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Saturday, 16 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.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark Sixth Anniversary of signing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA

10th Waxing of Thadingyut 1383 ME

15 October 2021

Esteemed national brethren,

Today is the sixth anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA between the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ethnic armed organi-

zations. As the ceremonies to mark the annual ceremonies of signing the NCA took place in Nay Pyi Taw, and the 5th anniversary day was held with the participation of COVID-19 applica-

tions in Nay Pyi Taw in the past, I sent a message to the 5th anniversary of the ceremony and delivering the speech online due to outbreak of COVID-19 this year. At today's 6th anniversary of the NCA, I'd like to extend greetings to all national brethren to have physical

and mental wellbeing to further serve the perpetual peace for the interests of the State and the Union all the national people aspire.

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Aim is set to ensure prosperity of the nation and emerge genuine democratic federal Union: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the SAC meeting 16/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October 2021.

THE government discussed matters related to standing with the ASEAN Charter and ASEAN pledge, and the discussions are being held to ease tensions as much as possible as the later political performance of solving the problems consists of some interferences, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 16/2021 of the State Administration Council at the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his opening address, the Senior General stressed the need to strive for increasing the per-acre yield of paddy to increase the income of local farmers without satisfying the local rice suffi-

ciency. The government needs to supply fertilizers and diesel to the local farmers as much as possible. The Senior General said he urged the local authorities for increasing the per-acre yield of agricultural products in the Kachin and Shan states, Mandalay and Yangon regions. As Yangon Region is the centre of all

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Concerning international relations, ASEAN reached five consensuses on 24 April including the sending of ASEAN special envoy. It will be the cooperation measures of the ASEAN for political reconciliation and restoring peace and stability in Myanmar. Myanmar discussed the standing of the ASEAN in accord with its charter and pledge.

Promoting and cementing Union Spirit

LIKEWISE if one is too eager to embrace the past, one may lose the road to the future". The government has decided to further promote the process of cementing the Union Spirit and peace process before the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Independence Day.

(Excerpt from the Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark Sixth Anniversary of signing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15-10-2021)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 185/2021

10th Waxing of Thadingyut 1383 ME
15 October 2021

Closing criminal cases involving members of ethnic armed organizations

(1) In honour of the 6th anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October, the Chairman of the State Administration Council has issued an order under Section 419 of the Constitution to close the cases against 114 members and associates of the following ethnic armed organizations who are still being prosecuted in various courts in the country for the sake of peace.

(A) AA	61 persons
(B) KIA	23 persons
(C) KNU/KNLA(PC)	1 person
(D) MNDAA	1 person
(E) RCSS/SSA	12 persons
(F) SSPP/SSA	5 persons
(G) TNLA	11 persons

(2) All criminal cases against the members and affiliates of the ethnic armed organizations mentioned in paragraphs (1) (A) to (G) above shall be closed and all the defendants must be acquitted.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary of State Administration Council

Union Election Commission Announcement

14 October 2021

1. The Union Election Commission will have to hold the free and fair multiparty democracy general election according to the five-point road map of the State Administration Council. To adopt the appropriate electoral system in line with the trend in the coming election, a meeting will be held with the political parties and the civil society organizations regarding the electoral systems, including the PR system, in Yangon in the first week of November 2021.

2. Anyone interested in the PR system can join the discussion. Those who want to participate in the event can send the following information to the Election Department of UEC at 067-3404233 and 067-3404224, dep.election@e-uec.gov.mm or Yangon Region election sub-commission office at 01-2306250 and 01-2306293 not later than 1-11-2021.

- (A) Name
- (B) Occupation
- (C) Address (phone number)
- (D) Paper to be discussed (Hard Copy/Soft Copy)

Remarks: The time, date and venue will be announced later.

1,329 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 October, total figure rises to 485,646

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 485,646 after 1,329 new cases were reported on 15 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 437,855 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,297 after 42 died.—MNA

Aim is set to ensure prosperity of the nation and emerge genuine democratic federal Union: Senior General

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opportunities, Yangon Region will reach the top among regions and states if it applies the advantages of smooth transport.

Concerning international relations, ASEAN reached five consensus on 24 April including the sending of ASEAN special envoy. It will be the cooperation measures of the ASEAN for political reconciliation and restoring peace and stability in Myanmar. Myanmar discussed the standing of the ASEAN in accord with its charter and pledge. The government discussed matters related to standing with the ASEAN charter and ASEAN pledge, and the discussions are being held to ease tensions as much as possible as the later political performance of solving the problems consist of some interferences.

The Senior General recounted that he delivered the virtual speech to mark the 6th anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October, urging NCA signatories need to enhance their tasks and inviting the non-NCA signatories. The speech via video message comprises measures of public aspirations and good deeds for the country related to peace. Files of lawsuits against some detained

members of EAOs were withdrawn and they were released except those who committed the terror acts.

The government adopted the policies related to the prosperity of the State and food sufficiency as a national cause. The Tatmadaw and the Ministry of Home Affairs cooperate with each other in tackling the armed conflicts. On the other hand, some EAOs commit narcotic drug production and trafficking based on political instability. The information is received quickly in the areas with strong cooperation of the people, and peace and stability of the region can be restored as quickly as possible.

The trade surplus could be seen in the 2020-2021 financial year but trade volume declined. The drop in trade can be seen across the world. Except for the foodstuffs essential for daily life, trading of all remaining goods is down.

Fertilizer is imported at higher prices and the local demand is high. Efforts must be made for the production of biofertilizers made of animal waste and humus. Priority is being given to the operation of the Urea fertilizer plant for meeting the local demand to some extent. Natu-

The country does not develop as expected due to various reasons.

It is necessary to take lessons from the shameful acts in the previous elections. Efforts are being made to carry out the best works to be handed as a good legacy to new generations.

ral gas produced by Myanmar is sold out to foreign countries for various reasons. It is necessary to generate electricity via hydropower, windmill and solar power so as to reduce the use of natural gas.

The Senior General highlighted the raising of layers in the evaporated cooling system and disclosed the plans to establish more institutes, colleges and universities related to agriculture and livestock breeding.

Arrangements are being made to vaccinate the students, and many people received the vaccines. All people need to abide by the prescribed COVID-19 restrictions. Till 14 Octo-

ber, 12,291,148 persons have been vaccinated. Members of the State Administration Council should consider the prosperity of the nation in all aspects.

Next, meeting participants discussed enactment of the laws necessary for the public security, use of PR system of election to contribute to the federalism, supervision for prevention of bribery cases of bank staff, arrangement for electrification in Chin State, purchase of fuel at fair prices for farming works, and opening of government departments in self-administered regions.

In his response, the Senior General pledged to re-prom-

ulgate the necessary laws and revoke the unnecessary ones in coordination with relevant ministries and organizations. Consideration on setting the floor price of paddy was based on basic salaries of government staff from factories and industries. The proportional representation (PR) system has been agreed in principle. The Union Election Commission holds discussions with political parties and then with NGOs and INGOs. Generating electricity in Chin State must be considered relating to windmills. Priority will be given to opening the necessary offices and departments in self-administered regions for regional development. Arrangements will be made for the conservation of mangrove forests and nipa plantations.

In his conclusion, the Senior General said the aim is set to ensure the prosperity of the nation and emerge the genuine democratic federal Union. The country does not develop as expected due to various reasons. It is necessary to take lessons from the shameful acts in the previous elections. Efforts are being made to carry out the best works to be handed as a good legacy to new generations. —MNA

National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee, NCA signatories hold 6th Anniversary of NCA

THE National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee and NCA signatories met to mark the 6th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee Chairman and Union Minister at the Union Government Office Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and committee members, leaders and representatives NCA signatories DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, ALP, ABSDF, RCSS, PNLO, NMSP and LDU attended the event.

First, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Chairman of National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video message to mark the 6th Anniversa-



The Sixth Anniversary of signing the NCA in progress.

ry of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

(Full text of the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council

Prime Minister Chairman of the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Sixth Anniversary of signing the

NCA is reported separately on page 4 of this daily.)

