

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 169, 15th Waning of Tawthalin 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Tuesday, 5 October 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.

The message sent by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony in commemoration of World Teachers' Day which falls on 5 October 2021

Esteemed teachers,

First and foremost, I pray for all teachers in the entire Myanmar to enjoy their physical and spiritual wellbeing on the occasion of World Teachers' Day which falls on 5 October 2021.

World Teachers' Day has been celebrated across the world on 5 October on a yearly basis since 1994 as part of following the recommendations over the life of teachers by the International Labour Organization-ILO

and the UNESCO in 1966. In Myanmar, the Ministry of Education started celebration of the World Teachers' Day at the national level taking place at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of the Yangon University on 5 October 2002.

Myanmar has had a tradition of paying attributes to the teachers since yore. Shin Sariputtara Thera who won the greatest in knowledge always fell asleep leading to the location of his teacher Shin Assaji Thera. There were many examples similar to paying the attributes

to teachers.

On the significant day of World Teachers' Day, it is necessary to perform paying respects to honourable persons, paying attributes to the deserved persons, recognizing gratitude over them, responding to the attributes of gratitude and honouring the teachers. On this occasion, we all unitedly express and honour the attributes of teachers.

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Two-lane Kamyawkin Bridge project completes 15%

THE Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction implemented the Kamyawkin Bridge project in Dawei Township of Taninthayi Region, and it completes 15 per cent of operation now, according to the ministry.

The new bridge is being constructed about 92 feet from the 1,100 feet long two-lane old bridge at the cost of K10,600 million while K1,500 million is spent on approach road construction. It is located between the Dawei-Kamyawkin-Launglon road section of Taninthayi Region and 10 skilled engineers of Bridge Construction Task Force 4 and 70 workers are constructing the bridge.

The 1,050 feet long two-lane new bridge is 24 feet in width and

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Kamyawkin bridge construction site. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

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Elevators reopened at temporarily closed Shwedagon Pagoda

THE elevators in the stairways of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, one of Myanmar's most iconic pagodas, were reopened on 3 October for the convenience of pilgrims, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

No matter the social status

"The elevators were reopened on 3 September. The pagoda is opened from 6 am to 6 pm. Previously, mainly monks and nuns and the elderly and the sick were allowed

to use the elevators. From the morning of 3 October, all the people will be allowed to take the elevator," said an official from the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

One of the most famous pagodas, the Shwedagon Pagoda, was temporarily closed to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pagoda was reopened in February this year as per the COVID-19 precaution measures. Only the elderly

and the sick were allowed to use the elevators.

Allowed to visit

At present, the Shwedagon Pagoda is open to the public daily from 6 am to 6 pm following the rules of COVID-19.

The elevator is allowed for the eastern, southern and northern stairways, but the elevator from the western stairways is currently temporarily closed, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees. —Myint Moh/ GNLM



PHOTO: MIN HTET

Two-lane Kamyawkin Bridge project completes 15%

FROM PAGE-1

the waterway clearance is 164 feet in width and 16 feet in height.

The load capacity of the bridge is 75-tonne. It also has nine spans and 1.2 metres and 1.5 metres in

diameter Bored Piles will be used for the foundation. The body of the bridge is R.C Concrete and it will

also use R.C Girder PC Girder Steel Truss & R.C Decking Slab for the upper part of the bridge.

Currently, the construction of A1 and A2 approach structures, P1 and P8 piles, pier Bored Piles including P1, P2, P3 and P7 and five RC Girders on both sides of Dawei and Launglon are completed and so the project has been 15 per cent finished so far. The engineers will also conduct 50 feet concrete paving procedure between A1 and P3 and the construction of P3 Bored Pile including Cap, Shaft and Cross Beam using the budget of the 2020-2021FY.

The old Kamyawkin Bridge located between mileposts 2/2 and 2/3 of Dawei-Launglon road was constructed in 1972 and completed in 1975.

Although the width of the bridge was fit at that time, there

are now heavy traffic jams due to a huge influx of visitors and car imports to Maungmagan beach in Longlon, Shin Koe Shin pagodas in Dawei, especially on significant religious days. Moreover, the students of Dawei University also rely on this bridge and so it also contributes to heavy traffic congestion. Moreover, the people will have to use Kamyawkin Bridge to travel to Dawei Deep Seaport. Therefore, the government constructs a new two-lane bridge across the Dawei river, according to the ministry.

When completed, the bridge will benefit a total of 294,496 people of 46,196 households in 48 village-tracts and 19 wards in Dawei and Launglon townships.

The bridge project was started on 1 December 2020 and is slated for completion in the 2022-2023FY. —Pwint Thitsar/ GNLM



Kamyawkin bridge construction site. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

Myanmar welcomes 497 returnees at border crossings

A total of 497 Myanmar nationals from abroad came back home through various land borders on 3 October, officials said.

On 3 October, one male and one female came back home from Yanlon Kyai Bridge, near Myanmar-China border checkpoint, Muse, Northern Shan State.

Similarly, 255 males and 242 females also returned to Myanmar via Myanmar-Thailand Border Friendship Bridge, Myawady, Kayin State respectively.

Healthcare officials from relevant public hospitals and members of the Tatmadaw

Medical Corps conducted COVID-19 tests and provided quarantine entry documents for the returnees.

Next, officials explained instructions of the Ministry of Health to the returnees and departmental officials provided necessary assistance.

Then, the returnees were transported to their respective places by passenger vehicles provided by the township administration bodies.

The COVID-19 positive patients are being kept in separate areas and the necessary medical and administrative matters are being coordinated, officials said. —MNA



Myanmar nationals return through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II, Myawady.

It is necessary to produce natural fertilizers

EFFORTS are being made for the production of fertilizers from domestic plants. It is necessary to produce natural fertilizers through the wastes of animal breeding farms.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 1/2021 of the Union 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 27-9-2021)

The message sent by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar ...

FROM PAGE-1

The teachers play an important role in the improvement of the capacity and skills of pupils who will build the modern, developed future nation. Hence, they were honoured that “teachers are those who imagine the world with education, ease the tension of the world with sympathy and make sacrifices for the sake of the majority”.

The teachers choose the most basic option of careers in society. They are never disappointed with facing the challenges, and the global countries celebrate World Teachers’ Day in deep honour of the teachers.

The teachers are the persons who guide any others to know everything, to have techniques, to possess skills, to be polite, to be clever, to reach the right way and to broaden horizons. Not only teaching education but improving morals are duties of the teachers. They are the highly noblest benefactors for shaping their pupils with compassion and sympathy regarded as their offspring to be well-versed and good moral persons and to be the highly qualified educated persons.

Hence, the teachers must be qualified with full of qualifications, capacity and techniques. As teachers themselves must further study everything while teaching pupils, they are perpetual students.

As today is knowledge age, everybody needs to make studies not only on technologies but also on other languages. Teachers must be capable of changing the

teaching form from conventional to technology-based learning. It is necessary to upgrade the curriculum and syllabuses by applying Internet, mobile phones, TV and radio transmission systems in conformity with the situation.

Students on their part need to effectively study and pursue education by applying their opportunities. Teachers, students, parents and the government must cooperate with one another to strive for improvement of the education sector.

Everybody faces various kinds of challenges in today’s modern and developed era. It can be seen that the duties of teachers are heavier. It is necessary to the special care of the nature of student youths to be endowed with five strengths in the future, to mature the spirit of taking responsibility and accountability and to be capable of cooperation with others.

It is very delighted with the endeavours of teachers in teaching and guiding the students with goodwill, hobby and sacrifice to be able to overcome the challenges in the future.

Teachers have to improve themselves to be ideals for the students in addition to serving the duty of teaching. They have to advise with compassion and goodwill to students not to derail from the goals. As such, an ancient poem features “the teacher who advises with compassion and sympathy in the open mind to students for their sins whenever he sees”. In line with the saying

goes: “five ethics of teacher: teaching techniques, giving advice, not leaving knowledge, preventing dangers, sending pupils to appropriate venue”, the teachers are responsible for directing the correct way for their pupils to be intelligent and to be educated. Those who can carve good and able citizens are also teachers.

At present, as the COVID-19 pandemic is imposing a threat on the lives of the people throughout the world, they all must prevent various dangers and pandemics as the sayings “to take preventive measures with mindfulness, wisdom and knowledge”.

It is necessary to give training to student youths to have skills to create life security and victory free from danger. So, the 2020 World Teachers’ Day expressed the theme “Teachers: leading in crisis, reimagining the future”.

As such, the qualification and capability of the teachers are especially crucial for the emergence of the intelligent and educated new generations. Correct guidance of the teachers is required not for the derailment of pupils from their goals. On the auspicious occasion of World Teachers’ Day, I’d like to deeply urge the teachers to continuously strive for ensuring the promotion of Myanmar’s education qualification meeting the international standards and emergence of an abundant number of educated persons with might and main as well as “steer the surging of revitalization for the education sector” in accord with the theme of World Teachers’ Day 2021.

