

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Press Release

THE Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 15 October 2021 via videoconference and current ASEAN Chair, Brunei Darussalam issued a statement on 16 October 2021 with regard to the accounts of the meeting.

Foreign Minister II of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam in his capacity as ASEAN Chair sent a letter addressed to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs on 18 October 2021 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei also sent a note verbal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar on 19 October 2021 about the decisions taken at the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting of 15 October 2021. In the letters, Brunei informed of Myanmar side that a "Non-Political Representative" will be invited to the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

In the course of the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting on 15 October 2021, there was no consensus reached either to invite or not to invite on a matter of the status of Myanmar representation. However, ASEAN Chair's statement issued after the Foreign Ministers Meeting mentioned no consensus on the invitation for the Chairman of the State Administration Council. Therefore, the decision made by the current Chair of ASEAN at the said meeting is found contrary to Article 20 (2) of the ASEAN Charter, which states that the matter of reaching no consensus be referred to ASEAN Summit for the Summit's decision.

In accordance with Article 8 (2) (a) of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Coordinating Council is the body mandated to prepare for the Summit Meetings including invitations to Summits, but not the ASEAN Ministerial Meetings. In the course of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council which was held on 4 October 2021, the matter of Myanmar representation was not raised. In this regard, the conduct of the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 15 October 2021 failed to comply with the procedures prescribed in Article 8 (2) (a) and is found to clearly deviate from the Article aforesaid.

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

## Squid fishing season starts in Taninthayi

THE closed season of catching squid during the rainy season has ended. The fishing activity resumes in Taninthayi Region.

The high fuel oil price resulted in additional costs in catching squid compared to the previous years. The squid businesses are relying solely on Thailand, said the businesspersons.

"It is normal that the fishing starts in mid-October after Thadingyut Festival. Most vessels off to the coast for catching squid are quite small. The hike in fuel oil prices incurs high input cost," said U Min Tun, chair of Myeik District Squid Entrepreneurs Association.

The offshore vessels in catching squid cost approximately K15 to 20 million, while

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Squid boats are seen docking along the coast in Myeik and preparing to catch squids offshore.

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## Squid fishing season starts in Taninthayi

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the inshore vessels cost K5million to 7 million. The diesel price has tripled this year. Before the pandemic, Chinese traders came to Myeik to purchase squids. At present, the market relies only on Thailand.

“If we can send the squids to Mawtaung via Myeik without processing in the cold storage



It normally takes 23 days for offshore squid vessels. There are about 300 offshore squid vessels and 1,000 inshore vessels.

facility, it will save some cost. The processing cost at the cold storage facility in Myeik is around K500 per kilo while it costs only K150 in Yangon. When the foreign enterprises invest in the region, it will bring about many benefits to

the region,” said U Win Aung, vice-chair of the association.

It normally takes 23 days for offshore squid vessels. There are about 300 offshore squid vessels and 1,000 inshore vessels.—Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD)/GNLM

### Public Holiday announced for Deepavali Day

THE Deepavali Day will fall on 4 November 2021 (Thursday), 1<sup>st</sup> Waxing Day of Tazaungmone (1383 ME).

The Deepavali Day on 4 November (Thursday) will be proclaimed as a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act by Order No 337/2021 released by the State Administration Council. —MNA

## Palm oil distributed at reasonable prices in various states, regions

THE Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at K3,700 per viss at a wholesale price in different states and regions for the public beginning 20 September.

A total of 9,875,357 visses of palm oil that is equal to 16,136.21 tonnes have been sold in Yan-

gon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago, Magway, and Taninthayi regions, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State and Mon 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, Lutlat 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

## MoC conducts daily import processes for anti-COVID-19 products

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 airports and seaports with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 22 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 products were imported by two companies and transported using four vehicles.

A total of nine oxygen plants, 105 test kits and eight tonnes of gloves were imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw

trading posts, Yangon International Airport and seaports.

Out of nine oxygen plants, four were transported to Yangon via seaport and one each to Sinbaungwe, Mindon, Thayet, Salin and Pwintbyu townships respectively.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) 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](http://www.commerce.gov.mm).—MNA



## 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 Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to mark the Sixth Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October 2021)*

## Press Release

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If there is no consensus, ASEAN Summit may decide in accordance with provisions of Article 20 (2) of the ASEAN Charter.

