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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

It is important for new generation youths to know bitter experiences in losing the independence: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the first coordination meeting of the Central Committee on Organizing the 74th Anniversary of Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 October 2021.

ONLY when the history must be mentioned on the sacrifice of life, blood and sweat for regaining the independence since the time of losing it will the new generations

understand the situation of freedom of management with the essence of independence, conscience and own decision, said Chairman of the Central Committee on Organizing the 74th

Anniversary of Independence Day Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the first coordination meeting of the central

committee at the office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that city-states, small kingdoms and dynasties

which emerged in the firm Myanmar history are symbols of the unity of the kings and the people. At that time, powerful armed forces could be established.

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Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some casualties, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Dryers used to reduce fungus content from chillies in Yamethin

SIXTY acres of chillies are cultivated under the Food Safety Project in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, and they will be dried using dryers to reduce the content of the fungus, said U Than Win, Deputy Head of the Township Agriculture Department.

Chillies are grown as per the GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) system in the areas under the Food Safety Project to ensure safe food for consumers, and the chillies grown from these areas will be dried with one Solar Dryer and two Mobile Gas Dryers to dry in a short period.

“Yamethin Township is a climatic chillies growing area where chillies are grown every year. As this year's rainy sea-

son started late, the chillies will be in full bloom by the end of October. The chillies will be dried with dryers to reduce the fungus in them,” he said.

“If farmers dry them in sun, the fungus can be produced if it rains, reducing the quality of the chillies,” he added. The use of dryers will be able to reduce labour and produce



good quality chillies with bright colours without damaging the stalks which gain a good price

in the markets. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Myeik district rural road development dept to implement 68 road/bridge projects in 2021-2022FY



THE Department of Rural Road Development in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, is going to implement a total of 35 road and 33 bridge projects with over K7,000 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget year (from October 2021 to March 2022).

With K 698 million from the Union Capital Fund and K 6,308 million from the Region Capital Fund, concrete roads, asphalt roads, earthen roads, reinforced concrete roads and bridges will be built for the rural people in Myeik District.

Road projects being implemented in each township in Myeik District include 21 concrete roads and 5 asphalt roads, 6 earthen roads and 3 RC roads. In terms of bridge construction in the district, two 25-foot-long RC bridges, one 15-foot-long RC bridge, five 10-foot RC bridges, 25 5-foot RC box culverts will be supervised by Assistant Director (Civil) U Thura, of the District Rural Road Development Department in each township. — Khine Htoo (Myeik)/GNLM

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 the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 27-9-2021)

It is important for new generation youths to know bitter ...

FROM PAGE-1

They were prosperous in parallel with the contemporary states.

Myanmar lost Rakhine, Assam, Manipur and Taninthayi regions after the First Anglo-Myanmar War during the period of 1824-1826, the lower part including Bago in the second war in 1852 and the whole country in the third war in 1885.

If the modern Tatmadaw was formed, the country would be powerful. The country lost its independence due to disunity among the people and royal

families. It is important for new generation youths to know bitter experiences in losing their independence. The national-level independence day must be organized with essence.

Only when the history must be mentioned on the sacrifice of life, blood and sweat for regaining the independence since the time of losing it will the new generations understand the situation of freedom of management with the essence of independence, conscience and own decision.

To secure the independence to mark the 74th anniversary, national leaders and ethnic leaders had resisted the colonialists in respective regions since the time of losing the independence. They faced various experiences in the independence struggles. New generations need to know the history of regaining independence. The essay and extempore talk contests on the loss of independence and efforts for regaining the independence to mark Independence Day must be held for new generation students as

part of preserving the historical traditions.

Various ethnic leaders cooperated with the people with patriotic and nationalistic spirits in regaining independence not to discredit the national prestige and integrity. National leader General Aung San and thirty comrades took the military training in Japan and strived for regaining the independence of the nation. Consequently, the national level independence day is celebrated with the essence of Our Three Main National Causes

on a yearly basis not to lose the independence anyhow.

New generation youths need to know that it is necessary to strengthen the sovereignty of the State. Only when the nation is powerful with the unity of the entire people and systematic formation of the modern Tatmadaw will the nation be developed.

In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General urged departmental heads to discuss the duty and functions of their respective subcommittees and the meeting came to an end.—MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin delivers Statement via video link at Commemorative High-Level Meeting on occasion of marking 60th Anniversary of First Conference of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

THE Commemorative High-Level Meeting on the occasion of marking the 60th Anniversary of the First Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held on 11 and 12 October 2021 in Belgrade, Serbia and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin delivered a statement via video link at the meeting.

In his statement, the Union Minister mentioned that Myanmar is always proud to be one of the founding members of the NAM and a co-sponsor of the Bandung Conference. He underscored that the present Government of Myanmar laid down and has been implementing a five-point roadmap to bring the country back to normalcy and its path to democracy.

In addition, the Union Minister explained that the Government is making all-out efforts to fight against the COVID-19

pandemic and has set up a country-wide vaccination plan to achieve 50% coverage of vaccination at the end of this year. He also stated that Myanmar is ready to cooperate with all friendly countries in its efforts on prevention, control and treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Minister emphasized that being a consolidated entity, the Movement must continue pursuing its fundamental principles of mutual understanding and respect, impartiality and non-politicization. He also highlighted that Myanmar will work in unity with the members of the Movement to defend the common interests in tackling complex and common challenges and Myanmar is also looking forward to seeking continuous support, mutual understanding and constructive cooperation from the NAM member states



in its efforts to bring peace, democracy and development to the country.

U Thurain Thant Zin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Myanmar to

Serbia, attended the meeting as the representative of the Government of Myanmar.—MNA

MoI supports artistes to resume artistic activities amid COVID-19

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by the officials from the Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Association, artistes, and TV, FM broadcasters, inspected the production work under the COVID-19 rules and regulations at the MWD (Myawady) Centre yesterday.

Firstly, the Union Minister addressed the gathering at the theatre of the MWD Centre. He said new presentations are being given priority to the people in the form of public service, and it is time for artists to make the people suffering from the pandemic smile with their artistic skills, adding relaxation of COVID-19 rules and regulations and support will be provided as the disease is under control.

Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing often asked to respect artistes and provide necessary assistance, he added. The Prime Minister



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views around the Myawady Media Centre yesterday.

established the Myawady Centre in 2019 to create and produce high quality international standard arts for the public, to raise the standard of art. He called on artistes, musicians and TV and FM broadcasters to use the Myawady Centre to produce better works of art.

Chief Minister of Yangon

Region U Hla Soe also added his administration will provide support and necessary assistance so that artistes could hold events to entertain the people. Deputy Managing Director of Myawady News and Media of the Myanmar Economic Corporation U Aung Kyaw Soe presented the pro-

duction works of international standard arts with a video clip.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and those present at the gathering inspected the operations in the theatre, studios, cinema, box seat room, CER rooms, control rooms, library, training rooms, ballroom, open Terrence, and meeting rooms

in Myawady Media Centre.

Myawady Media Centre was built in May 2019 and opened on 2 May 2021, to operate as a trusted media industry and to develop the media sector to international standards. The centre includes a 200-seat 3D cinema with 4K quality; a 300-seat theatre with large LED projectors; background designs of the stage for entertainment programmes; singing competitions; game shows and model show competitions; TV studios, Mini Studios, Music Studios, and News Studios that can be changed as required; Training halls and Business Offices. The centre can provide services for filming and broadcasting for all artistes and media professionals in one place.

It is learned that productions in all studios in the Myawady Media Centre can be streamed online on TV channels as well as live streaming on more than 200 types of online media. — MNA

UEC continues to examine activities of political parties

THE Union Election Commission looked into whether the political parties conducted systematically for the memberships of the parties, party funds and property, savings, maintaining, usage, audition and liquidation

and parties' procedures according to the Union Election Law Section 10 (l) "supervising, causing to supervise and guiding the political parties to carry out in accord with the law."

The UEC inspected Wom-

en's Party (Mon) based in Mon State was inspected from 3.10.2021 to 6.10.2021; 88 Generation Democracy Party from 3.10.2021 to 8.10.2021; Mon Unity Party from 4.10.2021 to 8.10.2021; Bago Region-based Guiding Star Party, Union Farmer-Labour Force Party, and Alliance of Myanmar's Worker and Farmer Party (A.M.W.F.P) from 4.10.2021 to 8.10.2021; Yangon Region-based National Unity Congress Party, Democracy and Human Rights Party, United Nationalities Democracy Party from 4.10.2021 to 8.10.2021; Shan Nationalities Democratic Party from 4.10.2021 to 8.10.2021; Ayeyawady Region-based People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers from 4.10.2021 to 6.10.2021; Kayin State-based Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party and Karen National Demo-



Examination of the People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers in progress.

cratic Party from 5.10.2021 to 8.10.2021.

