

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.

Information Team of the State Administration Council meets representatives of foreign embassies, media at press conference 8/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council held the press conference 8/2021 at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon when Leader of the Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, member of the Union Election Commission U Khin Maung Oo, departmental spokespersons and departmental information representatives replied to queries raised by representatives of Myanmar-based foreign embassies and media.

Before the press conference, officials performed health services for attendees to prevent the COVID-19 and accommodated them in respective distancing.

First, Leader of the Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained endeavours of the government for basic political, social and socio-economic progress involved in the address to mark the six-month period of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, availability of anti-COVID-19 vaccines, vaccination process, import of liquid oxygen from neighbouring friendly countries for fulfilling the oxygen requirement, production of oxygen plants owned by the



Representatives of international embassies are seen viewing around the documents and facts displayed at the State Administration Council's Information Team press conference 8/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 August 2021.

State, the Tatmadaw and private sector and construction of new oxygen plants, donation of medical equipment and cash by friend countries, organizations and well-wishers, thanks expressed by the government of Myanmar, holding of central

level meetings and emergency response to prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 led by the Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Myanmar and the Deputy Prime Minister; systematic arrangement, transport of medical supplies to regions

and states by Tatmadaw planes and helicopters and cold chain delivery logistics vehicle, sale of basic foodstuffs and medicines at fair prices by mobile market for convenience of the people during the COVID-19 period, implementation of the five-point

road map and nine objectives by the State Administration Council, and efforts of security forces for ensuring peace and stability of the State and protecting life and prosperity of the people.

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External trade drops 21 per cent as of 20 Aug

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Statement called for fight against terrorism, for rewarding whistle-blowers, informants

1. Terrorist groups, including the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hlutaw-CRPH, National Union Government-NUG and the People's Defence Forces-PDF groups, which were formed under various names, are committing terrorist acts every day to disrupt the government administrative machinery to prevent it from implementing the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council and to gain the support of the people by intimidating them.
2. As acts of violence are threatening the social security of the people and raising concerns, as well as degrading the dignity of the country and the people, it is essential for the people to work together to eradicate it.
3. Not only terrorists who involve in the terrorist acts personally, but also those who commit one of the following acts will be considered as terrorists and will be taken action under the Anti-Terrorism Law.
 - (a) Urging people to take part in terrorist activities, involved in recruitment, propaganda and mobilization.
 - (b) Hiding and letting a member of the terrorist group in the property in order to prevent them from being arrested.
 - (c) Allowing a terrorist or a member of a terrorist organization to use a building or a place to gather, to hold a meeting, to conduct terrorist training courses, as well as arranging transportation.
 - (d) Providing financial support, collecting, accepting, transferring money, and participating in instructing to do so.
4. Under the Counter-Terrorism Act, the money and property of the accused will be confiscated and if convicted, it will be confiscated as a State treasury.
5. As information is crucial in fighting against terrorism, people are requested to inform respective police stations or security organizations about terrorists and terrorist organizations and social media users who spread fake news; Responsible citizens who report such information will be provided as follows: -
 - (a) Informant can report without mentioning name and address.
 - (b) Informant will be kept strictly confidential and will not be questioned or witnessing.
 - (c) Informant and related persons will be provided with security.
 - (d) Depending on the accuracy of the information, the informant and whistle-blower will be rewarded with a disclosed amount of money.
6. Therefore, in order for the people to have full security in their social life and to be free from fear, please identify members of any terrorist group around them.

Central Committee on Counter Terrorism

MoSWRR Union ex-minister Dr Win Myat Aye charged under anti-corruption law

THE inspection team of the Anti-Corruption Commission inspected the complaint against former Union minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye.

According to the investigation, former Union Minister and Chairman of the National Disaster Management Working Committee Dr Win Myat Aye agreed to hire a helicopter to conduct rescue works of the committee in disaster-affected areas or to carry out the State duties on 31 January 2019. In doing so, he did not follow the existing law, financial rules and regulations, rules of the National Natural Disaster Management Fund, notification No 35/2017 of Myanmar financial management and national disaster management. He also neglected the suggestions of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney-General Office and Department of

Civil Aviation. He rented the flight from 2019 to 2021 and paid more than K5,100 million and \$585,000 for 720 flight hours. However, the helicopter was used only for 84.95 hours and so he paid more \$3,595,423 (USD 3.5 million) than the exact amount. Therefore, it caused a loss to the State fund.

Union ex-minister Dr Win Myat Aye made another agreement to buy a helicopter on 30 October 2019 using the fund of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee which is only for disaster-related matters and disaster-affected victims, and he did not submit the motion for buying the helicopter to the economic committee and previous government. He also did not seek the attitude of the Ministry of Defence and follow the directive of the President's Office 1/2017.

Although he knew that the shipment of the heli-

copter was delayed in advance, he did not revive the contract with the company. Therefore, the country lost more than K23,048 million.

Moreover, he signed the contract with a company to maintain the helicopter without following the notification 1/2017 of the President's Office. According to the Operation and Maintenance of the contract, the fee must be only \$270,000 between 20 March to 31 March 2020. But he paid \$492,667 for five months from 1 June to 30 October 2020 before the arrival of the helicopter. Although he knew the real condition in advance, he did not renew the contract with the company and it caused a loss to the State fund. Therefore, Union ex-minister Dr Win Myat Aye was charged under the Anti-Corruption Law Section 55 at Phaya Gone Myoma police station of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. — MNA

People over 65 receive second dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Aungmyaythazan Township



A local seen receiving the second shot in Aungmyaythazan Township.

The officials of Mandalay Region completed the first COVID vaccination processes as per the target populations and priority groups and conducted the second vaccination programmes for those over the age of 65 in Aungmyaythazan Township yesterday.

The health workers launched the first COVID vaccine shots for people over the age of 65 starting 25 July while the second injection at respective vaccination gathering points in Aungmyaythazan Township was yesterday.

Daw Ei Mon Htwe, staff nurse said, "We vaccinate the second COVID-19 vaccine dose to the people over the age of 65, who received the first jab on 25,

26 and 27 July in Aungmyaythazan Township, at four gathering points. Those who became sick or lost sense of smell after getting vaccinated won't get the second injection today. People should get vaccinated. During the high infection rate, if the people get the vaccines, they are immune to the disease. Moreover, those with diabetes, heart disease and hypertension are also more resistant to the disease if they are vaccinated."

Moreover, U Aye Cho who received the second jab in East Amara Htani Ward said, "I get my second dose for COVID-19 vaccine. I want to thank the government and health workers for the

free vaccines. I also pray for our people that they may be free from the COVID-19 pandemic and may live in good health and prosperity." Before the vaccination, the health workers check the body temperature, blood pressure and blood oxygen level and vaccinate those who are in normal condition. Moreover, the officials arrange the halls for the people to take a 30 minutes rest after vaccination and prepare the necessary health care services in case of sudden illness. The health officials will also conduct the vaccination programmes for the remaining target populations and priority groups as planned. —Maung Aye Chan/GNLM

The government is striving for narrowing development gap

The government is striving for narrowing the development gap between regions and states, districts and townships as much as it can. Especially, it makes efforts for improvement of living standard of the people from rural areas. Manufacturing is based on rural areas. As such, efforts to increase income of rural people will be prevailing rule of law and ensure peace and stability of the country based on political and security measures.