During the course of the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 15 October 2021, some ASEAN Member States expressed their own individual position on the status of Myanmar's representation. Such opinions fall within the context of their own individual interpretation of some articles of the ASEAN Charter. It is noticed that different views on the interpretation of articles is to be dealt with provisions of Article 25 of the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanism. A dispute unresolved shall be referred to the ASEAN Summit as per Article 26 of the ASEAN Charter.

The decision made by the current ASEAN Chair, at the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 15 October 2021, is found inconformity with the articles mentioned above and contrary to the procedures prescribed. Therefore, Myanmar as a country concerned is difficult to comply with the decision, which was not in line with the procedures and beyond the mandate of the Chair.

Furthermore, in the course of the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting on 15 October 2021, the matter of participation at the Summits was deliberately linked with the domestic affairs of Myanmar. It is also found in breach of Article 2 (2) (a), (e) and (f) of the ASEAN Charter which state the member states' adherence to principles of sovereignty, equality, non-interference in internal affairs and national existence of every Member State free from external interference, subversion and coercion.

In accordance with Article 5 of the ASEAN Charter having equal rights and obligations and as per Article 7 (1), the Head of State or Government of Myanmar is entitled to participate in the ASEAN Summits. On the question of the status of representation, the Head of State or Government of Myanmar enjoys equal and full rights to participate in ASEAN Summits.

Taking into all accounts, Myanmar will not be in a position to accept any outcome of the discussions and decisions which are ultra vires and contrary to the provisions, objectives and cherished principles of the ASEAN Charter. Regardless of such position, Myanmar will endeavour to find a peaceful solution based on ASEAN Spirit and ASEAN Way through consultation and negotiation. ASEAN member states should respect the unity and Centrality of ASEAN aiming for long-term interest in accordance with provisions of ASEAN Charter.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nay Pyi Taw  
22 October 2021*

## 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN ministerial meeting on environment, its related meetings continue

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi and officials attended the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-16) and 17th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting – EMM chaired by Indonesia through videoconferencing yesterday morning.

First, Indonesia and its rotating chair, the Philippines, gave opening remarks on ASEAN cross-border smog control issues.

The Philippines conducted a climate and smog analysis in the ASEAN region.

Next, country-specific fire and smog reports, implementation status of cross-border smog, establishing the ASEAN



Coordination Center for the implementation of smoke control, ASEAN peat management report and report on cross-border smog in Indonesia were also stated by the Philippines.

After that, Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi presented a report on cross-border smog pollution in Myanmar and exchanged views.

Measures to reduce agri-

cultural fires in the country, needs for capacity building in the region were also discussed.

After the discussions, reports were approved by the ASEAN officials.

In the afternoon, the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting was held and representatives from Japan, the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic

of China delivered opening speeches.

Implementation of the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2021-2025), Joint Declaration on Green Development and Sustainable Development, ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation, ASEAN-Korea Environmental Implementation and Cooperation on Envi-

ronmental and Climate Change were discussed by officials from Japan, the Republic of Korea and China.

Next, Ministers of ASEAN Member States exchanged views on further enhancing new areas in cooperation with ASEAN + 3 countries.