Then, National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae,

DKBA's Saw Satee, KNU/KNLA-PC's Dr Naw Ka Paw Htoo, ALP's Daw Saw Mra Razar Lin, ABSDF's U Min Zaw and RCSS's Sai Kaung delivered remarks and PNLO's Khun Okkar, NMSP's Naing Aung Ma Ngae and LDU's Kyar Yar Kote made speeches online.

Then, the negotiation committee members Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Khin Maung Yi and U Khin Yi, another member Lt-Gen Ye Aung also made remarks and working committee member Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (retired) addressed online.

Then, the negotiation committee chairman, committee members, leaders and representatives of ethnic armed organization took a commemorative photo and concluded the event. —MNA

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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The peace process of our country is historic and on wider scale. Successive governments and the Tatmadaw have held meetings many times for ending the internal armed conflicts and for internal peace after regaining independence. Due to the diversity of attitude over regaining the independence, Thakin Nu declared 15-point leftist unity principle for restoring the peace with communists more than one month after BCP had gone underground. The majority of those who participated in the efforts to regaining independence of Myanmar in the independence struggle period and during the period of just regaining the independence are leftists. So, the internal peace talk was held to set aside the inequality among the groups and to combine the agreeable ones for restoring the peace. Communists, socialists and People's Yebaw revoked their organizations with the aim of combining them as a single party. AFPFL government ceased the fighting against Communists and ordered Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ne Win to chair the 21-member Leftist Organizing Council in July. But the mission failed. There were many facts to fail the mission. I'd like to disclose one of them. When the 15-point leftist unity principle was released, England and the US wrote that Myanmar became red and it needs to monitor Myanmar. Working partners split among them. As the country was weak in the post-independence era, the government sent U Tin Htut to London for making a clarification of the actual situation. So, the one-point principle "to form the study for Marxism" was removed from the 14-point principles. In this regard, "some western countries just wish to emerge the government they can control, rather than the government capable of serving the interests of the Myanmar people and capable of handling Myanmar's peace process". The government and the Tatmadaw started talks with KNU for internal peace in 1948-1949. One more meeting was held with KNU in 1960. In June 1963 when the Revolutionary Council had taken the responsibility of the State, the statement was released on "an offer of the Revolutionary Council was released to all armed groups underground for internal peace." In the same year, the talks were held with BCP seven times. The meetings were held with KIA and KIO three times. The meeting took place with Ma-Da-Nya-Ta comprising these parties KNU, MNSP and KNPP five times. Among them, the peace could be restored with only Karen Revolutionary



Council-KRC led by Saw Hunter Tha Hmwe. The government held peace talks with KIA 10 times and BCP two times in 1980-1981 in the era of MSPP.

The Revolutionary Council restored the internal peace with armed groups as well as formed the "Internal Unity Advisory Board" on 4 December 1968, aimed at carrying out the tasks on political, economic, social and ethnic affairs to benefit the nation and the national. It aimed to carry out nation-building tasks in unison. The board was formed with 33 members, significantly U Nu (former Prime Minister), U Kyaw Nye-in, Widuya Thakin Chit Maung, U Ba Swe, Mahn Win Maung, Duwa Zaw Lun, Bohmu Aung and Bo Min Khaung. The 33-member board comprised persons from political groups such as Stable (AFPFL), Clean (AFPFL) and Pa-M-Nya-Ta and various ethnic persons. The board was separated into four groups for giving suggestions. They gave various suggestions. In this regard, I'd like to point out that the concept of national reconciliation and its functions are from then on. So, all need to read the historical books because such a concept did not achieve success.

After 1988, the Tatmadaw government in its tenure restored peace with 17 big ethnic armed organizations and 23 small groups after holding the talks. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA was implemented in the multiparty democracy era after 2010. So, the peace was restored with eight NCA signatories in 2015 and two more NCA signatories in 2018, totalling 10. The majority of NCA signatories carried out the signing of the ceasefire agreements for peace in the term of the Tatmadaw government. At this juncture, everybody needs to re-

member a message for EAOs in 2015 just before signing the NCA "don't hurriedly sign the NCA".

The Tatmadaw always urges all ethnic armed organizations to join the path of NCA. So, the attitudes and concepts that the Tatmadaw needs to one-sidedly cease the fire if the peace can be restored. The Tatmadaw has declared 20 statements for a ceasefire and perpetual peace from 21 December 2018 to date and suspended the attacks. As a gesture of hailing the Diamond Jubilee Union Day, the Tatmadaw further suspended its military operations for five months from 1 October 2021 to 28 February 2022 for effectively carrying out the prevention, control and treatment activities of COVID-19 and raising the peace processes, except the time of attacking the security and administrative machinery of the government in addition to State defence and administrative measures of the entire nation. The Tatmadaw has guaranteed the construction of the Union based on democracy and federalism. Democracy must be implemented through equal rights of each region and each ethnic group.

I have said: "Emphasis is being placed primarily on two points in building the nation, and the first point is to firmly implement the democracy in accord with the aspirations of the people as the political vision, and the second point is to prioritize the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency." It is the prioritized political policy of the government. These two points are interrelated. Peace is essential for our country in undertaking the tasks for prosperity.

The day 12 February 2022 is the Diamond Jubilee Union Day of our country. Likewise, the day 4th January 2023 is the

Diamond Jubilee Independence Day of our country. Two important historical events and two big days for a country are near to reach the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. If it calculates the term of these jubilees based on the lifespan of Myanmar people, it would be a life span of a person. Everybody needs to notice a saying that "If one does not know the past, one may commit mistakes again. Likewise if one is too eager to embrace the past, one may lose the road to the future". The government will carry out the process of cementing the Union Spirit and enhancement of the peace process before the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Independence Day.

The government will implement three steps to adopt the further strengthening and sharpening the Union Spirit, forming the implementation bodies formed with ethnic people and carrying out the practical tasks. In this regard, suggestions will be taken from ethnic national people and relevant bodies in addition to informing and educating them.

In practically raising the peace process-

- (1) Relevant ethnic nationals and stakeholders participate in leveraging up the peace process.
- (2) The national unity and peace coordination committees at different levels, the Tatmadaw peace talk committee and ethnic armed organizations directly hold the dialogues and meet with the peace process enhancement bodies.
- (3) The processes are being undertaken for further strengthening the peace with NCA signatories and efforts are being made to mitigate the firing attacks and to reach the bilateral agreements for non-NCA signatories to sign the NCA.

Some ethnic armed organizations need to practically review the concepts without fictional thoughts that it does not need to talk with the current government as the latter is not the elected one and that the current government cannot fully implement the peace process. Evidence indicates the successes in the peace process in the term of the Tatmadaw government after 1988, declining of attacks and development undertakings in ethnic areas. Among these organizations, it proved that the majority of ethnic armed organizations could sign the NCA. I severally urged all participants in the peace conference and NCA anniversary days to forge honesty if they actually aspire the peace

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Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark World Food Day 2021 which falls on 16 October 2021

Esteemed national peoples,

Firstly, I'd like to disperse the compassion on today's auspicious day to mark World Food Day to all the esteemed people residing in Myanmar to enjoy the fruits of mental and physical well-being.

As food sufficiency and nutrition is essential for the daily life of human beings, it is necessary to place a special emphasis on the World Food Day organized by global countries for all.

Currently, 40 per cent of the global population (some three billion) does not get healthy foods whereas 10 per cent of the global people are suffering from the impacts of unsafe foods. The food system of the world is unequal and unfair. Production volumes of crops, livestock and fish and forest products decline in some parts of the world because of climate change, and the content of nutrition in the products changes. The crops, livestock and fish production face 14 per cent of waste and the consumption 17 per cent. On the other hand, as a decline of the economy based on the COVID-19 pandemic hits the food sufficiency of the world, and the UN World Food and Agriculture Organization stated that some 100 million population might face the insufficiency of food in addition to the current 690 population of the world who also suffers from the impacts of food insufficiency.

As such, the global countries need to adopt effective policies for manufacturing nutritious, unsafe and quality products from the production chain in the agriculture sector which is basic for production of foods, minimizing the waste and loss, utilizing the crop and long term existent animal species and techniques in conformity with the climate change and having the chance for breeders and growers to earn the deserved incomes.

