

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Ministries need to spend allotted budget on implementation of projects directly benefiting the people: Vice-Senior General

MINISTRIES need to practise thrifty spending on the expenditures, said Vice-Chairman of the Financial Commission Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the coordination meeting to submit the six-month Union budget from October 2021 to March 2022 which took place at the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

First, the Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his address, said as the national plan, the annual budget and tax bill must be enacted regularly on a yearly basis in accord with Section 100 (b) of the Constitution, such processes must be undertaken in line with the existing laws and procedures.

Myanmar set the financial year from 1 April to 31 March yearly but it was changed from 1 October to 30 September as of the 2018-2019 financial year. Now, the financial year will be re-changed



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting to submit the six-month Union budget from October 2021 to March 2022, in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August 2021.

from 1 April to 31 March starting from the 2022-2023 financial year. The interim budget will be drawn for six months from 1 October

2021 to 31 March 2022. At present, emphasis is being placed on the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pan-

dem. The country faces some economic loss with declining incomes including that from taxes and other ordination income.

Hence, the country may face a continuous decline in income in the coming six months. **SEE PAGE-4**

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Amendment of the Penal Code Law
State Administration Council Law No (22/2021)

2nd Waning of Wagaung 1383 ME
24 August 2021

The State Administration Council hereby enacts this Law according to Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This Law shall be called the Amendment of the Penal Code Law.
2. After Subsection (a) and (b) of Section 311 shall be added as follows: —

“Of Genocide

311 A. Whoever, with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group:

- (a) Kills members of the group; or
 - (b) Causes grievous hurt or serious mental harm to members of the group; or
 - (c) Deliberately inflicts on the group conditions of life calculated to bring its physical destruction in whole or in part; or
 - (d) Imposes measures, not in accordance with any existing laws, intended to prevent births within the group; or
 - (e) Forcibly transfers children of the group to another group,
- is said to have committed the offence of genocide.

311 B. (1) Whoever commits the offence of genocide under subsection (a) of section 311 A, shall be punished with death and shall also be liable to fine.

(2) Whoever commits the offence of genocide under subsection (b), (c), (d), or (e) of section 311 A, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.”

I hereby sign under Article 419 of the State Constitution.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Law Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure
State Administration Council Law No (23/2021)

2nd Waning of Wagaung 1383 ME
24 August 2021

The State Administration Council hereby enacts this Law according to Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure.
2. Section 311 of the Penal Code in column 1 of table 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure shall be added with Section 311 B.
3. Table 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure shall be added with 311 B in column 1 related to Section 311-B of the Code of Criminal Procedure, with “(1) the offence of genocide under Subsection (a) of Section 311 A, (2) the offence of genocide under subsection (b), (c), (d) or (e) of section 311 A” in column 2, with “May arrest without warrant” in column 3, with “Warrant” in column 4, with “Not bailable” in column 5, with “Not compoundable” in column 6, with “(1) death and shall also be liable to fine., (2) imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.” in column 7, and with “a Court of the Self-Administered Division or a Court of the Self-Administered Zone or a District Court” in column 8, respectively.

I hereby signed this under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Union Minister Dr Htay Aung attends CLMVT Plus Forum 2021

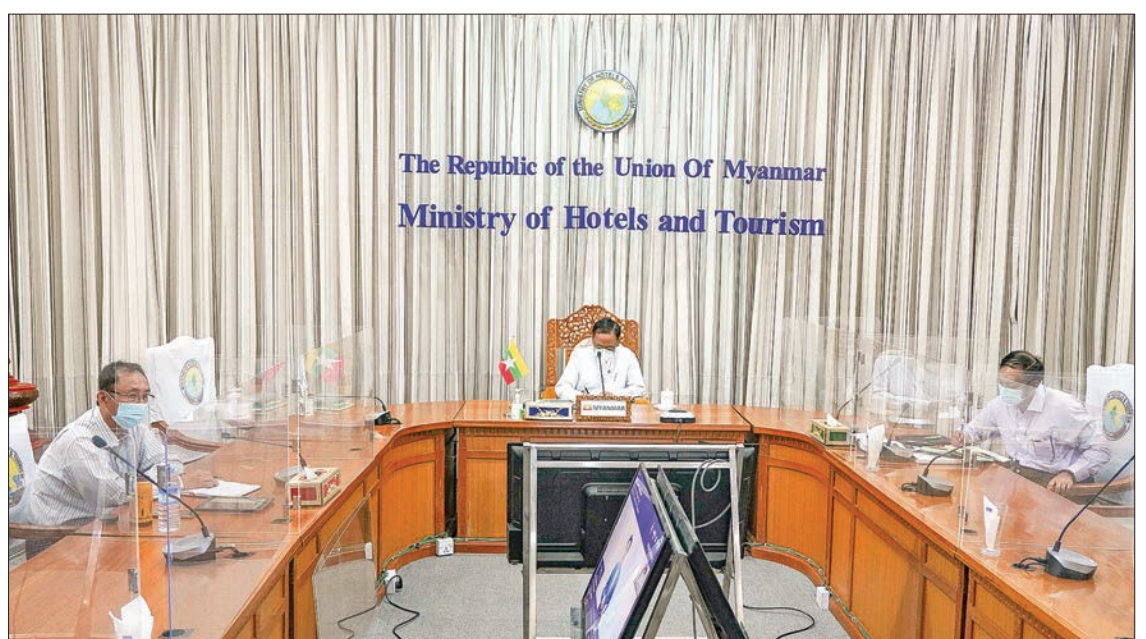
UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung, the Chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and representatives from its affiliate associations attended the Accelerating a Resilient Recovery CLMVT Plus Forum 2021 yesterday morning through videoconferencing.

The forum was also joined by the senior representatives of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand, and trade partners and representatives from other ASEAN countries.

The forum discussed the analysis of the post-COVID-19 situation in the CLMVT mem-

ber countries, sharing trade and investment knowledge, current and post-COVID-19 strategies for enhancing cooperation among the CLMVT countries and ASEAN Regional Cooperation Framework, and collaboration in the areas of trade and investment.

The CLMVT Plus Forum 2021 will be held for three days from 24 to 26 August via videoconferencing. On the last day of the forum, 26 August, a Startup Pitch Competition will be held to help start-ups use technology in the new normal post-COVID-19 period in the CLMVT member countries. — MNA ■



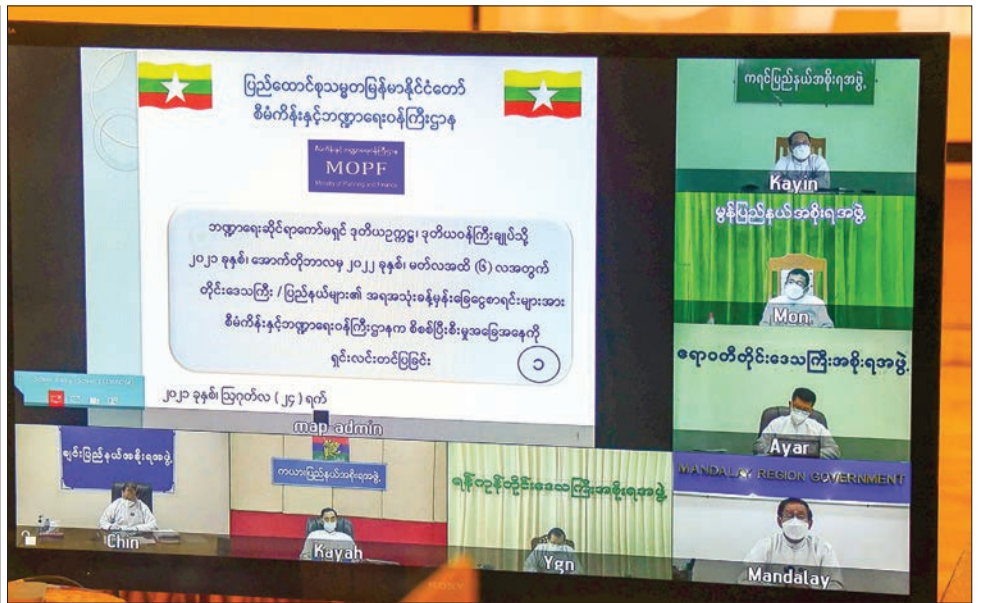
It is necessary to realize the democracy in conformity with the current situations of Myanmar