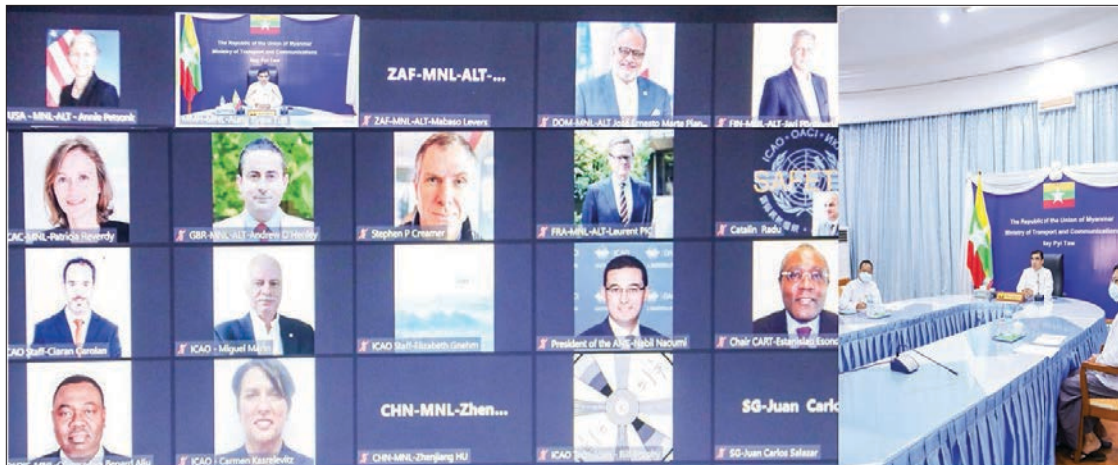
Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi discussed that the environmental cooperation of ASEAN + 3 countries contributed to the sustainable development of the ASEAN region and the achievement of the ASEAN Vision 2025.

At the meeting, the summary report of the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting was approved and the Chairperson of the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment concluded the meeting. —MNA

# MoTC Deputy Minister joins closing ceremony of High-level Conference on COVID-19 online

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun joined the virtual closing ceremony of the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization-ICAO yesterday.

The HLCC 2021 was convened on 12 October and the closing ceremony was organized with five programmes yesterday. First, Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano, Chairman of ICAO made a remark and the ICAO officials reported on the safety of the aviation industry.



Then, Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun discussed the acceleration of drive for the

launch of initial flights to world countries, short-term plans including the vaccination pro-

grammes for passengers and medium-term and long-term plans for the resilience and

sustainable development of the aviation sector.

He also welcomed the introduction of safety measures and facilitation for international flights by settling the challenges caused by COVID-19 and highlighted the instructions and technical supports of ICAO, efforts being conducted in line with the motto: No country left behind and cooperation work with the member countries.

Then, the meeting approved the Ministerial Declaration of High-level Conference on COVID-19.—MNA

## Four million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from China arrive at Yangon International Airport



THE fifth batch of four million Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines purchased from the Sinopharm Company Limited of the People's Republic of China for vaccination arrived at Yangon International Airport on 22 October.

Deputy Director-General of the Yangon Region Public Health Department Dr Tun Min and officials received the vaccines carried by the Air China Airplane A332, at the Yangon International Airport.

The first batch of 4 million of the COVID-19 vaccines arrived on 12 September while the second batch of another 4 million arrived on 26 September.

The third batch of 4 million also arrived in Myanmar on 2 October and the fourth batch on 15 October.

A total of 20 million vaccines, including the fifth batch that arrived yesterday, have been delivered. —MNA

The fifth batch of 4mln Sinopharm vaccines arrives at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

## COVID-19 vaccines for Kachin State arrive in Myitkyina

A military aircraft carrying Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines landed at Myitkyina Airport at 1:30 pm on 22 October as the COVID-19 vaccine is being given to people in Kachin State for targeted groups.

Member of the state government and Minister for Social Affairs U Win Ye Tun, Dr Tint Naing from the Department of Public Health and staff received 7,120 doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines for a total population of 35,600.

As of 20 October, a total of 317,448 people has been vaccinated for the first time and 135,737 people for the second time with donations from private organizations from the People's Republic of China, according to the Public Health Department of Kachin State. — Kachin State IPRD/GNLM

Tatmadaw aircraft transports the Covid vaccines to Kachin State where officials receive them (in picture).



Tatmadaw aircraft transports the Covid vaccines to Kachin State where officials receive them (in picture).