TBAM donates anti-Covid equipment to MRCS for Myanmar’s battle against COVID-19 pandemic

UNDER the campaign “Here with You”, the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM), in collaboration with Thai Red Cross Society and with the support of the Royal Thai Embassy Yangon, has donated 300 oxygen cylinders, refill for 5 months, including other necessary medical equipment such as PPEs and surgical masks worth approximately 4.8 million baht (K272,640,000) to the Myanmar Red Cross Society to assist Myanmar people in their fight against the COVID-19.

The Thai Red Cross Society works closely with the Myanmar Red Cross Society to distribute the oxygen concentrators to the affected communities in Myanmar.

Organized by the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM), the official virtual donation ceremony was held recently and Mr Sorasak Keeratichokechaikul, President of Thai Business Association Myanmar, Mr Tej Bunnag Secretary-General of the Thai Red Cross Society, Prof. Dr Htin Zaw Soe, Secretary-General of the Myanmar Red Cross Society and Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar and other authorized persons attended the ceremony.

Since the third week of August, the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM) has been raising funds to provide oxygen cylinders, refilled oxygen cylinders in Myanmar



The donation event in progress online.

and other necessary medical equipment to help the country address its unprecedented oxygen crisis arising from the third wave of Covid-19 infection.

According to the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the donated oxygen cylinders and medical equipment have been well-received and distributed to four

district Red Cross offices and Hlinethaya people hospital in Yangon where they are already registered and effectively used. — GNLM

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin participates in ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 24th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, 30th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting held via videoconference

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin participated in the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 24th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting and 30th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting which were held via videoconference yesterday at 08:00 am from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The Meetings were chaired by Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam in his capacity as the Chair of ASEAN and attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the 24th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, the Ministers discussed recent developments of Sectoral Bodies under the ASEAN Political and Security

Community and reviewed the implementation of the APSC Blueprint.

At the 30th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting, the Ministers discussed matters pertaining to ASEAN's key initiatives on COVID-19 response, preparations for the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and related Summits and endorsed the documents to be submitted to the ASEAN and Related Summits.

At the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Ministers discussed and exchanged views on ASEAN's 2021 Key Deliverables, ASEAN's external relations, regional and international issues and updates on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus.

In his statement at the Meeting, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin underscored that Myanmar, as



The MoFA Union Minister joins the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and other related meetings online.

a country coordinator, will make the best efforts to contribute to the advancement of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. He also discussed the preparation for the 30th Anni-

versary of the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit and informed the implementation of the five-point consensus of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting and discussed the possibilities

of the visit of Special Envoy to Myanmar.

Together with the Union Minister, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the meetings.—MNA

Legal Translation Commission holds 9th meeting

THE 9th meeting of the Legal Translation Commission's Working Committee and Working Bodies was held yesterday at the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

During the meeting, Commission Chairperson Dr Thida Oo said the Legal Translation

Commission Law was enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as Law No. 25 in 2015.

The laws enacted by the Indian Parliament until Myanmar pre-independence era in 1947 were followed in Myanmar, and the Legal Translation Commis-

sion Law was promulgated to translate 81 existing laws from English into Myanmar and the commission was formed in 2016. Moreover, the translation work of the commission is separate from the translation work of the regular laws of the

Union Attorney General Office.

The State Administration Council reorganized the Legal Translation Commission under Notification No 51/2021 on 2 March with 15 experts while Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo was appointed as a chairperson of the commission.

Although the commission arranged to hold the meeting in August, it failed to do so due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The online meeting was held to maintain a good drive in the translation sector.

All the commission members attended the 8th meeting held on 20 and 21 May in person and discussed the Land Customs Act and the Negotiable Instruments Act.

This is the second meeting after serving as commission chairperson and also approved the Myanmar translation of The Penal Code with order No

7/2021 on 16 September 2021 and sent to the Ministry of Information to publish as Book No (9).

The commission chairperson also appreciated the efforts of working committees, working bodies and commission members and urged them to work together in translating the laws without any delays.

She then said of 81 laws, the commission has translated 26 laws so far and published the books from No 1 to 8. Twelve laws are translated by the working bodies led by the working committee members and there are only 38 laws for the Legal Translation Commission to translate.

She also sought suggestions regarding the approval of the Legal Representative Suits Act and the Arbitration (Protocol and Convention) Act during the meeting. — MNA



The Legal Translation Commission holds the ninth meeting yesterday.

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

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airport and seaports with standard operating procedures.

On 4 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported

by four companies and transported by nine vehicles.

A total of 19.78 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser; 0.34 tonnes of liquid oxygen tanks, 471 empty oxygen tanks, two oxygen plants, 285 oxygen concentrators for home use, and 49 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw, Myawady and Tachilek trading posts, seaports and Yangon International Airport.

One bowser vehicle with one oxygen plant was transported to Yangon, and another oxygen plant was transported to Homa-

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

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



Anti-Covid equipment is daily imported through border trade zones.



An above 18-year-old is receiving the Covid jab in Kachin State.

COVID-19 vaccination continues for above 18-year-olds in Dawphonyang

COVID-19 vaccines were given to the remaining 18-year-olds at the hall of basic education high school in Dawphonyang, Bhamo District, Kachin State at 10:45 am on 4 October.

A total of 165 people including one Buddhist monk, one Buddhist nun, one Christian pastor, seven civil servants, 26 business persons, 128 dependents and one disabled

person received the COVID-19 vaccines.

Before the vaccination, healthcare staff and officials made records for the vaccinated people. Next, volunteers and healthcare workers measured the body temperature, blood pressure and oxygen level before the vaccination.

Vaccines were given systematically to the local people,

and only those with normal conditions are vaccinated.

With close supervision of Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Oo, healthcare officials and staff from relevant departments and General Administration Department also assisted in the vaccination works as per the guideline issued by the Ministry of Health. — Than Naing Soe (IPRD)/GNLM

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association distributes oil at fairer prices in Pwintbyu Township

MYANMAR Edible Oil Dealers' Association makes efforts to ensure sufficient oil locally at stable prices during the outbreak of COVID-19. The association distributed the oil at the fairer prices in Pwintbyu Township yesterday.

Township Consumer Affairs Department in-charge U Aung Phyto Wai and staff participated in the distribution of more than 2,500 visses of oil to the locals.

"We distribute the oil for the locals at reasonable prices and not to occur shortages under the

management of Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. We aim to gain stable oil prices in the market during the pandemic. The oil that we sell is safe as we have FDA certification. We sell the oil at K3,900 per viss. Each person can buy up to 5 visses of oil," said U Shwe Win Tun, member of Magway Region Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

Officials will also distribute the oil to Minbu (Sagu), Salin, Ngape and Sedoktara townships in Minbu District. —Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/GNLM



Local people get COVID-19 jabs in Lahe Township

HEALTHCARE officials gave Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccines to local people in the villages of Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region yesterday.

Chairman of Lahe Township Administration Body U

Zar Ni Win, Deputy Township Administrator U Lap Set and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Shah Set inspected the vaccination programme in Wuh-ta village yesterday and provided information on the prevention of

COVID-19 disease.

The COVID-19 vaccine is being given to priority groups under the leadership of the Lahe Township Administration Body.

A total of 2,000 people will be vaccinated next, officials said. —Shah Set (Lahe)/GNLM



Inoculation programme is underway in Lahe Township in Naga Self-Administered Zone.

1,319 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 October, total figure rises to 469,782

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 469,782 after 1,319 new cases were reported on 4 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 424,197 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,921 after 38 died.



Anti-Covid vaccines are loaded onto a lorry to transport them to the remote regions.

COVID-19 vaccines distributed across nation as planned

THE Tatmadaw medics, health workers and social welfare organizations are making efforts in providing medical services to COVID-19 patients and isolated patients at military hospitals, public hospitals, health departments and COVID-19 treatment centres. The vaccines stored

at the central cold chain of the Public Health Department in Min Dhamma Road of Mayangon Township were also distributed to the respective regions and states by road yesterday morning.

A total of 20,000 vials (each vial can be used for five people) are distributed to Taunggyi by

the Cold Chain Delivery Logistics vehicles.

The allocated vaccines will be used in line with the target groups. Moreover, the vaccines will be transported with the help of Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanmar National Airlines to the remote regions. — MNA

Nationwide immunization campaign conducted as usual



Inoculation drive is underway for local Wa people in Tachilek.



One of the Bengalis in Pauktaw, Rakhine State, receives the Covid jab.

THE doctors, nurses and health workers of public hospitals, including Tatmadaw medics and volunteers, are working together in vaccination processes across the nation.

The monks, nuns and the people over the age of 55, in-

cludes, the people with disabilities, EAOs and the patients with chronic diseases and the internally displaced persons at the IDP camps are also vaccinated against COVID-19 daily.

