

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 183, 14th Waxing of Thadingyut 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Tuesday, 19 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.

Speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

Esteemed ethnic parents and the people,

We will all be here soon on the occasion of Thadingyut and I wish you all peace of mind and good health. In our Myanmar culture, the Thingyan New Year festival and Thadingyut festival are sacred festivals. Although these ceremonies cannot be held due to the presence of the COVID-19 crisis, I would like to say that we take these ceremonies seriously. As you all know, there were a lot of electoral frauds in the multiparty general election held on 8 November 2020. This shameful dishonesty of the election is a disgrace to the country. Let us learn from this so that this will not happen again and we will continue to work not to let this happen again in the future. The examination of the fraudulent incidents revealed that both the State and the people were affected. Therefore, I would like to say that action is being taken against those responsible under the law.

We understand that there are disagreements in a democratic country. We have seen that there have been disagreements over the political declaration of a state of emergency following the last election and that there have been protests based on this. In addition to the riots caused by the incitement of others, there were also acts of terrorism. Some people are physically involved in the incidents and incitements. Beyond that, there have been violent robberies and killings. We have identified and taken action against them.

As the country is in the current situation for various reasons based on political



differences, we have set out Five-Point Road Map, for the prosperity of the country and a true union based on democracy and federalism. Therefore, we want to change a country peacefully. To bring peace, stability, and true democracy, I would like to say that amnesty will be granted to those who have been convicted and those who have been prosecuted for their involvement in the riots due to the incitements of terrorist groups, CRPH and NUG so that they can do good deeds peacefully in the coming Thadingyut period. This order will be issued later. We have also released those who deserved to be released on Union Day on 12 February, Myanmar New Year and during the Peace Anniversary celebrations on 15 October.

Now, I would like to inform you about

the current state of relations between Myanmar and ASEAN. Five consensus agreements were reached at the ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 24 April. We reached an agreement with Brunei Second Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof after discussing difficulties in appointing a special envoy of the rotating ASEAN Chairman. We stated that the agreement would be implemented as per Myanmar's political culture and ASEAN charters, the first of these five points which is the most important. Although the aim is to end the violence as soon as possible and to do everything we can with restraint, the violence has worsened with the incitement of CRPH and NUG, which have been declared terrorists since the April announcement,

and with the involvement of some EAOs. We still have to clear it today. No one has taken their terrorist attacks and killings seriously. Only we have to handle this problem. I would like to express that ASEAN needs to do that. At the same time, negotiations are still underway due to various proposals regarding the visit of the Special Representative of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar. A country is governed by the legislature and the judiciary, and except for separate orders and laws as required. Our country has already declared that it is acting under the 2008 Constitution. There are demands of the ASEAN envoy that are non-negotiable, in any case, we, as a member of ASEAN, will do our best.

I consider that the ASEAN Summit and ASEAN Plus meetings will be conducted in line with the principles of ASEAN.

Then, I would like to brief you regarding the COVID-19 control activities. According to the record, Myanmar reported the first case on 23 March 2020 and the first wave occurred from 23 March to 15 August 2020. The second wave occurred from 16 August to 26 May. These cases occurred during the pre-election period, post-election period and in political crisis. We overcame the huge challenges that occurred due to the shortages of medicines, medical supplies and health workers. For the treatment sector, although 30 million vaccines were purchased from India, we got only 2 million vaccines due to the disease infection of India. We did not receive any more.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
State Pardon Order
Order No (186/2021)

13th Waxing of Thadingyut 1383 ME
18 October 2021

THE State Administration Council works accordingly to the five-point road map for stability and peace of the country, and the establishment of a genuine democratic system. Those who participated in protests due to the incitement of terrorist groups such as the CRPH and NUG have been prosecuted at the respective courts of the country. To show humanitarian grounds, bring peace to the people and participate in nation-building, the Chairman of the State Administration Council pardoned 1,316 inmates of the respective prisons, police cells, prison camps under Article 401, sub-section 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No (187/2021)

13th Waxing of Thadingyut 1383 ME
18 October 2021

Withdrawal of criminal cases in connexion with riots

THE State Administration Council works accordingly to the five-point roadmap for stability and peace of the country, and the establishment of a genuine democratic system. Those who participated in protests due to the incitement of terrorist groups such as the CRPH and NUG have been prosecuted at the respective courts of the country. To show humanitarian grounds, bring peace to the people and participate in nation-building, the Chairman of the State Administration Council issued this order in line with Section 419 of the Constitution to drop the hearings of 4,320 defendants and acquit them.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

**1,316 detainees, 4,320 defendants
pardoned on Thadingyut occasion**

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar granted pardon to a total of 1,316 detained in respective jails, prisons and camps, and a total of 4,320 defendants in respective courts yesterday. The prisoners and defendants were pardoned in commemoration of the Thadingyut occasion, with an emphasis on peace of mind and humanitarian assistance to the people, and with a chance for them to transform into helpful citizens while building a new, peaceful, modern, and disciplined democratic nation.

The prisoners and detainees were released under the condition: "If I commit another crime, I will continue to serve the remaining penalties in addition to the new sentence," according to sub-section (1) of Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Amendment of the Myanmar
Historical Commission Law, 2018
State Administration Council Law No 60/2021

13th Waxing of Thadingyut 1383 ME
18 October 2021

THE State Administration Council enacts this law according to Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Amendment of the Myanmar Historical Commission Law, 2018.
2. The Myanmar Historical Commission Law, 2018 must be replaced as follows: -
 4. The Ministry, under the agreement of the Government.
 - (a) Myanmar Historical Commission shall be formed, with a total of no more than 20 permanent members consisting of Myanmar historians, intellectuals, professionals, researchers, officials from departments and related organizations.
 - (b) Part-time members, with a total of no more than 15, including senior historians who can provide necessary ideas for historical research and leadership, and officials from departments and organizations that can provide assistance, shall be added as necessary.
 - (c) Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, and Joint Secretary from the permanent members formed under sub-section (a) shall be appointed at the same time.
 - (d) The Commission formed under sub-sections (a) and (b) may be amended if necessary."

I hereby signed under Article 419 of the State Constitution.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

**Daily imports of anti-COVID-19
equipment, medical aids continue**

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 Operation Procedures (SOPs).

On 18 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by two companies and transported by three vehicles.

A total of 320 empty oxygen tanks, one oxygen plant, 300 PPE suits and 18

tonnes of masks were imported via Muse and Chinshweh trading posts, seaports and Yangon International Airport respectively.

One oxygen plant was transported to Yangon via seaport, 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



Lorries are transporting the imported anti-Covid medical supplies to states/regions.

Political maturity

POLITICAL maturity and unity of stakeholders and the entire people play a crucial role in building the Union based on democracy and federalism. It is necessary to take lessons that Myanmar could not achieve the deserved development due to requirements in political maturity in successive eras. We must try hard to overcome such challenges. We need to build political maturity and unity with wise mental faculty for ensuring the peace of the nation.

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

Speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

FROM PAGE-1

Therefore, we made efforts to buy the vaccines from other countries and we bought from China. Now, we receive 20 million doses and will get further vaccines this month. We also receive 2.5 million vaccines donated by India, while 4,620,800 by China. Arrangements are underway to get 8 million doses from China and Russia. Till yesterday, a total of 4,699,038 people were fully vaccinated and 6,847,242 people received the first jabs. Therefore, the total dose delivered is 16,245,318 in the country. Then, we are working hard to reopen the schools soon and the vaccination programmes for the students were started on 12 October.

I also want to say that we make efforts to purchase the vaccines and produce them locally. I also want to add that we will use the donated and purchased vaccines effectively. The country faces the third wave starting 27 May. After the outbreak of the third wave, the country had the most positive cases with 7,083 on 14 July, and it was 33.17 per cent. On 23 July, 5,506 positive cases showed 40.82 per cent and it was the highest percentage. However, due to the systematic supervision of government officials and public participation, the infection rate dropped to around 2,200 and seven per cent. I also thank you for such cooperation. We try hard to reduce it to three per cent by the end of this month. Be-

cause we have a plan to open the schools soon. If we can control the infection, we can reopen the schools. Moreover, there would be job opportunities in full. Therefore, I want to urge people to deeply follow the COVID-19 health rules. The infection rate is still high in some regions of Shan State and the Magway Region now. I make the request to monitor this case.