(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)

Information Team of the State Administration Council meets representatives of foreign embassies, media at press conference 8/2021

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He continued clarifications on the broadcasting of fake news and misinformation on COVID-19 by NUG and PDF terrorist organizations, disturbance against prevention, control and treatment of the disease, instigation of destructionist media and some foreign embassies to cause disunity among the people and misunderstanding in the international community by disseminating various false information and data to the people, killing vil-

lage/ward administrators by so-called PDF terrorists under the manipulation of NLD extremists, conducting military training and supply of arms and ammunition to so-called NUG, CRPH and PDF organizations by some ethnic armed organizations, arresting of terrorists together with firearms and related equipment in some townships including Yangon and Mandalay, and confessions of arrestees through PowerPoint presentation and video clips.

UEC member U Khin

Maung Oo explained releasing of findings on inspection for the election in regions/states and Union Territory Area, the release of a statement on the revocation of the results from the Multiparty Democracy Election held on 8 November 2020, and future tasks of the commission through PowerPoint Presentation.

Representatives of international embassies viewed facts about the press conference, documents related to the election, data on arrestees

and related persons involved in the terror acts, tasks of the current Union Election Commission, and inspection of voter lists. Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and UEC member U Khin Maung Oo conducted them around the displayed documents.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, U Khin Maung Oo and departmental information representatives replied to the queries raised by reporters from news

agencies.

The press conference was also attended by representatives of Myanmar-based foreign embassies, members of the Information Team of the State Administration Council, officials of the Tatmadaw Information Team, guests and reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, local TV channels and local-based foreign news agencies. The full text of the press conference and replies to queries will be expressed continuously. —MNA



UEC member U Khin Maung Oo explains releasing of findings on inspection for the election in regions/states and Union Territory Area.



Representatives of foreign embassies view facts about the press conference.



The facts, documents and photos displayed on the panels at the press conference 8/2021.

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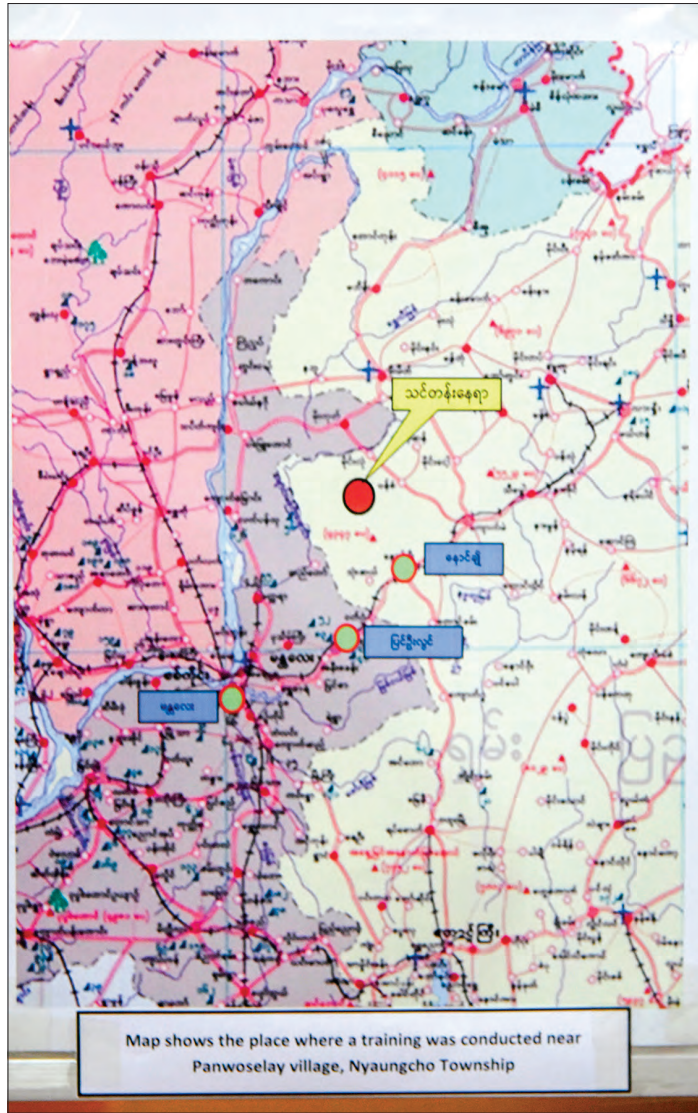
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The documentary shows three suspects captured together with arms, ammunition and accessories at Wayon village, Thabeikkyin Township on 23 June 2021



Map shows the place where a training was conducted near Panwoselay village, Nyaungcho Township



Some persons were wounded when terrorist fired home-made bombs and 40-mm launchers at the Covid-19 inspection gate at the entrance of Kawlin in Sagaing Region (9-8-2021)



Some persons were wounded when terrorist fired home-made bombs and 40-mm launchers at the Covid-19 inspection gate at the entrance of Kawlin in Sagaing Region (9-8-2021)



Terrorist time bomb attack at a Covid-19 vaccination campaign in Phekon, Kayah State killed or injured some security members (3-8-2021)



Death and injury caused by terrorist attack during the Covid-19 awareness and medical aid distribution campaign in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region (14-7-2021)

တပ်ကုန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ခရမ်းစပ်ကုန်းကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ မဲရုံအမှတ် (၂) ၏ ကြိုတင်ဆန္ဒမဲ လက်မှတ်တွင် ဆန္ဒမဲပေးသူမှထုတ်ယူခြင်းမပြုမီ ကြိုတင်၍ ဆန္ဒမဲပေးစိတ်တိုး ရိုက်နှိပ်ထားခြင်း

ဥပဒေနှင့်အညီ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းမရှိသည့် ကြိုတင်ဆန္ဒမဲများ ကောက်ယူနေသည့်ပုံ

အမျိုးသားဒီမိုကရေစီအဖွဲ့ချုပ်ပါတီ (NLD) မှ မင်းကင်းမြို့နယ်ရှိ ရပ်ကွက်များတွင် ခံတွယ်စည်းရုံးရေးကော်လံအတွင်း ဆန့်၊ ဖိ၊ ပဲ စားဝေနေမှုပုံစံတမ်း

ဥပဒေနှင့်အညီ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းမရှိသည့် ကြိုတင်ဆန္ဒမဲများ ကောက်ယူနေသည့်ပုံ

MoL Union Minister attends opening ceremony of Social Security Board Care Well General Clinic, inspects vaccination process of factory workers in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Kyaing attended the opening ceremony of Social Security Board Care Well General Clinic at Kanaung low-cost housing in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township yesterday.

The clinic was jointly conducted by the Social Security Board of the Ministry of Labour and Care Well Medical Company Limited.

It will also provide OPD care and Specialist OG OPD care for the workers who pay SSB contributions in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

There are 116 SSB membership townships, 33,426 registry departments and 1,064,269 workers. There are 13,268 registry departments and 755,908 registered labourers in Yangon Region. The clinic provides healthcare services and benefits to these workers.



The MoL Union Minister inspects the inoculation process conducted for factory workers at the Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone.

es and benefits to these workers.

The members can access healthcare at SSB facilities, including 3 Workers' Hospitals, 96 township clinics, 58 enterprise

clinics, 1 traditional medicine clinic, 17 hospitals/clinics jointly conducted with private sectors and 3 mobile medical vehicles. The ministry made contracts with

18 clinics, including this new one.

The opening hour of the clinic is from 8 am to 6 pm from Monday to Friday and it will offer medical services for emergency

patients who do not pay SSB in addition to the registered workers. Then, the Union Minister and party inspected the vaccination processes being conducted for the factory workers in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone and provided cash assistance to the health workers and volunteers.

Currently, the COVID-19 vaccination programme is conducted according to the plans of the State Administration Council and Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, and a total of 893,772 workers who made SSB contributions in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions receive the vaccines, and arrangements are also being carried out to vaccinate the other workers who do not have SSB contributions in respective regions/states. – MNA

Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people.

