

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.

SAC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sees off SAC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win

Delegation leaves for Russian Federation to attend the closing ceremony of International Army Games-2021



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sees off the delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win who will leave for the Russian Federation by air to attend the closing ceremony of the International Army Games-2021.

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for the Russian Federation by air to attend the closing ceremony of the International Army Games-2021 at the invitation of Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Army General Kuzhugetovich Shoigu, at the airport yesterday morning.

Also together with the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief

of Defence Services, members of the Council, the Secretary of the Council, the Joint-Secretary of the Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Deputy Head of Mission Mr Pavel Klabukov and officials of the Embassy of Russian

Federation to Myanmar saw off the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) and delegation members at the airport.

The Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-

er-in-Chief (Army) was accompanied by Lt-Gen Aung Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior military officers. During the visit, the delegation will attend the closing ceremony of International Army Games-2021, hold talks with military and civilian officials from the Russian Federation and pay visits to significant places. — MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No 179/2021

10th Waning of Wagaung 1383 ME
1 September 2021

Substitution of Security and Border
Affairs Minister

IN accord with the provision stated in Section 419 of the Constitution, the State Administration Council has appointed BC 23758 Colonel Aung Kyi Lin as Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Kachin State Government to replace BC 29197 Colonel Kyaw Lin Aung.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Public Notification on discovery of
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Delta variant

The Ministry of Health is continuously conducting the COVID-19 surveillance procedures, especially the surveillance of the COVID-19 variants, in collaboration with the Medical Research Unit of the Ministry of Defence.

A laboratory test on 28 August 2021 revealed that 15 people had been diagnosed with the COVID-19 Delta variant (Variants of Concern), which need special care. Of them, five were from Nay Pyi Taw, two from Yangon, two from Mandalay, and one each from Sittway, Toungoo, Lashio, Mawlamyine, Monywa and Kalay, respectively.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Delta variant was first discovered in India and is endemic in 163 countries, at present. Delta variant is considered to have a higher risk of death due to their higher risk of infection and disease severity. In addition, it has also been shown to slightly reduce the effectiveness of some COVID-19 vaccines.

Therefore, the people are urged to strictly adhere to the guidelines, orders and procedures issued by the Ministry of Health in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease to their families and environment.

Ministry of Health

3,358 new cases of COVID-19 reported on
1 September, total figure rises to 402,640

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 402,640 after 3,358 new cases were reported on 1 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 353,811 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 15,490 after 101 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 31-8-2021, a total of 4,767,298 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 2,104,934 people have been vaccinated two times and 2,662,364 people once.—MNA

Statement of Ministry of Health

1 September 2021

As the new variants of the COVID-19 are spreading around the world currently, it is time for all countries to step up cooperation in tackling these challenges.

The preventive measure is crucial in conducting COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, and so the vaccine-producing countries are urged to trade, support and provide the needed assistance to other countries and developing countries for vaccine production.

Searching the origins of the coronavirus should be conducted scientifically for the treatment, and it should not blame or give political pressure on other countries.

Ministry of Health

More than 1,400 people from IDP camps receive anti-COVID-19 vaccines

ANTI-COVID-19 vaccines were given to the people from two Hngetchaung IDP camps in Ponnagyi Village-tract and Saingtok Village-tract in Pauktaw Township of Rakhine State on 31 August and 1 September.

Health staff injected Sinovac vaccines into the people of above 45 years from Hngetchaung IDP camps and three more IDP camps in Saingtok Village-tract.

A total of 161 men and 137 women were vaccinated at Hngetchaung IDP camp-1 and 185 men and 185 women at Hngetchaung IDP camp-2. Moreover, health staff vaccinated 22 men and 29 women at Saingtok IDP camp, two men and two women at Kanseik Village IDP camp and two men and three women at Nagway Village IDP camp, totalling 60.

So far, a total of 1,480 people from five IDP camps in Pauktaw Township have received vaccines.

The vaccination activities were attended by Township Administration Body Chairman U Kyaw Win and the township medical officer. — Kyaw Than (IPRD)/GNLM



Inoculation programme is underway for the people in the IDP camps in Rakhine State.

Need to upgrade the hospitals, establish the township, station and district hospitals

HE then stressed the need to upgrade the hospitals, establish the township, station and district hospitals by observing the figures of international hospitals and set up the ICU for other diseases. He also pleaded that the government will provide cash assistance in implementing these operations. The hospital staff, Tatmadaw and social organizations need to cooperate for these processes including the upgrade of hospitals and cleansing operations.

(Excerpt from the speech to the 9th coordination meeting on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities made by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 23-8-2021)

Consultation Meeting on private sector's inputs for Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan–MERP (draft) to address the impact of COVID-19 on Myanmar Economy

THE Consultation meeting on private sector's inputs on the drafted Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) developed by the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on Myanmar Economy was virtually held yesterday afternoon at Office No. (1), Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was attended by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Chairman of Working Committee, Deputy Minister U Than Aung Kyaw, Dr Wah Wah Maung, Secretary of Working Committee and Director-General for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and President, Vice-President and

Central Executive Committee Members from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

At the meeting, Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo delivered the opening remarks and U Zaw Min Win, President of UMFCCI briefed all on the private sector cooperation for successful implementation of the MERP. On behalf of the private sectors, U Wai Phyo, Vice-President of UMFCCI presented the comments and inputs of private sectors on the MERP (draft) along with the future cooperation programme in implementing the relevant action plans in the MERP. After hearing the report, the Union Minister acknowledged the



The virtual consultation meeting on private sector's inputs for MERP(draft) to address the impact of COVID-19 on Myanmar Economy in progress.

inputs and recommendations of the private sector, and as a living document, recommendations will be considered to incorporate in the MERP. — MNA

IDPs, residents in Sittway Tsp keep getting vaccinated with Sinovac

PEOPLE over 45-year-old in IDP camps in Sittway Town-

ship, Rakhine State, continued to be vaccinated with Sinovac



An IDP is seen receiving medical examination before inoculation. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)

COVID-19 vaccine in the multi-purpose cyclone shelter in Thechaung village.

Before the vaccination, health workers and medical personnel from the Sittway station ensured personal health conditions are normal. The vaccinated people were allowed to leave at 30 minutes after the injection.

Regarding the vaccination, U Maung Maung Sein, in-charge of the Thechaung IDP, said, "We have been able to vaccinate 300 people in the camp and today there will be about 300 more."

"I was vaccinated in April. We have heard that vaccination does not endanger our lives,

even if we are infected," he continued.

"I urge people living in the camp to be vaccinated, and I would like to thank health workers and Tatmadaw medical teams who have come and arranged the vaccination," he added.

U Abdul Salin, who lives in the Thechaung IDP camp said, "We have known that COVID-19 disease is prevented by being vaccinated and that is why I came here today to receive the vaccine."

The COVID-19 vaccines are also being administered to the residents of Thechaung village at the multi-purpose cyclone shelter and people over the age

of 45 from IDP camps in Sittway Township have been vaccinated with Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine in Thatkeyyin village since 28 August.

Department of General Administration, personnel from the Department of Information and Public Relations, Myanmar Police Force, Red Cross Society, ward/township administrators, in-charge of the IPD camps and officials are coordinating necessary matters for the vaccination process.

The Union Government has distributed 50,000 doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to the people in IDP camps in Rakhine State. — Aye Aye Aung/Tin Tun (IPRD)/GNLM

Tank Troop of Myanmar Tatmadaw deservedly sails into final in Tank Biathlon (Division-2) of International Army Games-2021

THE Myanmar Tank Squad taking part in the Tank Biathlon (Division-2) of the International Army Games-2021 launched in the Russian Federation on 22 August deservedly cruised into the final stage with standing at the second position in the group by passing the different group events.