Then, I would like to add a health-related matter. It is oil consumption. In the 2020-2021FY, the country imported more than 800,000 tonnes of palm oil, and it was more than US\$ 830 million. Even if a person consumes 6 visses, the demand would be only 500,000 tonnes. If a person uses 7 visses, the demand would be 580,000

tonnes. If he uses 8 visses, it would be 660,000 tonnes. Now, it imports more than 800,000 tonnes and so we can say that the oil consumption rate is so high. Myanmar can produce edible oil crops such as peanuts, sesame, canola, fermented soya-bean, sunflower and oil-palm. If we add these products, the oil consumption rate is very high. Therefore, if the consumption rate drops, it can support health and reduce the use of foreign currency, on the other hand. So, I want to request the people to strictly control the oil consumption rate for the health and the needs of the country.

May all of you be healthy and happy during the Thadingyut festival. Thank you.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attends 20th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Aung Naing Oo participated at the 20th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting yesterday via videoconference.

The Meeting was chaired by Dato Dr Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II of Brunei Darussalam, and attended by ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Ministers, ASEAN Digital Ministers, Senior-Economic Officials, Secretary General of ASEAN and officials.

In the first session, the interface between the AEC Council Ministers and the ASEAN Digital Ministers was held. At the interface session, the ministers exchanged views on creating greater synergies between the relevant sectoral bodies to carry forward ASEAN's Digital Transformation Agenda. Then, the ministers endorsed the Leaders' Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation in ASEAN which

will be submitted to the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits on 26 October 2021.

After that the 20th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting was continued and the AEC Council Ministers noted the implementation status of the Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) of Brunei Darussalam under its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2021. The AEC Council Ministers exchanged the view on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the report of the Mid-Term Review of the AEC Blueprint 2025 and the development of ASEAN Community Post 2025 Vision. Then, the ministers discussed and agreed on the draft text of the AEC Section of the ASEAN Chair's Statement of 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits, the AEC council report to the leaders and AEC outcome documents for submission to the Summits. The ministers also witnessed the handover of ASEAN Chairmanship from Brunei to Cambodia, and Cambodia presented its pri-



ority economic deliverables for 2022.

At the meeting, Union Minister highlighted that the digital transformation was concerned with the cross-sectorial matter, the coordination among all sectoral bodies should be to streamline and reduce the duplication of work in order to increase produc-

tivity with use of less resources. He also suggested that ASEAN's Digital Transformation Agenda would be more greatly impact in helping the region's recovery from COVID-19 and to transform the region into an ASEAN Digital Economy based on the principle of no ASEAN Member States (AMS) is left behind. He

suggested that the programme of IAI Workplan should provide the capacity building programme for the transformation of digital technology in order to narrow the development gap.

Senior officials from Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting.—MNA

Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on national economy meets



THE 7th meeting of Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy (7/2021) was virtually held yesterday at Office No. (1), Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Member of the working Committee Deputy Ministers from Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Commerce, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and representatives of the Ministries concerned attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chairman of Working Committee discussed the issues relating to loans under COVID-19 Recovery to Fund, including the support for fishery and livestock sector, by providing concessional loans, updates to launch Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) and the progress of the committee's works during the intervals of the two meetings.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by concerned ministries, future plan of actions, and issues raised by the ministries and the business firms and corporations. — MNA

35th Chairs' Meeting of ASEAN Capital Markets Forum held online

DEPUTY Minister for Planning and Finance and Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar U Maung Maung Win attended the 35th Chairs' Meeting of the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum online yesterday together with the Director-General and members of the commission.

During the meeting, Deputy Managing Director Ms Rashidah Sabtu of the Monetary Authority of Brunei, host country presided over the forum and other heads of ASEAN countries, representative of ASEAN Secretary-General Office and Asian Development Bank joined the event.

The meeting focused on the implementation of ASEAN Sustainable Finance jointly implemented by ASEAN Capital Market Development and ASEAN Capital Markets Forum, standards on the transition of capital markets, Sustainability Linked

Bond, continuing standards on ASEAN Corporations and technical assistance of ADB for the development of ASEAN capital market.

Then, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win discussed the current work plans to develop the capital markets, participation in implementing the ASEAN capital market development goals and also thanked ADB for technical assistance to Myanmar.

The meeting also published the manual book for ASEAN Collective Investment Schemes (ASEAN CIS) and ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard (ACGS) Country Report.

Moreover, the ACMF, Insurance Regulators' Meeting (AIRM), Senior Level Committee on Financial Integration (SLC) and WC-CMD organized ASEAN Taxonomy Board to draft the Taxonomy of ASEAN and set the principles for Board.



Moreover, the leaders agreed on the transparent information for the prioritized capital market expressed in ACMF Action Plan (2021-2025), implementation of transnational investment of ASE-

AN, interconnection of regional capital markets and more areas of cooperation for the development of regional capital markets.

Then, the Chairmanship of ACMF was transferred to the Se-

curities and Exchange Regulator of Cambodia.

The agreed processes will be submitted to the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting to be held at the end of this month. — MNA

1,022 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 October, total figure rises to 488,875

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 488,875 after 1,022 new cases were reported on 18 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 441,371 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,388 after 29 died.—MNA

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

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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.

MoI Deputy Minister visits Rakhine State, meets department officials

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint held a meeting with the Head of the Rakhine State Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), and Township and District IPRD Heads of Sittway, Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Pauktaw, MraukU, Kyauktaw, Minbya, and Myebon townships, Regional head of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) Retransmission Station (Sittway) and officials from Sub-Printing House (Sittway) in Sittway on 17 October.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister accompanied by the Head of the Rakhine State Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Ko Win, inspected the IPRD, the public library, children's reading room and a small museum in Sittway District.

In the afternoon, he visited the MRTV Station in Sittway, inspected the broadcasting equipment and met with the zone chief and staff. He instructed them to ensure that the equipment was not damaged and there was no

interruption in the broadcast, and that factory security is in place. During the visit to the Sub-Printing House under the News and Periodicals Enterprise, he instructed the staff to carry out their duties in harmony with each other and to improve the quality of the newspaper using the equipment systematically.

Yesterday morning, the Deputy Minister met with employees of the Maungtaw District Information and Public Relations Department and Taung Pyo Letwe town IPRD.

The Deputy Minister, together with the Chairman and members of the Maungtaw District Administration Body, encouraged the vaccinations to the students in Maungtaw Township, and cordially met with students, parents and teachers. The vaccination to the students at the age of 12 and above started on 17 October and 1,404 students of 7,297 students in the township have been vaccinated as of yesterday.



The MoI deputy minister and party view the vaccination in Maungtaw Township.

During a meeting with staff, he said the COVID-19 infection has significantly dropped and it will return to normal in a near future as acts of violence are also eliminated with the cooperation of the public. He urged them to

be ready to resume their information duties regularly, to disseminate false information about terrorists and make the people aware of their true nature of the disintegration of the country, to work together for the COVID-19

vaccination for students and the Pann Khin Project, to cooperate with relevant authorities for the successful implementation of the stability, security and regional development. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy attends 2nd Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference



MoEE delegation participates in the online 2nd Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference.

THE 2nd Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference is being held on 18 and 19 October in the People's Republic of China.

The conference is chaired by the National Energy Administration and is held in both virtual and in-person formats.

The conference is attended by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Thant Zin and department heads.

To help countries respond to energy consumption reforms and energy security challenges, the 2nd Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference was held under the theme "Joint Hands towards a Greener and More Inclusive Energy Future".

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo addressed the opening ceremony of the conference with a video clip.

Belt and Road Energy Ministers, Ambassadors, International Energy Ministers and Senior Energy Officials, UN-Energy Chiefs and senior officials from Chinese and international energy companies and experts from Chinese universities participated in the conference.

During the conference, officials discussed issues for build-

ing a carbon-free environment, developing policies and market development for green energy investment, Belt and Road cooperation, such as providing good financial support, developing clean and low-carbon energy consumption, and expanding collaborative research for better technologies and innovations to reduce costs for green energy development.