A total of 955 people in Kyaukme and Hsipaw town-

ships of northern Shan State, 1,200 Wa ethnic people in Tachilek Township and 1,960 people in Kengtung, Mongpyin and Mongton townships of eastern Shan State, 8,064 people in 12 townships of Mon and Kayin states, 1,318 people in Myeik

Township of Taninthayi Region, 6,149 people in five townships of Yangon Region, 5,619 people in 11 townships of Ayeyawady Region, 1,506 Bengalis at rescue camps in Sittway and Pauktaw townships, 5,419 people in seven townships of Rakhine State and

38,520 people in seven districts of Mandalay Region received their vaccines yesterday.

The respective region military commanders inspected the vaccination processes and provided the necessary things. —MNA

More than 8 million people in Myanmar receive COVID-19 vaccine

A total of 8.264 million people had been vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine as of 1 October, according to the Ministry of Health.

As of 1 October, 3.863 million people had been received full doses of vaccine and 4.4 mil-

lion people had been received one dose of vaccine in Myanmar, totalling 6.264 million people, according to the Ministry.

As per the purchase contract of 24 million doses of Sinopharm vaccines from China, the country has already received

eight million doses of vaccines so far including four million doses that arrived at Yangon International Airport on 12 September and another four million doses on 26 September, according to the Ministry's report.

If the vaccine arrives, the

country will vaccinate 12 million people this year. The targeted group will include people between the ages of 40 and 64. Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines have been approved by the WHO for emergency use.

There are a total of 36.9

million people the age of over 18 needed to be vaccinated and, 4.99 million of them are vaccinated once or twice.

The completion rate is close to 13 per cent, according to the ministry. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They

must be placed at well-ventilated sites.

4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systemati-

cally discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.

8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

Over 600 acres of coffee cultivated in Sagaing region this year



"Coffee plantation is grown mostly in Homalin, Hkhamti, Naga, Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik, Katha and Kawlin districts.

DURING the monsoon season, a total of 622 acres of coffee plants have been cultivated this year in the Sagaing region, said U Win Hlaing, the Director from Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

In the financial year 2021-2022, the Sagaing region started cultivating the coffee plants in June 2021. About 622 acres of coffee plants have been grown at the end of September, according to the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

"Coffee plantation is grown mostly in Homalin, Hkhamti, Naga, Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik, Katha and Kawlin districts. We are carrying out to boost the coffee cultivation in the Naga area. We are providing the coffee seed and nursery plants.

"Initially, we are attempted to develop the acreage of coffee plants because we focus on the

income from the coffee cultivation. At the same time, we are facing transport difficulties. But the coffee from the Naga is of such a high-quality one. But they haven't yet received the income that they deserve because of high transportation charges. There are a few acres of a coffee plantation in the Naga area.

"However, Kawlin township started their experimental coffee cultivation. Also, the transport will be improved. If India opened their border checkpoints, there will be increased the coffee cultivation acres and income," said U Win Hlaing Oo.

This year, a total of 35 acres

of coffee in Mawlaik district, 18 acres in Tamu district, 16 acres in Kalay district, 103 acres in Hkhamti district, 132 acres in Naga area, 260 acres in Katha district and 44 acres in Kawlin district.

There are ten thousand coffee plantations in the Sagaing region. To be able to increase coffee acreage, the Agriculture Department is raising awareness of land treatment, natural fertilizer, growing methods, and coffee production.

Besides, it is also reported that farmers are being provided with coffee cultivation techniques and post-harvest technology. — Lulay/GNLM

Corn growers need loans to cover rising input costs: MCIA

MYANMAR Corn Industrial Association (MCIA) requested authorities to provide loans for cold season corn growers due to the rising input costs of the corn.

"This is the time to start growing the cold season corn, which will produce 30 per cent of Myanmar's corn. At this time, the local growers are started seeking the cultivation costs. They are also collecting the agricultural input such as fertilizers, corn seeds and fuel in this time. There are being faced with the difficulty of making cash transactions as well. In the past, our association cooperated with private banks to provide loans for local farmers. This year, there is no bank provide the loans for the farmers," said U Min Khaing, the chair of the MCIA.

Currently, the input costs for corn cultivation are rising. Following the upward trend, a 50-kilogramme bag of "Palae fertilizer" was priced only K26,500 last year and the price surged to K65,000 per bag currently, MCIA stated.

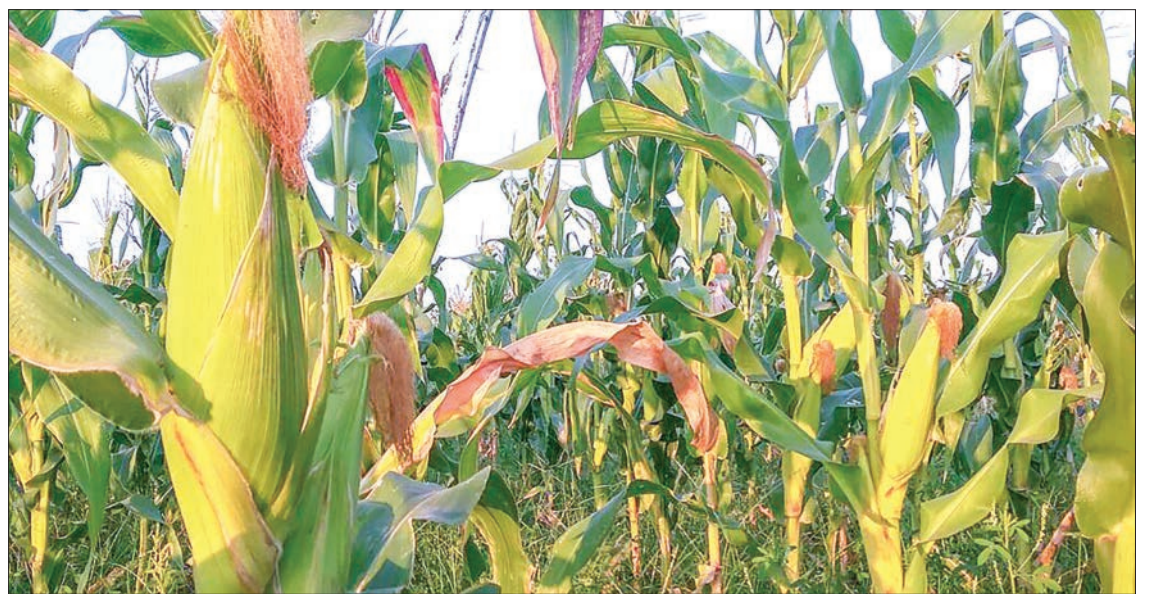
Hence, it would be more convenient if the government would provide the loan for the corn growers in time through

the state bank or the private bank is cooperating with the association, he added.

"The monsoon corn will be harvested very soon. Nevertheless, the yield of the product could be reduced by 20 per cent this year because of bad weather conditions. If the growers don't get the agricultural loan, they will grow other crops with lower input costs instead of the corn crops. As a result, the acre of corn plantation will be dropped," said U Min Khaing.

Following the corn production decline, the revenue of the foreign exchange earnings through corn plantation will also decrease, it is learnt.

"The corn is one of the top foreign exchange earners in Myanmar. This year, Myanmar's corn exports to Thailand generated revenue of US\$ 395 million. The revenue excludes other country export such as Laos, India and Viet Nam. As a crop that generates foreign exchange earnings, the government should provide the loans to the farmers through the state bank or private bank before the October and November cultivation season," said U



Currently, the input costs for corn cultivation are rising. Following the upward trend, a 50-kilogramme bag of "Palae fertilizer" was priced only K26,500 last year and the price surged to K65,000 per bag currently, MCIA stated.

Min Khaing.

The country has exported more than 2.2 million tonnes of corn to foreign countries in the current financial year 2020-2021, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Of 2.2 million tonnes, about 1.6 million tonnes of corn were delivered to Thailand, whereas the remaining corns were conveyed to China, India and Viet Nam.

This year, the corn fetched a good price at US\$260-270 per tonne. It was priced only \$200-230 per tonne during the year-ago period.

This year, the corn fetched a good price of US\$260-270 per tonne. It was priced only \$200-230 per tonne during the year-ago period.

Myanmar exported over 2.2 million tonnes of corn to the foreign market in the past 2019-2020FY, with an estimat-

ed value of over \$ 360 million, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Currently, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. There are about 1.12 million acres of corn in Myanmar and it has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon.

The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn annually. — NN/GNLM

Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 4-10-2021

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Supportive				
1	PO Vitamin C	10x10's / Box	700	Pai Brother
2	PO - Pantocid	10x10's / Box	7,000	PL
3	PO Omeprazole	10x10's / Box	1,650	Shwe Htay Min
4	Injection Pantocid	1g/Vial	1,500	Aorta
5	Injection Omeprazole	1g/Vial	1,050	Aorta
Antibiotics				
6	PO - Azithromycin 500 mg	5x3's	4,000	Rammawaddy

7	PO - Cefalexin 500 mg	Box of 10x10's	6,100	Aorta
8	PO - Levofloxacin 500 mg	Box of 10x10's	7,000	Shwe Htay Min
9	PO.Cefixime	Box of 3x10's	3,600	Aorta
10	P.O Amoxicillin + Clavulanic Acid	Box of 1x6's	1,800	Aorta

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

Pay attributes to noble, honourable and admirable teachers

THE teachers who choose the most basic option of careers in the society play an important role in the improvement of capacity and skills of pupils who will build the modern, developed future nation.