Some 70 per cent of the population of Myanmar are residing in the rural area, primarily engaging in the agriculture sector as the main business. The government is implementing the sustainable development plan, the rural region development strategic framework and the agricultural development strategy in line with the sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

The agriculture sector occupies 14.1

per cent of the Gross Domestic Product of the State according to the national plan in the 2019-20 financial year and 7.7 per cent in the livestock sector. The total export value comprises 38 per cent of the export value of the agriculture sector.

The government is implementing the plans on the sufficiency of stable food rice in respective regions for ensuring food sufficiency and further production of quality paddy strains which can get good prices in the foreign market. Especially, efforts are being made to increase the per-acre yield in the current sown acreage.

As cooking oil is imported due to insufficiency of oil despite growing various edible oil crops in the country, it is necessary to raise the domestic cooking oil production by expanding the cultivation of groundnut and sesame in addition to oil palm, sunflower, maize, mustard and soya bean and extracting oil from bran, cotton seeds and maize. On the other hand, efforts are being made for educating the people to reduce consumption of cooking oil to be healthy and cut spending on foreign exchange.

The government pushes the farmers to increase the cultivation of cotton as a main crop in the textile sector for clothing and for generating the job opportunity and modernize the industrial finished goods production.

Although high costs of inputs, transport charges and production costs are high during the period of current COVID-19 infection, the country does not face shortages of foodstuffs. Moreover, as this year's weather is fine and the agricultural water is sufficient, it is estimated that the cultivation and production of crops might not face any impacts.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, regions and states emphasize the adoption of the plans for the cultivation of sown acreage for important crops to ensure food sufficiency, production of quality seeds under the arrangements of relevant departments, cooperative societies and companies to distribute quality strains of seeds at fair prices and develop the private seed production, change cultivation of crops depending on the climatic conditions and geographical conditions, cultivate the cash crops and short-term vegetables in the areas with insufficient

irrigated water, implement the plans of local food sufficiency and speed up the educative works on agricultural techniques.

Efforts are being made to distribute quality pedigrees of cattle and poultry for development of the livestock sector and increase of meat consumption to ensure nutritious sufficiency of the people, enhance high-quality regenerations based on artificial insemination and follow the Good Animal Husbandry Practices-GAHP at the livestock farms.

The government is providing assistance for implementation of the Good Aquaculture Practices-GAqP in fish and prawn farming for grasping the market shares at home and abroad and developing the fish farming process, conducting fish farming courses and distributing the necessary saplings, establishing the laboratory for testing the fish diseases, hatching the fish of cold area, distributing the livestock breeding techniques and fish breeding in cages in the rivers and creeks to local farmers.

Myanmar cultivated 17.20 million acres of staple food paddy which produced over 1,265 million baskets of paddy in 2020-2021 when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. During the period, more than 7.21 acres of main edible crops such as groundnut, sesame and sunflower were cultivated to produce more than 184 million baskets and over 9.81 million acres of pulses and beans to produce over 156.89 million baskets. Moreover, Myanmar produced 1.05 million metric tons of meat, 5.4 million metric tons of fish, 18.7 million metric tons of milk and 2,283.81 million eggs during the period.

Moreover, relevant ministries and organizations are jointly implementing the five-year Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (2018-2023) which aims to reduce the nutritious deficiency rate in the country. Thanks to the efforts to increase agricultural and livestock manufacturing and produce quality products, the country can sustain the sufficiency of rice and foods and export surplus foods.

The development of the country depends on equality in all sectors. Especially, development undertakings in states and less developed areas can narrow the gap between the urban and rural areas.

As such, the government emphasizes supply of drinking water and electricity to the rural areas, setting up the fund without losing capital for doing business, the opening of vocational training courses, cooperation with departments and organizations in personal hygiene of the people and prevention of environmental pollution, and coordination with social organizations to provide techniques, capitals and markets for the manageable scale cottage industries.

Concerning environmental conservation, Myanmar became a member of the Convention of Biological Diversity-CBD in 1995. It drew the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020) to implement the mission on conservation of biodiversity adopted by the conference of the member countries and is implementing it in cooperation with five subject-wise task forces. Moreover, Myanmar is implementing the Myanmar National Biosafety Framework to declare the national biosafety framework and policy.

To sustain the fish resources, the government set the non-fishing season, apply the vessel monitoring system for elimination of illegal fishing, set the non-fishing areas for respective species and fishing areas, check the fishermen not to use the prohibited fishing equipment and conduct the research on assessment for depositing the fish resources.

Esteemed national peoples,

This year's theme of World Food Day is "Our actions are our future. Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life".

For ensuring socio-economic life of the people and beautifying of the environment, the current endeavours of the government such as sufficiency of nutritious and safe foods, narrowing between the rich and the poor; and development of rural areas are conformed to the theme of this year's theme of the World Food Day, and I've sent the message to the esteemed parents at the World Food Day which falls today that the government pledges to make further energetic efforts for its tasks with the active participation of the people.

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and they must uphold the concept that no one is important than peace. Although governments took the office one after another, the country is the Union of Myanmar. It is necessary to systematically identify the government and the State. We all need to be loyal to the Union of Myanmar and forge an honest and genuine will to restore peace for the State rather than the government. Hence, NCA signatories are invited again to further cement the NCA and non-NCA signatories to join the step of the ceasefire and peace process rather than the existing step and sign the NCA. All are urged to carry out the tasks with the vow of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar was revitalized in the multiparty democracy in 2011. In its term, the first government offered the ethnic armed organizations on 18 August 2011 to initiate the peace process essential for building the firm multiparty democracy in accord with the aspiration of the people. After holding the peace talks with 18 ethnic armed organizations for more than four years, the government and eight ethnic armed organizations signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October 2015 and New Mon State Party (NMSPP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) on 13 February 2018. So far, ten ethnic armed organizations have signed the NCA. I recognized and took pride in the endeavours, spirit and undertakings of these organizations and peace negotiators for restoring the peace at present.

The NCA was drawn by an individual or an organization but it was drawn by the government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and all ethnic armed organizations through detailed discussions based on aspirations and initial proposals of ethnic armed organizations. So, the agreement is owned by all. It gained the support of the entire people in addition to recognition and respect of the international community. Hence, we should always pay attention to the NCA which is an unforgettable one.

After signing the NCA, the peace talks are continuously held in line with the provisions of the agreement with relentless perseverance amid the various difficulties. So, the Union Peace Conference has been held five times to sign the 37 points of agreement of the Union Accord Part I, 14 points of agreement of the Union Peace Part II and 21 points of agreement of the Union Accord Part III, totalling 72 points. These discussions and agreements led to building the Union based on democracy and federalism which is an aspiration of the government, the Tatmadaw and all ethnic armed or-

ganizations. The Union Accord Part III mentioned that they agreed to negotiate the topic on the Union based on democracy and federalism phase by phase. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 starting from late 2019, the peace talks could not be held, and at present, as the infection rate of the pandemic declines, I'd like to urge all to continue the process of peace talks with agreements to reach the goal with the firm pledge without losing the way to build the Union based on democracy and federalism aspired by all.

In building the Union based on democracy and federalism we all accept, all ethnic national people from regions and states will have all the rights of federal in the equal term. It is necessary to follow the wish of the majority and pay attention to the wish of the minority. Exercising discrimination and social punishment as enemies who are not conformed to their wish and setting aside them from the society is the attitude of classification system from the feudal era and it is not in conformity with democracy. If the country wishes to forge a democracy, it must have peace and stability based on political and security trends. Everybody needs to notice that all the incidents happening in the country are based on measures of democracy immaturity.

Although everybody defines federalism based on their attitudes, actually, its essence is unification and compatibility. Three kinds of power are shared with different regions and states, races and ethnicities. No matter how different the concepts for democracy and federalism are, it is necessary to choose the system which may be conformed to our country. We all need to completely negotiate the different attitudes over democracy and federalism through the dialogues with the concept that all national brethren shall reside in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar together in a peaceful and tranquil manner.