## Announcement for COVID-19 loan to movie, music, theatrical industry, press and media industry

- The Working Committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19) will disburse the K15 billion loan of COVID-19 fund to support the financial status of COVID-hit movie, music, theatrical industry, the press and media industry
- The movie, music, theatrical industry, the press and media industry which conform with the following rules will be allowed to get the loan of a one-per-cent interest rate for one year.
  - The following industries can apply: -
    - Filming/videos/TV/radio broadcasting, production, distribution and screening industries
    - Music bands, producers, distributors
    - Zat Thabin, Anyeint
    - Press printing, production, distribution and sales
  - The industry must have a strong position to be able to repay the loan.
  - The loan shall be used for business purposes only.
  - If it is a company, it must not be the one suspended or removed from the registration by the company registration office. If it is not a company, it must not be the one suspended or removed from the registration by the governmental departments/organizations.
  - It must pay income tax/commercial tax/ special commodity tax.
  - If it is a company, they must submit the personal guarantee of a member of the board of directors, if it is not a company, the business owner must guarantee to pay back the loan.
  - It must be a citizen-owned enterprise hit by COVID-19.
  - It must be a currently running business or if it is temporarily suspended, it can be resumed the operation when the loan is granted.
  - The business must have the permit/ business licence from the relevant department before 31 March 2019.
  - Must have annual income during the past two years.
  - They must not be the companies or businesses that fail to pay the bank loan or are sued by a bank for the failure to repay the loan.
  - It must not be the one that received the loan previously.
- Action will be taken against those who fail to repay the loan in line with the existing laws. Moreover, if the company or businesses fail to pay back the loan, they will be listed in the Negative List of Credit Bureau, and they cannot get further loans from the banks, non-bank financial institutions and microfinance institutions.
- The loans must be applied with the set application form together with the full documents. Applications that do not meet the requirements will not be accepted.
- Application forms are available at the following offices/departments: -
  - Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Yangon
  - Regions and States Chambers of Commerce and Industry
  - IPRD, headquarter and regions/states offices
- Application forms can be downloaded from the following website: -
  - [www.mifer.gov.mm](http://www.mifer.gov.mm)
  - [www.moi.gov.mm](http://www.moi.gov.mm)
  - [www.dica.gov.mm](http://www.dica.gov.mm)
  - [www.umfeci.com.mm](http://www.umfeci.com.mm)
- The application forms will be accepted at the following places during office hours from 25 October to 19 November 2021.
  - Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Yangon.
  - Regions and States Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- The UMFCCI will announce the website address for online applicants later.
- The deadline for the application is 19 November 2021, and the applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- For detailed information-
  - UMFCCI -09-445863982, 19-445864381
  - Directorate of Investment and Company Administration -01-658121, 01-658131
- The businesses that meet the requirements of paragraph-2 can apply for the loan within the deadline.

Working Committee to address the impact of  
Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19)

Sr	Type	Remark
<b>Documents of company</b>		
1	Company registration certificate	
2	Stakeholder, List of board of directors	
3	Meeting minutes/records for loans (original)	
4	Constitution	
5	Company history	
6	Work plans after getting COVID-19 loans	
7	Loan repayment plan	
8	Photo	
9	Tax payment receipts (income tax, commercial tax, special commodity tax) Last financial year	
10	Financial statement For the previous financial year	
11	Bank balance (or) income/expense of last three months	
12	numbers of employees and their ID cards (copy)/phone numbers	
<b>Documents for SMEs</b>		
1	Unexpired municipal licence/ licence issued by the relevant ministry	
2	Business record	
3	Work plans after getting COVID-19 loans	
4	Loan repayment plan	
5	Photo	
6	Tax payment receipts (income tax, commercial tax, special commodity tax, municipal tax) Last financial year	
7	Financial statement (income/outcome/expenses) For the last financial year	
8	Bank balance (or) income/expense of last three months	
9	numbers of employees and their ID cards (copy)/phone numbers	

### Application form

Date

- Basis information of company or business
    - Name of company - .....
    - Company registration number and date - .....
    - Address of company - .....
    - Type of business - .....
    - Term of service - .....
    - Capital - .....
    - Operating capital amount - .....
  - Damage caused by COVID-19
    - Appointed employees before 3 months of the outbreak of COVID-19 - .....
    - Current numbers of employees - .....
    - income received before 3 months of the outbreak of COVID-19 - .....
    - current income and percentage - .....
    - decreased income and percentage - .....
  - Amount of loan and term (nor more than one year) - .....
- Sign - .....
- Name - .....
- ID - .....
- Position - .....
- Ph/email - .....