The Myanmar team competed in the individual race together with Mali, Kyrgyzstan and Laos in the group event. Myanmar fighter vehicle team-1 stood first in the event by setting the record of 28 min-

utes and 57 seconds on 22 August, the team-2 second with 26 minutes and 47 seconds on 25 August and the team-3 second with 30 minutes and 45 seconds on 27 August. These three teams took the second position with the records of 86 minutes and 29 seconds among eight teams of group-2. Hence, Myanmar Tank Squad could reach the semifinals together with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Laos and South Ossetia.

In the semifinal event, Myanmar Tank Squad had to choose the draw lot for taking



The Tank Biathlon (Division-2) will take place on 3 September with the participation of Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, South Ossetia and Tajikistan.

part in the events of relay race, firing 125mm artillery, 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun and 7.62mm machine gun on the respective way.

The second semifinal was held yesterday. Despite the out of order of arm system at the tank and bad weather, members of the Myanmar Tank Squad relentlessly participated

in the event and stood first in the semifinal-2 event of Division-2 with setting the record of 2 hours, 28 minutes and 20 seconds. The team could stand the second position in Division-2 with the best shot capability.

The Tank Biathlon (Division-2) will take place on 3 September with the participation of Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, South

Ossetia and Tajikistan.

Members of the Myanmar Tank Squad are participating in the Tank Biathlon of the International Army Games for the fourth time, including this year, with strenuous efforts to have the experiences of competition, technologies and friendships among the international military organizations. —MNA



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

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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
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Imports of anti-COVID-19 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.

On 1 September (Yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by 13 companies and transported with the use of 19 vehicles, including two bowsers.

A total of 40 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by two Bowsers, 77 tonnes of liquid oxygen, one storage contain-

er, 7,269 oxygen tanks, 317 oxygen concentrators for home use, 1,200 test kits, 3,877 sets of PPE suits, and 41 tonnes of masks were also imported via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Lwejel and Myawady trading posts and Yangon International Airport.

Two vehicles carrying liquid oxygen were transported to Yangon, officials said.

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



Anti-COVID devices and medical supplies are imported daily through border trade zones, and the lorries are transporting them to the needed areas.

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)

Heavy rainfall damages Thanpyinswa Temple in Bagan Cultural Zone



Thanpyinswa Temple, which is 100 feet long, 60 feet wide and 45 feet high, is the cave temple without the mural paintings. It was reconstructed and donated by Suk In Wang of Yoe Lay Buddhist Sect in 2014.

THE wall in the southern side of the Thanpyinswa Temple (Temple No 801), which is located in the north-west of West Pwasaw village in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone of NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, collapsed after heavy rainfall at 4 am on 31 August, U Toe Lwin, Chair of NyaungU District Administration Body.

The torrential rainfall hit Bagan Cultural Zone between 2 am and 5 am on 31 August, resulting in damages to the (17"x14"x3") wall in the south side of Thanpyinswa Temple, said Dr Than Htike, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

Thanpyinswa Temple, which is 100 feet long, 60 feet wide and

45 feet high, is the temple without the mural paintings. It was reconstructed and donated by Suk In Wang of Yoe Lay Buddhist Sect in 2014.

The earthquake which happened on 24 August 2016 cave temple also damaged the wall on the south side of the temple somehow. The strength of the wall cannot withstand the force during the heavy rainfall on 31 August, causing the brick wall to collapse.

Chairman U Toe Lwin, U Nan Tint, township administrator, Dr Than Htike, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum and other officials concerned inspected and observed the collapse of the temple. — KPD/GNLM

Myanmar-Thai border trade drops by 23 mln as of 20 Aug

THE value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with Thailand, the neighbouring country, has registered a decrease of US\$ 23.3 million between 1 October and 20 August of the current financial year 2020-21 as against a year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to the ministry report, Myanmar's exports to Thailand reached \$2.37 billion while imports hit \$1.18 billion. This FY's figures are dropped by \$23 million, compared to the same period in the last FY.

During the corresponding period of the past FY2019-2020, Myanmar-Thailand border trade touched a high of \$3.58 billion.

Some border checkpoints are temporarily restricted during the pandemic period. There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Hteekhee, Myeik,

Mawtaung and Meisei. Except for Tachilek and Myawady, the remaining border checkpoints showed a decrease in trade this FY.

Among those trade checkpoints along the Myanmar-Thailand border, the Myawady-Mae Sot route is the most important, carrying about 70 per cent of trade between the two countries. As of 20 August, this FY, the Myawady border checkpoint topped the list with \$1.65 billion for bilateral trade.

Myanmar primarily exports agriculture and livestock products, natural gas, beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports non-alcoholic beverages, fabric and yarn, motorcycles and related parts, construction materials and food products.

Thailand is Myanmar's second-largest trade partner and third-largest foreign investor. — ACM/GNLM

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade decreases \$16 mln this FY



Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sittway and Maungtau points of entry.

THE bilateral border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh totalled US\$35.41 million as of 20 August in the financial year 2020-21, a decrease by \$16 mln compared to the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 20 August, this FY, Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border checkpoints was touched at \$35.41 million, with

exports worth \$16.98 million and imports amounting to \$18.43 million.

When compared with last FY, this FY saw a decrease in the value of exports by \$9.5 million, and the bilateral imports dropped by nearly \$6.47 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sit-

tway and Maungtau points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages, according to the Ministry. — Zwe/GNLM



Myawady Border Trade Zone.

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar Agro exports grow 25 per cent as of 20 Aug

MYANMAR'S agricultural exports over the past ten months of the current financial year soared 25 per cent amid the closure of the major border post Muse triggered by the coronavirus impacts, indicated the Ministry of Commerce statistics.

The agricultural exports rocketed to US\$4.3 billion between 1 October and 20 August of the current financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups resulted from the tightened coronavirus containment measures in the border and increase in the container shipping cost.

The figures reflect an increase of \$877 million this FY. The agro exports topped \$3.46 billion in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The agricultural exports surged even though the main trade partner China shut down all the borders in the wake of the COVID-19 surge in Myanmar:



The agricultural exports rocketed to US\$4.3 billion between 1 October and 20 August of the current financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups resulted from the tightened coronavirus containment measures in the border and increase in the container shipping cost.

The coronavirus pandemic impacted the foreign demand for other export groups: agricultural products, fishery, livestock, mineral, forest products, finished

industrial goods and other goods. In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for 34 per cent of overall exports. The chief

items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other

agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G-to-G pact also ensures a strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. — KK/GNLM

Export price of Myanmar fresh chilli pepper likely to climb up



Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper will fetch a good price when the Chinese market cannot supply fresh chilli pepper to Thailand. Production usually drops this time in China," Daw Ohn Mar Kyaw elaborated.

THE export price of Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper is expected to rise, said Daw Ohnma Kyaw, chair of Myanmar Chilli Market and Technical Development Association.

"The price of fresh chilli pepper will increase. However, we cannot ensure that amidst the political climate and the COVID-19 crisis. Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper will fetch a good price when the Chinese market cannot supply fresh chilli pepper to Thailand. Production usually drops this time in China," Daw Ohnma Kyaw elaborated.

The neighbouring country China highly produces fresh

chilli pepper. They export them to Thailand. The fruit production rate is declining in China at present. Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper market will raise its head, she continued.