Discussions were also held on how to accelerate cooperation in the field of technology and innovation through smooth cross-border trade through the results of technological innovations.

Next, officials approved the Terms of Reference of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership and announced the Qingdao Initiative for Belt and Road Green Energy Cooperation. — MNA

Over 66,000 students receive first dose of COVID-19 in Mon State

MON State on Sunday began offering COVID-19 vaccine to students between the ages of 12 and 18 who are learning at basic education schools, monastic schools and private schools in selected places.

There are around 140 designated places from 10 town-

ships of Mon State to administer the vaccine. But in some areas, the selected places have been merged for security reasons.

Finally, the vaccination programme is being carried out in 116 places in ten townships in Mon State.

The health teams are divided into two or four groups. Those teams will go around those designated places and administering the vaccine. The vaccination programme for students was launched beginning on 17 October in Mon State.

The schoolchildren aged between 12 and 18 years will be jabbed with China's Sinovac vaccine, the State's Public Health Department stated.

A total of 66,273 students will be vaccinated in Mon State: 4,894 students in Kyaikto, 5,989 students in Bilin, 6,420

students in Thaton, 7,006 students in Paung, 8,860 students in Mawlamyine, 5,190 students in Chaungzon, 7,065 students in Kyaikmaraw, 7,157 students in Mudon, 6,569 students in Thanbyuzayat and 7,205 students in Ye townships. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Above 12-year-old school children receive COVID jabs in Yangon Region

COVID-19 vaccines are being given to students aged 12 and over in basic education schools in Yangon Region, in line with the motto: "Let's get vaccinated against COVID-19 for a healthy and happy life of education".

Healthcare officials and Red Cross members gave the vaccines to students aged 12 and above from Bahan Township at No. 2 Basic Education High School, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Saya San Ward, Bahan Township yesterday.

Health officials measured the body temperature, blood pressure and monitoring oxygen level before the vaccination.

Similarly, school students from No. 2 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township, No. 2 Basic Education High School in Kamayut Township, No. 2 and No. 3 Basic Education High Schools in Min-

galadon Township received the COVID vaccines yesterday.

On the same day, school children from No. 1 Basic Education High School, primary and middle schools in Dala Township and Pyawbwe Township received the COVID-19 vaccines.

Hand-washing basins were also set up at the vaccination sites to prevent COVID-19 disease. Officials also distributed masks and face shields before the vaccination.

Next health officials measured the body temperature, blood pressure and monitoring oxygen level before the vaccination.

"Emergency medical care will be provided if needed, and students who come to be vaccinated will be treated for complications after the vaccination", officials said.

"We have been monitoring



Immunization programme is underway.

for half an hour to find out if there are any health problems and to report everything immediately," officials added.

After the vaccination, officials arranged school buses for the transportation of the

school students.

Security was also provided by the fire brigade and the Myanmar police during the vaccination.

According to the school enrollment list in Yangon Re-

gion on 8 July, a total of 68,558 school students have been vaccinated for the first time, and the remaining 12-year-old students will be vaccinated against COVID-19 next, officials said. —Ko Ko Zaw.



Above 12-year-olds are seen receiving vaccines against COVID-19.

Dala constantly offers COVID-19 vaccine shots to student aged over 12

AUTHORITIES from Dala township, Yangon region have been administering COVID-19 vaccine shots to middle and high school students aged above 12 on 18 October 2021 at 9 am in four locations.

The vaccination programme is being carried to cut the spread of COVID-19 infections.

The four designated places are No 1 basic high school in Myoma ward 4, No 13 basic middle school in West Ann Gyi ward, No 6 basic middle school in Targyi ward and basic education high school in Pyawbwegyi Sanpya village.

The COVID-19 vaccination for students is being carried out under the guidance of the township administration, with the as-

sistant of the officials from the township public health department, the township education department, township security force, township department, township red cross society and the respective ward and village administrators.

Vaccines were given systematically by the physicians, and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated.

There are a total of 81 schools in Dala township including 76 middle and high schools, three monastery schools, two private elementary schools and two private middle schools.

There are a total of 4,982 students aged 12 and above in the 2021-22 academic year. On 17



Inoculation drive for above 12-year-old students in Dala.

October, about 946 students has been vaccinated for the first time. The vaccination programme will be incessantly carried out for the

remaining students in Dala township, according to the township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee.

Myanmar detected its first two COVID-19 cases on 23 March last year. —Naing Lin Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM

Over-12s middle, high school students get jabbed against COVID-19 in states, regions



Mongyawng Township, Shan State (East)



Kalaw Township, Shan State(South)



Ottwin Township, Bago Region



Kyaikto Township, Mon State



Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Region



Myintkyina Town, Kachin State



Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region



Myeik Twonship, Taninthayi Region



Hsenwi Township, Shan State(North)



Mongyu Town, Shan State (East)



Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State

Restore perpetual peace covering all over the country

A total of 135 ethnic nationals residing in various parts of Myanmar have been inspiring perpetual peace for many years. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA is essential for restoring perpetual peace among the ethnic-national people. In fact, before restoring the peace, it is necessary to build mutual trust among them. Upon completion of building mutual trust, any organizations and persons will easily face one another at the tables of dialogue.

If so, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be capable of modernizing itself. In the future, efforts for the peace process will be great milestones for the nationals and the nation unforgettably.

In this regard, all stakeholders should not need not to bring the past bitter experiences to the current era but they need to take lessons from these bitter ones to be shaped like the new strength for the nation-building tasks. Only when they restore the perpetual peace soonest, will the people build their new lives facilitated with peace and prosperity.

If the perpetual peace covers all over the nation, the entire people will have to enjoy the higher living standard as well as chance to touch all the fields. Those people can improve their lives in their respective fields. If so, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be capable of modernizing itself. In the future, efforts for the peace process will be great milestones for the nationals and the nation unforgettably.

Mutual trust is the basic key to lock off the door of perpetual peace. The government, the Tatmadaw, ethnic armed organizations and stakeholders are trying hard to open such a door to be able to enter the peaceful, prosperous and public arena of the nation. Holding up the mutual trust, all national brethren may frankly hold peace dialogues one after another to reach the agreements which will directly benefit the people. Ideas, concepts, stances, attitudes and aspirations of individuals and organizations will come true one day when the perpetual peace can be restored.

Hence, perpetual peace is concerned with all the entire people residing across the nation. They all have the right to enjoy the fruits of peace. They have the right to request all stakeholders to hold peace talks for seeking the best ways and means to overcome challenges in the talks. All stakeholders need to complete the peace dialogues as quickly as possible for enabling the entire people to taste the essence of the peace.

No deal on COVID vaccine patent waiver again: WTO

South Africa and India have called for intellectual property rights to be temporarily lifted for coronavirus vaccines during the pandemic in order to boost production and address the gaping inequality in access between rich and poor nations.

THE World Trade Organization (WTO) said Friday its member nations had again failed to agree to suspend intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines, with some countries doubting a deal could be reached unless certain delegations make "real compromises".

South Africa and India have called for intellectual property rights to be temporarily lifted for coronavirus vaccines during the pandemic in order to boost production and address the gaping inequality in access between rich and poor nations.

However, the idea has met with fierce opposition from pharmaceutical giants and their host countries, which insist patents are not the main roadblocks to scaling up production and warn the move could hamper innovation.

Pressure is mounting for

an accord with just weeks left before the WTO's 12th ministerial conference, which runs from 30 November to 3 December in Geneva.

The council of the WTO agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) met on Wednesday and Thursday to try to make progress on the issue.

The WTO works by consensus - all 164 member states must agree to any deal.

In a statement on Friday, the WTO said the council had not reached a deal.

The statement said that some members had "flagged the risk of not achieving an outcome unless delegations are able to make some real compromises."

"A positive and meaningful outcome... would not only send a powerful message of global solidarity, but would also be proof



Protesters walk with coffins from Parliament Square to Downing Street during a protest organised by Global Justice Now, against the UK's blocking of a waiver for the patent of the COVID-19 vaccine, in central London on 12 October 2021. PHOTO: AFP

that the WTO has the ability to respond to a major global crisis," those members added.