As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They must be placed at well-ventilated sites.
4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.

6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.
8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

Announcement of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-committee

THE COVID-19 Vaccination Fund was set up on 18-12-2020 to purchase vaccines with the government's initial sum of K215.775 billion and \$250 million. The country received K30,175,090,615.39 and \$3,162,149,53 as of 27-8-2021.

A total of \$103 million -- \$75 million to buy Covishield of Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SID), \$14 million to purchase Sinovac vaccines from China while another \$14 million for Sinopharm vaccines has been used.

Of the purchased vaccines, the country received 4 million vaccines: 2 million of Covishield from India and 2 million Sinovac vaccines from China. Of 8 million vaccines: 4 million were purchased

and 4 million were donated by others, there are a total of 6,339,913 recipients as 4,542,363 people have been vaccinated as of 24-8-2021 while 1,797,550 are fully vaccinated and 2,744,813 have been vaccinated for the first time.

Therefore, it is the announcement for the donors to know regarding their cash contribution in purchasing the vaccines.

From 23-8-2021 to 27-8-2021, local/foreign donors contributed K8.960 million to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA-013733 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 27-8-2021 is as follows: -

Price list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 as of 6 pm on 27 August

No	Product Name	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Symptomatic			
1	PO Cetriizine	2,200	AA Medical
Supportive			
2	P.O Multivitamin with/without zinc	5,600	OLIVE
3	PO Vitamin C	700	Pai Brother
4	PO - Pantocid	7,000	PL
5	PO Omeprazole	1,650	Shwe Htay Min
6	Injection Pantocid	1,500	Aorta
7	Injection Omeprazole	1,050	Aorta
Antibiotics			
8	PO - Azithromycin 500 mg	4,000	Rammawaddy
9	PO - Cefalexin 500 mg	6,100	Aorta
10	PO - Levofloxacin 500 mg	7,000	Shwe Htay Min

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

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 23-8-2021	245,941,062,503.91
Received amount of money from (+) 23-8-2021 to 27-8-2021	8,906,000.00
Closed balance on 27-8-2021	245,949,968,503.91

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 23-8-2021	150,162,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) 23-8-2021 to 27-8-2021	-
Closed balance on 27-8-2021	150,162,149.53

Myanmar attends meetings and int'l conference of AACC held in Kazakhstan

U KYAW HSAN and Daw Nan Sandar Win, members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, attended the meeting and international conference of the Association of Asia Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC) held through videoconferencing on 26 and 27 August.

The International Conference was hosted by the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the AACC, under the topic "The Internet Era: The Rule of Law, the Values of Person, the State Independence".

The conference was attended by the President of Kazakhstan and governmental

officials, the Chief Justices, Chairmen and Judges of the Constitutional Courts/Councils/Tribunals of the 17 AACC member countries, the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice (WCCJ), the Chairman of the Association of the European Constitutional Courts and the Constitutional Court of Moldova and lawyers of International Organizations among others.

The conference focused on "Digital system and country's sovereignty", "Guarantee of human rights and internet freedom", "State and State's authority" and participants exchanged experiences, views and knowledge.

Permanent Secretary



U Hla Htay and Director U Nyi Nyi Lwin also attended

the Meeting of the Secretaries-General of AACC held on

26 August. — MNA

MoC conducts import processes for COVID-19 protective equipment daily



Myawaddy

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.

On 27 August (Yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by 25 companies and transported by 50 vehicles, including four bowsers.



Chinshwehaw

A total of 69 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by four bowsers, 21 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 13,173 empty oxygen cylinders, seven oxygen plants, 919 home oxygen concentrators, 4,104 sets of COVID-19 test kits, 4,800 sets of PPE suits, and 25 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti, Myawady, Tachilek, and Hteekhee trading posts and Yangon International Airport.

Four vehicles carrying liquid oxygen were transported to Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, and



Muse

Nay Pyi Taw, and three oxygen plants to Yangon, two oxygen plants to Mandalay, one oxygen plant to Myingyan and one oxygen plant to Sittway were also transported respectively.

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

2,688 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 August, total figure rises to 386,202

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 386,202 after 2,688 new cases were reported on 27 August 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 340,824 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 14,968 after 118 died.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Search, supply and use oxygen for treatment in correct ways

OXYGEN, being everywhere, was rare for COVID-19 patients in the early third wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar. Most of the patients needed much oxygen for their survival in the miseries of the Saturn COVID-19.

The infection rate of COVID-19 gradually rose in Myanmar, especially in Yangon and Mandalay regions. The government issued the lists of townships included in the stay-at-home programme one after another. The number of confirmed patients was growing day by day.

The oxygen demand rose in Myanmar in June and July. Meanwhile, all people strived to get oxygen for their patients and their families. As the highest demand, the people needed 31,298 cylinders on 18 July according to the global monitoring indicator. Such a period was a bitter time for the people. They searched for oxygen contributed by charity organizations. Unfortunately, most of these organizations have already supplied oxygen to earlier patients.

Some patients lost lives because they missed chances to use the oxygen in time. Among them, some patients have the chance to use oxygen but did not know the techniques for how to control the appropriate supply of oxygen to patients for breathing. In fact, everybody needs to follow the instructions of physicians in using oxygen.

The demand for oxygen declined to 18,667 cylinders on 20 August. As the infection rate of disease was remarkably down, not only the government but also charity organizations are able to supply sufficient oxygen to the people. At present, the government allows businesspersons to import oxygen in addition to other medical supplies without any trade restrictions for solving the health problems of the people on one hand. In this regard, local-made and imported oxygen cylinders must have a guarantee for quality.

To avoid the too much oxygen requirement in the emergency period, the government implements the plans to establish oxygen plants in various townships of regions and states including the far-flung areas and to provide oxygen to the hospitals as part of readiness to fulfil the oxygen needs of the people.

Actually, oxygen is abundant in the atmosphere. But, only technically purified oxygen is appropriate for the treatment of patients. To get the oxygen through the correct way, not only patients but also other people need to abide by the health guidelines of the authorities.



Seven Continents of the World

BY THAN HTUN (MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)

CONTINENT-GIANT landmass covered about 29% of the Earth. The ocean covers almost three-fourths of Earth. The area of the ocean is more than double the area of all the continents combined. All continents border at least one ocean.

The term "continent" translates Greek *ἥπειρος*, properly "landmass, terra firma". A continent is one of several landmasses. Generally identified by convection rather than any strict criteria, up to seven regions are commonly regarded as continents. By convection, "continents are understood to be large continuous, discrete masses of land, ideally separated by expanses of water". The most restricted meaning of continent is that of a continuous area of land or mainland, with the edge of the continent. From the perspective of geology or physical geography, the continent may be extended beyond the confines of continuous dry land to include the shallow, submerged adjacent area (continental shelf), and the islands on the shelf (continental islands), as they are structurally part of the continent.

In order to understand the formation and nature of the continents, we should first discuss Continental Drift, Seafloor Spreading and Plate Tectonics theories in brief. Plate Tectonics is a theory developed in the late 1960s, to explain how the outer layers of the Earth move and deform. The theory has caused a revolution in the way we think about the Earth. Since the development of the theory, geologists have had to re-examine almost every aspect of Geology. Plate tectonics has proven to be so useful that it can predict geologic events and explain almost all aspects of what we see on Earth.

Tectonic Theories

Tectonic theories attempt to explain why mountains, earthquakes, and volcanoes occur where they do, the ages of deformational events, and the ages and shapes of continents and ocean basins.

