

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 158, 4th Waning of Tawthalin 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Friday, 24 September 2021

Press Statement

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs learnt that there was a meeting namely Annual Ministerial Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect on 20 September 2021 and it was organized by the Global Centre for Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) on the sidelines of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Ministry further observed that the said meeting was participated by Kyaw Moe Tun, a dismissed civil servant who has been facing the charge of high treason. The Ministry further reiterates that his participation does not represent Myanmar as he delivered the statement on behalf of the so-called NUG which was declared as a terrorist group for committing terrorist activities in Myanmar. It is evident that he himself is a member of the said-terrorist organization. Moreover, his statement contained fabricated and unfounded allegations from anti-government quarter and it also included unacceptable elements such as infringement on State's sovereignty and inviting the foreign interferences.

Myanmar strongly rejects and objects to the conducts of countries and organizations which allowed his participation as well as reminds them that such action would lead further incitement of violence and instability in Myanmar. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates its call to the international community to refrain from any form of engagement with and encouragement to such unlawful and terrorist organizations and their representatives.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 23 September 2021*

Number of pilgrims to Bagan cultural zone increases within week

BAGAN cultural heritage zone in Nyaung U Township, Mandalay has now received the growing number of pilgrims in a week, said U Than Myint Aung from Shwesigon Pagoda Trustees Board.

Bagan cultural heritage zone, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was eerily empty due to the tight restriction period of the COVID-19. It was reopened starting from 8 February 2021, in accordance with the health guidelines for the COVID-19, Nyaung U Township Administration Body stated.

The pilgrims from Heho, Tagaung, Taunggyi, Hopong, Natmauk, Magway, Bago, Pakokku, Kyaukpadaung, Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw cities visited the zone these days. Some came to Taungkalat Aba Aungminkhaung Nat Pwe (spiritual worshipping



Worshippers are seen at one of the famous pagodas: Shwesigon Pagoda in Bagan.

event) and enter Bagan cultural zone to pay homage to Buddhist temples.

Around 550 visitors are seen in the famous historical temples of Bagan city: Shwesigon

Pagoda, Tuyintaung Pagoda, Tantkyitaung Pagoda, Htilominlo Temple, Ananda Pagoda, Bu Pagoda, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple, Culamani Tem-

ple, Mahabodhi Temple, Sulamani Temple, Manuha Temple, Shwesandaw Pagoda, and other famous pagodas in recent days, according to the board.

SEE PAGE-2

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.

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin participates in ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting on sidelines of 76th Session of UNGA via videoconference

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Three men arrested for delivering medicines, weapons, ammunition to CDF

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

NUG brainwashes underaged to commit bomb attacks, murder cases

PAGE-7

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sagaing Region Agriculture Dept covers over 20,000 acres of Tragacanth Gum

PAGE-10



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
The 2nd Amended Law on the Yangon City Development Law
State Administration Council Law No 25/2021
3rd Waning of Tawthalin 1383 ME
23 September 2021

THE State Administration Council here enacted this law in accord with Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be the second amended law on the Yangon City Development Law.

2. In Section 25 of the Yangon City Development Law -

(A) Sub-section (r) shall be substituted as follows: -

“(r) rewarding the staff and organizations serving the people to abide by this law and bylaws, rules and regulations, notifications, orders, directives and procedures released in line with this law in keeping the city clean, pleasant and beautifying.”

(B) Original Sub-section (r) shall be changed to Sub-section (s).

3. Sections 26 and 27 of the Yangon City Development Law shall be revoked.

4. Section 332 (a) of the Yangon City Development Law shall be substituted as follows: -

(A) “The committee shall seek help from relevant Myanmar Police Force, if necessary, in exercising its duty and authority. If it seeks help, the Myanmar Police Force must encourage it.”

I hereby signed the law under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Officials arrange transport for 168 returnees from Laos, Thailand

A total of 168 returnees from Laos and Thailand who have tested negative for COVID-19 came back home through the Wampong Port and Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge (2), Tachilek, Shan State (East) on 23 September (yesterday).

Officials arranged free transportation for all the returnees by vehicle to reach their respective regions and states.

The returnees were extradited from Laos and Thailand

on 18 September.

With the supervision of the Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee on COVID-19 in Tachilek District, the returnees were diagnosed by RDT Rapid Test Kit for the first time.

On the third day of quarantine at Wamlone Center, nasal and palate samples of the returnees were taken and sent to Taunggyi for a second diagnosis.

According to the test results, the COVID-19 virus was

detected in 64 repatriated people and they will stay in Wamlone COVID-19 Centre to receive further medical treatment.

Next, officials underwent a second medical examination and a total of 168 people: 117 males and 51 females tested negative for COVID-19.

Officials distributed food to the returnees and provided necessary assistance and provided free transportations to reach their respective places. —Yar Say (IPRD)/GNLM

Number of pilgrims to Bagan cultural zone increases within week

FROM PAGE-1

The local pilgrims are interested to observe the temples, stupas and mural paintings. Those pilgrimages can revive small businesses such as horse-riding businesses, motorcycle and electric bike rental businesses, hotels, motels, guesthouses and the souvenir businesses.

The local tourism industry is battered by COVID-19 and those engaged in local transportation rental business (three-wheel, boat, horse-riding, car, e-bike, cycle, motorcycle), hotels and guesthouses, restaurants and souvenir shops are suffering from this. The businesses relying on tourism were earlier closed amid the COVID-19 negative impacts, U Maung Soe, who offers boat ride service elaborated. — KPD/GNLM

Myanmar-Thailand bilateral border trade tops \$3.7 bln this FY

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Thailand reached over US\$3.7 billion as of 10 September in the present financial year 2020-2021 which started in October, the Ministry of Commerce's trade data showed. The country's export to Thailand totalled \$2.44 billion while its import shared \$1.29 billion during the period. This budget year's figures decreased by \$95 million, compared to the same period in the last fiscal year. Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighbouring Thailand through seven border checkpoints—Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei gates. During the period, Myawady border gate topped with \$1.79 billion trade.

The country's agricultural and fishery products are exported to Thailand while cosmetics, food products and machinery and raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers are imported.

The bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand stood at \$3.7 billion in FY2020-2021 (as of September), \$5.1 billion in FY2019-2020, \$5.5 billion in FY2018-2019, \$2.9 billion in the mini-budget year of 2018 or transitional period from April to September this year, \$5 billion in FY2017-2018, \$4.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$4.8 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$5.7 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$5.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$4.7 billion in the 2012-2013FY, and \$4.5 billion in the 2011-2012FY, according to the Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. — ACM/GNLM



Produce quality products

THE suspension of State-owned factories causes loss for the country. As such, it is necessary to consider the availability of raw materials and inputs and market share in order to resume the State-owned factories suspended for various reasons and produce quality products. Officials need to urge all personnel to consciously use the State-owned equipment in order to avoid waste and loss.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 2/2021 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 Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7-9-2021)

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin participates in ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting on sidelines of 76th Session of UNGA via videoconference



UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin participated in the ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was held on the sidelines

of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 23 September 2021, via videoconference from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay

Pyi Taw.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Retno L.P. Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Antony Blinken,

Secretary of State of the United States, and was attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, Secretary-General of ASEAN and representatives from ASEAN and the United States.

The Meeting discussed matters relating to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN-U.S. cooperation and regional security issues. The Union Minister underlined the importance of strengthening multilateralism in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Minister appreciated the United States' support to ASEAN's effort in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and encouraged the United States' further support to ASEAN's COVID-19 response initiatives as well as its continued support to ASEAN's efforts on regional integration, especially through the Initiative

for ASEAN Integration (IAI).

With regard to developments in Myanmar, the Union Minister explained the security condition in the country, the implementation of the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council and the five-point consensus of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, including efforts on the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar in coordination with ASEAN.

The Union Minister urged the United States and the ASEAN Member States to condemn terrorist acts committed by NUG and CRPH. Their representation at the UN and other international fora is not legitimate and unacceptable.

The Meeting was also attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

IPRD employees urged to be proud of being civil servants, dissemination of education programmes: MoI DM

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met with the officials and employees of the Information and Public Relations Department of Kyaukse District, Singing, TadaU and Myittha townships at Kyaukse District IPRD office, and with the departmental staff including the township administrator at Wundwin Township IPRD office on 22 September.