The TRIPS council chair

and Norway's WTO ambassador, Dagfinn Sorli, admitted the body "is not yet in a position to agree on a concrete and positive

conclusion". He said the council will continue to consult member states on how to reach consensus be-

fore the ministerial conference in Geneva. Further talks are also scheduled for 26 October.

Numerous countries have backed South Africa and India's call for coronavirus patents to be waived, as has the World Health Organization (WHO) and many non-profits.

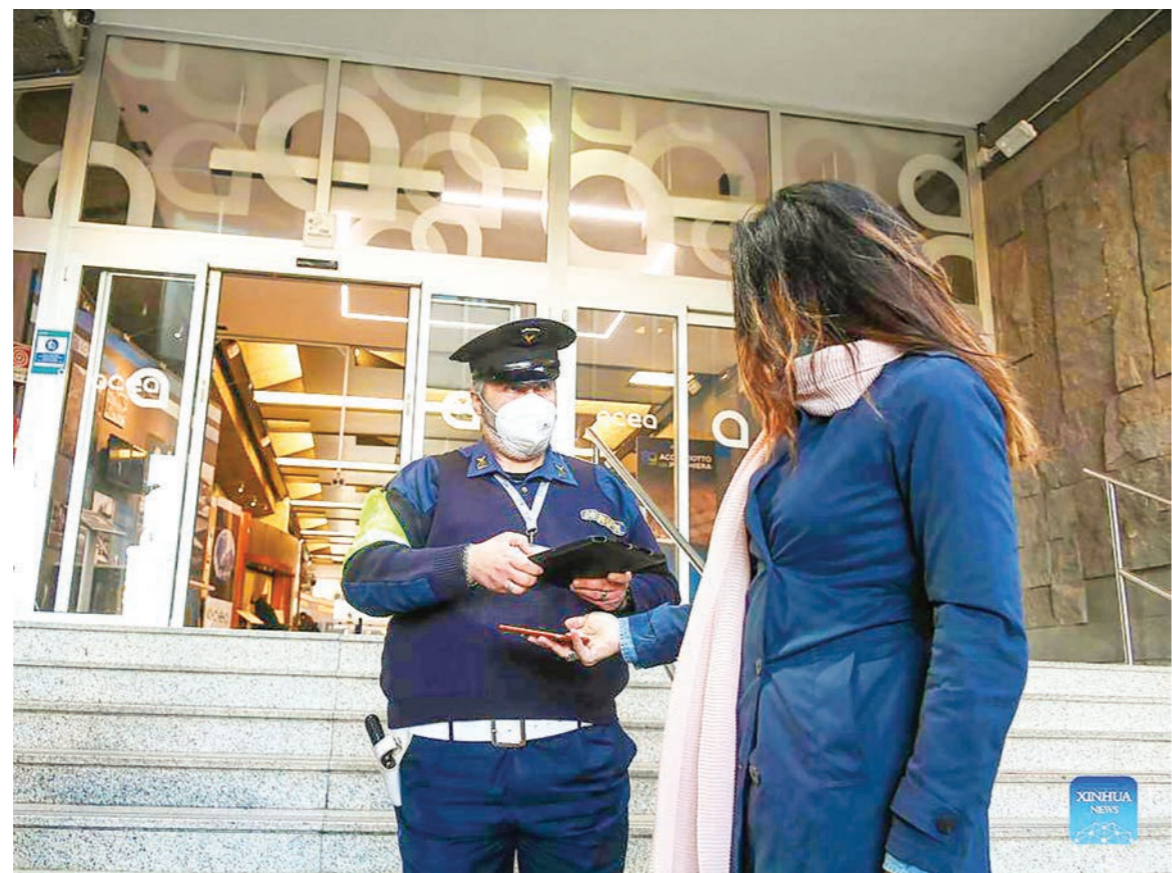
COVID vaccination rates are on average 30 times higher in rich countries than in poor countries. Many rich countries are now considering rolling out third doses of vaccines while billions of people have yet to get access to a first.

WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has said the yawning chasm in vaccination rates between the haves and the have nots was "devastating for the lives and livelihoods of Africans" and "morally unacceptable".

SOURCE: AFP

Mandatory COVID-19 Green Pass rule on job market enters into force in Italy

The requirement has already been in place for school and university employees and care home workers since September, and the pass has been required to enter most leisure, cultural and entertainment venues in the country since August.



A staff member checks an employee's COVID-19 Green Pass at the entrance of a workplace in Rome, Italy, on 15 October 2021. The latest anti-pandemic protocol requiring all workers in the Italian job market to hold the Green Pass proving COVID-19 vaccination entered into force on Friday. PHOTO: ALBERTO LINGRIA/XINHUA

THE latest anti-pandemic protocol requiring all workers in the Italian job market to hold the Green Pass proving COVID-19 vaccination entered into force on Friday.

The Italian government introduced the rule on Sept. 16, then gave companies and employers one month to adjust.

The Green Pass is the certificate showing proof that a person has received at least one dose of the vaccine, or is fully immunized, or has recovered from the infection, or has tested negative in the last 48 hours.

The new rule is now in force for all workers in both private and public sectors.

The rule provides that any worker who fails to show the Green Pass will be put on unpaid leave, but could not be dismissed. They could also face a fine of up to 1,500 euros (1,740 U.S. dollars) for not complying.

Employers would be held responsible for checking their work-

ers enter their job posts with the Green Pass.

While the majority of Italy's population accepted it as necessary to further proceed towards normal life, the move met with protests by some parts of the society.

Sit-ins and rallies were registered in some cities on Friday, the largest of which in the two main ports in the country's northwest and northeast - Genoa and Trieste, respectively.

Some 5,000 protesters were involved in Trieste, where some of the major harbor's activities were affected, regional governor Massimiliano Fedriga told private all-news TV channel Sky TG24.

Traffic disruption was reported before the ports of Genoa and of Ancona (central Italy). Smaller protests were also seen in Rome, Milan, Turin, and Venice.

Yet, people opposing the vaccination and the mandatory green pass made a minority in the country, as 80.8 per cent of the target population - those aged above

12 - have fully immunized, and over 85 per cent had a first dose, according to the Health Ministry.

Italy is the first European Union country to go this far in terms of anti-COVID protocols in the job market. The government had moved gradually in an earlier phase, making vaccines mandatory only for workers in essential sectors such as health care and education.

However, many remained reluctant, and with the beginning of autumn and the need to boost the economy as much as possible, such stringent regulation was deemed as a necessary further push to the ongoing vaccination campaign, which remains strongly recommended but not mandatory.

At least 8 million people aged above 12 have yet to receive the first vaccine dose, according to the latest report provided by the country's coronavirus emergency commissioner Francesco Figliuolo.

SOURCE: XINHUA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 18 October 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Chin, Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States, and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (5-7) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of weak monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 October 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 October 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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SAC drops charges against 24 artistes, 10 social media influencers

THE State Administration Council is making efforts for the interest of the State and its citizens, and those who have been charged for their involvement in anti-government incitements and riots, except those involved in arson, vandalism, and terrorist attacks, have been released.

Charges against 24 artistes and 10 social media influencers under Section 505-A of the Penal Code due to their involvement in protests and incitement activities on social media have been closed under the law, according to the relevant authority. — MNA

Artistes who have been charged under Section 505-A 18 October 2021

No	Name	Remark
1	Nwe Darli Tun	
2	Thet Htar Su San	
3	Htet Eaint (a) Htet Htet Eaint	
4	Khin Wint War	
5	Yadanar Tun (a) Kaw Ni	
6	Nyi Htut Khaung	
7	Htet Aung Shine	
8	Sithu Win	
9	Angel La Mone	
10	Aye Nyein Swe	
11	May	
12	Yadanar Bo	

13	Chuu Sitt Han	
14	Khay Satt Thwin	
15	Htoo Paing Zaw	
16	Nan Khin Thet Htar	
17	Su Eaint San	
18	Kyaw Ye Tun	
19	Zin Aung	
20	Than Thar Moe Theint	
21	May Madi	
22	Thoon Nay Soe	
23	Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein	
24	Chan Myae Maung Cho	

Social Influencers who have been charged under Section 505-A 18 October 2021

No	Name	Remark
1	Htet Shine Aung	
2	Phyo Phyo Aung	
3	Phyo Aung	
4	San Lin	
5	Pyae Wa Tun	
6	Kaung Sett Naing	
7	Dr Mya Wutt Ye	
8	Shwe Wutt Hmone	
9	Pauk Si	
10	Hein Min	

647 prisoners released from Insein Central Prison

THE State Administrative Council issued the amnesty order (Amnesty Order No. 186/2021 and Order No. 187/2021, and 647 prisoners from Insein Central Prison were released on amnesty.

