Chain Delivery Logistics Vehicles.

Authorities from each township have received all the vaccines and they will be distributed to the public as soon as possible accordingly to the target population groups, officials added.

— MNA



Pyin Oo Lwin

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No. 194/2021

3rd Waxing of Tazaungmon 1383 ME
6 November 2021

Substitution of Security and Border Affairs Minister

THE State Administration Council has substituted Minister for Taninthayi Region Security and Border Affairs BC 23801, Colonel Thet Soe with BC 27120, Colonel Thein Lin under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

**960 new cases of
COVID-19 reported
on 6 November, total
figure rises to 505,998**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **505,998** after **960** new cases were reported on 6 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **476,895** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **18,804** after **21** died.—MNA

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



Myawady

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging continu-

ous importation through trading posts, international airports and seaports with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 6 November, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including masks and oxygen generators, were imported by

three companies and transported by 15 vehicles.

A total of 105 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw trading posts, officials said.

From 1 to 6 November, a total of 80 tonnes of liquid oxygen, six tonnes of oxygen gas carried by

bowsers, 1,638 empty oxygen cylinders, two oxygen plants, six oxygen generators, 30 oxygen concentrators, 63,600 PPE suits, nine tonnes of gloves and 186 tonnes of masks were transported by 34 vehicles from 15 companies.

In the same period, two bowsers transported liquid oxygen to Yangon, another two to Mawlamyine and one to Nay Pyi Taw. Two oxygen plants were also transported to Yangon, officials said.

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

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

Myanmar welcomes more returnees at different land borders

MYANMAR nationals returned from abroad are being welcomed at various land borders this month.

On 5 November, a total of 33 returnees – 18 males and 15 females came back home through Chinshwehaw, northern Shan State. Similarly, 45 returnees, including 32 males and 13 females, came back home through Laukai, Shan State.

Healthcare officials from relevant public hospitals and members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps conducted COVID-19 tests and provided quarantine entry documents for the returnees.

Next, instructions of the Ministry of Health were explained systematically and departmental officials provided necessary assistance. The township administration then escorted them to their respective places in passenger vehicles, and the infected people were kept in separate places to facilitate the necessary medical and administrative matters, officials said. —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.

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption

Answer "1111" to improve services

Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

Anti-Corruption Commission

Political maturity

POLITICAL maturity and unity of stakeholders and the entire people play a crucial role in building the Union based on democracy and federalism. It is necessary to take lessons that Myanmar could not achieve the deserved development due to requirements in political maturity in successive eras. We must try hard to overcome such challenges. We need to build political maturity and unity with wise mental faculty for ensuring the peace of the nation.

(Excerpt from the Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark the Sixth Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October 2021)

The message sent by Chairman of State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 66th Anniversary of Kayin State Day (7 November 2021)

FROM PAGE-1

Thanks to the construction of the Myanmar-Thai friendship bridge No 2 and the establishment of more border trade camps, Kayin State which is a primary trade centre of Myanmar, can create job opportunities for local ethnics. As such, it is satisfactory that socio-economic development is booming in the state day by day.

It is visible that as some townships in Kayin State rely on border trade processes, they cannot carry out agricultural tasks at full capacity. But, Kayin State enjoys food sufficiency due to the production of crops across the state.

If a hydropower station is built on the Thanlwin River for Kayin State which possesses plentiful water sources that is a kind of renewable energy to meet the electricity demand of the nation, generating sufficient electricity in the state can help operate a larger number of the factories consuming electricity as well as contribute to the enhancement of the living standard of the local people.

Esteemed national brethren,

Currently, the State Administration Council is taking the responsibilities of the government of the State in accord with the Constitution with the formation of the Provisional Government to implement the Five-Point Road Map and Nine Political, Economic and Social Objectives as the basic principles. And, efforts are being made for ensuring peace and stability of the State and improvement of socio-economic lives of ethnic people with might and main.

Various kinds of ethnic nationals have been living in Myanmar through thick and thin since time immemorial. Traditional cultural heritage, literature, theatrical performance and music fine arts have been existing in Myanmar for thousands of years. Despite living in unison, the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists deteriorated the unity among national brethren and caused internal armed conflicts.

Nowadays, it can be seen that the development of the country is delayed due to the incapability of solving the armed conflicts of ethnics which started in the post-independence period, and incapability of firmly building the national reconciliation and the Union peace process. Whenever the peace of the Union cannot be restored in full swing, the opportunities to share the results of development among ethnic nationals of the Union will still be lesser.

The government is striving for ensuring national reconciliation and the peace of the Union with a firm vow to implement the sustainable and synchronized development that all the ethnic nationals can enjoy in an equal term.

As the peace processes are most aspired by the entire people in Myanmar, we need to give a good legacy to new generations to be able to create a peaceful and tranquil society. If the perpetual peace can be restored with the participation of the entire people in Myanmar with abundant natural resources, the free, peaceful, prosperous and developed society we all aspire will emerge soonest.

The government is striving for the improvement of all social-economic sectors such as transport, electrification, agriculture, livestock, education and health for multiple developments of the entire nation in all regions including Kayin State.

I'd like to deeply urge ethnic national people to cooperate in suppressing the incitement of terrorist groups and the danger of terrorists who do not aspire to the peace and stability of the State and oppose the government.

I firmly believe we all would strongly overcome any crises and challenges falling on the State and the nation through the patriotic spirit based on the genuine Union spirit of the ethnic nationals.

Esteemed national brethren,

As the day when the Panglong Agreement proved the archive of the national solidarity which is the foundation for the strengthening of the independence and the State sovereignty was designated as the Union Day, its Diamond Jubilee will be held in the coming few months.

As such, now is time to implement the restoration of perpetual peace across the nation, essential for building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire people aspire, I'd like to deeply urge all ethnic national people residing in Kayin State to participate in the peace process on the significant occasion of the Kayin State Day.

I send a message with my wish that may all ethnic national people residing in Kayin State to be those who strive for speedy emergence of peace and stability as well as development in the region and be those serving the interests of the state, people of the state, the State and the people of the State.

*Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Prime Minister
Chairman
State Administration Council*

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Second-day meeting of UEC, political parties on electoral reform continues

THE second-day meeting of the Union Election Commission and the representative of political parties on the electoral system continued at the Yangon Region Government office yesterday.

At the meeting, U Tin Swe from the Democratic Party (Myanmar) said, at the National Convention for the Drafting of the 2008 Constitution on 30-31 October 2006, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission U Aung Toe said proportional representation was being adopted in many countries and Myanmar was required to establish a wide constituency and enact the necessary laws as per the decision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He discussed that the implementation of the PR system in the current Pyithu Hluttaw would lead to a good political culture in the 330-seat Pyithu Hluttaw, which selects the Chief Executive (President) as well as a good government and a strong legislature would emerge which integrate the differences.

U Aung Zin from the National Democratic Force Party said the issue of electoral reform in Myanmar is in the interest of the whole nation as well as the history of the country and emerging political processes, adding it is playing a vital role towards a new democratic federal union. He highlighted the need to pay special attention to the emergence of nation-building not only state-building but also for nation-building with multiethnic characteristics with democratic characteristics, the need to provide inclusive representation in each Hluttaw for the peace and the unity of the whole nation.

He also discussed the National Democratic Force Party has been working since



The second-day meeting between the UEC and political parties in progress.



2012 to create a proportional representation (PR) system compatible with the Union of Myanmar for the emergence of a federal democratic union in Myanmar.

U Thein Zaw from Pyi said the proposal was made to include the efforts of the candidates to make the referendum acceptable to the people in order to help build a modern and developed democracy and not to deviate too much from the previous voting system. He made a detailed discussion on electoral system designs for PR elections.

U Khin Maung Thein from the National Unity Party discussed that implementation of the PR system could have advantages such as more opportunities for small parties and ethnic minorities to enter parliament, guaranteeing the rights of individual voters, increasing public interest in the election and improving turnout, increasing access to an all-inclusive voter, practising the participation of 30% women in parliament, and reducing the influence of a single party and preventing a democratic

dictatorship. He suggested that the new PR system should be introduced in the next election after the completion of emergency duties.

U Khaw Tain from New Democracy Party (Kachin) said in the previous election period, only the two major parties took turns in power, with the emergence of a strong one-party dictatorship and fewer opportunities for small ethnic minority parties due to the weak electoral system, population disparities, focus on townships and weaknesses in the rules regarding temporary migrants. He said it is necessary to change the PR system to include multi-party participation in parliament if a disciplined multi-party democracy will be practised in the 2008 Constitution.

He called for a simple PR system and designation of constituencies based on existing regions/states/districts/townships under the provisions of the 2008 Constitution and the possibility of a non-discriminatory system for ethnic minorities. He also gave suggestions on constituency division.

Daw Nan Htike Htike Win Kyaw from the Phlone-Sqaw Democratic Party discussed the systems for the township and population-based Amyotha Hluttaw PR system and for electing state and ethnic affairs ministers. She added the use of the PR system aims to create a parliamentary environment that is inclusive, in addition, to preventing electoral fraud and developing a free and fair nation.

Daw Win Kay Khine Aye from the National Political Alliances said the electoral system used during the colonial era, independence and parliamentary era, and the 2010-2020 democratic period were winner-take-all systems (FPTP system), however, due to the weakness of the system, only the winning party in parliament is dominated which resulted in disadvantages such as ignoring the interests of the people and the votes of the people who supported the other parties were wasted due to the lack of multi-party participation and the inability to have a voice of ethnic parties in parliament.