The Deputy Minister then received the heads and staff of Meiktila District, Thazi and Mahlaing townships IPRD and inspected the Meiktila retransmission station.

He also met with the staff of IPRD in Pyawbwe Township and Yemathin District and visited the IPRD office of Tatkon Township in the same evening.

During the visit, the Deputy Minister urged the civil servants to be proud of being government employees in serving the duties, to try hard in disseminating the education programmes for the public and to seek public participation in eliminating the destructive elements during the period of vaccination programmes.

He then added that due to public participation, the disease infection rate significantly declines currently and the violent cases are uncovered daily. Therefore, the country will see sector-wise development and get back to normal peacefully. It also needs to prevent the loss of buildings and equipment due to natural disasters and to ensure security measures. — MNA



MIFER Union Minister inspects investment projects in North Okkalapa, Hlinethaya Townships



The MIFER Union Minister holds talks with business people in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo visited the Anita Asia Company Limited, the garment industry operating in Yangon Region, North Okkalapa Township under the permission of the Myanmar Investment

Commission yesterday afternoon. The responsible personnel from the industry greeted the Union Minister and explained the operational procedures of the industry, the acceptance of orders, the operational challenges and the upcoming plans of the

industry. The Union Minister fulfilled the requirements of the industry.

Then, the Union Minister also visited the rice mill of Aye-ay Prince Trading Company Limited in Hlinethaya Township. The responsible personnel of

the industry explained the investment activities, operational procedures of the rice mill, conditions on exporting products and implementing contract farming activities. The Union Minister noted the responsible personnel of the industry to improve the productivity of the industry, exporting products and the inclusion of all the levels in the supply chain by implementing contract farming and made the field inspection around the industry.

After that, the Union Minister made a meeting with the businessmen investing in Hlinethaya industrial zone at Kanaung Hall of the Shwelinpan Industrial Zone. The chairman of the Shwelinpan Industrial Zone Management Committee U Aye Thauang, General Secretary U Nay Lin Zin and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Industrial Zones in Yangon Region attended the meeting and the attend-

ees of the meeting discussed current activities of the industries, matters regarding banking and finance, reoperation of the burned and damaged factories, shipping, insurance, tax exemption, loans and improving the standards of the industries.

After hearing the reports of the attendees, the Union Minister coordinated the difficulties of the attendees by expressing the plans regarding the reoperation of the burned and damaged factories, the cooperation between the ministries related to investment, the allowance of Covid-19 loan for the reoperation of the industries, improvement of Agricultural and Small and Medium Enterprises, facilitation of the import and export processes, simplification of procedures of the ministries, improvement on online services, services to existing permitted industries, reducing barrier to investment and improving transparency.—MNA

Myanmar attends SEACEN-BIS high-level seminar, 20th meeting of SEACEN executive committee

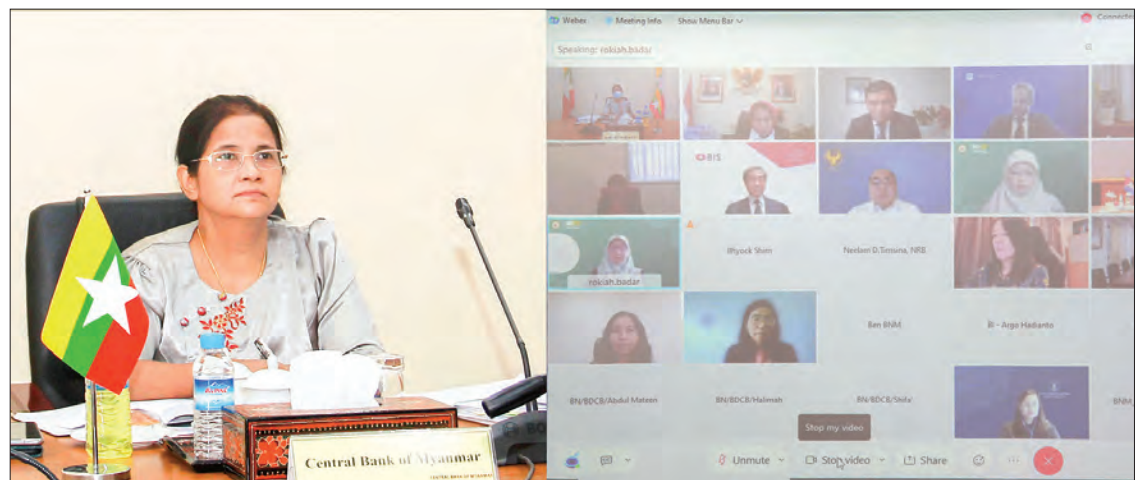
THE South-East Asia Central Banks (SEACEN Centre)-Bank for International Settlement (BIS), the SEACEN-BIS High-level Seminar, was chaired by the SEACEN Centre and the Central Bank of Brunei Darussalam on 22 September, and the 20th Meeting of the SEACEN Executive Committee was held yesterday afternoon through videoconferencing.

The meetings were attended by Deputy Governors of the 19 SEACEN member central banks, the SEACEN Executive Director and Directors, subject experts from BIS and representatives. Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe attended the meetings

from Myanmar.

The seminar discussed “Changing Nature of Capital Flows and their Implications”, “Challenges Central Banks in the region will face in the short to medium term in this new landscape,” “Changing Nature of Capital Flows to Emerging and Frontier Economies-Managing Capital Flows and Taper Redux, respectively.

At the 20th Meeting of the SEACEN Executive Committee, SEACEN Executive Director Dr Mangal Goswami and Managing Director of the Central Bank of Brunei Darussalam Madam YM Dayang Hajah Rohiah Haji Badar presented the status of the



strategic project implementations for 2021-2022 by the SEACEN Centre; priorities and budget for the year 2022; SEACEN governance issues; central bank-relat-

ed subject topics to be taught in 2022 and research programmes; scholarships for students from the SEACEN member central banks; SEACEN recruitment process.

Deputy Governors from the 19 SEACEN member central banks and delegations provided necessary suggestions on the presentation. — 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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aunghthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products 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, by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airport and seaports with standard operating procedures.

On 23 September (Yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by five companies and transported by 10 vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by one



Anti Covid equipment and products are daily imported and transported to the needed areas.

bowser, 3,460 empty oxygen cylinders, one oxygen plant, 105 oxygen concentrators

for home use, and 43 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, Myawady, and Chinsh-

wehaw trading posts, seaports and Yangon International Airport.

One oxygen bowser was transported to Bago and one oxygen plant imported via Muse was transported to Haka.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for better importation.

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

COVID-19 vaccination continues at Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukphyu Township



Inoculation process is underway in Kyaukphyu. PHOTO: PHYU WAI LIN (IPRD)

THE health workers vaccinated the people over 18 living at Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukphyu Township of Rakhine State yesterday.

The staff of the General Administration Department collected data and IPRD staff distributed the masks and hand sanitizer to the refugees.

Before the vaccination, the health workers of the township health department monitored the body temperatures and blood pressures of the people.

Ko Maung Aye Hlaing, who received the vaccine at the camp said, "I am 36 years old. I come here to get vaccinated. I felt nothing like pain and dizziness. I really thank the Head of the State and health care workers for conducting vaccination programmes here."

Similarly, a 30-year-old Ma Sandar Win said, "I did not suffer anything such as illness, loss of smell and I was not infected with COVID-19 during this period. I know that if we get vaccinated,

we can reduce the risk of infection and death toll. Therefore, I come here to receive the vaccine. I urge those who living at Kyauktalone IDP camp to get vaccinated as there is a chance for us. I thank the government and medics."

The officials conducted vaccination for the people at the age of over 65 starting 4 August, and for the ones over 18 at the camp starting 17 September, according to the township health official. — Tin Tun Oo/GNLM

More than 25,000 people vaccinated between 14 and 22 September in Paung

A total of 25,695 people in Paung Township, Mon State, were provided with the first dose of Sinorpharm COVID-19 vaccine between 14 and 22 September.

This is the second batch that the vaccines against the COVID-19 disease were administered to the priority groups including monks, nuns, persons with disabilities and people over the age of 55 in the township.

The vaccination has started on 14 September in the designated places in respective

wards and villages in Paung Township, Thaton District, Mon State, and it will reportedly continue until 26 September.

Chairman of the Township Administration Body U Thike Htun and officials provided necessary assistance during the immunization process.