Esteemed national brethren,

Today is a period when the Tatmadaw has taken the State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution (2008) and the State Administration Council leads the country as the Tatmadaw and political parties strived for negotiations through various ways and means over the vote-rigging of NLD in the 2020 election but the mission failed. Since the time of taking the State responsibilities, the State Administration Council has laid down and is implementing the five-point road map and nine objectives, emphasizing the agreements involved in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA for restoring the perpetual peace. The Tatmadaw

Peace Talk Committee was reconstituted on 1 February 2021 and the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee, the Work Committee and the Negotiation Committee on 1 February. Currently, the negotiation committee held meetings with NCA signatories and non-NCA signatories 21 times for implementing the peace process with momentum.

Although the government is leveraging up the peace process, terror acts of destructionist local and foreign organizations which do not wish to serve the interests of the country, media and extremist NLD members, terrorist groups called NUG, CRPH and PDF wishing to grasp the power of the State through terror ways harm the peace and stability and rule of law in some areas of the country and hamper the peace process to some extent.

It is visible that some NCA signatories perform some acts designed to derail from the peace route due to instigations and incitement of some internal and external organizations and they concerning with the organizations declared as terrorists by the government commit inappropriate acts which may undermine the confidence over the peace process. However, the government is taking measures with a generous mind not to harm the peace process. As I have said, the NCA is a starting point to the peace firstly achieved over 70 years after we all have held the meetings many times and solved the resolution difficultly. I'd like to note that special attention must be paid not to lose the path of peace called the NCA due to terror acts, sabotages, internal and external instigations and incitements of media.

Our government is implementing the political procedures to be firm multiparty democracy system and to build the Union based on democracy and federalism. Our government firmly guarantees such a process. I'd like to urge all ethnic armed organizations to correctly understand the work process being implemented by the State and current true situations and analyze the misinformation of some media with avoiding the acts harming the peace process we all are walking. Continuous walking along the path of the NCA with firm belief will contribute to the emergence of a new democratic government elected by the people by holding a free and fair multiparty democracy general elections in the set period in line with the current work process of the government.

Esteemed national brethren,

At present, the whole globe is suffering from the COVID-19 starting from late 2019. The State Administration Council adopted the policies "No one is impor-

tant than the life of the people" and "Not only the citizens residing in the Union but all human beings regardless of race and religion shall have the equal term of rights to enjoy the healthcare services" and is striving for prevention, control and treatment activities of COVID-19 for the entire people across the nation with might and main. The vaccination programme is being implemented not only for members of NCA signatories, non-NCA signatories and people from the areas of ethnic armed organizations but also the people from the internally displaced person camps. Vaccination started for some armed organizations on priority numbers, and all need to cooperate with the coordination committee to vaccinate in time based on the health knowledge.

Our government has clearly declared to continue the work process for restoring the perpetual peace in line with the NCA and always open the door to the dialogue. As the Tatmadaw is taking the responsibilities of the government, it can carry out all parts of peace dialogues except the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Although it seem that political dialogues cannot be held due to lack of elected government, Hluttaws and MPs, representatives from the political parties would become elected MPs and the cabinet members upon completion of the election. Hence, our efforts to continuously emphasize the political dialogues and peacemaking process together with stakeholders may achieve further progress.

As our country needs to hand over a good, peaceful legacy mostly aspired by the entire people to new generations in the peace process of the country, we have to implement the peace process without delay. Only when our country which enriches in natural resources can restore peace, will it be stable, peaceful and developed with momentum. As the government and the Tatmadaw are emphasizing the restoration of perpetual peace, now is the best time not only for NCA signatories but also for NCA non-signatories should join the peace process for serving the interests of the State and the people.

In conclusion, I'd like to conclude my speech quoting the stanzas of great poet Saya Zawgyi as follows:-

"Wake up Myanmar, Oh! Myanmar. Don't be weak, don't be down the diligence, let's strive for all with might and main. Which is this land whose own? Which is this village who live? Which is paddy whose own? Let's assign duty! let's serve it dutifully! Let's apply knowledge to unite all!

Let's unite for peace!
Thank you.

Ethnic affairs, public management and services committee holds meeting (14/2021)

THE Ethnic Affairs, Public Management and Services Committee held a coordination meeting (14/2021) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The State Administration Council members, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and other officials of the department concerned attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Committee Chairman Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, SAC member made an opening remark.

Then, Secretary of the Committee Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung clarified the meeting minutes of the previous meeting (13/2021) and ongoing work plans.



The MoD Union Minister remarks at the meeting yesterday.

After that, the attendees briefed all on the proposals to the committee.

The respective officials coordinated the ethnic affairs and services, and Committee Chairman General Mya Tun Oo concluded the meeting. — MNA

The chairman of the committee also highlighted the plans to submit the proposals of ministries to the management committee of SAC and other cases to implement based on the committee's decision.

Then, Director-General of the Ministry of Health Dr Myat Wunna Soe reported on the transportation of COVID-19 vaccines discussed during the meeting 13/2021.

The respective officials coordinated the ethnic affairs and services, and Committee Chairman General Mya Tun Oo concluded the meeting. — MNA

Union Minister for International Cooperation delivers remarks at closing ceremony of the course for Deputy Chief of Mission (2/2021)



The course winding up ceremony in progress.

CLOSING ceremony of the Training Course for Deputy Chief of Mission (CfDCM) 2/2021 took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 2 pm. On the occasion, U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation delivered closing remarks through virtual platform.

The four-week intensive training course was conducted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 21 June to 9 July 2021 in the first phase and from 11 October to 15 October 2021 in the final phase. It was attended by 26 high-ranking officers and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the

Ministry of International Cooperation. A number of eminent persons, such as Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing, National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Than Aung Kyaw and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Commerce,

Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Anti-Corruption Commission, Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, and Union Attorney-General's Office, gave valuable lectures to the training participants.

Among those who attended the closing ceremony were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Than Aung Kyaw, invited guests, Directors-General and participants and responsible persons from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation.—MNA

Union Minister for Education visits students' vaccination sites

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe accompanied by Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and U Zaw Win visited vaccination campaigns at Mingala Byuha Dhamma Beikman building in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

During their visit, the Union Minister encouraged 12 years old and above high school students as they were receiving the COVID-19 vaccines.

The Union Minister said that by vaccinating the students, the outbreak of COVID-19 disease could be prevented

and vaccinated students will have access to education if the schools reopen in line with the pandemic guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

"The government is stepping up vaccination for students over the age of 12, including guardians and parents. Teachers are encouraged to work together for the educational opportunities of the students," the Union Minister said.

Next, the Union Minister expressed words of thanks to all the doctors and nurses from the township public hospital, staff from the Ministry

of Health, departmental staff, volunteers, Red Cross members and charities who helped the students get vaccinated.

Then, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe and officials visited No. (20) Basic Education High School in Pobbathiri Township and greeted the parents of the high school students and encouraged the students while they were getting the vaccination.

After that, the Union Minister inspected the construction of the school stadium inside the high school and ordered necessary matters. — MNA



Inoculation drive for students is underway.

Shape pleasant, neat and tidy city for dwellers

A PLEASANT, neat and tidy city shows off the high living standard and socio-economic status of local dwellers as well as the endeavours of local authorities with goodwill to shape the city as a smart city in line with the mission and vision.

The basic needs of undisciplined acts will be a great disturbance and hindrance to the improvement of the city. A small thing that people may seem unimportant is like a nut dislocated from an engine that generates sparks to operate the machinery.

That is why city dwellers need to take care of their acts avoiding undisciplined acts such as undisciplined disposing of

Everybody needs to emphasize disciplines and public ethics. They all have forged the sympathy that everybody may face the regrettable feeling based on unconstructive thoughts and physical behaviours similar to them. To overcome these challenges, all city dwellers need to forge unity and sympathy for each other.

improvement of health conditions. In fact, good things can bring good consequences whereas bad things can send malpractices and curses of Saturn to society.

In a democracy, the act of one should not disturb another one. For example, vendors have the right to sell their goods anywhere but their positions and their acts should not annoy others. As such, sales of goods by vendors should not block on the pedestrian ways. Bad bus conductors should not bother somebody with their bad words.