"We cannot compete against the Chinese market owing to poor quality packaging, lack of quality consistency and short supply," Daw Ohnma Kyaw pointed out.

The prevailing price of fresh chilli pepper is only K1,300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg), the domestic market's data indicated.

Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper is shipped to Viet Nam via sea route and primarily sent to China and Thailand via the

cross-border land, Daw Ohnma Kyaw continued.

Nonetheless, the closure of the major border post Muse between Myanmar and China from 8 July brought Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper export to China to a halt. Consequently, the chilli pepper produced by the Kyaukse area, which was supposed to be conveyed to China, was shifted to Thailand through the Myawady border post.

It is commonly grown in the Ayeyawady Region and Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region. The export varieties of fresh chilli peppers are 692,777,999, Demon, Sunshine and Lucky One. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 6,700 tonnes of soybean as of 20 Aug

MYANMAR has conveyed over 6,175 tonnes of soybean, with an estimated value of US\$3.64 million to the external market as of 20 August in the current financial year 2020-2021 since October, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

The soybean prices range between K99,000 and K110,000 per bag per 60-viss bag (a viss equals 1.6 kg) on the back of strong demand from border markets.

The soybean stood only at K68,550 per bag in January-end. The high foreign demand drove the price up to above K80,000 per bag in early June, and thereafter, the price has been on a gradual rise.

Normally, Myanmar sends soybean to China through the Muse border post. In addition to the China market, Myanmar's soybeans are also delivered to Thailand to a smaller extent. It is also shipped to India through maritime trade. Soybeans are used for oil, animal feed and other non-food industrial products.

The biggest challenge

of Myanmar's soybean production is the decline in the number of soybean acres in the previous years. Between the 2013-2014FY and the 2018-2019FY, over 40,000 acres of soybean farms dropped. Quality seeds play a pivotal role in soybean production, extraction of oil from soybean and value-added production.

Myanmar's soybean sector needs technical support for pre-harvest diseases and post-harvest losses, along with market exploration, the ministry stated.

The growers turn to soybean due to the market potentials. There are over 360,000 acres of soybean in Myanmar in the 2019-2020 financial year, which is up from over 340,000 acres registered in the 2018-2019FY.

Myanmar's soybean export is remarkably increasing year over year. The country exported over 1,700 tonnes of soybean in 2016, 2,000 tonnes in 2017, over 7,000 tonnes in the 2018-2019 budget year. — Mon Mon/GNLM

Analyze advantages and disadvantages of globalization and interference processes

THE word 'globalization has been noisy in the international community for more than two decades. Such a beautiful word 'globalization' lures small and large countries across the world with great hopes.

But their hopes are very different. Small countries keep their hopes to have aid and cooperation from the international community for the development of their lands. They wish to utilize the rights of globalization to enlarge the scope of their citizens as well as improve their infrastructures. Practically, globalization could not fulfil a few percentages of their requirement but drew out invaluable resources such as natural resources, human resources and political resources from their countries.

On one hand, big countries expect the advantages of globalization for their interests. As being powerful, they could exploit small countries in all aspects by upholding globalization. In fact, big and powerful countries export the concept of globalization to all other countries after comprehensively building themselves to be strong and wealthy. They make attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of small countries and the countries under their influence. Indeed, such a word as 'globalization' was adopted by these big countries in order to revitalize neocolonialism throughout the world. Such brutal ways of globalization become tools of big and powerful countries.

Small countries need to avoid and dodge the disadvantages of the globalization process intentionally imposed by the powerful countries. These small countries should analyze the forthcoming events to be triggered by globalization with great careful farsightedness for serving the interests of the State and the people.

For the time being, the powerful countries are playing political chess on the global geopolitics chessboard to change their pawns with valuable bishops and castles of opponents. If the opponents are faint in capability, they will be victims of the powerful countries similar to the plots of the chessboard. That is why these small countries need to unite their internal strength so as to defy the influence of the powerful ones. Today's all ethnic national people of Myanmar should analyze the plots and moves of the powerful countries on the geopolitics chessboard. Everybody who adores the motherland of Myanmar should not accept the interference of these countries in Myanmar's internal affairs because these powerful countries never do anything without their interests.

Let's analyze every movement! Let's prevent interference!



Shwedagon Pagoda

By U Than Zaw

THE glittering glorious golden pagoda or is well-known as "Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon City. In Myanmar, the Shwedagon is the most famous and the oldest pagoda among all the pagodas in the historical record of this country. That is why the U.N.O (United Nations Organization) recognized it as one of the 'Wonders' of the world.

It was built on the hilltop of 'Singottara' and its (the Pagoda) original height alone is over 300 feet since over 2,500 years ago. At that time, the age of Lord Buddha was only 35 years of age and it was 45 days after His Enlightenment or becoming omniscient Lord Buddhahood. He was the greatest or the holiest - one in his time on the earth of this 'Universe'.

What happened was that the two own-brothers by the name of



This file photo taken on 6 March 2018 shows the famous Shwedagon Pagoda attracting thousands of international tourists daily. PHOTO: GNLM/FILE

"Taphosa and Balika" who were from the Okkalapa Kingdom, met Lord Buddha unexpectedly and offered him the alms-food made of honey-corn-puff. As in response,

Lord Buddha rendered them back the eight strands of his sacred hair to pay worship on his behalf. Those two brothers were the first devotees to Lord Buddha.

On their way back to Okkalapa Kingdom (in Myanmar). They handed over the whole eight strands of sacred hair to their King Okkalapa. So, the Kind blissfully accepted the Royal Gift and built Shwedagon Pagoda enclosing those four relic-hairs out of eight plus the remains of the past Lord Buddhas named Kokkusa-na, Gonagamma and Katsapha of which were given, legendarily, by the local spiritual-beings in those days, to King Okkalapa.

However, it might be in the legendary background. So nowadays the golden glorious 'Shwedagon Pagoda' can be seen from very

far away before arriving Yangon City, wherever you are either at sea, on land or in the air by aircraft. It's a pride not only for Yangon City but for the whole of Myanmar also.

Many people from far and near come to the pagoda every day but especially more crowded on festive days and holidays as pilgrims. They used to donate money, flowers, candle-lights and sacred-water etc. to the pagoda. The pagoda festival is held with celebrities every year on the full moon of Tasaungbon (on 22 November).

The Shwedagon Pagoda is the main attraction to the 'Tourists', coming to Myanmar.

You all are welcome with our wide arms! Friends.



WHO sounds alarm as COVID deaths in Europe rise by 11 per cent

Infection rates are ticking up globally again, as the highly transmissible Delta variant takes hold - especially among the unvaccinated - preying on populations where anti-virus measures have been relaxed.

THE World Health Organization warned on Monday that another 236,000 people could die from COVID in Europe by 1 December, sounding the alarm over rising infections and stagnating vaccine rates on the continent.

The warning comes as the world passed the grim milestone of 4.5 million deaths from COVID since the start of the pandemic, according to an AFP tally.

Infection rates are ticking up globally again, as the highly transmissible Delta variant takes hold - especially among the unvaccinated - preying on populations where anti-virus measures have been relaxed.

The head of WHO Europe said on Monday that infections and deaths were on the rise again in Europe, particularly in poorer nations in the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

"Last week, there was an 11 per cent increase in the number of deaths in the region - one reliable projection is expecting 236,000 deaths in Europe, by December 1," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge said.

Europe has already registered around 1.3 million COVID deaths to date.

Of the WHO Europe's 53 member states, 33 have registered an incidence rate greater than 10 per cent in the past two weeks, Kluge said, mostly in poorer countries.

