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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.

Security measures should not disturb freedom of people who are not concerned with terrorist acts: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Security, Peace and Stability and Rule of Law Committee meeting 5/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 September 2021.

IT is necessary to make consideration in all aspects for rapid implementation of the work process which can win the trust between the leaders and followers, strengthening the good governance system, said Chair-

man of the Security, Peace and Stability and Rule of Law Committee Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 5/2021 of the committee of the Republic

of the Union of Myanmar at the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his opening address, the Senior General stressed the need to thoroughly hold discussions

and give suggestions on situations in conformity with the country. It is necessary to review all aspects of State prosperity which comprises peace and stability, the rule of law, job opportunities and businesses. Taking of important

measures should be based on laws and disciplines. Local authorities need to systematically scrutinize the necessary measures under the law.

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Announcement on processes of quarantine and laboratory tests for recovery of COVID-19 confirmed patients

1. According to the research findings of the World Health Organization and internationally recognized medical research institutions, those who suffered from COVID-19 have the antibody levels that respond to causing the outbreak of the disease again till a few months, and the disease cannot break out during such period.
2. As such, if those who enter international gates and land borders and travellers in regions and states can show evidence on the certificates issued by internationally recognized hospitals and the health departments or the certificates of discharge approved by the public hospitals under the Ministry of Health and COVID-19 treatment centres, they will be allowed for exemption for quarantine for travelling within 90 days starting from the approval for the disease and laboratory tests for the disease.
3. However, they have to strictly abide by the disciplines for prevention and control of COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health, if they suspect themselves of COVID-19 symptoms, they have to immediately contact nearby health units for receiving the laboratory test and follow the quarantine process in line with the work guidelines of the Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Health
28-9-2021

Palm oil distributed at reasonable prices

THE Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at fairer prices for the public beginning 20 September. A total of 3,026,650 visses of palm oil equal to 4,946 tonnes have been sold in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Magway regions and Shan State to date.

The officials arrange oil tankers to sell in the wards of

Yangon and also will provide trucks in regions/states.

The palm oil wholesalers will have to resell the oil not more than 2 per cent of net profit at retail outlets and the wholesalers/retailers can contact Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association at 09-444437295 and 09-401527049 and Department of Consumer Affairs, Yangon Region at 01-250270 and 09-43666668 to buy the palm oil. — MNA

Retail/wholesale of medicines, staple foods at fairer prices continue in Yangon

TO meet the medical needs of the people in the Yangon Region during the third wave of COVID-19, and to get the right quality of medicines at fairer prices, the second retail/wholesale exhibition organized by Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medicals Devices Manufacturers Association continued yesterday (MPMDMA) at the Myanmar Inter-

national Trade Centre Pabedan Township.

The second-time wholesale and retail distribution of home medicines were held under the guidelines of the Yangon Region government, with 10 companies distributing 127 types of medicines.

The first exhibition of the essential medicines opened in

Ahlon Township also continued selling the medicines and related products on its 32nd day yesterday.

In addition, a mobile market organized by the Myanmar Rice Traders Association under the guidelines of the Yangon Region government sold rice, cooking oils, foods, meat and fish yesterday. — MNA

Cage aquaculture used for barramundi (seabass) in addition to Tilapia

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation jointly conduct cage-based aquaculture in dams. The two ministries will also work together to breed barramundi (Lates calacrifer) based on the results of the initial breeding of Tilapia.

Currently, they conduct test breeding of tilapia which are two or three inches in size and they can be exported to the market after four and a half to six months of breeding. The fish farmers can breed them twice a year and make profits during the short term.

The balanced production of marine products can achieve sufficient local consumption and produce value-added products with the caged fish farming in dams, rivers and creeks.

"We conduct test caged fish farming of tilapia in Chaung-

mange Dam. We construct four 12x12 feet farms, which are respectively 8 feet deep in the dam to educate the farmers. There are 1,000 fish in each reservoir. We can make money between four and six months. We also arrange to breed marketable barramundi (Lates calacrifer) twice a year," said U Kyaw Myo Aung, assistant director of Nay Pyi Taw Fisheries Department.

As the country is rich in inland water resources, dams and reservoirs, it has many advantages to do reservoir fisheries. Therefore, the government carries out such a fish farming system to develop the socio-economy status of fish farmers and business people. The country earns foreign income by exporting marine products more than that of Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. Exports of fishery products account for 80 per cent of marine and 20 per cent of fresh

water. The government also provides the needed assistance for the fish farming sector.

Moreover, the Fisheries Department will introduce caged fish farming in Upper Paunglaung Dam in addition to the Chaungmange Dam. The department will invite the business people from Myeik to conduct value-added barramundi (Lates calacrifer) farming. — Nyein Thu/GNLM



Pictures show Tilapia and Myanmar Kakadit (seabass) breeding in cage culture. **PHOTO: KANU**

Myanmar needs to operate agriculture and livestock tasks to earn foreign exchange via the global market to earn foreign exchange

MANY agro-based countries are striving for ensuring smooth food supplies and earning incomes. Myanmar needs to operate agriculture and livestock tasks to earn foreign exchange via the global market to earn foreign exchange. The country grows some 15 million acres of monsoon and two million acres of summer paddy which would be sufficient for a 55 million population with much surplus of paddy to be exported to foreign countries. As per-acre yield does not reach 100 baskets of paddy, the export volume of rice does not meet the expectation.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 2/2021 of the 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)

Security measures should not disturb freedom of people ...

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They all should consider the fulfilment of primary requirements of the regions whether these are actually required or not.

Myanmar is on the path of a multiparty democracy under the Constitution. International relations must conform to the actual situation of the nation as well as the Constitution and existing laws. It is necessary to initiate the rules, orders and directives in conformity with the actual situations. The management system and administrative system must be simplified. As such, it can contribute to the implementation of good governance and the development of the nation.

It can be seen that cooperation among ministries is weak among them. Only when the leaders of work projects need the prescribed rules and regulations, work procedures and laws, will their capability improve. So, they all need to operate the tasks

with goodwill. It is necessary to carry out all the tasks in a rapid manner, and it is necessary to make consideration in all aspects for rapid implementation of the work processes which can win the trust between the leaders and followers.

State Administration Council members, Union ministers, chief ministers and deputy ministers reported on respective sectors, security measures, peace and stability and rule of law.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said although some EAOs are involved in the terror acts, most of the EAOs do not accept it. These measures are being managed without harming the peace process as much as possible. The security measures should not disturb the freedom of people who are not concerned with terrorist acts.

It is necessary to consider the drawing of necessary law



The States/Regions Chief Ministers attends the meeting online yesterday.

and rules for ensuring traffic safety for motorcycles. The Senior General stressed the need for future potentials of extend-

ed reclamation of urban areas. Essential structures such as schools, hospitals and sports grounds must be built systemat-

ically in addition to the beautifying of the urban areas in growing the shade plants and windbreaks in the road areas. — MNA

Union Election Commission probes into political parties

THE Union Election Commission looked into whether the political parties conducted systematically for the memberships of the parties, party funds and property, savings, maintaining, usage, audit and liquidation and parties' procedures according to the Union Election Law Section 10 (l) "supervising, causing to supervise and guiding the political parties to carry out in accord with the law" (right photo).

The UEC inspected Union Territory-based NUD (National United Democratic Party) and Democratic Party of National Politics (DNP) from 23 to 30 Au-

gust, Mandalay-based Tai-Leng (Red Shan) Nationalities Development Party (TNDP) and Wunthanu Democratic Party, Shan State-based Pa-O National Organization (PNO) and Union Pa-O National Organization, and Yangon-based National Political Alliances from 14 to 17 September, Yangon-based People's Pioneer Party from 14 to 20 September, Shan State-based Danu National Democracy Party from 15 to 23 September, Shan State-based Inn National League Party and Danu National Organization from 20 to 23 September, Sagaing Region-based Shan-ni Solidarity



Party (SSP) and Naga National Party (NNP) and Yangon Region-based National Development and Peace Party from 20 to 24

September and Yangon Region-based National Development Party from 21 to 24 September. The inspection team includ-

ed officials of UEC, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Finance and Union Auditor-General Office. — MNA

1st Business to Business Dialogue on Promoting Bilateral Trade and Investment Cooperation between Myanmar and Russia held

1st Business to Business Dialogue aiming to promote bilateral trade and investment cooperation between Myanmar and Russia was held in the afternoon of 28 September 2021 with Virtual System at the meeting room of Office No (1), Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

At the Dialogue, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Aung Naing Oo delivered the welcome remarks and the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Dr Nikolay Listopadov made opening remarks.