During the first batch of the COVID-19 vaccine administration, a total of 9,158 people were vaccinated in Paung Township, according to the Township General Administration Department. — Wunna Maung (IPRD)/GNLM



A local receives Covid jab in Paung.

1,744 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 September, total figure rises to 453,407

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 453,407 after 1,744 new cases were reported on 23 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 406,175 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,343 after 77 died.

Three men arrested for delivering medicines, weapons, ammunition to CDF

THREE suspects delivering supplies to Chinland Defence Force in Mindat, Chin State, were arrested on 16 and 17 September.

On 16 September, at around 3 pm, security forces arrested Kyaw Htay who delivered necessary supplies, including weapons, ammunition, money, medicines and medical equipment, to Aye Nyein Thu who provides the CDF groups (Chinland Defence Force) with these supplies.

His revelation led to the arrest of Kyaw Kyaw Tun, a related suspect, at his house in Pakokku Town, together with 1 portable X-ray, medical equipment, one oximeter and one scale, and 20 MPT Sim cards on 17 September. Security forces also confiscated one anaesthetic machine and a Toyota Tiger (Double Cab) unlicensed (grey) vehicle from his house on the morning of 18 September.

According to the confes-



sions made by the arrested suspects, Zaw Naing Win, another related suspect, was arrested at Thayat Taw checkpoint near Thayat Taw village in Pauk Township, together with an unlicensed blue colour SURF vehicle (1D/7221) on 17 September.

Following his revelation, security forces searched his

house in Hnaw village, Saw Township, and found and confiscated one 9mm pistol (Beretta), one 9mm pistol (Retay Xtreme), 135 rounds of ammunition of 9mm and 472 rounds of ammunition of 5.56.

According to the findings on the investigation, Aye Nyein Thu, the main suspect of the case, has been providing health care service to the members of CDF, under the instruction of Zaw Wai Soe, fugitive of the NUG terrorist organization. He also collects donations from the donors in and out of the country to buy ammunition and medicines for CDF.

In delivering supplies to Mindat under the instruction of Aye Nyein Thu, Kyaw Htay and Kyaw Kyaw Tun took in charge of Pakokku; Ma Pan Wai was in charge of Pauk; Zaw Naing Win was in charge of Kyaukhtu/Saw; Ba Chit was in charge of Mindat, respectively.

One of the in-charges in Yangon and Mandalay delivered the supplies by Shwe Mandalay, Kyal Sin Moe, Ayeayawady buses to Pakokku from which were distributed through the Pakokku-Kanma-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat route. It was also known that they carried out the supply mission five times in September.

It is reported that the arrested three suspects will be taken effective action under the law and security forces are accelerating the investigation to identify and take action against the related suspects. People are also requested to work together for the stability and peace of the nation by informing the relevant authority about them.—MNA

Zaw Wai Soe

ချင်းပြည်နယ်၊ မင်းတပ်မြို့ရှိ အကြမ်းဖက် CDF အဖွဲ့ထံသို့ ငွေကြေး၊ လက်နက်/ခဲယမ်းနှင့် ဆေးဝါးပစ္စည်း ထောက်ပံ့နေသူများအား ဖမ်းဆီးရမိမှု Diagram



Seized vehicle (without licence).



Confiscated weapons and ammunition.

NUG brainwashes underaged to commit bomb attacks, murder cases

SECURITY forces inspected a vehicle parked in front of the religious hall located in Bayintnaung street of No (49) Ward in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 20 September. The police arrested three suspects – Hein Htet Aung (Zan Ye), aged 19, Thant Zin, aged 16 and Aung Ko Oo, aged 16 who participated in the murder case against U Naing Lin, Ten Houses Leader of No (49) Ward in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 13 September.



Yee Mon

According to the confessions of suspects, security forces arrested Aung Aung Oo, 21, Nyein Chan Phyto (aka) Chan Phyto, 21, Aung Ko Htwe (aka) Barbu, 19, Khant Thurain, 16 and Kyal Sin Hnin Wai (aka) Kyal Sin, 14 at No (1) Thamine Ward in Mayangon Township while Wai Yan Phyto, 17 in Gyogon (West) Ward of Insein Township.

On 21 September, the police raided the houses of Hein Htet Aung, Wai Yan Phyto, Thant Zin, Kyal Sin Hnin Wai, Aung Aung Oo and Nyein Chan Phyto and seized 5 sets of uniforms, 2 caps, 3 pairs of military boots, 4 vests, 2 helmets and other materials.

In this case, the police arrested 9 suspects—8 males and 1 female and seized 5 sets of uniforms, 2 caps, 3 pairs of military boots, 4 vests, 2 helmets and other materials.

According to the confessions of suspects, they communicated with Arkar (still at large) on 1 June to kill the informers and conduct bomb attacks. They also organized Freedom Fighters Force—Mayangon with Hein Htet Aung (leader), Aung Aung Oo (F-1), Aung Ko Oo (F-2), Nyein Chan Phyto (F-3), Thant Zin (F-4), Luca (F-5) (still at large), Ko Htet (F-6) (still at large), Aung Ko Htwe (F-7), Wai Yan Phyto (F-8), Kyal Sin Hnin Wai (F-9), Hein Latt (F-10) (still at large), Khant Thurein (F-11) and Thura Shin (F-12) (still at large).

On 25 July, Hein Htet Aung, That Zin and Wai Yan Phyto went to No (3) Ward of Mayangon Township and an innocent civilian U Moe Kyaw Soe was shot dead by Hein Htet Aung (aka) Zan Ye.

On 1 August, Hein Htet Aung, Thant Zin, Aung Aung Oo and Nyein Chan Phyto went to No (1) ward administration body office of Mayangon township and Nyein Chan Pyo and

in No (1) Ward of Mayangone township and Aung Ko Oo shot an innocent civilian U Sein Thaug. The victim was seriously wounded.

On 13 September, Hein Htet Aung, Aung Ko Oo, Arkar (still at large) and Thant Zin also went to No (49) Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) township and the innocent civilian U Naing Lin was shot by Thant Zin.

It is reported that the suspects committed 1 bomb attack and 3 murder cases.

The suspects joined the explosive training near Ohn Taw Hall in the Hline University campus.

The suspects used the guns and bombs received from Arkar (still at large) who communicated with NUG. Yee Mon and Zaw Wai Soe from terrorist

group NUG are brainwashing the underaged young people and the youths abuse drugs to commit bomb attacks and murder cases.

The arrested suspects will face legal actions under the law. The security force will also investigate to arrest the absconders. Moreover, announcements

are also released that the entire people can participate in fight terrorism and arresting perpetrators as quickly as possible, secretly report to the officials about their hiding places and activities, and the whistle-blowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded.—MNA



Mayangon administration body office is damaged by handmade bomb.

အကြမ်းဖက်အဖွဲ့အစည်းဖြစ်သော NUG မှ အသက်မပြည့်သေးသော လူငယ်များအား ဝါဒမှိုင်းတိုက်၍ ခိုင်းစေမှုကြောင့် အကြမ်းဖက်ဖောက်ခွဲသတ်ဖြတ်မှုကျူးလွန်ခဲ့သည့် တရားခံများ ဖမ်းဆီးရမိမှု



ဟိန်းထက်အောင် (ခ)ဈာန်ရဲ (၁၉)နှစ်

အဖွဲ့ခေါင်းဆောင်



အောင်အောင်ဦး(၂၁)နှစ် (F-1)



အောင်ကိုဦး(၁၆)နှစ် (F-2)



ငြိမ်းချမ်းဖြိုး(၂၁)နှစ် (F-3)



သန့်ဇင်(၁၆)နှစ် (F-4)



အောင်ကိုထွေး(၁၉)နှစ် (F-7)



ဝေယံဖြိုး(၁၇)နှစ် (F-8)



ကြယ်စင်နှင်းဝေ(၁၄)နှစ် (F-9)



ခန့်သူရိန်(၁၆)နှစ် (F-11)

Let's save the planet Earth by conserving forests

NOWADAYS, it is necessary to urgently save the planet Earth. It is because deforestation is expanding the areas across the world to bring negative consequences to human society.

One of the most important factors for deforestation is illegal timber extraction. The areas without forests may face flooding and landslide. Trees in urban areas save the life of an urban local yearly because these trees can remove and bar the specks of dust in the atmosphere. As such, trees are able to clean the atmosphere and supply oxygen to living beings.