High transmission rates across the continent were "deeply worrying, particularly in the light of low vaccination uptake in priority populations in a number of countries."

Kluge said the Delta variant was partly to blame, along with an "exaggerated easing" of restrictions and measures and a surge in summer travel.

While around half of people in the WHO's Europe region are fully vaccinated, uptake in the region has slowed.

"In the past six weeks, it has fallen by 14 per cent, influenced by a lack of access to vaccines in some countries and a lack of vaccine acceptance in others."

Only six per cent of people in lower and lower-middle-income countries in Europe are fully vaccinated, and some countries have

only managed to vaccinate one in 10 health professionals.

"The stagnation in vaccine uptake in our region is of serious concern," Kluge said, urging countries to "increase production, share doses and improve access".

Vaccines for teachers

Kluge stressed that since public health and social measures were being relaxed in many places, "the public's vaccination acceptance is crucial".

"Vaccine scepticism and science denial is holding us back from stabilising this crisis. It serves no purpose, and is good for no one."

The warning comes as the WHO and UNICEF urged European countries earlier Monday to make teachers a priority group for vaccinations so schools can stay open.

As schools reopen after the summer holidays, the agencies said it was "vital that classroom-based learning continue uninterrupted", despite the spread of the Delta variant.

"This is of paramount impor-

tance for children's education, mental health and social skills, for schools to help equip our children to be happy and productive members of society," Kluge said.

"The pandemic has caused the most catastrophic disruption to education in history," he added.

The agencies urged countries to vaccinate children over the age of 12 who have underlying

medical conditions that put them at greater risk of severe COVID-19.

It also recalled the importance of measures to improve the school environment during the pandemic, including better ventilation, smaller class sizes, social distancing and regular COVID testing for children and staff.

Some 10,000 COVID deaths

are now reported every day around the world, a much lower figure than the highs of January when an average of 14,800 people were being killed daily.

But the figure is much higher than at the start of July when some 7,800 daily deaths were registered.

SOURCE: AFP



People wear protective facemasks as they walk in front the Eiffel Tower, in Paris on March 12, 2020. PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP/FILE



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 1 September 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 2 September, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 September, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Bulletin

(ISSUED at 08:00 hrs M.S.T on 1-9-2021)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

ACCORDING to the (07:30)hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seikthah as exceeded by about (1) inch above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

IT is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Seikthah, to take precaution measure.

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Price tag on the planet? Helping business value nature

FROM agriculture to housing to transportation, economic growth has historically depended on burning through finite natural resources and rearranging natural landscapes.

As the IUCN World Conservation Congress kicks off in France on Friday, an urgent question will be how to reduce the devastation wrought by humanity on the environment.

One idea gaining currency is to assign nature an economic value. "It's the only way to speak

the same language as political decision-makers," Nathalie Girouard, an expert on environmental policy at intergovernmental think tank OECD, told AFP.

"We have increased economic growth at the expense of nature." Chemical-intensive agriculture, over-fishing, pollution and climate change are all pushing ecosystems to the brink of collapse. For business, putting a monetary value on nature means that damaging resources such as breathable air and drinkable

water becomes not just a survival risk, but a financial one.

But experts are divided on how to measure "natural capital", and some argue that it should not be done at all.

Natural capital

During most of industrialization, the intrinsic value of nature's bounty — air, fresh water and oceans, for example — was not recognized because it cost nothing to consume or pollute.— AFP ■



Indigenous populations, fishermen and real estate developers all value mangrove forests but have different ideas of what to do with them. This photograph taken on 29 April 2014, shows fisherman Talib Kacchi (C) and Kamal Shah of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), a group fighting for fishermen's rights, gesturing as they look at a mangrove swamp along a beach in the Arabian Sea in Karachi. **PHOTO: AFP**

Corsica's 'ecological moorings' protect seagrass and yachts



Guests aboard the Ocean Sapphire can once again plunge into Corsican waters thanks to anchorages designed specifically to protect seagrass. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

LAST year when France moved to protect Mediterranean seagrass beds by barring larger boats from dropping anchor near them, Yves-Marie Loudoux found

himself adrift.

Captain of the 41-metre (135-foot) Ocean Sapphire, Loudoux remembers suddenly being unable to access his usual spots near

fragile beds of so-called Neptune grass off the coast of Corsica. "We had no solution, we were pushed to very inconvenient moorings too far from the coast," he recalls. "[Instead] we had to go to Sardinia (Italy) nearby so that people could swim." But today his clients — who pay some 110,000 euros (\$130,000) per week to cruise the Mediterranean in style — can once again plunge into Corsican waters thanks to anchorages designed specifically to protect seagrass. A total of 14 ecological moorings are planned for the Sant'Amanza bay to protect some 60 hectares of Neptune grass meadows, said Michel Mallaroni, director of the port of Bonifacio and head of the 2.3 million euro (\$2.7 million) project.—AFP ■

Overlooked but essential: Experts urge protection for seagrass

WITH the world's biggest biodiversity summit set to kick off Friday in the Mediterranean city of Marseille, experts are sounding the alarm over a long-overlooked seagrass increasingly threatened by human activity.

Named *Posidonia oceanica* — or "Neptune grass" — for the Greek god of the seas, the plant covers at least one million hectares (3,900 square miles) of the Mediterranean seabed from Cyprus to Spain.

The Mediterranean Network for *Posidonia* says the real area is probably much larger than that, with data largely unavailable for countries on the sea's eastern and southern shores.



Neptune grass meadows have long fallen prey to boating activity with some 7,500 hectares damaged along the French coastline alone. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

But Neptune grass meadows have long fallen prey to boating activity, with official figures esti-

mating some 7,500 hectares of damage along the French coastline alone.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oil-rich Gulf faces prospect of unlivable heat as planet warms

GULF cities such as Dubai are known for their scorching summers, but experts warn climate change could soon make parts of the fossil fuel-rich region unlivable for humans.

Daily temperatures in the coastal metropolis regularly top 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for several months of the year and are exacerbated by high humidity.

"I work from 9 am until 4 pm in this heat," Pakistani scooter driver Sameer said, sweat dripping from his forehead.

"Sometimes, the company or people give us water to drink, and we get a break every three hours," added Sameer, who works for a mobile delivery app and declined to provide his surname.

A new report this month by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) showed unequivocally that the climate is changing faster than previously feared, and because of human activity.

Even now, Dubai residents often leave for cooler climates during the hottest months, while many who stay spend their time scurrying between air-conditioned locations — or rely on delivery drivers for a panoply of services. The UAE is also one of the world's most arid countries, and for the past several years it has used aircraft for cloud seeding to artificially produce rain. One expert has warned of the risks for the region as climate change progresses.— AFP ■

'It's not easy': Slower era dawns for Paris drivers

DRIVERS in Paris faced longer trips Monday as a lower speed limit of 30 kilometres per hour came into effect for most of the capital's streets, part of Mayor Anne Hidalgo's pledge to reduce traffic and pollution.

While the measure has been praised by environmental groups and many residents, critics accuse the leftwing Hidalgo, who is weighing a bid for the presidency, of penalising millions of people who drive into the French capital each day for work.

Nearly two-thirds of Paris's roads were already limited to 30 kph (19 miles per hour), mostly along narrow streets or those near schools, in line with the maximum imposed in other large cities such as Lille or Nantes.

Now only a handful of major thoroughfares, including the iconic Champs-Élysées boulevard, will let people cruise at 50 kph.