The release of prisoners who have been pardoned from Insein Central Prison was held yesterday evening at the Indoor Central Stadium compound of Insein Central Prison in Yangon Region.

Member of the Yangon Region Administration Council Colonel Win Tint, Council Secretary U Soe Soe Zaw, the Yangon Region Police Chief, Yangon Region Director for Department

of Prisons, officials and amnesty prisoners attended the event, with member of the Yangon Region Administration Council Colonel Win Tint, and Yangon Region Police Chief Myo Min

Htike, delivering speeches.

The released prisoners were then escorted by YBS vehicles to the respective townships.

Of the prisoners released from Insein Central Prison



The released are seen returning to their home townships. **PHOTO: KANU**

yesterday, 99 were male prisoners and 150 were females, and the remaining 497 will be

released on the morning of 19 October. —Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

80 prisoners released from Mandalay Central Prison



Releasees from the Mandalay Central Prison.

THE State Administration Council yesterday announced amnesty order No. (186/2021) that 1,316 prisoners were released from various prisons across the country and thus 80 prisoners were also released from Mandalay

Central Prison.

Therefore, Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min addressed the amnesty prisoners for implementing Section 401 of the Code of

Criminal Procedure, under sub-section (1) of the amnesty program in Mandalay Central Prison yesterday.

Prison officials then provided healthcare services to the amnesty prisoners.

Next, the prisoners were released from the prison after receiving their travel expenses.

“There are a total of 80 prisoners in Mandalay Central Prison. There were 77 men and three women. Today, prisoners are being released on parole at Mandalay Central Prison, as well as in prisons in other regions. I’m pleased to hear the good news”, said U Cho Win Tun, head of the Region Prison Department.

“I was sentenced to three

years in prison. I spent four months and two days in prison. I am happy to be reunited with my family after my release. I don’t even think so; I feel like I’m dreaming. I also thank the government for releasing me,” said Daw Kyi Kyi Khine, who was

released on amnesty.

A total of 171 prisoners, including 162 men and nine women, were released from various prisons in Mandalay Region. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



Releasees from the Mandalay Central

YGEA discusses paper gold investment

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) is making an effort for paper gold investment at a bank over physical metal, the association stated.

The association met the officials of Shwe Bank on 16 October regarding the paper gold scheme.

Paper gold is an asset that reflects the price of gold without physically owning the gold. A gold certificate will be issued by the

Bank to the investors, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

The paper gold investment can be seen in international trading. To implement this scheme, the association submitted a report to the Central Bank of Myanmar. Laws and rules are required to be drafted again.

Paper gold trading is a safe investment that guarantees the quality and value of the asset, held by the bank.

At present, the price of gold in the domestic market remains in a high trend, tracking the spike in global prices and Kyat weakening on the US dollar. The price of precious pure gold metal touched a high of K1,840,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes), as per the YGEA.

The global gold price stood at above US\$1,766 per ounce, while a US dollar exchange rate was around K2,000. — NN/GNLM



One of the gold jewellery outlets.

CBM sells \$50 million on 18 Oct



The Central Bank of Myanmar.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$50 million at its FX auction rate of K1,820 on 18 October.

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

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

In September, the CBM sold 63 million dollars to the private banks to steer the local currency value. Last September-end, a dollar value reached the highest of over K3,000 in

history.

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

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. — GNLM

Singapore puts capital of \$429 mln into Myanmar in 2020-2021FY

THE 14 Singapore-listed enterprises brought in US\$429.336 million into Myanmar last financial year 2020-2021, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed.

Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investment of more than US\$3.79 billion in the last financial year 2020-2021 from 48 enterprises, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, DICA's statistics indicated.

A UK-listed enterprise brought in large investments of \$2.5 million and became the top source of FDI in Myanmar.

Japan stood as the second-largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of \$518.76 million from

three projects. Singapore is ranked third in the investment line-up.

Those enterprises listed from Brunei, China, Thailand, India, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Hong Kong (SAR) and China (Taipei) also made investments this year.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$1.85 billion in the FY2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013FY, respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second-largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after top investor Japan. — KK/GNLM

Palm oil distributed at reasonable prices nationwide

THE Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at 3,700 kyats per viss at wholesale price in different states and regions

for the public beginning 20 September.

A total of 7,916,755 visses of palm oil equal to 12,935.88 tonnes have been sold in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago,

Magway and Taninthayi regions and Shan State to date.

The officials arrange oil tankers to sell in the wards of Yangon and also will provide trucks in regions and states.

The palm oil wholesalers

will have to resell the oil not more than 2 per cent of net profit at retail outlets and the wholesalers and retailers can contact Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association (No. 104/108, Strand Street, Hlut-

lat Yay Quarter, Ahlon Township) at 09-444437295 and 09-401527049 and Department of Consumer Affairs, Yangon Region at 01-250270 and 09-43666668 to buy the palm oil.— MNA

‘Running out of time’: Asia struggles to kick coal addiction

SMOKESTACKS belch noxious fumes into the air from a massive coal-fired power plant on the Indonesian coast, a stark illustration of Asia’s addiction to the fossil fuel which is threatening climate targets.

Asia-Pacific accounts for about three-quarters of global coal consumption — even as the region struggles with the environmental and public health impacts of global warming, from deadly levels of air pollution in India to extreme heatwaves and wildfires in Australia.

Hopes for a cleaner future have been fired by pledges from top coal consumer China and other countries to go carbon neutral but much of the region is making a painfully slow transition to renewable sources.

“We are moving much slower than the impact of climate change. We are running out of



This photo taken on 21 September 2021 shows village houses as smoke rises from the chimneys at the Suralaya coal power plant in Cilegon. Smokestacks belch noxious fumes into the air from a massive coal-fired power plant on the Indonesian coast, a stark illustration of Asia’s addiction to the fossil fuel which is threatening climate targets. **PHOTO: BAY ISMOYO / AFP**

time,” warned Tata Mustasya, a Greenpeace energy campaigner in Indonesia. Change is hard in one of the last bastions of the dirtiest fossil fuel, however — five

Asian countries are responsible for 80 per cent of new coal power stations planned worldwide, according to a report from Carbon Tracker. Commitments that have

been made are too weak, analysts say, with promises to halt construction of plants and tighten overseas funding from key financing countries often not covering

projects already planned.

And critics say that rich nations are not providing enough help, in terms of financing or technical know-how, to help poorer countries make the transition.

The challenge is illustrated by the enormous Suralaya coal plant on Indonesia’s Java island, one of the biggest in Southeast Asia, which can power about 14 million homes a year.

Indonesia has committed to be carbon neutral by 2060, and to stop building new coal-fired plants from 2023, but despite this — the facility is undergoing a \$3.5 billion expansion that will boost its capacity.

Burning coal is responsible for a massive chunk of carbon dioxide emissions, making it a major threat to limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, as agreed in the 2015 Paris climate deal. — AFP ■

Mining firm, eco-activists battle over unique Chile archipelago



A humpback whale is seen off the coast of Punta Choros, in La Higuera, Chile, on 6 October 2021. The Dominga mining project, to be built in La Higuera, is expected to cost 2,500 million dollars and will include the extraction of iron and copper concentrates. Its closeness to the Humboldt Archipelago, which is composed of eight islands and islets with one of the richest ecosystems in the world, has caused the rejection of environmental organizations. **PHOTO: ALBERTO PEÑA / AFP**

THE Humboldt archipelago off the northern Pacific coast of Chile is a “natural treasure” and refuge for unique species of fauna, including a particular

type of penguin and an otter on the brink of extinction.