Late 19th Century Theories

"Contraction of the Earth due to cooling". It could explain compressional features, but

could not explain extensional features. Nor could it explain the shapes and positions of the continents.

"Expansion of the Earth due to heating". This was suggested after radioactivity was discovered. This could explain why the continents are broken up, and could easily explain extensional features, but did not do well at explaining compressional features.

Wegner's Theory of Continental Drift



Map of seven continents of the world. Source: Worldometer

Alfred Wegner was a German Meteorologist in the early 1900s who studied ancient climates. Like most people, the jigsaw puzzle appearance of the Atlantic continental margins caught his attention. He put together the evidence of ancient glaciations and the distribution of fossils to formulate a theory that the continents have moved over the surface of the Earth, sometimes forming large supercontinents and other times forming separate continental masses. He proposed that prior to about 200 million years ago all of the continents formed one large landmass that he called Pangea. The weakness of Wegner's theory and the reason it was not readily accepted by geologists was that he proposed that the continents slide over the ocean floor. Geophysicists disagreed, stating the ocean floor did not have enough strength to hold the continents and too much frictional resistance would be encountered.

Sea-Floor Spreading

During World War II, geologists employed by the military carried out studies of the seafloor; a part of the Earth that had received little scientific study. These studies revealed the presence of two important topographic features of the ocean floor: Oceanic Ridges - long sinuous ridges that occupy the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean. Oceanic Trenches - deep trenches along the margins of

(paleomagnetism) provided new evidence that would prove that the continents do indeed drift. In order to understand these developments, we should first discuss the Earth's magnetic field and the study of Palaeomagnetism.

The Earth's Magnetic Field and Palaeomagnetism

These studies showed that the magnetic pole had apparent-

continents, particularly surrounding the Pacific Ocean.

If new oceanic crust and lithosphere are continually being created at the oceanic ridges, the oceans should be expanding indefinitely, unless there were a mechanism to destroy the oceanic lithosphere. Benioff zones and the oceanic trenches provided the answer: Oceanic lithosphere returns to the mantle by sliding downward at the oceanic trench-

Types of Plate Boundaries

There are three types of plate boundaries, where plates move away from each other: 1. Divergent Plate Boundaries, where plates move toward each other: 2. Convergent Plate Boundaries, where plates slide past one another: 3. Transform Plate Boundaries, where plates slide past one another.

Continents

Ordered from largest in the area to smallest, commonly accepted seven continents are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. The significant facts of the continents are mentioned below.

Asia

Asia is the largest continent in both size (44,579,000 sq.km) and population (4,436,224,000). The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed inland body of water on Earth by area, variously classed as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea. Major oil production and pipelines are in Asia. Ancient river valley civilizations existed along the banks of the Indus, Huang He, Ganges and Yangtze Rivers. There are four main religions in Asia such as Hinduism, Islam Buddhism, and Christianity. These fertile areas provide the foundation for Indian and East Asia cultures. The Himalayan mountain system is the planet's highest and home to the world's highest peaks. Gobi Desert is the largest desert region in Asia. The Gobi Desert is cold, and it is not uncommon to see frost and occasionally snow on its dunes. Geographers refer to Europe and Asia as one large continent called Eurasia. Some geographers believe that because no waterways are separating the two continents, it is one large landmass. Other geographers use the Ural Mountains as the natural boundary. There are 48 countries on the Asian continent. The major animals in the Asian continent are Pythons, tigers, pandas, yaks, rhinoceroses.

Africa

The Sahara Desert covers an area almost as large as the entire continental United States. The size of the continent is 30,221,532 sq. km. The Sahel

is a semi-arid tropical savanna region in Africa, which forms the transitional zone between the Sahara Desert to the north and the more humid savanna belt to the south. Very low quality of life and a conflict zone. The Nile River is the longest in the world and it is 4,184 miles long. The Congo River Basin is the area surrounding the Congo River and it contains the second-largest rain forest in the world. The world's hottest place "Ethiopia" is in Africa. The Kalahari Desert is a large semi-arid sandy savanna in Southern Africa extending for 900,000 square kilometres, covering much of Botswana, parts of Namibia and regions of South Africa. Diamonds were discovered in 1996 and more than 95% of the world's diamonds and 50% of the world's gold come from the mineral-rich continent. Also gets 66% of its chocolate from the dark continent. Many wildlife game reserves and major animals are cheetahs, African elephants, lions, zebras, Egyptian mongooses, giraffes, addax. There are estimated to be over 2,000 languages spoken in Africa. There are 54 countries in Africa.

North America

The Mississippi River is the chief river of the second-largest drainage system on the North American continent. Once a thriving area for Native Americans, it was very important in westward expansion. North America faces pollution problems today. The Appalachian and the Rocky Mountains are the largest mountain chains in the U.S. Appalachia was once a barrier to westward expansion and is now a major oil and natural gas production zone. The Rockies form the Continental Divide, separating rivers draining to the Atlantic and Arctic oceans from those draining to the Pacific. The Canadian Shield is among the oldest on earth, with regions dating from 2.5 to 4.2 billion years. The first part of North America to be above sea level. The Canadian Shield is one of the world's richest areas in terms of mineral ores. It is filled with substantial deposits of nickel, gold, silver, and copper. There are 2 countries in North America.

SEE PAGE-12



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Friday 27 August 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 28 August, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Rakhine State, fairly widespread in (Northern and Southern) Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Ragions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7 - 9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak to moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region and fairly widespread in Yangon Region.

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Myanmar exports fresh chilli to Thailand via Myawady border



Earlier, Myanmar delivered fresh chilli to Thailand through the Myawady border with over 50 trucks per day. But this year, only about 10 trucks loaded with fresh chilli are crossing on the border daily, it is learnt.

THE fresh chilli, which was planned to be exported to China via the Muse border checkpoint is being sent to Thailand via the Myawady land border, said Daw Ohnma Kyaw, chair of Myanmar Chilli Market and Technical Development Association. The chilli from Kyaukse

township could not be exported as the border checkpoint in Muse, one of the main border trading checkpoints for Myanmar-China border trade, were halted starting from 8 July. For that reason, Myanmar exported fresh chilli to Thailand via the Myawady border trade.

“Fresh chilli from Kyaukse township is highly relying on the Chinese market. Kyaukse chilli is also popular among foreigners. Now, China currently closed its border trade. So, the chillies from Kyaukse are exported to Thailand via the Myawady border checkpoint,” said Daw Ohnma Kyaw.

Although Myanmar exported its fresh chilli to Thailand via cross-border trade, the export of fresh chilli to Thailand sharply dropped this year, according to the association.

Earlier, Myanmar delivered fresh chilli to Thailand through the Myawady border with the use

of over 50 trucks per day. But this year, only about 10 trucks loaded with fresh chilli are crossing on the border daily, it is learnt.

Further, the price of fresh chilli exported to Thailand is lower than the price registered last year. This year, the fresh chilli fetched only K3,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). Last year, the price hit a record high of K5,000-6,000 per viss, the association stated.

Myanmar’s fresh chilli pepper is shipped to Viet Nam via the sea route and primarily sent to China and Thailand via land borders, Daw Ohnma Kyaw continued.

Myanmar chillies are grown mostly in the Ayeyawady region and Kyaukse township of the Mandalay region. The export varieties of fresh chilli pepper are 692, 777, 999, Kartar, Demon, Sunshine and Lucky One. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar tamarind price rises again due to Bangladesh demand

TAMARIND, grown in Myanmar, has been decreasing in price and has stopped trading since the end of April. It has seen a sharp rise in prices starting from the first week of August due to demand from Bangladesh, said the tamarind traders from the Mandalay market.