She highlighted that only

through the practice of proportional representation will be able to serve the interests of different ethnic nationalities, adding that she believes that the federal rights desired by the ethnic nationalities can be realized through the parliamentary process.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the Union Election Commission concluded the meeting. He expressed words of appreciation to those who enthusiastically participated in the discussion. He said the Chief Minister of the Yangon region government had made suggestions in defining constituencies, and the best will be considered although there are limitations.

This is the third time the Union Election Commission and political parties held a meeting. The first and the second meeting agreed on the electoral system, and this time focused on the implementation of a PR system that is appropriate with Myanmar. He said it is necessary to consider participating in law and administration to ensure security for all ethnic groups, adding it will improve and the country will develop more depending on the organizational capacity.

He also said political parties and interested people will be invited in the next month or two to a wide-ranging consultation on electoral system design for Region/State Hluttaw. He also added the efforts of the staff of the Union Election Commission to develop electoral researches, and that the best will be carried by obtaining opinions and ideas of political parties.

The meeting was attended by 92 representatives from 51 political parties and 18 civil society representatives, it is reported. — MNA

Above 12-year-old students receive COVID vaccines in Hopang

A total of 698 students aged 12 and above have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Hopang, Wa Self-administered Division, northern Shan State, according

to the General Administration Department of the township.

A total of 388 students -- 174 schoolboys and 214 schoolgirls received COVID-19 vaccines on

17 October.

Next, 310 students, including 141 school boys and 169 school girls received COVID jabs on 6 November.

To date, a total of 698 students have been vaccinated for the first time with the COVID-19 vaccine (Sinovac).

In Hopang Township, 1,046

students were vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine (Sinovac), according to the township education officer. — Zin Zin (IPRD)/GNLM

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(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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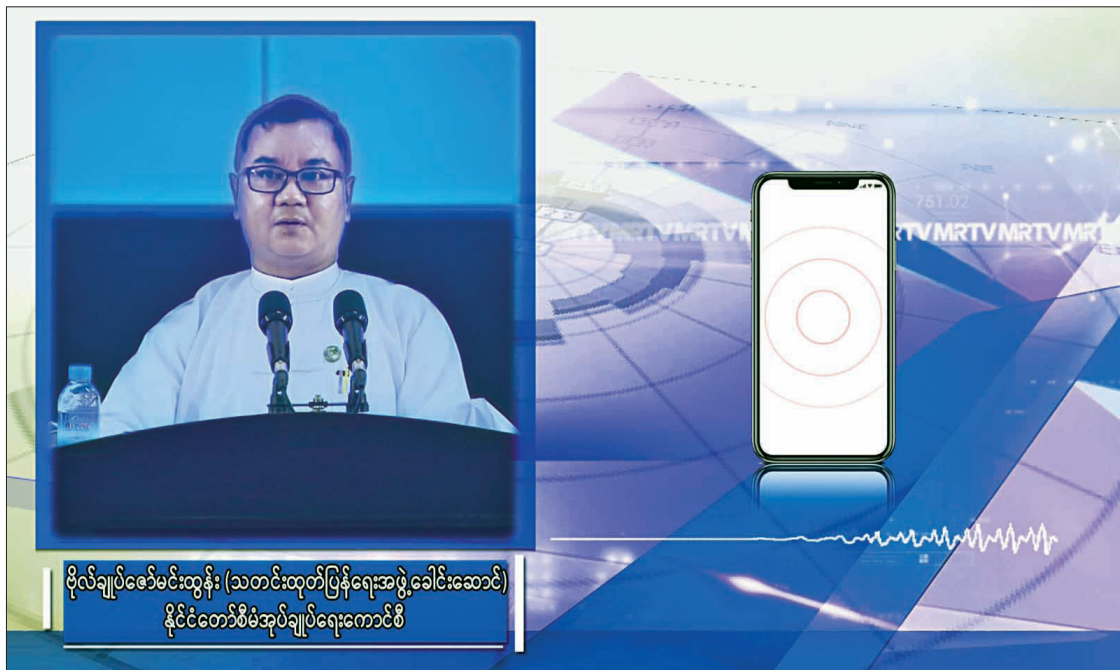
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Clarification on IMF RCF/RFI loans

Q: The media outlets express that \$372 million in pandemic relief funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have gone missing in the term of State Administration Council. Please explain us about it.

A: The first thing I want to say is that we can see the news covering of media and words of IMF. These things are said without any inspection. In their news, what we see is that they expose the assistance to Myanmar. The first thing is the loan. It is RCF/RFI loan provided by IMF for COVID-19 pandemic. It is Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI). The loan was taken with the agreement with the financial policy of the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Ministry of Planning and Finance. We had to conduct for two times. The government carried out in line with the financial procedures. The first time was that we received \$356million on 1-7-2020 at US dollar account of CBM and K490 billion equivalent to the received dollar amount was deposited in the State account of the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 2-7-2021. Now, the second time of the \$372.391 million was received at the foreign currency account of CBM on 28-1-2021, and K495.50billion equivalent to the received dollar amount was deposited in the State account of the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 29-1-



State Administration Council Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

2021. They are the loans.

The RCF loan has a grace period of five years and a 10-year repayment term. The RFI loan has a grace period of three years and a 5-year repayment term. I mean they are the loans that we have to repay. According to the agreement between the CBM and the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the CBM carries out only for granting loan while the Ministry of Planning and Finance is for the usage of loan.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance released the report on the usage of above-mentioned RFI loan inspected by the Union Auditor-General Office at its website www.mopf.gov.mm. The

people can get information at this website. The website featured the information on the procurement cost over K100 million for COVID-19 prevention and COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) for four times, expenditure for COVID-19 protective gears for three times and other inspections on the expenses and procedures regarding the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities of the governmental organizations. Then, we are working with the ministry concerned to release the fourth information.

They will release the information in detail during this month. There, they also announce the daily cash donation and re-

maining balance for COVID-19. Such information is also released weekly. They also expressed the remaining balance, received cash contribution and closed account balance from 25-10-201 and 29-10-2021 including the expenditures for medicines. They can be seen at the website. The inventory regarding with the procurement of COVID-19 protective gears are also expressed there.

In the final list, until 29-10-2021, it included the paid amount to Chinese Sinopharm company as the final repayment on 27-10-2021. What I want to say is that the government is working hard transparently with full of responsibilities.

The news is published without observing these issues, and the knowingly publishing without caring the situation and without asking the ministry concerned by the international countries are seemed to deliberately disrupting the COVID-19 treatment processes

We, the government already expressed the completed work plans and other measures regarding COVID-19. Tatmadaw actively participated in the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities before it took over the state responsibilities. Then, the military members-individually and military officials donated in the COVID-19 fund. They donated from their salaries for many times. Therefore, what I want to say is that the people and media can study regarding the news in detail at the website of ministry concerned. If they conduct something after studying, it can make more benefits.

Regarding COVID-19 pandemic, our country reported more than 40 per cent of positive cases in July. The officials talk about it now. Currently, it reaches below 4 per cent. We can see the effective government performance and public participation in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities. Therefore, I want to urge the public to actively participate in these processes as before. Thank you. —MNA

About 600 acres of monsoon paddy replanted in Sagaing region

HEAVY rains in the Sagaing Region have flooded more than 3,500 acres of crops. However, about 600 acres of monsoon paddy has been replanted in that area, said Dr Tin Mar Mar Oo, the head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

About 592 acres of monsoon paddy have been replanted among a total of 3,552 acres of crops lost in the Sagaing Region. The winter crops will be also grown constantly in that remaining destroyed area in its season, said Dr Tin Mar Mar Oo.

A total of 71,951 acres of farms were inundated and about 3,552 acres were destroyed in 19 townships in Sagaing Region from July to September 2021.

As a result, about 71,951 acres of crops have been flooded including 68,792 acres of mon-

soon paddy, 83 acres of monsoon sesame, 387 acres of monsoon peanuts, 55 acres of sugarcane, 1,215 acres of winter sesame, 344 acres of other crops and 1,075 acres of other perennial crops.

Besides, a total of 3,552 acres of crops were destroyed containing 2,647 acres of monsoon paddy, 22 acres of monsoon sesame, 166 acres of monsoon peanuts, 630 acres of monsoon sesame, 22 acres of other crops and six acres of other perennial crops.

To provide timely replacement of flood-damaged crops by the floods, the relevant districts and township agriculture departments have been sharing the necessary cultivation technology and awareness to the local farmers. — Lulay/GNLM

Fuel oil imported with CBM exchange rate to distribute at reasonable price

US\$53.4 million worth of fuel oil has been imported with the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) exchange rate to distribute at a reasonable price, according to the Consumer Affairs Department.

“The CBM has already sold \$53.4 million to our Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA). But, we still have some dollars to withdraw from the bank. Currently, the retail stations are still selling the \$20 million worth of fuel oil. We are also making effort to sell the remaining over \$33 million worth of fuel oil through the retail stations. We are also carrying out the distribution plan,” said an official from the Consumer Affairs Department.

MPTA, in cooperating with the Ministry of Commerce has sold fuel at a fair price since 22 September, which is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank

of Myanmar. The Consumer Affairs Department stated that more than 51 million litres of fuel oil were sold at a reasonable rate between 22 September and 2 November 2021. Out of them, the association ended over 19 million litres of 92 Ron, over 12 million litres of diesel and over 18 million litres of premium diesel.

The fuel oil at the fairer price is available at 229 petrol-filling stations in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw cities and Mon, Shan, Kachin, Kayin and Rakhine states and Sagaing, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions.

If the consumers find the shops that are not being sold at the fixed price, they are urged to report to the Working Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, calling 09-664075683, 09-664596327 and 09-676320816, to Yangon consumer affair department 01-250270 and

Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association 09-421006794.