The inspections were carried out by the members of the Union Election Commission

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



Activities of the Guiding Star party under examination.

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

Union Information Minister meets acting executive members of Myanmar Music Association (Central), patrons, executive members of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met the acting executive members of the Myanmar Music Association (Central) at MRTV on Pyay Road of Yangon Region yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister urged the musicians to work hard for the benefit of the country and the people. He also added that the Prime Minister has often instructed those working in the arts to be professionals and to provide necessary assistance. The artistes should make efforts to resume the entertaining programmes in order to ease the anxiety of the public due to COVID-19.

Currently, the COVID-19 disease has been brought under control, the entertainment activities are allowed to resume in line with the health rules and regulations. Although the executive committee of the Myanmar Music Association (central) has expired, the new executive committee has not yet been formed

due to certain circumstances, and so the acting committee is formed during this period.

The acting executive committee should draft a charter and seek the approvals of people from the music industry. Then, the committee must hold a new election with all musicians in line with the drafted charter and transfer power after forming a new committee.

Meanwhile, the committee should show their sense of duty for the interests of artistes from the music industry and the development of that industry. The ministry will stand as partner organizations to provide the needed supports.

Then, Director-General U Ye Naing of MRTV reported on the cooperation works between the ministry and association while the patrons and members of the association presented the future work plans.

Myanmar Music Association (central) was formed on 11



The MoI Union Minister holds talks with the officials of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and the Myanmar Music Association (Central) in Yangon yesterday.

July 1963 under the name called “Myanmar Music Council and changed into Myanmar Music Organizing Committee in 1981 and reorganized as Myanmar Music Association (central) in 1991. Currently, the term of the executive committee of the Myanmar Music Association

(central) is expired and the temporary committee is formed to promote the interests of musicians including the development of the music industry.

At noon, the Union Minister arrived at Film Promotion Division under the Information and Public Relations Department

(IPRD) at No (28) of Kokkai Avenue. During the visit, he met the patrons and executive committee members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and discussed the resumption of arts, screening of movies in cinemas and challenges of people from the film industry. —MNA



Union Minister for Electricity and Energy meets officials from ORGRES, Russian Chamber of Commerce

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo and party, who are in Moscow to attend the Russian Energy Week International Forum (REW2021) in Moscow, Russia, met with officials from ORGRES and the Russian Chamber of Commerce to discuss bilateral investment

issues on 11 October.

At 10 am local time, the Union Minister and party received Mr Alexander Nazarov from ORGRES and cordially discussed opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

ORGRES from Russia is planning to build hydropower

and power plants.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party met with the Chairman of the Russian Chamber of Commerce Mr Victor Nikolaevich Chemodanov and cordially discussed bilateral investment issues in the power and energy sectors. —MNA

High-Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) Ministerial Meeting held

HIGH-LEVEL Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) Ministerial Meeting supervised by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was held virtually yesterday.

The virtual meeting was held at 6:30 pm in Montreal, Canada and Deputy Minister for Ministry of Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun attended it on behalf of the Union Minister.

First, President of the International Civil Aviation Organization Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano addresses the conference on the title named “One Vision for Aviation Recovery, Resilience and Sustainability Beyond the Global

Pandemic”.

The ICAO President said that the COVID-19 crisis avoids safe transport and thus must establish future plans to build a strong foundation for sustainable recovery and the resilience of the aviation sector. This meeting is being convened for all member countries to work together, the President added.

The ICAP President called on the aviation authorities of various countries to work with public health officials to coordinate global mutual recognition issues to facilitate air travel in order to strengthen public confidence internationally. Then,

Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun reported on the outbreak of COVID-19 across the country. The Deputy Minister said that government will take five steps forward by setting nine goals.

“The next five steps will be continued to carry out the COVID-19 prevention work vigorously and effectively, and to accomplish the two-pronged approach as soon as possible to the businesses affected by the COVID-19 epidemic,” the Deputy Minister said.

“Air transport aims to increase foreign investment and impact of Myanmar’s aviation sector. Work is underway to revitalize the aviation sector in line

with the Myanmar Economic Relief Plan (MERP), which is crucial for the promotion of tourism and business opportunities.

“Airport operators, Air cargo service operators, Domestic airlines are running operations as per the guidelines issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization,” the Deputy Minister added.

The Deputy Minister also discusses the timely issuance of COVID-19 epidemic prevention rules to be followed by international airlines.

High-Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) or Ministerial Plenary Meeting will be

held from 12 to 22 October.

Schedules of Safety Sector Meeting and Facilitation Sector Meeting will be held as planned, officials said.

The HLCC 2021 Ministerial Plenary Meeting and related meetings were attended by Ministers from member countries of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Deputy Ministers, Heads of Departments and senior officials.

The Deputy Minister of Myanmar and Director-General of the Directorate of Civil Aviation and senior officials in charge of the subject also joined the virtual meeting. —MNA

Transport & Communications Union Minister joins ITU Digital World 2021



The online ITU Digital World 2021 in progress.

THE ITU (International Telecommunication Union) and the Ministry of Information and Communications of Viet Nam presided over the virtual "ITU Digital World

2021" from 1 September to 30 November. Among these meetings, Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San joined the Ministerial Roundtable conducted online

yesterday.

During the session of the roundtable, the Vietnamese Information and Communications Minister and ITU Secretary-General made opening remarks and

the Vietnamese Prime Minister delivered a speech.

Then, 11 participants, including Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San exchanged views on innovative policies and regulations, challenges and resolutions under the topic of "Cutting the cost: Can affordable access accelerate digital transformation."

The Union Minister discussed the fairer prices in seeking the basic infrastructure, investment, innovation for the success of the inclusive community-centred digital transformation.

Investment in infrastructure has declined in developing countries and on the other hand, the use of online especially in education, health and economic sectors has increased, and so the use of bandwidth and the needs become high. The high usage can occur difficulties in meeting the

basic telecommunication needs.

The Union Minister then highlighted the draft of proper policies to reduce the cost and gain continuous investment for infrastructure, policies to be drafted for sharing ICT infrastructure and effective use of bandwidth and to review the strategies for basic telecommunication needs, efforts of the country to set appropriate prices in constructing the basic telecommunication infrastructure in the respective regions by enacting the law, access to ICT in rural areas in addition to urban and ways to recover the impacts of unethical use of social media.

The relevant ministers, leaders and representatives of 193 ITU member countries joined the meeting.

The ITU Digital World was organized by ITU in 1971 annually and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the event. – MNA

14th Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia Governing Board Meeting held

DEPUTY Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) Governor for Myanmar U Than Aung Kyaw joined the 14th ERIA Governing Board Meeting which was held via videoconferencing on 12 October 2021 from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw.

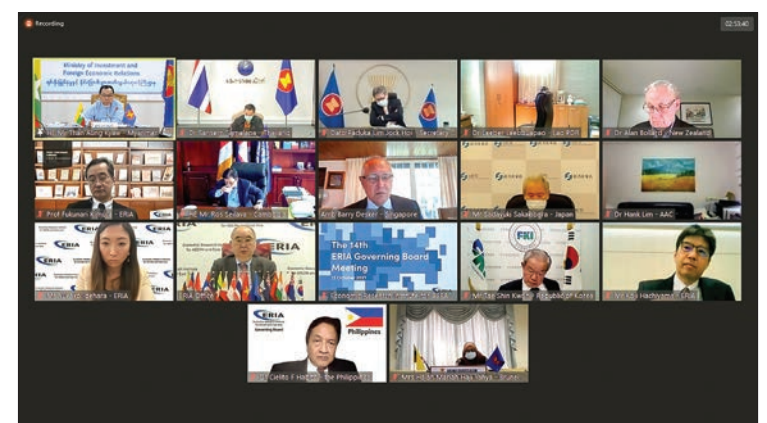
The Meeting was attended by ERIA governors who are Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Director Generals and Professors from ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand, and ERIA academic advisory council members, ASEAN Secretary General and senior officials. The meeting was chaired by

Mrs Hajah Mariah Haji Yahya, Director General of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Brunei Darussalam.

Mrs Hajah Mariah Haji Yahya, Interim Chairperson of the ERIA Governing Board, Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA and Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN gave the remarks at the meeting. Then, the chair introduced the New Governors from Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar and the Philippines and the meeting selected Dr. Cielito F. Habito, Professor of Economics, Ateneo de Manila University and Senior Fellow of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development (ACERD) as the new Chairperson of the ERIA Governing Board.