Everybody needs to emphasize disciplines and public ethics. They all have forged the sympathy that everybody may face the regrettable feeling based on unconstructive thoughts and physical behaviours similar to them. To overcome these challenges, all city dwellers need to forge unity and sympathy for each other.



Quicker vaccinations key to pandemic recovery: IMF

A CCELERATING the pace of vaccinations worldwide will be key not just to containing the coronavirus pandemic, but also to resolving the speed bumps besetting the global economic recovery, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said Thursday.

Finance officials gathered for the annual meeting of the Washington-based crisis lender have flagged concerns about supply chain bottlenecks that are pushing prices higher.

Those disruptions stem from the unprecedented situation created by the pandemic and the sharp rebound in demand as economies reopen, as well as struggles to hire workers amid renewed infections from the Delta variant of the coronavirus.

But Georgieva said the "more fundamental problem" is the growing divergence between "countries that

are pulling forward more strongly, and those that are falling behind," largely due to the drastically lower vaccination rates in lower-income nations.

"There was a very clear message coming out of this meeting that vaccinating the world is critical," she told reporters.

While advanced countries are starting to provide booster shots, about 96 per cent of the population of low-income countries are unvaccinated.

International Monetary Fund members "called for a strong international cooperation and immediate action to achieve universal vaccination," said Sweden Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson, who chaired the IMF's steering committee.

Georgieva repeated the Fund's view that inflation pressures are mostly transitory, but the committee

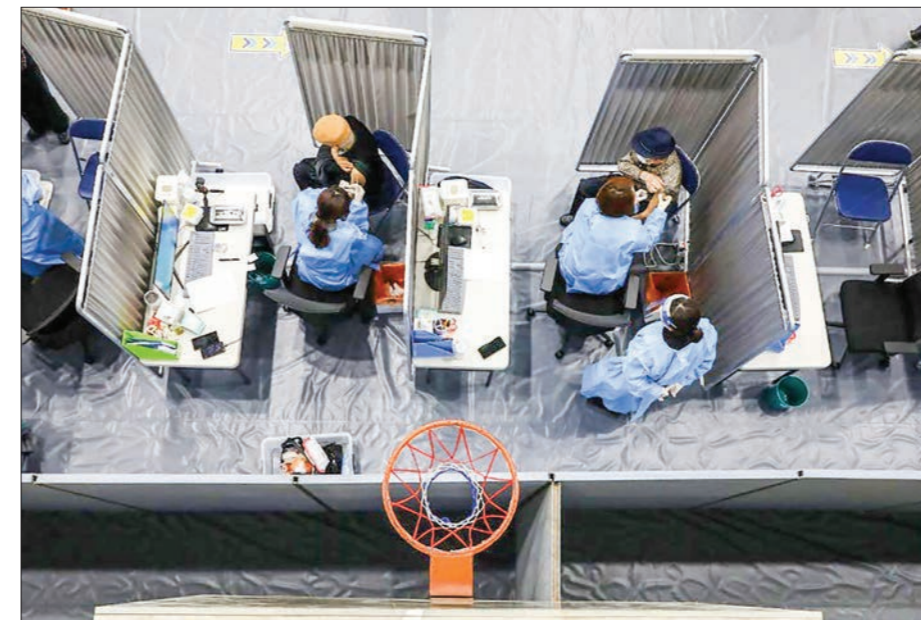
stressed that central banks will be watching prices closely and will take action if "concrete" risks materialize.

The committee, in its concluding statement, recognized the risks to the recovery and highlighted the need for "immediate action" on vaccinations and to address the crisis that is exacerbating poverty.

The membership also repeated the pledge to "extend financial assistance to countries in need".

That includes shifting funds from the newly-issued IMF reserves -- \$650 billion in special drawing rights -- to countries most in need. Georgieva said her \$100 billion goal is "very achievable".

SOURCE: AFP



South Korea announced that booster shots of either Pfizer or Moderna for high-risk groups will be rolled out from 25 Oct with those aged above 59 and medical workers first in line. PHOTO: CHUNG SUNG-JUN/AFP

Thailand cautious over reopening to tourists from November

THAILAND is gearing up to reopen the country from November even as its high COVID-19 rate poses a dilemma for the government, which seeks to control the pandemic while mitigating its impact on the tourism-reliant economy.

Although Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced in mid-June that the country would fully open within four months, a daily infection caseload exceeding 10,000 has forced his government to settle for a partial reopening starting 1 Nov.

Addressing the nation about the reopening plan on 11 Oct, Prayut said fully vaccinated visitors from certain low-risk countries will be allowed to enter Thailand without quarantine from next month.

The list of eligible countries, including Britain, China, Germany, Singapore and the United States, will be gradually expanded from December.

The foreign visitors will be welcomed in designated places of 10 provinces, including the bustling capital Bangkok and the northern tourist hub of Chiang Mai, known for its diverse cultural and natural attractions.

The original plan was altered after relevant agencies cautioned that the goal of fully vaccinating at least 70 per cent of the population remains far from being achieved.

A trial reopening has been

under way since July in the southern resort islands of Phuket and Samui, plus some smaller islands. They have accepted a limited number of COVID-free and fully vaccinated foreign tourists, who can stay for 14 days under health protocols before travelling elsewhere in Thailand if testing negative.

Since the start of the flagship "Phuket Sandbox" scheme, over 43,000 foreign tourists have visited the idyllic island, with only 148 of them testing positive as of mid-October.

Thailand's private sector has welcomed the step-by-step reopening of the country after being hammered by the pandemic since early last year.

Business figures who spoke with Kyodo News shared the view that lockdown measures cannot continue indefinitely. They said people must learn to live with the coronavirus as an endemic reality to pave the way for economic recovery.

Sanan Angubolkul, chairman of the Board of Trade of Thailand, said that while he supports the

government's reopening plan, it must accelerate the provision of vaccines for both Thais and foreign residents to create "herd immunity" at the earliest.

"Many businesses, accounting for three-fourths of all enterprises in the country and over 18 million workers, have been affected by the pandemic during the past year. It's time that the government and people learn to live with the pandemic safely and allow the businesses activities to proceed as normal," he said, while urging stringent prevention meas-

ures amid the gradual reopening. Suphan Mongkolsuthee, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries, said Thailand is ready for reopening as the public health care system has proven its ability to manage infections.

Yet, he said, Thailand should not reopen the whole country at once as each area faces different circumstances, with many people in some rural areas of the country yet to be fully vaccinated.

Private sector organizations have jointly concluded that the reopening plan could ward off a recession and enable the Thai economy, which welcomed around 40 million tourists in 2019, to expand between 0.7-1.2 per cent this year.

Thai Restaurant Association President Taniwan Koonmongkon lamented that due to the pandemic, tens of thousands of restaurateurs and street food vendors have had to shut down their businesses.

Taniwan agreed with the reopening plan would pave the way for economic activity to further resume while allowing more people to earn a living. "Lockdown measures would only dampen growth. We have to learn to live with the pandemic," she said.

She said most Thais are eager to be vaccinated and forecast that the 70 per cent vaccination goal could be achieved within the year.

As for the health risks of reopening, Medical Association

of Thailand President Amorn Leelarasamee said an inflow of foreign visitors will have unavoidable consequences.

Therefore, he suggested the government maintain essential infection prevention measures, particularly the just revised 10 pm to 4 am curfew, while people must maintain self-discipline and continue taking such precautions as getting vaccinated, wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

"The daily infection figure should be around 5,000 or less for reopening the country. But I understand that the economy needs to be quickly restored, so we have to find a balancing point to live with it," he said.

However, some Thais have voiced their concerns about the risks that would come with the country reopening.

Freelance make-up artist Viracha Tussanaumpai, 35, said she was delighted that the reopening will be slightly delayed even though the impact affects her income. She said the most worrying factor is the country's infection caseload, which is still high.

"Frankly speaking, I think the situation is still out of control, and the government should reopen the country when the caseload is significantly small...the economic situation will not be worse than this, so we can wait," she said.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Thailand is preparing to open more of the country to international tourists in November. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/KYODO

ကမ္ဘာ့စားနပ်ရိက္ခာနေ့
WORLD FOOD DAY 2021

Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.

ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ လုပ်ဆောင်ချက်များသည် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ အနာဂတ်၊ ပိုမိုကောင်းမွန်သော ထုတ်လုပ်မှု၊ အာဟာရ၊ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် လူနေမှုဘဝ

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 15 October 2021)
BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30 hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over West central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal (North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha Coasts) still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and East central Bay of Bengal and monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th October, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and (Northern and Southern) Shan, Chin, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 October, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 October, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 October, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

Low Pressure Area Condition
Issued at (07:00) hours M.S.T on 15-10-2021
According to the observations at (06:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over Central Bay of Bengal now lies over West central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal.

ကြေးမြို့နယ်နှင့် ကြေးမြို့အရှေ့ဘက်ရှိ ကြေးမြို့ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက

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Middle, high-school students receive first doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine in Nay Pyi Taw

THE COVID-19 vaccination to students aged above 12 in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory continued yesterday.

The immunization started on 12 October and will continue until 8 November, according to Dr Nandar Kyaw, Medical Superintendent of the 100-bed Hospital in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

“There are a total of 21,498 students at the age of 12 and above in 144 schools in Lewe Township, and we are administering the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to them from 12 October to 8 November in five different vaccination sites in the townships,” Dr Nandar Kyaw said.

The Chinese-made Sino-



Dr Nandar Kyaw PHOTO: KO KO HTEIN

vac COVID-19 vaccine is a two-dose injection, and its phase three clinical trial has been

launched on a group of children and teenagers between three years and 17 years old. This vaccine has been administered in Chile, Cambodia, and China, he added.

The Government has implemented the COVID-19 inoculation programme for students aged over 12 to provide them with access to education and speedy immunization coverage in the country, and this is the first batch of COVID-19 vaccination for the students.

Between 12 and 14 October, 100 students were vaccinated each day in each vaccination site in the township, and so far no severe side effect has been shown, apart from the dizziness of some students who didn't

have breakfast before the vaccination, according to Dr Nandar Kyaw.

Yesterday, more than 300 students were vaccinated at the vaccination site in Basic Education High School (1), and 200 students were vaccinated at other sites.

Tatmadaw Medical Corps and the Medical Team were also stand-by at the vaccination sites to assist in complications resulted from the vaccine.

Before the COVID-19 immunization, parents, their parents or guardians were informed in advance regarding the vaccination, and the vaccination was given only with the consent of the parents or guardians. In addition, they

were examined by healthcare workers to make sure they were fit enough to receive the vaccine.

Dr Nandar Kyaw urged students and their parents to receive the vaccines as it permits them to not experience any severe symptoms in case of being affected with COVID-19, as well as the risk of death will become very low once vaccinated.

In addition to the students, civil service personnel, department officials, the people left to be vaccinated for various reasons and their families were also vaccinated yesterday in respective townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Union Territory, it is reported. — Hein Min/GNLM

4 mln of Sinopharm vaccine purchased from PRC arrive in Yangon

OF the 24 million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine purchased from the People's Republic of China, another 4 million doses arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning and were received by a delegation led by the head of the Yangon Region Public Health Department.

The newly-arrived vaccines

will be distributed to respective regions and states by road transports, and with the help of the Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanmar Airways by keeping them under the required temperature.

As of 14 October, a total of 10.9 million people in Myanmar received the COVID-19 vaccines across the country whereas 4.3 million have been fully vaccinat-

ed with two doses, and 6.6 million were jabbed with the first dose.

Those who have received their first dose of the vaccine are encouraged to visit the nearest immunization centre for the second dose, and the people are urged to actively participate in the vaccination activities. — MNA



Sinopharm vaccines bought from China arrive in Yangon International Airport yesterday.

COVID-19 immunization continues in Gangaw, Magway region



Inoculation campaign in Gangaw in Magway Region.

PEOPLE over the age of 18 in Gangaw Township in Magway Region continued receiving the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine yesterday.

This is the fourth time the COVID-19 immunization is carried out in Gangaw Township, and it started on 12 October. A total of 385 people reportedly received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on the first day, 390 people on the second day, and 400 people

on the third day. The vaccines will be provided to a total of 2,500 people in the township in this batch.

Health care workers, the Township General Administration Department, members of the Township Police Force and Fire Brigade, charities work together for the successful inoculation under the COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health. — Htin Aung Naing (Gangaw)/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Over-12s middle, high school students get jabbed against COVID-19 in Nay Pyi Taw

Above 12-year-old students receive vaccination in Lewe, Pobbathiri and Zabuthiri townships in Nay Pyi Taw.

Pobbathiri



Lewe



Zabuthiri



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

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

On 15 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by four companies using 15 vehicles.

A total of 379 empty oxygen

758 oxygen concentrators for home use, 50,275 PPE suits, 2.5 tonnes of gloves and 51 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, and Chinshwehaw trading posts, seaports and Yangon International Airport.

A total of five oxygen plants were transported to Yangon from the seaport, 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 preven-



tion, 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

6,385 people receive vaccines in fourth batch in Hlaingbwe Township



HEALTH officials conducted vaccination programmes in Hlaingbwe Township of Hpa-an District in Kayin State for the people aged over 45, the people with disabilities, members of ethnic armed organizations, internally displaced persons from IPD camps and the patients with chronic diseases starting

10 October.

The programmes kept running in Hlaingbwe Township yesterday and township administration body chairman U Win Than, township public health department head Dr Saw Nyein Tun and other officials inspected the processes.

The township public health

department head Dr Saw Nyein Tun, medics, members of Myanmar Red Cross Society and other officials participated in vaccination processes in line with the health rules.

A total of 63,855 people received their vaccines at the respective vaccination sites until 10 October.—Township (IPRD) MNA

Over 27,000 people vaccinated with Sinopharm COVID jabs in Thanbyuzayat

THE third batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines has been given to 27,365 people at seven designated places in Thanbyuzayat Township starting from 2 October.

Chairman of the township administration body U Aung Moe Lwin and officials, Township COVID-19 Prevention and Control Response team committee members, township health workers, members of the Red Cross, and Firefighters provided the necessary assistance in the vaccination programmes.

Vaccinations were given to above 18-year-old people and over 55-year-old people, including volunteers, monks and nuns, civil servants and private healthcare workers, and staff, officials said. — Thida Win/GNLM



PDF terrorists commit arson attacks in village in KhinU township, Sagaing region

A group of about 70 armed PDF terrorists came to Madaung Hla Village, in KhinU Township, Sagaing Region and committed an arson attack on the houses in the village yesterday evening.

Once received the report

of the attack, a security team led by members of the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force rushed to the scene to provide the necessary security. By the time they arrived in the village, the terrorists fled, leaving two

houses on fire.

It is reported that no villager was harmed during the incident, and the security forces are pursuing fleeing PDF terrorists and providing security for the village.

Terrorist groups CRPH and NUG, with the aim of total destruction, formed PDF Terrorist Group, and have been intimidating and brutally killing innocent civilians, and carrying out destructive acts across the

country. People are disgusted with these terrorist groups for their unlawful acts and brutal assassinations and security forces are actively carrying out law enforcement activities in the country.—MNA



A woman taking a food bag out of a Yandex.Rover, an autonomous delivery robot for small-size cargos developed by Russian internet giant Yandex, in central Moscow. PHOTO: YURI KADOBNOV / AFP

Russia's Yandex launches UK grocery delivery service

RUSSIAN IT giant Yandex on Thursday launched an app-driven express UK grocery delivery service, the latest company to join the crowded marketplace as it expands its international presence.

The group's Yango Deli subsidiary is opening four giant London warehouses to reach a potential 1.4 million customers with its speedy grocery offering, Yandex said in a statement.

The New York-listed firm already operates more than 400 warehouses in France, Israel and Russia.