In reviewing the various situations which happened in last six months period, a lesson was obtained for carrying out many tasks related to democracy. Records and documents showed that although the people demanded to implement democracy in 1988, there were a few number of persons who deeply understood the measures of democracy. Hence, it is necessary to realize the democracy in conformity with the current situations of Myanmar.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 1/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the State Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 11 August 2021)

State will amend financial year from 1 April to 31 March starting from the 2022-2023 financial year: Vice-Senior General

ALLOTTED budgets must be systematically spent in line with the financial rules, said Vice-Chairman of the Financial Commission Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the coordination meeting to submit the budgets of regions and states for the six months from October 2021 to March 2022 at the State Administration Council Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting to submit the budgets of regions/states for the six months from October 2021 to March 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-Senior General said that the State will amend the financial year from 1 April to 31 March starting from the 2022-2023 financial year. A six-month budget period will be designated as the interim budget period from October 2021 to March 2022. Restrictions and prohibitions for current prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 and political disturbances affected the State economy, causing the decline of earning taxes for the State. No matter how many challenges the Provisional Government of the State faces, efforts are being made to fulfil the socio-economic require-

ments of the people.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to emphasize the spending of expenditures based on the fund to be allotted by the Union and incomes from respective areas on prevention and control of COVID-19 in regions and states, development tasks such as the construction of roads, bridges, electrification and water supply for the people and directly or indirectly benefiting the manufacturing sector.

Priority must be given to the implementation of the un-

finished projects and the projects mainly required for the people. The six-month budget must be spent within the set period. It is necessary to implement the regional projects in connection with the Union ministerial projects through the Union budget, region and state funds, foreign loans and cash assistance in addition to arranging the cooperation between the government and the private sector.

Secretary of the financial commission Union Minister U Win Shein reported on pro-

visions on region and state budgets in accord with the Constitution and prioritized tasks.

After reviewing the reports, the Vice-Senior General gave the concluding remarks, saying that as the six-month budget was allotted for the interim period, all need to spend it together with the Union cash assistance.

The Provisional Government of the State is overcoming the challenges based on the outbreak of COVID-19 and politics related economic

pressures. On the other hand, these are challenges for the people. The government must overcome these challenges through the united strength of departmental personnel and the people.

The allotted budgets must be systematically spent in line with the financial rules. The Vice-Senior General urged all to scrutinize and reduce the unacceptable expenditures in order to develop the regions and states while trying to re-surge the State economy. — MNA ■

2,506 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 August, total figure rises to 378,377

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 378,377 after 2,506 new cases were reported on 24 August 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 305,844 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 14,622 after 123 died.

State Administration Council Information Team to hold press conference 8/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference 8/2021 at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 27 August. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference. — MNA

Ministries need to spend allotted budget on implementation of projects directly benefiting the people: Vice-Senior General

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However, the government must spend the expenditure on prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 without fail, union ministries need to scrutinize the expenditures as much as they can. The estimated income must be actual income to be gained within six months during the six-month budget period, and the estimated expenditure must be actual cost within six months.

It was found that the Ministry of Planning and Finance scrutinized and submitted the six-month estimated budget drawn by Union level departments and organizations in line with policies, financial rules and procedures adopted by the State. In so doing, the projects at the Union level must not be

overlapped with that of regions and states.

Secretary of the commission Union Minister U Win Shein reported on drawing the estimated expenditures for Union level departments and organizations for six months, available income and successful implementation of the projects.

The Union level officials discussed the progress of scrutiny for the budget accounts of Union level departments and organizations for six months from October 2021 to March 2022, and appropriation for the unusual expenditures, findings from the estimated budget of Union level departments and organizations, and inspection of accounts, construction of warehouses and the natural disaster information centre for relief supplies

in four townships of Shan State, an extension of the organization set up of the National Unity and Peace Negotiation Department of the Office of the Government, and increased allotment of the budget for soonest implementation of Kengtung Dam project in Yaksawk Township of Shan State.

In response to the reports, Union Minister U Win Shein discussed that heads of Union level departments and organizations need to supervise the financial allotment and undertakings, and Union level departments and organizations need to contact the Treasury Department as quickly as possible if they have to amend and add something to the six-month budget from October 2021 to March 22.

In his concluding remarks,

the Vice-Senior General said that the reports of relevant central and ministerial levels will be submitted to the financial commission. When the commission approved it, the bill on the six-month Union budget from October 2021 to March 2022 will be submitted to the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with the recommendation of the financial commission and then seek approval from the State Administration Council.

After the law was enacted, ministries need to spend the allotted budget on the implementation of projects directly benefiting the people. The Vice-Senior General urged them to meet the income target as much as they can before ending the 2020-2021 budget year,

timely spend the allowed expenditures and hand over the expenditures which could not be spent in time.

Due to COVID-19 and general challenges, some difficulties were faced in earning the income but all are to strive for earning income for meeting the target set for respective ministries seeking ways and means. Moreover, ministries need to practise thrifty spending on the expenditures. It is necessary to take care of earning income and spending expenditure to avoid nine points of weakness examined by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union and to be in line with financial rules and regulations. The projects must be implemented within six months by spending the budget under the law. — MNA ■

Myanmar delegations attend 42nd AMAF, 20th AMAF Plus 3, and 6th ARMMAF Meetings



THE 42nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) was held online on 23 August, while the 20th AMAF plus Three

(AMAF+3) Meeting, and the 6th ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting in Agriculture and Forestry (ARMMAF) yesterday.

The ASEAN delegations joined the meeting together with the Myanmar delegations, including the Director-General U Kyaw Swe Linn of Planning

Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and other officials of Department of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

During the 42nd AMAF meeting, the leaders presented the instructions that emerged from the 37th ASEAN Summit and 27th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and discussed the guidelines and frameworks for food security, agriculture and forestry to be approved in 2021, proposals to finalize the draft in 2022, outcomes of the working committee meeting, cooperation work and future work plans of ASEAN to be implemented with partner countries and oth-

er organizations. They finally designated the date and place for the coming meeting to be held in 2022.

Moreover, the 20th AMAF plus Three (AMAF+3) Meeting discussed the outcomes of the 23rd ASEAN+3 Summit and 23rd ASEAN+3 Economic Ministers' Meeting, projects implemented under ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve of China, Japan and Korea and ASEAN Food Security Information System.

The 6th ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting in Agriculture and Forestry (ARMMAF) focused on the results of the 37th ASEAN Summit and 9th ASEAN Economic Ministers and Russia Consultation, completed projects, ongoing operations and future work plans under ASEAN-Russia Cooperation on Agriculture and Food Security. — MNA ■

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+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
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health

Order No 333/2021

2nd Waning of Wagaung 1383 ME

24 August 2021

THE Ministry of Health hereby announced the order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health has taken preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in real-time. Therefore, people from some townships of Kachin State, Kayah State, Sagaing Region and Mon State need to stay at home due to the number of confirmed patients on the rise in these townships.

2. Hence, the people residing in the following townships in Kachin State, Kayah State, Sagaing Region and Mon State are involved in the Stay-at-Home programme.