The price of seeded tamarinds has risen from K800 to K1,100 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg), while seedless tamarinds are priced at K2,300 per viss, up from K1,800 in the Mandala market. Tamarinds are selling well in the market.

“This is a good year for tamarind price. At this moment, there is no buyer for plum. But, tamarinds prices have risen again due to the demand from Bangladesh. Now, the tamarind growers are happy as they are getting a good price this year. The tamarind is a marketable

product in foreign countries. Last year, tamarind was demanded from China and India. Myanmar people use tamarind in traditional cuisine besides making traditional medicines,” said U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint commodity depot.

Tamarind trees grow across the country. Especially, the trees are mostly found in the central regions of Myanmar. They can be harvested only once a year in the summer. Tamarinds from Kyaukpadaung, Popa, Pakokku, Yamethin, Zeepingyi and Pinlaebu towns are sending to the market. All the tamarind producing areas across the country will supply abundant tamarinds to markets in the pre-Thingyan Festival period. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



The price of seeded tamarinds has risen from K800 to K1,100 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg), while seedless tamarinds are priced at K2,300 per viss, up from K1,800 in the Mandala market. Tamarinds are selling well in the market.

Kyaukpadaung tomato sells in Kyaukpadaung, Myingyan, Pakokku markets



Tomatoes from Kyaukpadaung township are sent not only to the Kyaukpadaung market but also to Pakokku, Nyaung-U and Myingyan markets.

TOMATOES cultivated using underground water are being harvested and sold in Kyaukpadaung township, Mandalay region. The tomato prices fetched K350 per viss, said U Tin Tun Aung, a tomato grower.

“In Kyaukpadaung township, more than 30 villages cultivated tomato plants using underground water. The local farmers are giving priority to grow strong tomato species that can withstand strong weather conditions. Quick to germinate and grow, tomato seeds are best sown for 20 days. Then, the nursery tomato plants

are transplanted to the ground. The plants start to bloom and bear fruits after one month,” said U Naing Tin, a tomato grower from Mokgon village.

Tomatoes from Kyaukpadaung township are sent not only to the Kyaukpadaung market but also to Pakokku, NyaungU and Myingyan markets.

The tomato traders come to buy the tomatoes in the farmland. The tomatoes are priced for K350 per viss, which is a reasonable price for local farmers, according to the local growers. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

300 companies struck off register due to AR absence in July: DICA

A total of 300 companies was struck off the register in July as they failed to submit an annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended. The DICA found that in July, 300 companies failed to restore their status within six months of suspension under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law. The companies were struck off the register starting from 5, 9 and 16 July respectively, according to the DICA's notification.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must sub-



The Office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

mit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

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

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly

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

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the

company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register,

according to the DICA notice.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, keeping in line with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. The number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, topped more than 2,000 in the first half of this year. Earlier, MyCO received more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month.

During the public holidays from 23 to 31 August, the DICA is offering services for investment and company registration at the Head Office located at No.1 Thitsar Road, Yankin Township of Yangon Region and One-Stop-Service is opened at No. 49, Seinlemay lane, Kabar Aye Road, Yankin Township for the department coordination matters, the DICA announced.

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

External trade drops 21 per cent as of 20 Aug



Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts. The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and the border posts came to an abrupt stop amid the COVID-19 surging in Myanmar.

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 20 August in the current financial year 2020-2021 sank 21 per cent as against the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

The country's foreign trade exceeded US\$26 billion over ten and a half months, whereas the international trade stood at over \$33 billion in the corresponding period of last FY, according to data released by the ministry.

During the past ten months, Myanmar's export was worth over \$13.02 billion whereas, the country's import was relatively low at \$13.08 billion.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the corona-

virus impacts. The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and the border posts came to an abrupt stop amid the COVID-19 surging in Myanmar.

At present, the traders have transaction problems triggered by the restriction of the private banks. Furthermore, the pandemic triggered the cargo shipping crisis, a market observer shared his opinion.

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

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultur-

al and manufacturing sectors. However, the suspended trade in the border checkpoints and the order cancellation from the western countries amid the political changes exacerbate the export sector for now.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion and market diversification.

The external trade stood at \$36.73 billion in the 2019-2020FY, \$35.147 billion in the 2018-2019FY, \$18.728 billion in the 2018 six-month interim period, \$33.578 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$29.209 billion in the 2016-2017FY, respectively, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics. — KK/GNLM

Chickpea price up by K40,000 per bag within one month

THE price of chickpea remains in the bull market on the back of strong domestic demand, and the price rose by nearly K40,000 per three-basket bag, according to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market.

The price was pegged at K90,000 per bag on 9 August, whereas the chickpea price spiked to over K129,000 per bag at present. The chickpea growers are fetching a good price amidst the low production this year, traders said.

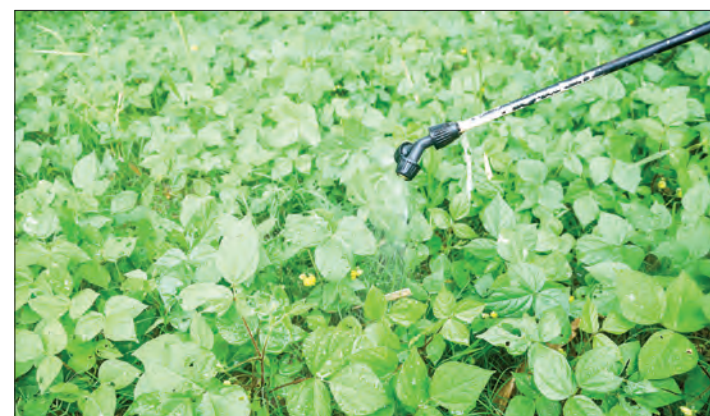
"The export of chickpea came to a halt upon the closure of border posts by China. At present, the domestic bean market is positively related to the law of supply and demand, said a trader from the Bayint-

naung market.

Myanmar exported chickpea to India, Pakistan, the UAE, Turkey and other foreign markets last year. The chickpea is cultivated in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Nay Pyi Taw. There are 890,000 acres of chickpea across the country.

The peas are cultivated in October and November and they are harvested in January-April period.

More than 25,995 tonnes of chickpea were exported to foreign markets between 1 October and 20 August of the current financial year 2020-2021, with estimated value of US\$15 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated. — KK/GNLM



Myanmar exported chickpeas to India, Pakistan, the UAE, Turkey and other foreign markets last year. The chickpeas are cultivated in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Nay Pyi Taw. There are 890,000 acres of chickpeas across the country.

Malaysia's new PM retains many in new Cabinet



Malaysia's new government aims to help the economy by focusing on raising people's purchasing power and aiding the country's embattled private sector. Photo taken on 7 June 2020 shows a view of an intersection in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **PHOTO: CHONG VOON CHUNG/XINHUA**

NEW Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob unveiled the lineup of his Cabinet on Friday that largely sees the return of familiar faces from the previous administration as he opted for stability given the slim parliamentary majority he secured in attaining the top job.

Taking a leaf from his predecessor Muhyiddin Yassin, Ismail Sabri did away with the deputy prime minister's post and instead retained the four senior minister positions with each in charge of economy, security, education and infrastructure.

Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein was named new

defence minister while retaining his senior minister portfolio. Communications and Multimedia Minister Saifuddin Abdullah becomes new foreign minister.

Finance Minister Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Home Minister Hamzah Zainuddin have been retained. Mohamed Azmin Ali remains international trade and industry minister with the position of senior minister. Khairy Jamaluddin, who as science, technology and innovation minister had led the country's coronavirus vaccination drive in the previous administration, was named new health minister. The new Cabinet will be launched on

Monday.