Furthermore, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of Russia-ASEAN Business Council, Deputy Chief of the Committee for Economic Cooperation with Countries of Asia and Oceania of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Feder-

ation on Trade and Economic Cooperation Meeting has been agreed to be held alternately in both sides since the Commission had been formed in 2014 and the 3rd Joint Commission Meeting is planned to be hosted by Myanmar in December 2021 if when COVID-19 disease spread could be controlled. The 1st Business to Business Dialogue is also arranged before the 3rd Joint Commission Meeting on 28 September 2021 with the aim to share the information between two business communities in order to promote bilateral trade and investment. He also explained the measures focused on the trade liberalization and investment facilitation to be in line with the new normal situation and he highlighted the implementation of SMART Programmes; namely Streamlining and Simplifying Procedures, Maximizing Online Services and Minimizing Barriers to Business, Assuring After-care Services, Reducing Regulatory Burden and Transparency Enhancement.

Moreover, he informed the Russian investors about the in-



The First Business to Business Dialogue on Promoting Bilateral Trade and Investment Cooperation between Myanmar and Russia is in progress online.

business communities of both sides to conduct the exchange of the business information through B2B dialogue platforms in order to achieve the fruitful outcomes of future bilateral economic cooperation.

Then, the senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Commerce had made the presentations on “Investment Climate, Legal Framework and Opportunities to do business in Myanmar” and “Status and Future Prospect as well as opportunities for bilateral trade relations between Myanmar and Russia” respectively.

At the dialogue, the Russian side updated the Eurasian Economic Union’s Common System of Tariff Preferences offered by the Eurasian Economic Union to the developing countries. Therefore, Myanmar can enjoy the Tariff Preferences for its exports to Russia.

At the event, the five potential cooperation areas; Banking and Insurance, Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery, Electricity and Energy, Oil and Gas, Food Processing Industry and Mining were discussed by two sides. Senior Officials from Central Bank of

Myanmar, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the representatives from Myanmar Banks Association, Myanmar Insurance Association, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Fishery Products, Processors and Exporters Association, Myanmar Oil and Gas Services Society, Myanmar Food Producers and Exporters Association and Myanmar Federation of Mining Association also made presentations on the existing and future bilateral trade and investment cooperation. After hearing the presentations, Russian companies actively participated in the Q & A Session and the Myanmar side frankly responded to queries. From the Russian side, six international companies also presented their existing business situation in the areas of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery, Electricity and Energy, Oil and Gas, Food Processing Industry and Mining.

This dialogue was attended by the Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and departmental senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture,

livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Commerce, Central Bank of Myanmar and representatives from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Banks Association, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Fertilizer Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Fishery Products, Processors and Exporters Association, Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association, Myanmar Oil and Gas Services Society, Myanmar Food Producers and Exporters Association and Myanmar Federation of Mining Association, Myanmar-Russia Friendship Association from Myanmar side and concerned personnel and businessmen from the committee for Economic Cooperation with Countries of Asia and Oceania of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, Siberian Association for International Cooperation with Asia, Embassy of Russian Federation, Yangon. Nearly 200 participants joined the event. — MNA



ation, President of the Siberian Association for International Cooperation with Asia and the Chair of Myanmar-Russia Friendship Association addressed keynote messages respectively.

In his welcome remarks, Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo said that the Intergovernmental Russian-Myanmar Joint Com-

mittees of the government on the development of the Standard Operation Procedures for One-Stop Service Centre under the Myanmar Investment Commission in order to simplify and streamline the procedures of obtaining business-related licenses and permits from relevant government agencies. He urged

State Administration Council's Information Team to hold press conference 9/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference 9/2021 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 30 September. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference. — MNA

Press conference 9/2021 of Information Team to be broadcast live

THE press conference 9/2021 of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV and MWD HD, MWD Variety, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM and FM Bagan starting from 1:00 pm on 30 September, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

MoH receives COVID-19 devices donated by well-wishers

THE Ministry of Health received donations of medical devices to be used in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the donation ceremony, officials from the Myanmar Quarry-Infrastructure Development Public Company Limited and Novel Shining Star Company

Limited explained the purposes of the donation and handed over the donated medical devices—100 10L oxygen concentrators, 200 suits of PPE level-3, 100 pulse oximeters and five oxygen

concentrators to Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win.

The Union Minister returned the certificates of honour and expressed words of thanks. — MNA

The Union MoH Minister receives the donations of Covid-related devices and presents the certificates of honour to well-wishers.



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



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 28 September (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators,

were imported by seven companies and transported by ten vehicles.

A total of 3,520 empty oxygen cylinders, 38 oxygen plants, 52 oxygen concentrators for home use, and 42 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, Myawady, and Chinshwehaw trading posts, seaports and the Yangon International Airport.

Of the 38 Oxygen plants, 37 were imported via the port and one from the Chinshwehaw border post, and all the oxygen plants were transported to Yangon, of-

officials said.

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

Above 45-year-old Bengalis receive COVID vaccines in Sittway



Health staff injects the vaccine shot to an over 45-years-old Bengali.



Inoculation drive is underway in Sittway.

HEALTHCARE officials gave the first doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to above 45-year-old Bengalis at a religious building in Block-9 Magyi Myaing Ward Sittway Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

During the vaccination, healthcare workers and officials took records for the vaccinated people.

Next, health officials measured the body temperatures, blood pressure and monitoring oxygen levels before the vaccination.

Vaccines were given systematically to the local people, and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated, officials said.

After resting for about 30 minutes after being vaccinated, people were allowed to leave, officials said.

In addition to the Bengalis in Magyi Myaing Ward, the COVID-19 vaccine is still being given for the first time in Aung Daing Village-tract, New Pallinpyin (Bengali) village and South Donepyin (Bengali) village of Maungni Pyin village-tract.

On 27 September, 140 men and 160 women received the vaccines in blocks 8 and 9 of Magyi Myaing and more than 200 people will continue were vaccinated yesterday, officials said.

Staff from the General Administration Department and the Information and Public Relations Department, members of the Myanmar Police Force, members of the fire brigade, members of the auxiliary fire brigade, members of the Red Cross, Ward / Village administrators, and officials assisted in the vaccination works. —Tin Htun (IPRD)/GNLM

9,223 Buthidaung residents receive vaccine first jobs

A total of 250 people (second batch) over the age of 55 received their first COVID-19 vaccines at the designated vaccination site in Aye Cedi Monastery of Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State. The health workers monitored the body temperatures and blood pressures of the people and watched them for 30 minutes after vaccination. The vaccination programme

for the second batch of first jobs was started on 16 September in Buthidaung Township and a total of 9,223 people were vaccinated until 27 September.

The health workers, respective township administrators and members of the Red Cross Society conducted the vaccination following the health rules. — Hla Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM



A Buthidaung local receives the COVID jab.

Environmental degradation, fish depletion need to be addressed

THE trespass of the fishing boats in restricted areas off the Rakhine coast and littering in the water have damaged the food chain of marine life, making it necessary to prevent environmental damage and depletion of fish stocks.

In the past, many species of seasonal fish were eaten, but now they are caught with nets smaller than the standard nets. During the spawning season, they are caught in the sea, near the shore, and rivers and creeks. The catch has increased more than the annual fish production, which has led to the scarcity of water resources. In addition, littering both on the surface and underwater has become a threat to the development of water resources.

In Rakhine State, the breeding rate of freshwater/saltwater fish, lobsters and other high-value fishery products decreases every year due to monthly inshore fishing, including in spawning season, in the Thandwe area and Sittway coast, which are the no-fishing zones. Although the Department of Fisheries has tak-



The trespass of the fishing boats in restricted areas off the Rakhine coast and littering in the water have damaged the food chain of marine life, making it necessary to prevent environmental damage and depletion of fish stocks.

en action, the lack of compliance with fisheries laws has affected the long-term sustainability of fishery resources.

The Fisheries Department is working together with the Department of Environmental Conservation to reduce plastic waste as microplastics are high in the Rakhine Sea and near the coast based on a research survey. The Department is educating fishermen in villages close to the

department not to throw plastic items into the water when they go out to sea.