In fact, forests are filters in the air and water as endowed by the nature. Most of the water sources originate at springs which are located at or near the forests.

Furthermore, the forests are the habitat of wildlife. The proper ecosystem can save the planet Earth on which the living beings, including humans, reside thanks to greening, shade, food supply and natural disaster preventable trees.

Trees can absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Each tree is able to absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Moreover, a 40 years old tree can remove one tonne of carbon from the air per year.

Significantly, researchers said that trees can contribute to the reduction of crime. It is because the green colour of the forests and trees ease the tension of the living beings. As such, everybody can build trust among those from the society based on the effects of greening environs.

The people from most of the country prefer to choose the residences near the trees. As such, prices of such housing depend on the areas close to the trees. Psychological research works proved the people are keen to buy goods at the shops near the green areas.

In addition, the trees can support people to have better mental health. Those with depression and tension can remove their frets by walking in natural areas such as forests and clusters of trees. Many research works proved that those with much exposure to the forests and trees have better mental fitness.

The ability of trees benefits humans much. The greening and coolness of the trees help the living beings stay away from the high temperature in the hot and dry seasons. Trees can prevent the loss of water on the earth and dehydration from the human body.

Furthermore, the forests are the habitat of wildlife. The proper ecosystem can save the planet Earth on which the living beings, including humans, reside thanks to greening, shade, food supply and natural disaster preventable trees.



Innovation continued despite COVID-19: New UN report

Despite the economic devastation wrought by COVID-19, the new technology sector continued to thrive and prosper last year, the UN's intellectual property agency said in a new report published on Monday.

ACCORDING to the findings of the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) latest Global Innovation Index, (GII) governments and enterprises in many parts of the world scaled up investments in innovation, demonstrating an acknowledgement that new ideas are critical for overcoming the pandemic.

"We expected a harsh slump in 2020 of around 3 per cent, however, the GII shows there are reasons to be optimistic—with governments showing foresight and not cutting spending," Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, WIPO Composite Indicator Research Section and GII co-editor, said at the launch of the report in Geneva.

Uneven impact

WIPO warned however that the impact of the crisis has been highly uneven across industries and countries.

In its annual ranking of the world's economies on innovation capacity and output, the GII showed that only a few economies, mostly high income, consistently dominate the ranks.

However, the Republic of Korea



A researcher works on a vaccine against the new COVID-19 virus at the Copenhagen University research lab in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 23 March, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

rea joined Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, and Britain, to make the top 5 of the GII for the first time in 2021, while four other Asian economies feature in the top 15: Singapore (8), China (12), Japan (13) and Hong Kong, China (14).

Selected middle-income economies, including Turkey, Vietnam, India, the Philippines, are also catching up and progress made last year by France (11) and China (12) are confirmed, as both are

now knocking at the door of the GII top 10.

Showing resilience

According to a new GII feature - the Global Innovation Tracker - technology, pharmaceuticals and biotech industries, boosted their investments during the pandemic and increased their research and development (R&D) efforts.

Top technology companies like Apple, Microsoft and Huawei, increased investment on average

about 10 per cent last year, and venture capital investment surged, a trend which is continuing this year, Mr. Wunsch-Vincent said.

In contrast, the transport and travel sectors were heavily hit by containment measures and cut back their outlays. The GII 2021 also shows that technological progress at the frontier holds substantial promise, with the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines being the greatest example.

"In spite of the massive im-

pact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many sectors have shown remarkable resilience - especially those that have embraced digitalization, technology and innovation", said WIPO Director General Daren Tang. "As the world looks to rebuild from the pandemic, we know that innovation is integral to overcoming the common challenges that we face and to constructing a better future."

Global innovation landscape

The index ranks 132 countries, plus sub-economies such as Hong Kong, and comes a year after WIPO reported that investments in innovation had hit a record high in 2019, showing an average annual profit of 8.5 per cent.

Northern America and Europe continue to lead the global innovation landscape, but, the Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania have been the most dynamic in the past decade and are the only regions closing the gap with the leaders.

According to the report, China is still the only middle-income economy that makes it to the top 30. Bulgaria (35), Malaysia (36), Turkey (41), Thailand (43), Viet-

nam (44), the Russian Federation (45), India (46), Ukraine (49), and Montenegro (50), do feature in the top 50.

However, only Turkey, Vietnam, India and the Philippines are systematically catching up, Beyond China, these larger economies have the potential to change the global innovation landscape for good, it said.

"The GII shows that although emerging economies often find it challenging to steadily improve their innovation systems, a few middle-income economies have managed to catch up in innovation with their more developed peers", former Dean and Professor of Management at Cornell University, Soumitra Dutta said.

"These emerging economies, among other things, have been able to successfully complement their domestic innovation with international technology transfer, develop technologically dynamic services that can be traded internationally, and ultimately have shaped more balanced innovation systems," he said.

SOURCE: UN

Researchers study samples from bats to dig into relatives of COVID-19 virus

Bats dwelling in limestone caves in northern Laos were also found to carry coronaviruses that share a key feature with SARS-CoV-2, according to a report by Bloomberg.

RESEARCHERS in Cambodia, the Philippines, Laos and France are studying samples collected from bats for possible clues to pinpoint the origins of COVID-19, according to media reports.

Eight researchers at the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) in Phnom Penh have been collecting samples from bats in the Stung Treng province near Laos and logging their species, sex, age and other details for a week. Similar research is going on in the Philippines, according to Reuters on

Monday. Last year, researchers at the IPC did test on two samples collected from horseshoe bats in the province in 2010, and found a close relative to the coronavirus.

"We hope that the result from this study can help the world to have a better understanding about COVID-19," field coordinator Thavry Hoem was quoted as saying.

Bats dwelling in limestone caves

Bats dwelling in limestone caves in northern Laos were

also found to carry coronaviruses that share a key feature with SARS-CoV-2, according to a report by Bloomberg. Researchers at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the University of Laos have found three viruses with "closely matched receptor binding domains, the part of the coronavirus's spike protein used to bind to human ACE-2, the enzyme it targets to cause an infection," said the report. The researchers studied 645 bats from 46 species captured on four sites - in Fueng and Meth districts of Vientiane

Province, and in Namor and Xay districts in Oudomxay Province - between July 2020 and January 2021. The three viruses found in Laos, dubbed BANAL-52, BANAL-103, and BANAL-236, are "the closest ancestors of SARS-CoV-2 known to date," Marc Eloit, head of pathogen discovery at the Pasteur Institute, was quoted as saying. "These viruses may have contributed to SARS-CoV-2's origin and may intrinsically pose a future risk of direct transmission to humans," he said.

SOURCE: Xinhua



The researchers studied 645 bats from 46 species captured on four sites - in Fueng and Meth districts of Vientiane Province, and in Namor and Xay districts in Oudomxay Province - between July 2020 and January 2021. A chiropterologist checks the wing of a greater mouse-eared bat to determine its age, in Noyal-Muzillac, France. PHOTO: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 23 September 2021)

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30 hrs MST today, the tropical storm "DIANMU" over the South China Sea, it is centered at about (90) miles East of Danang (Vietnam) and forecast to move Northwestwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24 September, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Shan, Chin States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Rakhine, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Region and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with 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 moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8 - 10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (6-8) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 September, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 September, 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Print With Us

The Global New Light of Myanmar



01 860 4530

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မာယုဒိပိက ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဗဟို

09 454 237 515

Sagaing Region Agriculture Dept covers over 20,000 acres of Tragacanth Gum

MORE than 20,000 acres of Tragacanth Gum (locally called Saekalama) have been cultivated in Sagaing Region, said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

That project commenced in June 2021 and 26,268 acres of plants have been placed so far, the department stated.

“The Tragacanth Gum plants cultivation is mostly found in Ayadaw Township, constituting around 12,000 sown acres. The plant can thrive in different types of soil. The acreage of that tropical plant is expanded in the upland regions. The residents used to kill the grass instead of trimming them. It added expensive mechanical costs. The department urged them to cut or trim the grass to maintaining the soil fertility,” said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of the regional department.

The department covered



The Tragacanth Gum plants cultivation is mostly found in Ayadaw Township, constituting around 12,000 sown acres. The plant can thrive in different types of soil. The acreage of that tropical plant is expanded in the upland regions.

18,259 acres of plants in Monywa, 486 in Yinmabin, 3,571 in Shwebo, 893 in Kanbalu, 2,694

in Sagaing and 365 in Katha districts across the region.