The lineup reflects the delicate balancing act the new prime minister must perform to keep his government afloat amid bickering within the ruling coalition, especially between his own party, the United Malays National Organization, and Bersatu, a junior party headed by Muhyiddin.

"I acknowledge that we are currently in a critical situation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the economic crisis that is made worse by the country's political instability," Ismail Sabri said in announcing the lineup on TV.—Kyodo ■

Economic benefits of Tokyo Games estimated at over \$55 billion

THE economic benefits of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be about 6.14 trillion yen (\$55.75 billion) but Japanese organizers will incur a loss of more than 2 trillion yen, a scholar's estimates showed Thursday.

Of the benefits, about 3.27 trillion yen from spending on the construction of facilities, including the National Stadium and the athletes' village, have already spilled over into society, according to Katsuhiko Miyamoto, a professor emeritus of theoretical economics at Kansai University, who released the projections.

The remainder will come from consumption during the Tokyo Games and positive "legacy-related" effects expected to be seen after the end of the games early next month, Miyamoto said.

Miyamoto also looked into

the organizers' revenues since Tokyo won the bid to host the Olympics and Paralympics in 2013 and expenditures associated with the games. He found that their total deficit is expected to be 2.37 trillion yen.

Of the deficit, the Tokyo metropolitan government's loss stands at 1.41 trillion yen and the central government's at 874 billion yen, with the rest incurred by the organizing committee.—Kyodo ■



The Olympic and Paralympic official merchandise shops are open around the city, people gear up with official Tokyo 2020 merchandise like face masks, flags, mugs, T-shirts, hats and even a full yukata set. A man picks up a t-shirt at an official shop in Tokyo, 26 July 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Seven Continents of the World

FROM PAGE-9

South America

The Andes Mountains are the world's longest exposed mountain range. They lie as a continuous chain of highlands along the western coast of South America. The range is over 4,300 miles long. The Amazon River is the largest in the world by volume. At no point is the Amazon crossed by bridges.

The Atacama Desert is the driest in the world due to the massive rain shadow effect on a plateau. Clearest skies in the world and is home to the largest ground telescope. The humid Pampas ecosystem is one of the richest grazing grassland areas in the world. Buenos Aires and other highly populated areas are here. Cattle culture developed out of climate and makes it one of the beef capitals of the world. There are 33 countries in South America.

Antarctica

The ice-covered continent with the size of 14,000,000 sq. km. It is the windiest, driest and the least populated. There are no permanent residents on this island. 75% of the world's ice and 70% of the earth's freshwater is located in Antarctica. Antarctica sees half a year of light and half a year of complete darkness—summer months of December to February give 24 hours of light, the winter months of late March to late September are pitch dark the whole day. It is the tallest and heaviest of all living penguin species and is endemic to Antarctica. No country in Antarctica.

Europe

The Ural Mountains are a mountain range that runs roughly north and south through western Russia. The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range system that lies entirely in Europe. The altitude and size of the range affect the climate in Europe. The traditional culture of farming, cheese making, and woodworking still exists in Alpine villages. The Seine, Danube, and Rhine rivers supply some of the major cities of Europe. These rivers would lay the foundation for European powers that would eventually create the modern world. Europe has several peninsulas. There are 44 countries on the European continent.

Australia

Australia is the only country that is also a continent. The Great Dividing Range, or the Eastern Highlands, is Australia's most substantial mountain range and the third longest land-based range in the world. Almost the entire population of Australia lives on the coastal side of the mainland. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef. There are over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands that make up the Great Barrier Reef. Coral reefs provide food and shelter for thousands of organisms that coexist in complex interconnected food chains. Coral reefs are the largest natural structures in the world. The Great Barrier Reef can be seen from outer space. The Australian Outback is a large section of remote and wild desert. There are 3 countries on the Australian continent.

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Over half of New Zealand businesses seeking gov't support due to COVID-19 lockdown: survey

A quick snapshot survey released Friday revealed that over half of New Zealand businesses will be seeking government support in a nationwide level four lockdown, with calls for a further vaccine ramp up.

The country has moved to a lockdown since midnight 17 Aug after the first COVID-19 Delta variant case in the Auckland community was identified. Under the Alert Level 4 lockdown, the highest setting, businesses and schools are closed except for essential ones such as supermarkets, pharmacies and service stations.

"The consistent message we have received, from both this survey and the hundreds of phone calls we're had, is that the only way out of Delta and get back to the new normal is through vaccination ramp up. It's key to



Undated photo provided by Sanford, a fishing company of New Zealand, shows Coromandel mussel barge in North Island, New Zealand. PHOTO: SANFORD/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

re-opening New Zealand to the world, and it's key for all Kiwis to get back to work and life," said Simon Arcus, Wellington Chamber of Commerce and Business Central Chief Executive, who conducted the survey. While the alert level change to four caught some by surprise,

the survey shows most businesses had plans in place in preparation. "We asked how businesses were operating under Level 4 conditions. It's no surprise that it's a story of two halves, of those businesses that are essential, providing some essential products, or that can oper-

ate from home and those public-facing businesses that can't operate at all. Just 12 per cent have said they are functioning at full capacity, over a quarter (26 per cent) are closed, and just over a third (35 per cent) operating at less than half of their usual capacity.—Xinhua ■

Facebook could launch digital wallet this year – report

FACEBOOK is ready to launch a digital wallet that would let users store cryptocurrencies, a senior company executive said in a US media interview on Wednesday. David Marcus, head of Facebook's crypto unit, told The Information news site that company leaders "feel pretty committed" to launch the digital wallet called Novi this year. Marcus said he would have preferred to release Novi alongside Diem, a digital currency tied to the

dollar that the company is also developing, but Diem's timing was uncertain. "In theory, Novi could launch before Diem, but it would mean launching without Diem and that's not necessarily something that we want to do," Marcus told The Information. "It all depends on how long it's going to take for Diem to actually go live and that's not something I'm personally looking after." In 2019 Facebook said it plans to introduce



Facebook's digital wallet, called Novi, would enable users to store various cryptocurrencies. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/AFP

a cryptocurrency that at the time was called Libra. The project however faced

regulatory resistance over concerns about security and reliability.—AFP ■

Forbes media group to list shares, raises \$400 million



According to the company, the Forbes brand reaches more than 150 million people worldwide through its websites and events, with 45 editions covering 76 countries (a copy of the magazine's Vietnamese edition of Forbes Magazine is pictured June 2013.) PHOTO: AFP/FILE

FORBES, the media group known for its long-running business magazine, said Thursday it would become a publicly traded company after securing \$400 million in financing. Forbes Global Media Holdings Inc. will become a listed company on the New York Stock Exchange under a deal with a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) called Magnum Opus, sponsored by the private equity firm L2

Capital. The media group was sold in 2014 to Asia-based investment group Integrated Asset Management Limited, founded by Tak Cheung Yam. Forbes magazine was launched in 1917 by Scottish immigrant BC Forbes and run by his son Malcolm Forbes before being taken over by Steve Forbes, a onetime presidential candidate. But it had struggled as readers turned to digital news.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany's Axel Springer signs deal to acquire Politico

GERMAN publisher Axel Springer signed a deal to acquire the US-based news organization Politico, along with the remaining shares of their Politico Europe joint venture, the companies announced Thursday. Politico, which gained a reputation for insider Washington political reporting, will continue to operate as a separate entity with founder Robert Allbritton keeping his role as publisher, according to a joint statement. The deal calls for the German firm to acquire all of Politico's US operations and the 50 per cent of Politico Europe it does not already own, as well as Politico's recently launched technology website Protocol.—AFP ■

Apple announces App Store concessions as pressure grows

APPLE has agreed to loosen payment restrictions on its App Store, a major change announced in a settlement with small developers as the US technology giant faces growing scrutiny and legal challenges over its tightly controlled online marketplace.