At the Meeting, Chief Economist of ERIA, Prof. Fukunari Kimura presented the Aftermath of COVID-19, its Impact on the Global Economy and the Region, and Senior Policy Fellow of ERIA, Prof. Jun Arima presented the EAS Energy Policy Research Roadmap in 2020-2022. Then, ERIA governors discussed the ERIA's future research activities related to regional economic development agenda.

The Deputy Minister commented that COVID-19 pandemic gave the opportunity to equip the economy with digital technology. However, industries, especially for SMEs, are still encountering the challenges like data security and secure online payments. He highlighted that ERIA's future research works should pave the way for



The 14th ERIA Governing Board Meeting is held via videoconferencing.

SMEs to promote the digital technology to enjoy the regional initiatives and narrowing the digital divide between ASEAN and East Asia countries.

Moreover, the deputy minister supported the ERIA's proposal of Research programme in RCEP phase 1 with the objective of understanding the impact of RCEP in ASE-

AN and East Asia, and also underscored that the recommendation of the study would contribute the formulation of the effective and efficient work programme for implementation of RCEP.

Officials from Foreign Economic Relations Department also attended the meeting. —MNA

Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 12-10-2021

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Supportive				
1	PO Multivitamin with/ without zinc	3x10's / Box	5,600	OLIVE
2	PO Vitamin C	10x10's / Box	700	Pai Brother
3	PO - Pantocid	10x10's / Box	7,000	PL
4	PO Omeprazole	10x10's / Box	1,650	Shwe Htay Min
5	Injection Pantocid	1g/Vial	1,500	Aorta

6	Injection Omeprazole	1g/Vial	1,050	Aorta
Antibiotics				
7	PO - Azithromycin 500 mg	5x3's	4,000	Rammawaddy
8	PO - Cefalexin 500 mg	Box of 10x10's	6,100	Aorta
9	PO - Levofloxacin 500 mg	Box of 10x10's	7,000	Shwe Htay Min
10	PO.Cefixime	Box of 3x10's	3,600	Aorta

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

Over-12s middle, high school students receive vaccines in Nay Pyi Taw

THE government has been conducting vaccination programmes across the nation and the middle and high school students aged over 12 received their Sinovac vaccines in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It is estimated to launch the programme until 25 October for a total of 83,969 students from 496 middle and high schools out of 757 basic education schools, 28 monastic schools and 74 private schools in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Therefore, the health workers vaccinated the students as per the collect lists at the respective vaccination sites following the COVID-19 health rules.

Moreover, the health and education staff arranged the required COVID-19 preventive measures at the vaccination sites such as distributing masks and face shields and taking the body temperature of the students.

After the vaccination, the education staff and officials conducted the educating programmes for the students aged over 12 and parents and vaccinated the students with the agreement of parents.

The students had to stay at the separate sessions for 30 minutes for the observation period.

The officials arranged school buses for the students

and the township administration officials, fire brigade and Myanmar Police Force members also conducted the security measures.

If the students are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, they can continue their learning safely at the schools in line with the health rules of the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health will vaccinate the students of basic education middle and high schools, monastic schools and private schools to grab their learning opportunities, reduce the death toll and infection rate among the students and prevent the spread of disease. — Aung Thant/GNLM



1,382 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 October, total figure rises to 481,230

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 481,230 after 1,382 new cases were reported on 12 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 434,080 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,188 after 26 died.

Prepare to be ready to produce COVID-19 vaccines

TREATMENT for patients and prevention of diseases rely on vaccines and drugs in the medical arena. Up to now, nobody can produce the drugs and vaccines for the treatment of COVID-19 patients but give necessary vaccines and drugs to them for prevention of the pandemic.

Myanmar realized the socialist economic system in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals in the past but the production of pharmaceuticals is operated on a commercial scale depending on the market economic system.

In implementing the market economic system, priority must be given to meeting the local demand in the manufacturing of the drugs. It is important for ensuring the high quality of pharmaceuticals to compete with other medical products in the market at fair prices.

Myanmar started the operation of Hepatitis (B) Factory in May 2007. Since its establishment, the factory has been continuously manufacturing the vaccines. If necessary, the factory needs to change its production forms such as COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines in cooperation in medical technologies with foreign countries.

At present, the government arranges the production of hepatitis (B) vaccine as well as COVID-19 vaccine at the same factory before construction of a separate factory for the COVID-19 vaccine. Thanks to energetic efforts, Myanmar will be ready to produce COVID-19 vaccines in the future.

Currently, the government gives encouragement to the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals at home. Although the government eases restrictions for the production of medicines at home, procedures of taxation must be arranged necessarily. Likewise, raw material importers need to pay deserved tax amount to the State dutifully.

In striving for production of COVID-19 vaccines at the Hepatitis (B) Factory locally, the factory needs to soonest produce the vaccines for current use with a long term plan to take the research and development measures which are the lifeblood for production of highly-qualified products to be able to compete with other medical products in the market.

Although the expenditure will be high for the production and research of COVID-19 vaccines with the

farsightedness of the worst situation based on changes of COVID-19 variants, the production of drugs will cut the spending on foreign exchange.

The government pledged to build a factory to manufacture the COVID-19 vaccines. When Myanmar possessed the medical technology and medical experts, the factory will be operated for the production of COVID-19 vaccines with the purpose of local consumption.

At present, the government arranges the production of hepatitis (B) vaccine as well as COVID-19 vaccine at the same factory before construction of a separate factory for the COVID-19 vaccine. Thanks to energetic efforts, Myanmar will be ready to produce COVID-19 vaccines in the future.



Thadingyut, the Month of Light Festival

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja, Sithu)

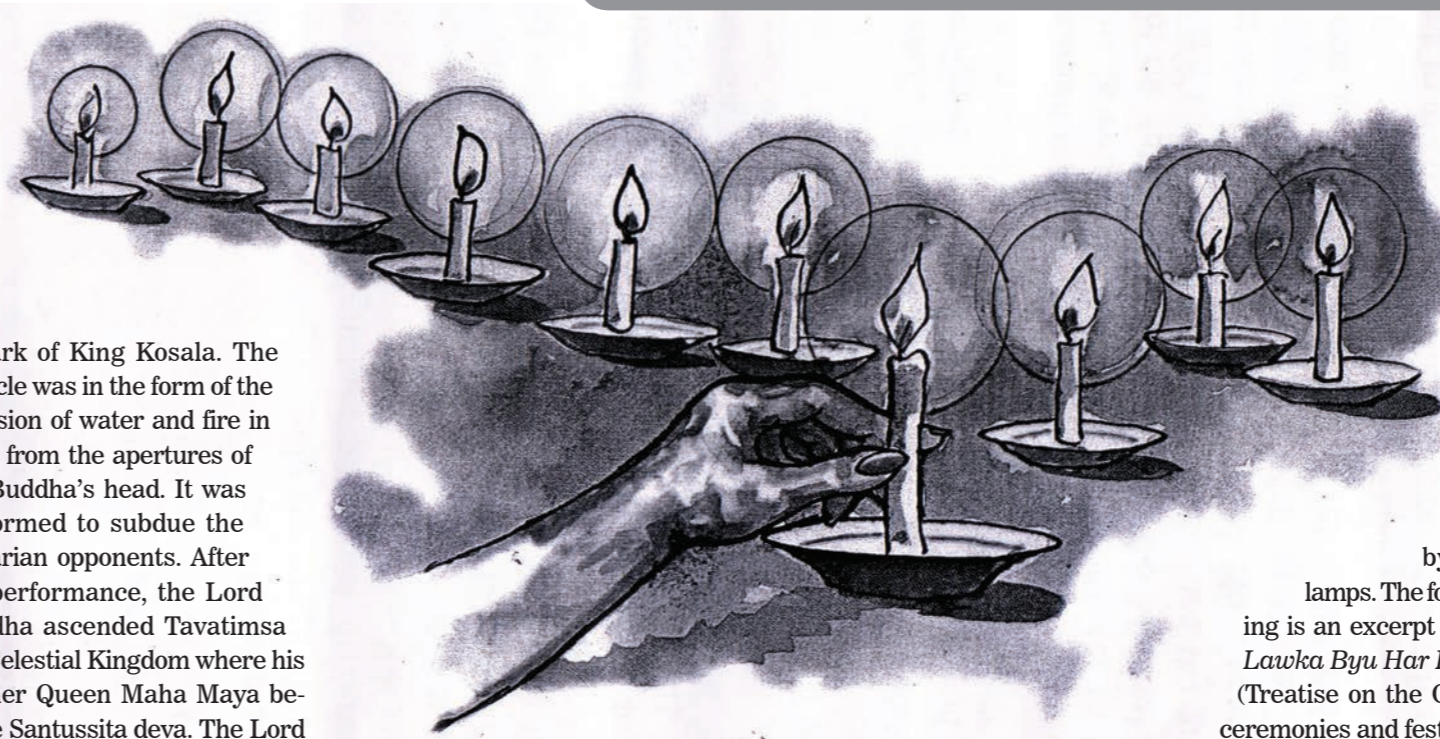
THE seventh month of the Myanmar lunar calendar is called Thadingyut which means “the end of Buddhist Lent”. It coincides with October. The period of Myanmar Buddhist Lent which covers the peak of the rainy season, July, August and September, comes to an end in October. Buddhist monks who had taken “Wa” vow (that they will stay in the monastery during the whole rainy season) in the month of Waso (July) are now free from that vow, as the Lent term is over in the month of Thadingyut. The monks are now free to go about and stay out overnight. Thadingyut is a transition period between the rainy season and cold season (winter). Though the monsoon has receded or is receding, remnants of rainclouds still hover in the sky and sometimes with the help of an unexpected storm, heavy showers come down to cause some unusual flood. Crops, especially paddy which the farmers have so laboriously planted and tendered the whole rainy period are growing upright and their ears turning heaven-ward. The countryside is just a green carpet with white-padded birds flying about, looking for fish in the field water.