The teachers are those who imagine the world with education, ease the tension of the world with sympathy and make sacrifices for the sake of the majority.

The teachers are the persons who guide students to know, to have techniques, to possess intelligence, to be polite, to be clever,

As such, it is noticeable that the teachers are the noblest and most admirable for their endeavours and career to make a sacrifice for the sake of their pupils so as to enjoy better living standards and well-versed knowledge and techniques in a brighter future.

It is very delighted with the endeavours of teachers in teaching and guiding the students with goodwill, hobby and sacrifice to be able to overcome the challenges in the future.

Teachers have to improve themselves to be ideals for the students in addition to serving the duty of teaching. They have to give advice with compassion and goodwill to students not to derail from the goals. The teachers are responsible for paving the correct way for their pupils to be intelligent and to be educated. Those who can carve good and able citizens are also teachers.

As such, it is noticeable that the teachers are the noblest and most admirable for their endeavours and career to make a sacrifice for the sake of their pupils so as to enjoy better living standards and well-versed knowledge and techniques in a brighter future.



The important role of teachers in your life

By Maha Saddhmma Jotika Daja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

ON this occasion of World's Teachers' Day, 5 October today, the writer wishes to honour this Day with Myanmar traditions.

ဆရာမပြန်ညှိမကျ
Without teachers, you will not get the correct method.

လက်နီးဆရာမညှိထိုက်စွာ
ပုဗ္ဗာစရိယမိန့်ငှ်ဘ

Your very first teachers are your own parents.

ဆရာကာပြန်အခေါင်လှစူး
If you turn against your teacher, your throat will be pierced by a spear.

In Buddhism, teachers are classified in Five Categories we owe infinite gratitude.

1. Buddha guno ananto
2. Dhamma guno ananto
3. Sangha guno ananto
4. Matapitu guno ananto

5. Acariya guno ananto
၁။ ဗုဒ္ဓဂုဏော အနန္တော
၂။ ဓမ္မဂုဏော အနန္တော
၃။ သံဃာဂုဏော အနန္တော
၄။ မာတာပီတုဂုဏော အနန္တော
၅။ အာစရိယဂုဏော အနန္တော

In daily prayers and on occasions, good deeds Buddhists receive Panca Sila ပုဗ္ဗသီလ from invited monks who explained the mentioned 5 kinds of teachers and their roles in your life.

In libation ceremony ရေစက်ချ အမျှဝေခြင်း you are asked by them to call upon Five Categories Teachers alive or dead to take their share of Kusala. (ကုသိုလ်)

All present share their Kuthala saying Ahmya Ahmya Ahmya (အမျှ အမျှ အမျှ) three times.

Then all present return Sadu Sadu (Welldone! Welldone!)

Welldone!) finally followed the striking or beating of a drum or a gong.

ဆရာဝတ် ၅ ပါး Five duties of Teachers to Pupils အတတ်လည်းသင် ပဲ့ပြင်ဆုံးမ သိပ္ပံမချွန် ဘေးရန်ဆီးကာ သင့်ရာအပ်ပို့

Teach till pupils learn Including sciences as well Protect pupils from all dangers

Send them to fitting places (positions).

တပည့်ဝတ် ၅ ပါး Five duties of Pupils to Teachers ညီညာဖျဖြူ ဆုံးမနာယူ လာမှုကြိုဆီး ထိန်းလုပ် ကျွေး သင်တောင်းအံ့ရွတ် တပည့်ဝတ်



All in unity Listen to teachers' advice Together welcome when teachers come

Attend to all teachers' need Learn thoroughly all that teachers teach. The writer wishes to join with

all who celebrate World Teachers' Day on 5 October today with this short write-up in The GNLM highly esteemed Daily.

'Miracle material' singled out for Covid conspiracies

Graphene, a Nobel Prize-awarded material with promising applications for greener energy and nanomedicine, has been the topic of much disinformation by coronavirus anti-vaxxers claiming it can be used to "magnetize" and "control" people.

WHAT is graphene? Often referred to as a "miracle material," graphene is one of the world's strongest materials, and one of the lightest.

A form of carbon just one atom thick — many times thinner than a human hair — graphene is transparent, but stronger than steel.

It was aired as a theoretical substance in 1947, but for decades, physicists thought it would be impossible to isolate.

The problem was resolved in 2004 by scientists Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov, who used ordinary sticky tape to lift a layer from a piece of graphite — the stuff in pencil lead.

That layer was itself pulled apart using more tape, and the process repeated until just the thinnest of layers remained — a graphene sheet.

In 2010, the pair received the Nobel Physics Prize for their efforts.

Graphene, a super conductor of heat and electric energy, is "among the most promising



People queue in front of a designated COVID-19 vaccination center at Dubai's financial center district, in the United Arab Emirates, on 24 January 2021. PHOTO: AFP

materials for technologies of the future," Argentine chemistry researcher Marcelo Mariscal, a specialist in nanotechnology, told AFP.

It is the focus of research into the manufacturing of ultra-strong but lightweight and flexible electronic devices, satellites, airplanes and cars, greener alternatives to batteries, and a delivery vehicle

for gene or molecular therapy — potentially also for use in vaccines.

What is the link to Covid-19 vaccines?

As has been the case with 5G and microchip technology, graphene has been the subject of several "trojan horse" conspiracy theories according to which governments or powerful individuals

are supposedly seeking to remotely "control" people who receive some sort of mini device through coronavirus vaccines, or track their whereabouts through GPS.

This control could be exercised from 5G towers transmitting signals to people supposedly carrying graphene particles, one theory goes.

In another widely-disseminated claim, social media users alleged they had been "magnetized" by the vaccine, posting images of magnets, coins or cutlery allegedly attached to the arm in which they received the jab.

Some conspiracy theorists have claimed that vaccines containing graphene have altered people's "electromagnetic field" and that this can be fatal.

What is the truth

To start with, none of the vaccines approved for use by the World Health Organization contain graphene or its derivative, graphene oxide. Conspiracies were fueled when Canada in April recalled certain anti-coronavirus facemasks with a graphene layer over concerns that inhaled particles inhaled could cause asbestos-like lung damage.

In July, their sale was resumed after a review found that "biomass graphene particles are not shed from these masks in quantities that are likely to cause adverse lung effects."

Experts also dispute the alleged magnetizing properties of

graphene.

The material "is magnetic only in very specific laboratory conditions," Diego Pena of the Spanish Research Centre for Biological Chemistry and Molecular Materials told AFP.

A video of a brain autopsy have claimed that vaccines containing graphene have altered people's "electromagnetic field" and that this can be fatal.

Experts say the hype about graphene's promising applications — most of them still in the research phase — have contributed to it being a popular target for disinformation.

"The material is known, everyone knows it's real, but not everyone understand how it works," said Ester Vazquez Fernandez-Pacheco, director of the Regional Institute for Applied Scientific Research (IRICA) in Spain.

It is, therefore, "very easy to make people believe things that have no scientific basis."

SOURCE: AFP



World Teachers' Day

5 October 2021



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Monday 4 October 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 5 October 2021: rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, and (Southern and Eastern) Shan states, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and isolated 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 over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Fires, floods, flying insects: 10 recent climate-fuelled disasters

FROM a summer of fire and record floods, to freak frosts and locusts invasions, experts say man-made climate change is wreaking havoc on the world's weather.

Here are some of the most devastating climate-fuelled disasters from the past two years:

Mediterranean on fire

Greece's worst heatwave in decades fuelled deadly wildfires that burned nearly 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) this year in what the prime minister called the country's "greatest ecological disaster in decades".

The summer blazes killed about 80 people in Algeria and Turkey, with Italy and Spain also ravaged by uncontrolled fire.

Scientists say the Mediterranean rim is a climate change "hot spot" with worse to come.

Canada 'heat dome'

In late June, a hot air "heat dome" caused sustained, scorching temperatures across much of western Canada and the northwestern US.

Residents in the British Columbia city of Lytton saw the thermometer rise on June 30 to 49.6 degrees Celsius (121 degrees Fahrenheit), a national record. Days later, the town was largely destroyed by a wildfire.

The extreme heat was "virtually impossible" without human-caused climate change,



This photograph shows a forest burning as a massive wildfire which engulfed a Mediterranean resort region on Turkey's southern coast near the town of Manavgat, on 30 July 2021. PHOTO: AFP

the World Weather Attribution (WWA) science consortium said. **European towns washed away**

Germany's worst flooding in living memory killed 165 people in July after heavy rainfall battered the country along with Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria and Belgium, where another 31 people died.