(a) Kachin State

- (1) Mohnyin Township
- (2) Waingmaw Township

(b) Kayah State

- (1) Loikaw Township

(c) Sagaing Region

- (1) Kyunhla Township

(d) Mon State

- (1) Chaungzon Township

3. The people inclusive of the Stay-at-Home programme of the townships need to abide by the following disciplines: -

(a) Reside at their homes only

- (1) except for service personnel serving at government department;
- (2) except for those serving at private firms such as banks and monetary services, filling stations, foodstuffs and livestock and fishery, cold storage, medicine and medical equipment production and distribution, purified water production and sales, factories of manufacturing daily personal goods and related industries;
- (3) those in the airline industry who provide services in relief flights/cargo flights and charter flights, ground services, aircraft refuelling, import/export of goods by air; international freight forwarder companies, companies and agencies that provide customs services, aircraft food production and export and aircraft maintenance;

(4) except for staff from private ports, shipping agencies offices, international freight forwarder companies, customer service companies and agencies, container truck services, port export and import cargo trucks and watercraft, inland container depot and dry ports;

(5) except for staff from communication service providers such as post services, line phones and mobile phone communication services, internet services (exclusive of sales of telephone and data at shops), tower and fibre maintenance services;

(b) relevant region and state governments to issue necessary orders and directives and supervision for prevention of COVID-19 infection at CMP factories and workshops;

(c) organizations and companies to perform their works from homes;

(d) one person from each house to go out shopping;

(e) only two persons per house to go to hospitals and clinics;

(f) wear masks if they go outside the houses;

(g) allow ferries and registered vehicles only to transport returnees from workplaces to pass the wards;

(h) allow one person only in addition to the driver in a vehicle for shopping in the ward and two persons except for the driver to go to hospitals or clinics;

(i) abide by the standard operating procedures (SOP) for trucks to ensure smooth flow of commodities in the township;

4. People need to inform relevant ward/village administration bodies about seeking approvals to go outside the houses if they have reasons to raise the limited number of participants in the measures and other emergency issues mentioned in subparagraphs (d), (e) and (h) of Paragraph 3. The relevant administrative bodies need not allow ingoing and outgoing persons, except for officials and those returnees from duty.

5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by the order under the existing laws.

6. The order came into force at 4 am on 25-8-2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

China donates oxygen concentrators to Myanmar to help fight COVID-19

A handover ceremony for China-donated 140 oxygen concentrators was held online at Yangon International Airport on 22 August.

During the event, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai said China's assistance to Myanmar in the fight against the pandemic shows the spirit to support each other through thick and thin. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the two countries have supported each other, and the China-Myanmar PaukPhaw friendship is making a new page while battling the pandemic.

The Chinese government provides the anti-COVID-19 equipment and helps in the importation processes of liquid oxygen via the China-Myanmar

route of Yunnan Province. Moreover, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and Chinese entrepreneurs are also cooperating with the social organizations and providing the COVID-19 preventive gears to the China-Myanmar Friendship School, the school for the deaf and the children's hospitals across the nation, including the foodstuffs.

Due to the efforts of the Myanmar government, all could implement effective control measures. Therefore, the Chinese Embassy will keep offering the needed assistance to overcome the pandemic.

Then, the Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said the disease is controlled to a certain extent due to the efforts of the staff of the Ministry of Health,



The MoH Union Minister and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar exchange the documents online at the handover event for China-donated 140 oxygen concentrators at Yangon International Airport on 22 August 2021.

public and well-wishers under the supervision of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The donations and sharing of

experiences in the fight against the pandemic show the strong bilateral relationship, support the COVID-19 control activities of Myanmar and save millions of lives.

The government will distribute the medical supplies, includ-

ing 140 oxygen concentrators, as quickly as possible.

He then expressed thankful words for the support in constructing the CDC (Centre for Disease Control) in Nay Pyi Taw, and pledged to closely cooperate with China.— MNA

Imports of COVID-19 protective equipment, medical supplies continue

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, arranging continuous importation on public holidays.

Yesterday, 17 oxygen concentrators from Yangon International Airport and two oxygen plants, 149 empty oxygen cylinders, 15 tonnes of masks and 1,141 oxygen concentrators from seaport were successfully imported.

A total of 60 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by three bowsers, four tonnes of li-

quid oxygen, 5,191 empty oxygen cylinders, seven oxygen plants, 2,265 home oxygen concentrators, 1,000 sets of PPE suits, and 69 tonnes of masks were also imported via Muse, Myawaddy, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti, Hteekhee, Tachilek and Kawthoung trading posts.

Three lorries carrying liquid oxygen led to Yangon, and four oxygen plants to Myitkyina, two oxygen plants to Yangon and one oxygen plant to Kungyangon Gone Township, respectively.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies re-



quired in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, as

well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through

the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



Oxygen cylinders are imported daily through land borders and transported to the needed areas and places across the country.



Over 4 mln Myanmar people receive COVID-19 vaccines: MoH

More than 4 million people in Myanmar have received COVID-19 vaccines as of 21 August, according to the report of the Ministry of Health. To aim at controlling the spreading of COVID-19, the vaccines are being administered in target groups across the country.

As of 21 August, a total of

4,456,857 people were given vaccines across the country. Among them, 2,660,027 people have received the first dose and another 1,796,830 people have received both doses so far.

Under the vaccination programme in Myanmar, three million of Sinopharm and Sinovac jabs had arrived from China

in July. Besides, another three million doses of vaccine will also arrive in August, according to the MoH.

“Efforts are being made to provide more vaccines to the public rapidly. Negotiations are also underway to purchase more vaccines. We have already received the four million doses of the

COVID-19 vaccine. Two million doses of the Sinopharm (Beijing) vaccine were also received last month. Another two million COVID-19 vaccines being purchased from Russia will also arrive in a short period, said an official from the Ministry of Health.

Although Covishield jabs being purchased from India will be

arriving in Myanmar, India temporarily suspended the export sector of its vaccines.

The MoH urged 50 per cent of the population over the age of 18 to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by the end of 2021. The MoH also warned the people to follow the COVID-19 rules and regulations. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

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

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

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

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

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

Palm oil imports top \$522 mln in eight months

MYANMAR brought in US\$522 million worth of palm oil in the past eight months (October-May) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to the Myanmar Customs Department.

The palm oil ranges around 3,600 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in the domestic wholesale market at the present time.

“The oil palm plants produce fruits in abundance this time. The price is likely to be in the bull market up to October if any trade barrier will not occur,” Chair U San Lin of Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association said.

“Normally, oil palm plants are plentiful in Malaysia this time. They produce the fruits from June to October,” he added.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association is attempting to maintain price stability, prevent



A local is seen sorting the cooking oil at the retail outlet.

market manipulation, import the palm oil from foreign countries sustainably for self-sufficiency, distribute the edible oil at a fair

price to the consumers and ensure that there will be no edible oil shortage in regions and states when there is a rise in

imported oil prices.

In early January 2021, production slump in importing countries Malaysia and Indone-

sia, caused by erratic weather conditions and the COVID-19 impacts, high imports by certain countries under tax reduction, a tax hike on exports in producing countries and the short storage of palm oil in those countries contributed to the rise in edible oil price. The palm oil price stood at \$1,055-1,200 per tonne in the foreign market then.

Malaysia’s palm oil fell below \$1,106 per tonne in mid-August from a high of \$1,066 per tonne last month.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported. — Ko Htet/GNLM

Myanmar gold price soars to K1.66 mln per tical tracking global cues



With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019.

THE price of precious yellow metal touched a high of K1,660,500 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) in the domestic market following the gain in the international gold market, according to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The global gold price stood at only US\$1,740 per ounce in the previous days and dramatically rose to \$1,804 per ounce on 24 August. Additionally, Kyat is depreciating in the local forex market, which is another cause of price gain in the domestic gold market. The US dollar exchange rate is worth above K1,700.

Despite the domestic gold staying in the upward trend,

the market is pretty sluggish, according to YGEA.

Earlier, about 50 viss (a viss equals 1.6kg) were daily traded. At present, the market sees sales of only 5-10 visses.

On 12 May, the gold hit an all-time high of K1,709,000 per tical in history.

In January 2021, the gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the

lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). The price has registered the highest of K1,455,000 (30 April) and the lowest of K1,389,000 (1 April). The price reached an all-time highest of K1,709,000 (12 May) and the lowest of K1,447,000 in May. The price moved in the maximum of K1,575,500 (11 June) and the minimum of K1,543,000 (19 June). Last month, it fluctuated between K1,562,300 (26 Jul) and K1,587,000 (K1,587,000), the gold traders said.

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal priced moved in the range of 1,280,000 (1 December) and 1,332,000 (28 December).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. — NN/GNLM

Coriander seed prices rise on strong foreign demand

MYANMAR local spice coriander seeds are fetching a high price in August on the back of spike demand by Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, said Mandalay traders.