Tula (Libra) is the astrolog-

ical name of Thadingyut and its zodiacal sign is a man holding the balance. In the night firmament the asterism “Asawani” and the moon rival in radiance. In this month five different species of the water lily or lotus bloom profusely in natural ponds and lakes. They are the white lotus (Nymphaea alba) the red lotus (Nymphaea rubra), the blue lotus (Nymphaea stellata), the Padoma lotus (Nelumbium speciosum) and Poun Na-

jei Kya (Ixora arborea). Therefore, the lotus is traditionally regarded as the flower of this month. Lotus especially the white and padoma type is the sacred flower for the Buddhists. It is the symbol of purity as the lotus flower which is perfect in beauty, fragrance and purity stems out of the muddy water. The archaic name for this month was “Than-to-la”. Early lithic inscriptions of Bagan used the name “Than-tu-la” for this month. Scholars give two different interpretations of this name. One is based upon the season. It says that “Than” is derived from the Pali word “wa-than” which means rainy season. Tula (Libra) is the astrological name of this month. So, Than-tu-la means the month of Thadingyut. The other is based upon the staple crop - paddy. According to it ‘Than’ means paddy crop. ‘Tu’ means erect or upright, and ‘la’ means the month. So, Than-tu-la means the month during which the paddy plants grow upright. The earliest use of the name ‘Thadingyut’ for this month was found in the stone inscription of Bagan dated Sakarit year 574 (AD 1212) known as Tuyin Taung Saw Rahan Thein Inscription. But the spelling

al park of King Kosala. The miracle was in the form of the emission of water and fire in pairs from the apertures of the Buddha’s head. It was performed to subdue the sectarian opponents. After the performance, the Lord Buddha ascended Tavatimsa the Celestial Kingdom where his mother Queen Maha Maya became Santussita deva. The Lord Buddha wished to return the filial debt of gratitude he owed to his mother by preaching to her his philosophy - Abhidhamma. So, the Lord Buddha observed his seventh Lent in Tavatimsa. There sitting on the brown emerald slab called ‘Pandukambala’ which was the throne of Sakka the king of devas under the shade of the Pinle Kathit or Coral tree (Erythrina indica) the Lord Buddha expounded the seven sections of Abhidham-



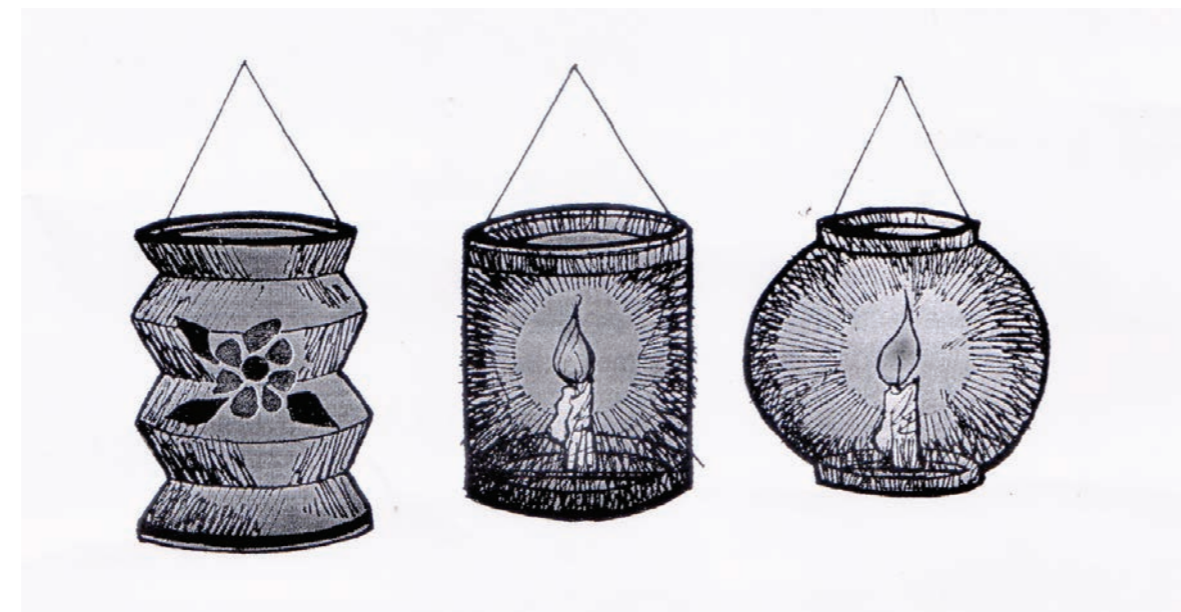
by oil lamps. The following is an excerpt from *Lawka Byu Har Kyan* (Treatise on the Court ceremonies and festivals compiled by Minister Thiri

Uzana of the Innwa Period) which recounts the holding of ‘Si-mee Myint Mo Pwe’ by the royal order: “Beginning on the 8th waxing moon of Thadingyut, the King’s officers constructed replicas of Mt. Myint Mo in the foreground of Hluttaw. The Royal Store issued oil lamps on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th waning moon nights of Thadingyut. Soldiers built four big tents on the left side of Hluttaw foreground, and five big tents on the right side in which entertainments took place.”

On the 14th waxing moon, 1st arid 3rd waning moon nights, Shwezigon, Kutaw Thit, Man Aung Yatana, Shwe Yin Ye, Yan Aung Myin, Maha Myat Muni, Tada U Mingala Zedi, Panya Shwezigon, Tuywin Chey Paya, Sagaing Chan Tha Gyi, Shin Hpyu Shin Hla, Ponnya Zedi, Patanya Zedi and Yaza Mani Cula pagodas were illuminated. King’s men and equestrian soldiers were given for each pagoda 100 oil lamps, 100 cotton wickers and 3 visses of oil to illuminate.” Later Myanmar kings also held Thadingyut light festival annually. Even though his kingdom was beset with political disasters, King Thibaw (AD 1878-85) the last Myanmar king did not neglect his duty of holding monthly festivals according to the Court traditions. *Konbaung Set Maha Yaza Wun Taw Gyi* Vol.3 (The Great Royal Chronicle of Konbaung Dynasty) mentions the following account of the light festival held by King Thibaw in AD 1883:

Thadingyut light festival was depicted in the mural paintings of the Pagodas at Bagan and other old capitals. One particular fresco which vividly portrays the Tawedeintha Festival of the time is found on the inner wall of Myinkaba Ku Byauk Kyi Pagoda at Bagan. It is the scene of the descent of the Lord Buddha from Tavatimsa to the City of Sankassa. In other paintings are seen earthen oil lamps illuminating religious monuments. Earthen oil lamps called ‘simee gwat’ are small circular flat cups to contain some oil in which cotton wickers are soaked and lighted. Myanmar people still use them.