U Thet Oo, Director of the Department of Fisheries in Rakhine State, said, "We monitor offshore fishing vessels by fishing vessel monitoring equipment to make sure they do not enter restricted areas and areas where the two countries may have maritime disputes."

"The problem is that there is

unregulated fishing as there are many inshore fishing boats off the coast of Rakhine, so everyone needs to work together to make up for the depletion of fish stocks," he added.

Along with the depletion of fish resources, encroachment on non-fishing areas, wastes, the flow of pesticides used in agriculture, are directly or indirectly affecting aquatic animals in rivers and streams, affecting their

food chain and water resources annually.

In cooperation with Norway to assess the depletion of fish stocks in the Myanmar sea, it has been found that excessive catch of fish has led to a significant reduction of high-value export shrimps and fish, and low-value fish species remained.

The Department of Fisheries has been working to rehabilitate water resources and has been planting fish as per national guidelines for the redevelopment of natural resources in natural waters. According to a survey with Norway, there was an 80% decrease in marine and 60% underwater fish stocks compared to 1980. The survey also stated that most of the waste plastic particles are found in the shallow waters off the Rakhine coast, with the depletion of fish resources.

The Rakhine coast is one of the largest fisheries areas in the world, and the coastal and marine areas now need to be protected from environmental pollution and wastage of fish resources.— Nye-in Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Myanmar officials warmly welcome returnees in respective land borders

MYANMAR officials have been welcoming the returnees repatriated from abroad at respective border crossings.

On 27 September, 109 Myanmar nationals (56 men and 53 women) returned to Muse, northern Shan State; 22 people (16 men and 6 women) to Chinshwehaw and 50 people (34 men and 16 women) to Laukkai, respectively.

Yesterday, officials received 199 men and 172 women who were repatriated to Myawady, Kayin State.

Healthcare professionals and members of the Tatmadaw medical team carried out the COVID-19 tests, provided documents required for quarantine, and explained the instructions of the Ministry of Health. Officials from the respective military commands and departments also provided necessary assistance.

The returnees were transported to their respective homes by bus arranged by the township administration bodies, and those diagnosed with COVID-19 disease were sent to quarantine centres to provide the necessary medical and administration support.— MNA

Over 2,200 killed in over 4,500 traffic accidents in Myanmar in 8 months

A total of 2,229 people were killed with 5,869 others wounded in over 4,500 traffic accidents across the country in eight months of 2021, according to the figures released by the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD). During the eight months from January to August, Yangon has registered the highest mortality rate with 307 deaths, followed by the Mandalay region with 274 fatalities and the Bago region with 256 deaths, according to RTAD.

The same period of last year, a total of 3,196 people were killed with 13,461 others hurt in connexion with 9,292 road accidents across the country, according to figures from the RTAD.— ACM/GNLM

MDY to grow over 560,000 acres of monsoon paddy

OVER 560,000 acres of monsoon paddy are targeted to grow in some townships of the Mandalay region and the cultivation of paddy are underway to grow, said U Nanda Htut Tin, the head of Mandalay Region Agriculture Department.

The department targeted to grow a total of 566,391 acres of monsoon paddy in 26 townships in seven districts. Farmers start growing the paddy in June and have grown over 410,000 acres of monsoon paddy till today. The remaining acres are still being cultivated, it is learnt.

"Farmers mainly grow five varieties of monsoon paddy. The most cultivated species are Manawthukha and Ayeyamin. Farmers grows Hsinthuka, Shwethweyin and Shwema. The monsoon paddies are started growing in June. Last year, about 79.59 per acres of paddy were harvested," he added.

Farmers have cultivated 57 acres of monsoon paddy in Mandalay Township, 9,224 acres in Amarapura township and 22,302 acres in Patheingyi township of Mandalay region, 46,683 acres in Madaya township, 22,073 acres in Singu township, 7,474 acres



Farmers start growing the paddy in June and have grown over 410,000 acres of monsoon paddy till today.

in PyinOoLwin township, 3,403 acres in Mogok township, 4,676 acres in Thabeikkyin township and 3,260 acres in Tagaung of PyinOoLwin district, 52,799 acres in Kyaukse township, 29,156 acres in Singaing township, 61,287 acres in Myittha township and 12,401 acres in TadaU township of Kyaukse district, 3,249 acres in Meiktila township, 1,883 acres in Mahlaing township, 6,964 acres in Thazi township and 27,109 acres in Wundwin township of Meiktila district, 2,865 acres in Myingyan township, 2,284 acres in Taungtha township, 8,234 acres in Natogyi township and 3,703 acres in Ngazun township

of Myingyan district, 1,887 acres in NyaungU township, 10 acres in Ngathayout township and 10,648 acres in Kyaukpadaung township of NyaungU district and, 46,302 acres in Yamethin township and 26,273 acres in Pyawbwe township of Yamethin district.

In the 2020-21 financial year of the Mandalay region, the department targeted to grow over 110,000 acres of summer paddy. But the department cultivated 83,665 acres of paddy and yielded 102.04. Mandalay region can be able to grow over 600,000 acres of paddy.— Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Myanmar foreign trade sees drastic drop this FY

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 17 September in the current financial year 2020-2021 sank 21 per cent as against the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

The country's foreign trade exceeded US\$28 billion over ten and a half months, whereas the international trade stood at over \$35.75 billion in the corresponding period of last FY, according to the data released by the ministry.

During the past ten months, Myanmar's export was worth

over \$14 billion whereas, the country's import was relatively low at \$14.1 billion.

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

At present, the traders have transaction problems triggered by the restriction of the private banks. Furthermore, the pandemic triggered the cargo shipping

crisis, a market observer shared his opinion.

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

The country's export sector relies much on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. However, the suspended trade in the border checkpoints and the order cancellation from the western countries amid the po-

litical changes exacerbate the export sector for now.

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

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

Import value of consumer products declines by over \$51 mln this FY

THE value of imported consumer products in Myanmar reached US\$3.25 billion between 1 October and 17 September in the current financial year 2020-21, a sharp drop of \$51 million, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The import value of consumer products saw a significant decrease by over \$128.942 million, compared to the corresponding period of the last 2019-2020FY when it was \$3.3 billion.

In the ten months of the 2020-2021 financial year from October to July, over \$6.2 billion was earned from the export of finished industrial products. But, the export value of finished industrial products was over \$8.12 billion in the same period of the previous budget year. Therefore, there was a decline of over \$1.8 billion.

Myanmar primarily imports personal goods, luxury products, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods and CMP raw materials from its neighbouring countries.

The value of imported consumer products reached 3.25 billion, including \$24.788 million through the government sector and \$3.224 billion through the private sector.

The import value was \$1.245 billion in the 2011-2012FY, \$1.4 billion in the 2012-2013FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$2.9 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$3.5 billion in the 2015-2016FY, over \$4 billion in the 2016-2017FY, over \$4.42 billion in the 2017-2018FY, over \$2.65 billion in the 2018 mini-budget year, over \$4.85 billion in the 2018-2019FY and over \$4.86 billion in the 2019-2020FY. - ACM/GNLM

Consumers to complain about overcharging for fuel oil under public distribution system

THE consumers have the chance to complain about overcharging for fuel oil which is sold at a subsidized rate under the public distribution system, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Starting from 22 September, the total volume of fuel oil that are sold at very cheap rates is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar, intending to offer cheaper rates through the related associations.

This scheme is being implemented in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw cities and Taninthayi, Shan and Rakhine states and Sagaing, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions at fairer prices. The addresses of those government-sponsored petrol station chains have been posted on the

official website of the Ministry of Commerce and the consumers can buy the fuel oil at the set price through those stations.

If any overcharging is found, the consumers can complain about it through the contact numbers 09664075683, 09664596327, 09687635943 and 09676320826 of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, (01 250270) of the Yangon Region Consumer Affairs Department and 09421006794 of the Myanmar Petroleum Traders Association. The fuel oil was pegged at around K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market. Then, it remarkably climbed up to K1,235 for Octane 92, K1,275 for Octane 95, K1,230 for diesel and K1,249 for premium diesel



The consumers can complain about overcharging for fuel oil which is sold at a subsidized rate under the public distribution system, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

in September-end. There is a remarkable price gap of K600 per litre, according to the local fuel oil market.