The change will allow small developers to inform their customers of alternative payment options beyond the official App Store.

In a class-action lawsuit, the developers had accused Apple of monopolistic distribution practices by operating the sole gateway to get apps or other content onto iPhones and other devices powered by iOS software.—AFP ■

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Flags of Taliban distributed to people near the evacuated U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 26 Aug 2021. **PHOTO: ANADOLU AGENCY/KYODO**

Taliban asks U.S. to retain embassy in Kabul, guarantees security

THE Taliban, which has gained almost complete control over Afghanistan, has asked the United States to retain its embassy in Kabul after the U.S. military pullout by 31 Aug according to a Taliban official and diplomatic sources.

“We would like the U.S. to remain in Afghanistan very much,” a senior Taliban official

told Kyodo News in confirming that the Islamist group has conveyed that position to Washington.

“We will provide absolute security (of the embassy),” he said.

According to multiple diplomatic sources, the Taliban have requested the embassy stay put in discussions with the United

States in Kabul and in Doha, Qatar, where the political operations of the group have been based in recent years.

Indeed, the topic may have been on the agenda of Monday’s secret meeting in Kabul between U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns and Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban’s de facto leader.—Kyodo ■

For pilots, Kabul evacuations a flight like no other

THE approach is filled with danger. The conditions on the ground are chaotic, but precise organization and timing are needed. And the passengers are exhausted and tense.

For pilots in charge of the planes evacuating foreign nationals and Afghans from Taliban-controlled Kabul, the flights in and out of the Afghanistan capital have been a journey like no other.

Pilots must deal with the already complex location of the airport at high altitude and

surrounded by mountains, with intense air traffic like that of a major travel hub with military planes and evacuation flights, relying on their on board Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) to avert crashes.

As Western nations prepare to wind down one of the most complex evacuations of civilians since World War II, several pilots shared with AFP their experiences of landing and then taking off from Kabul airport as chaos gripped the country.

US forces, who have 5,800

personnel deployed at the airport, “are carrying out all air traffic control, ground control, tower control and approach control,” according to Commander Stephen, the captain of a French A400M military transport plane.

“With a plane like this, we are helped very much by our systems, but we end up landing by sight,” he told AFP at French base 104 of Al-Dhafra in the United Arab Emirates, the transit point used by France, on condition that his surname was not published.—AFP ■



French soldiers stand close to a military plane at Kabul airport. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Iceland raises interest rates as tourists return

ICELAND’S central bank lifted its main interest rate on Wednesday, its second increase in three months, as tourists begin to return and boost the economic recovery.

The 0.25 percentage point increase took the island nation’s key rate to 1.25 per cent.

While its peers in the eurozone, Britain and the United States, have kept ultra-low interest rates to boost their economies, Iceland’s central bank

began to tighten its monetary policy in May as economic prospects began to improve. It now expects 4.0 per cent growth this year, 0.9 percentage point more than its May forecast.

“The improvement is driven mainly by tourist arrivals, which have increased more rapidly this summer than was previously expected,” the central bank’s monetary policy committee said in its statement.

Tourism helped drive Ice-

land’s growth before the pandemic and the sudden halt in arrivals as countries shut their borders sent the economy into a tailspin. The central bank said inflation appeared to be moderating, but warned that the path the pandemic will take remains unclear and that temporary supply chain disruptions could still strike. It said unemployment had fallen faster than expected and the slack in the economy narrowed more quickly.—AFP ■



Tourist ride horses at Kirkjufell mountain landscape and waterfall in Iceland **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Guaido focused on advancing date for Venezuela elections

Opposition leader Juan Guaido is focused on moving Venezuela’s presidential elections earlier as the only solution to the political and economic crises gripping his country.

Representatives of the opposition and the government of President Nicolas Maduro are taking part in talks in Mexico with mediation by Norway in a bid to lift the deadlock.

As things stand, the presidential election is not due until 2024. Guaido however told AFP he wants one “as soon as possible”, as early as December.

“For Venezuelans, the presidential election is what will resolve the conflict,” said the politician, who burst onto the scene in January 2019 when he used his position as National Assembly speaker to declare himself acting president.—AFP ■

Nigerian gunmen free dozens of kidnapped seminary pupils: teacher

NIGERIAN gunmen have freed the remaining pupils from more than 100 kidnapped from an Islamic seminary in northwestern Niger State nearly three months ago, the school’s head teacher said on Thursday.

Heavily armed criminals snatched 136 pupils from the seminary in Tegna on 30 May in one of a series of mass abductions targeting schools and colleges in Nigeria since December.

Six of the pupils died in captivity and a further 15 escaped in June, according to school officials.

“The pupils have all been released. We are now conveying them home,” seminary head Abubakar Alhassan told AFP by telephone.

“I can’t give you an exact number now. We will have to screen them when we get home. But none of the pupils is in captivity.”—AFP ■

Biden presidency shaken to core by Kabul bombings

EYES closing, voice cracking, Joe Biden physically reflected the terrible blow to his presidency from the slaying of 13 US service members during the desperate Kabul evacuation.

Addressing the nation from the White House, Biden bowed his head for a moment of silence before taking questions from journalists pressing him on the bloody twist in the already tragic operation to shut down the 20-year war in Afghanistan.

He appeared occasionally close to tears as he spoke of the dead “heroes”. And when he

promised the attackers “we will hunt you down,” there was steel in his voice.

No doubt that Biden’s presidency has been shaken to the core by the bombing at Kabul’s airport.

In January, he took office promising calm at home and respect for the United States abroad after the turbulent Donald Trump years.

Now Biden’s been left with a mountain to climb if he’s to persuade the nation and America’s partners that either goal remains achievable. The 78-year-old Dem-

ocrat was already reeling from the almost overnight collapse of the US-backed government and US-created army, leaving the handful of remaining US troops and many thousands of US citizens and allies at the Taliban’s mercy. Working around the clock for 10 days, his administration had thought perhaps it could still pull triumph from disaster.

The airlift was going far better than predicted, with the US military performing flawlessly and the Taliban more or less keeping its end of the bargain in securing Kabul.—AFP ■



US President Joe Biden was visibly shaken by the attack on troops in Kabul. PHOTO: AFP

Death toll from Kabul airport attacks rises to 103, Taliban official says no evacuation deadline extension



Photo taken on 26 Aug 2021 shows a view near the Kabul airport in Afghanistan. Bombing attacks hit the Kabul airport on Thursday, leaving at least 103 people dead, including 13 U.S. service members.

PHOTO: STR/XINHUA

AN unnamed Taliban official, quoted by media reports Friday, has said there is no reason to extend the deadline for foreign forces to leave the country as the death toll from the Kabul airport attacks on Thursday has reportedly risen to at least 103.

The Taliban official also said that more than 20 Taliban members were killed at the airport

attacks. Watch towers will be reportedly set up by Taliban guards around airports in the country.

Unconfirmed reports said at least 40 dead bodies and 120 wounded were transferred to Kabul hospitals.

The number of U.S. service members killed in the attacks has risen to 13, with 18 more injured troops currently in the

process of being flown out of the country, according to the latest update by Bill Urban, public affairs officer of the U.S. Central Command.

Another huge explosion was heard in the Afghan capital Kabul early Friday, hours after the deadly twin bomb blasts at the Kabul airport on Thursday.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement on Twitter that it was a controlled explosion by U.S. troops destroying equipment at the airport.