The fuel oil was pegged at around at K590 per litre for diesel, K605 for premium diesel, K590 for Octane 92 and K610 for Octane 95 in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market.

Then, it strangely climbs up to K1,340 for diesel, K1,355 for premium diesel, K1,420 for Octane 92 and K1,4850 for Octane 95 at present. There is a significant price gap of K700-800 per litre, according to the local fuel oil market.

The devaluation of the local currency is the main reason for the oil price hike in the domestic market. At present, a dollar is worth around K1,900 in the domestic foreign exchange market.

Normally, Myanmar yearly imports around 600,000 tonnes of fuel oil from external markets, the Ministry of Commerce stated. — NN/GNLM

Milestones in the State Administration Council's Eighth Month

By Kanaung

Overview

September marked the turning point in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing test positivity rates, and achieving planned goals in the vaccination programmes against the disease. The month was also notable for increased cooperation and collaboration with neighbouring and other friendly countries.

September also saw intensified efforts of terrorist organizations dedicated to destroying the state and creating anarchy out of desperation. These efforts were thwarted by the vigilance of the security forces and the cooperation of the Myanmar people in bringing some of these terrorists to justice.

Diary of the State Leader

On 6 September, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presided over the 11th COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Coordination meeting. During the meeting, he highlighted the decline of the test positivity rate from 40 per cent in mid-July to 10.37 per cent in early September and emphasized the need to remain vigilant, observe health rules, and continue with the vaccination programme, especially since the infection rate remains high in some regions and states. He also mentioned the efforts for local production of vaccines, the research in traditional medicines, and the need to advance universal healthcare coverage.

On 7 September, at the second meeting of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister emphasized that a country's main strengths lay in building up its political, economic and defence might, and the health and continuous learning of its people. He discussed the improvement of



SAC Chairman Prime Minister of Provisional Government of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays an inspection tour around the New Locomotive Assembling Factory (Nay Pyi Taw) on 10 September 2021.

agriculture and livestock sectors, especially intending to increase exports, enhance local food security, and heighten the production of oilseed crops, cotton and other crops. The meeting also discussed plans for the hotels and tourism sector; housing construction, transportation, greening the country, the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines and the progress of vaccination programmes, with the aim being to leave no one behind.

On 9 September, the 7th Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Summit was convened and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed the GMS Economic Cooperation Programme Strategic Framework 2030, which was approved at the summit, which would guide GMS cooperation in the future. He also highlighted the efforts of Myanmar to recover from the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, and for 50 per cent coverage of vaccination across the nation by the end of this year.

On 10 September, the Prime Minister inspected the New Locomotive Assembling Factory (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Branch under Myanma Railways and

railway station and guided the discussion on how rail transport could improve the country's transport networks.

On 13 and 14 September, SAC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the Choice of Arms ceremony for the 64th Intake of the Defence Services Academy at PyinOoLwin, and on 14 September, met with senior officer instructors, senior officer lecturers, medical specialists, faculty members, officers, other ranks and families from PyinOoLwin military station. He highlighted the important role of the Myanmar Defence Services (Tatmadaw) in political changes for the country and emphasized discipline, health, fitness and skills of service members.

On 16 September, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the Sin Min Dam, its storage and other facilities, the National Kandawgyi Garden, natural spring and water inlet channels along the circular road of the garden. The Prime Minister next met with the members of the Administration Councils of Mandalay Region and PyinOoLwin Township, departmental personnel and town

elders at PyinOoLwin Township Hall. Discussions focused on the impact of COVID-19 on businesses in PyinOoLwin, which was variously known as Flower City, a centre for tourism and education institutions. All would need to work together to reduce the COVID-19 infection rate and to accelerate the recovery process in PyinOoLwin with various local development projects in the agriculture, livestock, health and services sectors. On 17 September, the Prime Minister inspected projects related to the sports, local economy and tourism of PyinOoLwin.

On 18 September, the Prime Minister met with the members of the Kachin State authorities, departmental officials, district/township administrators and town elders at Myitkyina Township for the first time. The Prime Minister discussed the current plans for socio-economic development and peace processes in the country, the building of a firm multiparty democratic system, and the priority given to building up prosperity and food security in the country. To wean the country away from over-dependence on natural resources, diversification

would be needed, especially towards the cultivation of oilseed crops, the production of quality farming products, renewable energy, city development projects, tourism and sports. All these require human resources development built on a foundation of education, knowledge about the economy and law, and a healthy population.

The Prime Minister visited the military station in Myitkyina and explained the progress being made in the sector-wise development of the country with the Five-Point Roadmap and the Nine Objectives. He mentioned the efforts being made for the emergence of a genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system, for prosperity and food security. He urged Tatmadaw members to work hard to contribute to the development of the country while serving the military duties and providing the military families with gifts of food. The Prime Minister then met with Tatmadaw personnel who were under medical treatment at Myitkyina military hospital to personally encourage them.

On 19 September, the Prime Minister met with Tatmadaw officials and families at the Lashio military station. He updated them on the political situation, provided them with gifts of food, and encouraged the soldiers to be treated at the military hospital with words of comfort. Subsequently, the Prime Minister met with Shan State government authorities, officials of Self-Administered Zones, departmental personnel, other local authorities and town elders at the office of Shan State government. During the visit, he underscored the need to boost local production, industry development, electricity, agriculture and livestock sectors.

SEE PAGE-7



FROM PAGE-6

On 23 September, the meeting (1/2021) of the Financial Commission was organized. In his address, the Prime Minister, also the Chairman of the Financial Commission, explained the budget for COVID-19-related expenses during the six-month budget term, including K100 billion special funds in addition to an emergency fund of K56 billion. He urged officials to use the allocated budget effectively in implementing the future work plans and objectives of SAC. The 1/2021 meeting of the National Planning Commission was held on the same day. During the meeting, the Chairman of the Commission, the Prime Minister emphasized the utilization of project budgets in line with the financial regulations of the country, strict supervision and the need to avoid wastage.

On 24 September, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister addressed the 15/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council.

sage to the ceremony marking World Tourism Day 2021, with suggestions for developing the Myanmar tourism industry. The online event was held at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win (Chairman of the Central Committee for the Development of National Tourism Industry). The meeting focused on plans to revive the industry as soon as the COVID-19 improved.

The meeting 5/2021 of the Committee for Security, Stability and Rule of Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was also held on the same day. Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressed the meeting on Myanmar's path of democracy, the adherence to the 2008 Constitution, and the need for international relations to conform to the actual situation of the country as well as the Constitution and existing laws. He mentioned the need for simplifying the country's planning, management and

eral Soe Win presided over the 12th meeting of COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment. The meeting focused on measures in response to disease infection patterns, the availability of medical services, the transportation of vaccines, the procurement of vaccines and donations received, the issue of repatriation of Myanmar workers from foreign countries and health services for these returnees, and the prioritization system by the township for the vaccination campaign, and the use of QR Codes for health system records in the fight against COVID-19.

On 30 September, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the coordination meeting on vaccination programmes for middle and high school students aged over 12. The government has planned to fully vaccinate middle and high school students against COVID-19 to enable students, teachers and parents to have the confidence that schools will be healthy.

On 8 September, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Nang Oo attended the 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, 35th ASEAN Free Trade Council Agreement Council Meeting, 24th ASEAN Investment Area Council Meeting and ASEAN Economic Ministers and ASEAN Business Advisory Council meetings. On 10 September, the Union Minister represented the country at the 13th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Economic Ministers' Meeting. From 13–15 September, the Union Minister also participated at the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)—Dialogue Partners' Consultations, which included (a) the 20th AEM-Ministry of Commerce, China Consultations on 13 September 2021; (b) the AEM Troika Open-Ended Dialogue with Switzerland's Trade Minister on 13 September; (c) the 24th AEM-Plus Three Consultations on 13 September; (d) the AEM-United States Trade Representative Consultations on 14

also joined the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals on 20 September and discussed the efforts of the country to achieve the SDGs, Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and Myanmar Economic Relief Plan (MERP).

On 14 September, the World Tourism Federation organized the 54th East Asia and Pacific Commission Meeting and the 33rd Joint Meeting of the World Tourism Organization's Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and its Commission for South Asia and its Commission for South Asia online. The Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism joined these events. During the 48th Meeting of Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Working Group and Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office Board Meeting, the Union Minister reported on the political, economic and social situation in Myanmar, the tourism industry and potential collaboration with regional countries.

The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays an inspection tour around the PyinOoLwin Stadium in PyinOoLwin on 17 September 2021.

The meeting discussed the reopening of schools as soon as feasible, vaccination programmes for students aged over 12, the decline in test positivity rates for COVID 19, local food security, agriculture and livestock sectors, measures to economize on fuel and increase the revenue of the country.

On 27 September, the Prime Minister attended meeting 1/2021 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. During the meeting, he noted that over the past eight months' period, since the current government had taken over state duties, the changes and challenges confronting the country were rooted in the fraudulence of the 2020 general elections. He emphasized that the government was prioritizing COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment measures and the reduction of the country's trade deficits.

On 28 September, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video mes-

administrative systems. He noted that while some of the ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) were involved in terrorist acts, most EAOs do not accept such acts against the civilian population. He discussed measures to ensure the rule of law and community peace.

From 1 to 7 September, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win visited the Russian Federation. During the visit, he attended the closing ceremony of the International Army Games 2021 and met senior Russian military and civilian officials. The visit focused on improving the bilateral relations between the two countries' governments and military, and the enhancement of cooperation in the areas of defence, science, technology, research, human resources and culture.

On 13 September, the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior Gen-

International Cooperation

On 29 and 30 September, the virtual 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and related virtual meetings took place. The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lieutenant-General Soe Htut participated actively in the event.