In the Innwa, Taungoo, and Nyaung Yan Periods of Myanmar history, the Light festival came to be called ‘Simee Myint Mo Pwe’ (Festival of illuminating Mt. Meru by oil lamps). It was organized by the kings. In the courtyard was set up a lofty replica of Mt. Meru made of bamboo and paper and artistically decorated, with three stairways coming down from its summit. The whole structure and the stairways were illuminated



was different and its pronunciation was ‘Tha-tin-chut’ meaning ‘Lent is off. The traditional festival annually held in this month is religious in origin, character and significance. On the evening of the full moon day of Waso in the Mahasakarit year 109, the Lord Gautama Buddha performed the great miracle at Savatthi. The performance took place near the white mango tree in the roy-

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 12 October 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal, monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 13 October, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin, Northern Shan States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7- 9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundrey activities in Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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SEE PAGE-10

Thadingyut, the Month of Light Festival

FROM PAGE-9

“In accordance with the tradition of holding ‘Simee Myint Mo’ festival and royal ceremony in the month of Thadingyut, preparations were made, such as the construction of East Myint Mo and puppet stage north of Hluttaw, West Myint Mo and puppet stage in front of the Western Samok Saung Taw, four Tazaung Buildings and puppet stage at four Royal Yards, temporary palace on the right side of Myay Nantaw and East Maze, Myint Mo and Maze on both sides of Western Somok Saung Taw, mechanically operated Parsee Theatre in front of the Southern Royal Theatre Hall, a puppet stage on the wheel in front of it, puppet stages at 16 pagodas, one life elephant fully caparisoned, four gold elephant dummies and one red elephant dummy to be made by the officers in charge of the workshops. Officers in charge of royal elephant stables were to keep in readiness the white and the red elephants and their attendants. Officers in charge of royal steeds were to keep in readiness the State Coaches. Officers in charge of the royal flotilla were to keep in readiness royal rafts, boats, ships and sampans. Officers in charge of the royal granary (were to keep themselves in readiness for distributing paddy ration to the monasteries). Chinese, Indian, Siamese, and Linzin (Laotian) Officers in charge of illumination, set up rows of lights of different colours at 16 pagodas, rows of coloured glass lanterns with candles along the road between the Palace and Maha Muni Shrine. Foreign-made festoons and paper streamers, and home-made floral umbrellas, floral flags and garlands were issued from the Royal Store to decorate the pagodas, shrines and the streets. Officers in charge of the royal treasury issued money for all expenses of advance preparations. From the 9th to the 14th waxing moon, puppet shows were performed nightly at four Royal Yards.”

“From the 1st to the 3rd waning moon, altogether three successive nights East Myint Mo, West Myint Mo, East Maze, and West Maze were illuminated. In the evening till 4 pm Siamese drama, music and dance, Myanmar drama, music and dance were performed. Somersault, climbing the greasy pole, acrobatics, rope walking, Chinese

dragon dance and music were displayed and performed. From 4 pm to 2 am puppet shows were staged every night.”

“All government departments staged their respective theatrical performances every night at 16 pagodas. At 16 places of the Palace, city music was played. Over 50 drums of different sizes and kinds and over 500 dancers, singers, and instrumentalists were employed to perform by turn on the streets. They were awarded each a pusoe, a scarf, a jacket and a nightly fee of kyats 2 in silver. They strolled and performed their talent on the streets between the Palace and the Pagodas and at the stations, they stopped to report for their duty. Officers in charge of royal tea, betel and drinking water, umbrella and sword were assigned to the supervision of illuminating the streets between the Palace and Hluttaw.”

“Their Majesties made rounds at the East and West Mazes. The first marquee has displayed a variety of fruits, at the second, the third and the fourth marquees were displayed cakes, jams, sweets and creams of various kinds. At the Myint Mo marquee cigars with crackers hidden inside, cheroots, pickled tea and betel leaves and nuts were displayed.”

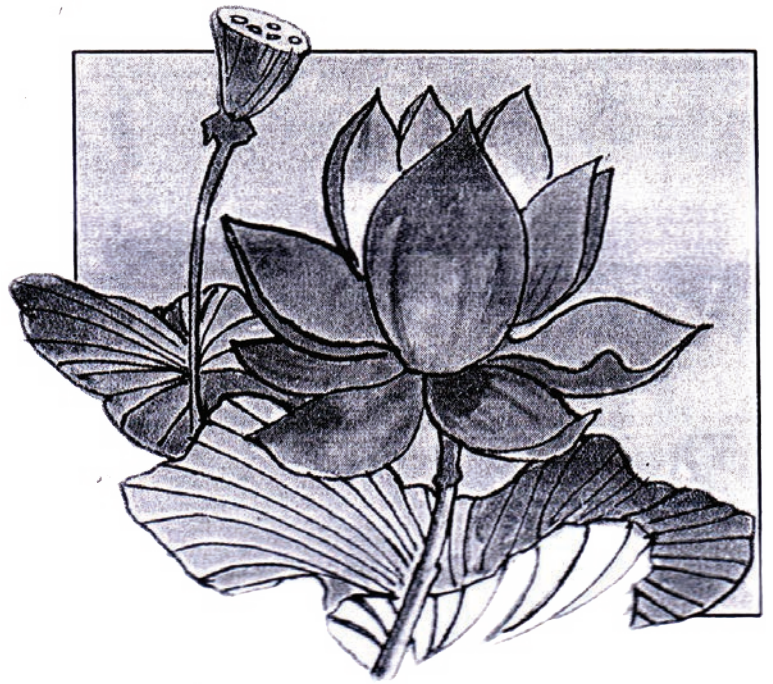
“At the left, Myint Mo and Maze in the first marquee tins of biscuits and bottles of perfume were displayed. In the second marquee were displayed rolls of linen, woollen cloth, velvet, and felt of multi-colours. In the third marquee were displayed paper boxes of identical size design and colour containing each different materials such as cotton scarves, and silk scarves in some, velvet in others, cotton materials in some, silk and embroidered materials in others and so on. At the fourth marquee were displayed similar boxes containing different men’s wears and women’s wears of silk, cotton, foreign-made and home-made, fine quality and poor quality – all mixed up. At the fifth marquee sacks of 1,000 kyats silver, and 1,000 copper coins, all put into the boxes of identical size and appearance. At all the marquees, sweets and refreshments were served to the guests.”

“Their Majesties visited every marquee and every reception centre. The Courtiers and their attendants were invited to take away anything and

any amount of those displayed in the marquees. But they must carry them only in one round and carry themselves. Their Majesties were amused to observe the human greed and vanity when everyone tried to take as much as possible from every marquee but was unable to carry the load. Some fell under the weight. Since it was forbidden to abandon the parcels on the way, many laboured hard to carry them on the head, shoulders, and hands. When the parcels were opened in the presence of Their Majesties it was exciting and amusing to find that Ministers and men attendants received feminine clothing and paraphernalia whereas dames and ladies landed on heaps of men’s wears. But some were lucky to get the useful lots. Their Majesties were much amused and happy...”

Outside the capital and in the countryside the light festival of Thadingyut takes the local character. In towns and villages along the rivers, illuminations are made on the water. When darkness falls, people row out into the middle of the stream and light up the little oil lamps, placed them on floats made of banana stems, bamboos or reeds and let the floats adrift in the water. The scene is spectacular. The rising full moon sending out its silvery rays through the foliage of swaying palm, cocoa nut, banana and mango trees create artistic black and white designs on the water surface, while the flickering flames of oil lamps on the floats cast shimmering reflections in the ripples. In places like Shan State, fire balloons are let loose, or in the Pa-O villages locally made fire rockets are shot into the sky. The idea is to pay homage to the Sulamani Pagoda in the Celestial Kingdom in which were enshrined the hair of Prince Siddhattha and the sacred tooth relic of the Lord Gautama Buddha.

Two serious ceremonies of Thadingyut are *Pawa rana* and *Puja*. The former is the ceremony performed by the monks. It is held at the end of the Buddhist Lent where a monk has to ask other monks to reprimand him for any sin he may have committed. This ceremony takes place every year on the full moon day of Thadingyut in the ordination hall of the monastery precincts. Before the ceremony takes place, the junior monks sweep the floor, clean the place, and fill the pots



with drinking water. They also prepare seats for the monks to sit on. Then the monks led by the most senior monk assemble to perform the ceremony.

The origin of *Pawa rana* dates back to the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. While the Lord Buddha was residing in Jetavana vihara at Savatthi, some monks observed their lent at a village in Kosala. These monks believed that unity and happiness among them could be achieved by not talking to one another because talking could cause arguments and disputes. So, they kept mum throughout the lent period. When Lent was over they visited the Lord Buddha and paid homage to him. The Lord Buddha greeted them, by asking after their health, happiness and unity during Lent. The monks exclaimed how they kept silent so as to gain unity and happiness.