But its fragile ecosystem is under threat, say environmentalists, from a \$2.5 billion

mining project on the nearby mainland that has stirred the debate in Chile between the economic benefits of mineral extraction and the need to protect the planet as a climate catastrophe looms.

To make matters even more complicated, the Dominga Mining project in the Coquimbo region is also at the centre of a corruption scandal that could topple President Sebastian Pinera.

The archipelago — made up of eight islands, including three that form a national reserve — is a “natural treasure” of biodiversity, Carlos Gaymer, an academic at the Catholic University of the North, told AFP. — AFP ■

From oil to renewables, winds of change blow on Scottish islands

IN the far north of the United Kingdom, where the wind blows and the sea rages, the islands of Orkney and Shetland have long relied on oil and gas for prosperity.

But as supplies dwindle and the fight against climate change becomes more urgent, the islands off the northeast coast of Scotland are increasingly turning to renewables.

Daniel Wise is head of offshore operations at Orbital Marine Power, a start-up that is testing its 02 tidal energy generator off Orkney.

The submerged propellers turn with the current, producing enough electricity to power some 2,000 homes.

“Half a billion tonnes of seawater moves per hour on this

site, so it’s very good for testing these turbines,” Wise told AFP.

On Orkney and Shetland, which are nearer to Norway than London, giant standing stones are a visual reminder of the ancient Neolithic past.

Now, gleaming white wind turbines are seen as symbols of a brighter, more sustainable future.

“A lot of people describe Orkney as a living laboratory,” said Jerry Gibson, operations technician at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC), which tests wave and tidal energy converters on Orkney. “And we have lots of test sites and various different companies that are all working together... in this sort of green economy that we’ve got going on.” — AFP ■

Energy-stricken S Africa weighs need to save climate and keep lights on

WHEN you fly into Johannesburg, solar panels seem to gleam everywhere, from the roofs of mansions and small township homes alike.

But those glittering 21st-century panels mask South Africa’s dependence on a dirty 19th-century energy source: coal.

Like many developing countries, South Africa is struggling to meet growing energy needs yet avoid deepening Earth’s car-

bon crisis — one of the many dilemmas besetting the UN climate talks, which resume in Glasgow on 31 October.

South Africa’s continuing addiction to coal has to be seen in the context of rolling blackouts that have been a part of life since 2007.

Schedules for power cuts are shared on apps and in news reports, along with quotidian news like weather and traffic

jams.

“As a young South African I am scared,” environmental activist Ditebogo Lebea said during a webinar organised by the think-tank South African Institute of International Affairs. “Our country is facing an energy crisis that needs urgent attention.”

The power cuts are a headache for residents and disastrous for businesses, undermining efforts to bring down a 34 per cent

unemployment rate.

When the crisis first erupted, entire cities were unexpectedly plunged into darkness, prompting angry finger-pointing.

The government sifted through every conceivable solution to try to resolve the problem.

Steep discounts — up to 100 per cent — were offered for homes to adopt solar water heating. Wind farms sprouted up. A desert blossomed into Africa’s

largest solar farm.

But the country also decided to build not one, but two gargantuan coal-powered plants, each producing about 4,800 Megawatts.

Operating as a unit, they will form the biggest coal power complex in the world, topping even China’s massive coal expansion.

By comparison, the solar farm produces 50 megawatts of power. — AFP ■

AOTS, NTT Docomo testing 5G-based remote training solutions

THE Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships, a Japanese organization for human resources development, NTT Docomo Inc. and a Thai unit of the mobile operator have agreed on a tie-up for a trial of remote technical training using 5G network solutions.

The association, known as AOTS, NTT Docomo and Bangkok-based Mobile Innovation Co. said they aim to help develop industrial human resources via remote practical training and technical guidance by using the two firms'

5G-related technologies and services. The trial began Thursday and runs through 31 March next year.

Japanese businesses taking part in AOTS' training programs will help evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of the system as they provide courses for trainees at their Thai subsidiaries.

The RealWear hands-free, head-mounted smart glass display panel worn by trainees is among the key devices to be tested in the trial along with the AVATOUR remote solutions that allow users to shoot photos and videos

and stream them with the use of 5G connectivity.

These, for instance, enable trainers to guide hand movements while recipients of training can virtually visit factories and construction sites in Japan, according to the three parties.

AOTS is a human resource development organization that supports developing countries by promoting technical cooperation through training, dispatch of experts and other programs.

Its collaboration with NTT Docomo came as a number of Japanese companies have faced dif-



The Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships, NTT Docomo Inc and Mobile Innovation Co have agreed on a tie-up for a trial of remote technical training using 5G network solutions. PHOTO: NNA/KYODO NEWS

ficulty sending technical experts or transferring ex-

pertise to their overseas bases, resulting in delays

in their business plans. — Kyodo News ■

Hong Kong takes on Singapore with China futures trading

HONG Kong's stock exchange launched a new futures contracts scheme on Monday making it easier for international investors to bet on mainland Chinese stocks, providing a much-needed boost for the city's underperforming bourse.

The launch is something of a blow for rival Singapore which, until now, had a monopoly on Chinese futures.

HKEX's chief executive officer Nicolas Aguzin on Monday called the new product a milestone and said Hong Kong continued to be a channel for global investors to access the Chinese market.

Goldman Sachs analysts wrote in late September that the "HKEX A50" futures scheme will become the "biggest offshore traded A-share equity futures product over the medium term".

The product may add around five per cent to HKEX's revenues by 2025, though trading volume for MSCI index-based futures is typically "negligible" for the first two years, they added. Analysts believe it will take years for Hong Kong to catch up with Singapore given its head start on the market. — AFP ■

Japan to urge oil producers to boost output amid price surge

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday Japan is keeping an eye on the recent surge in oil prices and will urge major producers to boost output to quell concerns of a supply deficit.

"We are closely watching movements in the crude oil market as well as the impact on domestic industry and households," Kishida told reporters after calling an emergency meeting of Cabinet members including Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno and industry minister Koichi Hagiuda to discuss the matter.

Oil prices have climbed sharply over the past two months as demand recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, with benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude futures rising to \$82.28 per barrel on Friday in New York, their highest level in seven years.

The surge has sent gasoline prices in Japan climbing, possibly putting a damper on household spending at a time when domestic travel is expected to increase after the state of emergency was lifted at the start of this month. — Kyodo News ■

Asian markets drop on inflation woes, China growth slows further

ASIAN markets struggled Monday as inflation concerns returned to the fore, with commodity prices rallying and central banks preparing to roll back their ultra-loose monetary policies.

Adding to the grey mood was data showing growth in China's economy, the world's second-biggest, slowed further in the third quarter, hit by a property-sector crisis and a looming energy crunch.

The losses follow a healthy run-up last week across the world fuelled by a strong start to the earnings season, which helped distract from surging prices. However, a further rise in the oil market — WTI is at a seven-year high and

Brent is at a three-year peak — has refocused attention on the threat of inflation.

Data last week showed Chinese factory-gate costs at their highest in a quarter of a century in September, while US wholesale inflation hit a record.

And on Monday, New Zealand said prices rose at their quickest rate in a decade.

The figures have increased pressure on central banks around the world to tighten the easy money policies put in place at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, which have been key to a strong economic and equity market recovery. Some banks —

including in South Korea and New Zealand — have already hiked borrowing costs while the Bank of England has indicated it is close.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve is expected to begin paring its bond-buying programme before the end of the year, and some observers are suggesting it could lift interest rates possibly before 2023. The prospect of higher rates and less cheap cash has weighed on sentiment for several months and reassurances that inflation would only be temporary have been overtaken by the surging energy costs caused by reopenings around the world and a recovery in demand.

The lifting of travel restrictions into the United States from next month will likely add further upward pressure to prices. "How risk markets respond to the bringing forward of rate hike expectations will be key to watch this week, as will anecdotes from the profit reporting season to see how firms are dealing with higher input costs and to what extent they are able to pass this onto consumers," said National Australia Bank's Tapas Strickland.