Earlier, the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the deadly attack on the Kabul airport, saying it was targeting “translators and collaborators with the American army”.

The first explosion struck the north gate, a military gate of the Kabul airport. The second massive blast occurred about 30 minutes later in Baron Camp, a military base near the airport used by coalition forces in the past.—Xinhua ■

Australia says troops pulled out ahead of Kabul blast

AUSTRALIA said Friday it pulled all its troops out of Afghanistan shortly before the Kabul airport bombings after receiving “very clear intelligence” of an impending attack.

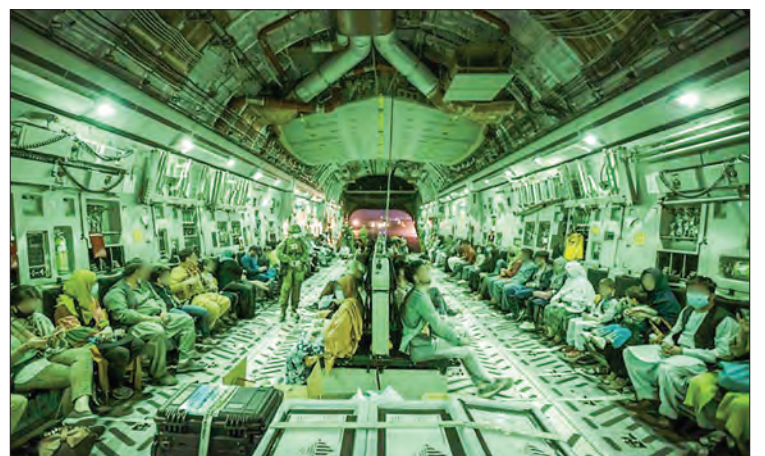
Suicide bombers set off two blasts that struck crowds outside the Afghan capital’s airport on Thursday, killing dozens of people including 13 US troops. The

Islamic State group said it carried out the attack. The bombings raise questions about the measures taken to protect US forces, who face an August 31 deadline to withdraw from the country and to complete an airlift that has so far evacuated nearly 100,000 people.

“We were able to ensure the departure of the remaining Australian personnel over the course

of last night, not that long before the terrible events that unfolded last night took place,” Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told a news conference.

Morrison said US and British forces had helped Australian troops over nine days to evacuate some 4,100 people, including 3,200 Australians and Afghan citizens with Australian visas.—AFP ■



The Australian military was among those involved in the airlift of civilians from Kabul. PHOTO: AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE/AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden delays meeting with Israeli PM amid Kabul blasts

JOE Biden’s meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett was pushed back a day Thursday as the US president cleared his agenda to address bombings in Kabul.

“The president’s bilateral meeting— has been rescheduled for tomorrow,” the White House said. The two leaders had been due to meet at 11:30 am (1530 GMT) Thursday.

Bennett hopes to reboot ties with the Democratic administration after his predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu’s tempestuous and polarizing 12 years in office.

However, the crisis in Afghanistan loomed over their meeting even before the bombings tore through Kabul, causing multiple casualties and the deaths of at least 12 US troops.—AFP ■

Afghanistan: More than 100,000 evacuated, says White House

MORE than 100,000 people from Afghanistan have been evacuated since 14 August, the eve of the Taliban’s return to power, the White House said Thursday.

“Since 14 August, the US has evacuated and facilitated the evacuation of approximately 100,100 people,” the White House said in a statement issued hours after Islamic State suicide bombers killed dozens, including 13 US troops, as they attacked crowds gathered outside Kabul airport hoping to flee. The announcement came as the August 31 deadline looms for the United States to withdraw its troops, and for it and other Western countries to end their massive airlift. “A total of approximately 7,500 people were evacuated from Kabul,” over a 12-hour period on Thursday, the White House said.—AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Tial Thang faces shock loss to Song Min Jong with unanimous decision

UNDEFEATED Myanmar MMA fighter Tial Thang faced a loss to South Korean starfighter Song Min Jong in the Bantamweight clash of the ONE Championship Battleground III event at Singapore Indoor Stadium yesterday night.

Their fight was a good one by showcasing continuous punches, kicks and takedowns to each other. Tial Thang relied on wrestling skills plus boxing while his opponent Song Min Jong used mixed fighting styles of taekwondo and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

The first round began with Tial Thang taking a few swings at Song Min Jong with his fabulous wrestling skills.

Song Min Jong took a good defensive position in every takedown of Tial Thang.

Again, Song Min Jong dom-

inated over the Myanmar fighter with high kicks and punches and drove Tial Thang to the floor and then attacked with heavy ground-and-pound and choke attempts till the bell rang.

Both fighters came out with aggressive punches and kicks in round two.

Tial Thang stood his ground and responded with hard counters and this allowed the Myanmar fighter to take Song Min Jong onto the floor, but the Korean fighter found a way to get up quickly. Again, Tial Thang dominated over Song Min Jong with another takedown but Tial's guillotine choke attempt failed.

Next, the final stanza saw more colourful strategies from both men. Song Min Jong paired flurry punches with low kicks, while Tial Thang responded with

heavy right hands like the way Aung La N Sang did.

With a quick takedown, Song Min Jong tried to have an upper position, but Tial Thang responded with a double-leg takedown. However, Song Min Jong's sweep turned the tide as he got on top and took Tial Thang's back in the scramble.

Tial Thang came close to locking up the rear-naked choke of Song Min Jong in the final minutes- mark, but the Myanmar starfighter stood in the bout until the end. After a unanimous decision, judges declared Song Min Jong as a winner. Tial Thang faced his very time defeat after three straight wins in ONE Championship while Song Min Jong shaped the 12th MMA career victory to go for the next stage. — GNLM



Tial Thang (left) blocks high kick from Song Min Jong during their Bantamweight clash of the ONE Championship Battleground III event at Singapore Indoor Stadium on 27 August. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Chelsea's Jorginho, Barcelona's Putellas win UEFA player of year prizes

CHELSEA and Italy midfielder Jorginho was named UEFA men's player of the year at a ceremony in Istanbul on Thursday, beating his club colleague N'Golo Kante and Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne to the prize.

Jorginho starred alongside Kante in the Chelsea team that won the Champions League, beating De Bruyne's City in the final in Porto, and then helped Italy win Euro 2020.

The prize was voted for by a jury composed of the coaches of the 24 national teams who took part in Euro 2020, 80 coaches of the clubs which played in the group stages of last season's Champions League and Europa League, as well as one journalist from each of UEFA's 55 member associations.

The 29-year-old Jorginho got 175 points, eight more than De Bruyne, with Kante third in the voting.

"It's just really surreal for me based on where I've come from, my background," the Brazilian-born midfielder told UEFA.com.

Barcelona's Alexia Putellas won the women's player of the year prize after captaining her side to Champions League glory,



Chelsea and Italy midfielder Jorginho was named UEFA men's player of the year at a ceremony in Istanbul on Thursday, beating his club colleague N'Golo Kante and Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne to the prize. PHOTO: AFP

scoring in the 4-0 final win over Chelsea. The 27-year-old Spaniard pipped her Barcelona team-mates Jenni Hermoso and Lieke Martens, the Dutch international, to the award.

"This prize was won by the whole team, the whole club. It is such an achievement that so many Barca players were nominated for the award," Putellas, who was not present in Istanbul, said in a video message.

Jorginho was also not in attendance in Istanbul, where the UEFA Champions League draw was held, with Turkey on the UK's red list meaning obligatory hotel quarantine for anyone returning from there.

Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel won the men's coach of the year prize with Barcelona's Lluís Cortes winning in the women's category. —AFP ■