The Lord Buddha objected to their method, saying that keeping mum was like a dumb and that kind of behaviour was disrespectful to the donors and supporters of Sangha. The monk who behaves like a dumb is sinful. The best way to achieve unity and happiness among monks was by means of *Pawa rana* – by inviting the monks to assemble and letting each monk by turn ask other monks to point out if he has been seen, heard or suspected of committing any sin, and if so, letting other monks reprimand the sinful monk. By so doing the sinful monk will be repented and pardoned and the monks will live in harmony, unity and happiness.

The latter ceremony is performed by the laymen. “*Puja*” means worship or making a devotional offering. According to Buddhism, there are five infinite

debts of gratitude, the gratitude owed to the Buddha, the gratitude owed to the Dhamma (his teaching), the gratitude owed to the Sangha (the monks), the gratitude owed to the teachers, the gratitude owed to the parents. It is a religious obligation to worship and make a devotional offering to them. In addition, those who are senior in age, rank, and position, and those who have helped you while you are in difficulty should be respected, worshipped and given due *Puja*. The full moon day of Thadingyut is an auspicious occasion for Myanmar Buddhists to visit the aged, the seniors, the teachers and true friends to pay them reverence and give them devotional gifts. In return, they receive blessings and loving kindness from them. To the minors, some pocket money may be given by the aged for their enjoyment of the Thadingyut festival. The procedure of *Puja* is simple. The performer reverently sits in front of the aged or superiors and clasps his or her hands together in the form of a lotus bud and he or she bows three times, asking forgiveness for any offence he or she may have committed physically, verbally, or mentally. The aged or the superiors give him or her pardon and some words of advice on good behaviour; the good way of living as expounded in the Mingala Sutta or the Discourse on the Way to Auspiciousness preached by the Lord Buddha.

The festival of light in Thadingyut is an occasion for rejoicing and merry-making, but in essence, it is an auspicious occasion for spiritual delight and merit-making.



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

THE Ministry of Commerce manages 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 (SOPs).

On 12 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and concentrators, were imported by four companies us-

ing seven vehicles.

A total of 1,137 empty oxygen cylinders, two oxygen plants, four oxygen refilling machines for the hospital, one oxygen generator, 111 oxygen concentrators, seven tonnes of gloves, and 14 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw and Myawady trading posts, seaports and Yangon International Airport.

Two oxygen plants were transported to Yangon, officials said.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including online registration for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, 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 medical aids are loaded on a lorry.



Elderly people receive 2nd dose of COVID vaccines in Kyaikmaraw Township



A Kyaikmaraw local get Covid jab.

TO reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, over 55-year-old people in Kyaikmaraw Township received

COVID vaccines starting from 14 September.

A total of 30,998 people who were vaccinated for the first

time on 14 September received the second dose at 9 am yesterday.

Healthcare officials gave the vaccines to people between the ages of 55 and 64, young people over 18 years of age, staff families, private bank employees, shop owners, chronic persons and persons with disabilities.

Officials from the COVID-19 Disease Control Unit in the township inspected vaccination sites.

Systematic vaccination was ordered and necessary measures were taken under the regulations issued by the Ministry of Health, officials said. — Cho Myat Myat Htwe (IPRD)/GNLM

Factory workers get 2nd dose of COVID jab in Htantabin Township

HEALTHCARE officials gave the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to workers from four factories at Htantabin textile factory, No. 4 Ward, Htantabin Township, northern Yangon District on 12 October.

Volunteers and health officials administered the COVID doses to 232 workers from the Htantabin textile factory, 34 workers from Haw Swint Factory, 104 workers from Global Paper Holding Factory and 12 workers from Panda Seasoning Powder Factory respectively.

Officials, members and chairman of the township administration inspected the vaccination of 382 workers from the four workshops.

Vaccination of factory

workers from private factories in Htantabin Township was carried out by health workers as per health guidelines under the auspices of the township COVID-19 disease control and emergency response committee.

On 16 October, workers from 5 workshops including Hydrodynamic Factory in Rakhine Yoegy Village-tract and Paing Seint Factory in Asugyi Village will receive the vaccines.

The second dose COVID-19 vaccine will be given to workers from Minthar Lay Garment Factory in Tu Chaung Village-tract on 19 October and workers from Overseas Factory on 22 October respectively. — Zin Min Htike (Htantabin)/GNLM



COVID-19 patients systematically accepted at COVID centres for healthcare

MILITARY hospitals and clinics, transit centres and military training depots in various areas of the Military Command Headquarters are being set up to provide healthcare for COVID-19 confirmed patients, officials said.

In addition, quarantine centres are also being set up in the relevant townships in collaboration with responsible persons, officials from the Ministry of Health and other departments and charity groups.

As of 7 pm yesterday, a total of 112 people: 61 men and 51 women were under special surveillance at the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre.

A total of seven men and

five women were also quarantined at the Hlaing Township Transit Centre in Yangon Region.

Local medical teams and officials at the respective Mili-

tary Command Headquarters are assisting with the accommodation, health and medical care of the patients and laboratory-confirmed patients, officials added. — MNA



Covid tests are underway.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Livestock, fisheries attract six foreign investment projects in 2020-2021FY

THE livestock and fisheries sector attracted six foreign investment projects during the last financial year 2020-2021, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those businesses brought in about US\$19.698 million, including the expansion of investments by the existing joint ventures.

They are executing layer farming, pig farming and sales of pigs, production and farming of eggs and shrimp, as per data of the DICA.

Since 1988-1989FY, about \$924.5 million of FDI have flowed into the livestock and fisheries

sector.

Next, 16 countries have invested in the livestock and fisheries sector so far. Among them, Thailand has topped the list of investments, with over \$380 million, followed by Singapore with about \$130 million.

Myanmar's livestock and fishery sector are crucial to the livelihoods of many vulnerable households and contribute to improving nutritional outcomes in the country. — KK/GNLM

Those businesses brought in about US\$19.698 million, including the expansion of investments by the existing joint ventures.



Agro exports soar to \$4.6 bln in 2020-2021FY



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

THE agricultural exports jumped to US\$4.6 billion during the last financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups, as per the statistic of the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures reflect an increase of \$897 million last FY. The agro exports topped \$3.7 billion in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

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

The coronavirus pandemic impacted the foreign demand for other export groups; agricultural products, fishery, livestock, mineral, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for 37 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits

and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

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

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G to G pact also ensures a strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required to meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated. The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. — KK/GNLM

Exchange rate on US dollar stands at K2,000

THE exchange rate on the US dollar hit around K2,000 in the local forex market, as per money exchangers.

Last September-end, a dollar value reached the highest of over K3,000 in history.

Consequently, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$40 million to the authorized dealers.

The CBM sold the foreign currency to the prioritized sectors (palm oil, fuel oil and pharmaceuticals) at an auction rate through the authorized banks every week.

The CBM sold the US dollar at an auction rate of K1,750 and the authorized dealers resold them at K1,753.

The CBM sold the US dollars at the set rate to the banks with the authorized dealer licence where the companies screened by National Trade Facilitation Committee opened an account.

During a week from 13 to 17 September, 25 million US dollars were sold. Again, 15 million dollars were sold to nine banks with the authorized dealer licence.

In September, the CBM sold 63 million dollars to the private banks to steer the local currency value.

In August, the CBM reportedly sold \$28 million at its auction rate. Kyat is weakening in the local forex market. In a bid to control the dollar gain against Kyat,

the CBM sold about 6.8 million dollars on 3 February 2021, \$12 million in April, \$24 million in May, \$12 million in June and \$39 million in July in the auction market respectively.

The US dollar exchange rate stood only K1,330 in January-end, whereas it rose to K2,000 at present, recording an increase of K700 in ten months.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. The rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730 in May and it moved to the maximum of K1,595-1,620 in June. The rate stood at K1,626-1,670 in July. It hit the

lowest of K1,660 and the highest of K1,682 in August. Last month, the rate edged up to K3,200 and fell to K1,696.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate reached a peak of K1,650 in the local currency market. — NN/GNLM



The CBM sold the US dollar at an auction rate of K1,750 and the authorized dealers resold them at K1,753.

Toyota aiming to bring high-efficiency solar tech to vehicle lineup

TOYOTA Motor Corp. said Tuesday it will aim to equip its cars with highly efficient solar power generation systems as the automaker ramps up its efforts to achieve carbon neutrality.

Toyota will carry out research and development with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, which has expertise in renewable energy production, and Toyota Central R&D Labs Inc., a group firm of the automaker that is focused on achieving technological advances.

"The three parties will seek to popularize vehicles equipped with solar power generation systems — To this end, (we) will pursue improve-

ments in conversion efficiency and reductions in cost for both solar batteries and solar power generation systems," Toyota said in a press release, without giving details about the in-vehicle systems.