The Paris ring road or "Périphérique," one of Europe's most heavily used with some 1.1 million users each day, will also remain at 70 kph, though Hidalgo has said she wants to reduce lane numbers to make more room for bikes and pedestrians. Taxis and delivery drivers in particular have assailed the lower speeds as impractical and unnecessary.

"It's not easy to stay at just 30 kph in a bus lane," Smail Chekimi, who has driven his cab for 28 years, told AFP.—AFP ■

Indonesia's capital reopens some schools despite parent fears



A student has her temperature checked while entering a school in Jakarta, as the government reopened schools amid the covid-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUNDREDS of schools in Jakarta threw their doors open to students Monday, as some parents resisted the return to in-person learning weeks after Indonesia overtook India and

Brazil as the pandemic's global epicentre. In Jakarta, the preliminary reopening applies to students from just 610 of more than 10,000 schools, from pre-school through high school.

Elsewhere, in-person learning has resumed in less badly hit areas at the local government's discretion. But most classrooms across the vast archipelago nation remain shut and a work from home order for non-essential sectors in effect in the worst-hit areas.

Some parents in the capital have opted to keep their children home, even after a year and a half of online classes.

Indonesia reported its worst coronavirus surge in July when the highly infectious Delta vari-

ant ripped through the country, prompting lockdowns.

Cases have since tapered, but in the past week an average of more than 13,000 new cases have been registered daily.

Attempting to reassure nervous families, officials have pointed to strict health protocols, a cap of only 50 per cent capacity and high vaccination rates in the education sector.

Over 90 per cent of students aged 12 and older and 85 per cent of teachers and educators in the capital have been vaccinated, according to Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan.

"We didn't decide to reopen the schools suddenly, there was an assessment," he told TVOne on Sunday. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany: Vaccinated, tested or recovered to take long-distance trains?

DESPITE fierce resistance, even from her own party, Chancellor Angela Merkel is sticking to the possible introduction of a 3G rule (tested, vaccinated or recovered - Ed. note: In German these words begin with "g") in long-distance trains.

Merkel continues to be of the opinion "that 3G in long-distance trains and domestic flights can be a possible and sensible measure," said government spokesman Steffen Seibert on Monday in Berlin.

He admitted, however, that there are "obvious counter-arguments". Above all, the Union-led ministries for transport and health are skeptical of the project.

"Our concerns about the practical and legal feasibility are known," said a spokesman for Andreas Scheuer's transport department (CSU). A spokesman for Health Minister Jens Spahn (CDU) referred to his statements from the weekend, according to which only a few corona infections could be assigned to the use of public transport. — AFP ■

Israel: Record daily coronavirus cases

ISRAEL on Tuesday recorded its highly daily coronavirus case tally of nearly 11,000 new infections, amid a surge caused by the highly transmissible Delta variant as schools prepare to re-open.

The previous high came on 18 January, with 10,118 cases.

Despite Tuesday's 10,947 confirmed cases, Israel is pressing ahead with plans to fully open its school system on Wednesday as it tries to boost vaccination rates.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, a critic of the cycle of lockdowns implemented by his predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu, has maintained that the surge can be controlled through inoculation and protective measures such as masks. His government has encouraged all residents aged 12 and above to get a third jab of the PfizerBioNTech vaccine.

About 60 per cent of Israel's 9.3 million residents have received two shots of the vaccine, including 80 per cent of adults. — AFP ■

EU chief says 70% of adults in the bloc fully vaccinated

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Tuesday 70 per cent of adults in the European Union were now fully vaccinated against Covid-19, hitting an end-of-summer target the bloc set for itself in January.

"Today we reached an important milestone in our vaccination campaign. Seventy per cent of adults in the EU are now fully vaccinated and that means 250 million people are fully immunised," Von der Leyen said in a video posted online.

Von der Leyen heads the European Commission, which is responsible for ordering vaccines for the EU's 27 member states, and had already announced in July that 70 per cent of the adult

population of the EU had received at least one dose.

The global fight against the coronavirus pandemic is now dominated by the battle against the Delta variant, a more contagious version of the Covid-19 coronavirus.

The World Health Organization fears that the pandemic could kill an additional 236,000 people in Europe by 1 December and has expressed concern about the stagnating pace of vaccinations on the continent.

Brussels has stressed the need for the EU to reduce the "worrying gap" in vaccination rates between member states and urged national authorities



EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Tuesday 70 per cent of adults in the European Union were now fully vaccinated against Covid-19, hitting an end-of-summer target the bloc set for itself in January. **PHOTO: AFP**

to be ready for the injection of a new dose to boost immunity if scientific data confirm the need for it. The rate of fully vaccinated

adults is about 20 per cent in Bulgaria, 32.8 per cent in Romania, 49 per cent in Slovakia and 58.1 per cent in Poland. — AFP ■

Lufthansa positive about recent months, but warns of "long, cold winter"



Planes of German airline Lufthansa are parked at the "Franz-Josef-Strauss" airport in Munich, southern Germany, 27 March, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMAN airline Lufthansa again during the winter, against expects business to slow down the backdrop of a possible fourth

virus wave.

The airline is preparing for a "long, cold winter", Lufthansa boss Carsten Spohr told journalists on Monday evening.

At the same time, he emphasized that he could draw a "positive balance" for the summer. The airline can also look positively into the final months of the pandemic. In September Lufthansa wants to offer 90 per cent of its destinations again.

But Spohr warned that the road to normalcy will likely take longer for the aviation industry than for many other industries.

The company boss was re-

lieved that the state wants to reduce its stake in the airline. That is "good news" for taxpayers and Lufthansa. The Economic Stabilization Fund (WSF) announced in mid-August that it would reduce its stake in the group from 20 per cent by a maximum of a quarter in the coming weeks.

During the crisis, Lufthansa negotiated a state rescue package worth a total of nine billion euros with the German government and the EU Commission - three billion euros as a loan from the state development bank KfW and six billion euros from the WSF. — AFP ■

New Israel mission in Dubai eyes Gulf oil megadeal

ISRAEL'S top diplomat in Dubai has said he is hopeful a deal to ship Emirati oil will clear environmental hurdles as trade booms after the groundbreaking opening of ties.

Ilan Sztulman Starosta, who heads Israel's first consulate in the UAE economic hub, told AFP that trade between the two countries would "easily" surpass \$1 billion within a year if the Covid pandemic abates.

His assessment came despite Israel freezing the Gulf oil deal last month over fears that spills could threaten unique coral reefs in the Red Sea.

Environmentalists had voiced anger over the plan to ship Emirati crude to Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat, and transport it via an ageing pipeline to Ashkelon on the Mediterranean coast for onward transport to Europe.

"Now it's a technical environment issue, and the project was frozen because of fear that this pipeline, which is very old, is not well kept enough for the oil to pass through and there's danger of leaks," Sztulman Starosta said in an interview.

"The environment ministry froze the programme. So now they went into a project to have

professional people look at the pipeline and check what's needed to make it foolproof.

"And eventually I hope that this is going to be open again because it's a very good deal for both the Emirates and the state of Israel."

However, he insisted "it won't affect the relationship" with the United Arab Emirates if the flagship deal flounders.