In early trade, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Seoul, Wellington, Manila and Jakarta were all down, though Sydney and Taipei edged up. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (044N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (044N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-10-2021** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V PNT MIGHTY V.08/2021

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PNT MIGHTY VOY.NO. (08/2021)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

US defence chief in Georgia for military talks

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin landed in Georgia Monday on the first leg of a visit to three allies on the Black Sea, aiming to deliver a message of support against threats from Russia.

The first Pentagon chief to visit since 2014, Austin will seek to renew a military training program and demonstrate America's commitment to Tbilisi, which has sought for years to become a full member of NATO.

"We are reassuring and reinforcing the sovereignty of

countries that are on the front lines of Russian aggression," a senior US defence official told reporters ahead of the trip.

Russian troops are stationed in two Georgian break-away regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and Moscow opposes any move to elevate the country's NATO status from partner-state level to full member.

The United States has had training programs with the Georgian military for years, focused on developing interoperability capability with NATO

as well as territorial defence, and the current program expires in December.

In meetings with Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and Minister of Defence Juanasher Burchuladze, Austin will also express appreciation for Georgia's contribution to the two-decade war in Afghanistan, US officials said.

More than 20,000 Georgian troops took part in the US-led coalition force between 2004 and 2021, and 32 lost their lives in the conflict.

The Biden administration

needs to pay more attention to Georgia to head off a potential tilt toward Russia as well as China, said political scientist David Kramer at Florida International University, who is a former senior US diplomat.

"There is growing concern that the government is a little too flexible to Moscow," he said.

"Part of that is frustration with a lack of progress that they see toward integration with NATO."

From Tbilisi, Austin will then travel to two other countries on the rim of the Black

Sea, Ukraine and Romania, with the same message of support against Russia.

The Pentagon sees the region as a potential flashpoint, especially since Russia seized the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine — like Georgia a NATO partner state — in 2014.

Russian air and naval forces have increasingly challenged NATO members' ships in the Black Sea.

In June Russian forces menaced Dutch and British warships as they sailed near Crimea. — AFP ■

UK MPs to pay tribute to slain colleague in parliament



Police officers staff a cordon next to floral tributes left near the scene of the fatal stabbing of British lawmaker David Amess close to Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, a district of Southend-on-Sea, in southeast England on 17 October 2021. PHOTO: AFP

BRITISH lawmakers will on Monday pay tributes in parliament to their fallen colleague David Amess, as counter-terrorism police probed whether a suspect arrested was motivated by Islamist extremism.

Veteran Conservative MP Amess, who was 69, was stabbed to death on Friday as he met voters at a church in Leigh-on-Sea, east of London, in the second such attack on a UK lawmaker in just over five years.

Police are holding a 25-year-old man under the Terrorism Act, which allowed officers over the weekend to extend his detention for questioning until Friday. He has not been charged.

Parliament, which reconvenes after a three-week break, will hold a special afternoon session when lawmakers from across the political spectrum will pay tribute to an MP lauded for his decency and tireless constituency work.

"What really defined him is that, even when he disagreed with people, there was a generosity of spirit," deputy prime minister Dominic Raab told BBC radio. "We'll miss him and I'll miss him personally," he added, noting Amess — who was first elected in 1983 — had always been "very kind and generous with his time and advice". — AFP ■

Venezuelan opposition urges government to resume talks

VENEZUELA'S opposition called on President Nicolas Maduro's government to resume talks to resolve their differences, after the ruling party withdrew from the latest round that was to begin Sunday in Mexico.

"We urge the other side to resume the sessions in Mexico as soon as possible to produce the necessary agreements," Gerardo Blyde, head of the opposition team, said at a press conference in Mexico City.

The meeting was to run until Wednesday.

Maduro's government an-

nounced Saturday it would not attend the meeting after Alex Saab, a Colombian national accused of acting as a money launderer for the Venezuelan socialist leader, was extradited from Cape Verde to the United States.

"No person is more important than the Venezuelan people," Blyde said, though he lamented there was a "new delay" in the negotiations, which began in August and are mediated by Norway.

Caracas is pushing for Western sanctions relief, while the

opposition led by Juan Guaido wants guarantees of fair regional elections in November.

Neither Maduro, who is accused by the opposition of fraudulent re-election in 2018, nor Guaido, who is considered president by about 60 countries, is personally taking part in the talks.

The United States has urged Maduro, a former bus driver who became president on the death of his mentor Hugo Chavez in 2013, to make serious efforts toward holding elections if he wants sanctions relief. — AFP ■

Under Taliban, Kabul's drug addicts forced into withdrawal

WITH shaved heads, oversized tunics and the terrified gaze of the hunted, the drug addicts rounded up by the Taliban brace for 45 days of painful withdrawal.

For some, the hardliners' raids may potentially help them cast off the yoke of addiction.

But for many the stay at Kabul's Ibn Sina centre will just mark a short change of scene, marked by a brutal approach to forcing users off their powerful dependence.

Before the Taliban marched into Kabul on 15 August, police in the capital would sometimes arrest addicts and transfer them to the centre.

But since the hardline Islamists took control, the frequency of raids on areas where addicts gather appears to have increased.

Hundreds of users shelter in squalid conditions at Pul-e-Sukhta, under a bridge in western Kabul synonymous with hard drugs and violent crime.

They recognize the rehab

clinic's ambulance, and those who can lift themselves off the fetid ground stagger down the rubbish-strewn Paghman River to avoid capture, while many are too intoxicated to wake up.

Two Taliban fighters, armed with M16 and AK-47 rifles, prod the comatose heroin and methamphetamine users with their gun barrels as outreach workers wrestle with men before forcing them to the vehicle.

Raw sewage runs straight into the boggy river bed, and the stench of urine, faeces and vomit in the crowded drug den is overwhelming.

Cushions, blankets, sandbags and tarpaulins make up the ramshackle camp, which is littered with the addicts' paraphernalia: syringes, wraps, foil and pipes.

The gunmen fire a few shots into the air to assert their authority and shock the addicts, before about 20 are rounded up and whisked away. — AFP ■



This picture taken on 16 October 2021 shows a Taliban member detaining a drug addict under a bridge where hundreds of addicted people gather in Kabul. With shaved heads, oversized tunics and the frightened gaze of hunted animals, the drug addicts rounded up by the Taliban brace for 45 days of painful and anxiety-ridden withdrawal. PHOTO: BULENT KILIC / AFP

Singapore to expand no-quarantine scheme for vaccinated travellers

FULLY vaccinated travellers from eight countries will be able to enter Singapore without quarantine from Tuesday, as the business hub eases restrictions and gears up to live with the coronavirus.

The city-state initially fought the pandemic by shutting borders, lockdowns of varying intensity and aggressive contact tracing but with more than 80 per cent of the population fully vaccinated, authorities in the global aviation hub are keen to revive the economy.

They opened travel lanes for vaccinated passengers from Brunei and Germany in September, and will expand the scheme from Tuesday to another eight countries—Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States.

The lane with South Korea will start 15 November.

Under the policy, passengers will not have to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated and tested negative for the coronavirus before they depart and on arrival.

“Singapore cannot stay locked down and closed off indefinitely,” Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said 9 October, when he announced a raft of measures under the “Living with Covid-19” strategy.

Lee pointed to the Delta coronavirus variant as a factor.

“The Delta variant is highly infectious, and has spread all over the world. Even with the whole population vaccinated, we still will not be able to stamp it out,” he said.

“Almost every country has



Passengers on Singapore Airlines flight SQ325 – the first flight to arrive under the new Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) – are pictured in the baggage hall at Changi Airport in Singapore on 8 September 2021, as travellers vaccinated against the Covid-19 coronavirus arrive from Frankfurt, Germany and are able to enter Singapore without quarantine. **PHOTO: AFP**

accepted this reality.”

In addition to focusing on home care for mild and asymptomatic domestic cases, Lee said

Singapore needed to resume international travel.

The city-state is home to the regional offices of thousands

of multi-national corporations, which rely on Singapore’s status as a business and aviation hub for their operations.