Yango is the latest entrant in a crowded UK market segment that includes Amazon Fresh, Getir, Deliveroo, Just Eat Takeaway, Uber Eats and all major UK supermarkets. Yandex dominates Russia's IT sector, taxi-hailing services, and food delivery via an army of couriers.—AFP ■

Flying sushi: Israel readies for delivery drone traffic jams

DRONE powerhouse Israel is translating the know-how of air force veterans to the delivery of sushi and ice-cream, as companies tap their expertise to avoid collisions in increasingly crowded skies.

On a grassy stretch of a Tel Aviv beachfront, three drones flew above shiny high-rises this week, propellers buzzing as they lowered down onto landing pads.

Two carried sushi, and a third hauled cans of beer.

Their flight was made possible by High Lander, an Israeli company that specialises in traffic control for autonomous drones, and Cando, which helps craft drone strategies for clients.

"To fly one drone is not an issue," High Lander's chief executive Alon Abelson told AFP.

"We are talking about multi drones... coming from different drone manufacturers, but still they are monitoring with our software and we can make sure they don't collide."

The demonstration was part of a 20 million shekel, or about \$6 million,

public-private initiative to advance Israel's drone technology.

Daniella Partem, who leads the drone initiative at the Israel Innovation Authority, said she envisioned "thousands" of drones flying simultaneously in crowded cities

in the future, providing medical deliveries, bolstering police missions and speeding up takeout food.

"Our goal is to create a competitive market in Israel, not dominated by one company," she said.—AFP ■



The delivery demonstration was part of a 20 million shekel initiative to advance Israel's drone technology. PHOTO: AFP

UK used car platform buys rival to create Europe leader

BRITISH online used car company Constellation Automotive Group has acquired Dutch rival CarNext, creating a European leader in the sector, the companies said on Thursday.

The price of the transaction was not disclosed but the combined companies hope it will give them an edge over rivals including Germany's AutoHero, UK platform Cazoo and French site Aramis Auto.

"This fusion allows us to take pole position in Europe, with 2.5 million

cars sold every year on our different platforms," CarNext chief executive Sophie Krishnan told AFP.

Online marketplaces for used cars have grown during the COVID pandemic.—AFP ■



An eight-storey car vending machine in Huntington Beach, California, USA, operated by the online used car dealer Carvana, that dispenses purchased cars to customers. PHOTO: MARK RALSTON / AFP

Italy's ITA takes to skies in ashes of Alitalia

ITALY'S new national carrier ITA took its debut flight Friday, closing a turbulent chapter that witnessed the decline of the country's storied but ill-fated Alitalia after 74 eventful years.

Italia Trasporto Aereo has been formed out of the

ashes of the loss-making Alitalia, which was placed under state administration in 2017 but deteriorated further during the coronavirus pandemic.

Under a deal agreed with the European Union, the new debt-free venture has taken over half of Ali-

talia's planes and landing slots—but thousands of staff are out of a job. ITA's first flight from Milan to the southern city of Bari arrived at 7:39 am (5:39 GMT), just hours after Alitalia's last landing Thursday night in Rome—itsself an emotional affair.—AFP

Notice for Change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor have been changed for the following pesticides manufactured by UPL Limited.

Trade name	Active ingredient	Kind of registration	Registration no.
Glory	Azoxystrobin 5% + Mancozeb 70% WG	Provisional	P2019-3215
Rampart	Metalaxyl 31.7% FS	Provisional	P2019-4597
Reno	Thiamethoxam 35% FS	Provisional	2016-3219
Lancer Gold	Acephate 50% + Imidacloprid 5% WG	Provisional	P2019-3217
Bupro lord 25 SC	Buprofezin 250 g/l SC	Provisional	P2020-5165

Agro Power Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days form the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Agro Power Co., Ltd. (Add: No. 570, Thumana Street, Ward (16/4), Thingangyun Township, Yangon, Myanmar.)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VTB 36 V.1021

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VTB 36 VOY. NO. (1021)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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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EU envoy on nuclear talks meets Iran deputy minister



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri meets with European External Action Service deputy secretary general Enrique Mora in Tehran. **PHOTO: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY/AFP**

THE EU envoy charged with coordinating talks on reviving the Iran nuclear deal, Enrique Mora, met Iranian deputy foreign minister Ali Bagheri in Tehran on Thursday, the Iranian ministry said.

The talks come a day after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned of “other options” if diplomacy fails, as his visiting Israeli counterpart reserved the right to use force.

The 2015 nuclear deal, which gave Iran sanctions relief in return for curbs on its nuclear activities, has been on life support since 2018, when then US president Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out.

Trump reimposed crippling sanctions while Iran, which in-

sists its nuclear programme for civilian purposes only, gradually rolled back its own commitments.

Mora’s trip to Tehran comes amid mounting pressure from EU countries as well as the United States for a swift resumption of talks on Washington’s return to the agreement.

Iran’s foreign ministry said Mora’s visit “is a follow-up to consultations between the two sides on matters of shared interest, particularly Iran-EU relations, Afghanistan and the nuclear agreement”.

Bagheri, in charge of the nuclear file for Iran, tweeted that the meeting would include talks about the “removal of cruel sanctions”.—AFP ■

US Navy says sailors who refuse vaccine will be expelled

THE US Navy said Thursday that personnel who refuse to be vaccinated against Covid-19 will be expelled from the force, ahead of the 28 November deadline for the injection.

“With Covid-19 vaccines now mandatory for all military members, the Navy has announced plans to start processing for discharge those who refuse vaccination without a pending or approved exemption,” it said in a statement.

It was the first clear indication by the Pentagon of what would happen to service mem-

bers who reject the vaccines, which became mandatory at the end of August.

Until now military officials had avoided answering what would happen to those who refuse to be vaccinated.

The navy said that 98 per cent of its 350,000 active duty members had begun or completed the vaccination process.

For the US military overall, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said Tuesday that 96.7 per cent of the nearly 1.4 million active duty personnel had received at least one dose, and

83.7 per cent two doses.

Including military reserves, though, the level was just 80 per cent with at least one dose.

If all the services take the same hard line that the navy is taking, it risks losing as many as 46,000 troops, though presumably more will accept vaccinations before the deadline.

Vice-Admiral John Nowell, the chief of naval personnel, said the navy force has been hit with 164 coronavirus deaths since the pandemic began.

—AFP ■



The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt moored at Naval Base Guam last May after being forced to port due to a Covid-19 outbreak that infected around one-quarter of the vessel’s 4,800 crew.

PHOTO: US NAVY/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deadly chaos erupts during Beirut rally against port blast judge

TANK deployments and deadly exchanges of fire turned Beirut into a war zone Thursday after a demonstration organised by Shiite parties against the lead investigator into last year’s devastating port blast turned violent. Heavy fire rang out as ambulances rushed the wounded through the deserted streets, a few blocks from the Palace of Justice, where hundreds of black-clad protesters had gathered moments earlier to demand Tarek Bitar’s removal.

The judge has in recent days been in the sights of the Hezbollah and Amal parties in particular for insisting on subpoenaing top officials in his probe into last year’s deadly explosion in Beirut port.

According to Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi, at least six people were killed, all of them by gunfire. They included a 24-year-old who was hit in the head by a stray bullet while inside her home, a doctor at the Sahel hospital in Beirut’s southern suburbs told AFP.

The Lebanese Red Cross put the number of wounded at 30.

AFP correspondents heard several loud bangs in the area, likely from heavy shelling, and saw plumes of black smoke rising from an apparent fire.—AFP ■

Humans were already enjoying blue cheese and beer 2,700 years ago—study



Scientists made the discovery by analyzing samples of human excrement found at the heart of the Hallstatt mine in the Austrian Alps. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP**

HUMANS’ love for cheese and beer goes back a long way. But according to a scientific study published Wednesday, workers

at a salt mine in Austria were already enjoying blue cheese and beer as far back as 2,700 years ago.

Scientists made the discovery by analyzing samples of human excrement found at the heart of the Hallstatt mine in the Austrian Alps. The study was published in the journal *Current Biology* on Wednesday.

Frank Maixner, a microbiologist at the Eurac Research Institute in Bolzano, Italy, who was the lead author of the report, said he was surprised to learn that salt miners over two millennia ago were advanced enough to “use fermentation intentionally”.—AFP ■

US, Greece expand defence ties amid Mediterranean tensions

GREECE on Thursday expanded a defence agreement with the United States days after ratifying a separate deal with France in a tacit signal to Turkey following high tensions.