The coriander seeds can be easily grown and the cultivation cost is not high. It is a lucrative agricultural crop. Bangladesh yearly purchases the seeds for making spice powder. This year, Pakistan traders are also buying them. The price stood at US\$650-700 per tonne, Soe Win Myint depot stated.

“The selling price of coriander seeds rose from over K10,000 registered a year-ago

period. The strong demand from Bangladesh and Pakistan drove the price up to K15,000 per basket. The coriander seeds are used as a spice in foreign countries. It is also demanded by local masala businesses. Myanmar spices such as coriander seed, fennel seed and black fennel seed have grasped foreign market share, Soe Win Myint depot owner said.

Growing coriander seeds starts in October. That cold season crop is harvested in January. Growers in Mandalay and Magway regions mainly target those spices for the export market. — Htet Myat/GNLM



The strong demand from Bangladesh and Pakistan drove the price up to K15,000 per basket. The coriander seeds are used as a spice in foreign countries. It is also demanded by local masala businesses.

Produce larger volume of edible oil than current production

GENERALLY, the country of Myanmar consumes about one million tonnes of edible oil per year. Although 8 million acres of land are placed under edible oil crops in Myanmar every year, milling of such crops to produce 200,000 tons of edible oil per year.

Edible oil crops such as groundnut, sunflower, oil palm and mustard are cultivated in the central area and other parts of the nation. Sesame is placed on more than 3,760,000 acres of land, groundnut on over 2,700,000 acres, mustard on over 110,000 acres, sunflower on over 640,000 acres and oil palm on over 390,000 acres.

Primarily, oil millers prefer to emphasize the milling of groundnut and sesame for the production of edible oil in addition to some volume of sunflower oil and palm oil.

In fact, the strength of the nation lies within. Myanmar needs to increase more sown acreage of edible oil crops and mill the increased volume of edible oil to ensure local oil sufficiency so as to reduce import volume of oil and cut spending on foreign exchange.

Myanmar farmers cultivate groundnut and sesame on their croplands. They aim to sell export quality seeds of groundnut to merchants. Export of groundnut and sesame seeds is more cost-effective than milling to produce groundnut oil for sale. Foreign countries purchase Myanmar's groundnut and sesame seeds for the production of value-added foodstuffs to get higher prices. If milling of edible oil crops can be undertaken more, import of palm oil can be reduced.

In fact, the strength of the nation lies within. Myanmar needs to increase more sown acreage of edible oil crops and mill the increased volume of edible oil to ensure local oil sufficiency so as to reduce import volume of oil and cut spending on foreign exchange.



COVID-19 pushes 80 million people in Asia into extreme poverty: Asian Development Bank

The "Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021" says the pandemic is threatening Asia and the Pacific's progress toward critical targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

THE coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has pushed an estimated 75 million to 80 million more people in developing Asia into extreme poverty as of last year compared with what would have happened without COVID-19, according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released on Tuesday.

The "Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021" says the pandemic is threatening Asia and the Pacific's progress towards critical targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Assuming that the pandemic has increased inequality, the relative rise in extreme poverty — defined as living on less than 1.90 dollars a day — may be even greater. Progress has also stalled in areas such as hunger, health and education where earlier achievements



The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has pushed an estimated 75 million to 80 million more people in developing Asia into extreme poverty as of last year compared with what would have happened without COVID-19, according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released on Tuesday. PHOTO: ADB

across the region had been significant, albeit uneven. Key indicators presents comprehensive economic, financial, social and environmental statistics for ADB's 49 regional mem-

bers. According to the report, about 203 million people or 5.2 per cent of developing Asia's population lived in extreme poverty as of 2017. Without COVID-19, that number would have declined to an estimated 2.6 per cent in 2020.

"Asia and the Pacific has made impressive strides, but COVID-19 has revealed social and economic fault lines that may weaken the region's sustainable and inclusive development," said ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada.

"To achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, decision makers need to harness high-quality and timely data as a guide for actions to ensure that the recovery leaves no one behind — especially the poor and vulnerable." Asia and the Pacific's economy has grown at a robust pace in recent years and contributed

as much as 35 per cent to global gross domestic product (GDP) in current US dollars in 2019. But COVID-19 took a toll just when weaker domestic investment and slowing global trade and economic activity were starting to challenge this momentum.

Among reporting economies in Asia and the Pacific, only about one in four posted GDP growth last year. The region lost about 8 per cent of work hours due to mobility restrictions, deeply affecting poorer households and workers in the informal economy. The key indicators report includes a special supplement introducing a practical framework for measuring the digital economy and its growing role in modern life, which has been particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SOURCE: Asian News International

US grants Pfizer Covid vaccine full approval

The move could trigger a new wave of vaccine mandates as the Delta variant batters the United States.

THE US Food and Drug Administration on Monday fully approved the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine, a move expected to trigger a new wave of vaccine mandates as the Delta variant batters the country.

Around 52 per cent of the country is fully vaccinated, but health authorities have hit a wall of vaccine hesitant people, impeding the national campaign.

"The FDA's approval of this vaccine is a milestone as we continue to battle the Covid-19 pandemic," acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock said in a statement.

"While all three COVID vaccines have met FDA's strict standards for emergency use, this FDA approval should give added confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective. If you're not vaccinated yet, now is the time," tweeted President Joe Biden.

The vaccine, which will now be marketed under its brand name

Comirnaty, is the first to receive full approval.

More than 200 million shots have already been administered under an emergency use authorization (EUA) that was granted on 11 December 2020.

The decision to approve it among people aged 16 and up was based on updated data from the drug's clinical trial, which found the vaccine more than 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid.

"Overall, approximately 12,000 recipients have been followed for at least six months," the FDA said in its statement.

Most commonly reported side effects included pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle or joint pain, chills and fever.

The FDA is continuing to investigate safety data regarding myocarditis (heart inflammation), particularly within seven days after the second dose. The data so far shows an increased risk among

males under 40 compared to females and older males.

The highest risk has been detected in boys aged 12 through 17, with available data suggesting most individuals recover but some require intensive care.

The US military said shortly after the announcement that it would mandate the vaccine, and a slew of private businesses and universities are expected to follow.

Immediately after the announcement, New York City said it would require all its department of education employees to receive at least one dose of vaccine by 27 September without the option for regular testing instead.

The vaccine remains available under emergency use authorization to children aged 12 to 15, but because it has now been fully approved, physicians may prescribe it to children under 12 if they believe it will be beneficial.

Blow to anti-vaxxers "One of the talking points of

the anti-vaccine movement which has falsely claimed that this was an 'experimental vaccine' has been removed," Amesh Adalja of the Johns Hopkins University Centre for Health Security told AFP.

"Hopefully now you'll see people who said that they were waiting for full approval line up to get vaccinated, hopefully more organizations, more businesses will require the vaccine as a condition of employment as a condition of participation."

A recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found 30 per cent of adults said full approval would make them more likely to get vaccinated.

It comes as the ultra-contagious Delta variant pummels the country, with new cases and hospitalizations approaching levels last seen during the winter wave.

The hardest hit regions include southern states Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The number of people rolling up their sleeves for a shot has risen in these states in recent weeks, but the national rate is still well below its peak from spring.

Some 628,000 people have died from coronavirus infection in the United States, making it officially the hardest hit country in the world — though experts say it is possible that India may in fact hold the record.

Vaccines are less effective

SOURCE: AFP



A nurse with AltaMed Health Services administers the Pfizer vaccine in Los Angeles on 17 August 2021. PHOTO: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 24 August 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25 August 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Regions and Chin State, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah State widespread in the remaining Raghions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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NLD member Thet Htar Hnaung, KIA captains arrested in Kachin State

ACCORDING to the report of the responsible citizens, Thet Htar Hnaung (aka) Thet Thuzar Khine, Mohnyin Township NLD member, who has been on the run due to her activities in disturbing peace and stability of the country, was arrested on 4 August in Nanma Town.