The department encour-

aged the growers to use chemical-free good agricultural practices (GAP). Those farms which

utilize the GAP system will earn the GAP certificate and can also help grasp firm market shares in the international market.

Additionally, the department will coordinate with the related chambers to boost the yield and penetrate more markets.

Myanmar Tragacanth Gum is currently being exported to China. Additionally, Japan showed interest in it but it wants only organic farmed gum. The gum producer bodies have submitted the report to the Commerce Ministry to help link with more external markets.

Tragacanth Gum which is also known as Sterculia gum or Karaya gum is grown in many countries, but can only be used for industrial raw materials. However, Myanmar can grow gum that can be eaten. Therefore, there is a high demand for Myanmar's Tragacanth Gum Saykalama in Myanmar. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Domestic gold price surges to K1,900,000 per tical on 23 September

THE price of precious yellow metal moved up to K1,900,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) on 23 September owing to the weaker Kyat, domestic gold market's data showed.

The price of pure gold metal reached the highest of K1,900,000 per tical on 11 September tracking the devaluation of Kyat in the forex market, whereas it dropped to K1,855,000 per tical on 13 September. Again, the price rebounded to K1,900,000 per tical after ten days, according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

On 11 September, the association made six decisions including control of the market rally, permits for the members to secure transportation to and from gold refineries and for holding a large amount of cash.

The political instability, high demand in the domestic gold market, shortage of raw gold metals, the price gains in the international market and the Kyat depreciation are contributing factors to the spikes in the gold market.

The global gold price stood at only US\$1,766 per ounce on 23 September, while a US dollar exchange rate was set at K1,905.

As a result of this, YGEA urged its members to regulate trade in order to deal with market volatility. The association has curbed the amount of gold that investors can trade. It permits only 10 ticals for daily trading.

In recent days, some received purchase orders without physical gold in the domestic gold market.

As a result of this, YGEA urged its members to regulate

trade in order to deal with market volatility. To regulate unsustainable rally in the domestic gold market, the association called for the members to make a gold transaction with only immediate payment, avoid the verbal transactions over calls and halt trading outside the Yangon region, according to YGEA.

In January 2021, the gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). The price was registered the highest of K1,455,000 (30 April) and the lowest of K1,389,000 (1 April). The price reached an all-time highest of K1,709,000 (12 May) and the lowest of K1,447,000 in May. The price moved in the maximum of K1,575,500 (11 June) and the minimum of K1,543,000 (19 June).

It fluctuated between K1,562,300 (26 Jul) and K1,587,000 (K1,587,000). Last month, the price of gold reached the lowest of K1,572,800 (3 August) and the highest of K1,698,000 (31 September), the gold traders said. — GNLM



The price of pure gold metal reached the highest of K1,900,000 per tical on 11 September tracking the devaluation of Kyat in the forex market, whereas it dropped to K1,855,000 per tical on 13 September. Again, the price rebounded to K1,900,000 per tical after ten days.

Domestic fuel prices rise to K1,210 per litre till 21 Sept

DOMESTIC fuel prices have increased to over K1,210 per litre till 21 September in all fuels available in the market in the past eight months, according to the local filling stations.

The fuel oil was priced at K1,215 per litre for Octane 92, K1,235 for Octane 95, K1,210 for diesel and K1,215 for premium diesel on 21 September 2021 in the domestic retail market, according to the local fuel oil market.

On 2 February in the local market, fuel prices were K660 per litre of diesel, K670 per litre of premium diesel, K625 per litre of petrol (Ron 92) and K750 per litre of petrol (Ron 95), according to figures released by the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA).

The current fuel prices mounted to 80 or 90 per cent this month compared with the prices in February. Fuel prices are already touching new highs every day.

Myanmar imports around 6 million tonnes of fuel oil per year, according to the Ministry of Com-

merce. In the 2019-2020FY, over 6 million tonnes of fuel worth US\$2.666 billion were imported.

The country imported 2.7 million tonnes of fuel worth \$1.2 billion in the first seven months of this FY. This FY saw a decrease of 1.002 million tonnes worth \$663.347 million compared to the same period that of last FY.

During the same period in this FY, 1.66 million tonnes of diesel worth \$721.173 million were imported, declining by over 650,000 tonnes worth over \$430 million when compared to last FY.

Normally, Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore, with monthly volumes touching 200,000 tonnes for gasoline and 400,000 tonnes for diesel. There are about 2,000 fuel stations and over 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar, the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association stated.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. — GNLM

Amnesty demands two billion Covid jabs for poorer world



Activists have repeatedly called on the world's richest countries to waive intellectual property rights to vaccines. PHOTO: AFP

COVID vaccine manufacturers are putting profit before lives, Amnesty International said on Wednesday, as it demanded two billion doses for poorer nations by the end of the year.

The human rights group said in a new report that US President Joe Biden was expected to outline a pledge at the UN General Assembly to fully vaccinate 70 per cent of the world's population by next

September.

"We need leaders like President Biden to put billions of doses on the table and deliver the goods, otherwise this is just another empty gesture and lives will continue to be lost," Amnesty chief Agnes Callamard said.

The group said AstraZeneca, BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Novavax and Pfizer had all refused to share doses or technology to enable

more of the world to get Covid jabs.

Most people in the rich world have been inoculated, but parts of Latin America, Africa and Asia have plunged into renewed crises with "tens of thousands of preventable deaths every week", Amnesty said.

Out of 5.76 billion doses administered worldwide, only 0.3 per cent have gone to low-income countries with over 79 per cent heading to upper-middle and high-income countries, it said. In letters sent to Amnesty, all the companies pledged their support for human rights, but the report said their actions violated that commitment.

AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson were selling their doses at cost price, it noted.

But all of the six companies had fought a bid by India and South Africa to waive vaccine-related intellectual property rights at the World Trade Organization, despite receiving hefty government support themselves.—AFP ■

US to donate 500 million additional Covid vaccines to world

PRESIDENT Joe Biden will announce Wednesday the US plans to donate an additional 500 million Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccines to the rest of the world, bringing its total commitment to 1.1 billion, officials said.

Biden will relay the news at a virtual summit to be held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, where he will challenge world leaders to vaccinate 70 per cent of every country by September 2022.

The donations are being made "free of charge, no strings attached," a senior administration official said ahead of the meeting.

"For every one shot we have administered in this country to date, we are now donating three shots to other countries," she added. In his first speech to the UN as president on Tuesday, Biden told delegates that the United States had put more than \$15 billion towards the global Covid response and shipped more than 160 million doses to other countries.

The United States and oth-



Just nine vaccine doses have been administered per 100 people in Africa, according to data compiled by AFP. PHOTO: PHILL MAGAKOE /AFP

er wealthy countries have been criticized by the World Health Organization for their plans to roll out booster shots for elderly and high-risk populations, while much of the world faces a severe shortage in doses.

But the administration official said: "We're proving that you can take care of your own, while helping others as well."

70 per cent target

Despite the development of safe and highly effective vaccines in record-breaking time,

huge disparities exist between countries with ample supply and others that have barely begun their immunization campaign.

Just 3.6 per cent of Africa's eligible population has been inoculated—compared with an average of more than 60 per cent in Western Europe.

Biden has invited heads of state, leaders of international organizations, private sector philanthropies, and NGOs for the summit, which begins around 11:00 am Eastern Time (1500 GMT).—AFP ■

Australia's Melbourne hit by rise in COVID cases, violent demonstrations

AUSTRALIA'S second largest city Melbourne, already battling an escalating rise in daily cases of COVID-19, has now been shaken by man-made and natural upheavals.

The state of Victoria recorded 628 new local cases on Wednesday. It is the highest daily increase in the current outbreak which, so far, has grown to 6,223 active cases in the state, mostly clustered around Melbourne.

The record numbers come at a time when the capital city of Victoria is facing a series of protests from furious demonstrators, particularly building

industry workers, violently opposed to the continued lockdowns and newly enforced vaccination requirements.

The Victorian government has been pushing hard for construction workers to get vaccinated as they have been among the main transmitters of the disease during this outbreak.