## 925 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 October, total figure rises to 492,509

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 492,509 after 925 new cases were reported on 22 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 445,748 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,491 after 26 died.

## 2,634 factory workers vaccinated against COVID-19 in Htantabin Township

A total of 2,634 factory workers from 17 public factories in Htantabin Township, northern Yangon District, Yangon Region had been received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccination programme for the factory workers in the township was conducted from 12 to 22 October, officials said.

On 12 October, 232 workers from Myanmar-Htantabin Garment Factory, 34 workers from Haw Swint factory, 104 workers from Global Paper Holding Factory, and 12 workers from Panda Seasoning Powder Factory received the second dose of vaccines.

On 16 October, 363 workers from the Hydrodynamic plant, 113 workers from GBL Bags Factory, 23 workers from Hui



Inoculation drive for factory workers in progress in Htantabin.

Tong Company, 27 workers from King Power factory and

110 workers from Paing Saint factory received the vaccines.

On October 19, 149 workers from Star World factory,

504 workers from Minthar Lay Factory, 26 workers from Glory Home Factory, 103 workers from Boss Factory, 22 workers from Thamadi Family Factory, 17 workers from Yu Sheng Printing Co., Ltd and five workers from Bondsin Metal (Myanmar) Co., Ltd received the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 22 October, a total of 790 workers from Oversea Factory, and further 2,634 workers from 17 factories were vaccinated for the second time.

Vaccination of workers in the workshops and private factory in Htantabin Township is being carried out under the auspices of the township administration, and health workers as per health guidelines. — Zin Min Htike (Htantabin)/GNLM

## Elderly people in Yathedaung receive 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of COVID vaccines

HEALTHCARE officials gave a second dose of COVID vaccines to above 55-year-old people at designated places in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

Local people of all races and religions, including religious leaders, Buddhist monks and nuns, people over the age of 55, people with disabilities, people with chronic diseases, staff and family members, vol-

unteers, factory workers, and shopkeepers are included in the priority group in the vaccination programme starting from 19 September, officials said.

With the supervision of the COVID-19 Disease Control and Emergency Response Committee, the vaccination works were conducted at basic education schools and in the township.

Officials, volunteers and healthcare workers measured the body temperatures, blood pressure and monitored oxygen levels of the local people before the vaccination.

Departmental staff, members of the fire brigade, members of the Red Cross and volunteers provided necessary assistance during the vaccination. — Aung San Htun (IPRD)/GNLM



An older person gets jabbed in Yathedaung Township Rakhine State.

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



Mansi Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State.



Mongphyat Township, Tachilek District, Shan State (East)



Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region



Pathein Town, Ayeyawady Region



Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Region

## Sagaing Region Agriculture Dept to extend chilli pepper sowing acres this winter

SAGAING Region Agriculture Department will boost the production of chilli pepper that has foreign demand this winter.

“Myanmar’s chilli pepper has foreign market potentials and so, the department is planning to extend the chilli acreage,” said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

The chilli pepper is sent to Myawady by container trucks. It is primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady regions.

“The chilli pepper is priced at about K1,100-K1,300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). The price relies on foreign demand. To maintain the foreign market demand, we need to come up with a technique,” said a grower



There are over 50 acres of chilli pepper in the Sagaing Region, with 17 acres in Mawlaik Township, 27 in Phaungbyin and seven in Dabayin.

from ChaungU Township.

There are over 50 acres of chilli pepper in the Sagaing Re-

gion, with 17 acres in Mawlaik Township, 27 in Phaungbyin and seven in Dabayin.

Myanmar’s fresh chilli pepper is shipped to Viet Nam via sea route and primarily sent

to China and Thailand via the cross-border land, Myanmar Chilli Market and Technology Development Association stated.

Nonetheless, the closure of the major border Muse post between Myanmar and China from 8 July brought Myanmar’s fresh chilli pepper export to China to a halt. Consequently, the chilli pepper produced by the Kyaukse area, which was supposed to be conveyed to China, was shifted to Thailand through the Myawady border post.