'Absolutely huge' potential

Last year, the UAE broke with decades of Arab consensus that there should be no normalization of ties with Israel without a



Ilan Sztulman Starosta, head of mission at Israel's consulate in Dubai, sits in his office against the background of the bustling Gulf city state. **PHOTO: AFP**

comprehensive and lasting peace with the Palestinians. Following the US-brokered deal with the

UAE, Israel normalized relations with Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan as well.— AFP ■

Australian growth beats forecasts in Q2 but outbreak takes toll

AUSTRALIA'S economy expanded more than expected in the second quarter, data showed Wednesday, easing concerns that the country could suffer a double-dip recession as it battles a fresh wave of Covid infections thanks to a pick-up in domestic demand.

However, there are fears it will suffer a contraction in the current period with the two biggest cities stuck in lockdown with authorities struggling to contain the latest outbreak.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported the economy grew 0.7 per cent in April-June as household spending and government expenditure jumped.

Compared with the same period last year the economy soared 9.6 per cent owing to the very low base of comparison.

"Domestic demand drove growth of 0.7 per cent this quarter which saw continued growth across household spending,



A man wearing a face mask walks before the Harbour Bridge in Sydney, Australia on 22 July 2020. **PHOTO: SAEED KHAN /AFP**

private investment and public sector expenditure," said the bureau's national accounts head Michael Smedes.

But the figures did not include the full impact of prolonged lockdowns in Sydney and Melbourne as well as other parts of the country that have more than half the 25 million population living under stay-at-home orders.

Australia suffered its first

recession in nearly three decades last year, but recovered strongly towards the end as outbreaks were brought under control and virus curbs lifted.

Authorities have now agreed on a roadmap to reopen the country when it hits vaccination targets of 70 and 80 per cent — likely later this year — which would boost the economy once more.— AFP ■

Major oil producers set to uphold small output increase

THE world's leading oil producers are expected to uphold a July deal to slowly boost output at a meeting on Wednesday, despite US pressure to go further.

OPEC members led by Saudi Arabia along with allies including Russia, known collectively as OPEC+, decided in July to raise output by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) each month from August, in a deal thrashed out after weeks

of wrangling.

The move is aimed at supporting a global economic recovery, which has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic — a crisis that sent oil demand plummeting last year.

But US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said last month that the production boost agreed in July was "simply not enough" to fuel a global recovery.

However, analysts said Wednesday afternoon's videoconference between the 23 OPEC+ partners was likely to uphold the July decision.

"It would be a surprise if they do anything (else) at the moment, despite pressure from the White House, given current price levels, demand and uncertain outlook," said Craig Erlam, a market analyst from trading firm Oanda.—AFP ■

Cheap electricity a boon for bitcoin mining in cash-strapped Venezuela

ON a factory floor in Caracas, the din of dozens of computers working non-stop is deafening. This is the sound of a bitcoin mine — one of several in a country where cheap electricity has made crypto mining a rare profitable endeavour. At the enterprise called Doctorminer, in eastern Caracas, nearly 80 computers — worth about \$400 apiece and each the size of a shoebox — generate some \$10,000 in bitcoin equivalent per month. The process produces intense heat, which require the constant cooling power of four large fans. The electricity bill for all this? "I think not even \$10 a month," said Theodoro Toukoumidis, CEO of Doctorminer, founded to erect crypto mines countrywide and provide the required machines.

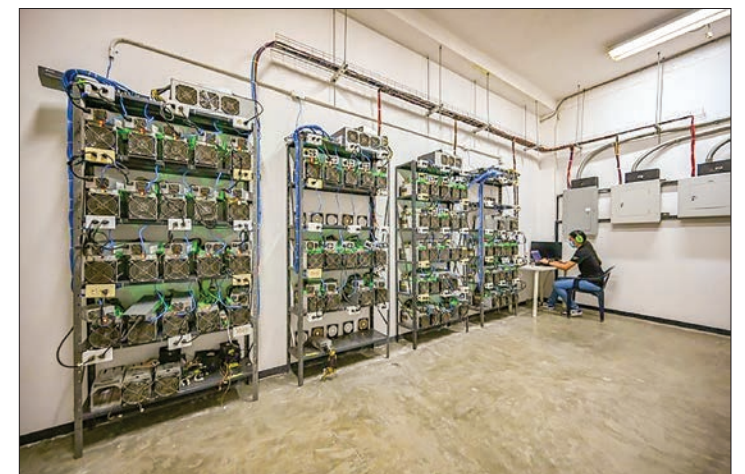
"We have discovered a way to generate income effortlessly... transforming energy into money," he told AFP.

In a country in recession and contending with the world's highest inflation of nearly 3,000 per cent in 2020, crypto mining presents an economic opportunity for a lucky few.

This is made possible by one of the world's lowest electricity prices: the commodity is heavily subsidized by the Venezuelan government. "Mining" is one way of raising crypto currency, putting high-powered computers to work to solve complicated mathematical problems — and the price of electricity is a major obstacle for miners in many countries.

Confronting economic crisis

But in Venezuela, the rock-bottom rate overrides most other considerations, including power cuts — frequent in a country where public services have all but collapsed, but less spotty in the capital Caracas than elsewhere.— AFP ■



As the value of the bolivar has been decimated by years of economic crisis, bitcoin has become increasingly accepted as currency in Caracas. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK to hold 1st talks with TPP members in Sept. to join trade pact



Photo taken on 1 Sept. 2021, at Japan's Cabinet Office in Tokyo, shows the Trans-Pacific Partnership Commission held online. PHOTO: KYODO

THE United Kingdom will hold its first meeting with members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact later this month to discuss London's application to join the deal, the Japanese government said Wednesday.

Following its departure from the European

Union, the United Kingdom is aiming to enhance its economic presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The 11-member TPP is trying to expand its area after the United States withdrew from the pact under former President Donald Trump.

Ministers from the 11 members, including Japan,

Australia and Singapore, held a videoconference of the TPP Commission, the bloc's decision-making body. Japan chairs the commission this year and also heads the TPP's working groups to discuss tariffs as well as trade and investment rules toward London's envisaged par-

participation. As many TPP members have already signed bilateral trade deals with the United Kingdom, no major obstacles are expected in the accession talks, officials have said.

The final decision on whether to accept the UK application is expected to be made as early as next year. The United Kingdom's participation, if realized, will push up the bloc's share of global economic output to 16 per cent from the current 13 per cent. London filed a request in February to join what is formally called the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, or CPT-PP.— Kyodo News ■

S. Korea passes bill to curb Apple, Google in-app payment systems

SOUTH Korea's parliament passed a bill Tuesday to ban Apple Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google from forcing app developers to use their mobile platforms' in-app payment systems.

The bill passed in the National Assembly amends the Telecommunications Business Act to allow mobile content businesses to use alternative payment systems and give consumers a choice

in how to pay for in-app content.

According to local media, this makes South Korea the first country to introduce such curbs on global tech giants' in-app billing policies. However, similar legislation was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate, for example.

App developers charge users for purchase of the app and for optional functions within the app, as well as for digital con-

tent such as games, music, and comics.

But both Apple and Google typically receive commissions of up to 30

per cent on purchases made through their app stores and exclude alternative payment handlers.— Kyodo



Photo taken on 30 Aug. 2021, shows Apple Inc.'s shop in Seoul, South Korea. PHOTO: KYODO

NEWS IN BRIEF

Google to appeal 500 mn euro French fine in copyright row

GOOGLE on Wednesday said it is appealing a decision by France's competition watchdog to hand it a 500-million-euro (\$590 million) fine in a row with news outlets over the use of their content under EU copyright rules.

"We disagree with some of the legal elements, and consider the amount of the fine to be disproportionate compared to the efforts we have put in place to reach a deal and respect the new law," Sebastien Missoffe, head of Google France, said in a statement.