Clashes between riot police, armed with rubber bullets, and protesters that began on Monday again turned violent on Tuesday with demonstrators blocking central business district (CBD) roads, bringing traffic to a stand-still.—Xinhua ■



Australian police officers setting up checkpoints ahead of planned anti-lockdown protests in Melbourne, on 18 Sept 2021.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka seeks World Bank Covid loan

SRI Lanka will seek an emergency loan of \$100 million from the World Bank for a coronavirus vaccination drive, officials said Wednesday, as the country struggles with an acute currency crisis.

The Covid-19 pandemic has claimed more than 12,000 lives and infected over half a million people in Sri Lanka, which is also suffering food shortages because of the cash crunch.

The government said in a statement that the cabinet had "granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health for obtaining the relevant supplementary financing facility" from the international lender. The statement said the World Bank had indicated willingness to provide the money to buy 14 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine and finance "other costs pertaining to vaccination".—AFP ■

Afghanistan: UN releases emergency funds to save health system

THE United Nations aid chief said Wednesday he had released \$45 million in emergency funds to help prevent Afghanistan's battered healthcare system from collapsing.

Martin Griffiths, the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, warned in a statement that "medicines, medical supplies and fuel are running out in Afghanistan."

"Cold chains are compromised. Essential health-care workers are not being paid," he said. Afghanistan's healthcare system was plunged into crisis after the Taliban swept into power last month, complicating aid deliveries and leaving many health facilities understaffed.—AFP ■

Japan startup SkyDrive aims for flying taxi service at 2025 World Expo

WHILE flying cars may seem like a futuristic fantasy from science fiction movies, a startup in Japan is aiming to offer people rides in such vehicles in about four years' time at the World Exposition in Osaka.

SkyDrive Inc., a developer of flying cars founded only three years ago, demonstrated the country's first public test flight of a manned vehicle in August last year, and hopes to introduce such mobility as an option that has advantages over existing modes of transport.

"Our mission is to drive a

once-in-a-century mobility revolution," CEO Tomohiro Fukuzawa said Wednesday in a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

"One hundred years ago, automobiles and airplanes were introduced to humans (allowing us) to go anywhere we wanted. After that, for one hundred years, there was no revolution...but only improvement."

The Tokyo-based company, with about 100 employees including engineers from Toyota Motor Corp. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., signed

a partnership agreement with Osaka Prefecture and the city of Osaka this month to work toward the practical utilization of its flying cars in the western Japan metropolis ahead of the World Exposition.

Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura said this month he wants flying cars to begin carrying passengers in the Osaka Bay area in 2024, such as by shuttling the around five kilometres between Universal Studios Japan and the city's Yumeshima artificial island, the venue of the exposition.—Kyodo News ■



Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura rides a full-scale "flying car" model of SkyDrive Inc. on 14 Sept 2021, in Osaka. The western Japan prefecture and city governments formed a partnership agreement with the Tokyo-based developer the same day to support the project to put it into practical use. Seen second from left is Osaka Mayor Ichiro Matsui and second from right is SkyDrive CEO Tomohiro Fukuzawa.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

China begins construction on new section of gas transmission pipeline

CHINA on Thursday started construction work on a new section of a pipeline of a mega power transmission project that transports natural gas from the country's western regions to the east.

With a total length of 2,090 km, the section runs from the city of Zhongwei in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region to the city of Ji'an in east China's Jiangxi Province. Once put into operation, the section would provide an additional 25 billion cubic meters of natural gas supply annually on top of the capacity provided via the existing pipelines of the country's west-to-east gas transmission project, said PipeChina, the construction com-



A regulating officer checks system parameters at the Horgos initial compressor station of the West Pipeline Company under China Oil & Gas Pipeline Network Corporation (PipeChina) in Horgos, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 4 Feb 2021.

PHOTO: XINHUA/DING LE

pany. The project is conducive to ensuring clean energy supply to regions along the route and

optimizing the energy structure of these regions, the company said.—Xinhua ■

Bank of England on guard against spiking inflation



People walk past shops and restaurants at Leadenhall Market in the City of London, U.K., 27 July 2021. PHOTO: AFP

THE Bank of England is expected to stay the course on interest rates and stimulus on Thursday, despite soaring inflation and fears of runaway domestic

energy costs.

The British central bank's monetary policy committee is likely to keep its key rate at a record-low 0.1 per cent.

Annual inflation surged in August to a nine-year high of 3.2 per cent after the pandemic-hit economy reopened.

Policymakers will be mindful of Britain's flat recovery, and the impact of the end of the government's furlough jobs support scheme next week.

The recovery slowed sharply in July, as rising coronavirus cases and supply shortages offset a further lifting of lockdown restrictions.

"Recent downside news on economic activity will counterbalance the upside news on inflation," said Pantheon Macro analyst Samuel Tombs, predicting no change in policy from the BoE.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Fed warns of 'severe damage' if senators allow debt default

THE chairman of the US Federal Reserve called on lawmakers to raise the nation's borrowing limit urgently on Wednesday, warning that failure to pay government debts would do "severe damage" to the economy.

"It's just very important that the debt ceiling be raised in a timely fashion so the United States can pay its bills when it comes due," Jerome Powell said as the central bank concluded its September meeting. Failure to pay, he added, is "just not something we can contemplate."

Powell's admonition came after six former US Treasury secretaries also urged the Senate to overcome the impasse "without delay" to avoid the harmful fallout should Washington default on its debt.

However, the plea for quick action looks set to fall on deaf ears, as the opposition leader in the Senate has steadfastly refused to cooperate with the ruling Democrats to increase the debt ceiling.

That could lead to chaos in financial markets, officials have warned. The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives passed a measure that would suspend the debt limit until after next year's midterm elections and fund government operations until 3 December.—AFP ■

Australia sets conditions for China joining Pacific pact

CHINA must end a freeze on contacts with senior Australian politicians if it hopes to join a trans-Pacific trade pact, Canberra's trade minister said Wednesday, setting de facto preconditions for accession.

Dan Tehan linked China's bid to join an 11-nation trading alliance with steps to improve bilateral relations that are at their lowest ebb in decades.

China formally applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) last week, and is lobbying to gain the consensus support of members including Australia.

This comes after a war of words between the two countries, a string of sanctions on Australian goods and a months-long freeze on senior-level government contacts.

"When I became trade minister, I wrote to my Chinese counterpart in January setting out how we can work more closely together. I am still waiting for a reply," Tehan said in a Monday speech.

"One of the most important things about negotiating the accession process of any country into the CPTPP is that you have to be able to sit down at ministerial level, look your economic partner in the eye, and talk about that accession process."

Tehan also indicated China would have to resolve disputes at the World Trade Organization (WTO) stemming from a slew of politically driven sanctions on Australian imports.—AFP ■

Down on the farm, UK energy crisis looms large

THE tranquil landscape of flat farmland and small villages in the Essex countryside in southeast England seems a world away from Britain's escalating energy crisis.

But fertilizer and carbon dioxide shortages are beginning to bite at places like Wicks Manor Farm, which rears pigs for pork and grows crops.

"We've got some real concerns (and) quite frightening consequences to farming, as an industry throughout the UK, certainly to our farming business here," owner Fergus Howie told AFP, barely audible over his



Two UK fertilizer production plants shut down because of the surge in wholesale gas prices. PHOTO: AFP

pigs' squeals. "There's a lot of issues and they're all kind of coming together," he added, saying the situation had prompted

"real concerns" about the "immediate food supply chain". Howie's farm and butchery, in the idyllic Essex countryside some

50 miles (80 kilometres) northeast of London, sells pork to leading supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, and for export.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

South African Airways resumes flights after bankruptcy

SOUTH Africa's embattled national airline on Thursday flew its first plane since March 2020 after emerging from bankruptcy proceedings.

Passengers on the South African Airways (SAA) flight from Johannesburg to Cape Town were greeted on their departure by singing and dancing airline staff.

Once Africa's second-largest airline after Ethiopian Airlines, SAA had survived for decades on government bailouts and was shedding routes even before the Covid-19 pandemic struck.

The government agreed in June to sell a 51-per cent stake to a group of investors called the Takatso Consortium, opening the way to a potential injection of \$200 million (171 million euros).

Even after a state bailout of more than \$500 million (426 million euros) and a restructuring of its debt, the airline only emerged from bankruptcy after slashing hundreds of jobs.