“We must continue to re-open our borders safely,” Lee said. “Companies and investors need to carry out regional and global business from Singapore. People working for them need to travel to earn a living.”

And the success of the city-state’s vaccinated lanes project may boost the recovery in the global aviation industry, which was hammered by the pandemic.

“We hope the positive actions taken by Singapore will spur other markets to similarly navigate their pathways towards restarting air travel,” said Philip Goh, Asia-Pacific vice president at aviation industry group IATA. — AFP ■

S Korea ruling party says nominee to work to rehabilitate Japan ties

THE leader of South Korea’s ruling party said Monday that its presidential candidate Lee Jae Myung, if elected, will work to rehabilitate soured ties with Japan by taking practical steps such as economic cooperation.

In his first interview with foreign media since the Democratic Party chose the governor of Gyeonggi Province as its candidate in the March election, Song Young Gil said he himself will also work to improve bilateral ties through the personal connections he has inside Japan’s ruling coalition.

Song’s remarks were in response to a question about Lee’s stance toward Japan, which is seen inside Japan as hard-line given his past remarks.

“We are going to prioritize practicality the most, and I am sure that the Democratic Party



Song Young Gil, the leader of South Korea’s ruling Democratic Party, speaks in an interview with Kyodo News at the National Assembly in Seoul on 18 October 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

would be better at solving ongoing problems involving the two countries,” Song said at the National Assembly in Seoul. “In that

sense, the first agenda would be economics, especially the white list issue.”

In July 2019, Japan imposed stricter regulations on South Korea-bound exports of materials crucial to the production of semiconductors and display panels, citing undermined trust between the two countries. It proceeded to remove South Korea from a “white list” of trusted trade partners that receive preferential treatment.

The Japanese moves came after South Korea’s top court in late 2018 ordered Japanese firms to compensate Korean plaintiffs over forced labour during World War II, plunging the increasingly frosty ties to the worst level in decades.— Kyodo News ■

China says recent test was spacecraft not missile

CHINA on Monday denied a report it had recently launched a hypersonic missile, saying it tested a spacecraft to trial reusable technologies.

The Financial Times reported Saturday that Beijing had launched a nuclear-capable missile in August that circled the Earth at low orbit before narrowly missing its target.

FT sources said the hypersonic missile was carried by a Long March rocket and that the

test had been kept under wraps.

But China said Monday the report was inaccurate and the exercise was a test of reusable technology that could reduce the cost of launching spacecraft.

“According to my understanding, this test is a routine spacecraft test, used to test a reusable spacecraft technology,” foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters.

“This could provide a convenient and cheap way for hu-

mans to use space for peaceful purposes.”

When asked directly if the FT report was inaccurate about the missile, Zhao replied “yes”.

Along with China, the United States, Russia and at least five other countries are working on hypersonic technology.

Hypersonic missiles can fly at more than five times the speed of sound and like ballistic missiles can deliver a nuclear warhead.— AFP ■

Apple supplier Foxconn unveils electric vehicles

TAIWANESE tech giant Foxconn unveiled three electric vehicles on Monday, boosting its bid to be a major player in the rapidly expanding EV market as it seeks companies to partner with.

The world’s largest contract electronics maker, Foxconn already plays a lynchpin role in assembling Apple’s iPhones as well as gadgets for a myriad of top international brands.

But it has been moving fast to diversify beyond electronics assembly and has ploughed money into electric vehicles, including a joint venture with local automaker Yulon Motor and purchasing a struggling auto plant in Ohio.

The models unveiled on Monday — a sedan, an SUV and a bus — are concept vehicles that Foxconn hopes it could build with other manufacturers.

“Foxconn is no longer a new kid in town,” chairman Young Liu declared at the unveiling ceremony in Taipei.

Foxconn’s founder Terry Gou drove their “Model E” sedan to the presentation and said the company’s EVs “demonstrate Taiwan’s overall industrial strength”.

A white sports utility vehicle — “Model C” — is expected to hit the market in Taiwan in 2023 with a price tag of under Tw\$1 million (\$357,000), the firm said.

Its “Model T” electric bus

could start operating in southern Kaohsiung city as early as next year if it passes the transport ministry’s review, vice premier Shen Jong-chin said.

Foxconn has funnelled about Tw\$10 billion (\$355 million) into electric car development in 2020 and the company says its investment will rise over the next two years.

Liu said the company “has gradually built an electric vehicle supply chain and distribution network”, with one new partnership announced almost every month this year.

Among its recent partners is Fisker, one of a host of US-based electronic car startups hoping to one day challenge Tesla’s supremacy.

The two companies announced plans to jointly develop electric cars sold under the Fisker brand with a goal to start producing vehicles in late 2023.

It has been widely reported for years that Apple has a secret electronic car project, something Foxconn could be in an ideal place to partner on given its existing relationship with the Californian giant. The unveiling of Foxconn’s models comes as car makers suffer from a global shortage of semiconductors after the coronavirus pandemic caused purchases of electronics and computer parts to sky-rocket.— AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar trounce Lebanon 4-0

MYANMAR women's national football team beat Lebanon women's team 4-0 in the opener of the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, which was played yesterday at Spartak Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Myanmar's star striker Win Theingi Tun scored an opening goal for Myanmar women's team from the penalty spot in the 24th minute.

The second goal for Myanmar team was scored by substitute winger Myat Noe Khin in the 64th minute and San Thaw Thaw scored the third goal in the 86th minute with a header.

Next, substitute striker

July Kyaw scored the winning or fourth goal for team Myanmar in the 90 + 3 minutes of injury time.

"Lebanon team played very smart today. They played with all their might. Congratulations to all Myanmar players who played their best to grab the victory today. There are still some mistakes, but I am happy for today's victory. We will play with respect to all the teams in the group," said Myanmar Women's National Team head coach U Tin Myint Aung at a post-match press conference.

"I'm not great, but I'm happy with the result. I'm happy to have best understanding



Myanmar women's national football team beat Lebanon women's team 4-0 in the opener of the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, which was played yesterday at Spartak Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

with my team and scored the necessary goals, not just one

by one. Thankyou teammates for their best efforts," said

team captain Khin Mar Lar Tun after the match. —GNLM

Spain's Badosa beats Azarenka to capture Indian Wells title



Paula Badosa of Spain holds the winners trophy following victory over Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in their women's final match at the Indian Wells tennis tournament on 17 October 2021 in Indian Wells, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

PAULA Badosa demonstrated her mental toughness to become the WTA Indian Wells champion in her desert debut on Sunday with a hard-fought, three-set victory over two-time champion

Victoria Azarenka.

The Spaniard, who had not lost a set since her first match of the tournament, needed three hours and four minutes to out-muscle Azarenka 7-6 (7/5),

2-6, 7-6 (7/2).

"Every morning I wake up and my dream is to win a tournament like this," Badosa said. "I have to keep working hard and always believe. The key is to enjoy the journey."

Badosa won her only previous WTA final earlier this season in Belgrade but she did it via a retirement over Ana Konjuh. This one was sweeter because Badosa got to close out the championship point on the court, hammering a forehand winner to the open side that Azarenka could only watch sail in. Badosa celebrated the biggest win of her career by falling face first to the court, both hands covering her face while the crowd cheered. — AFP ■

FIFA to discuss biennial World Cup with coaches this week

FIFA said on Monday it will hold talks with national team coaches this week over the controversial idea of holding the men's World Cup every two years.

The consultations about the proposals, which have come in for heavy criticism from UEFA and CONMEBOL, the International Olympic Committee, as well as coaches and players, will take place on Tuesday and Thursday.

"The discussions will be led by FIFA Chief of Global Football Development Arsene Wenger and will include a range of talking points, including player health, international windows, the frequency of FIFA World Cup finals and other important issues

in the game," football's governing body said.

The meetings will be held via online video calls.

"As a coach of the men's national teams, their input is essential," former Arsenal boss Wenger said in FIFA's statement.

"Opportunities for us to come together are few and far between, but we must embrace these occasions as such dialogue helps us all to protect the unique place that football has in the world and to make it truly global."

The World Cup has been played every four years, apart from cancellations during World War II, since the inaugural edition in 1930. — AFP ■