The WWA said a warming climate increased the likelihood of the extreme two-day rainfall behind the floods by about 20

per cent.

For every degree that Earth warms, the atmosphere can hold about seven percent more moisture, scientist say.

Drowning on the subway in China

July floods in China killed more than 300 people when the central city of Zhengzhou was deluged by a year's worth of rain in just three days, trapping people in road tunnels and subway systems as waters rose, with some drowning.

Fleeing flooding in Australia

In March 2021 torrential downpours lashed Australia's east forcing thousands to flee the worst flooding in decades — only one year after the region suffered extreme drought and bushfires.

Days of relentless rainfall caused rivers in Australia's most populous state to their highest levels in three decades.

Scientists have warned Australia can expect more frequent and more extreme weather events as a result of climate change.

Devastating frosts in France

This Spring saw a late frost ravage French vineyards when plummeting temperatures wiped out nearly a third of the country's grape harvests, causing up to two billion euros (\$2.3 billion) in damages.

The WWA's analysis said climate change made the historic cold snap — which devastated most of France's wine regions — about 70 per cent more likely.

Hurricane Ida's path of destruction

In late August, Hurricane Ida cut a swathe of death and destruction from Louisiana all the way across the northeastern US, leaving more than 100 dead and causing around \$100 billion in damage.

Four of the six costliest hurricanes to hit the US, including

Ida, have all occurred within the last five years, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

East Africa locust invasion...

Experts blame climate-aided extreme weather — including extreme rainfall — for hatching billions of locusts that swarmed East Africa in January of 2020, threatening the region with a food crisis.

Already prey to successive drought and deadly floods, dense clouds of the insects spread from Ethiopia and Somalia into Kenya.

...preceded by deadly floods

Violent downpours in October 2019 displaced tens of thousands in Somalia, submerged whole towns in South Sudan, and killed dozens in flash floods and landslides in Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

A powerful climate phenomenon in the Indian Ocean stronger than any seen in years unleashed destructive rains and flooding across East Africa.

500-year drought deepens

The American west continue to plunge deeper into the most severe "mega-drought" to hit the region in at least 500 years. Made worse by global warming, the dry spell could continue for decades, according to a study in the journal *Science*. — AFP ■

Road to COP26 climate summit paved with uncertainty

ONE month out from the COP26 climate summit, world leaders are under unprecedented pressure to decarbonise their economies and chart humanity's path away from catastrophic global warming.

But in the midst of a pandemic still raging in parts of the globe, and with countries already battered by climate-driven calamities pleading for help — and money — the negotiations in Glasgow are likely to be fraught.

The summit, already delayed a year by Covid-19, comes as the gap between what science says is needed to avert disaster and what governments are doing is larger than ever.

Addressing around 50 ministers on Thursday at the start of a pre-COP gathering in Milan, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres laid out the choice facing delegates in Glasgow: "We

can either save our world or condemn humanity to a hellish future."

COP26 host Britain says the summit's main aim is to keep in play the 1.5 degree Celsius temperature goal enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

In August, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change dropped a bombshell report warning that the 1.5C threshold — by far the most ambitious target of the Paris deal — would be reached as soon as 2030.

By 2050, Earth will be 1.5C hotter than pre-industrial times, no matter what is done about planet-warming carbon emissions in the meantime, it said.

With a little over 1C of warming so far, the two years since the last UN climate summit have seen record-shattering wildfires in Australia and the US,

tarmac-melting heatwaves in North America and Siberia, and massive flooding in Southeast Asia, Africa and Northern Europe.

'Trust deficit'

The Paris deal requires nations to renew their plans to cut domestic emissions — known as national determined contributions, or NDCs — every five years.

Far from limiting warming to 1.5C, the UN says countries' latest submissions over the last year put Earth on course to heat a "catastrophic" 2.7C this century. Britain's Boris Johnson summed up his hopes for Glasgow as: "coal, cars, cash and trees" — meaning deals for global phaseouts of coal power and internal combustion engines, funding for climate-vulnerable nations, and mass tree planting. — AFP ■

World leaders scramble to limit 'Pandora Papers' damage

GOVERNMENTS moved Monday to limit the fallout from a release of millions of documents detailing how leaders have used offshore tax havens to hide assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Some 35 current and former leaders are featured in roughly 11.9 million documents leaked from financial services companies across the world, known as the "Pandora Papers".

The documents were obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and released in stories by media partners including The Washington Post, the BBC and The Guardian.

Allegations range from corruption to money laundering and tax avoidance.

Although holding assets offshore or using shell companies is not illegal in most countries, the revelations are embarrassing

for leaders who have pushed austerity measures or campaigned against corruption.

Russian leader Vladimir Putin is not named but he is linked via associates to secret assets in Monaco, particularly a waterfront home acquired by a Russian woman reported to have had a child with him.

"This is just a set of largely unsubstantiated claims," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "We didn't see anything on hidden wealth within Putin's inner circle." Jordan was also keen to play down the revelations, which exposed how King Abdullah II created a network of offshore companies and tax havens to amass a \$100 million property empire from California to London. The country's royal court said the properties were funded with the king's personal wealth and were used for official and private visits. — AFP ■

Pregnant teen receives ultrasound on stage at Mexico anti-abortion rally

A pregnant 15-year-old girl underwent an ultrasound on stage during an anti-abortion rights protest in Mexico City Sunday, where some 10,000 demonstrators prayed and shouted slogans amid the spectacle.

The March for Women and Life, which wound from the Paseo de la Reforma to a rally in front of the city's iconic Angel of Independence monument, was made up mainly of Catholic groups pushing back after last month's Supreme Court ruling that would decriminalize abortion in Mexico.

"The government — is elevating the right to abortion as a right to kill," 56-year-old protester Alma Bello told AFP. "It worries us a lot, because it is not the feeling of a majority of Mexicans."

A stretcher was rolled out

onto the rally stage for gynecologist Fernando Urquiza to perform an ultrasound on 15-year-old Ana, who is 38 weeks pregnant.

Images of the inside of the teenager's uterus were broadcast on huge screens on either side of the stage, accompanied by cheers and applause from the crowd.

"All good to go, ready to be born," pronounced the doctor, who said he was "very excited" to be part of the display. When asked how she was feeling during the exam, Ana replied only that she was "fine."

Meanwhile, a rally announcer told Ana the event was "the biggest baby shower I have ever seen."

Alison Gonzalez, a Catholic activist and head of Steps for Life, the group that organized the march, said the gathering



A woman holds a sign during a march by ProVida association against the legalization of the abortion, on their way to Paseo Reforma, in Mexico City on 3 October 2021. PHOTO: AFP

was not meant as a response to any particular event — such as the Supreme Court ruling — but rather as a show of "national support for women."

"We need policies that rec-

oncile the professional with the maternal, that make sure we can return home safely, that help us move forward in the face of an unwanted pregnancy," 26-year-old Gonzalez told AFP. — AFP ■

London inquest seeks to solve mystery sinking of French trawler



(FILES) - This picture taken on 13 July 2004 shows the wreckage of French trawler "Bugaled Breizh", being towed on a barge, towards a French military port of Brest. PHOTO: FRED TANNEAU / AFP

A coroner's inquest opens in London on Monday into the mysterious sinking of a French fishing trawler 17 years ago, which the victims' families blame on a

submarine.

French courts spent years investigating the sinking of the Bugaled Breizh in international waters off Cornwall, southwest

England, on 15 January 2004.

But there has never been a full explanation about what happened.

The ship's crew of five

French nationals — Yves Gloaguen, Pascal Le Floch, Georges Lemetayer, Patrick Gloaguen, and Eric Guillaumet — all perished in the sinking.

Judge Nigel Lickley will hold inquests into the deaths of Yves Gloaguen and Le Floch, whose bodies were found by UK search and rescue.

Over three weeks, the judge will hear around 40 witness statements from seamen, rescuers, maritime experts, submarine commanders and the victims' families.

Inquests are held in England and Wales in the event of a sudden or unexplained death.

The hearings establish the causes and circumstances on the balance of probability. They do not determine criminal or civil liability, but set out facts in the public interest. — AFP ■

Taliban say Islamic State cell destroyed after mosque attack

THE Taliban said on Monday they had destroyed an Islamic State cell in the Afghan capital, hours after a suspected IS attack on a mosque killed five people.

The Taliban's chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said fighters carried out the operation in the north of Kabul on Sunday evening.

"As a result of the operation, which was very decisive and suc-

cessful, the IS centre was completely destroyed and all the IS members in it were killed," Mujahid said on Twitter.

Witnesses and AFP journalists heard blasts and gunfire in the capital at the time of the raid, and images posted to social media showed a large explosion and a fire at the scene.

Kabul resident and government employee Abdul Rahaman

told AFP that a "large number" of Taliban special forces attacked at least three houses in his neighbourhood. "The fighting continued for several hours," he said, adding the sound of weapons kept him awake all night.