The devaluation of the local currency is the main reason for the oil price hike in the domes-

tic market. At present, a dollar is worth about K2,200-K2,700 in the black market. Normally, Myanmar yearly imports 600,000 tonnes of fuel oil from external markets, the Ministry of Commerce stated. - NN/GNLM

PyinOoLwin mushroom research farm distributes mushroom species to growers



The farm aims to offer pedigree mushroom species to the growers at a fair price, boost the production and promote the interest of the growers.

PYINOOLWIN Mushroom Research and Technology Development Farm under the Mandalay Region Agriculture Department has been delivering the mushroom species to facilitate the access of the small-scale growers in the region.

There are five mushroom research farms prioritizing the fungi culture and technology dissemination.

PyinOoLwin farm primarily cultivates button mushroom, black oyster mushroom, Shitake mushroom and monkey head mushroom in a cold climate. King oyster mushroom and Enokitake are also cultivated on a trial basis. For farms in the tropical region, paddy straw, milky mushroom and Ganoderma lucidum are systematically farmed and distributed.

Furthermore, the research farm is also conducting courses regarding fungi culture in each region across the country, said Daw Soe Soe Nwe,

in charge of PyinOoLwin farm.

"We distribute the mushroom species to fulfil the needs of the growers. It also contributes to rural development. The mushroom can be farmed with the use of agricultural waste, industrial waste and forestry waste. It can be regarded as agro-forestry and agro-industrial production. The research farm shares the technology of mushroom cultivation through waste. The number of mushroom farmers has increased. This cultivation also allows the growers to generate extra income," she elaborated.

This research farm is responsible for those growers in the upper Myanmar region. Moreover, the growers from other regions and states also buy them at the farm. The farm aims to offer pedigree mushroom species to the growers at a fair price, boost the production and promote the interest of the growers. - Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Efficiently use renewable energy for daily life of the people

ENERGY is essential for living beings including humans. As eras of human status are changing one after another, they have been gaining higher and higher talents on how to live in the world and how to survive for their lives.

To be able to survive for their lives, they have knowledge of how to utilize the energy in daily processes. In gradually enhancing their capacity, they possess the techniques to utilize the energy

including various kinds of electricity which must be renewed from nature.

With regard to consuming energy, electricity can be generated with the use of hydropower, solar power, diesel, coal and natural gas to electrify the people. Among them, hydropower and solar power are the cheapest in cost.

If Myanmar produces electricity based on hydropower and solar power at full capacity, electricity will meet the domestic demand, and its surplus can be exported to earn income for the State.

However, as the country does not have the capacity to fully utilize renewable energy, it sells out natural gas produced from inland and offshore blocks to foreign countries and uses some of them in generating electricity at home. As such, the electricity generated at home cannot totally meet the domestic demand till today, and the people are facing shortages of electricity, especially in the summer because of declining water levels at the relevant water sources such as rivers and creeks used in generating hydropower.

Moreover, factories and industries compulsorily require

adequate volumes of natural gas and coal for operations. Due to the insufficient supply of natural gas and coal, some factories and industries halt operations. As such, priority must be given to a sufficient supply of natural gas and coal to industries.

The government adopted the electricity policy that the use of natural gas and coal shall be reduced whereas renewable energy such as hydropower and solar power shall be utilized to generate electricity for implementation of the national electrification plan for the whole nation till 2030.

Myanmar needs to rely on renewable energy which can abundantly be obtained from the natural environment. Myanmar people need to efficiently use energy as well as electricity for their daily life. As such, both acts of the government and the people will be the best for their society.

Covid treatments: What works

Several labs are working on antiviral drugs that can be taken orally as pills. One of the most advanced is molnupiravir, an experimental therapy developed by Ridgeback Biotherapeutics and Merck that is meant to stop the virus from replicating.

OVERSHADOWED by the global push for vaccines, the search for treatments for Covid-19 has made steady — if slower — progress.

Here is a look at what works, what might work, and what definitely doesn't.

Proven therapies

The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved three types of Covid-19 treatment.

The first is a class of steroids called corticosteroids, recommended in September 2020 by the UN's health authority, which said it should only be used by seriously ill patients.

Inexpensive and widely available, the steroid fights the inflammation that commonly accompanies severe cases, reducing the need to be placed on a ventilator and the likelihood of death.

The WHO has also endorsed two known arthritis drugs — tocilizumab and sarilumab — which have been shown to suppress a dangerous overreaction of the

immune system to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid.

Both drugs, approved in July, likewise reduce the risk of death and the need for ventilators.

And last week the WHO recommended Regeneron, the expensive synthetic antibody cocktail given to former US president Donald Trump during his brush with the virus.

But it said it should only be used in patients with specific health profiles, for example with non-severe Covid who are still at high risk of hospitalisation.

Critically ill patients who cannot mount an adequate immune response can also take the antibody combo, the WHO said.

Therapies being tested

Several labs are working on antiviral drugs that can be taken orally as pills.

One of the most advanced is molnupiravir, an experimental therapy developed by Ridgeback Biotherapeutics and Merck that is meant to stop the virus from replicating.

Currently in phase 3 trials, the drug is being tested on Covid patients and also as a preventative measure for contact cases. Results are expected by the end of the year.

Atea Pharmaceuticals and Roche laboratories are evaluating a similar treatment.

Vaccine maker Pfizer is also working on a medication that combines two molecules, including one that is already used to combat HIV.

The market for treatments that are "effective and easy-to-administer against early forms of Covid is potentially huge", said infectious disease specialist Karine Lacombe.

So far, antiviral medications have not been very effective against Covid.

In May, the US Food and Drug Administration gave sotrovimab — an new monoclonal antibody therapy developed by GSK — emergency use approval for the treatment of mild-to-moderate Covid-19.

Philippines approves Covid

Kids will be allowed to receive the jabs from next month as the vaccination drive is widened to include all adults and drug regulator recently approved the Pfizer

THE Philippines has approved Covid-19 jabs for children as young as 12, an aide to President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday, as the country battles surging infections fuelled by the hyper-contagious Delta variant.

Duterte's government has been skewered over the glacial rollout of vaccines, with just over a quarter of the adult population fully vaccinated nearly seven months after the first doses were delivered.

The daily case rate has soared, often exceeding 20,000, with hospitals struggling to han-



Children will soon be lining up to get vaccinated in the Philippines.
PHOTO: AFP / TED ALJIBE

ks, what doesn't, what might



The WHO recommends synthetic antibody cocktail Regeneron but only for use in patients with specific health profiles. **PHOTO: STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN /AFP/FILE**

The European commission later classified it as one of the five most promising treatments for the disease. AstraZeneca released preliminary results of its antibody cocktail at the end of August, saying it could prevent Covid in fragile patients. And French company Xenothera is working on a different kind of synthetic treatment called "polyclonal antibodies". Its therapy — based on pig antibodies adapted to the human immune

system — is in the final stages of clinical trials. **What doesn't work** Hydroxychloroquine, remdesivir, ivermectin and the HIV drug lopinavir-ritonavir (Kaletra), have all proved ineffective against Covid-19, according to multiple studies and trials. Despite this, demand for these drugs as Covid treatments remains high, fuelled in large part by dodgy or fraudulent claims on social media. Researchers had hoped to

'reposition' these drugs — try them on Covid patients even though they were created to fight other conditions. "Repositioning a drug is what you do in an emergency at the very beginning of a pandemic," said Lacombe. But the fact that no therapies were able to be repurposed — besides the arthritis anti-inflammatory medication — shows the limit of that kind of approach, she said. **SOURCE: AFP**

jabs for kids as young as 12

... presidential spokesman Harry Roque told reporters, as not previously prioritized for shots. The Philippines' food and Moderna jabs for kids aged 12 and above.