On 8 September, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin attended the 11th Mekong-Korea Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting via videoconferencing. The Union Minister also joined the ASEAN-US Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 23 September, where he urged the U.S and ASEAN member countries to condemn the terrorist acts of the Committee Representing Pyithu Hluttaw (CRPH) and the so-called National Unity Government (NUG) and added that their representation at the UN and other international forums was neither legitimate nor unacceptable.

September; (e) the 5th AEM-Hong Kong, China Consultations on 14 September; (f) the 18th AEM-India Consultations on 14 September; (g) the 17th AEM-European Union (EU) Consultations on 14 September; (h) the 10th AEM-Russia Consultations, 14 September; (i) the 26th AEM-ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand Consultations on 15 September; (j) the 27th AEM-Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Consultations on 15 September; (k) the First (Inaugural) AEM-United Kingdom Consultations on 15 September; and (l) the 9th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting on 15 September.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein represented Myanmar at the 6th Eastern Economic Forum held in the Russian Federation from 2 to 4 September and discussed the value-added production chains in the agricultural sector, infrastructure and industrial sectors. The Union Minister U Win Shein

attended the Asia-Pacific Group's Meeting on Assessing Myanmar's Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism measures held on 8 September; and the 23rd ASEAN Payment System Working Committee Meeting on 16 September.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo joined the 11th Asia-Pacific International Forum on 30 September through videoconferencing.

In September, Myanmar also participated in other international meetings, including the 39th ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings, the 18th ASEAN Air Force Chiefs Conference, the 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific National Human Rights Forum, the China-ASEAN Vocational Education Fair and Forum, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council ministers.

TO BE CONTINUED

Firmly, deeply adopt a vow to develop Kayin State on its anniversary day

NATURAL resources are rich in Kayin State with valuable forests in addition to successful agricultural businesses which earn income for the State and the people. Kayin State is full of beautiful natural scenes, caves and waterfalls as well as lovely customs and traditional cultural heritage of local ethnicities.

Kayin State is constituted with Papun, Kya-in-Seikkyi, Kawka-reik, Hlaingbwe, Hpa-an, Thandaunggyi, and Myawady townships in four districts for administrative machinery.

It is visible that as some townships in Kayin State rely on border trade processes, they cannot carry out agricultural tasks at full capacity. But, Kayin State enjoys food sufficiency due to the production of crops across the state.

As such, now is time to implement the restoration of perpetual peace across the nation, essential for building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire people aspire, all ethnic national people residing in Kayin State are to participate in the peace process on the significant occasion of the Kayin State Day.

Nowadays, it can be seen that the development of the country is delayed due to incapability of solving the armed conflicts of ethnics which started in the post-independence period, and incapability of firmly building the national reconciliation and the Union peace process. Whenever the peace of the Union cannot be restored in full swing, the opportunities to share the results of development among ethnic nationals of the Union will still be lesser.

The government is striving for ensuring national reconciliation and the peace of the Union with a firm vow to implement the sustainable and synchronized development that all the ethnic nationals can enjoy in an equal term.

The government is making efforts for the improvement of all social-economic sectors such as transport, electrification, agriculture, livestock, education and health for multiple developments of the entire nation in all regions including Kayin State.

All ethnic nationals need to strongly overcome any crises and challenges falling on the State and the nation through the patriotic spirit based on the genuine Union spirit of the ethnic nationals.

As the day when the Panglong Agreement proved the archive of the national solidarity which is the foundation for strengthening of the independence and the State sovereignty was signed was designated as the Union Day, its Diamond Jubilee will be held in coming a few months.

As such, now is time to implement the restoration of perpetual peace across the nation, essential for building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire people aspire, all ethnic national people residing in Kayin State are to participate in the peace process on the significant occasion of the Kayin State Day.

The era of anti-Covid pills begins

They are pills taken orally as soon as the first symptoms of Covid-19 appear, to avoid serious forms of the illness, and therefore hospitalisation. This form of treatment has been sought since the start of the global health crisis.

WHAT if a simple pill could help heal from Covid-19? US pharma giants Merck and Pfizer have announced encouraging results for oral drugs, while an anti-depressant has also shown promise in what could open up a new chapter in the fight against the pandemic.

What are these treatments?

They are pills taken orally as soon as the first symptoms of Covid-19 appear, to avoid serious forms of the illness, and therefore hospitalisation. This form of treatment has been sought since the start of the global health crisis.

After months of research, Merck and Pfizer say they have reached that elusive goal.

Early October, Merck said it was seeking authorisation in the United States for its pill molnupiravir, and Pfizer followed suit on Friday with paxlovid.

They are both anti-virals that act by reducing the virus's ability to replicate, slowing down the disease.

Both companies say clinical trials showed a strong reduction in the risk of hospitalisation. Those who took molnupiravir saw that risk diminish by 50 per cent and those who took paxlovid by nearly 90 percent, although direct comparisons

of these efficacy rates should be avoided because of the different study protocols.

An anti-depressant which is already available to the public, fluvoxamine, has also shown encouraging results in preventing serious forms of Covid-19, according to a study published in October by Brazilian researchers in the Lancet Global Health journal.

Why are they important?

If the efficacy of these drugs is confirmed, it will be a major step forward in the fight against Covid-19.

They would add to vaccines to bolster the world's therapeutic arsenal against the virus. Treatments already exist, mostly in the form of synthetic antibodies.

But these drugs, which usually target those who already have severe forms of the disease, are injected and therefore more difficult to administer.

A pill can be quickly prescribed to a patient who will then take it easily at home.

Merck and Pfizer's treatments, which so far have not shown many side effects, would entail taking around 10 doses over five days. "The success of these antivirals potentially marks a new era in our ability to prevent the severe consequences of SARS-CoV2 infection," British virologist Stephen Griffin told the Science Media Center.



The Pfizer building on 42nd street, New York, US. PHOTO: MOLLY WOODWARD/SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP

What limitations?

It is difficult so far to properly evaluate Merck and Pfizer's treatments given both groups have only published statements and have not made the data of their clinical trials available.

French infectious diseases specialist Karine Lacombe warned in September that these types of announcements should be treated with "caution" until the studies can be scrutinised. She pointed out that these treatments represent a "potentially enormous" market for pharmaceutical

groups. Nevertheless, some elements indicate that Merck and Pfizer are not making empty promises.

For one, they both stopped their clinical trials earlier than expected as the results were so strong, with the okay of independent monitoring committees.

Where fluvoxamine is concerned, the data is available but is not without criticism.

Several researchers have complained that the authors did not just limit themselves to evaluating the frequency of

hospitalisations, but also assessed the frequency of prolonged emergency room stays.

This, they say, complicated the interpretation of data.

When? And how much?

Merck's molnupiravir has already been approved in the United Kingdom where health authorities on Thursday gave their green light to its use in patients at risk of developing a serious form of the illness, such as the elderly, obese people, or those suffering from diabetes.

US and EU health authorities are also urgently reviewing the drug. The European Medicines Agency promised on Thursday to "accelerate" proceedings, without giving a firm date.

Several countries have already ordered stocks of molnupiravir, such as the United States, with 1.7 million courses of the drug. The US order gives an idea of the steep price of the drug.

It comes to \$1.2 billion, which equates to around \$700 for a five-day course.

As for Pfizer, while it has not outlined a price for paxlovid, it has promised it will be "affordable" and subject to a tiered pricing approach based on the income level of countries.

SOURCE: AFP

Japan eases border rules to allow business travellers, students

From Monday, business visitors fully inoculated with an authorised vaccine will need to quarantine for only three days, down from a minimum of 10 days, the foreign ministry said.



The international arrival lobby at Kansai International Airport in Osaka Prefecture is crowded with travellers and their family members on 23 Mar 2020. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

JAPAN said Friday it will allow short-term business travellers, foreign students and other visa holders to enter the country, but tourists are still barred under pandemic border restrictions.

From Monday, business visitors fully inoculated with an authorised vaccine will need to quarantine for only three days, down from a minimum of 10 days, the foreign ministry said.

Plunged from record highs

Daily cases in the country of 126 million have plunged from record highs of more than 25,000 in August to the current average of just over 200.

Despite a slow start to its vaccination campaign, 73 per cent of the population is now fully inoculated.

Japan has seen comparatively few virus deaths — around 18,000 — despite never having imposed stay-at-home orders.

But for most of the past year, big cities have endured restrictions targeting nightlife and crowd sizes at large events, forcing almost all competitions and ceremonies at the Tokyo Olympics behind closed doors.

Waiting to enter

According to Japanese media, around 370,000 visa holders are waiting to enter the country and will be gradually let in.

Business travellers remain the responsibility of their firms while in Japan and need to provide activity plans for each trip, the foreign ministry said.

Visitors from three countries

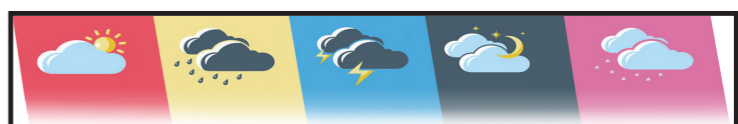
deemed high-risk — Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, and Venezuela — are still barred.

The ministry did not say when tourists may be allowed in. Japan welcomed a record 31.9 million foreign visitors in 2019, and had been on track to achieve its goal of 40 million in 2020 before the pandemic hit.

Former prime minister Yoshihide Suga stepped down last month after just a year in the job, partly due to public dissatisfaction with his government's pandemic response.

He was replaced by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who led the ruling coalition to victory in general elections on Sunday and has promised to make the virus "top priority".

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 6 November 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 7 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Southern Shan State and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Eastern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Kayin, and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 20:00 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (7) miles southeast of Phaung-pyin), latitude 24.19°N, longitude 94.90°E, depth (96)kilometers, about (37)miles east of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (19)hr (39)min (17)sec MST on 6 November 2021.

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The Kapaungkya Incident

KAPAUNGKYA Village located in Taze Township of Sagaing Region has about 700 houses with its residents supporting the USDA, NLD and other political parties. Despite supporting the different political parties, the residents had lived in peaceful coexistence. After the Tatmadaw assumed responsibility for the State, NLD supporters in the village turned out to be ultra-terrorists and formed a PDF terrorist group with Theegon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima acting as the leader of the group. The terrorist group killed nine people, including some children at the age of 11, 16 and 18 on 17 April this year. Similarly, the terrorist group killed three people including two old people, a woman and a man at the age of 73 each, on 9 October, and two more people, a man and a woman, on October 10. In their terrorist act of killing and setting fires, 14 people – 11 males and three females – were killed. Because of their act of threat to life, village residents who do not support their party moved to nearby villages and their relatives in fear for their lives. Some had to flee to Taze Township Police Station and USDP party offices to take refuge. As the local terrorists did further threats to them in many ways while seeking protection and refuge in that way, the refuge-seeking people went and took shelter at Sayadaw Bhaddanta Warsawa's Sasana Alinyaung Buddhist Monastery in Oomawdaw Village in Kanbalu Township. Currently, the monastery has received more than 50 people who are in trouble and is looking after them.

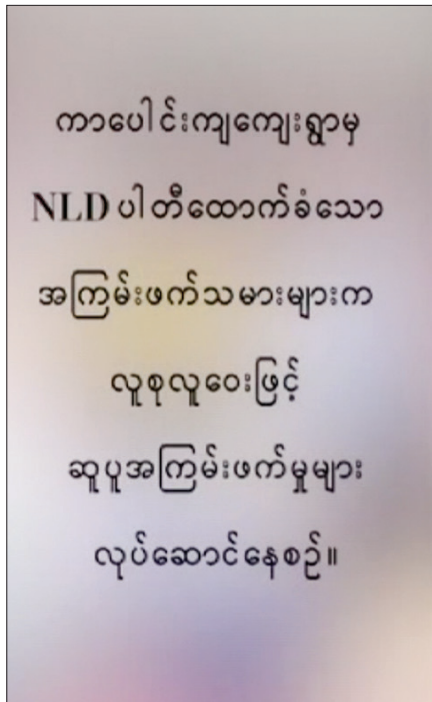
Here are the words of Daw Thuzar Win who grieves for her parents and husband.

Daw Thu Zar Win



Daw Thu Zar Win

MY name is Thuzar Win and I'm from Kapaungkya village, Tanze township. We hide in the forest because we are afraid of PDF. About 6 pm in the evening we heard the motorcycle noise



Mass violence by NLD supporters.



es while we are having our dinner. Suddenly they arrived with guns. I begged them and said, "Please don't do it, please don't do it". While I was begging, Kyaw Swar Htet and Wai Phyo Thant shoot my husband but missed the first shot. Kyaw Swar Htet pulled out the handgun from his pocket and shoot my husband 3 times cruelly. After that they said "He is dead, let's go" and they went to my father and mother. I cannot stop them because I knew that they would kill me if I stop them. They shoot my father first and the bullet hit the leg. While my father was screaming in agony, they shoot at the head cruelly and my father died on the spot. I was hiding and watching the scene with my son. My mother has poor eyesight and cannot even move from her bed as she was critically ill. They asked her "Are you ...". When my mother replied "Yes", they shoot my mother head cruelly. All the brains splattered, and my mother died instantly. While they went to my parents, I run and hide in the forest. They were shouting "Look for that bitch" and searching for me to kill. I was scared like hell and forget how to breathe. They set fire to our house and killed our 7 bulls. I hide in the forest the whole night sitting in the water to the knees level while raining. I was rescued by the security forces in the morning. They killed my family, burned our house, killed our bulls and took away all the belongings that we worked, earned and saved. I only left with my National Registration card. I cannot live together with the

terrorists in the same village anymore. My youngest daughter is 11 years old, my eldest boy is 17 years, study at 10th grade and my second son is 13 years old. My daughter saw her father was shot and died. She was hurt very painfully. My parents were shot and died in front of my son. My father was died in knee bending position and my mother neck was collapsed when she died. My son had to place her grandfather and grandmother in comfort-



U Nyunt Khine

to the house which is 20 yards away from my house. They surrounded me and threatened me that I must not vote or sup-



Arson attacks by PDF.

able positions.

I don't have a house, shelter and food now. I want to raise my children well. Please help me to raise my children well.

U Nyunt Khine

Let me present to you what happened to U Nyunt Khaing.

All the PDFs were gathered at U Ohn Thoug's house. First, they demolished my house and then they tried to kill me with swords. I ran away

port the USDP party in the future. They told me to bow down and pay respect to them. Two teenage girls, Aye Mon and Nay Chi Tun told me that if you bow down to us we will not kill you. I have to bow down 3 times to Aye Mon and Nay Chi Tun who are only the age of my daughter. Even though Sithu Win shot me with a slingshot to my neck. I tried to cover with my hand and my hand was cut severely. They forced my family to leave the village. My

wife, my son and my daughter left the village on two motorcycles. I requested my friend to come and fetch me in his car. Because of him, I was escaped from death. My brother, my brother's friend and I went to Lanson Town. My brother and my brother's friend were killed because they cannot find me. They informed me through different sources to come back to the village. Sayadaw U Sandimar of Thigone Monastery also phoned me and told me to come back. I asked the Sayadaw whether he can guarantee my life if I come back. I didn't go back because Sayardaw cannot reply to my question.

U Kyaw Myo Thet believed Sayardaw's words and went back to the village. He was killed in the Sayardaw's monastery. I hide and stay in Monywa for 3 months. I cannot stay in Monywa anymore after they posted my photo online. I hide in different places every 15 days. They think that if they killed my mother, father, brother in law and my family members, I will come back and they killed all of them cruelly. The place now I stay is not safe and I cannot sleep well. I have to separate my brother and sister

in different places. They are also not safe. We don't have a safe place to stay, we don't have food to eat, we don't have clothes to wear. We don't know how to make our living.

U Tin Soe

PDF came to my house and demolished my house because I hoist the USDP flag. I was caught while I ran away with my family. They aimed

FROM PAGE-10

with swords and spears. While they were looking for ropes to tie me, one villager shouted "the army is coming". While



U Tin Soe

they chased down that villager, I took a chance and ran back to my house. While I was running, they shot me from my back and hit my head, my son's knee was hit by a brick also. When I reached home security forces arrived and saved me. My house is a parker building and it's worth K 70 million. They burned down my house. They burned down all the pieces of machinery that we make for our living. We have nothing left. They will kill us if they find us. We must hide and run all the time.

Sayadaw U Wathawa

Happenings in Kapaungkya village is a very sad story. I got the news that houses were

burned down, demolished by PDF and extreme NLD, NUG supporters. Villagers were bullied, aimed by guns and shot by guns. When I contacted the villagers, they already run away from the village and stayed at the USDP office and security forces outpost at Tanze. After



Sayadaw U Wathawa

one month they are facing multiple obstacles such as food, security, health care, etc. So, I went there and moved them to my place. At present, there are more than 50 villagers in my monastery. They are facing so many difficulties. All their houses were burned, properties were robbed, bulls and cows were slaughtered by PDF. When they left the village, they had to run barefoot to save their lives.

Please don't neglect them, please help them. They needed support from the military. They don't have clothes to wear, food to eat and a place to stay. They

don't have a penny to spend and they need medical care also. I strongly request the government to look after them as soon as possible. Please don't neglect them.

IT is a nature that everybody is not clean of mistakes. But you will be aware that those who keep going though he see what he is doing is wrong, and those, who could correct their mistakes in time, are different. These two types of people might come from the same motive but their destination is different. The youth

have the future. They are able to consider and judge a subject matter equitably. They should not take the wrong course for their beautiful future. There are young people who could not go home being against their wish, those who are unlawfully bullied, those who do not know how to make claims while seeing killings among one another, those who regret when they see innocent people killed because of their act of bombings, those who are forced to do such acts due to their families under threats, those who stay low

in fear among the people. In such circumstances, you could consider how the course you are taking is wrong or right. You will say you are doing this because you love your country. Here, it is necessary to choose the correct means to love the country. If you take this course because of the faith, such faith should not be coloured and it should be quite clean. So, I would like to urge you to consider whether what you are acting now is right or wrong and take the right course as soon as possible.



Vaccination processes continue as usual for students in Letpadan Township



Inoculation drive in Letpadan.

THE health officials conducted vaccination programmes for students aged over 12 in the Letpadan Township of Thayawady District of Bago Region yesterday.

A total of 4,688 students were vaccinated against COVID-19 at 10 vaccination sites of Letpadan Township yesterday, and the remaining

1,248 students will receive the vaccines later, according to the township education office. THE township administrative officials, COVID-19 control and emergency response committee members, teachers and fire brigade members participated in the processes.— Wint Nandar Htay (IPRD)/GNLM

Vaccination for above 12-year-old students conducted in Bahan Township

ACCORDING to the motto "To make every school-age child healthy and happy to study, let's get vaccinated against COVID-19," the health officials conducted the vaccination programme using Sinovac vaccines for the students aged 12 and above in Bahan Township of Yangon Region in October.

The township education department and administrator participated in a vaccination campaign for the students, teachers and parents including the entire public.

The middle and high school students aged over 12 received at the respective vaccination sites such as E.M.P.S, Aung Myay Thukha and Satu Bummika, No (1) B.E.M.S, No (3) B.E.M.S and No (3) Post B.E.P.S in Bahan Township yesterday.

The health officials and members of the Red Cross Society checked the health status of students and vaccinated the students in line with the health rules.

A total of 352 students were vaccinated against COVID-19 at the respective vaccination sites.

The township administrator U Aung Myint Tun, COVID-19 control and emergency response committee members, police and relevant other officials participated in the vaccination processes for the students. — Aung Myint (IPRD)/GNLM



Immunization programme in progress in Bahan.

US Congress passes giant \$1tn infrastructure package

DEMOCRATS rescued President Joe Biden's faltering domestic agenda Friday, passing a giant infrastructure package that is one of the pillars of his \$3 trillion economic vision after rebel moderates had earlier blocked a vote on his social welfare expansion.

Despite hours of cajoling lawmakers, party leaders had risked seeing Biden's two-pronged legislative strategy collapse as they failed to unite the party's feuding progressive and moderate factions.

But the breakthrough came as lawmakers rubber-stamped the Senate-passed \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill on the House floor by a comfortable 228 votes to 206.

The passage of the infrastructure spending marks a legacy-making achievement

for Biden, amid plunging personal approval ratings and a humiliating upset defeat for his Democratic Party in the Virginia gubernatorial election.

His spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the success was "proof that delivering for the American people is worth all the painful sausage making."

"Clean drinking water for kids, broadband access, electric vehicles, biggest investment in public transit. It's happening. And more to come," she tweeted.

Party leadership in the House of Representatives began the day aiming to rubber-stamp the infrastructure bill, the biggest upgrade of roads, bridges and waterways in decades, after sending an even bigger social welfare deal, worth up to \$1.85 trillion, to the upper chamber.

But six moderate Demo-



The ambitious plan provides for \$550 billion in new federal spending, including on transport infrastructure -- seen here is the 110 Freeway in Los Angeles. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

crats refused to commit to the "Build Back Better" benefits package, arguing they first needed to see a full accounting of its economic impacts, which won't

be available for at least a week.

With a majority of just three votes in the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi was forced to postpone the vote on the Build Back Better

package, which includes major investments in health, education, tackling climate change and expanding social welfare programs.—AFP ■

Motorbike-clogged Hanoi rolls out first urban railway



A transport official said it was hoped the new train would help 'ease traffic congestion, limit private vehicles, reduce environmental pollution and contribute to the change of inner-city movements'. PHOTO: AFP

IT'S a city of more than five million motorbikes but Hanoi on Saturday opened its first ever urban railway line as authorities try to cut traffic and pollution that have long dogged the Vietnamese capital.

After years of delays and

a near-doubling of construction costs, a train eased out of Cat Linh station, close to the centre of the city, to begin its 13-kilometre journey towards the densely populated east.

"I decided to give this a try because I was curious," Nguyen

Thi Thu told AFP inside a busy carriage of the Chinese-made train.

"I am very happy to be able to take a ride after all the postponements."

Other passengers showed up early to strike a pose in front of the shiny new train, while young children on board stared in wonder out of large windows at the Hanoi skyline rushing past.

The buzzing capital of nine million people is known the world over for its dense crowds of motorbikes that fill the city's streets and make life perilous for pedestrians attempting to cross. The number of bikes on the roads has soared from two million in 2008 to 5.7 million in 2020, according to police.

The figure for cars has also rocketed in the same period, from 185,000 to 700,000.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tanzania's exports to Africa rose 11.8 pct in 2020

TANZANIA'S exports to African countries increased to 2.27 billion U.S. dollars in 2020 from 2.03 billion U.S. dollars in 2019, an increase of 11.8 per cent, said the East African Business Council (EABC) on Friday.

John Bosco Kalisa, the EABC chief executive officer, revealed Tanzania's exports trend to African countries at the launch of the African Due Diligence Platform in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam. The Due Diligence Platform is among innovative solutions put in place to transform Africa's trade and helped to solve challenges African countries are facing in trading with each other.—Xinhua ■

Stellar jobs data push US stocks to new records

BLOCKBUSTER job creation helped push US stocks to new records on Friday, with an added boost from news of Pfizer's new Covid-19 treatment.

The US economy added a better-than-expected 531,000 jobs last month as a wide range of industries took on workers, and the unemployment rate dropped to 4.6 percent, Labor Department data showed.

The better-than-expected result indicated hiring is resurging as Covid-19 infections decline, and job gains in August and September were 235,000 stronger than originally reported.—AFP ■

French hotel industry on its knees: Accor CEO

THE French hotel industry is on its knees, the head of the hotel group Accor said on Friday, as it cannot afford to raise wages and is having trouble recruiting enough staff to handle the recovery as tourists return.

Sebastien Bazin, head of the world's sixth-largest hotel group, said on French radio station RMC that Accor currently

lacks at least 2,000 employees in France as the tourism market there begins to recover and foreign visitors trickle back, but still remains deeply below pre-pandemic levels. He said many employees had not returned "because they thought about things during the lockdown, because they moved, changed professions, were no longer will-

ing to accept the sacrifice of the working hours".—AFP ■

The Ibis Paris Gare de Lyon Ledru-Rollin hotel in Paris. Accor groups luxury brands like Raffles and Sofitel, to premium Pullman and budget Ibis and F1 hotels. It employs 260,000 people in 110 countries at 5,200 hotels. PHOTO: TRAVELOKA/AFP



Geothermal power plants in Japan quadruple since 2011 nuke accident

THE number of geothermal power plants in Japan has quadrupled since the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima, northeastern Japan, according to industry data.

Despite the surge, showed in the Thermal and Nuclear Power Engineering Society data, geothermal power accounts for only 0.3 percent of the country's total power output because many of the plants are of small scale.

With world leaders calling for urgent action to rein in global warming at U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, analysts say it is vital for Japan to accel-

erate the introduction of renewable energy.

Despite the abundance of geothermal resources in Japan, development of geothermal power has stagnated but it is now attracting renewed attention as a renewable energy source, with the government aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent from fiscal 2013 levels in fiscal 2030. As part of the goal, the Cabinet approved a plan in October to double Japan's geothermal power facilities by 2030.

Geothermal power does not emit greenhouse gases, but it takes time and

money to develop, and the national budget continued to decline until the 2011 disaster involving Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.'s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

A geothermal plant generates electricity by extracting the steam heated by high-temperature magma deep underground through winzes to rotate turbines. Geothermal power generation is more stable than wind or solar generation, which are vulnerable to weather changes. Japan has the third-largest geothermal resources in the world after the United States and



Photo taken in October 2019 shows the Wasabizawa geothermal power plant in Yuzawa, Akita Prefecture. PHOTO: YUZAWA GEOTHERMAL POWER GENERATION CORP./ KYODO

Indonesia, with the country possessing an amount equivalent to estimated generation of 23.47 million

kilowatts.—Kyodo According to the data, the number of geothermal power facilities in the coun-

try jumped to 92 units in 70 sites in fiscal 2019 from 20 units in 17 sites in fiscal 2010.—Kyodo ■

Volkswagen CEO demands 'revolution' to tackle Tesla

VOLKSWAGEN CEO Herbert Diess told employees at the German carmaker on Thursday to prepare for the "revolution" needed to take on electric car pioneer Tesla and Chinese manufacturers.

"In the new automotive world, we are faced with competition the likes of which Volkswagen has never seen before," Diess said in a speech at the carmaker's flagship plant in Wolfsburg.

The German group — whose 12 brands include Audi, Porsche and Skoda — is pumping 35 billion euros (\$40 billion) into the shift to electric vehicles



New Volkswagen ID.4 SUV electric cars at its Wolfsburg headquarters earlier this year. PHOTO: POOL/AFP JUSTIN TALLIS

and aims to become the world's largest electric carmaker by 2025.

With VW planning to stop producing cars with internal combustion engines in Europe for its eponymous flagship brand

as soon as 2033, its facilities will need to be retooled soon.

Diess said he was "worried" about the Wolfsburg factory, whose future has been the subject of a fierce debate within the

group, highlighting the "impressive productivity" of the new Tesla facility outside of Berlin where production is expected to begin in the next few months.

Tesla plans to produce a vehicle in 10 hours at its German plant, Diess said, while Volkswagen's main electric car factory in Zwickau requires "more than 30 hours".

Diess, who caused consternation within the company last month when he evoked the possible loss of 30,000 jobs in Wolfsburg, said: "Today is the right moment for the VW revolution." —AFP ■

Boeing 737 MAX negligence case ends with \$237.5 mn settlement

BOEING shareholders have reached a \$237.5 million out-of-court settlement with the US aircraft manufacturer's current and former directors in a 737 MAX aircraft safety negligence case, according to documents released Friday.

Shareholders had accused Boeing board members and several executives, as well as current CEO David Calhoun, of failing to ensure that control and information instruments on the 737 MAX were functioning effectively. Under the agreement, still to be validated by a judge, the \$237.5 million compensation will be paid out by insurers, not the board members and executives.

Boeing has also agreed to hire a mediator to handle internal issues and appoint a board representative with aviation safety experience. The agreement does not require Boeing to admit to negligence on behalf of persons sued in the case. The 737 MAX was involved in two crashes — one operated by Lion Air in October 2018 and the other by Ethiopian Airlines in March 2019 — that killed a total of 346 people. Investigations revealed that both incidents were related to the crash prevention system (MCAS).—AFP ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (142N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (142N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2021** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

In the matter of the Insolvency Law 2020, and
In the matter of **AIBEL OIL & GAS SERVICES LIMITED**
[Under Section 156 of the Insolvency Law & Rules 9 & 32 of the Insolvency Rules]

Notice of holding the Creditors' Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Creditors' Meeting of Aibel Oil & Gas Services Limited (Company Registration Number 118331923) will be convened via online at the meeting link, <https://tinyurl.com/AibelCreditorsMeeting16> on 16th November, 2021 at 4:00 p.m (Singapore time) just after holding the Shareholders' Special General Meeting via online in compliance with Section 156 of the Insolvency Law, for the following purposes:

- To appoint one or more liquidators (Insolvency Practitioners) for the purpose of winding-up the company's affairs and distributing its assets according to Section 158 (a) of the Insolvency Law; and
- To appoint, if the creditors think fit, a Creditors' Committee to exercise the functions conferred on it by or under the Insolvency Law according to Section 190 (a) of the Insolvency Law.

It is also notified that the prescribed Proof of Debt or Claim Form to prove and claim their debts at the above Creditors' Meeting and a draft Proxy Form for appointment of proxy by a creditor to attend and vote on behalf of the creditor at the above Creditors' Meeting have been sent to the creditors according to Rule 31 (c) of the Insolvency Rules.

Mr. Ramalingom Venkateswaran
Director
Aibel Oil & Gas Services Limited

NEWS
IN BRIEFPost-Brexit border
'not sustainable': UK
watchdog

THE UK spending watchdog on Friday said post-Brexit border operations with the EU had been "largely successful" but warned temporary fixes made it unsustainable in the long term.

The National Audit Office looked into the arrangements since Britain left the European Union in full in January, which had stoked fears of long queues and bureaucratic chaos.

That mass disruption has not materialised was a "significant achievement", it said, but warned the current system "cannot go on indefinitely", as new checks loom.—AFP ■

Zika cases rise to 66
in north Indian city

WITH 30 more cases of the Zika virus, the total number of cases rose to 66 in the city of Kanpur in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh on Friday, media reports said.

The total cases were reported to include 45 male and 21 females.

The first case of the mosquito-borne virus in Kanpur was reported on 23 Oct when an Indian Air Force (IAF) warrant officer tested positive for the virus.—Xinhua ■

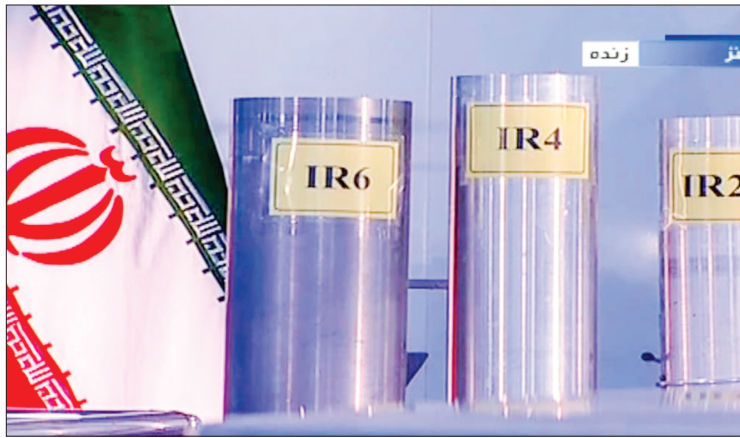
Indonesia flash
floods kill at least
eight

INDONESIAN rescuers scrambled Friday to find survivors under mud-swamped hillsides after flash floods on Java island killed at least eight people, the disaster agency said.

Torrential rains on Thursday unleashed flash floods in Malang and the highland city of Batu, inundating houses with mud and debris, while a wall of water destroyed local bridges.

Six people were pulled from the detritus alive, while rescuers found a half dozen bodies in Batu and two more victims in Malang. On Friday, teams raced to find several more people unaccounted for in Batu, according to Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency, as the dead were placed in body bags.—AFP ■

Iran edges closer to nuclear capability



In this 6 June 2018, file frame from Islamic Republic Iran Broadcasting, IRIB, state-run TV, three versions of domestically-built centrifuges are shown in a live TV programme from Natanz, an Iranian uranium enrichment plant, in Iran. PHOTO: IRIB/KYODO

IRAN said Friday that its stockpile of uranium enriched to 20 per cent now exceeds 210 kilograms and it has produced up to

25 kg at 60 per cent, local media reported, bringing the country closer to a nuclear capability.

State-run media attributed the information, which comes as indirect talks with the United States to rebuild the Iran nuclear agreement are scheduled for the end of this month, to Atomic Energy Organization of Iran spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi.

It is likely to cause a backlash from the West as it marks a serious violation of a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers under which Iran's enrichment had been capped to 3.67 per cent, and brings the purity of

its enriched uranium closer to weapons-grade levels.

Iran has repeatedly broken the upper limit in order to force the lifting of crippling economic sanctions.

Tehran first announced in April that it had enriched uranium to 60 per cent purity, the highest level achieved under its nuclear program. Its moves come as parties to the 2015 agreement and the United States have held a series of discussions in Vienna with the objective of finding a way for Washington to re-enter the agreement it withdrew from in 2018.—Kyodo ■

US offers \$10 mn bounty for DarkSide hackers

THE United States announced a \$10 million reward Thursday for help finding leaders of the high-profile ransomware gang DarkSide, authorities' latest try at combatting spiking cyber-extortion attacks.

Washington blamed the Russia-based group for the online assault that forced the shutdown of the largest oil pipeline in the eastern United States in May.

Cyber-extortion heists involve breaking into a company or institution's network to encrypt its data, then demanding a ransom, typically paid via cryptocurrency in exchange for the digital key to unlock it.

"In offering this reward, the United States demonstrates its commitment to protecting ran-



The FBI identified the group behind the hack of Colonial Pipeline as DarkSide, a shadowy operation that surfaced last year and attempts to lock up corporate computer systems and force companies to pay to unfreeze them. PHOTO: AFP/FRANCOIS PICARD

somware victims around the world from exploitation by cyber criminals," said a US State Department statement.

Washington also offered a

\$5 million bounty for information leading to the arrest or conviction in any country of anyone who tries to join in an attack with DarkSide.

Despite the temptation potentially provoked by the sums, not all cyber-security experts were convinced the rewards would be effective in unmasking hackers.

"Absent a bounty hunter willing to travel to their jurisdiction, put their unconscious body in a bag and dumping it at the nearest US embassy, I doubt this will have much of an impact," said John Bambenek at Netenrich, an IT and security operations company.

"To be fair, it certainly won't hurt either," he added. Cyber crimes have been booming, with new data out in October showing \$590 million in ransomware-related payments were reported to US authorities in the first half of 2021 alone.—AFP ■

Singapore urged not to hang mentally disabled trafficker

SINGAPORE faced calls Friday not to hang a mentally disabled Malaysian man for trafficking a small amount of heroin into the city-state, with campaigners criticising the planned execution as "despicable".

Nagaenthran K. Dharmalingam was arrested in 2009 for transporting 43 grammes -- equivalent to about three tablespoons -- of the drug into Singapore, and sentenced to death the following year.

After exhausting a series of legal challenges in the city-state, which has some of the world's toughest anti-narcotics laws, the 33-year-old is set to be hanged on Wednesday.

It will be the first execution

since 2019 in Singapore, which maintains the death penalty is an effective deterrent against crime despite mounting pressure from rights groups for its abolition.

Supporters say that Nagaenthran has an IQ of just 69, a level that is recognised as an intellectual disability, and was struggling with an alcohol problem at the time of the crime.

"To hang a person convicted merely of carrying drugs, amid chilling testimony that he might not even fully understand what is happening to him, is despicable," said Rachel Chhoa-Howard from Amnesty International.

"We urge the authorities to immediately halt plans to exe-



Supporters say that Nagaenthran has an IQ of just 69, a level that is recognized as an intellectual disability. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

cute Nagaenthran."

Human Rights Watch said it was a breach of international law to execute someone with

an intellectual disability, and proceeding with the hanging would be "disproportionate and cruel".—AFP ■

Pope to revisit Lesbos on trip to Cyprus, Greece

POPE Francis will visit Cyprus and Greece next month and will revisit the island of Lesbos, a major point of entry for migrants into Europe, the Vatican said Friday.

His 35th trip abroad comes just five months after the Argentine pontiff, who turns 85 in December, was hospitalized following surgery on his colon.

“Pope Francis will travel to Cyprus from 2 to 4 December, visiting the city of Nicosia, and to Greece from 4 to 6 December, visiting Athens and the island of Lesbos,” spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a brief statement.

Francis has travelled widely since he took office in 2013, and although his schedule was suspended by the coronavirus pan-

demic, this year he has already made a historic trip to Iraq and visits to the Hungarian capital Budapest and Slovakia.

Migration has been a key theme -- his first trip as pope, in July 2013, was to the Italian island of Lampedusa, the landing point for migrants crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa.

While there, he criticised the “globalisation of indifference” over migrants.

In April 2016, he visited Lesbos, for many years the main entry point into Europe for migrants and asylum-seekers. He paid a trip to Moria, the continent’s largest migrant camp until it was destroyed by fire last year.—AFP ■



Pope Francis in 2016 paid a trip to Moria, the continent’s largest migrant camp until it was destroyed by fire last year. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

US urges Americans to leave Ethiopia urgently as rebels join forces

THE US embassy in Addis Ababa on Friday urged Americans to leave Ethiopia “as soon as possible” over fears of a rebel advance on the capital, as nine groups battling the government joined forces.

Concern over the country’s year-old conflict is escalating after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government declared a state of emergency and vowed to press on to victory in “an existential war”.

In an advisory, the US embassy warned “the security environment in Ethiopia is very fluid.”