"They said they were after Daesh (IS) fighters in the area," Rahman said. "I don't know how many were killed or arrested but the fighting was intense." The op-

eration took place within hours of a deadly attack targeting a prayer ceremony at the Eid Gah mosque in memory of Taliban spokesman Mujahid's mother, who died last week. A government cultural commission official, who asked not to be named, told AFP that five people died and 11 were wounded, adding the casualties included both civilians and Taliban members. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Six dead as Thai military battles rebels in restive south

SIX days of gun battles between soldiers and militants in Thailand's restive south have left six people dead, the military said Monday, as troops hunt insurgents hiding in a swampy forest.

Thailand's three southernmost provinces have been in the grip of a 17-year conflict that has killed more than 7,000 people, the majority civilians, as militants in the Muslim-majority region fight for more autonomy from the Thai state.

The pandemic had brought a lull to the clashes — often characterised as tit-for-tat attacks — but fighting has renewed in recent weeks.

Thailand's 4th Army Region, which oversees the southern provinces, said Monday that the military has been locked in gun battles with separatists in Narathiwat province since 28 September. — AFP ■

Tensions run high after deadly farmers clash in India

DEMONSTRATORS torched a police vehicle in India on Monday as tensions boiled over after clashes involving protesting farmers killed at least nine people.

The incident on Sunday in Uttar Pradesh state was the deadliest in more than a year of protests by farmers in northern India against new agricultural reforms.

Farmers said that a convoy belonging to a government minister, his son and the state's deputy chief minister ran over and killed four people at a demonstration.

The minister said later that a driver lost control of his vehicle after being pelted by demonstrators. Angry protesters set fire to several cars and at least five more people, four of them supporters of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), were killed.

On Monday, the protesters kept the bodies of the four dead farmers in glass cases for display around the protest site.

Police banned gatherings, cut off mobile internet services, sent extra forces and detained several opposition figures on their way to the scene including Priyanka Gandhi from the Congress party. — AFP ■

'Mad' Israeli quest to revive ancient dates bears fruit



Kibbutz workers transplant into the Negev desert soil "Judith", a female palm tree germinated from 2,000 year-old seeds discovered in the Judean desert, in Kibbutz Ketura in southern Israel, on 27 September 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

WHEN Sarah Sallon first thought of cultivating 2,000-year-old date palm seeds from a Roman-era fortress towering above the Dead

Sea, she received a less than encouraging response.

"The botanical archaeologists said 'you're completely mad.

It will never work,'" the 72-year-old British-Israeli expert on natural medicine told AFP.

But Sallon's bet that the

Dead Sea's unique, bone-dry environment could enable the seeds from the Masada fortress to flourish has been proven right.

With lots of patience and care, she and project partner Elaine Solowey managed to grow date palms from seeds dating back to the Kingdom of Judah which emerged in the 11th century BC.

The kingdom was "renowned for the quality and quantity of its dates", praised at the time for their "large size, sweet taste — and medicinal properties," the two wrote in an article for Science magazine.

Bringing back the ancient variety with Solowey, a specialist in sustainable agriculture, was not just a novelty project, Sallon said, but offered "a beacon of hope" for a planet battling the climate crisis and mass species extinction.

"Perhaps these amazing species that are everywhere around us will not disappear," she said, suggesting that "nature has tricks up its sleeves.

"It can let its seeds stay dormant for thousands of years, and we think it's gone extinct, and — boom! — it takes a pair of golden hands, like Elaine's, to bring it back to life."

'A lot of hassling'

Before embarking on her date palm revival, Sallon had read about 500-year-old lotus flower seeds that had germinated.

In 2004, she asked Israel's Bar Ilan University for access to a few of its preserved date palm seeds found in 1960 under debris at Masada, the Herodian-era mountain-top Jewish encampment famous for having been besieged by Roman forces in the first century. — AFP ■

Japan in talks to procure oral COVID-19 drug for mild symptoms

JAPAN'S health ministry is in talks with US pharmaceutical company Merck & Co to procure an oral COVID-19 medicine developed by the firm for use by those suffering from mild symptoms, sources familiar with the matter said Monday.

The antiviral drug molnupiravir, which prevents the virus from entering or multiplying in the body, can be taken at home unlike existing medicines casirivimab and imdevimab, which are administered intravenously in an "antibody cocktail" treatment, raising hopes that it may reduce the strain on medical facilities.

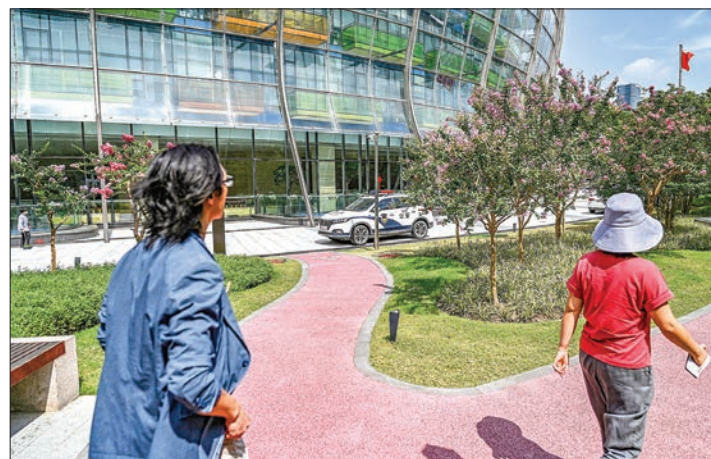
"An oral drug that can be used at home for those suffering from mild symptoms may be developed by the end of this year, and we are in negotiations for its utilization as soon as it is approved," Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said during a press

conference last week.

Merck is set to apply for emergency use of the medicine in the United States, with Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare expected to follow suit by quickly approving the drug once an application for domestic use has been made, the sources said.

The use of molnupiravir was seen to halve the likelihood of hospitalization or death, according to an interim analysis of clinical trials across areas including Japan, Europe and the United States. A total of 7.3 per cent had been admitted to hospital or died on the 29th day after taking the oral drug, compared to 14.1 per cent who had been given a placebo, the firm said. US pharmaceutical firm Pfizer Inc., Swiss health care company Roche Holding AG and Japan's Shionogi & Co are also working to develop an oral drug for COVID-19. — Kyodo News ■

Evergrande halts share trading in Hong Kong pending announcement



People walk past the Evergrande Centre building in Shanghai on 24 September 2021. **PHOTO: HECTOR RETAMAL / AFP**

EMBATTLED property giant China Evergrande suspended trading in its shares in Hong Kong on Monday pending an announcement on a "major transaction", as the firm struggles in a sea of debt and faces a default.

The halt comes as reports said Hong Kong real estate firm

Hopson Development Holdings planned to buy a 51 per cent stake in Evergrande's property services arm.

"At the request of the Company, trading in the shares of the Company was halted at 9:00 am on 4 October 2021 pending the release by the Company of

an announcement containing inside information about a major transaction," Evergrande said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Trading in Hopson was also suspended "pending the release of announcement(s) in relation to a major transaction", according to a company statement to the exchange.

Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Patrick Wong said the suspension may be related to a major asset disposal or capital restructuring. Evergrande Property Services Group was also suspended but the firm's electric vehicle company, which last week scrapped a proposed Shanghai listing, continued to trade and rose more than 15 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was down more than two per cent in the afternoon. — AFP ■

Facebook chooses 'profit over safety,' says whistleblower

THE whistleblower who shared a trove of Facebook documents alleging the social media giant knew its products were fuelling hate and harming children's mental health revealed her identity Sunday in a televised interview, and accused the company of choosing "profit over safety".

Frances Haugen, a 37-year-old data scientist from Iowa, has

worked for companies including Google and Pinterest — but said in an interview with CBS news show "60 Minutes" that Facebook was "substantially worse" than anything she had seen before.

She called for the company to be regulated. "Facebook over and over again has shown it chooses profit over safety. It

is subsidizing, it is paying for its profits with our safety," Haugen said.

"The version of Facebook that exists today is tearing our societies apart and causing ethnic violence around the world," she said.

The world's largest social media platform has been embroiled in a firestorm brought

about by Haugen, who as an unnamed whistleblower shared documents with US lawmakers and The Wall Street Journal that detailed how Facebook knew its products, including Instagram, were harming young girls, especially around body image.

US Senator Richard Blumenthal responded to the interview ahead of Haugen's ap-

pearance to testify in Congress next week, saying in a statement: "Facebook's actions make clear that we cannot trust it to police itself. We must consider stronger oversight."

In the "60 Minutes" interview Haugen explained how the company's News Feed algorithm is optimized for content that gets a reaction. — AFP ■

Tokyo stocks slip with eyes on Japan new government

TOKYO stocks opened higher but quickly slipped into negative territory on Monday, with investors eyeing the unveiling of Japan's new cabinet later in the day and other events this week.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index started up 0.88 per cent or 253.80 points at 29,024.87 in early trade, while the broader Topix index advanced 1.03 per cent or 20.38 points to 2,006.69.