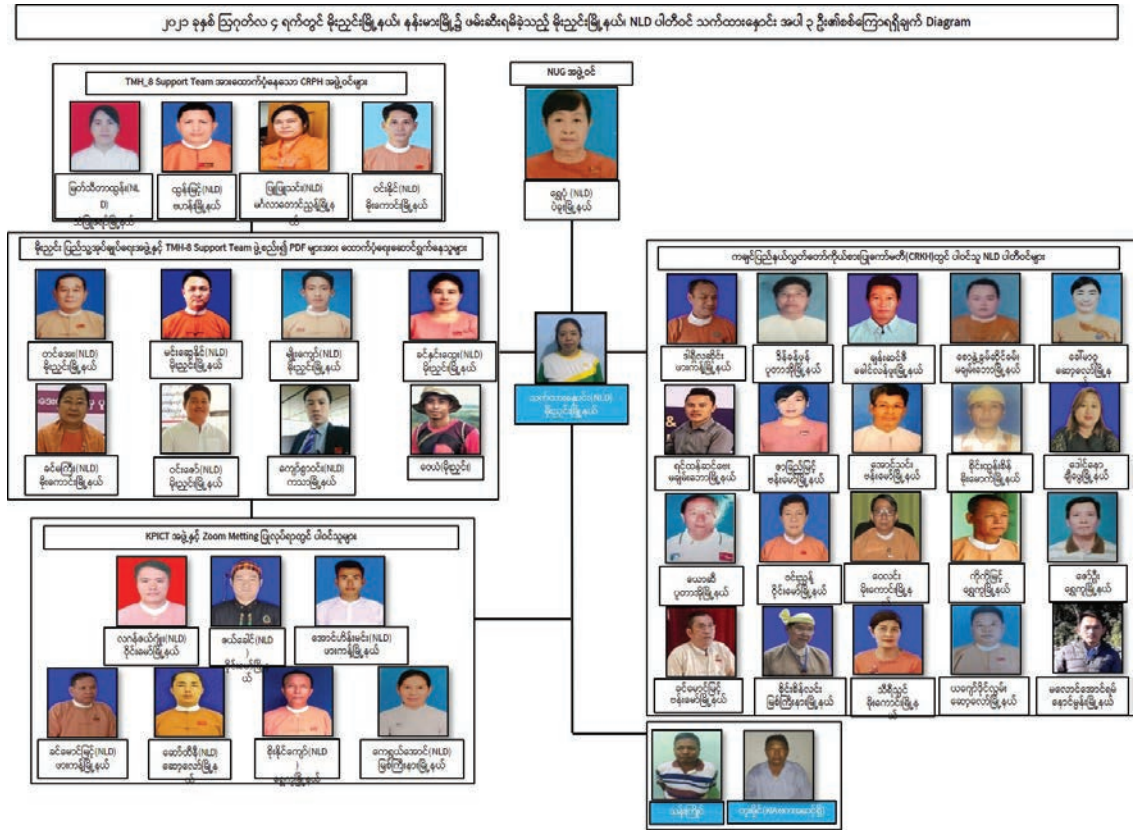
A case was filed against her under Section 505 (a) of the Penal Code. Following her confession, two KIA captains, Tu Mai and Than Kyaing, who were responsible for transporting food to KIA, were arrested on 14 August in Hopin Town.

Her confession claimed that she and Putao NLD member Deng Khan Hpon (a) Khanlin formed the Committee Representing of Kachin State Hluttaw-CRKH, an illegal organization, on 8 February, with 21 members; Mohnyin Township's People Administration Committee on 4 March with 27 members; TMH-8 Support Team with 10 members to support PDF terrorist groups

in Mohnyin Township; and launched a terrorist training course in the KIA territory under the support of the illegally formed NUG and CRPH.

Her main duty was to purchase and transport necessary supplies and equipment to conduct terrorist training for members of PDF in KIA territory.

For required financial support, she worked together with NLD, CRPH and NUG members: Phyu Phyu Thin (former Pyithu Hluttaw Representative for Mingala Taungnyunt Township in 2012); Shwe Pon (former Pyithu Hluttaw Representative for Bago Township in 2015); Tin Aye (No (1) State Hluttaw Representative for Mohnyin Township in 2015); Min Swe Naing (Former Amyotha Hluttaw Representative for No (6) Constituency in Mohnyin Township in 2015); Kyaw Swa Win (Katha Township NLD member); Win Zaw (Former Amyotha Hluttaw



Representative for No (7) Constituency in Katha Township in 2015; Myo Kyaw (Mohnyin Township NLD member); Khin

Hnin Htwe (Mohnyin Township NLD member); Khin Ma Gyi (Former Amyotha Hluttaw Representative for No (8) Constituency in Katha Township in 2015); Kyaw Khin Win and Wai Yan who lives in Mohnyin Town and Ma Cho who lives in Hopin Town.

Thet Htar Hnaung held a zoom meeting reportedly on 25 July with NLD representatives and Kachin Political Interim Coordination Team-KPICT to carry out terrorist attacks.

In addition, she shared the information with the NUG on the current situation of the illegal organizations in each township in Kachin State; Tatmadaw's control in each township; status of people's cooperation and actions of KIA and PDF members.

According to the confession of the KIA captains, Tu Mai and Than Kyaing, a total of 400 rice bags purchased and stored in the rice mill owned by Htay Lwin in Hopin Town were seized.

The rice bags were supposed to transport to KIA and PDF members.

Tu Mai also revealed that trainees were not sent home since August and were deployed under the KIA camps to blow up towns and villages with the KIA members.

It is reported that those who have been involved in activities harming the peace and stability of the country and the interests of the innocent people will be taken effective action in accordance with the law. - MNA

Border trade declines by \$887 mln

TRADE between Myanmar and its four neighbouring countries has reached US\$8.73 billion this financial year (FY), according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Till 18 August of the 2020-2021FY, the total border trade amounted to \$8.73 billion, down \$887 million compared with the last year's figure of \$9.62 billion.

Myanmar shares borders with Bangladesh, Chi-

na, India and Thailand. Exports to these four countries from the start of October until 13 August generated \$5.78 billion in income. Over the same period, Myanmar imported \$2.95 million worth of goods.

Myanmar has opened 18 border trade camps and conducts border trade with China through Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung borders.

The country carries out

border trade with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei land borders. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaw. In contrast, the country trades directly with India via Tamu and Reed border checkpoints.

Among all the border crossings, the Muse border sees an enormous volume

and value of border trade with an estimated value of more than \$3.56 billion this FY followed by Myawady with \$1.61 billion and Hteekhee with \$1.23 billion.

Myanmar's major export items are farm, animal, marine, forest, mining, CMP and other products. Myanmar mainly imports capital goods, industrial raw materials, personal goods and CMP raw materials. — ACM/GNLM

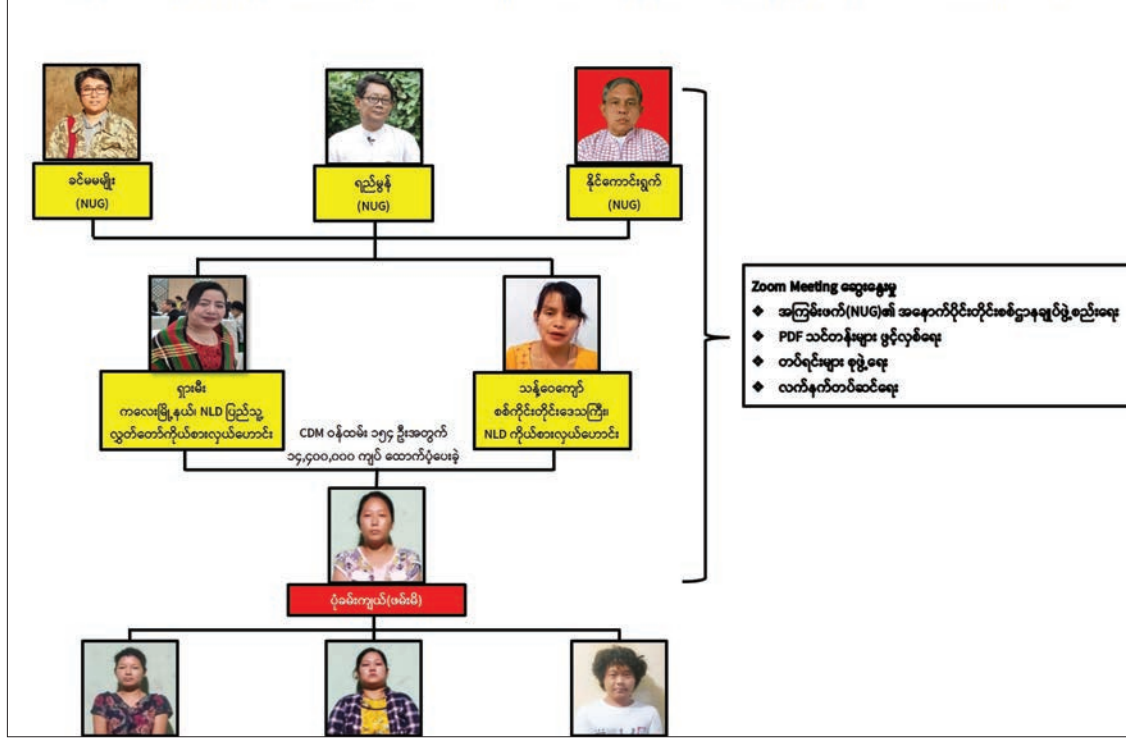
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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Teachers involved in CDM campaign arrested in Kalay