The fine, issued by the French Competition Authority in July, was the biggest in the agency's history for a failure to comply with one of its rulings.

The watchdog said Google had failed to negotiate "in good faith" with media companies in a long-running legal battle over the internet giant's use of snippets of articles, photos and videos in search results.

The row has centred on claims that Google has used this content in its search results without adequate compensation, despite the seismic shift of global advertising revenues towards the search giant over the past two decades.—AFP

Daito Trust Construction unit helps Chinese hoping to study in Japan

DAITOKENTAKU Leasing Co., a real estate brokerage unit of Daito Trust Construction Co., launched a one-stop service Wednesday in Shanghai to support Chinese students seeking to study in Japan.

Eheya Business Consulting (Shanghai) Co., a local subsidiary of Daitokentaku Leasing, provides various services for Chinese students via its website, ranging from helping them find Japanese-language schools and apartment rooms to supporting their life in Japan, the Japanese company said in a news release Tuesday. Daitokentaku Leasing has become the first Japanese firm to offer such comprehensive study agent services for Chinese students, it said. The service, provided in cooperation with Japanese-language schools in Japan, is free of charge. The Shanghai subsidiary will get profits on commissions from the Japanese-language schools that receive Chinese students through the new service.

The Shanghai subsidiary started operations in October 2019, introducing Chinese customers seeking to study or work in Japan to Daitokentaku Leasing so that the Japanese parent can conclude apartment leasing contracts with them.—Kyodo

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (217N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (217N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (133S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (133S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

PM Johnson says UK owes ‘huge debt’ to Afghan refugees

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday said Britain owed “an immense debt” to Afghans who worked with NATO forces as he announced “vital support” for those resettling in the UK. But his government is coming under fire after thousands of Afghans who helped NATO and are eligible to move to Britain under the “Relocations and Assistance Policy (Arap)” were believed to have been left stranded in Afghanistan, where they are at the mercy of the Taliban.

More than 8,000 did make it out, and the government announced on Wednesday that they will be given immediate indefinite leave to remain and that £15 million would be provided for additional school places and to support access to the health service. “We owe an immense debt to those who worked with the Armed Forces in Afghanistan and I am determined that we give them and their families the support they need to rebuild their lives here in the UK,”

Johnson said of the so-called “Operation Warm Welcome” measures. “I know this will be an incredibly daunting time, but I hope they will take heart from the wave of support and generosity already expressed by the British public.” The government said the measures “will give Afghans the certainty and stability to rebuild their lives with unrestricted rights to work and the option to apply for British citizenship in the future.”—AFP ■



Britain has a resettlement scheme for everyday Afghans fleeing from their home country. PHOTO: AFP

Restrictive Texas abortion law takes effect



Pro-choice activists supporting legal access to abortion protest outside the US Supreme Court. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

A Texas law that bans abortion after six weeks, and makes no exception for rape or incest, took effect on Wednesday after the Supreme Court did not act on an emergency request to block it. Governor Greg Abbott, a Republican, signed the bill in May, making Texas one of a dozen states banning abortion once a fetal heartbeat can be detected

-- which is usually in the sixth week of pregnancy. The Supreme Court may still grant the request from rights groups and abortion providers to halt the so-called “heartbeat bill”, which makes Texas one of the hardest states in the United States to get an abortion. The American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, the

Centre for Reproductive Rights and other groups filed an emergency request with the Supreme Court on Monday asking it to stop the law from taking effect. “Approximately 85 to 90 per cent of people who obtain an abortion in Texas are at least six weeks into pregnancy, meaning this law would prohibit nearly all abortions in the state,” ACLU said. The other states that have sought to enact restrictions on abortion in the early stages of pregnancy have been barred from doing so by the landmark 1973 Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*. That decision allowed abortion so long as the fetus is not viable, which is usually the case until the 22nd to 24th weeks of pregnancy. Texas’s law is different because it allows the public — rather than state officials like prosecutors or health departments — to enforce the ban.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five missing as US Navy helicopter crashes off California coast

SEARCH and rescue operations were underway for five crew members missing after a US Navy helicopter crashed into the sea off the coast of California, the US Pacific Fleet said on Tuesday. One crew member had been rescued but five were missing, the navy fleet said in a statement. The MH-60S helicopter took off from the USS Abraham Lincoln during “routine flight operations” about 60 nautical miles off the coast of San Diego at 4:30 pm (2330 GMT), the fleet said. “Search and rescue operations are ongoing with multiple Coast Guard and Navy air and surface assets,” it added.— AFP ■

Remains of first Korean Catholic martyrs recovered

THE remains of the first Korean Catholic martyrs have been recovered, church officials said Wednesday, 230 years after they were executed and seven years since they were beatified. Religious belief is widespread in South Korea, with churches dotting the country’s cities, towns and villages. But the Joseon dynasty, which ruled the Korean peninsula for over 500 years until its annexation by Japan in 1910, ruthlessly persecuted Catholic believers after the religion was introduced in the 18th century, seeing Catholicism as a threat to its hierarchical social system, which was rooted in neo-Confucianism. Paul Yun Ji-chung, 32, and James Kwon Sang-yeon, 40, were the first of thousands to die, beheaded in 1791.—AFP ■

Security, logistics, repair: what next for Kabul’s airport?



Taliban Badri special force fighters secure the airport in Kabul after the US’ withdrawal. PHOTO: AFP

WITH the Taliban in possession of Kabul’s airport after the United States completed its withdrawal on Tuesday, the focus will now shift from the mammoth Western evacuation operation seen in the past two weeks to the group’s plans for the transport hub. The symbolism of the airport was underlined Tuesday when the Taliban’s top spokesman stood on its runway and declared victory over the United States. But what happens next remains unclear. Here is a look at the future of Hamid Karzai International Airport:

Who is going to run security? Attacks in the past week have shown the airport is a target for terrorists, so security is the primary concern. The United States took control of the airport to manage the evacuation of tens of thousands of people with help from other countries, coming under attack by the Islamic State group’s Afghanistan-Pakistan chapter. Turkey had offered to run security following the withdrawal of foreign troops, but the Taliban repeatedly said they would not

accept any foreign military presence after 31 August. “Our fighters and special forces are capable of controlling the airport and we do not need anyone’s help for the security and administrative control of the Kabul airport,” Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi told AFP on Monday. However, Michael Kugelman, a South Asia specialist at the Wilson Centre think tank in Washington, said a foreign security presence would be necessary if airlines were to return, and that a deal could yet be struck.—AFP ■

Biden declares end to 'forever wars' in Afghan exit

PRESIDENT Joe Biden made a forceful defence Tuesday of his "wise" decision to leave Afghanistan, telling Americans he refuses to send another generation to fight in a "forever war".

The traumatic departure from Afghanistan, completed Monday after 20 years of war against the Taliban, was "a wise decision and the best decision for America", Biden said in an address to the nation.

After coming under fire from Republican opponents over the chaotic nature of the rush to the exits in Afghanistan, Biden said he did what should have been done years ago.

"I was not going to extend this forever war and I was not extending a forever exit," he said.

The evacuation, he said, was an "extraordinary success".



Bagram Air Base served as the linchpin for US operations in Afghanistan. PHOTO: AFP

Speaking in the ornate State Dining Room of the White House, Biden thumped the lectern as he detailed the extraordinary costs of a war — more than 2,400 US military deaths and up to \$2.3 trillion spent — that ended with the Taliban guerrillas back

in power.

"I take responsibility for the decision," he said.