But after buying back some shares following five straight days of declines, investors turned cautious and the market moved lower.

Among events being tracked by investors will be a policy speech by Japan's new leader Fumio Kishida and key US jobs data later this week, analysts said.

Last week, Japan's ruling party elected former

foreign minister Kishida its new leader, setting him on course to become the next prime minister of the world's third-largest economy.

Kishida will be confirmed as the new premier in a vote in parliament later in the day and will then lead the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) into general elections that must happen by November. — AFP ■



Pedestrians walk past an electronic quotation board displaying share prices of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 29 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP

OPEC+ grapples with mixed blessing of rising oil prices

OPEC and its key allies will meet on Monday to decide whether to ramp up oil production in a bid to calm overheated global energy prices.

The market landscape has changed little since the previous 1 September meeting of the oil exporters' cartel and its allies, together known as OPEC+, with demand continuing to weigh on global crude supply.

Oil prices jumped above \$80 last week for the first time in almost three years, handing the club, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, both a boost and a dilemma.

The 23 countries in the group are expected to start their video conference meeting at 1300 GMT (3 pm local time at OPEC's Vienna headquarters).

While higher prices benefit producers in the form of increased exports and revenues, there are medium-term drawbacks if rising prices stifle the fragile post-pandemic economic recovery.

The trend could also encourage new competitors into the market, making the exploration of new fields more profitable or even encouraging the trend towards renewables.

OPEC has been sticking to an increase in production of 400,000 barrels per day (bpd), agreed in July, but could nonetheless be tempted to open the taps further.

US President Joe Biden's administration urged such an approach in August, when National Security Advisor Jake

Sullivan said the cartel was not doing "enough" to boost oil production.

Helima Croft, of RBC Capital Markets, predicted in a meeting preview note that the bloc will "come under increasingly intense pressure from Washington to open the production release valve and cap the upside".

"With Europe and China in the throes of an escalating energy crisis, we think the odds are rising that the producer group will revisit their original tapering timeline and move to accelerate their output return," she wrote.

In a study published last week, Morgan Stanley analysts noted the possibility of "demand destruction" if oil prices creep over \$80 a barrel. — AFP ■

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Dated: 5 October 2021

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M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (137S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (137S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0245-035N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0245-035N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

NEWS
IN BRIEF

60,000 homes in west Japan city face water outage after pipe collapse

AROUND 60,000 homes in a western Japan city have been facing a water outage since a section of a water pipe bridge collapsed, city officials said Monday.

Some 138,000 people in parts of the city of Wakayama have been affected. The bridge that spans the Kinokawa River is not used for crossing banks by people or cars.

In the incident, confirmed on Sunday evening, the two pipes on the bridge collapsed for about 60 metres near the center of the river.

The bridge is 546 metres long, with each pipe measuring around 90 centimetres in diameter.

Mayor Masahiro Obana told a press conference that the city is considering measures to restart water supply, including implementing temporary pipes across another bridge alongside it.— *Kyodo News* ■

Iran to launch Arak nuclear research reactor 'within year'

AN Iranian nuclear reactor being converted from heavy water production into a power generating research facility will be launched within a year, a spokesman for parliament's energy commission announced.

Under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, the Islamic republic shut down the original Arak reactor in Markazi province so that it could not produce military-grade plutonium.

It also pledged that a replacement of the original reactor with a new one would support "peaceful nuclear research".

Quoted on Sunday by the Fars news agency, Mustafa Nakhai, spokesman of the legislature's energy commission, said "the Arak IR-20 reactor will be launched in a year from now". Nakhai said he was in turn quoting Mohamed Eslami, newly-appointed to head the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization (AEIO). — *AFP* ■

Covid vaccines a shoo-in? Medicine opens Nobel season



Employees in cleanroom suits test the procedures for the manufacturing of the messenger RNA (mRNA) for the Covid-19 vaccine at the new manufacturing site of German company BioNTech on 27 March 2021 in Marburg, central Germany. **PHOTO: THOMAS LOHNES / AFP**

THE Nobel season opens on Monday with the pioneers of mRNA Covid-19 vaccines and immune system research tipped for the medicine prize, which kicks off a week of awards against the

backdrop of the pandemic.

Breakthroughs in breast cancer, new approaches to rheumatology treatments, as well as research into epigenetics, cell adhesion and antibiotic resist-

ance are also believed to have good chances of winning, experts polled by *AFP* said.

Two names stand out in particular this year, given the ongoing pandemic: Hungary's Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman of the United States, pioneers of messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines and professors at the University of Pennsylvania.

Their discoveries, published in 2005, paved the way for the development of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, which have already been injected into more than a billion people worldwide.

The technology has also shown promising results for use against other diseases.

The creator of the prizes, Swedish dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel, laid out in his will that the awards should go to those who have conferred the "greatest benefit to humankind"

— making the pair an obvious choice to some.

"It would be a mistake for the Nobel committee not to give the prize to the mRNA vaccine this year, even if it is a bit risky," said Ulrika Bjorksten, head of Swedish public radio's science section.

She noted the pair's work could also be worthy of the Nobel Chemistry Prize, to be announced on Wednesday.

Committee's conservatism

However, many believe the duo — who hold senior positions at German laboratory BioNTech — may have to wait for the accolade.

The various committees tasked with selecting winners for the science prizes are known for allowing years or even decades to pass so that a discovery's true impact can be evaluated before the Nobel is bestowed. — *AFP* ■

UK to unveil new pandemic support for workers

BRITAIN'S finance minister admitted Monday that ending a pandemic furlough scheme that kept millions employed would mean job losses as the government was set to announce new support for workers.

Rishi Sunak, the chancellor of the exchequer, will announce a £500 million (\$680 million, 580 million euro) package of retraining aimed at older workers coming off furlough and at younger

Britons, the ruling Conservative party said.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has spent almost £70 billion on paying the bulk of wages for staff stuck at home, helping to keep the official unemployment rate relatively low.

But Sunak ended the furlough scheme on Thursday, and is also scrapping a weekly boost to benefits for the lowest-paid

workers.

He insists that it is time to transition to longer-term support, against objections by opposition parties and campaigners that the changes will plunge many people deeper into poverty.

"I said right at the beginning of this crisis, it wasn't going to be possible for me or quite frankly any chancellor to save every single person's job," Sunak told *Sky News*.

"We have a lower unemployment rate here in the UK than America, Canada, France, Spain, Italy, amongst others, and there are record numbers of job vacancies," he added. The first phase of his plan had protected 11 million jobs through the furlough scheme, he said, and Britain was now "experiencing one of the strongest and fastest recoveries of any major economy in the world". — *AFP* ■

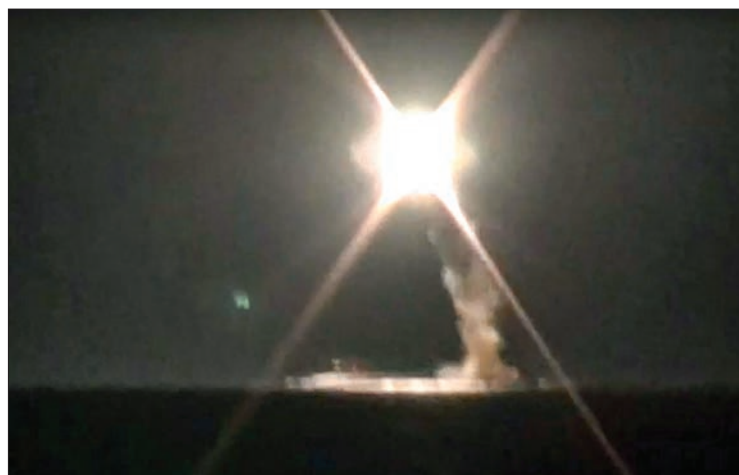
Russia test fires hypersonic missile from submarine

RUSSIA said on Monday it had launched a new hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine, the latest test of emerging weapons President Vladimir Putin has dubbed "invincible".

Moscow has in recent years touted the development of weapons that it hopes will give it the edge in any arms race with the United States at a time of growing tensions with the West.

Hypersonics can travel more than five times the speed of sound and manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles.

The military said on Monday it had fired a Zircon missile from the Severodvinsk nuclear submarine and hit a test target in the



This handout video grab released by the Russian Defence Ministry on 4 October 2021 shows the launch of a new Zircon hypersonic cruise missile from Severodvinsk nuclear submarine in Barents sea. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY / AFP**

Barents Sea in Russia's Arctic.

"The test launch of the Zircon missile from a nuclear submarine was considered success-

ful," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The ministry released grainy video footage showing missile

flares illuminating the night sky.

The Zircon had already undergone several tests in recent years, including a launch from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate.

Putin used his state of the nation address in 2018 to reveal new hypersonic weapons, including the Zircon, saying it could hit targets at sea and on land with a range of 1,000 kilometres.