ကလေးမြို့တွင် CDM ပြုလုပ်ခဲ့သည့် ကျောင်းဆရာမဟောင်း ပုံခမ်းကျယ် အပါအဝင် ၄ ဦးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်လှုပ်ရှားခဲ့သည့် ဆက်စပ်တရားခံများ Diagram



attended the graduation ceremonies of the PDF members. The other three teachers were found to have been involving in riots, CDM campaigns and received cash assistance from the NUG. It is reported that a case

has been filed against Pone Kham Kyal and the other three teachers under Section 505-(a) of the Penal Code and Section 17(1) of the Unlawful Associations Law for liaising with the terrorist organization NUG. - MNA



A total of four teachers, including the former headmistress of the Basic Education High School in Santha village, who have been involving in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) campaign, were arrested on 14 August in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region. Former headmistress Pone Kham Kyal provided a total of K14.4 million to 154 civil servants who have also

been participating in the campaign from March to June, at a monthly rate of K50,000 each. It is learned that Thant Wai Kyaw (Sagaing Region No (1) Hluttaw Representative in 2015) and Shar Mee (Kalay Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative in 2015) collected the money donation and instructed the headmistress to provide the money to CDMers. Pone Kham Kyal also

joined the Zoom Meetings with NUG members and discussed organizing a training course for PDF members; to provide them with arms; to form Brigade (5,6,7) under the supervision of the Western Military Headquarters; to build the head office in the CNF territory and to open military training (trainer) at CNF and launch multiplier training in 12 locations. In addition, she also



Suspects arrested with firearms as they launch bomb attacks in Dagon Myothit (North) Township

THE security forces raided the “Ko Ko Nyi Nyi” grilled fish shop in No (29) Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 13 August. They arrested four suspects Soe Aung, Pyae Sone Aung and Hein Min Min Htet, including Nay Lin, together with pistol, magazine bullets and homemade mines. According to the confession of Nay Lin, the police also seized 8 homemade air guns, 52 various homemade mines, 46 smoke bombs, 1 homemade mine and other related materials at No 126 building in No

(28) ward of Dagon Myothit (North) Township. On 14 August, the police also arrested other suspects Htet Aung Khant in No (47) Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) and Arkar Aung (aka) Arkar near No (3) B.E.H.S. According to the words of Htet Aung Khant, he participated in transporting the gun from NUG member Chit Htwe (aka) Ei than (still at large) to Lion (still at large) who shot the administrator of Dagon Myothit (East) Township on



Seized explosives and firearms in Dagon Myothit (North).



Explosives, handmade mines and related materials.

27 June. The suspects admitted that they conducted five bomb attacks in the southern and northern

parts of Dagon Myothit Township—one in No (47) Ward on 19 June, one in a dumpsite in No (40) Ward on 6 July, another one in No (37) Ward on 16 July, one at Maha Myaing teashop in No (35) Ward on 5 August and one at the toolbox of motorcycle in No (55) Ward on 8 August. The suspects who conducted destructive acts to undermine the State tranquillity and the rule of law will face legal actions under the law. Moreover, the people are requested to inform the officials about activities and hiding places of insurgents to arrest the remaining suspects: NUG member Chit Htwe (aka) Ei Than and Lion. — MNA

Japan gov't to buy seafood if Fukushima water release hits sales

THE Japanese government said Tuesday it will buy marine products as an emergency step to support fishermen if the planned discharge of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea causes damage to their sales.

The government is eyeing creating a fund that can be flexibly operated to buy seafood from Fukushima Prefecture and other parts of Japan, according to a plan compiled to help fishermen threatened by reputational damage, government officials said.

The move came amid calls from fishermen to come up with specific measures to prevent reputational damage to marine products following the government's decision in April to start discharging the water from around spring of 2023.



A fisherman lands fish at a port in Soma in Fukushima Prefecture on 12 April 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

“We will make thorough efforts to prevent reputational damage being caused and will create an environment where (fishermen) can continue operations feeling assured even if reputational damage occurs,” said Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsumoto Kato at a meeting of Cabinet ministers involved in the plan. Under the measures, the government will temporarily buy and store products that

can be frozen or help fishermen expand sales channels for those that cannot be frozen, if demand for domestically produced seafood drops sharply in and outside Japan, the officials said.—Kyodo ■

High prices didn't deter Americans from homebuying in July

US homes for sale were in short supply and expensive in July, but Americans continued buying, according to industry data Monday showing sales rose for a second straight month. US homes for sale were in short supply and expensive in July, but Americans continued buying, according to industry data Monday showing sales rose for a second straight month. Existing home sales climbed two per cent last month to an annual rate of 5.99 million, seasonally adjusted, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) said, a pace that was above analysts' expectations.

The US real estate market grew white hot last year as the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted daily life and the Federal Reserve implemented easy money policies to support the economy, which

made mortgages cheap and fuelled sales. But that demand drained supplies and record-setting prices are now seen as keeping buyers out of the market, a dynamic that NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun pointed to in the July data.

“Much of the home sales growth is still occurring in the upper-end markets, while the mid-to lower-tier areas aren't seeing as much growth because there are still too few starter homes available,” he said in a statement. However, he noted an increase in supply that was helping to ease the frenzied buying.

Total inventory was 1.32 million units as of the end of last month, up 7.3 per cent from June but nonetheless 12 per cent lower than the same month last year, the report said.—AFP ■

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Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg	Reg No
1.	DUO 530 WP	Dimethomorph 300g/kg + Chlorothalonil 500gm/Kg WP	Prov	P 2021-4252
2.	LEAD 500 WDG	Pymetrozine 500gm/Kg WDG	Prov	P2021-3760

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Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg	Reg No
1.	ETHER PLUS 40 WDG	EmamectinBenzoate 20% + Thiamethoxam 20% WDG	Prov	P2021-4262
2.	LAMDIKAP 35 SC	Lambda-cyhalothrin 50g/L +Thiodicarb 300g/L SC	Prov	P2021-3758
3.	Dyna Zeb 690 WP	Dimethomorph 90gm/Kg + Mancozeb 600gm/Kg WP	Prov	P2021-3757

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**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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American, Delta and United airlines are among those providing planes to help with evacuation from Afghanistan. A United Airlines plane sits at the gate at Denver International Airport on 30 July. PHOTO: DANIEL SLIM/AFP

US mobilizes commercial airlines for Afghan exit in rare crisis measure

THE dramatic evacuation of people fleeing Afghanistan will involve a US military-civilian alliance that dates back to 1951 but which has been activated only twice before: in 1990-1991 during the Gulf War and in 2003 during the invasion

of Iraq.

The Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) is a "cooperative, voluntary program" between the government and private airlines that allows the US military to use commercial aircraft in emergency situations

when it needs additional capacity.

The partnership has its origins in the Berlin airlift of the Cold War, and allows the Defense Department (DOD) to "to augment—aircraft capability during a national defense related crisis,"

according to the Transportation Department. In return for signing contracts with the government, "the participating carriers are given preference in carrying commercial peacetime cargo and passenger traffic for DOD."—AFP ■

UK business activity slows on supply crunch: survey

BRITAIN'S private sector business activity slowed sharply in August due to ongoing staff and supply shortages, a survey showed Monday.