In addition to the domestic route that resumed on Thursday, SAA plans to begin regional services next week to Accra, Kinshasa, Lusaka, Harare and Maputo.—AFP ■

Japan expected to see record number of M&A deals in 2021



Supplied photo shows Food & Life Companies Ltd.'s Sushiro store in Osaka's Umeda area. PHOTO: KYODO

THE number of mergers and acquisitions involving Japanese firms is expected to hit a record

high in 2021 as companies invest in growth areas in the hope of overcoming the competition in a

post-coronavirus world, according to an M&A advisory company.

A total of 2,794 deals were made in the first eight months of the year, up 15.8 per cent from the same period in 2020 and the most since 1985 when data started being compiled, according to Recof Corp.

The same pace of deal-making will lift the annual number above the previous record for a single year of 4,088 in 2019,

the firm said.

Among major acquisitions so far in 2021 was Hitachi Ltd.'s purchase of U.S. software engineering firm GlobalLogic Inc. for \$9.6 billion in July to boost its information technology business in overseas markets. Many of the deals have been in the hospitality and food services industries, parts of which were hit especially hard by the pandemic and have been in need of capital.—Kyodo News ■

Leonardo DiCaprio invests in two lab-grown meat startups

US actor and climate activist Leonardo DiCaprio has taken an investment in two different lab-grown meat startups, the companies announced Wednesday.

DiCaprio has bought an unspecified stake in Aleph Farms and Mosa Meat, two companies developing protein products grown from cow cells—an emerging area in the growing alternative meat market.

The Academy Award-winning actor will also act as an advisor to



Actor Leonardo DiCaprio, shown here at a 2017 climate change march in Washington, has taken stakes in two alternative meat companies. PHOTO: AFP

the companies, said a joint press release from Israel-based Aleph Farms

and Netherlands-based Mosa Meat. "One of the most impactful ways to

combat the climate crisis is to transform our food system," DiCaprio said in the news release. "Mosa Meat and Aleph Farms offer new ways to satisfy the world's demand for beef, while solving some of the most pressing issues of current industrial beef production." The announcement comes on the heels of earlier investments by the "Titanic" star in publicly traded Beyond Meat, which sells burgers and sausages made from plants.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR POWER PROJECT IN MYANMAR

(Tender No. EPGE PV 02/2021-2022)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 02/2021-2022, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 15th October 2021 and the Addendum No.3 shall be issued.

Ministry of Industry No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise Announcement of Expression of Interest

1. Ministry of Industry invited local and foreign companies who are interesting to cooperate with No.(7) Textile Factory (Myittha) and No.(8) Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) for Public-Private Partnership to submit EoI proposal dated on (28.5.2021).
2. Regarding the call for EoI proposal, we announce and invite again in order to let companies know comprehensively. The deadline of the available from is (26.10.2021), Tuesday 16:00 P.M and the deadline of EoI submission is (26.11.2021), Friday 16:00 P.M. The detailed information can be known by asking to Ph: 0673 408185, 0673 408338 and email to textile.planning@gmail.com of No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0244-034N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0244-034N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-9-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

NEWS
IN BRIEFTrump sues niece,
New York Times
over Pulitzer-
winning tax story

FORMER US president Donald Trump on Tuesday filed a \$100 million lawsuit against his estranged niece Mary Trump and The New York Times, alleging they engaged in “an insidious plot” to obtain his tax returns for the paper’s Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation of his finances.

Former US president Donald Trump on Tuesday filed a \$100 million lawsuit against his estranged niece Mary Trump and The New York Times, alleging they engaged in “an insidious plot” to obtain his tax returns for the paper’s Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation of his finances.

The lawsuit, filed in Dutchess County, New York state, says that New York Times reporters Susanne Craig, David Barstow and Russ Buettner conducted “an extensive crusade to obtain Donald J. Trump’s confidential tax records.” —AFP ■

George Floyd police
reform bill doomed
as US Senate talks
collapse

A bipartisan effort spurred by the death of George Floyd to pass a police reform bill in Congress has collapsed, US lawmakers said Wednesday, in a setback for President Joe Biden.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act was approved by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives in March but has been stalled in the Senate.

Democratic and Republican senators had been seeking to hammer out a compromise and bring the bill to the floor of the Senate for a vote but they said on Wednesday that they have given up. The failure of the negotiations is a blow to Biden, who was elected last year with strong African-American support and has pledged to make police reform a priority of his administration. Biden accused Republicans of rejecting even “modest reforms” while “refusing to take action on key issues that many in law enforcement were willing to address.” —AFP ■

Zelensky vows ‘strong response’ after gun attack on aide



Photos published by officials showed a black Audi with bullet holes along its bonnet and on the driver-side door. **PHOTO: UKRAINIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY PRESS SERVICES/AFP**

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday vowed a “strong response” after gunmen opened fire on a car carrying his senior aide, in what officials said was possible

retaliation for a push to rein in oligarchs.

More than 10 bullets hit a black Audi carrying Zelensky’s advisor Sergiy Shefir during an attack near the village of Lisnyky, south of the capital Kiev, around 10 am (0700 GMT) Wednesday.

The 57-year-old former scriptwriter and longtime associate of comedian-turned-politician Zelensky escaped unharmed but his driver was “seriously injured”, the interior ministry said.

The shooting was one of the most high-profile assassination attempts in Ukraine’s modern history and came after the country’s 43-year-old leader promised to reboot the political system and

tackle the influence of powerful oligarchs.

“Saying ‘hello’ to me by shooting out of the forest at my friend’s car is weak,” Zelensky said in a video statement from New York.

“The response will be strong.”

Zelensky, who is in New York for the UN General Assembly, said it was not yet known who was behind the attack.

But he added: “This does not affect the course that I have chosen with my team – towards changes, towards bringing the economy out of the shadows, towards fighting criminals and large, influential financial groups.” — AFP ■

Algeria closes airspace to all Moroccan planes

ALGERIA said Wednesday it has closed its airspace to all Moroccan planes due to “provocations and hostile practices” by its neighbour, in the latest dispute between the countries at odds mainly over Western Sahara.

The move comes after Algeria broke off diplomatic ties with Morocco on 24 August, accusing it of “hostile actions” following months of heightened tensions between the two North African countries.

Morocco called the severing of ties “completely unjustified” and said the decision was based on “false, even absurd pretexts”.

Relations between the neighbours have been tense for decades due to Algeria’s support for the Polisario Front, which demands a self-determination referendum in Western Sahara, while Morocco, which controls around 80 per cent of the desert territory, has offered only autonomy. The Algerian presidency said in a statement on Wednesday the decision had been made “to shut its airspace immediately to all civilian and military aircraft as well as to those registered in Morocco.” The decision was announced after a meeting of the High Security Council chaired by President



“The High Security Council has decided to immediately close the airspace to all civil and military aircraft as well as those registered in Morocco,” according to an official statement. **PHOTO: MLN/AFP**

Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

The presidency said the meeting examined the situation on Algeria’s border with Morocco

and took into account “the continuation of provocations and hostile practices by Morocco”, without providing details. — AFP ■

‘Joe Ferrari’ case lifts lid on Thai police corruption



In a press conference last month, Thitsan Utthanaphon answered questions from the media over a mobile phone held up to a microphone. **PHOTO: THAI NEWS PIX/AFP**

A flashy cop with a taste for fast cars falls from grace following the leak of spine-chilling footage of a brutal interrogation gone wrong.

Not the plot of a blockbuster

thriller, but the vivid reality of a story that has gripped Thailand in recent weeks and spotlighted police corruption that experts say infects almost every level of society in the kingdom.

The case of Thitsan Utthanaphon, a former police station chief in a rural province – nicknamed “Joe Ferrari” for his extravagant lifestyle—has fired up calls for reform.

The 41-year-old stands accused of murder, abuse of power and other offences after a drug suspect was suffocated with six plastic bags wrapped around his head in an alleged attempt to extort about \$60,000.

The incident was initially hushed up and recorded as an amphetamine overdose until a lawyer revealed the cause of death in a Facebook post.

In a move typical of the networks of patronage that critics say underpin systemic corruption, Thitsan was then transferred to a regional police bureau in a nearby province—

commanded by the father of his television-presenter girlfriend.

But worse was to come for him: another lawyer released a chilling video leaked by a junior policeman that appeared to show Thitsan suffocating the handcuffed suspect while other officers held him down.

The footage went viral, shocking the kingdom and prompting police to arrest Thitsan and several other officers.

Thitsan denies all the charges against him. Sittra Biabungkerd, the lawyer who released the video, told AFP he did it to stop police “helping each other to get away” with murder.