It is commonly grown in the Ayeyawady Region and Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region. The export varieties of fresh chilli peppers are 692,777,999, Demon, Sunshine and Lucky one. — Lu Lay/GNLM

## Dollar value stands around K2,000 despite CBM forex intervention

THE exchange rate on the US dollar hit around K2,000 in the local forex market although the Central Bank of Myanmar practised foreign exchange intervention to steer the own currency value and sold the US dollar to the private banks, as per money exchangers.

The exchange rate on the US dollar was only K1,330 in January-end, whereas it touched a high of K2,000 for now, showing a gap of about K700 within nine months in the forex market.

Consequently, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$50 million to the authorized dealers at its auction rate of K1,820.

Last September-end, a dollar value reached the highest of over K3,000 in history. The CBM, therefore, sold \$63 million to the banks in September.

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

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 local forex market’s data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. The rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730 in May and it moved to the maximum of K1,595-1,620 in June. The rate stood at K1,626-1,670 in July. It hit the lowest of K1,660 and the highest of K1,682 in August. Last month, the rate edged up to K3,200 and fell to K1,696.

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

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

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

## Myanmar-Thai border trade drops \$76 mln in mini-budget year

TRADE volume between Myanmar and Thailand in the 2021 mini-budget year (October-March) hit a total of US\$72.67 million in total, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Compared to the same period of the 2020-2021FY, this mini-budget year’s figures declined by \$76 million. The bilateral border trade hit \$148.78 million last year.

The country’s export to Thailand reached \$32.19 million, while imports hit \$40.48 million, Ministry of Commerce statistics show.

The county mainly conducts

border trade with Thailand through seven land borders – Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei.

From 1 October 2021 to 8 October 2022, Myawady border point topped the trade with \$55.9 million, followed by Kawthoung with \$7.99 million and Myeik with \$5.9 million.

Among three border trade checkpoints along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, the Myawady-Mae Sot route is the most important, carrying around 70 per cent of trade be-

tween the countries.

Myanmar’s export to Thailand were primarily agriculture and livestock products, and imports from Thailand were mainly non-alcoholic beverages, fabric and yarn, motorcycles and related parts, and construction materials.

Thailand is Myanmar’s second-largest trade partner and third-largest foreign investor. Meanwhile, Myanmar is conducting border trade with neighbouring India, China and Bangladesh via a total of 16 border checkpoints. — ACM/GNLM

## Bangladesh demand makes price of fennel seeds, coriander seeds up

PRICES of Myanmar’s herbal fennel seeds, black fennel seeds and coriander seeds have risen on the back of strong demand by Bangladesh.

The prices of fennel seeds increased from K1,600 to K2,600 per viss (a viss is equal to 1.6 kg), while the black fennel seeds soared from K4,500 to K7,500 per viss. The price of black fennel seeds edged up to a record high this year.

“The border post between Myanmar and Bangladesh, located in Rakhine State, is officially opened from mid-October. Consequently, the prices of fennel seeds rose tremendously. Bangladesh consumers use this as a spice and herbal medicine. There is a regular demand from Bangladesh every year. The border posts facilitate the trade and ensure

a market, according to Soe Win Myint warehouse from Mandalay city. The prices of coriander seeds also climbed up from K9,500 to K16,000 per basket these days on account of high demand by Bangladesh.

The fennel seeds and coriander seeds are cultivated as winter crops in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, with a view to export targeting. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



The prices of fennel seeds increased from K1,600 to K2,600 per viss (a viss is equal to 1.6 kg), while the black fennel seeds soared from K4,500 to K7,500 per viss. The price of black fennel seeds edged up to a record high this year.





## Bird observers call for migratory bird conservation



Every year, migratory birds flock to the freshwater lake, where there is abundant food, away from colder regions with frozen lakes and a short food supply that make it difficult for them to survive.

It is of vital importance to protect the migratory birds that flock to the Ramsar site and inland regions for winter in Myanmar. Every year, migratory

birds flock to the freshwater lake, where there is abundant food, away from colder regions with frozen lakes and a short food supply that make it difficult for them to survive. The primary habitats of the winged visitors are Indawgyi Lake, Inlay Lake, Paleik Lake, Pyu Lake, Moe Yoon Gyi Lake, the Gulf of Mottama, Nantha, Mainmahla and other islands in the Taninthayi Region and then, they travelled long distances to the north in May for breeding grounds.

“Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the population of migratory birds were registered. According to January 2020 survey, over 3,800 birds (42 species) in Paleik Lake, over 680 (19 species) in Banaw Lake and over 4,500 (32 species) in Pyu Lake were reg-

istered. The COVID-19 travel restrictions limit the bird observers to collect the list of those winged visitors. Additionally, some migratory bird species were found in the cage of bird sellers. The protection of migratory birds is crucial for environmental conservation,” said a bird observer from Mandalay city.

There are 1,136 bird species found in Myanmar, including 400 migratory bird species, as per the bird researchers’ data.

The population and some species of migratory birds are declining due to the decline in habitats, wetlands disappearing, habitat loss due to urban development and illegal hunting of migratory birds. – Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



There are 1,136 bird species found in Myanmar, including 400 migratory bird species, as per the bird researchers’ data.

### Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

FROM 18-10-2021 to 22-10-2021, local/foreign donors contributed 0.250 million Kyats to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 22-10-2021 is as follows:

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 15-10-2021	226,278,515,142.53
Received amount of money from (+) 18-10-2021 to 22-10-2021	250,000.00
Closed balance on 22-10-2021	226,278,765,142.53

	USD
Account opening balance on 15-10-2021	27,162,349.53
Received amount of money from (+) 18-10-2021 to 22-10-2021	-
Closed balance on 22-10-2021	27,162,349.53

### Health officials conduct second COVID vaccination in Taunggyi

THE second vaccination for the COVID-19 was given to people between the ages of 45 and 54 in Taunggyi, who had received the first dose of vaccines to control the pandemic diseases.

The vaccination programme was held at the township hall in Taunggyi starting from 9 am on 22 October.

Staff from the township General Ad-

ministration Department, departmental staff, firefighters and volunteers made vaccination records for the local people aged 45 to 54 who came and joined the vaccination programme.

Health workers systematically gave the vaccines as per the health guidelines, officials said. — Sai Than Kyaw (Taunggyi)/GNLM

### Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 22-10-2021

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
<b>Antiviral</b>				
1	PO Favipiravir 400 mg	2X10 Tablet	50,000	AA Medical
2	Injection - Remdesivir	Vial	70,000	GHI
<b>Anti thrombosis</b>				
3	Injection Enoxaprim 40 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	7,000	Nyi Lay Naing
4	Injection Enoxaprim 60 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	9,000	Nyi Lay Naing
<b>Symptomatic</b>				
5	PO Paracetamol 500 mg	10X10's tablets/ Box	1,500	AA Medical
6	PO Dextromethophan	10X10's	1,450	AA Medical
7	PO Bromhexine	10X10's tablets/ Box	1,000	M e d i Myanmar
8	PO Cetrizine	10X10's / Box	2,200	AA Medical
<b>Supportive</b>				
9	P.O Multivitamin with/without zinc	3X10's / Box	5,600	OLIVE
10	PO Vitamin C	10X10's / Box	700	Pai Brother