The composite purchasing managers' index (PMI) hit a six-month low of 55.3 points, compilers IHS Markit and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply said in a statement.

That compared with a reading of 59.2 in July, but it held above the key 50 level to indicate expansion.

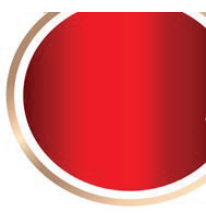
"An abnormally large slowdown in overall activity in August offers a stark warning to the UK economy that the accelerated levels of growth we've seen earlier this summer are not sustainable," said CIPS group director Duncan Brock said in a statement.

"It was the slowest output expansion for six months, and the worst shortages of staff and materials on record are mostly to blame." IHS Markit noted that the economy, which fully reopened last month, continued to grow above its pre-pandemic average.

However it also highlighted "clear signs" of a loss of momentum in the third quarter, or three months to September. "Despite Covid-19 containment measures easing to the lowest since the pandemic began, rising virus case numbers are deterring many forms of spending, notably by consumers, and have hit growth via worsening staff and supply shortages," said IHS Markit economist Chris Williamson.— AFP

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Dated: 25 August 2021

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Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)

For Rothmans of Pall Mall Limited

c/o Baker & McKenzie Limited

Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: 25 August 2021

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (456W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (456W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-8-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Taliban not allowing food, fuel to get into Andarab valley: Amrullah Saleh

AFGHANISTAN'S "acting" President Amrullah Saleh has highlighted the dire "humanitarian situation" in Andarab valley of the northern Baghlan province and accused the Taliban of committing human rights violations in the region.

This comes as clashes were reported between the Taliban and resistance forces in the Andarab region. Taliban forces are reportedly facing a challenge from local resistance forces in the Panjshir valley led by Ahmad Massoud, son of renowned anti-Taliban figure Ahmad Shah Massoud.

"Talibs aren't allowing food and fuel to get into Andarab valley. The humanitarian situation is dire. Thousands of women and children have fled to the mountains. Since the last two days Talibs abduct children and elderly and use them as shields to move around or do house search," Saleh tweeted.

Talibs aren't allowing food & fuel to get into Andarab valley. The humanitarian situation is dire. Thousands of women & children have fled to mountains. Since the last two days Talibs abduct children & elderly and use them as shields to move around

or do house search.

A day earlier, Saleh had warned the Taliban to avoid entering Panjshir.

"Talibs have massed forces near the entrance of Panjshir a day after they got trapped in ambush zones of neighbouring Andarab valley and hardly went out in one piece. Meanwhile, the Salang highway is closed by the forces of the Resistance. 'There are terrains to be avoided'. See you," Saleh tweeted on Sunday.

Talibs have massed forces near the entrance of Panjshir a day after they got trapped in ambush zones of neighbouring



Afghan security forces stand with their weapons and Humvee vehicles at Parakh area in Bazarak, Panjshir province on 19 August 2021. **PHOTO: AHMAD SAHEL ARMAN/AFP**

Andarab valley & hardly went out in one piece. Meanwhile Salang highway is closed by the forces of the Resistance. "There are terrains to be avoided". See you.— ANI ■

The shattered dreams of migrants sent back from US to Guatemala

HAYDI Consuelo thought she had arrived in the promised land when she walked across the US-Mexico border into Texas with her two-year-old son and other Central American migrants.

She thought she would be given shelter but instead she was put on an airplane and sent back to Mexico, where she was shepherded onto a bus and driven to Guatemala without ever passing through a migration check point.

"It was a trick because we were given the impression we would be able to pass. And, suddenly — they put us in airplanes and — we were deported," said Consuelo, 23, from the Migrant House in El Ceibo near the Mexican border, some 550 kilometers (340 miles) from Guatemala City.



Migrants expelled from Mexico arrive in the remote Guatemalan town of El Ceibo on 9 August, 2021. **PHOTO: THE GUATEMALAN MIGRATION INSTITUTE/AFP**

Mexico is using this deserted border area to return migrants who have been deported to its territory from the United States.

Humanitarian organizations helping these migrants say that up to 600 a day are brought in from Mexico over the unguarded crossing.

Missionaries who run the Migrant House in El Ceibo are struggling to cope with the sudden influx.

In order to make space for new arrivals, migrants are allowed to spend just one night in the courtyard, surrounded by their suitcases, rucksacks and shoes.—AFP ■

10 days later, Haiti earthquake victims struggle to cope



People walk down a street after the 14 August earthquake in Les Cayes, Haiti, on 23 August 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

SURVIVORS of the earthquake that killed 2,200 people when it struck Haiti 10 days ago are wavering between feeling resigned to the destruction and

fighting for help as they struggle to cope with their daily needs. "I'm slowly resuming my work," Edouard, a motorcycle taxi driver, told AFP. "But it hasn't been

calm yet, because there is still shaking," he said, speaking in the southwestern town of Les Cayes, which is near the epicentre of the 14 August quake. "Just this morning there was a strong aftershock," he said. "I was outside, but that didn't stop me from running." Traffic in downtown Les Cayes is in full swing and the city almost appears to be running like normal -- if not for the several side streets that are nearly entirely destroyed.

After the 7.2-magnitude earthquake, residents have been sleeping on the ground on thin mattresses dragged outside their homes, many of which are severely damaged if not entirely ruined.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Harris reaffirms U.S. commitment to Indo-Pacific amid Singapore visit

U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris on Monday reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to the Indo-Pacific region in talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the second day of her Asia trip.

"Today we are in Singapore to stress and reaffirm our enduring relationship to this country and this region and to reinforce a shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region," Harris said in a joint press conference with Lee after their meeting.

The vice-president, who arrived in the city-state on Sunday as part of her first official trip to Southeast Asia, said she and Lee also discussed the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and evacuation efforts in Kabul, which have been fraught with complications.

"There's no question there will be and should be a robust analysis of what has happened," Harris said in a response to reporters' questions.

"But right now we are singularly focused on evacuating American citizens, Afghans who worked with us and Afghans who are vulnerable, including women and children," she said.

Lee said at the press conference that he had offered the use of the Singapore air force's Airbus A330 multirole tanker and transporter aircraft to assist the US evacuation efforts.—Kyodo ■

Israel strikes Gaza after incendiary balloon attacks

ISRAEL launched airstrikes against Gaza on Monday, the army and a source inside the enclave said, after incendiary balloons launched from the strip started fires in the country's south.

The latest escalation of tension follows weekend border clashes in which dozens were injured.

There were no casualties in the raids on Gaza City, Khan Younes in the south and Jabalia in the north, but they did cause material damage, the Palestinian security source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He added that fighters loyal to the ruling Hamas Islamist movement had fired on the Israeli aircraft.

In a statement, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed that fighter jets attacked "a Hamas weapons manufacturing site in Khan Yunis as well as terror tunnel entrance in Jabalia".

"A Hamas underground rocket launch site that is located adjacent to civilian homes and a school in Shejaiya, was also struck," it added, saying "the strikes were in response to Hamas launching incendiary balloons into Israeli territory".

Israel frequently responds to incendiary balloon launches with air strikes, including after such devices were used on 6 August.—AFP ■

Israel's Bennett seeks US 'reset' in first White House visit

ISRAELI Prime Minister Naftali Bennett heads to Washington Tuesday for talks with US President Joe Biden, seeking to "reset" relations with Israel's closest ally and reach common ground on arch-foe Iran.

In his first state visit since taking office in June, Bennett will meet Biden on Thursday and attempt to mend ties with America's top Democrat, which were strained under former premier Benjamin Netanyahu, accused of openly favouring the Republican party.

"Right now the biggest transaction taking place between

the two countries is a refresh and a reset of bilateral relations," Scott Lasensky, former president Barack Obama's senior policy advisor on Israel, told AFP.

Netanyahu alienated Democratic leaders through his relentless public criticism of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers negotiated by the Obama administration, in which Biden served as vice-president.