... the influx of patients as vaccine supplies dribble into the country. **Inoculating children** Inoculating children is seen as a key step towards reopening schools in the Philippines, which is one of the few countries in the world to have kept them shut since the start of the pandemic. The government recently announced plans for a pilot reopening of 120 primary and high schools, but few details have been released. Kids will be allowed to receive the jabs from next month, presidential spokesman Harry Roque

told reporters, as the vaccination drive is widened to include all adults not previously prioritized for shots. The Philippines' food and drug regulator recently approved the Pfizer and Moderna jabs for kids aged 12 and above. The move follows other countries such as Britain, the United States and Australia in approving specific jabs for adolescents. The World Health Organization is still conducting trials on vaccinations for children and has only recommended that adolescents at high risk of contracting

Covid-19 receive Pfizer shots. Although children are considered less at risk of severe Covid, there are concerns that the highly contagious Delta variant could lead to more serious cases. **A target of vaccinating** The government has previously set a target of vaccinating 70 per cent of adults by the end of the year. In the national capital region more than 72 per cent are fully protected, Roque said. The country has recorded 2.5 million infections, including over 37,000 deaths, since March 2020. **SOURCE: AFP**

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“ Digital Equity for All Ages ”
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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Tuesday 28 September 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay and adjoining coastal areas of West Bengal still persists. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29 September 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Mandalay Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Eastern Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States and widespread in Chin and Rakhine States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Bago Regions and Rakhine, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 September 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 September 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Low Pressure Area Condition
ISSUED at (14:00) hours M.S.T on 28-9-2021

ACCORDING to the observations at (13:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay and adjoining coastal areas of West Bengal still persists.

1,630 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 September, total figure rises to 461,066

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 461,066 after 1,630 new cases were reported on 28 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 415,376 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,631 after 48 died.

Milestones in the State Administration Council's Seventh Month

By Kanaung

Overview

It has been seven months since the State Administration Council took over the responsibility for leading the country back on the path to truly free and fair elections, which are the hallmark of democracy.

In August, the government demonstrated significant progress in ensuring the rule of law and achieving a greater measure of stability and security than in previous months. The government is now accelerating measures to revive the economy, which has and continues to be deeply affected by the COVID crisis. Vaccination programmes across the nation have achieved a certain measure of success. Effective control and response measures put in place through the combined efforts of the government, civil society organizations and the Tatmadaw have lowered COVID-19 test positivity rates.

The high points in August are the new governance structures, the firm support of ASEAN member countries, disease control and management measures, achievements in economic sectors, and supportive public participation in the fight against terrorism.

On 1 August, the State Ad-



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the address at the meeting to develop Nay Pyi Taw Capital on 17 August 2021.



ministration Council introduced governance reforms to enhance effectiveness and decentralize decision-making. The Management Committee under the State Administration Council was reconstituted to become the "Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar", to undertake state duties directly according to the goals set by the Five-Point Road Map and Nine Objectives. The State Administration Council Chairman serves as the Prime Minister of the Provisional Government, while the Vice-Chairman serves as Deputy

Prime Minister. The Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General and Permanent Secretary of the Provisional Government Office also serve in the Provisional Government. Some changes were introduced among the ministries, and among regional/state governments in the interests of greater efficiency.

Policy directions

On 1 August 2021, to mark the six months since the State Administration Council took over the responsibilities of State, the SAC Chairman pledged to con-

tinue working towards new, free and fair elections in line with the provisions of the state of emergency and following the annulment of the 2020 General Election results. He emphasized the importance of disciplined practices to maintain stability and the rule of law, and the collaboration between the government and the entire Myanmar people in the fight against the pandemic. Moreover, he underscored the need to promote unity in the country and to enhance the agriculture and livestock sectors.

Prime Minister Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing presided over the sixth national coordination meeting on the COVID-19 emergency on 2 August, the seventh one on 9 August, the eighth one on 16 August, the ninth one on 23 August and the tenth one on 30 August. At these five national coordination meetings on the COVID-19 emergency in just one month, the theme was the effective implementation of disease prevention, control and treatment measures in a timely manner.

As an outcome of the work ensuing from these coordination meetings, the country was able to receive and utilize international assistance effectively and accelerate the vaccination programmes across the nation. The logistics of the vaccination programme was facilitated by the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Min-

istry of Defence, which together provided the necessary vehicles, aircraft and helicopters to transport the 10.2 million vaccines, which had been purchased or donated by friendly countries and organizations, to the respective regions and states. The government continued efforts to expand the supply of medical oxygen, including through import. Strict measures were enforced with the help of the business sector to ensure the sale of essential drugs and medical supplies at reasonable prices and prevent price gouging. Those on the priority list to be vaccinated received their shots, including those from areas controlled by ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), from camps for internally displaced people, and those from Bengali communities in Rakhine State.

As a result of combined efforts by the government, health workers, civil society organizations and communities, test positivity rates have declined significantly. On 23 July, at the peak of the COVID-19 Delta variant, 41% of tested cases were positive, and this proportion declined to 21% on 26 August and has continued going down since then.

Arrangements were made for the sale of essential food items at reasonable prices from mobile markets mounted on small trucks, to alleviate hardship for people faced with high food prices.



The Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines from China are loaded onboard the Tatmadaw aircraft to transport them to remote areas.

During the State Administration Council (13/2021) meeting held on 7 August, the Chairman and SAC members reviewed the decline of terrorism, the implementation of road map and objectives, COVID-19 prevention, treatment and control activities, stability and the rule of law and socio-economic measures to reduce inter-regional disparities and urban-rural disparities.

On 10 August, the first meeting 1/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held where the Prime Minister as Head of Government emphasized the need to collectively carry out development tasks of the State. These included measures to improve the education and research sectors, increase the income of individuals, ensure food security, reduce imports of non-essential goods, develop both state-owned and private factories and enterprises, improve the health of citizens, and speed up the issuance of national identity cards to all entitled citizens before the new elections.

On 17 August, the SAC Chairman provided policy guidance at a meeting on the development of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. He highlighted the establishment of training schools, colleges and universities to build up human resources, the development of the industry/ manufacturing sector, municipal affairs, as well as the promotion of the transport, agriculture and tourism sectors in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

On 23 August, the State Administration Council (14/2021) meeting was convened. The meeting focused on economic relief plans for COVID-hit businesses, vaccination processes, the issue of proportional representation in elections, the rights of ethnic people and democratic norms.

On 31 August, at the (4/2021) meeting of the Security, Stability and Peace, and Rule of Law Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Senior General led a review of the security situation. He addressed the issue of systematic security management at border trade camps, the effective management of forest areas, the importance of preventing the use of agricultural land for other purposes, the long-term plans for urban and rural management, and the necessary measures for security, peace and stability and the rule of law.

Vice-Chairman of the Financial Commission, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration



The meeting 1/2021 of Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is held in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August 2021.

Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win participated in two coordination meetings on budgets. The meetings focused on the six-month Union budget for the period October 2021 to March 2022, and the budgets of regions and states for the same period. The Vice-Chairman emphasized the need for the ministries to scrutinize the use of the budget, the prioritization of the COVID-19 preventive measures, and sectors directly benefitting the public.

The State Administration Council enacted laws amending the Anti-Terrorism Law, the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in August.

Closer ties with ASEAN and other partner countries

In August, Myanmar was able to further strengthen its cooperation with partner countries, including those in ASEAN.

On 8 August, the SAC Chairman sent a message on the 54th Anniversary of the founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In his message, the Senior General extended his warmest greetings and best wishes to his fellow citizens and the peoples of ASEAN across the region. He expressed full confidence that collective efforts would enable ASEAN to overcome the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. He further noted that as the responsible Member State of ASEAN, Myanmar had been working together with ASEAN as guided by the theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper." Myanmar remained firmly committed

to work with ASEAN and its people to ensure a strong and successful ASEAN Community and regional integration.

On 2 August, the 54th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting took place, together with its associated meetings: the 23rd ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, the Seminar of ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the 29th ASEAN Coordination Council Meeting and Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Commission. A collective agreement was reached on the appointment of Brunei's second foreign minister as the special envoy to Myanmar.

On 3 August, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and other relevant officials attended the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of ASEAN and Dialogue Partners. On the same day, the Union Ministry addressed the Second Mekong-US Partnership (MUSP) Ministerial Meeting, expressing appreciation for the US contribution of COVID-19 protective equipment to the Mekong countries. He requested further assistance, including the provision of COVID-19 vaccines for Myanmar to save lives. He welcomed the adoption of the MUSP Plan of Action (2021-2023).

On 4 August, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin attended the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of ASEAN and Dialogue Partners and East Asia Summit and emphasized the collaborative spirit of Myanmar regarding the ASEAN partnerships. Moreover,

the Union Minister co-chaired the ASEAN-Canada Foreign Ministers' Meeting. He also attended the ASEAN-New Zealand and ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers' Meetings in the first week of August.

On 6 August, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing attended the 14th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting and expressed thanks to Japan for its assistance in the third wave of COVID-19.

On 7 August, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum. At the event, the Union Minister discussed cooperation with ASEAN and pointed out that non-state actors and unlawful organizations committing terrorism acts should not be included in meaningful political dialogue, and that ARF countries should condemn such terrorist actions. He also pledged that Myanmar would work with ASEAN regarding the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine.

On 10 August, China provided more than \$6.1 million from the Mekong-Lancang Special Cooperation Fund (2021) to Myanmar for 21 agreed projects under this fund. Eleven ministries will use the funds for projects related to non-traditional security, human capital development, vaccine production for animal diseases, culture, agriculture, science, technology and so on.

On 11 and 13 August, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Union Minister for International Cooperation respectively presided over

virtual meetings with Myanmar Ambassadors, permanent representatives and consuls general from the Asia Pacific Region, Middle East and Africa zone, Europe Zone and America Zone. The meetings focused on the current political situation and ongoing work plans.

In the second week of August, a Preparatory Meeting was held via videoconferencing on the 3rd Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation and Business-to-Business Virtual Matching.

The Myanmar delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung participated in the 15th ASEAN Navy Chief's Meeting held on 11 August and the 4th International Maritime Security Symposium (2021) on 23 August, held by videoconferencing. Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo led the Myanmar team's participation in the virtual 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

On 24 August, the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and officials of the Myanmar Tourism Federation attended the CLMVT Plus Forum 2021, held via videoconferencing. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman and its members joined the Second Working Group Meeting of Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum and Side Event and discussed the activities of the commission and the challenges it faced.

TO BE CONTINUED

US to press for semiconductor relief at EU tech meeting



Pittsburgh, the once mighty heart of the US steel industry, will serve as the venue for the US-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting. **PHOTO: AFP / FILE**

US President Joe Biden will use this week's inaugural technology ministerial meeting with the European Union to push for solutions to the nagging semiconductor supply issue that has hit the American economy, officials said Monday.

But the Trade and Technology Council meeting Wednesday and Thurs-

day also is an opportunity for Washington to press EU governments to join forces to deal with the problems posed by China's trade practices.

The chip shortage due to manufacturing snags has had a massive impact on the US economy, hindering auto production and driving prices higher.

"The semiconductor shortage has been a top priority for the president and for his economic and national security teams," a senior administration official told reporters, adding that the White House has been "working overtime" to address the situation.

In fact the White House last week held its third meeting with semiconductor industry executives to try to ease the current chip crunch as well as to work on longer term solutions. But the official said "It has also been a top priority of Europe," and the ministerial meeting will offer an opportunity "to continue building our partnership with the EU on semiconductors," with a focus on "near-term disruptions" as well as longer term supply reliability issues.—AFP ■

Dubai Expo to welcome millions in biggest event since pandemic

MILLIONS of people will begin converging on Dubai this week as the Covid-delayed Expo 2020, the world's biggest event since the pandemic, finally unveils its gleaming pavilions in the desert.

The Expo site in the dusty Dubai suburbs has remained strictly off-limits during its year-long postponement but the wraps will come off on Thursday at an opening ceremony attended by Emirati royalty.

Architectural marvels and a long list of technological innovations will feature among the exhibits, or pavilions, showcasing the ingenuity of more than 190 countries. The first world fair was held in London in 1851, when it was housed in the purpose-built Crystal Palace, and it featured the Eiffel Tower – intended as a temporary attrac-

tion – in Paris in 1889.

Dubai's edition, the first in the Middle East, is expected to be the biggest event ever held in the region with estimates of 25 million visitors over its six-month lifespan. The next biggest event held in the world during the pandemic was the Tokyo Olympics, where strict virus rules saw spectators banned from nearly all venues. Expo 2020 will be indelibly

tinged by the pandemic, however, with masks and social distancing mandatory on site. Visitors will need to be vaccinated or have a negative PCR test to enter. The United Arab Emirates, population 10 million, has reported rapidly dwindling coronavirus cases in recent weeks, dropping below 300 on Sunday – less than half the figure a fortnight earlier.— AFP ■



Journalists visit the Sustainability Pavilion during a media tour at the Dubai Expo 2020, a week ahead of its public opening. **PHOTO: AFP / FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0185N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0185N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1105)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1105)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK NORDDAL VOY.NO. (136S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NORDDAL VOY.NO. (136S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-9-2021** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2115S/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2115S/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Activision Blizzard to create compensation fund for workplace harassment victims

ACTIVISION Blizzard reached an agreement Monday with a US federal agency to settle claims alleging sexual harassment and gender discrimination, but the video game maker remains the target of other investigations and complaints.

In August, the company behind "Call of Duty" and "World of Warcraft" promised change with a management shakeup following long-running allegations of sexism and discrimination.

Under the agreement with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Activision has committed to creating a compensation fund for eligible individuals, according to a statement.—AFP ■

New Beijing airport handles nearly 39 million passenger trips

The passenger throughput of Beijing Daxing International Airport totalled nearly 39 million over the past two years, said the airport.

Saturday marked the second anniversary of the beginning of the airport's operations.

By 22 Sept, the airport handled 38.94 million passenger trips and 215,400 tonnes of cargo and mail. A total of 314,600 flights took off and landed at the airport.

The annual passenger throughput will likely exceed 20 million by the end of September based on current traffic trends, the airport said. Currently, 26 domestic airlines operate at the airport, including China Southern Airlines and China Eastern Airlines. By August, the airport operated 145 domestic air routes connecting 135 destinations across the country.— Xinhua ■

Japan's JERA to invest in Aboitiz Power for decarbonization ventures



JERA Co. President Satoshi Onoda tells an online press conference his firm is investing in Aboitiz Power Corp. of the Philippines to engage in LNG and renewable energy operations **PHOTO: JERA/NNA/KYODO**

JAPANESE energy company JERA Co. will invest about \$1.58 billion in major Philippine utility firm Aboitiz Power Corp. to help stabilize the Southeast Asian nation's electricity supply and promote its decarbonization drives.

JERA, a joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. and Chubu Electric

Power Co., said Monday that it will acquire about 27 per cent of Aboitiz Power's outstanding shares as a result of the investment. It will be one of JERA's biggest investments and one of the largest in the Philippines by any Japanese firm.

JERA's share acquisition will reduce the equity stake of Philippine

conglomerate Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Aboitiz Power's parent company, from 77 per cent to 52 per cent.

Once the deal is finalized, Tokyo-based JERA will send executives and employees to Aboitiz Power and discuss joint renewable energy venture operations such as offshore wind power generation, in addition to the liquefied natural gas business.

JERA President Satoshi Onoda said during a virtual press conference, "Aboitiz Power has demonstrated a strong determination to shift to environmentally-friendly energy. By directly participating in its management, it is possible for us to expand decarbonization in many enterprises quickly and effectively."—Kyodo ■

China to grow electric vehicle sales in Asia

ELECTRIC cars are gaining momentum in Asia and China is expected to be the driving force in the foreseeable future, said Fitch Solutions in a recent report.

The United States analytics firm estimated that EV sales in Asia will expand by 78.2 per cent this year, up from an estimated growth of 4.8 per cent in 2020. It forecast that total EV sales in the region will reach around 11 million units by the end of 2030. Meanwhile, those in China will hit just over 10 million units in that year. "China was the first major economic power to



Volkswagen displays its ID.3, an electric vehicle, at the 2021 World New Energy Vehicle Congress, held in Haikou, Hainan Province from 15-17 Sept. **PHOTO: WANG CHENGLONG/CHINA DAILY/XINHUA**

drive the adoption of EVs and we forecast that the Chinese EV market will remain the largest globally

until the end of our 2021-30 forecast period," according to the firm in its report. —Xinhua ■

Huawei CFO's release may herald thaw in China-U.S. ties, affect Japan

AN apparent plea bargaining between China and the United States late last week signals that the world's two major powers may be trying to prevent their economic and secu-

rity tensions from escalating further, diplomatic sources said.

A possible change in Sino-U.S. ties could also force Japan to reconsider its diplomacy toward Chi-

na, as the government of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has just followed suit with Washington on regional issues including Taiwan, the sources added.—Kyodo ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KITZ CORPORATION, a company registered under the laws of Japan, which is located at 10-1, Nakase 1-chome, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba, Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:



Reg. No. 28576/2019

In respect of Class 6: Iron and steel; nonferrous metals and their alloys; metal materials for building or construction; metal pulleys, springs and valves, not including machine elements; metal junctions for pipes; metal flanges; metal hardware; industrial packaging containers of metal; metal strainers for filtering liquid in pipes.

In respect of Class 7: Metalworking machines and tools; chemical processing machines and apparatus; semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems; non-electric prime movers, not for land vehicles and parts therefor; pneumatic or hydraulic machines and instruments; machine elements, not for land vehicles; starters for motors and engines; AC motors and DC motors [not including those for land vehicles but including parts for any AC motors and DC motors]; AC generators [alternators]; DC generators; actuators for valves.



Reg. No. 5701/2020

In respect of Class 6: Metal valves with actuators, (not including machine elements); metal valves, (not including machine elements); metal cocks, (not including machine elements); metal strainers for filtering liquid in pipes; metal stoppers for industrial packaging containers; metal lids and caps for industrial packaging containers.



Reg. No. 885/2021

In respect of Class 6: Iron and steel; nonferrous metals and their alloys; metal materials for building or construction; metal pulleys, springs, and valves, not including machine elements; metal junctions for pipes; metal flanges; metal hardware; industrial packaging containers of metal; metal strainers for filtering liquid in pipes.

In respect of Class 7: Metalworking machines and tools; chemical processing machines and tools; food processing or beverage processing machines and tools; semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems; non-electric prime movers, not for land vehicles; machine elements, not for land vehicles; actuators for opening and closing valves; plastic processing machines and tools.



Reg. No. 886/2021

In respect of Class 6: Metal valves with actuators (not including machine elements); metal strainers for filtering liquid in pipes; metal valves (other than parts of machine); actuators for said metal valves; metal cocks; metal pipe couplings and metal tube couplings.

In respect of Class 7: Valves (parts of machines); actuators for said valves; cocks (parts of machines); pipe couplings (parts of machines) and tube couplings (parts of machines).



Reg. No. 1802/2021



Reg. No. 1781/2021

In respect of Class 11: Floating control valves for water supply; pressure reducing valves for water supply.

In respect of Class 17: Rubber flexible joints; rubber expansion joints.

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Dated: September 29, 2021.

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစာရင်းများကို နှိုင်းစာကာလံချိန်စ် ပုံနှိပ်ရရှိပါက ဆက်သွယ်နှိုင်းပါရန်

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NEWS
IN BRIEF

Tokyo protests S. Korea court order to sell assets for WWII compensation

A South Korean court has issued an unprecedented order for assets seized from Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to be sold to compensate World War II forced labourers, prompting Tokyo to protest on Tuesday.

Japan and South Korea are both democracies, market economies and US allies, but their relationship has been strained for decades over Tokyo's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

Around 780,000 Koreans were conscripted into forced labour by Japan during the 35-year occupation, according to data from Seoul, not including women forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops.

On Monday, the Daejeon District Court ruled that two patents and two trademarks held by Mitsubishi Heavy should be sold to compensate two female Korean plaintiffs in their 90s, according to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency.—AFP ■

NATO steps up patrols as Kosovo-Serbia tensions soar

NATO forces in Kosovo announced Monday that peacekeepers had stepped up patrols as Serbia deployed armoured vehicles on the border with the breakaway territory amid the worst regional tensions in a decade.

The international community, led by the European Union, is calling for talks to ease tensions between Serbia and its former ethnic-Albanian majority province, whose declaration of independence in 2008 Belgrade has never recognized.

Relations have deteriorated in the last week since the Kosovo government despatched special police units to the north, an area mainly populated by ethnic Serbs who reject the authority of Pristina.

The move, which angered the Serbs, came after Pristina decided to require drivers with Serbian registration plates to put on temporary ones when entering Kosovo.—AFP ■

Greece to announce new defence deal with France: PM



New generation Belharra frigates may be on Greece's shopping list. **PHOTO: HO/AFP**

ATHENS and Paris are set to announce an arms deal on Tuesday morning that will deepen their strategic cooperation, Greek Prime Minister

Kyriakos Mitsotakis said late on Monday.

"We are heading towards a substantial deepening of the strategic partnership between

Greece and France," Mitsotakis told state TV ERT during a visit to the French capital.

"There will be announcements tomorrow morning at the Elysee Palace" with French President Emmanuel Macron, he said.

The new deal may include the sale of Belharra frigates and possibly Gowind corvettes according to Greek reports earlier in the day, which would help a French defence industry smarting from the humiliating loss of a multi-billion-dollar submarine order from Australia.

Mitsotakis this month announced a surprise purchase of six French-made Rafale warplanes, in addition to a 2.5-billion-euro (\$2.9-billion) deal for

12 used and six new Rafales signed in January.

Greece's burgeoning arms programme is designed to counter Turkish challenges in the eastern Mediterranean, against which France is among the few EU states to have offered public support in past months.

In turn, Mitsotakis has backed Macron's call for a European army.

"The demand for European strategic autonomy is absolutely imperative," he told ERT.

"Europe has the obligation to be able to act autonomously, if it so wishes," the PM said, adding that Greece and France would be "in the front line" of such an initiative.—AFP ■

Pakistan OKs visas for Japan-bound Afghan evacuees without passports

THE Pakistani government has decided to issue visas to the Afghans that Japan wants to evacuate from Afghanistan, even if they arrive at the border without valid passports or other travel documents, according to Pakistani officials.

The policy is in line with the decision Islamabad has made in principle to grant visas to all Afghans who are being sponsored by an international organization or a state for transfer to a third country. Japan sent Air Self-Defence Force aircraft to

Afghanistan's capital Kabul in August to help evacuate about 500 people, most of them Afghan staff of its embassy and the Japan International Cooperation Agency's local office as well as their family members. But none of the Afghans was able to board those planes, and as the air evacuation mission ended with the complete withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan at the end of August, some of them have started leaving the country on their own by land.

The main route taken by



A woman in a wheelchair and other Afghans enter Pakistan through a border crossing in Torkham on 23 September 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

those Afghans is through the Torkham border checkpoint in Pakistan's northwest. Of those who entered Pakistan on their own, 10 have already moved to

Japan with the Japanese government's assistance. "It is progressing slowly, but gradually," one Interior Ministry official said Sunday.—Kyodo News ■

No time to wait: world premiere for new Bond movie



The film's release was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic and three previous scheduled premieres were postponed. **PHOTO: AFP**

CELEBRITIES and royals walk the red carpet in central London on Tuesday for the much-delayed

world premiere of the latest James Bond film, "No Time to Die".

British actor Daniel Craig's fifth and final outing in the blockbuster franchise hits big screens after its release was repeatedly postponed during the coronavirus pandemic.

The film will be shown at London's historic Royal Albert Hall, with royal couples Prince Charles and Camilla and Prince William and Kate set to attend.

It will go on general release in Britain on Thursday and in the United States on 8 October — a year and a half behind schedule.

The film is part of a backlog of major productions held back by distributors during the pandemic, hitting cinemas hard.

The release will be cinema-only, not streaming, which

Craig called a "joyous thing" in an interview with Sky News.

Vue Entertainment, the UK branch of the cinema operator Vue International, hailed the movie's release as "the cinematic event of the year".

Craig bows out

In the latest film, reportedly costing \$250 million (£182 million, 214 million euros), Bond returns to active service after retirement, vowing: "I have to finish this." He deploys his trademark hi-tech gadgets in spectacular scenery in Italy and Norway while battling the villainous Safin, played by Oscar-winner Rami Malek ("Bohemian Rhapsody").—AFP ■

Iran's nuclear programme has crossed 'all red lines': Israel PM

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Monday Iran had breached all the "red lines" aimed at curbing its nuclear weapons programme, but that Israel "will not allow" Tehran to get the bomb.

In his first address to the United Nations General Assembly, Bennett claimed the Islamic republic had in recent years taken "a major leap forward" in its nuclear production capacity and ability to enrich weapons-grade uranium. "Iran's nuclear weapon program is at a critical point, all red lines have been crossed," said Bennett, who took office in June.

"There are those in the world who seem to see Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons as an inevitable reality, as a done deal, or they have just become



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, addressing the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, accused Iran of breaching "all red lines" aimed at curbing its nuclear weapons programme. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

tired of hearing about it," the 49-year-old premier told the world body.

"Israel doesn't have that privilege. We cannot tire. We will not tire. Israel will not allow Iran

to acquire a nuclear weapon."

Iran responded rapidly, saying Bennett "played the victim and desperately tried to portray the Israeli regime as innocent."—AFP ■

Red carpet, prayers and kisses as Qataris go to the polls



Saeed al-Burshaid, a candidate for Qatar's inaugural Shura Council election, holds a campaign rally in al-Wakrah on 19 September. PHOTO: AFP

THE modest crowd listens respectfully as TV actor Saeed al-Burshaid gives his first

stump speech ahead of Qatar's inaugural legislative polls, an unprecedented exercise in de-

mocracy in the resource-rich monarchy.

Burshaid gesticulates passionately as he builds to a crescendo in a nondescript and largely undecorated sports hall south of Doha, watched by a few dozen people sipping tea served by waiters.

"It's our job to let them (voters) know, and to educate the people," enthuses Burshaid, a minor celebrity in the Gulf who also previously ran Qatar TV's drama department.

The 2 October election is for 30 members of the 45-strong Shura Council, a body with limited powers that was previously appointed by the emir as an advisory chamber.—AFP ■

North Korea fires 'missile', insists on right to weapons tests

NUCLEAR-ARMED North Korea fired what appeared to be a short-range missile into the sea on Tuesday, the South's military said, as Pyongyang's UN ambassador insisted it had an undeniable right to test its weapons.

The projectile was fired from the northern province of Jagang into waters off the east coast, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a Japanese defence ministry spokesman told AFP it "appears to be a ballistic

missile". Less than an hour later, Pyongyang's United Nations ambassador Kim Song told the UN General Assembly in New York: "Nobody can deny the right to self-defence for the DPRK", the North's official name.

It is the latest in a series of mixed messages from Pyongyang, coming days after leader Kim Jong Un's influential sister Kim Yo Jong, a key adviser to her brother, dangled the prospect of an inter-Korean summit. But

she insisted that "impartiality" and mutual respect would be required, calling for the South to "stop spouting an impudent remark". She condemned as "double standards" South Korean and US criticism of the North's military developments, while the allies build up their own capacities. Washington condemned the North's latest launch, calling it a "threat" to Pyongyang's neighbours and the international community.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN condemns 'xenophobia' against Venezuelan migrants in Chile

The United Nations has condemned the violence and "xenophobia" targeting mainly Venezuelan undocumented migrants in Chile over the weekend, carried out by locals fed up with their presence in the country.

About 3,000 protesters took to the streets of the northern port city of Iquique on Saturday, some burning the belongings of rough-sleeping migrants who had been occupying a public square for months.

In a tweet, the UN mission in Chile on Monday urged the "authorities and the population to act within the framework of respect for human rights and international humanitarian rights."

The world body expressed its willingness to provide technical assistance and to "collaborate in the efforts of national and local authorities."

The Iquique protesters waved Chilean flags and chanted slogans against the migrants, most of them fleeing dire economic conditions in Venezuela by crossing the Andes mountains and Atacama desert.

Eduardo Stein, the UN Refugee Agency and UN Migration Agency's representative for Venezuelan migrants, expressed his "sadness and dismay" at what he described as acts of hate and intolerance.—AFP ■

Haiti elections postponed indefinitely amid crisis

ELECTIONS and a constitutional referendum scheduled for the coming months in Haiti have been postponed indefinitely after the Monday dismissal of members of the electoral administration, plunging the country into further uncertainty.

Since their September 2020 appointment by late president Jovenel Moise, who was assassinated in July, the nine members of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) have been strongly criticized by the opposition and the public.

After developing several electoral calendars, the CEP set the first round of voting in presidential and legislative elections, as well as for a constitutional referendum, for 7 November.

The second round of voting was scheduled for 23 January 2022, in conjunction with municipal and local elections.

But Prime Minister Ariel Henry published a decree Monday announcing the CEP members had been dismissed. He is preparing to appoint a new council but did not set a deadline for doing so.

Henry was appointed by Moise two days before the president was murdered.

Moise, who was gunned down in his home, had been ruling by decree after the 2018 legislative elections were postponed, and disputes arose over whether his term should end in February 2021 or 2022.

His slaying shook a country already battling poverty, spiraling gang violence and Covid-19.

A 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti in August, further destabilizing the island nation.

The elections and referendum had already been postponed twice due to the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■



The projectile was fired from an inland area into waters off the east coast, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff. PHOTO: AFP/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.

Asian Cup U-23 Group I matches featuring Myanmar to be held in October

GROUP I matches of Myanmar team in 2022 Asian Cup U-23 will be held from 27 October to 2 November.

The group was previously scheduled to be held in China Taipei, but the team has resigned and thus the tourney will be held in Kyrgyzstan.

Group I includes Viet Nam, Myanmar and China Taipei. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has decided to host the

event in Kyrgyzstan, a non-partisan country, as Myanmar has not applied for host country since before the group stage draw, and after Viet Nam has withdrawn from the host nation. Previously, the group matches were scheduled to be held from 25 to 31 October.

Due to the change of host country, the schedule of Group I matches will be changed from 27 October to 2 November.

According to a new fixture

announced by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), Viet Nam will play against Chinese Taipei on 27 October.

Myanmar will take on the China Taipei team on 30 October, and Viet Nam on 2 November.

The Asian Women's Cup Group D match will also be played in Kyrgyzstan, with both the Myanmar U-23 team and the women's team competing in Kyrgyzstan. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Koeman seeks extra time as Barca get set for Benfica



Ronald Koeman is on thin ice ahead of Barcelona's Champions League game away at Benfica on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

RONALD KOEMAN'S future as Barcelona coach may already be decided but the outcome of the next two games, starting with Benfica in the Champions League on Wednesday, could buy him some extra time.

Three matches without a win and a press conference in which Koeman cancelled questions and demanded support felt more like the final week of a tenure about to be brought to an end.

A goalless draw away at Cadiz ended with Gerard Pique playing up front and while Pique called for calm after the game, the club captain also shied away from backing his coach.

"The club has been on the crest of a wave for many years and we are not used to this," Pique said. "We all need to make an effort to give stability. We can complain or pull in the right direction. Let's not look for friction because this doesn't help anyone."

After drawing with Granada, Koeman seemed both to

dismiss Barcelona's possession mantra and denigrate his players in one breath. "If you look at our squad, what are you supposed to do? Play tiki-taki?" Koeman said, in a reference to tiki-taka, the name attributed to the style played under Pep Guardiola.

But a 3-0 victory over Levante on Sunday has, at least briefly, lifted the mood ahead of a week that is likely to be taken as a litmus test for whether Koeman returns from the international break still in charge.

After facing Benfica, with the pressure on in Group E after the opening defeat by Bayern Munich, Barcelona play on Saturday away at Atletico Madrid, La Liga's reigning champions, who are enduring a rocky start themselves.

A loss in either game, even at this early stage, would represent a damaging blow to Barca's hopes in either competition and perhaps convince the board the need for change is now.—AFP ■

Messi headlines Argentina squad for World Cup qualifiers



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIONEL MESSI headlines the Argentina squad for three South American World Cup qualifiers in October announced on Monday.

The Argentines are away to Paraguay on 7 October before hosting Uruguay three days later and wrapping up

against Peru on 14 October also in Buenos Aires.

Argentina, with 18 points, are second in the standings behind Brazil, who have amassed 24 points in eight matches.

The 2022 World Cup will feature 32 teams and is to be held in Qatar between 21 No-

vember and 18 December.

Three Premier League players — Aston Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez and Tottenham pair Giovani Lo Celso and Cristian Romero — are in the Argentina squad even though the country is on Britain's coronavirus travel red list.

Travellers from red-listed countries must quarantine for 10 days after arriving in the UK.

Villa and Tottenham each have top-flight fixtures on the weekend of 16/17 October.

Most English clubs refused to release players called up by South American countries for qualifiers staged earlier this month but Martinez, Villa team-mate Emiliano Buendia, Lo Celso and Romero were permitted to join up with their national team.—AFP ■