Based on data collected by the national institute, Toyota seeks to improve the conversion efficiency of solar power generation systems and batteries and bring down costs to allow for wider adoption.

To achieve its goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to net zero by 2050, Toyota will also step up the development of technology to produce and transport near emission-free hydrogen at lower costs. Automakers



Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday it will aim to equip its cars with highly efficient solar power generation systems as the automaker ramps up its efforts to achieve carbon neutrality. PHOTO: TOYOTA/KYODO NEWS

are shifting their focus to electrified vehicles from conventional internal combustion engine cars as a way to do their part in reaching greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gas emissions are blamed

for global warming.

Toyota has set a goal of increasing its global sales of electrified vehicles to 8 million units in 2030, offering a variety of options from hybrids to hydrogen-powered fuel-cell cars.— Kyodo News ■

Saudi targets \$100 bln yearly in foreign investment

SAUDI Arabia seeks to attract foreign investment of more than \$100 billion annually under a National Investment Strategy announced Monday as part of efforts to diversify the oil-dependent economy.

The strategy is expected to raise annual foreign direct investment flows to 388 billion riyals (\$103 billion) and increase annual domestic investment to 1.7 trillion riyals by 2030, the Saudi Press Agency said after Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, launched the initiative.

SPA said it will be "a key enabler" of his Vision 2030 plan, announced in 2016 to diversify the economy of the world's biggest oil exporter. "Today, the

kingdom embarks on a new investment era to empower Saudi and international private-sector investors with more and better opportunities," SPA quoted Prince Mohammed as saying. He added that "the NIS will draw up comprehensive investment plans for sectors, including manufacturing, renewable energy, transport and logistics, tourism, digital infrastructure, and health care," SPA said. Among its measures the strategy is to establish special economic zones with competitive regulations and incentives, transfer strategic supply chains to the kingdom, and develop new financing solutions for the private sector to promote capital formation, according to SPA.—AFP ■

Samsung boss goes on trial on drugs charges

THE de-facto leader of South Korea's sprawling Samsung group Lee Jae-yong went on trial Tuesday on charges of illegally using the anaesthetic propofol, the latest legal travail to beset the multi-billionaire.

Lee — the vice-chairman of the world's biggest smartphone maker Samsung Electronics and according to Forbes the world's 297th richest person — is accused of having repeatedly taken the anaesthetic at a plastic surgery clinic in Seoul in 2017 and 2018.

Propofol is normally a medical anaesthetic but is also sometimes used recreationally, and an overdose of the drug was given as the cause of pop star Michael Jackson's death in 2009. Usage is normally seen as a minor offence in the South and prosecutors originally proposed fining him 50 million won (\$42,000) under a summary indictment, a procedure where less serious cases do not go to court.—AFP ■

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For Unilever PLC
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Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Dated: 13 October 2021

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1058W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1058W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-10-2021 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.

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Japan ruling party seeks defence spending boost



Prime Minister Kishida will lead the ruling party into general elections at the end of October. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAPAN'S ruling conservatives unveiled their campaign platform Tuesday, saying they would aim to boost defence spending, possibly even doubling it, to counter threats from China and North Korea.

The long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party, led by new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, is campaigning to maintain its majority in parliament in 31 October elections.

It announced pledges on Tuesday including tackling the pandemic and working to boost the middle class.

The party, while not directly naming China, also promised to "seek responsible actions" over human rights issues related to the Uyghurs, Tibet, ethnic Mon-

golians and Hong Kong.

And it laid out longer-term policy goals including expanding Japan's defence budget beyond two percent of GDP, a ratio that would put it on par with members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the party said. That would mark a departure from Japan's political tradition of capping defence spending below one percent of its GDP, which stands around \$5 trillion.

The Japanese defence ministry is currently asking for around \$50 billion for the coming fiscal year from April.

"We are demonstrating our

resolve to defend the Japanese people's lives, property, territory, territorial waters, territorial airspace, sovereignty and national honour," Sanae Takaichi, the party's policy chief, told a press conference.

"We will offer policies that will result in firm diplomacy and stronger defence capacity," added Takaichi, a staunch nationalist.

The party said it would continue to press Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons, adding that Japan should, in the long term, boost deterrence including the ability to disable missiles from hostile nations.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Mako visits imperial graves ahead of high-profile marriage

JAPAN'S Princess Mako visited the graves of her great-grandparents in Tokyo on Tuesday to offer prayers ahead of her controversy-hit marriage to boyfriend Kei Komuro later this month.

The visit was made at the request of the 29-year-old princess, a niece of Emperor Naruhito, who is set to go ahead with the marriage that was imperiled by a financial dispute involving Komuro's mother.

Princess Mako will skip the traditional wedding rites, the first time a female member of the royal family has done so in postwar Japan. Under the current rules, women lose their royal status once they marry a commoner.

Wearing a gray dress and a white face mask on a rainy day in the Japanese capital, Princess Mako bowed deeply in front of the mausoleums of Emperor Showa and his wife Empress Kojun and bowed to the press before leaving the site.

About 100 people gathered at the entrance of the Musashino Imperial Graveyard in Tokyo's Hachioji city to catch a glimpse of the princess, who will be leaving the imperial household upon marrying Komuro on 26 October.—Kyodo News ■

Brazil's Bolsonaro accused of 'crimes against humanity' at ICC

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro was accused Tuesday of "crimes against humanity" at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for his alleged role in the destruction of the Amazon, the first case seeking to explicitly link deforestation to loss of life.

Planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from burning and industrial-scale agriculture in the Amazon are higher than the total annual emissions of Italy or Spain. Deforestation in the region already releases more CO₂ than the rest of the Amazon can absorb.

Austrian environmental justice campaigners Allrise filed the official complaint at The Hague-based court Tuesday morning. They asked for legal proceedings against Bolsonaro and his administration for actions "directly connected to the negative impacts of climate change around the world".

The complaint accuses the Brazilian leader of waging a widespread campaign resulting in the murder of environmental defenders and of endangering the global population through emissions caused by deforestation.

It harnesses the growing field of climate attribution science, which allows researchers to prove a link between extreme weather events, on the one hand, and global heating and environmental degradation, on the other. The team behind it said that Bolsonaro's administration had sought to "systematically remove, neuter, and eviscerate laws, agencies and individuals that serve to protect the Amazon".—AFP ■

Saudi and Iran signal warming ties but 'real steps' needed



Saudi forces in Aden on 18 November 2019. **PHOTO: SALEH AL-OBEIDI/AFP**

REGIONAL arch-rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran are showing signs of warming relations, but experts say more work is needed to ease tensions after a five-year

rift. Sunni kingpin Saudi Arabia and Shiite-majority Iran cut ties in 2016 after protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in the Islamic republic following the

kingdom's execution of a revered Shiite cleric. In recent weeks, officials from both countries, on opposing sides in multiple Middle East conflicts, have spoken positively about breakthrough talks held in Baghdad since April. The discussions were launched under Iran's former moderate president Hassan Rouhani and have continued under his ultraconservative successor, Ebrahim Raisi.

A foreign diplomat residing in the kingdom who is privy to the negotiations said that the two sides "were on the verge of agreeing — to ease tensions between them and the (diplomatic) proxy war in the region" during the last round of talks.—AFP ■

Kushner, Ivanka Trump in Jerusalem for Abraham Accords initiative



Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz (L) shakes hands with Ivanka Trump alongside her husband Jared Kushner (C) during the inaugural event of the Abraham Accords Caucus, at Israel's parliament, the Knesset. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAELI lawmakers flanked by former president Donald Trump's daughter and son-in-

law launched an initiative in Jerusalem on Monday to advance the Abraham Accords that saw

Arab states normalise ties with Israel.

Jared Kushner, a former White House adviser married to Ivanka Trump, was a major architect of the deals between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

At the launch of the Abraham Accords Caucus in Israel's parliament, the Knesset, Kushner said the agreements created a "new paradigm" in the region, which could have "very different outcomes" depending on the actions of current leaders.

Critics of the Trump approach accused him of advancing Arab reconciliation with Israel as a substitute for meaningful efforts to advance the rights of the Palestinians.—AFP ■

No reason to believe US is no longer hostile to N. Korea, Kim says



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivers a speech during the opening ceremony of the Defence Development Exhibition in Pyongyang on 11 October 2021. PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO NEWS

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the United States has done nothing to make him believe it is no longer hostile toward his nation, state media reported Tuesday, while blaming it for tensions in the region.