"I made a commitment to the American people that I would end this war. Today, I honored that commitment. It was time to be honest," he said.—AFP ■

Britain in talks with Taliban over safe passage of remaining nationals



A handout picture released by the British Ministry of Defence (MOD) shows military personnel and military working dogs departing from a RAF C-17 aircraft after landing at RAF Brize Norton, west of London on 29 August 2021, as the troops and diplomatic staff return from assisting with the evacuation of people from Kabul airport in Afghanistan. PHOTO: AFP

BRITAIN has opened talks with the Taliban over the "safe pas-

sage" of its remaining nationals and allies out of Afghanistan af-

ter the hardline Islamist group's quickfire takeover of the country last month.

The British government confirmed to AFP it has dispatched senior civil servant Simon Gass to meet with Taliban representatives in Doha.

Much of the group's senior leadership lived in exile in the Qatari capital until the overthrow of Afghanistan's Western-backed government after 20 years of war.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has come under fire after many Afghans who helped NATO — and are eligible to move to Britain — were believed to have been left stranded in Afghanistan, where they are at the mercy of the Taliban.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

California declares war on 'ghost guns'

CALIFORNIA is declaring war on "ghost guns" — weapons kits sold on the internet without any system of control — with Los Angeles on Tuesday becoming the latest city to move to outlaw them.

City councilors in the metropolis — the second largest in the United States — voted unanimously to move to ban the sale or possession of the untraceable firearms whose use has exploded in recent years.

"When we see an increase in homicides here, and when we see that the (police) report that 40 per cent of the crime guns recovered are ghost guns, we know that we have a very urgent critical situation that needs to be addressed," said Paul Koretz, the councilmember who proposed the ordinance.

Ghost guns first appeared around a decade ago, and became popular among weapons enthusiasts.

Also called "80-per-cent guns," they are sold as parts, and must be assembled by the end user.

Crucially, they have no serial number, and, because they are not classified as guns during the retail process, the kits do not require a licence or a background check in many US states, including California.

Readily available online, they quickly became the go-to solution for people barred from buying a weapon because of a criminal record or their age. The resulting proliferation is becoming a real problem for law enforcement, said Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher.— AFP ■

Russia failed in probe over Chechnya activist killing: Europe court

RUSSIA has failed to properly investigate the 2009 killing of activist Natalia Estemirova, Europe's top rights court said Tuesday, while disappointing her supporters by ruling there was no evidence of a state-sponsored murder.

Campaigners have accused the local authorities in Chechnya under its strongman leader Ramzan Kadyrov of being linked to the abduction and murder of Estemirova, who was head of the Chechnya branch of Memorial, a leading Russian rights group.

They have called for a more thorough inquiry, but so far no one has ever faced trial over the killing.

Ruling on a case brought by Estemirova's sister Svetlana in 2011, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) said it had seen no evidence of state involvement in the murder of Estemirova.

But over a decade after a murder that shocked the rights community in Russia, it said Moscow had shown a "failure to properly investigate the crime".

The Russian government had also failed to provide the court with a full copy of the criminal case file, which "had undermined its ability to assess the quality of the investigation", it added.

But the evidence it had received and contradictions in the case "led it to doubt that the investigation had been effective", the court said.—AFP ■

New hate trial for French far-right veteran Jean-Marie Le Pen

THE 93-year-old founder of France's main far-right party, Jean-Marie Le Pen, goes on trial Wednesday over allegations of once again inciting racial hatred, this time with comments targeting a Jewish pop singer.

He already has a string of hate speech convictions that eventually became too much for his daughter Marine Le Pen, who expelled him from the National Front's leadership in 2015 in a bid to achieve mainstream respectability.

Le Pen senior, however, has continued to relish the outrage prompted by his statements regarding Jews, Muslims, black people and immigrants.

The latest trial stems from a 2014 video on the party's website in which Le Pen railed against artists who denounced his extremist stances, including Madonna and the French tennis star-turned-singer Yannick Noah.

Asked about the French singer and actor Patrick Bruel,

Le Pen referred to his Jewish origins with a pun evoking the Holocaust — "I'm not surprised. Listen, next time we'll do a whole oven batch!"

The taunt sparked a torrent of indignation including from leaders of his own party, with Marine Le Pen criticizing what she called a "political error".

Jean-Marie claimed the comments carried no anti-Semitic connotations "except for my political enemies or imbeciles".—AFP ■



Jean-Marie Le Pen has long relished in the outrage provoked by his comments regarding Jews, blacks and immigrants. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Myanmar National League postponed to 2022 amid pandemic surge



Shan United FC is a defending champion of the Myanmar National League. PHOTO: MNL

ALL the Myanmar National League football matches have been postponed to next year amidst the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across Myanmar, said the source with the Myanmar National League yesterday.

The Myanmar National League Committee has decided to resume all MNL matches next year in consultation with all clubs.

The domestic foot-

ball tourneys including MNL matches are being organized by Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League Organizing Committee.

“The 2021 football season was originally scheduled for May, this year, but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 third wave, which has been spreading across the country in recent months.

“Some Asian and ASEAN countries including Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam, are also planning to resume their domestic leagues next year due to the high prevalence of COVID-19.

“All the Myanmar National League football clubs will be notified in advance when the tournament will resume in 2022,” said Myanmar National League officials.

—GNLM ■

Southgate urges England to learn lessons from Euro heartbreak



ENGLAND manager Gareth Southgate believes the Three Lions are closer to ending their wait to win a first major tournament since 1966 than they have been for generations, with the Qatar World Cup little over a year away.

Southgate's side return to action this week for the first time since losing the Euro 2020 final on penalties to Italy in three World Cup qualifiers against Hun-

gary, Andorra and Poland. Reaching Qatar should be a formality for a nation ranked fourth in the world, with expectations now to compete to win the World Cup for a second time rather than make up the numbers in the Middle East. England's fortunes have been transformed since Southgate succeeded Sam Allardyce as manager in 2016.

A first World Cup

semi-final for 28 years in Russia in 2018 was followed up by reaching the final of the European Championship for the first time in England's history. Yet, for all the progress and plaudits earned along the way, some old failings came back to haunt them at Euro 2020 just when everything seemed to have lined up for a coronation as champions.

In losing semi-finals at the 2018 World Cup and 2019 Nations League and final of the Euro, Southgate's men could not have wished for a better start as they scored early. But they failed to build on those leads, sitting back as Croatia, the Netherlands and Italy dominated possession before reaping their rewards in the second half.—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.

Paralympics: Sugimura streaks to Japan's 1st boccia gold

HIDETAKA Sugimura put on a dominant display of boccia to win Japan's first-ever Paralympic gold in the sport, taking a 5-0 win in the individual BC2 final on Wednesday in Tokyo.

Facing Thailand's Watcharaphon Vongsa, the reigning gold medalist in the event, Sugimura, 39, got out to a fast start and then forced home his advantage. He put two points on the board in the first end and then added three more in the subsequent three to complete the whitewash.

Earlier Wednesday evening, visually impaired swimmer Keiichi Kimura won his first medal of the Tokyo Games when he snagged silver in the men's SB11 100-metre breaststroke. The 30-year-old Tokyoite touched in 1 minute, 11.78 to finish just over half

a second behind Rogier Dorsman, who has won three gold medals at these games for the Netherlands. — Kyodo News ■



Hidetaka Sugimura (L) of Japan celebrates after winning the gold medal in the boccia mixed individual BC2 match against Watcharaphon Vongsa of Thailand at the Tokyo Paralympics on 1 Sept 2021, at Ariake Gymnastics Centre in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS