

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 164, 10<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tawthalin 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 30 September 2021

## 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.

## Rakhine Fisheries Department plans to set up hatchery after successful shrimp spawning

**T**HE Department of Fisheries in Rakhine State is making efforts to establish a shrimp hatchery after it achieved success in freshwater shrimp spawning on a trial basis.

The state is striving for the development in livestock and aquaculture sectors to generate more revenues from exports and fulfil the needs of the local consumption.

The freshwater shrimp hatcheries can be found in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The freshwater prawns produced in Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun areas which are adjacent to the Kaladan River in Rakhine State are of good quality. To maintain those species, the Fisheries Department is planning to open a freshwater shrimp hatchery in Rakhine State.

“Those shrimp species are marketable in international arena. Following the successful shrimp spawning between June and August, the hatchery will be set up in Kyauktaw. The feasibility survey for the shrimp hatchery will be conducted,” said U Thet Oo, director of the Rakhine State Fisheries Department. The saltwater shrimp hatcheries are located in Sittway, Pauktaw and Kyaukpyu. The production rate is decreasing year over year. This being so, the Union Budget



The state is striving for the development in livestock and aquaculture sectors to generate more revenues from exports and fulfil the needs of the local consumption. **PHOTO: KANU**

helped boost Kyaukpyu shrimp production. The saltwater shrimp production project in Sittway was liable to a Thailand company under the MoU agreement. The project was halted amidst the COVID-19 impacts. The project period was extended again under

an MoU agreement. For a saltwater shrimp hatchery in Pauktaw situated in wave stricken area, the higher the input cost, the lesser the production rate. As a result of this, the hatchery is planned to be relocated to Aungtaing village in Sittway township under the

coming state budget.

Climate change resulted in a drop in aquaculture resources. Additionally, marine pollution and the contamination in the rivers and creeks caused by hazardous substances from agriculture harm the fisheries population.

The shrimp hatcheries in saltwater areas are required for the value-added products. There are three saltwater shrimp hatcheries in Rakhine State, and a freshwater shrimp hatchery project is underway. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

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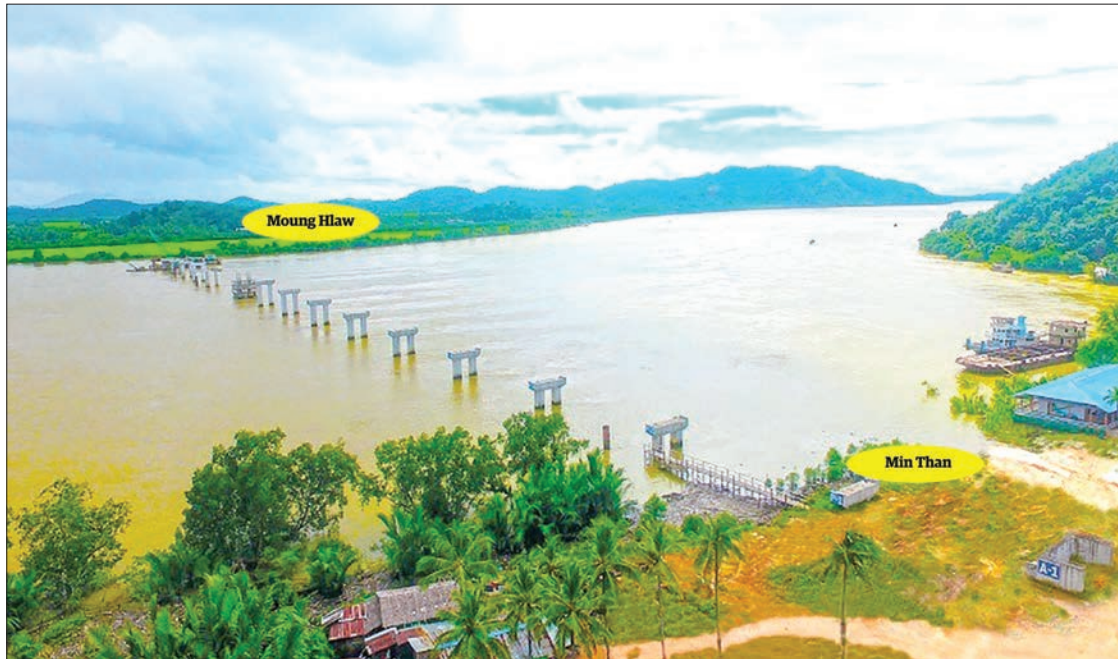
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# Min Than-Moung Hlaw Bridge project completes 30%

THE Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction implemented the Min Than-Moung Hlaw Bridge project in Taninthayi Region, and now it completes 30 per cent of operation, according to Bridge Task Force (4) of the department.

As Myeik District is made up of many islands, the residents of Kyunsu Township which is located in Myeik District, rely on the sea route for transportation. Therefore, the government constructs Min Than-Moung Hlaw Bridge that links Kyunsu to Myeik townships. The project is implemented at the cost of K13.65 billion, including K1.41 billion for approach road construction. A total of 14 skilled engineers and 60 labourers are working on the construction site.

The 2,100 feet (640 metres) long bridge is 22 feet (6.70 metres) wide while the water clearance of the bridge is 164 feet (50 metres) in width and 26 feet (8 metres) in height. It can withstand 75-tonne loads. It also comprises 21 spans and is built of Bored Piles with RC Concrete. The upper part of the bridge will be constructed with R.C Girder, PC Birder, Steel Box Girder and RC Slab.



strong winds and waves, the government constructs the new bridge. Upon completion, it will benefit the residents regarding their health, education, social and economy.

The project was implemented on 1 December 2018 and slated for completion in 2023-2024FY, according to the ministry. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

Min Than-Moung Hlaw bridge construction site. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

Currently, the foundation and pile construction work are completed by 70 per cent and the engineers will erect the piers and construct the abutment on the side of Moung Hlaw and conduct the concrete beams installation and deck paving the coming 2021-2022FY, according to the Bridge Task Force (4).

The people living in the villages of Kyunsu Township have to use the private ferries and boats to Myeik Township. As the strong monsoon generates



## 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

## အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများနေ့

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSON

“သာတူညီမျှ ဒစ်ဂျစ်တယ်ကဏ္ဍ သက်ရွယ်မရွေး ပါဝင်ကြ”  
“Digital Equity for All Ages”

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နေပြည်တော်

## 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 3,563,450 visses of palm oil that are equal to 5,823 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 two 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 the Department of Consumer Affairs, Yangon Region at 01-250270 and 09-43666668 to buy the palm oil. — MNA

ခပတေးစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းထက်ကမ်းချိန်ဖို့ ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

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ကြော်ငြာရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံမှုနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းပေးပါက ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်

09 974 424 848



World Teachers' Day

5 October 2021

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

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. 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)*

## Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods holds meeting to stabilize Forex rate, boost exports



The SAC Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods meeting in progress.

THE Meeting of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods of the State Administration Council was held at the meeting hall of the Office of the State Administration Council yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Central Committee Member of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Members of the Central Committee Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign

Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo, Auditor-General of the Union Dr Kan Zaw and Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein.

The meeting discussed foreign trade conditions, the Central Bank's selling foreign currency to banks for the smooth flow of foreign currency in the market, arrangements for the timely return of export earnings, the timeline of handling export earnings, ways to boost exports and the current high exchange rate, and how the government can provide effective assistance to stabilize prices and the currency. — MNA

## Child Labour Eradication on Knowledge Dissemination and Capacity-Building Working committee holds meeting 1/2021

THE Myanmar Child Labour Eradication on Knowledge Dissemination and Capacity-Building Working Committee held its coordination meeting 1/2021 at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw. Chairman of the working committee Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint and officials attended the meeting.

At the meeting, Chairman of the Working Committee Deputy Minister U Ye Tint said child labour includes works that can have a negative impact on the physical, mental and social development of the child; works that disrupt the education of the child; works that block access to school; works that cause the child to drop out of school prematurely; and children who have to do hard work for a long period of time after school.



The MoI Deputy Minister chairs the coordination meeting 1/2021 of the Myanmar Child Labour Eradication on Knowledge Dissemination and Capacity-Building Working Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September 2021.

He said it is necessary to prevent the loss of children's rights and inability to go to school while they are young. As young people are the future of the nation, parents, teachers and responsible persons need

to nurture and train them to become strong people who can develop the country.

He said the working committee must accelerate the elimination of child labour and capacity building to protect chil-

dren from working dangerous works by the time they have to be at school, to not let them economically exploited, and to prevent premature dropouts.

Priority project areas have been identified in areas such

as Yangon Region, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, Mon State, and Kayin State, where Complaint Centres and Hotlines have been set up to eliminate child labour; to carry out awareness-raising activities, and to provide assistance effectively. He called on the people to work together to provide education so that they have chance to learn education instead of going to work.

Afterwards, Secretary of the Working Committee, Director-General of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department U Nyunt Win and attendees presented the activities to be implemented for the awareness-raising activities for the elimination of child labour; and capacity building, and the Deputy Minister concluded the meeting. — MNA

# Union Minister for Home Affairs attends 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)

THE 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and its Related Meetings was hosted by Brunei Darussalam through videoconferencing yesterday, and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut participated in the meetings.

At the meeting, Minister for Defence of Brunei Darussalam Dato Paduka Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof chaired and delivered the opening remarks. ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi discussed the current developments in the ASEAN regions and implementation of the AMMTC in line with the ASEAN framework. Ministers from ten ASEAN member states also exchanged views on activities to fight against cross-border crimes, regional crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to prevent them.

During the discussion, Myanmar AMMTC Leader, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut said the need to eradicate terrorism so that there will be no opportunity for violence in the field of transnational crime; the need to cooperate in various sectors to prevent terrorism as violence, arms smuggling, illegal drugs and human trafficking are interrelated. He added that extremist ideologies are developing as false news spreads significantly faster than true news with the advancement of technology, and it is necessary to increase the efficiency of information exchange and border management in the region. He suggested establishing and implementation of a cyber-security and technology cooperation programme in the ASEAN region, as it has become easier to incite violence on the cyber



The MoHA Union Minister participates in the online 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and its related meetings yesterday.

digital platform. He also advised on enhancing the cooperation among regional countries and the exchange of case information, as well as to work in the field of transnational crime based on the Shared Responsibility of ASEAN member states.

The Union Minister also said Myanmar is always ready to work together with all mem-

ber states for regional security, peace and stability, and prosperity, and it will pay special attention to the responsibilities and duties to be fulfilled for the success of the ASEAN community-building process.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), Agreement on Cooperation on Border Manage-

ment and the ASEAN Declaration on Combating Transnational Crimes in the Post-COVID-19 Period were approved, and the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Joint Declaration on Combating Transnational Crimes, and the meetings with China, Japan and South Korea, and the meetings to be separately held with each nation. — MNA

## 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Socio-Cultural Community held



Myanmar delegation attends the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Socio-Cultural Community.

THE 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Socio-Cultural Community was held on the morning of 28 September with a video

conference and was attended by a Myanmar delegation led by U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Department of Historical

Research and National Library and Senior Officer of the Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, from Ministry of

Religious Affairs and Culture, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was chaired by a senior official of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community from Brunei Darussalam, which holds the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2021.

During the meeting, officials discussed the progress of the recommendations of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Road-map 2025 Annual Assessment Report, including strengthening the evaluation of the activities of the ASEAN Secretariat, Multi-sectoral cooperation, setting terms and conditions for holding meetings at the ASEAN Secretariat by the ASEAN Chairmanship, tips from the 1<sup>st</sup> Innovation Platform

Dialogue on Youth Employment and Digital Technology Development, duties of Brunei Darussalam, which is implementing special priorities during its chairmanship of ASEAN in 2021, the declaration to link emergency response to natural disasters in the ASEAN region in line with (Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration), conditions for the continued implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 after 2025 and the terms of reference of senior officials.

Next, the ASEAN officials focused on the documents to be approved by the leaders during the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, 24th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the 16th East Asia Summit. — MNA

## Daily newspapers available online

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

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# Union Minister for Religious Affairs of Culture attends 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Ministers Meeting

BRUNEI Darussalam hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Ministers Meeting via videoconferencing yesterday.

A Myanmar delegation including senior officials led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko joined the meeting.

During the meeting, Dato Haji Aminuddin, Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei made an opening speech. In his speech, he said that in line with the theme “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper” in 2021, in the chairmanship of ASEAN in Brunei, the member countries have successfully addressed the challenges and gaps the ASEAN people are facing in the region, and it still needs to cooperate to ensure the ASEAN strategic framework on Culture of Prevention (CoP) and ASEAN related opinions, resilience and mutual understanding.

Then, Mrs Hajah Nor Ashikin Binti Haji Johari, Permanent Secretary of Culture, Youth and



Sports of Brunei presented the report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Senior Officials Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

During the meeting, the leaders discussed the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration which will implement the emergency cases of ASEAN and responses to natural disasters in line with the innovative work plans of the community, preparations for the future of ASEAN with the aim of

strengthening sector-wise coordination among the three pillars of ASEAN, promoting of long-term prosperity in the ASEAN region and creating the opportunities through the cooperation for the benefit of all ASEAN people, and Ha Noi Declaration that aims to strengthen the process of working with the dialogue partners of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Working groups in line with the ASEAN Community Goals of ASEAN Community’s

Post-2025 Roadmap.

The meeting also focused on the priority sectors of Brunei including Care Economy and ASEAN Strategic Framework.

Moreover, they approved the Joint Statement that includes promotion of culture and peace via youth, education, health, information and media sectors, the establishment of ASEAN Climate Change Centre, poverty alleviation, gender equality, social affairs, sports and educat-

ing programmes for sports and youth development.

Then, the leaders also talked about 7 documents and 19 records to be submitted to the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, one record to 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit and one record to 16<sup>th</sup> Summit of East Asia.

Then, Union Minister U Ko Ko appreciated the efforts of Brunei during the term of chairmanship. He then pledged that Myanmar will work together in building a cohesive and responsive ASEAN Community.

He also reported on the vaccination processes being conducted to date across the nation, donations of anti-COVID-19 medicines and medical equipment of ASEAN countries including dialogue partners.

Moreover, he appreciated the supports of the ASEAN Secretariat for ASEAN culture and arts monitoring frameworks and result-based monitoring system in Myanmar and welcomed Cambodia for the Chairmanship in 2022. — MNA

## Yangon region gold entrepreneurs association to sell 20 visses of gold daily

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association will sell 20 visses of gold (20 packs) per day, according to the decision of an executive meeting of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) held yesterday.

Gold entrepreneurs – Zwe Htet, Academy, Aung Thamaradi and U Ayeya Soe Naing (gold merchant) will sell five visses each of gold each per day in the Yangon gold market.

Due to the skyrocketing forex rate of the US dollar outside

and the high demand for gold, Myanmar gold price increased from K1,930,000 to K 2,220,000 per tical, going up by K290,000 by four days, elaborated YGEA Chair U Myo Myint on 28 September. After the decision of the Association came out on the evening of 29 September, when the market closed, the price of Academy Gold was K2 million

while the world gold price was at 1,740 per ounce.

The price of gold traded in the market is based on the dollar exchange rate, the world gold price, as well as supply and demand. It is learned that there is no price set by the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association. — Myo Min Thura/GNLM



Gold entrepreneurs - Zwe Htet, Academy, Aung Thamaradi and U Ayeya Soe Naing (gold merchants) will sell five visses of gold each per day in the Yangon gold market.

## Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 29-9-2021 September

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
<b>Supportive</b>				
1	Injection Omeprazole	1g/Vial	1,050	Aorta
<b>Antibiotics</b>				
2	PO - Azithromycin 500 mg	5x3's	4,000	Rammawaddy
3	PO - Cefalexin 500 mg	Box of 10x10's	6,100	Aorta
4	PO - Levofloxacin 500 mg	Box of 10x10's	7,000	Shwe Htay Min
5	PO.Cefixime	Box of 3x10's	3,600	Aorta
6	PO Amoxicillin + Clavulanic Acid	Box of 1x6's	1,800	Aorta
7	Injection - Levofloxacin 500 mg	1x1	3,000	Yadanar
8	Injection - Ceftriazone 1G	1's	700	KCL
9	Injection - Cefoperazone and Sulbactam 1G	Vial	4,900	Ready Medicine
10	Injection - Cefoperazone and Sulbactam 2G	Vial	9,300	Ready Medicine

PLEASE visit the Website ([www.mccpmd.org](http://www.mccpmd.org)) and Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/323302521392189/posts/1720802588308835/?d=n>) to know the prices of other medicines.

**1,542 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 September, total figure rises to 462,608**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 462,608 after 1,542 new cases were reported on 29 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 416,927 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,682 after 51 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 28-9-2021, a total of 7,799,489 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 3,790,752 people have been vaccinated two times and 4,008,737 people once.—MNA

## Daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products continue



A lorry is seen carrying imported anti-Covid devices.

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 29 September (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by six companies and transported by eight vehicles.

A total of 43 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by three bowsers, and 1,892 empty oxygen cylinders, seven oxygen plants, 401 oxygen concentrators, and 0.45 tonne of masks were imported via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti, Kengtung, and Myawady trading posts, seaports and the Yangon International Airport.

Three oxygen bowsers were transported to Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine and five oxygen plants to Yangon, and one each to Kutkai and Kengtung, respectively.

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



Picture shows an oxygen plant among the imported anti-Covid devices.

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](http://www.commerce.gov.mm). — MNA

## Over 16,000 18-year-olds vaccinated with 1<sup>st</sup> doses of COVID jab in Yenangyaung



Above 18-year-olds are receiving the first shot of COVID vaccine in Yenangyaung Township.

A total of 16,405 above 18-year-old locals have already been vaccinated in the second batch with the first dose of the Sinopharm vaccine in Yenangyaung Township, Magway Region, officials said.

The COVID-19 vaccination was given to people over the age of 18 and above from 16 to 28 September, according to the township COVID-19 disease control and emergency response committee.

In order to facilitate a good vaccination programme in the region, vaccination centres

have been set up at Lelpaw Sasana Beikman and Basic Education High School-1 in Lelpaw, rural health branches in villages, including Phayagon, Kanma, Kangyi, Indaw, Wetlut, Chaungzon, Wet Ma Sut and Aelgon, respectively.

In addition, the COVID-19 vaccines were distributed to the wards and villages by mobile vehicles to control the spread of the virus in Yenangyaung Township under the supervision of the departmental officials and the leadership of the township administration

body.

Health department staff, General Administration Department staff, village administrators and clerks, Red Cross members, auxiliary firefighters and volunteers cooperated in the vaccination works, officials said.

In Yenangyaung Township, a total of 6,100 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 twice in the first batch, according to the COVID-19 Disease Control and Response Committee. —Township IPRD/GNLM

## Myanmar to receive 14 mln doses of vaccines in next two months

MYANMAR will receive 14 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in the next two months, according to the Ministry of Health. Out of 14 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, 10 million doses of vaccines will arrive in Myanmar in October while another 4 million doses of vaccines will be received in November.

As per the purchase contract of 24 million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine from China, the country has already received eight million doses of vaccines so far, including four million doses arrived at Yangon International Airport on 12 September and another four million doses on 26 September, according to the Ministry's report.

As of 26 September, the country received 14 million doses of vaccines — two million doses of Covishield, 10 million doses of Sinopharm and two million doses of Sinovac.

Myanmar targets to vaccinate 20 per cent of the population at the end of September, 50 per cent at the end of 2021 and 70 per cent in mid-2022, according to the Ministry of Health.

Myanmar took measures to receive vaccines from China and Russia when India could not supply Covishield in time as earlier agreement.

Those vaccinated can have 0.02 per cent to 0.5 per cent chances of infection, according to the Ministry. — Aye Maung/GNLM

## Chinshwehaw residents receive first jabs of COVID-19 vaccine



Chinshwehaw locals are seen waiting for inoculation following protective protocol against COVID-19.

COVID-19 immunization was carried out in Chinshwehaw, Kokang Self-Administered Zone, beginning from 28 September, and a total of 640 people — 343 men and 297 women—received first doses of COVID-19 vaccine. The immunization was carried out at the pre-primary school in the ward (1), and Kokang Literature School and people from three wards in

the town were vaccinated.

Town Administrator, healthcare workers, departmental officials, charitable organizations and ward administrators worked together for the vaccination process and arranged to seat and spraying the vaccination sites.—Sithu Maung Maung (IPRD)/GNLM

## Myanmar imports over \$849.97 mln worth of machinery, spare parts in 10 months

THE import of Myanmar's machinery and spare parts was worth over US\$849.97 million in the last ten months (October-July) of the financial year 2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

Similarly, the country imported \$609.42 million worth of vehicles and spare parts.

Imports of commercial vehicles and machinery were permitted through seaports and three land borders — Muse, Myawady, and Tachilek.

The vehicle import permit applied to the individuals and the showrooms with the consignment system suspended starting from the last week of September 2021, according to the statement

released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The import permit for CBU (Completely Built Up) vehicles can be applied for by 30 September 2021. Nevertheless, the authorities give the green light to the SKD vehicles (semi-knocked down) and CKD vehicles (completely knocked down) that were assembled locally.

Importing the vehicles costs a lot owing to the Kyat depreciation, double shipping rate and price volatility with the tax in the previous months. At present, the automobile market for new vehicles and second-hand cars are leading to a downward trend during the financial hard times. — KK/GNLM



Importing the vehicles costs a lot owing to the Kyat depreciation, double shipping rate and price volatility with the tax in the previous months. At present, the automobile market for new vehicles and second-hand cars are leading to a downward trend during the financial hard times.

## Black gram price jumps to record high by K200,000 per tonne within day



The black gram fetched only K1,805,000 per tonne in the domestic market on 28 September, whereas it touched a high of K2,000,000 per tonne (FAQ/RC) on 29 September. The figures show a remarkable increase of K195,000 per tonne in one day.

THE price of black gram (urad called in India) hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September, which is a large gap of K200,000 per tonne in one day, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre).

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The figures show a remarkable increase of K195,000 per tonne in one day.

The Kyat depreciation in the forex market is a contributing factor to the price hike. A dollar is worth K3,000 in the black market on 29 September.

Furthermore, the main buyer India relaxed the quota on imports for black gram, pigeon pea

and green gram.

India earlier set import quota on beans, including black gram and pigeon pea starting from 2017. Myanmar earlier had to export black bean and pigeon pea under the quota system and limit period.

India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved not only black gram but also other pulses being imported from Myanmar that have the bill of lading up to October-end 2021, with relaxation of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 November 2021.

According to this statement, the previous notifications dated 19 March 2021 and 26 March 2021 were cancelled.

Additionally, Myanmar can export 250,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea under the G-to-G (government to government)

contract during the April-March period between the 2021-2022 financial year and the 2025-2026 FY, as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce and India's counterpart signed on 18 June. Myanmar has shipped over 655,314 tonnes of the black gram to foreign countries as of 17 September 2021 since 1 October 2020, generating an income of US\$507.37 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar yearly produces about 400,000 tonnes of black gram and 50,000 tonnes of pigeon pea.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black gram that India demands. Besides Myanmar, other beans such as pigeon pea, green gram and yellow pea, are also grown in Australia and Africa, Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated. — NN/GNLM

## Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral trade down by \$16 mln this FY

TRADE between Myanmar and Bangladesh as of 17 September since October this year has exceeded US\$35 million, down \$16 million from the same period last year, according to the monthly data issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 17 September of this FY, the Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border checkpoints has touched \$35.41 million, with exports worth \$16.98 million and imports amounting to \$18.43 million.

Compared with the same period last year, the value of exports between the two countries dropped by \$9.54 million, while imports declined by \$ 6.46 million. For the same period last year, the

total trade between the two countries was valued at \$51.4 million, with \$ 26.5 million in exports and \$24.89 million in imports.

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

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



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# Show off generosity and compassion in tests for life

**G**OVERNMENT departments, organizations and private companies need to recruit new staff for running their businesses and functions together with experienced employees. The assessment of skills of newcomers needs to be checked in tests to know their qualifications and skills concerning the jobs.

Departmental heads, owners and officials of related organizations and departments cannot know the qualification of newcomers immediately. So, entry tests held for the newcomers are the best way for recruitment of employees. Likewise, choosing the staff for one-step promotion rank also needs the tests apart from confidential marks of officials.

It is necessary to check the noble incident in which the persons left in the selection have the chance to show off their generosity and compassion. Those who won the vacant posts are lucky staff in the rank promotion test whereas those who were left in the test are lucky persons for the life.

appropriate of the vacancies. But all the candidates are the best appropriate for the vacancies.

Hence, those who are not picked out for the vacancies should not be disappointed. Missing the chance to secure the vacancies is not really related to their qualification and skills. Actually, they all have been selected for the new posts but they send the most appropriate persons with generosity and compassion to discharge duties of the new posts. Indeed, those promoted to one more step win just vacant posts but those left in the selection win the hearts of all due to contributing their generosity and compassion to the post winners.

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In fact, those chosen to enter the test for one-step promotion rank are also deserved for the new posts. But, they all cannot be appointed for the lesser number of higher posts. So, they need to join the rank promotion tests. However, those winning the higher rank have to secure the confidential marks of officials and the highest points in the written test and personal interviews.

Although points in the tests classify the candidates to the tests, they all are deserved for the posts. But they need to realize the capacity of organizational setup which limits the number of employees under the respective workplace rules and regulations. Hence, departmental officials and senior officers recruit the most appropriate persons among the candidates for the vacancy. Those selected persons are the most

## Vietnam's lockdown ensnares

*From shoes and sweaters to car parts and coffee, Vietnam's product shortages among worldwide brands such as Nike and Southeast Asian nations*

**T**HE snarl-ups at Vietnam's factories are part of a broader crisis around the planet that is sending inflation surging and raising concerns about the pace of recovery in the global economy.

At a fabric mill east of Hanoi, Claudia Anselmi — the Italian director of Hung Yen Knitting & Dyeing, a key cog in the supply chain of several European and US clothing giants — worries daily if the factory can keep the lights on.

Its output plunged by 50 per cent when Vietnam's latest devastating virus wave first struck in spring, and it faces perpetual problems securing the yarn it needs for its synthetic material.

### Customers including Nike, Adidas and Gap

"At first we were lacking people (to work) because everyone was stuck at home," said Anselmi, whose company's fabric is later used in swimwear and sportswear for customers including Nike, Adidas and Gap.

Now, "travel restrictions have jeopardised all logistics in and out... this has created long, long delays," she told AFP. "We only survive if we have the stock."

While lockdowns are gradually loosening across the country as infections steadily decline, millions of Vietnamese have been under stay-at-home orders for months.



Vietnam's economy suffered its heaviest contraction on record in the third quarter after a devastating wave of Covid-19 forced the widespread suspension of manufacturing. **PHOTO: AFP**

And a complex web of checkpoints and confusing travel permit regulations have made life impossible for truck drivers and businesses trying to move goods across, as well as in and out of the country.

Hamza Harti, managing director at FM Logistic Vietnam, said several drivers in the Mekong Delta had been forced to wait three days and nights in their vehicle to enter the city of Can Tho.

"They were without food,

without anything," he told a French Chamber of Commerce panel discussion in Hanoi.

### Shifting production

The delays and restrictions are a major headache for foreign businesses, many of which have pivoted to Southeast Asia from China in recent years — a trend accelerated by the bruising trade war between Washington and Beijing.

In the south — the epicentre of Vietnam's fight against Cov-

## Antibody levels reduce quickly even

*More than 2,000 hospital employees were observed for two weeks and the latest findings were based on a subset of more than 100. Swedish Television reported.*

**A**NTIBODY levels following COVID-19 vaccination decrease more rapidly than previously believed, according to a study of staff at a hospital in Stockholm, Swedish Television reported on Tuesday.

Seven months after receiving the second dose, the number of antibodies had decreased by 85 per cent among those immunized with the Pfizer vaccine — where staff had not been infected with the virus before vaccination.

However, the decrease was considerably slower among those who had been infected with the virus before receiving the vaccine.

Among those vaccinated with AstraZeneca, researchers observed an even greater decrease.

"As expected, antibody levels fall over time, but I am surprised that they have dropped so significantly in such a relatively healthy and young group," research leader Charlotte Thalín told Swedish

Television.

"The low levels have a wide spread among vaccinated groups, and we will have more sequences for our employees to give them a third dose," she added. More employees were observed and the latest findings were based on a subset of more than 100. Swedish Television reported.



# How world's clothing giants

China's strict and lengthy coronavirus lockdown has sparked a global shift in supply chains for brands like H&M and Gap which have grown increasingly dependent on the country's manufacturers.



The sports colossus sources around half of its footwear from the communist country.

Although some factories were able to set up a system where staff could eat, work and sleep on site to get around lockdown restrictions, Vitas said that the cost was prohibitive for many.

Japan's Fast retailing, which owns the popular Uniqlo brand, also blamed the situation in Vietnam for hold-ups on sweaters, sweatpants, hoodies and dresses, while Adidas said supply chain issues — including in the country — could cost it as much as 500 million euros (\$585 million) in sales by the end of the year.

Even with the prospect of lockdowns easing, many are fretting over the long-term impact on Vietnamese manufacturing, with Nike and Adidas admitting they were looking to temporarily produce elsewhere.

In a letter to Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, leading business associations representing the United States, the European Union, South Korea and Southeast Asian nations sounded the alarm over production shifting away from Vietnam, warning 20 per cent of its manufacturing members had already left.

"Once production shifts, it is difficult to return," they wrote.

Nguyen Thi Anh Tuyet, deputy general director of Maxport Vietnam, whose 6,000 workers

churn out activewear for the likes of Lululemon, Asics and Nike, told AFP the firm had "been very worried" about clients withdrawing orders — even though it was one of the lucky few to have navigated recent brutal months largely unscathed.

Without foreign customers "our workers would become jobless", she said.

### Coffee, cars

The pandemic has not only hit the country's textile industry but is also threatening global coffee supplies, with Vietnam the world's largest producer of robusta beans — the variety used in instant coffee. Prices for the commodity are now sitting at a four-year high.

Car companies have not escaped either — Toyota slashed production for September and October owing partly to virus issues, telling AFP "the impact has been big in Vietnam", as well as Malaysia.

Shortages have been made worse by a rise in demand in the West after a virus-induced slump.

Back at her textile mill near Hanoi, Anselmi believes companies will stick with Vietnam if it can return to some kind of normality in October.

"If we can allow the factories to work then I think the trust (in Vietnam) is still there."

SOURCE: AFP

quarter, officials said on Wednesday, manufacturing in the export-reliant

mid-19 — up to 90 per cent of supply chains in the garment sector were broken, the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas) said in August, according to state media.

Nike — which warned last week it was struggling with shortages of its athletic gear and cut its sales forecasts — pointed the finger at Vietnam, among others, saying 80 per cent of its factories in the south and nearly half of its apparel plants in the country had shut their doors.

# After 2 vaccine doses: Swedish study

The study, involving 460 staff,

mean that we can prevent the spread of infection even in crowded settings which may have been overlooked. We must, therefore, get a second dose as soon as we can. More than 2,000 hospital staff were served for the study, and the results were based on a survey of 460 staff, Swedish

SOURCE: Xinhua



People sit on benches marked with tapes to keep a distance at a shopping mall in Stockholm, Sweden, on 10 February 2021. PHOTO: WEI XUECHAO/XINHUA/FILE

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Confirmation and Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

- The State Administration Council has confirmed Prof. Dr Tin Tin Kyaw, Rector of the University of Nursing, Yangon, of the Department of Human Resources for Health under the Ministry of Health after the one-year probationary period.
- The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Thein Lwin Deputy Director-General Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development	Director-General Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
(b) U Win Hlaing Deputy Director-General Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Ministry of Transport and Communications	Director-General Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Ministry of Transport and Communications



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 29 September 2021)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30 September 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady Regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan State and scattered in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and 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:** Weak monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 September 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 September 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 September 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

## Low Pressure Area Condition

ISSUED at (10:30) hours M.S.T on 29-9-2021

ACCORDING to the observations at (10:00) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay and adjoining coastal areas of West Bengal has crossed to the coastal areas of West Bengal (India).

# Milestones in the State Administration Council's Seventh Month

By Kanaung

(CONTINUED FROM  
YESTERDAY)

## Humanitarian assistance from ASEAN and other countries

Within the framework of ASEAN humanitarian assistance, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, European Union (EU) and New Zealand pledged to provide USD700,000, AUD 5 million and 370,000-euro worth of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. The Cambodian government sent the COVID-19-related equipment and supplies in three special flights to Myanmar on 19 August. Moreover, Myanmar received \$100,000 donated via ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and \$200,000 from the Cambodian government. On 20 August, the Indian government donated 40 tonnes of medicines and medical supplies for the second time.

## Rejection of false allegations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on 9 August strongly condemning the statement of the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations issued on 8 August. The press release stated that the remarks of the US Permanent Representative had violated the principles of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations by making unfounded accusations against another UN Member State. U Kyaw Moe Tun had been dismissed as a civil servant under the prevailing laws and regulations of Myanmar and is currently under warrant of arrest for committing high treason and following the instructions of unlawful and terrorist organizations, the so-called Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and the so-called National Unity Government (NUG). The USA had not complied yet with Myanmar's request for the extradition of U Kyaw Moe Tun. Myanmar strongly condemns the US support for U Kyaw Moe Tun, which contravenes the ethics among the UN Member States. Moreover, Myanmar urged the



Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the address at the eighth coordination meeting for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.



US to follow the basic principles of non-interference and mutual respect stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

Myanmar strongly rejected the briefing and suggestions on Myanmar given by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Ms Christine Schraner Burgener to journalists through videoconferencing on 10 August 2021 in New York. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that Ms Burgener's remarks were based on unverified sources and inaccurate information and that she had ignored the acts of sabotage committed by terrorist groups and ignored the government's official information on the situation periodically released by the authorities. The Ministry further rejected her suggestion to establish an international observer group on Myanmar. Although Myanmar had rejected the United Nations resolution to appoint a special envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Myanmar had nonetheless cooperated constructively with the Special Envoy on Myanmar since 2018 as a gesture of constructive cooperation with the United Nations. The Ministry pointed out that the Provisional Government of Myanmar had explicitly announced its full commitment to hold free and fair multiparty democratic elections and hand over state duties to the winner of the elections. It was regrettable that Ms Schraner Burgener

had turned a blind eye to the attacks instigated by the terrorist organizations of CRPH and NUG to intentionally disturb the COVID-19 vaccination programmes by launching attacks on pandemic control checkpoints and vaccination stations. Myanmar urged the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar to conduct her work in an impartial, objective and constructive manner while upholding her mandate. Myanmar also rejected the remarks of the Special Envoy that violated the Code of Conduct of the United Nations and the basic principles stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

## The social and security sectors

The government extended the closure of the schools and other public places until 31 August, to effectively prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. Government banks, including the Central Bank of Myanmar, and private banks were allowed to operate during the period.

Relevant Military Commands and the people are working together in providing relief work in Kayin and Mon States, which are facing natural disasters such as landslides and floods due to the rainy season. In addition, the Disaster Management Department has prepared relief supplies to provide assistance in the event of a natural disaster.

The Ministry of Social Wel-

fare, Relief and Resettlement is coordinating efforts to pass the draft law on the prevention of violence against women as soon as possible. The Ministry's work to assist people with disabilities is continuing. At present, they are provided with K30,000 each, and plans are underway to make the vaccine available, raise funds and address the needs of people with disabilities. On 9 August, the Ministry that 57 cyclone shelters and warehouses had been established to provide emergency relief to people affected by disasters in Rakhine State.

The Union Minister for Information met with artists from the Music Association on 13 August and urged them to raise awareness and entertain people during the COVID-19 period with non-political art. The Union Minister also met with film artists in the second week of August, to provide new impetus to the artists who will serve the nation.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population is accelerating the Pann Khinn Project nationwide, which is aiming to achieve universal registration of all those eligible for Myanmar citizenship. Efforts are being made to raise awareness of the project more widely through media so that the people know and cooperate for citizenship registration, and to provide citizenship identity cards in all border areas.

The Internal Revenue Department announced on 18 Au-

gust that seventy per cent of the lottery ticket sales would be added to the lottery prize amounts and that they would make it easier for the public to claim their lottery wins.

Following the directives of the Head of State, officials are working to implement safe, orderly and systematic repatriation of returnees from abroad. The returnees are warmly welcomed and placed systematically under quarantine, with arrangements made to send healthy returnees back to their homes.

The State Administration Council issued an order on 11 August on the dismissal of pending cases under the law and on lenient prosecution of long-term detainees under the law, which would help to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. Except for specific cases, criminal cases that were pending trial before 1 February 2021 would be dismissed. However, if the aggrieved party did not want to close the case, the case will continue to be pursued.

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee launched a request to the public to cooperate in fighting against terrorism. The law-abiding public was urged to inform the relevant authorities on any terrorist and attempts on social media to instigate terrorist acts. Rewards would be given, the identity of informants would be kept strictly confidential, and if needed, informants would be provided with security.

The government has invited people who had fled their homes for various reasons to come back to their homes, promising leniency except for those directly involved in the acts of violence across the country and those leading the civil disobedience movement. Between 4 and 12 August, a total of 227 people from various backgrounds contacted relevant authorities in their respective regions and states. A total of 150 cases have been closed and the rest of the cases are being examined with a view to closing these down.

### The economic sectors

During the COVID-19 crisis, activities to promote the agriculture and livestock sector were accelerated in regions and states. The Chief Ministers, Commanders of respective regions and states and officials have prioritized efforts to increase productivity from private and public agriculture and livestock businesses, meet farmers' requirements and expand agricultural research.

On 9 August, negotiations started on the export of a specified tonnage of pulses to India, as the first step in the implementation of the MoU on trading in pulses between the two countries. The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development is working to strengthen rural development and implementing model village projects.

Although government offices, markets and schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, inshore fishing and fishery exports continued unabated, with a total of 1,472 fishing trawlers licensed. The Kawthoung-Ranong border trade hour was extended on 13 August. Originally it was from 6 am to 1 pm, and now it has been extended from 6 am to 6 pm daily.

Coordination of the 22 working committees involved in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)-2025 Action Plan was undertaken on 13 August. In the second week of August, relevant ministries held coordination meetings to provide necessary assistance for increased investments in agricultural economic zones and food production businesses. They are also working together to find solutions for the success of projects, such as in land allocation, services, packaging, and transportation.

Private factories and workplaces were allowed to reopen after a systematic inspection as per COVID-19 rules and regulations. A tripartite meeting of

government, employers and employees was held on 3 August. The meeting focused on difficulties faced by the employees. As part of a relief programme, a six-month deferral period for social security contributions and a waiver period were announced on 6 August. Social welfare general clinics for insured workers were opened in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township on 27 August. In addition, a total of 893,772 insured workers were vaccinated against the COVID-19 disease within the month of August.

Licensed banks, foreign exchange regulators and officials from the Central Bank of Myanmar have been meeting in efforts to address the impacts on the economy from the rising US dollar.

On 25 August, the Action Plan to Revive Myanmar's Economy, developed by the Working Committee for Remedial Works on Economic Impacts of COVID-19, was finalized. The Action Plan included 10 projects, 27 objectives and 407 processes. Committee members have already discussed the draft plan and are working towards its approval.

### Resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Ministry of Health has been releasing public notifications on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities continually, including information on its COVID-19 vaccination programme for the people, conducted free of charge. The Ministry has called attention to the sale of counterfeit vaccines on the market by unscrupulous parties. The Ministry has called for the public to use only vaccines

that are officially endorsed by the Ministry. The true prices of medicines are being published in daily newspapers to prevent price gouging. The authorities will track down and act against the sale of counterfeit vaccines. The Ministry of Health has already taken action against the companies engaged in profit-making from the storage of medical and health products and their subsequent resale. The restrictions on international commercial flights have been extended.

During the period when lock-down measures were declared, border trade points continued unabated to carry out regular import and export operations. Applications for import licences were regularly made online so that imports of medical supplies and equipment related to the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 were facilitated.

Members of the township/district/region/state COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment committees provided basic food and medical supplies, and cash assistance to monasteries, nunneries, religious associations, medical workers and civil society organizations to enable them to continue their good work during the third wave of the COVID-19. Public hospitals, Tatmadaw hospitals, clinics, COVID-19 centres in respective regions and states received large amounts of medical supplies, including oxygen cylinders. Quarantine centres and COVID-19 treatment centres were prepared in Tatmadaw hospitals, military training schools, military interrogation and accommodation camps, to ensure a high degree of readiness.

It was gratifying to see the increase in donations from the Myanmar public for COVID-19 vaccines in August. In the same month, the statements from the Fund Management Sub-Committee showed that donations and procurement of vaccines had been made more transparent.

Oxygen plants are being set up at public and Tatmadaw hospitals in various regions and states to meet the additional need for oxygen among COVID-19 patients, and many new plants were completed in August. Also, military aircraft and helicopters as well as vehicles are transporting COVID-19 vaccines for the designated people in respective regions and states.

Myanmar received one million doses of COVID-19 vaccines purchased from the People's Republic of China on 8 August. On 22 August, vaccines and medical supplies donated by the People's Liberation Army and by the Myanmar Embassy and Myanmar Military Attaché's office in Beijing arrived. Another two million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines purchased from China arrived in Yangon on 28 August.

To carry out COVID-19 prevention and control activities more effectively, the Ministry of Health designated Myingyan, Biling, Kengtung, Tatkon, Dawei, Myeik, Mohnyin, Waingmaw, Loikaw, Kyunhla, and Chaungzon townships as Stay-at-Home townships in August.

### The media

Members of the Myanmar Press Council were elected, and the council was reformed to promote the media sector.

The Information Team of

the State Administration Council received inquiries from local and foreign media outlets in August and is responding in a timely manner with accurate information. On 11 August, the Information Team revealed that its name had been used in a false report to disseminate fake news. The Information Team held its eighth press conference (8/2021) on 27 August, following procedures stipulated by the Ministry of Health COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Head of the SAC Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained the Government's political and socio-economic development activities, COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, future plans, implementations of activities to ensure national stability, peace and security, backed up by video testimonies from terrorists who had been caught. A member of the Union Election Commission explained the findings on the election, the announcement on the cancellation of the 2020 general election results and the ongoing work of the commission, including setting the base for the new elections.

Efforts are ongoing to improve stability and peace, to address crises and rectify past mistakes. The trust and cooperation between the government and the people have contributed to the reduced impact of the third wave of COVID-19 in August. The people, the government and the Tatmadaw will need to continue working together for a better future, building national unity and writing a new democratic chapter in the history of the nation.



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

# US default fears, rising oil prices hound global stocks

STOCK markets tumbled on Tuesday as traders tracked a strengthening dollar, high oil prices, the political gridlock in Germany and rising fears about a possible US debt default.

Brent crude oil briefly jumped above \$80 a barrel for the first time in almost three years on expectations for surging demand and concerns about tight supplies as the world slowly emerges from the pandemic crisis.

Wall Street finished decisively lower, with the S&P 500 losing two percent and the tech-heavy Nasdaq falling nearly three percent as Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urged Congress to quickly raise the debt ceiling to keep the US government from



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell have warned of the dire consequences of not raising the debt ceiling, and markets are growing nervous. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

defaulting.

“The prospect of higher energy prices, fueling inflation, and

risers in bond yields that appear to be preempting tighter monetary policy by central banks,

have prompted widespread selling across global stock markets,” said Chris Beauchamp, analyst at IG. There were “few safe havens,” he said.

Analysts attributed disproportionate declines in tech stocks to rising Treasury bond yields, as higher interest rates generally hit tech companies because of their greater reliance on debt to fund growth.

Chief Market Strategist at TD Ameritrade JJ Kinahan credited the jump in yields to “a combination of uncertainty on Capitol Hill, coupled with all but certainty that borrowing costs will increase.”

Republicans in Washington have blocked a Democratic move to raise the US borrowing limit,

and Yellen warned that without an agreement, the United States is likely to run out of cash around 18 October.

Observers believe that would spark a massive financial crisis, but Republicans say they will not pay for Democrats’ spending plans.

The brewing crisis comes as Democrats fight to pass President Joe Biden’s multi-trillion-dollar infrastructure and social spending bills, with party infighting fueling concerns that the president’s agenda could end up stillborn.

Amid the turmoil the US government could shutdown later this week unless Congress approves a temporary budget measure by Thursday.—AFP ■

## Bad news piles up for UK economy before Christmas

BRITAIN is suffering from a wave of Brexit- and Covid-induced crises, from runaway energy prices to shortages of goods, drivers and motor fuel while unemployment is predicted to jump before Christmas.

Last year, a huge surge in Covid cases and hospital admissions forced the government to slap restrictions on social mixing indoors, ruining festive season plans.

Since then, a rapid vaccination programme has helped to lift restrictions but the economy

is flatlining faced with a fierce global supply crunch, the surging cost of raw materials and other simmering inflationary pressures.

### Logistics

A shortage of lorry drivers has translated into partially empty shelves in supermarkets and shops, with many companies unable to transport sufficient amounts of goods.

US burger giant McDonald’s recently ran out of milkshakes, restaurant chain Nan-

do’s shut some outlets owing to a lack of chicken, while pubs were forced to stop serving certain beers.

Reports meanwhile suggest retailers may struggle to source enough Christmas trees, toys and turkeys for the upcoming festive period in December.

There has been a drop in the number of EU nationals working in logistics and lorry driving throughout Britain after the country’s exit from the European Union and due to Covid.

Such jobs have tended to be



A lack of tanker drivers and panic buying has caused many filling stations to run dry. **PHOTO: AFP**

shunned by Britons because of low pay and antisocial working hours. Britain has a shortage of about 100,000 lorry drivers,

which has ironically pushed up wages for many British drivers, which the government is keen to see following Brexit.—AFP ■

## China outspending US, Japan in overseas development finance: study



File photo taken in August 2018 shows a railway station in Nairobi that was constructed with loans from China. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

CHINA’S annual average spending on overseas development projects showed “a dramatic expansion” to \$85 billion in the five-year period from 2013, far outpacing

the outlays by the United States, Japan and other major powers, a study by U.S. research lab AidData showed Tuesday.

The year 2013 is when

Chinese President Xi Jinping advocated the “Belt and Road Initiative” to increase Beijing’s influence abroad by financing and building infrastructure projects across Asia, Europe and Africa.

The report, which described Beijing’s grant-giving and lending activities as “shrouded in secrecy,” also revealed that Chinese development projects have been financed with debt rather than aid, and that most Chinese overseas lending is provided on less generous terms than from traditional bilateral and multilateral creditors.

AidData studied more than 13,400 projects worth \$843 billion across 165 countries over the past nearly 20 years.—Kyodo news ■

## Int’l desert forum seeks to tap green energy potential

AN international desert forum opened in Ordos City in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to discuss green energy transition Tuesday.

Amid China’s efforts to cut carbon dioxide emissions, the 8th Kubuqi International Desert Forum aims to better tap the potential of energy transformation in desertified areas and explore a sustainable development model. More than 400 officials, scholars, business and finance representatives from 20 countries, regions and international organizations participated in the forum held online and offline. In a video address at the opening ceremony, Wan Gang, chairman of the China Association for Sci-

ence and Technology, called for continued efforts to promote global ecological progress and sustainable development, as well as to help achieve carbon emission goals. China has announced that it would strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Ibrahim Thiaw, executive secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, said in a video address that land management can help combat climate change. “China has a well established territorial spatial planning system. It coordinates land use for food security, environmental conservation, and urban-rural development,” said Thiaw.—Xinhua ■

# Report lists 670 European firms with links to Israel settlements

MORE than 670 European financial institutions have ties with companies that are involved in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, a civil society report said Wednesday.

The report from a

group of 25 Palestinian, regional and European organizations called on the companies "to end all investments and financial flows" into the settlements, which are considered illegal under

international law.

The findings detail financial dealings worth \$255 billion (218 billion euros) between 2018 and May 2021 directly or indirectly linked to the settlements — including loans or share

and bond purchases — involving major European firms like BNP Paribas and Deutsche Bank.

More than 600,000 Israeli Jews live in settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, Pales-

tinian territories captured by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967.

Many large Israeli companies are active in those communities, including leading banks like Leumi and Hapoalim,

telecom and internet providers and supermarket chains, among others.

The report is not an account of financial dealings directly occurring in Israeli settlements. — AFP ■

## Canada's second largest pension fund ending oil investments

Canada's second-largest pension fund said Tuesday it will withdraw from investing in the oil sector by the end of 2022.

The move was part of a larger commitment to make the Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec (CDPQ) portfolio of investments "net-zero by 2050," senior managers told a news conference.

The fund will also offer financial help to companies in its portfolio, which is worth Can\$390 billion (US\$305 billion), to decarbonize their operations, they said, with the aim of slashing their overall carbon emissions by 60 per cent from 2017 levels by 2030.

"The urgency to act pushes us to go further, faster and to innovate," said CDPQ chief executive Charles Emond.

CDPQ, he said, is on track to "complete its exit from oil production" by the end of 2022. The move comes amid increased calls by environmental activists and Quebec residents for the institutional investor, which manages public pension funds and insurance programs in the Canadian province, to step up its climate efforts, including getting out of fossil fuel investments entirely.

In its last annual report on December 31, 2020, the CDPQ listed in its portfolio oil and pipeline companies such as Enbridge, Canadian National Resources Limited, Suncor and TC Energy.

These oil industry investments represent around one per cent of its total investments and are worth roughly Can\$4 billion. —Xinhua ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1057W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1057W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (140S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (140S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XH SPRING

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XH SPRING VOY.NO. (V21034)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD**

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### First National Insurance Public Co., Ltd (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

[Under Section 211 (a) of Insolvency Law & Rule 9 of Insolvency Rules]

Notice is hereby given that the Final General Meeting of the above Company will be convened on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 at 9:00 a.m via virtual meeting under Section 211 (a) of the Insolvency Law of Myanmar for the purpose of laying an account of the winding-up and giving an explanation of it.

Daw Hnin Su Mon, Liquidator  
B.Com (Q), C.P.A, D.B.L, ACCA  
Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township,  
Yangon Region, Myanmar.

### TRADEMARK CAUTION

The Body Shop International Limited, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of United Kingdom, and having its principal office at Watersmead, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6LS, United Kingdom, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:



The above Trademark is used in respect of "Cosmetics and skin care products; non-medicated skin care preparation; hair care and hair styling preparations; personal deodorants, sun-tanning preparations; sunscreen oils and lotions; shaving preparations; perfumes, eau de toilette, essential oils for personal use, perfume oils; nail care preparations; nail enamel; pumice stone, cotton sticks and wool swabs for non-medical purposes all for use on the body, scented room fragrances, incense sticks, potpourri and sachets; powdered cosmetic tissues; tissues impregnated with lotions; kits and gift sets containing skin and/or hair care preparations." in Class 3.

"Hair brushes; body sponges; loofahs; candle holders not of precious metal; aroma jars, pots and stands not of precious metal; back scratchers; atomizers; compacts; soap dishes; toothbrush holders; tea strainers; cosmetic applicators and accessories, namely face/body brushes, makeup brushes, eye brushes and combs, foam applicators, makeup sponges and powder puffs." in Class 21.

"Retail store services, online retail services all connected with beauty products, cosmetics, toiletries, skin care preparations, hair care preparations, fragrances, and personal care products; demonstration of goods, namely beauty products, cosmetics, toiletries, skin care preparations, hair care preparations, fragrances, and personal care products for the benefit of home and telephone shopping; computerised online ordering services connected with beauty products, cosmetics, skin care products, fragrances; promotional services." in Class 35.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademark or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

**Daw Aye Tha Zin Myo ( H.G.P)**  
For **The Body Shop International Limited**  
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**

Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower, No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,  
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar  
Dated: **30 September 2021**

## Germany's Laschet faces calls to resign over election loss

PRESSURE was mounting Tuesday on Armin Laschet to quit after his conservatives lost to the Social Democrats in Germany's election, further complicating his bid to form the next government after the disastrous vote.

Laschet's CDU-CSU conservative alliance brought home its worst election result in post-war Germany of 24.1 per cent, behind Olaf Scholz's SPD on 25.7 per cent.

But Laschet, the conservative bloc's hope to succeed veteran Chancellor Angela Merkel, has insisted his party will still try to build a governing coalition and

is ready for talks with the Greens and the liberal FDP for a possible partnership.

Though he admitted he could "not be satisfied with this result", Laschet also claimed "no party" — not even the Social Democrats — could claim a mandate to govern from Sunday's vote outcome. But calls are growing louder for Laschet to admit defeat and resign, even from within his own party.

"You have lost. Please have some insight. Avert further damage to the #CDU and resign," Ellen Demuth, a CDU member of the Rhineland-Palatinate state



The conservatives lost the constituency Angela Merkel (L) had held since 1990. PHOTO: AFP

parliament, wrote on Twitter.

"We lost the election. Full stop," said Tilman Kuban, the head of the CDU's youth wing.

Marcus Muendlein, the chairman of the party's youth wing in the state of Saxony, called for "a true new beginning" which he said could "only be successful

if our leader and candidate for chancellor, Armin Laschet — resigns".

A stormy session is expected later Tuesday when the newly elected MPs of the CDU and Bavarian allies CSU sit down together for the first time since the vote.—AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mexico celebrates 200 years of independence

MEXICO celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the country's independence from Spain on Monday with a commemoration featuring fireworks, theatre, and pyrotechnics in the capital's central plaza.

The event in Mexico City's Zocalo square, once the heart of the Aztec empire, was headed by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

"What we experienced that day, 200 years ago, marked forever our political separation with Spain," said AMLO, the acronym by which the president is known.—AFP

## Four refugees who sheltered Snowden find sanctuary in Canada



Former US National Security Agency contractor and whistle-blower Edward Snowden was forced into exile after leaking government secrets. PHOTO: AFP

FOUR Sri Lankan refugees who hid Edward Snowden in their tiny Hong Kong apartments when he

was on the run after exposing NSA spying landed in Canada on Tuesday where they were grant-

ed asylum, ending years in limbo.

Supun Thilina Kellapatha and Nadeeka Dilrukshi Nonis touched down in Toronto with their children Sethumdi and Dinath and were due to go on to Montreal to "start their new lives," non-profit For the Refugees said in a statement.

The family were part of a group of seven poverty-stricken refugees from Sri Lanka and the Philippines living in Hong Kong who nonetheless agreed to shelter Snowden after his bombshell revelations in 2013.

Vanessa Rodel, from the Philippines, and her daughter Keana were granted asylum in Canada in 2019 with the help of For the Refugees, who have lobbied Canada to take in the others,

arguing they faced persecution both in their homeland and in Hong Kong because they helped Snowden.

Kellapatha's family had faced deportation after their initial refugee claims in Hong Kong were rejected.

He spoke of his relief at finally finding a place of permanent sanctuary.

"I'm so happy this is over. I'm so happy to be going to Canada," the South China Morning Post quoted him as saying before he and his family boarded a plane in Hong Kong.

"We have a new life, our children now have a future. We're so grateful right now. Really, I am speechless — The kids are so happy. I'm so grateful."—AFP

### Bangkok on alert as 70,000 homes flooded in Thailand

THAI authorities on Tuesday rushed to protect parts of Bangkok from floodwaters that have already inundated 70,000 homes and killed six people in the country's northern and central provinces.

Tropical storm Dianmu has caused flooding in 30 provinces, with the kingdom's central region the worst hit, the Thai Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department said.

The level of the Chao Phraya River — which snakes through Bangkok after winding almost 400 kilometres from the north — is steadily rising as authorities release water from dams further upstream.—AFP

## Thunberg slams 30 years of climate 'empty words'

SWEDISH climate activist Greta Thunberg opened a youth climate summit on Tuesday by lambasting three decades of government inaction, accusing world leaders of having "drowned" future generations with "empty words and promises".

Speaking weeks ahead of a crunch UN climate summit in Glasgow, Thunberg accused governments of "shamelessly congratulating themselves" for

insufficient pledges to cut emissions and promises of financing. Hurling leaders' own words back at them, the 18-year-old laid bare to delegates at the Youth4Climate event in Milan the gap between words and action.

"There is no Planet B, there is no planet blah, blah, blah," Thunberg said to warm applause.