The Zircon looks set to join Avangard hypersonic glide vehicles that were put into service in 2019 and the air-launched Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles in Russia's arsenal. The launch comes a week after North Korea said it had tested a new hypersonic weapon, becoming the latest country to join the hypersonic arms race. — *AFP* ■

Kishida elected Japan PM, set to call 31 October general election

FUMIO Kishida was elected as Japan's new prime minister by parliament on Monday, forming a Cabinet that will seek to keep COVID-19 under control while reviving a battered economy as he looks to appeal to voters heading into an upcoming general election.

The election for the House of Representatives, the more powerful lower chamber of parliament, is slated to take place 31 October, according to people familiar with Kishida's thinking, earlier than the first half of November, which had been expected.

Kishida replaces Yoshihide Suga, who resigned after just over a year in office amid criticism of his pandemic response.

The Diet convened an extraordinary session in the afternoon to choose the new prime minister. However, the vote was little more than a formality as



Fumio Kishida (front C), the new leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, stands up after being elected prime minister during a House of Representatives plenary session in Tokyo on 4 October 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

the ruling coalition led by the Liberal Democratic Party, which chose Kishida as its new leader last week, has a majority in both chambers.

The 64-year-old received 311 of 458 votes in the lower house and 141 of 241 votes in the House of Councillors.

"This is the real starting point. I will go forth with a strong sense of determination, with a strong resolution," Kishida told reporters at the LDP's Tokyo headquarters in the morning ahead of the vote.

In his Cabinet, Kishida retained Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi while tapping former Olympics minister Shunichi Suzuki as finance minister and Hirokazu Matsuno, a former education minister, as chief Cabinet secretary. The new prime minister will be formally inaugurated in a ceremony at the Imperial

Palace and hold a press conference in the evening.

According to senior LDP figures, Kishida plans to dissolve the lower house on 14 October and begin the campaigning period for the general election on 19 October. It will be his first major test in office, in which he will need to defy his image as a low-key consensus builder who struggles to excite voters. With around 60 per cent of Japan's population fully vaccinated and COVID-19 cases in decline, Kishida's immediate task will be preventing another surge in infections while gradually lifting restrictions on social and business activities and reopening the border to foreign travelers. Kishida has vowed to boost middle-class incomes and break from the "neoliberal policies" of the last two decades, which he said, "created a division between the haves and the have-nots." — Kyodo News ■

New Zealand drops 'Covid zero' goal after Delta outbreak

PRIME Minister Jacinda Ardern admitted Monday that New Zealand's widely praised "Covid zero" strategy had failed to halt a stubborn outbreak in Auckland and said a new approach was needed.

The hardline elimination policy had largely protected the country from the pandemic, with residents enjoying a near-normal domestic life alongside tight restrictions on international borders.

But an August outbreak prompted a seven-week lockdown in its main population centre that has failed to curb infection rates.

Ardern said the highly transmissible Delta variant had proved a "game-changer" that

could not be eliminated.

"Even with the long-term restrictions we've had, we patiently haven't reached zero," she added.

Ardern said she would not immediately dump the elimination strategy but lockdown restrictions in Auckland would be eased slightly, even though new case numbers have not fallen.

She added that the change — a major shift to her previous goal of completely stamping out the virus — was possible because vaccination rates had increased dramatically.

"Elimination was important because we didn't have vaccines, now we do, so we can begin to change the way we do things," she told reporters. — AFP ■



New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (L) and Commissioner of Police Andrew Coster (R) speak during a press conference in Wellington on 4 September 2021, after the country recorded its first Covid-related death in six months. PHOTO: MARK MITCHELL / POOL / AFP

2 Koreas resume cross-border communication after 2-month hiatus



(FILES) This file photo taken on 17 June 2020 shows a North Korean flag fluttering over the North Korean propaganda village of Gijungdong, as seen from a South Korean observation post in the border city of Paju. North and South Korea have restored their cross-border communication, Seoul said on 4 October 2021, after Pyongyang dropped them in August. PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP

THE two Koreas resumed cross-border contact via their communication lines on Monday, the South Korean government said, following North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's pledge last week to restore the lines in early October after a roughly two-month hiatus.

North Korean state media reported earlier Monday that the country would resume communication with the South at 9 am.

The communication lines had been reactivated on 27 July after a 13-month shutdown. But Pyongyang cut contact with Seoul after the United States and South Korea carried out joint military

drills on 10 August despite its objections.

The South's Unification Ministry said Monday that the resumption has "laid the foundation for recovery in South-North ties," adding that it hopes to see dialogue restarted and progress made in discussions about improving ties and building permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

It remains unclear whether the North Korean move will lead to better ties between the two Koreas, with the North's official Korean Central News Agency calling on the South for "efforts to put the north-south ties on a right track".

In a speech on Wednesday at a session of North Korea's top legislature, the Supreme People's Assembly, Kim said "the entire Korean nation" would like to "see the earlier recovery of — relations from the present deadlock and durable peace settling" on the peninsula, according to KCNA.

At the same time, Kim reportedly demanded that the South withdraw its "double-dealing attitude and hostile viewpoint and policies towards the other side," apparently referring to Seoul's defence procurements, which have come even as it criticizes Pyongyang for its own weapons programme. — Kyodo News ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment

in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar to face Lebanon in opener of 2022 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR women's national football team will play against the Lebanon team in the opener of the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers to be held in the third week of October.

Myanmar team is falling in Group D together with Lebanon, UAE and Guam.

The tournament will be divided into eight groups and

only the top team in each group will win the Tournament.

According to the group vote, Group A includes China Taipei, Bahrain and Laos, while Group B consists of Vietnam, Tajikistan, Maldives and Afghanistan.

In the meantime, Singapore is placing in Group C together with Iraq and Indonesia.

Next, South Korea, Uzbekistan and Mongolia are placed in the Group E and Group F comprises the Philippines, Hong Kong and Nepal.

Group G consists of Jordan, Iran and Bangladesh while ASEAN powerhouse team Thailand is included in Group H with Palestine and Malaysia.

The AFC has decided to hold the Group D matches of team Myanmar in Kyrgyzstan from 18 to 24 October.

According to the fixtures, Myanmar will play against Lebanon on 18 October, Guam on 21 October and UAE on 24 October respectively.

The Myanmar team is making final preparations for

the tournament and the final list will be released shortly before the tourney.

Some group matches from the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers have been completed and six teams: Viet Nam, Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines, Iran and Thailand have already qualified to the next stage. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Osaka out of WTA top 10 for 1st time in 3 yrs

FORMER world No 1 Naomi Osaka has fallen outside the top 10 in the WTA women's singles rankings for the first time in three years. In the latest rankings released Monday, Osaka dropped from seventh to 12th, while the top three — Ashleigh Barty, Aryna Sabalenka and Karolina Pliskova — remained unchanged.

The last time Osaka ranked outside the top 10 was in August

2018, when she was 19th.

The 23-year-old, who is of Haitian and Japanese descent, said she wanted to take a break from competitive tennis "for a while" following her US Open third-round loss last month to unseeded Canadian teenager

Leylah Fernandez, the tournament's eventual runner-up.

The four-time Grand Slam champion pulled out of the French Open in May ahead of her second-round match to take a mental health break. She also sat out Wimbledon, but partic-

ipated in the Tokyo Olympics in late July, where she lost in a stunning third-round upset.

The favourite to win gold on home soil, Osaka lit the Olympic cauldron at the Tokyo Games opening ceremony in July. — Kyodo News ■

Japan's Naomi Osaka reacts during her 2021 US Open Tennis tournament women's singles third round match against Canada's Leylah Fernandez at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York, on 3 September 2021. PHOTO: ED JONES / AFP



Manchester City's Belgian midfielder Kevin De Bruyne controls the ball during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield in Liverpool, northwest England, on 3 October 2021. PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS / AFP

Man City allege staff spat at in Liverpool draw: reports

MANCHESTER CITY have lodged a complaint to Liverpool alleging that a fan spat at their backroom staff during the pulsating 2-2 draw at Anfield, reports say.

Liverpool are looking into the claim, the BBC and Sky Sports said, after the Premier League rivals shared the points following a breathless second half that saw City twice come from behind.

"They (my staff) told me

but I didn't see it," City boss Pep Guardiola said of the alleged incident, according to the BBC.

"I'm pretty sure Liverpool FC will take measures against this person. I know they are greater than this behaviour."

Mohamed Salah appeared to have won the game for Liverpool with a cracker at a frenzied Anfield on Sunday after Phil Foden had cancelled out Sadio Mane's opener, but Kevin

De Bruyne's late deflected shot rescued a point for Guardiola's men.

The result leaves the Premier League title race tantalisingly poised, with Liverpool a point behind leaders Chelsea, and City in third place, two points off the top alongside a clutch of other clubs.

Chelsea were the only side in the top six to win this weekend, seeing off Southampton 3-1. — AFP ■