“Many people may think that interrogating suspects using black plastic bags no longer goes on because times have changed,” he said. — AFP ■

Macron, Biden have 'friendly' talk to defuse submarine row



The call between Biden and Macron was the first slackening of tensions since the row broke last week. PHOTO: AFP

US President Joe Biden and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron had a "friendly" phone call Wednesday to defuse a deep row over submarine sales to Australia, promising to meet in person to repair the transatlantic relationship. The call, which the White House said lasted about 30 minutes, was the first between Biden and Macron since France recalled its ambassador over the

surprise US announcement of a deal to build nuclear submarines for Australia—scuppering a previous French deal to sell conventional submarines.

Paris called the US-Australian plan, which was launched as part of a new Indo-Pacific security group along with Britain, a stab in the back and also pulled its ambassador from Australia.

In a joint statement after the

call, the two leaders vowed to launch "in-depth consultations... for ensuring confidence" and to meet in Europe at the end of October. The statement also said Macron would order France's ambassador back to Washington next week.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters the talk "was friendly" and Biden was "hopeful this was a step in returning to normal."

The statement said the US recognized the need for stronger European defense to complement the NATO military alliance, a key idea repeatedly floated by the French leader. In what amounted to an acknowledgement of French anger, the English-language version of the statement issued by the White House said that the management of the dueling submarine deals "would have benefited from open consultations among allies."

The French-language version issued by the Elysee Palace was even more explicit, saying consultations "would have avoided this situation."—AFP ■

World powers agree at UN on inclusive Afghan government

THE five permanent UN Security Council members found common ground Wednesday on Afghanistan with officials saying all the powers would press the Taliban to be more inclusive after their military takeover.

China and Russia have described last month's Taliban victory as a defeat for the United States and moved to work with the insurgents, but no country has moved to recognize a government that includes international pariahs.

The Security Council powers all want "a peaceful and stable Afghanistan where humanitarian aid can be distributed without problems and without discrimination," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters after the meeting during the annual General Assembly.

They seek "an Afghanistan where the rights of women and girl are respected, an Afghanistan that is not a sanctuary for terrorism, an Afghanistan

with an inclusive government representing all sections of the population," he said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Russia met in person while their Chinese counterpart Wang Yi joined them virtually for the talks of just over an hour.

A US official described

the meeting called by British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss as "constructive" and with "a lot of convergence," including hopes that the Taliban respect the rights of women and girls.

"I don't think anybody is satisfied with the composition of this interim government, including the Chinese," the official said.—AFP ■



After coming to power in Afghanistan on 15 August, the Taliban had promised an inclusive government. PHOTO: AFP

Fears of hole in EU heart as German 'Queen of Europe' departs

ANGELA Merkel's exit from the stage is sparking fears of a hole at the heart of the European Union during challenging times — but there are also hopes for a wind of change.

Tributes have been growing for the German leader — dubbed "Queen of Europe" by some observers after 16 years as chancellor — ahead of elections this weekend to choose a successor. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte praised Merkel's "enormous authority" after helping steer Europe through years of turbulence that included the financial crisis, migrant crisis, Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic. Euro-

pean Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, who served under Merkel as German defence minister, underscored how important the former physicist's analytical skills had been for unlocking interminable EU negotiations. "She can always put things in the context of the many years in Europe she helped to shape," von der Leyen said. "And often, when we've hit an impasse, she'll throw out an idea and then we're moving again. We'll miss that."

Pragmatic manager

"Of course, her departure leaves a void," Janis Emmanouilidis of the European Policy Center told AFP.— AFP ■



Germans are choosing a new government on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Icelanders go to polls fearing a big 'unstable' coalition

ICELAND holds legislative elections on Saturday after four years of an unprecedented left-right coalition that has managed to put a lid on a volatile decade of crises and scandals.

But with so many political parties vying for power and no one clear coalition option emerging, analysts say it is hard to predict the shape of the next government.

Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir, whose Left-Green Movement had never before been in government, is seeking a second mandate in a political landscape more splintered than ever.—AFP ■

French sub builder to send Australia invoice 'in a few weeks'

FRANCE'S Naval Group said Wednesday it will send a "detailed and calculated proposal" to Australia in the coming weeks of the costs it expects Canberra to pay for scrapping a massive contract to purchase French submarines.

Australia in 2016 agreed to buy 12 diesel-powered submarines built by Naval Group in a deal dubbed the "contract of the century" worth Aus\$50 billion (\$36.5 billion, 31 billion euros), later revalued to 56 billion euros. However last week Australia ditched the deal in favour of nuclear-powered submarines from the United States and Britain, in a secretly negotiated agreement that infuriated Paris and sparked a diplomatic row.—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.

ONE Championship Revolution Event fights to be held today



Martin Nguyen (left) faces off against Kim Jae Woong during a preliminary card for the ONE Revolution Event yesterday. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

A special event of the ONE Championship named "Revolution" featuring bouts of world-class fighters will be held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore today. In the ONE Lightweight World Title event, Christian Lee will defend his title against Ok Rae Yoon. In the ONE Bantamweight Kickboxing World Title fight, Capitan will defend his championship belt against Mehdi Zatout.

In the ONE Strawweight World Title event, Joshua Pacio will take on Yosuke Saruta. In the Featherweight – mixed martial arts event, Martin Nguyen (Aung La N Sang's best friend) will fight against Kim Jae Woong. In the Heavyweight – mixed martial arts fight, Amir Aliakbari will face Anatoly

Malykhin. In the atomweight – mixed martial arts event, Victoria Lee will fight against Victoria Souza.

The ONE: REVOLUTION event will be broadcast to more than 150 countries, and fans can watch via television, tablet, computer, or mobile device. The full event stream will be available on ONE's YouTube channel and the ONE Super App beginning at 4:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Also, the lead card will be streamed on ONE's Facebook page.

Fans from Myanmar can also enjoy the ONE: REVOLUTION main card live on Skynet Channel at 7 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 24 September (today). — GNLM

Man Utd crash out of League Cup, Spurs, Chelsea advance

MANCHESTER United crashed out of the League Cup as West Ham avenged their painful loss to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side with a 1-0 win at Old Trafford, while Chelsea and Tottenham survived penalty shoot-outs to reach the fourth round on Wednesday. The Hammers suffered a gut-wrenching 2-1 defeat against United in the Premier League on Sunday when David De Gea saved Mark Noble's stoppage-time penalty after Jesse Lingard's late winner. But David Moyes' men got a measure of revenge three days later as Manuel Lanzini's first half goal dumped United out in the

third round. Solskjaer made 11 changes and Moyes opted for 10 alterations, with West Ham's understudies making the most of their moment in the spotlight.

Ryan Fredericks ghosted past Alex Telles and cut back for Lanzini to sweep past United goalkeeper Dean Henderson in the ninth minute. That was enough for Moyes to secure a first win over United since they sacked the Scot after less than a season in charge in 2014.

It was also West Ham's first victory at Old Trafford since 2007, earning them a home tie against holders Manchester City in the last 16. —AFP ■



West Ham midfielder Manuel Lanzini scored against Manchester United. **PHOTO: AFP**

Asensio bags hat-trick as Real Madrid hit Mallorca for six

MARCO Asensio scored his first hat-trick for Real Madrid on Wednesday against Mallorca, his boyhood club, as Madrid cruised to a 6-1 win to go top of La Liga.

Karim Benzema capitalised on an early Mallorca mistake at the Santiago Bernabeu before three goals in five minutes put Madrid 3-1 ahead, two Asensio strikes coming either side of a curling effort from Mallorca's Lee Kang-in. —AFP ■

Italian football club Genoa sold to US investment firm

GENOA announced on Thursday they have been bought by American private equity fund 777 Partners for a reported 150 million euros (\$175 million) as Italian businessman Enrico Preziosi ends his 18-year ownership of Italy's oldest football club.

"The new owner group, which will acquire 99.9 per cent of Genoa's share capital, will pay new capital into the club and will assume some related liabilities," the statement said. "The previous owner, Enrico Preziosi, will remain on the board of directors, while CEO Alessandro Zarboni

will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of the club," it added. Preziosi, 73, took over Genoa, who were founded by Englishmen in 1893 as a cricket and athletics club, in 2003 with the nine-time Italian champions in the hands of liquidators. —AFP ■