In his speech at the opening ceremony of the Defense Development Exhibition titled “Self-Defence-2021” in the capital Pyongyang on Monday, Kim also stressed North Korea’s readiness to continue

with weapons development to increase deterrence in the nation’s self-defense, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea marked the 76th founding anniversary of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea on Sunday without holding a military parade. The country held one on the anniversary last year.

North Korean media published photos from the event held at the Three-Revolution

Exhibition House, including those of a weapon presumed to be the hypersonic missile North Korea says it has newly developed, as well as an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In Monday’s speech, Kim said that even though the United States has signaled frequently it is not hostile to North Korea, there has been no action that leads Pyongyang to believe that is the case.

This, in addition to Kim’s criticism of the United States for raising regional tensions, seems to suggest North Korea is not ready to engage in dialogue any time soon.

The North Korean leader also served South Korea a warning, saying that if Seoul continues to raise issues with Pyongyang’s weapons development, it will be met with “powerful action,” KCNA reported.

Kim said weapons development is “a prerequisite and vital state affairs that had to be maintained all the time to increase defense capabilities,” KCNA reported.—Kyodo News ■

Mix of hope, skepticism among Mapuche as Chile rewrites constitution

ONE hundred days ago, Chile’s new constituent assembly led by an indigenous woman president began work on rewriting the South American country’s constitution, but tensions remain high amongst the Mapuche community.

One person died and 17 were injured on Sunday in clashes between security forces and indigenous Mapuche protesters demanding autonomy for their people.

The Mapuche are Chile’s largest indigenous group but

have suffered centuries of discrimination and marginalization. They are demanding the return of ancestral lands and self-determination. And many doubt that even having one of their own, 58-year-old linguist Elisa Loncon, at the head of the new constituent assembly will bring the change they want.

“It’s a new form of colonialism of the Mapuche people,” Juan Pichun, a leader of the radical group Arauco Malleco Coordination (CAM), told AFP.—AFP ■



Juan Pichun, the leader of a radical Mapuche organization, says a new constitution will not make up for the injustice committed against indigenous people. PHOTO: AFP

Top UN court to rule on bitter Kenya-Somalia border spat

THE UN’s top court will rule in a bitter border dispute between Somalia and Kenya on Tuesday, delivering a verdict with potentially far-reaching consequences for bilateral ties and energy extraction in the region.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), is to give its final word in a case filed by Mogadishu more than seven years ago.

A full bench of 15 judges led by US judge Joan Donoghue will hand down the verdict at the Peace Palace in The Hague at 1300 GMT.

At stake are sovereignty, undersea riches and the future of relations between two countries in one of the world’s most troubled regions.

Kenya has already lashed the ICJ as biased and announced it does not recognise the court’s binding jurisdiction.

At the heart of the dispute is the direction that the joint maritime boundary should take from the point where the land frontiers meet on the coast.

Somalia insists the bound-



Kenyan coastal fishermen based at Lamu near Somalia demand to be heard in the court dispute over Indian Ocean maritime boundary in March 2021. PHOTO: TONY KARUMBA/AFP

ary should follow the orientation of its land border and thus head out in a line towards the southeast.

But Kenya says its boundary runs in a straight line east — a delineation that would give it a big triangular slice of the sea.

Nairobi says it has exercised sovereignty over the area since 1979, when it proclaimed the limits of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) — a mar-

itime territory extending up to 200 nautical miles offshore where a state has the right to exploit resources. The contested 100,000-square-kilometre (38,000-square-mile) area is believed to contain rich gas and oil deposits.

Nairobi has already granted exploration permits to Italian energy giant ENI but Somalia is contesting the move.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia, France, Germany may meet on Ukraine

RUSSIA, France and Germany said Monday that their foreign ministers could soon meet to discuss the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Moscow said President Vladimir Putin, his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel instructed the ministers to work towards a meeting during a joint telephone call Monday.

According to the Kremlin, it would take place within the framework of the “Normandy Four” — which usually brings together officials from Moscow and Kiev under the mediation of Paris and Berlin.

The Kremlin did not say in its statement if Ukraine would take part in the meeting.

However France’s presidency said that it should involve Ukraine.

The presidency also said in a statement that Macron and Merkel held a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky before speaking to Putin. —AFP ■

Bolivia opposition blocks streets in protest at government ‘persecution’

BOLIVIA’S opposition blocked streets in the country’s main cities on Monday in protest against the government of President Luis Arce, whom they accuse of “political persecution.”

Police responded with tear gas to disperse crowds in the capital La Paz and in the city of Cochabamba in central Bolivia.

A month after completing his first year in office, the leftist president faced his first protests, driven by opponents who accuse him persecuting political rivals.

They are demanding the release, among others, of former head of state Jeanine Anez, jailed on charges of leading a coup in 2019 to oust then-president Evo Morales.—AFP ■

Yangon United announces contract termination of team striker Maung Maung Lwin

MYANMAR National League club Yangon United officially terminated the contract of Myanmar national team striker Maung Maung Lwin on 11 October.

Maung Maung Lwin's contract with Yangon United will expire at the end of 2022, but his contract was terminated at the request of the player, according to a statement from Yangon United.

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, some Myanmar players are trying to get permission to play in foreign clubs, and Maung Maung Lwin is likely to play in foreign clubs.

Maung Maung Lwin joined Yangon United in early 2018 and assisted his team in winning Myanmar National League championship trophy once and

Knockout Cup twice.

"Today we have got mutual agreement to terminate the contract between me and Yangon United," striker Maung Maung Lwin said.

"Thanks to YUFC for accepting my request to have new challenges at abroad leagues since the local league is stop ped here. Let me express my gratitude to the club President, CEO and office crew as well as my teammates who felt like a family when we were together.

"Especially thanking the fans who are always supporting me, behind me and around me that I will always remember forever. Hopefully, we will meet again with a professional nature.

"I will commit to my



Myanmar national team and Yangon United striker Maung Maung Lwin. PHOTO: YUFC

professional career to become a stronger and hardworking player in the future. I just need your support guys. Stay strong and stay safe. Cheer!" Myanmar football star added.

Maung Maung Lwin's teammate Aung Thu is currently playing for Thai League I Club Buriram United and Kyaw Ko Ko in Thai League II Club Phrae United. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Salah helps Egypt to crucial World Cup triumph in Libya



Prolific scorer Mohamed Salah playing for hosts Egypt against South Africa in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations. PHOTO: AFP / KHALED DESOUKI / FILE

LIVERPOOL star Mohamed Salah helped Egypt to a 3-0 World Cup qualifying triumph over closest rivals Libya on Monday that puts them on the brink of winning Group F and reaching the final elimination round.

The two-time African Footballer of the Year was a constant threat in Benghazi as the Pharaohs completed a double over the Mediterranean Knights having won 1-0 in Alexandria three days ago.

Ahmed el Fotouh broke the

deadlock on 40 minutes, Mostafa Mohamed added a second goal in first-half added time and substitute Ramadan Sobhi netted after 72 minutes.

Egypt have 10 points, four more than second-place Libya, after four rounds and need one win from fixtures against Angola and Gabon in November to be sure of making the play-offs.

The 10 group winners will be split into five pairings, and the winners of the two-legged ties in March will represent Africa at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

In Group D, Ivory Coast retained a one-point advantage over Cameroon in what is widely regarded as the toughest of the 10 mini-leagues with the two nations boasting 10 World Cup appearances between them.

Ivory Coast edged Malawi 2-1 in Cotonou and Cameroon pipped Mozambique 1-0 in Tangier to turn the section into a two-team race to finish first.—AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration 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.

Werner double sees Germany qualify for Qatar World Cup

GERMANY continued their spotless record under new coach Hansi Flick and secured qualification for the 2022 World Cup as Chelsea striker Timo Werner scored twice in a 4-0 rout of North Macedonia on Monday.

Just months after they slumped to a shock 2-1 defeat to the same opponent on home soil, Germany cruised to a dominant win in Skopje to increase their lead at the top of Group J to eight points and secure their berth at next year's tournament in Qatar.

Werner's Chelsea teammate Kai Havertz also got on the scoresheet and Jamal Musiala scored his first international goal as Germany made it five wins out of five under Flick, who

took over from Joachim Loew after Euro 2020.

The 56-year-old coach said 2014 World Cup winners Germany still had "a long way to go", but insisted his team could compete with the best in the world.

"Our players have the quality to rival France, Italy and Belgium. I am very optimistic," he said.

Midfielder Leon Goretzka also backed Flick to take Germany back to the top of the world game after failing to make it past the first two rounds at both of their last two major tournament appearances.

"We still need to improve to get back to the top, but there are few people better placed than Hansi to do that," he told RTL. — AFP ■