Echoing a speech by COP26 summit host Boris Johnson in April, she continued: "This is not

about some expensive politically correct dream of bunny hugging, or build back better, blah blah, green economy, blah blah, net zero by 2050, blah blah, climate neutral blah blah. "This is all we hear from our so-called leaders: words, words that sound great but so far have led to no action, our hopes and dreams drowned in their empty words and promises," said Thunberg.—AFP



Speaking just weeks ahead of a crunch UN climate summit in Glasgow, Thunberg accused governments of "shamelessly congratulating themselves" for insufficient emissions cutting pledges and finance promises. PHOTO: AFP

## Ex-Foreign Minister Kishida to become next Japan PM after party vote

FORMER Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida won the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's presidential election Wednesday in a runoff against vaccination minister Taro Kono, making him all but certain to become Japan's next prime minister.

Among 427 valid votes, Kishida secured 257, defeating Kono, who garnered 170, after the first round of voting did not produce a decisive winner to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

Two female candidates, Sanae Takaichi, a former minister of internal affairs and communications, and Seiko Noda, the LDP's executive acting secretary general, lost out in the four-way race

earlier in the day.

Since the LDP-led coalition holds a majority in both chambers of parliament, whoever is elected as party president is poised to be elected prime minister at an extraordinary Diet session that starts Monday.

Speaking in a meeting of LDP lawmakers, Kishida called for unity as he leads the party into a general election slated for November and next year's election of the upper House of Councillors.

Kishida said his administration must craft a multitrillion yen stimulus package by the end of the year to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy.

In the first round, involving 762 votes, Kishida, the most popular among Diet members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, won 256 votes, while Kono, the favorite among the rank-and-file LDP members, secured 255 votes.

Takaichi and Noda got 188 and 63 votes, respectively.

Kishida, who heads the LDP's liberal-leaning faction, gained the backing of many veteran lawmakers in what became his second bid for the party presidency. He lost out to Suga in the previous race last year.

Factional alliances did not play a decisive role in the first round as most allowed their members to make independent



Former Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, a candidate in the Liberal Democratic Party's upcoming presidential election, speaks during his visit to Tokyo's Hie Shrine on 27 Sept, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

choices. The election came after Suga announced earlier this month that he was stepping down.—Kyodo News ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### N. Korea says it test-fired hypersonic missile on Tuesday

NORTH Korea test-fired a newly developed hypersonic missile on Tuesday as part of efforts to achieve its five-year weapons development plan, state-run media said, fanning worries that it has improved technology on the hard-to-intercept projectile.

The official Korean Central News Agency's report came on Wednesday, a day after the Japanese government said North Korea fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile in the second such launch in two weeks, with the projectile believed to have splashed into waters outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone in the Sea of Japan.

"The stability of the engine as well as of (a) missile fuel ampoule that has been introduced for the first time" was confirmed, the news agency said. It did not mention whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched the test-firing.—Kyodo News ■

## US federal court greenlights extradition of former Peruvian president



Alejandro Toledo during a press conference in Lima, Peru, in 2010. **PHOTO: ERNESTO BENAVIDES/AFP**

A California federal court on Tuesday authorized the extradition of former Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo to

his home country, where he is being prosecuted in a sweeping corruption case.

"The court has heard and considered the evidence of criminality and deems it sufficient to sustain the charges of collusion and money laundering," said Judge Thomas Hixson in his ruling.

Toledo, who was in office from 2001 to 2006, is accused of corruption in connection with the Brazilian construction group Odebrecht. The 75-year-old had been living in California when he was arrested in the US state in July 2019.

Peru had sent the United

States an extradition request for Toledo in May 2018. The former leader allegedly received a \$20 million payment from Odebrecht to grant it the tender to build the Interoceanic Highway that links Peru with Brazil.

He is accused of influence peddling, collusion and money laundering to the detriment of the Peruvian state.

Toledo has denied the accusations. Now that the court has greenlit the extradition, the final decision on sending Toledo — who is under house arrest in California — back to Peru rests with the US government.—AFP ■

#### 29 dead in Ecuador's latest prison violence: officials

NEARLY 30 prisoners were killed in a battle between inmates equipped with firearms and grenades at a prison in Ecuador's largest city Tuesday, officials said.

It was the latest in a series of deadly prison clashes between rival drug gangs that have killed over 100 inmates this year.

Ecuador's attorney-general's office said on Twitter it was investigating the deaths of 29 convicts at the Litoral Penitentiary in the city of Guayaquil, including six who were beheaded.

Officials gave conflicting statements on how many inmates were wounded, with the attorney-general's office saying 42 while the national prison bureau earlier put that number at 48.

President Guillermo Lasso retweeted an announcement from the prison bureau saying order "has been restored at the Littoral Penitentiary after the Tuesday incidents."—AFP ■

## Prices soar at opium market in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan

WHILE the economy teeters on the brink of collapse, vendors at an opium market in southern Afghanistan say prices for their goods have skyrocketed since the Taliban takeover.

Plunging his knife into a large plastic bag filled with four kilogrammes (nine pounds) of what looks like brown mud, Amanullah, who asked to use a fake name, extracts a lump and places it in a small cup suspended over a primus flame.

The poppy resin quickly begins to boil and liquify, and he and his partner Mohammad Masoom can display to buyers

that their opium is pure. "It is haram (forbidden) in Islam, but we don't have any other choice," Masoom says, at the market on the arid plains of Howz-e-Madad, in Kandahar province.

Since the Taliban overran Kabul on 15 August, the price for opium — which is transformed into heroin either in Afghanistan, Pakistan or Iran before flooding the European market — has more than tripled. Masoom said smugglers are now paying him 17,500 Pakistani rupees (\$100, 90 euros) per kilogramme. In Europe it has a street value of over \$50 a gramme.—AFP ■



Opium vendors and buyers chat over green tea around sacks of opium and hashish. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Singapore to host AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 in December



THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) has chosen Singapore to host the 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup, which will be held later this year.

The ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) had planned to select the host country in a group vote on 21 September, and officials made the special decision a week later.

Singapore hosted the Suzuki Cup in 1996 as a single country. It was co-hosted in 2002, 2007 and 2014 and will host this year for the fifth time.

The 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup, which has been postponed due to the COVID-19 epidemic, will be held from 5 December 2021 to 1 January 2022.

Myanmar is falling in Group A together with Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Brunei or Timor Leste. In Group B, defending champions Viet Nam is facing against Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Laos.

The Myanmar team will play against host Singapore in the opener on 5 December. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Council Nine Objectives

### 1. Political affairs

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

### 2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

### 3. Social affairs

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

## Continental champions Italy and Argentina to meet in June



Euro winners Italy will face South American champions Argentina next June. **PHOTO: MICHAEL REGAN/POOL/AFP/FILE**

ITALY and Argentina will face each other next June 2022, in a first meeting between the winners of the Euro and the Copa America, UEFA and CONMEBOL announced on Tuesday.

The European and South American governing bodies released a joint statement saying the game was planned “during the international window in June 2022 at a venue to be confirmed”.

“The agreement reached by the two organizations currently covers three editions of this match between the respective continental winners,” the communique said.

The announcement comes during an intensifying turf war pitting the two most powerful confederations in world soccer against global

governing body FIFA.

UEFA and CONMEBOL are opposed to FIFA’s recently-unveiled plan to double the frequency of its World Cups.

The two continental bodies say that would disrupt their calendar and compete with their continental events.

Many national leagues, supporters’ associations and the players’ union FIFPro have also expressed hostility to a biennial World Cup.

FIFA has the support of former players and coaches in its “legends” programme, and, probably, a silent majority of small countries highly dependent on the World Cup revenue.

It will consult its 211 member federations on Thursday.— AFP ■

## Philippine superstar Manny Pacquiao says retiring from boxing

PHILIPPINE superstar and presidential hopeful Manny Pacquiao announced Wednesday he is retiring from boxing after a glittering decades-long career in the ring, describing it as the “hardest decision” of his life. “It is difficult for me to accept that my time for me as a boxer is over,” Pacquiao, 42, who plans to run for president in the 2022 elections, said in a video message on Twitter.

“Today I am announcing my retirement.” The eight-division world champion and national hero made the announcement weeks after losing his last professional fight, against Cuban Yordenis Ugas in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, who entered politics in 2010 as a congress-



Philippine boxing icon Manny Pacquiao has retired from the ring. **PHOTO: AFP**

man before being elected to the Senate, said last week he will make a tilt for the country’s highest office.

Pacquiao, a married father of five, thanked his millions of fans around the world, and paid special tribute to his long-time trainer Freddie Roach who he described as “my family, a brother and a friend”.— AFP ■