Netanyahu's tight embrace of Obama's successor — president Donald Trump, whom he repeatedly called "the best friend" Israel ever had in the White House — further rankled

Biden's party.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid hinted at a new approach when he met his US counterpart Antony Blinken in June.

"In the past few years mistakes were made. Israel's bipartisan standing was hurt. We will fix those mistakes together," Lapid said.

No Iran 'lifeline'

While Bennett may aim to warm the diplomatic waters, he remains a foreign policy hawk staunchly opposed to the Iran accord, which lifted sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme.—AFP ■



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett travels to Washington on Tuesday for talks with US President Joe Biden. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

Tunisian president extends suspension of parliament indefinitely

TUNISIAN President Kais Saied has extended his suspension of parliament "until further notice", a month after sacking his prime minister and granting himself greater powers in a shock intervention that opponents decried as a coup.

In a statement issued by the presidency late on Monday, Saied also extended an order freezing immunity for lawmakers and said he would address the Tunisian people in the coming days, without providing further details.

Tunisia, hailed as a rare democratic success story in the Middle East and North Africa, has been mired in political crisis since Saied's intervention, which comes as the country struggles with dire economic woes and the Covid-19 pandemic.

On 25 July, Saied invoked the constitution to extend his authority, dismissing the head



Tunisian President Kais Saied's shock intervention last month sparked uncertainty for the North African country.

PHOTO: TUNISIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP/FILE

of government Hichem Mechichi and freezing parliament, in what activists have called a "purge" that has seen opponents, judges and businessmen arrested or banned from travel.

Saied issued "a presidential decree extending the exceptional measures — regarding the sus-

pension of Parliament and lifting of the parliamentary immunity of its MPs until further notice", the presidency said in the statement. Saied's intervention, which he said was necessary to prevent the country from collapse, sparked uncertainty for the North African nation.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghanistan's media enters the unknown under Taliban rule

SCORES of journalists are among the tens of thousands of people trying to flee Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover, fearful of violent reprisals from the militants.

Despite their assurances, the Islamist group's return to power is seen as a serious blow to Afghan media, which saw explosive growth after the first Taliban regime was toppled in 2001.

What was the Afghan media like under the Taliban?

There was no Afghan media to speak of when the Islamists ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. They banned television, movies and most other forms of entertainment for being immoral. Some electronic products were outlawed as un-Islamic too.—AFP ■

Zambian opposition leader takes office in boost for democracy

ZAMBIA'S newly-elected leader Hakainde Hichilema takes office on Tuesday after a comprehensive election victory hailed as a rare triumph over authoritarianism and a milestone in African democracy.

Hichilema, 59, will take the oath of office before a crowd that will notably include opposition politicians from regional countries as well as current and former African leaders. On his sixth bid for the presidency, Hichilema defeated the incumbent Edgar Lungu, 64, by almost one million votes — a landslide spurred by economic hardship and restricted freedoms under the previous regime.—AFP ■

US ramps up Afghan evacuations after Taliban warn of 'red line'

US troops led an increasingly desperate effort Tuesday to airlift thousands of people out of Kabul, after the Taliban warned they would allow foreign forces to carry out evacuations for just one more week.

US President Joe Biden is under increasing pressure to extend an 31 August deadline to pull out American forces, with Britain to lobby at a virtual G7 summit on Tuesday for a longer presence.

About 50,000 foreigners and Afghans have fled the country

from Kabul's airport since the Taliban swept into power 10 days ago.

But crowds continued to mass outside the airport, with Afghans terrified of facing life under the Taliban.

Many fear a repeat of the brutal interpretation of sharia law that the Taliban implemented when first in power from 1996-2001, or retribution for working with the US-backed government over the past two decades.

"The Taliban are the same as they were 20 years ago,"

Nilofar Bayat, a women's rights activist and former captain of Afghanistan's wheelchair basketball, said after fleeing and arriving in Spain.

"If you see Afghanistan now, it's all men, there are no women because they don't accept women as part of society."

'Red line'

The Taliban, who ended two decades of war with an astonishingly swift rout of government forces, had been publicly tolerant of the evacuation effort.—AFP ■



About 50,000 foreigners and Afghans have fled the country from Kabul's airport since the Taliban swept into power.

PHOTO: US MARINE CORPS/AFP

2021 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to feature 29 sports

THE 2021 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, officially known as the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, scheduled to hold from 10 to 20 March 2022 in Bangkok and Chonburi, Thailand, will feature 29 kinds of sports.

The tourney has been postponed to next year due to Covid-19 disease, officials said.

Due to the epidemic this year, most of the competitions have been postponed until next year, and the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games will be the first to be held in 2022, officials added.

Most Asian countries,

including Myanmar, will compete in the tournament.

Basketball, Badminton, Billiards, BMX Cycling, Bowling, Cheerleading, Chess, Dance sports, Futsal, Roller sports, Sport climbing, Floorball, FPV drone racing (demonstration), Indoor athletic, Indoor hockey, Indoor rowing, Ju-jitsu, Karate, Kickboxing, Kurash, Muay Thai, Netball, Pencak Silat, Sambo, Shooting, Short course swimming, SepakTakraw, Taekwondo, Teqball (demonstration), Volleyball and Wrestling will be included in the tourney, officials continued.

Myanmar will compete in the tournament but has not yet chosen sports categories.

If Myanmar competes, it is likely to compete in less than ten kinds of sports, officials said.

The event was formerly known as the Asian Games and the Asian Martial Arts Games, but since 2013 it has been renamed the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

That is the third time the Games have been held since the name was changed. It was held twice in 2013 and 2017, respectively. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Tokyo Paralympics to open as Japan battles virus surge



Tokyo's Paralympic Games open on Tuesday, with athletes hoping to shatter stereotypes and world records despite a year-long pandemic delay and as Japan battles a surge in virus cases. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO'S Paralympic Games open on Tuesday, with athletes hoping to shatter stereotypes and world records despite a year-long pandemic delay and as Japan battles a surge in virus cases.

The Games will officially be declared open on Tuesday evening by Japan's Emperor Naruhito but virus rules mean most of the stadium's 68,000 seats will be empty.

Still, the excitement

is clear among the 4,400 athletes from 162 teams taking part this year. Among them are Germany's world record-setting long-jumper Markus Rehm, dubbed the 'Blade Jumper', and Japan's wheelchair tennis legend Shingo Kunieda.

China is expected to continue its gold medal dominance and top the table as it has done at every Paralympics since Athens 2004, but host Japan will be hoping its

record 254-strong team can repeat the country's Olympic gold rush. Hanging over the sport however will be the ever-present shadow of the pandemic, which forced a year-long delay and at times appeared to threaten the event with cancellation.

After months of negative polls, Japanese public opinion on the Olympics shifted once the Games got under way.—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.

Moyes hopes it is the last waltz for Hamers recordbreaker Antonio

MICHAEL Antonio left West Ham manager David Moyes unimpressed with his celebration when he became the club's record goalscorer in the Premier League but his double in the 4-1 win over Leicester "shut the manager up".

Antonio grabbed a cardboard cut out of himself after his first goal which saw him move on to 48 one ahead of Paulo di Canio's old mark.

The 31-year-old then performed a waltz with the cut-out, lifted it and kissed it.

Antonio's novel celebration fell flat with Scotsman Moyes.

"It's not something I'm keen on," said Moyes.

Antonio — who joined West Ham for £7 million (\$9.5 million) from Nottingham Forest in 2015 — was so caught up in setting the new record he confused the film that he replicated the scene from.

He said at first it was from the 2001 film 'Save The Last Dance' when in fact it was an iconic scene from 1987 hit movie 'Dirty Dancing' — starring the late Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. "Score the goal, make history, nail the celebration, get the film name wrong in the interview. Baby forgive me! #DirtyDancing4Life," he tweeted. Antonio — who moved onto 49 goals later in the match as the Hammers went top of the table after two games — explained a lot of thought had gone into the celebration which took place in front of a packed London Stadium.

"We were talking earlier in the week, and I said 'you know what will be the best celebration? Save The Last Dance'," said Antonio.

"Maybe somebody could pick me up like Baby? But I got a cardboard cut-out and picked that up."

— AFP ■