The agreement signed in Washington marks a deepening of US relations with a longstanding European ally, despite a growing focus by President Joe Biden's administration on Asia.

Greece and the United States signed a five-year extension of the Mutual Defence Cooperation Agreement, which has been renewed each year since 1990, with an understanding it will remain in force indefinitely afterward unless either country gives a two-year notice.

Greece will also allow a greater US troop presence in sites including Alexandroupolis—a port near the Turkish border—as well as the key US hub of Souda Bay in Crete. Signing the agreement with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Greek



Then US secretary of state Mike Pompeo meets Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis before a frigate at Souda Bay in Crete, the foremost US naval facility in the eastern Mediterranean, in September 2020.

PHOTO: POOL/AFP

Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias did not explicitly mention Turkey but said Athens has peacefully worked to set maritime demar-

cations with other neighbors—Egypt, Italy and Albania. “In the Eastern Mediterranean,” Dendias said, “Greece is facing

a casus belli, a threat with war if it exercises its sovereign rights and, I have to say, Greece is facing daily provocation.”—AFP ■

Tens of thousands rally in Georgia for jailed ex-leader Saakashvili

TENS of thousands of Georgians flooded onto the streets of the capital Tbilisi Thursday to demand the release of jailed ex-president and opposition leader Mikheil Saakashvili.

Chanting Saakashvili's nickname “Misha!” and waving national flags, demonstrators filled the city's Freedom Square and main thoroughfare, Rustaveli Avenue, with an AFP correspondent

estimating the crowd at around 60,000 people.

Georgia's president from 2004 to 2013, Saakashvili was arrested and imprisoned in early October upon his return from exile in Ukraine.

The 53-year-old founder of Georgia's main opposition force, the United National Movement (UNM), has declared a hunger strike and doctors have ex-



Tens of thousands of Georgians took to the streets of central Tbilisi to demand the release of jailed ex-president and opposition leader Mikheil Saakashvili. PHOTO: AFP

pressed concern over his deteriorating health.

The flamboyant pro-Western reformer was convicted in absen-

tia on charges of abuse of office and sentenced to six years in prison in 2018. He denies wrongdoing.—AFP ■

Paris mayor Hidalgo wins Socialists' presidential nomination



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo won more than 72 per cent of votes from Socialist members to become the party's presidential candidate.

PHOTO: AFP

PARIS Mayor Anne Hidalgo has been nominated as the presidential candidate of France's Socialist party, partial party vote results showed Thursday, despite her languishing in the race to unseat incumbent Emmanuel Macron.

The 62-year-old politician, who announced her plans to run for president a month ago, aims to revive the fortunes of the beleaguered Socialists in April's election with a campaign stressing environmental and social issues.

She won more than 72 per cent of votes cast by party members on Thursday night, with more than 90 per cent of total ballots counted, the Socialists' first secretary Olivier Faure said.

She beat a single other candidate, former agriculture minister Stephane Le Foll.

Hidalgo's campaign performance so far has widely been seen as lacklustre. Polls show only four-seven per cent of voters would vote for the daughter of Spanish immigrants if the election were held today.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Violence threatens Colombian peace accords, UN warns

THE deteriorating security situation in Colombia represents a “considerable challenge” to the country's 2016 peace accords, the United Nations said Thursday at a Security Council meeting. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a peace deal with the government in 2016 to end more than a half century of armed conflict.

But in light of the “formidable threats” facing certain regions, the Colombian government and institutions “should make better use of the mechanisms created by the agreement itself,” said Carlos Ruiz Massieu, the head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia.—AFP ■

Experts hesitant on reforming US Supreme Court

A White House commission on reforming the conservative-leaning US Supreme Court said Thursday that proposals to add more justices could undermine its legitimacy, but favoured setting term limits for justices.

US President Joe Biden ordered a study of the high court in April amid pressure from supporters to address the increased politicization in the selection process for the nine-judge panel, which arguably has led to its six-to-three tilt in favour of conservatives.—AFP ■

US approves freeing two Guantanamo detainees

THE US government has approved the release of two more of the 39 wartime detainees held for years at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to rulings posted by the Pentagon.

Yemeni Sanad Yislam al-Kazimi and Afghanistan native Assadullah Haroon Gul, known as Haroon al-Afghani, both won approval for their release on 7 October, documents posted by the Guantanamo Periodic Review Board said. Kazimi, 51, who was a low-level bodyguard for Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden, has been in Guantanamo for 17 years.—AFP ■

Qualified teams emerge for 2023 Asian Cup 3rd Round Qualifiers

QUALIFIED teams were appearing from the third Round Qualifiers for the 2023 Asian Cup in which the Myanmar team is participating.

The play-offs for the third round qualifiers ended on 12 October, with Indonesia and Cambodia qualifying. The third round of the AFC Asian Cup will be played by 24 teams, with 22 teams appearing after the second round in the middle of this year, while the other two teams have only recently emerged.

ASEAN and Asian teams including Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan,

Palestine, India, Tajikistan, Thailand, the Philippines, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Hong Kong, Yemen, Maldives, Singapore, Nepal, Indonesia, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Cambodia will compete in the tourney.

The third round will be held from February to September 2022 and will be divided into four groups of six. The top five teams from each group and the top five teams from a total of 11 teams will qualify for the next stage.

The final round of the 2023

Asian Cup will be played with a total of 24 teams, with 13 teams, including the host team, appearing, leaving only 11 teams to emerge.

After the second round, including China, which will host the final round of the 2023 Asian Cup, the top eight teams in the group and the top four runners-up, Qatar, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Oman, Vietnam, UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia will be able to advance directly to the finals without having to compete in the third round. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Martinez takes Argentina run to 25 unbeaten, Brazil thrash Uruguay



Argentina's Lautaro Martinez (centre) celebrates opening the scoring against Peru in a World Cup qualifier. PHOTO: AFP

ARGENTINA took their unbeaten run to 25 matches and moved a step closer to qualifying for the World Cup with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Peru on Thursday. Lautaro Martinez scored the only goal of the game two minutes before the break with a powerful header while Yoshimar Yotun missed a second half penalty for Peru.

On his first start for his country, Raphinha scored a brace as Brazil all but mathematically booked their place at the World Cup with a 4-1 thrashing of Uruguay. Neymar and Gabriel Barbosa scored the other goals while Luis Suarez notched Uruguay's consolation. Brazil top the single South American qualifying group by six points from Argentina, who have a nine point gap to those that could deny them a berth at Qatar 2022.

Argentina last lost in the 2019 Copa America semi-finals -- 2-0 against Brazil.—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.

Newcastle launch new era as Man Utd grapple with injuries

STRUGGLING Newcastle find themselves in the unusual position of being the Premier League's headline act at the start of their Saudi-led revolution this weekend. So often consigned to the margins during decades of underachievement, all eyes will be on the club on Sunday when they host Tottenham in their first match since the controversial takeover that has Magpies fans dreaming of joining Europe football's elite.

Manchester United must defy injury problems as they look to get back on track at Leicester, while leaders Chelsea cannot underestimate a Brentford team unfazed by big reputations.

AFP Sport takes a look at some of the talking points ahead of the weekend action:



Newcastle fans outside St James' Park after the club's recent takeover. PHOTO: AFP

'Sky is the limit' for Newcastle

Newcastle can suddenly

look forward to a brighter future thanks to the blockbuster £305 million (\$418 million) takeover

driven by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which has taken an 80 per cent stake in the club.

The departure of disliked former owner Mike Ashley and the vast financial resources provided by the Saudis could turn Newcastle into a major force in years to come.

But while they aim to emulate cash-rich Manchester City, for now they must focus on the fight for survival.

The only way is up for the Magpies, whose new owners arrive with the team languishing in the relegation zone, winless after their first seven league games.

Manager Steve Bruce is expected to make way for a high-profile replacement but Newcastle hinted at a stay of execution on Thursday when they said the beleaguered boss will handle media duties before the Spurs game.—AFP ■