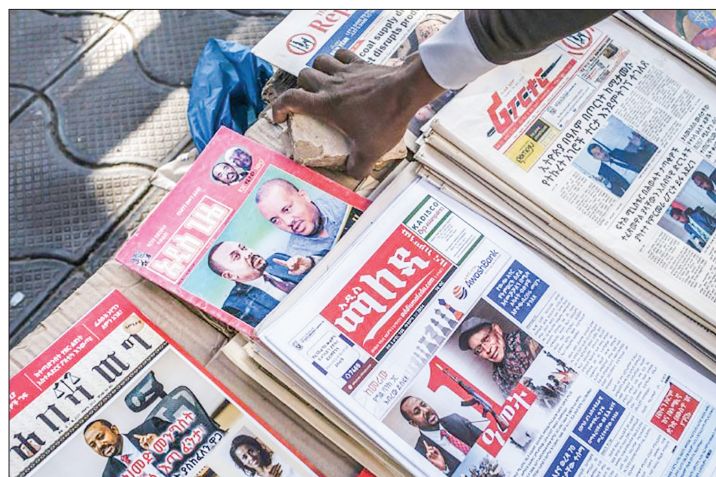
It urged “citizens who are in Ethiopia to leave the country as soon as possible.”

The warning came after several groups including the

Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) -- locked in a year-long conflict with the government -- and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) announced a new alliance.

The TPLF said Wednesday that its fighters had reached the town of Kemissie in the Amhara region, 325 kilometres (200 miles) northeast of the capital, and were running “joint operations” with the OLA, which predicted Addis Ababa could fall in a matter of weeks.

Berhane Gebre-Christos, a TPLF representative who signed the nine-party agreement in Washington, said Friday that time was running out for Abiy. “Our intention is to remove the regime,” he told reporters.—AFP ■



Front page: The government declared a state of emergency on 2 November. Concern over the country’s year-old conflict is escalating after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government declared a state of emergency and vowed to press on to victory in “an existential war.” PHOTO: AFP

Drug violence shakes Mexican beach resorts

MEXICAN soldiers patrol the beach of Tulum while investigators reconstruct a crime scene in the once-sleepy Caribbean resort, reeling from the deaths of two tourists caught in gang crossfire.

“Are they filming a movie?” asks Lukas Smith, a Canadian tourist visiting the town known for its ancient Mayan ruins, turquoise waters and -- more recent-

ly -- dance music parties.

But the troops and forensic experts working at a restaurant in downtown Tulum are not actors.

It was here that a shootout between rival drug dealers last month claimed the lives of German tourist Jennifer Henzold, 35, and Indian travel blogger Anjali Ryot, 25.

Two more German visitors

and one from the Netherlands were injured.

On Thursday, another gang shooting sent tourists in swimsuits fleeing in panic from a beach near Cancun further north on the Riviera Maya. Two suspected drug dealers were killed.

The violence has shone a spotlight on the dark side of Tulum and other Mexican resorts hit by turf wars between gangs involved in drug dealing and extortion. The army and National Guard have since stepped up patrols on the streets and beaches of Tulum, where troops with rifles and bulletproof vests are now seen riding quad bikes.

Hoteliers worried

The town of 46,000 inhabitants receives about four million visitors a year following in the footsteps of celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio and Demi Moore.—AFP ■



Troops patrol the beach in Tulum, a once sleepy Mexican Caribbean resort where two tourists were killed in gang crossfire in October 2021. PHOTO: DANIEL SLIM/ AFP/FILE

EU warns London as talks stall over N. Ireland

EUROPEAN Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic on Friday warned of “serious consequences” if the United Kingdom (UK) sought to renegotiate the protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. Following talks with the UK’s Brexit Minister David Frost on how goods can be shipped between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, Sefcovic called for more sincerity from

the UK side.

“Until today, we have seen no move at all from the UK side,” Sefcovic said at a press conference following the meeting. “I find this disappointing and once again I urge the UK government to engage with us sincerely.”

“We hear a lot about Article 16 at the moment. Let there be no doubt that triggering Article 16 — to seek the renegotiation

of the Protocol — would have serious consequences,” Sefcovic said.

“Serious for Northern Ireland, as it would lead to instability and unpredictability. And serious also for EU-UK relations in general, as it would mean a rejection of EU efforts to find a consensual solution to the implementation of the protocol,” he added.—Xinhua ■

Win Theingi Tun's Gokulam FC to compete in Asian Women's Club Championship

THE 2021 Asian Women's Club Championship will be held on 7 November (today) and will feature the Indian club Gokulam, played by Myanmar women's national team striker Win Theingi Tun.

The Asian Women's Club Championship will be hosted by four clubs from four West Asian countries in a round-robin format.

Indian Club Gokulam, Jor-

dan Club Amman, Uzbekistan Club Ben Yodakov, Iranian club Shahadur Serigan will compete in the tourney.

The competition will be held from 7 to 13 November in Jordan.

Gokulam team played by Myanmar striker Win Theingi Tun will take on Amman FC on 7 November; Shahadur Serigan FC on 10 November; and Ben Yodakov on 13 November respectively.

Indian club Gokulam has signed Myanmar women's national team striker Win Theingi Tun on a short-term contract for the current tournament, becoming the first Myanmar female player to go abroad.

Win Theingi Tun joined Gokulam after the Myanmar national team's Asian Cup Women's Football Championship Qualifiers.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

French quadruple amputee to swim across world's highest lake

A Paralympian quadruple amputee, an Olympic silver medalist and an "eco-adventurer" will attempt to swim 122 kilometers across the highest navigable lake in the world to raise awareness of environmental pollution.

The French trio -- Theo Curin, 21, Malia Metella, 39, and Matthieu Witvoet, 27 -- were in La Paz on Friday finalizing preparations to swim across Lake Titicaca on the border of Bolivia and Peru.

"One of the reasons is that I wanted to take on a challenge that has never been done before," said Curin, a Rio 2016 Paralympian who had part of both arms and both legs amputated when he was six after contracting meningitis.

Starting on Wednesday, the trio will swim from Copacabana on the Bolivian side of Lake Titicaca, 122-kilometres across to Puno on the Peruvian side of the world's highest body of navigable freshwater, some 3,800 metres above sea level.



French Paralympic medalist Theo Curin will attempt to swim 122 kilometres across Lake Titicaca. PHOTO: AFP

They have been training for 13 months at Lac de Marmale in the Pyrenees for the challenge, which they expect will take then 10 days to complete.

Besides the long distance they will have to cover and the high altitude which will make the task more difficult,

the swimmers will come up against the cold: the water temperature is just 10 degrees Celsius.

They will take turns to swim an expected 12 kilometres a day while the other two will keep warm and fed in a boat traveling alongside the swimmer.—AFP ■

Xavi appointment delayed as Barca reluctant to pay release clause

BARCELONA'S attempt to appoint Xavi Hernandez as coach was held up on Friday over his Al Sadd release clause, with Xavi and Barca considering splitting the payment to complete the deal.

Al Sadd announced in a statement earlier on Friday that Barca had agreed to pay the clause in Xavi's contract, which is reportedly set at around 5 mil-

lion euros (\$5.8 million).

But while Barcelona remain confident Xavi will be their new coach, the club disputed that a deal had been agreed and were yet to confirm the Spaniard's appointment almost five hours later.

A source close to negotiations told AFP on Friday discussions were still ongoing over the clause and one possibility was Xavi and Barcelona would each

contribute to the payment.

"Al Sadd have said it is official but Barca have not. Let's wait," said Barca's interim coach Sergi Barjuan, who is expected to be in charge for the La Liga game against Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Al Sadd published photos on social media of Xavi saying goodbye to the club's players and staff.—AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

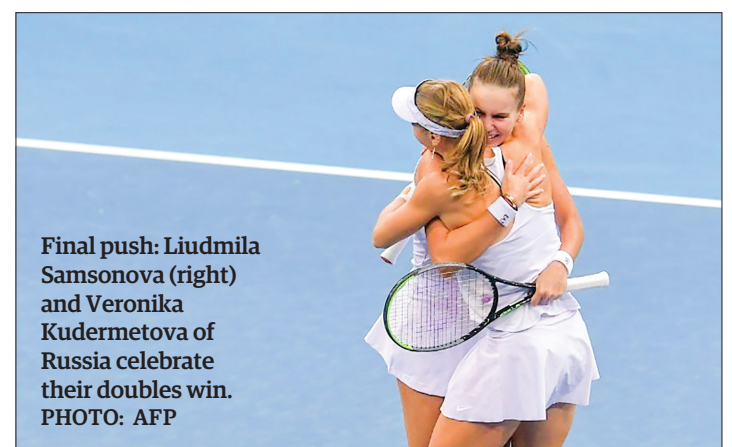
2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Russia face Switzerland in Billie Jean King Cup final



Final push: Liudmila Samsonova (right) and Veronika Kudermetova of Russia celebrate their doubles win. PHOTO: AFP

LIUDMILA Samsonova and Jil Teichmann stole the show in the Billie Jean King Cup semi-finals in Prague on Friday as they set up a final clash between Russia and Switzerland.

Both had only played doubles at the tournament so far, but they were the crucial force behind Russia's semi-final win over the United States and Switzerland's trashing of Australia at the rebranded version of the Fed Cup.

The 40th-ranked Samsonova, Russia's lowest-ranked player at the tournament, beat Sloane Stephens 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 before teaming up with Veronika Kudermetova to sink Shelby Rogers and Coco Vandeweghe 6-3, 6-3 in the doubles.

Danielle Collins won the only point for the United States as she edged Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-7 (9/11), 7-6 (7/2), 6-2.

Teichmann demolished Australia's Storm Sanders 6-0, 6-3 before Belinda Bencic eased past Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3, 6-2 to send Switzerland into Saturday's final.—AFP ■