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

# UNESCO biosphere reserves of Myanmar



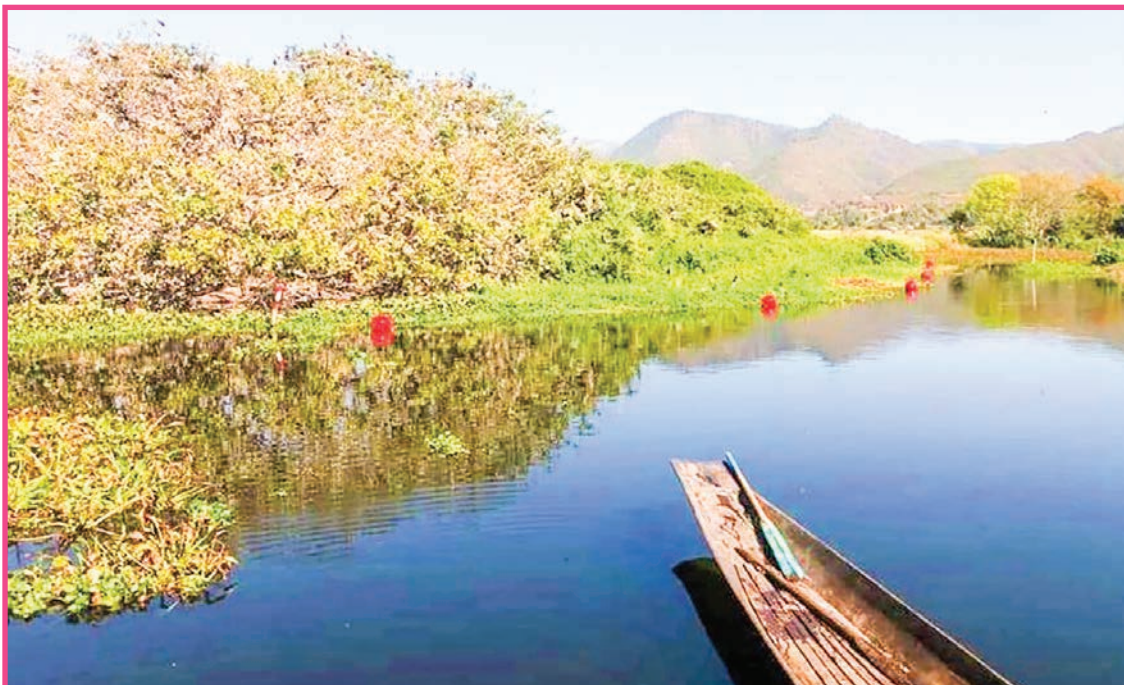
**T**HE famous tourist destination sites of Myanmar –Innlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake have been designated as UNESCO biosphere reserves.

The world countries implement the nature-based tourism industry for their earnings and the tourism industry receives a certain amount of income during the pandemic.

Biodiversity and ecosystems, which are the main roles of tourism, are preserved, and the two ecosystems of the Innlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake are preserved by maintaining the socio-economic development of the local people living in these two areas while preserving the development of



PHOTO : KANU



development of Innlay Lake together with the residents.

“The Man and Biosphere is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. To conserve the Innlay lake, all the citizens and people living in these areas in addition to the Forest Department are responsible to do so. The various biodiversities, aquatic species and humans are living in the lake. If the people conserve the ecosystems, it can support the development of the tourism industry and the socio-economic status of local people. Moreover, the tourism industry earns for the country and so the world countries conserve the biospheres. The ecosystem and humans are interconnected and so we are proud that the UNESCO recognizes the two biosphere reserves,” said U Sein Tun, head of Natmataung National Park.

The officials submitted proposals of Innlay and Indawgyi lakes for UNESCO biosphere reserves in 2013 and the ICC reviewed the sites and recognized them after three years.

There are 727 biospheres in 131 countries. Moreover, the neighbouring countries are conserving the biospheres. There are 22 global biodiversities and the Myanmar tourism industry boasts of two UNESCO biosphere reserves. –Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

the ecosystems of the region and integrating the human and natural harmony.

The UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme is a successful plan and the member countries discuss the sustainable development of their biosphere, share their experiences and conservation of nature, value the human livelihoods and reduce the poverty.

The Innlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake draw the world travellers in addition to the Asian tourists and are rich in various biodiversities. The Innlay Lake is ASEAN Heritage Park, Man and Biosphere Reserve and Ramsar site. The department concerned and organizations are working hard for the sustainable

## Bolsonaro welfare plan shakes Brazil markets, sparks resignations

A proposal by Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro to dramatically increase welfare payments to the country's underprivileged groups a year ahead of elections shook markets Thursday and triggered resignations at the Ministry of Economy.

The programme could cost the government an extra 30 billion reais (\$5.3 billion dollars) at a time when inflation is already high and exceed the government spending ceiling established by law.

The government announced earlier this week that it was setting up a new social welfare programme to replace the "Bolsa Familia" system created by the



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is proposing a controversial and expensive welfare programme a year before elections he is expected to lose. **PHOTO: AFP**

leftist administration of former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The new programme would start in November with a 20 per

cent increase in benefits paid to nearly 17 million Brazilians in need. Coming just a year before a presidential election in which Bolsonaro is widely expected to be defeated by Lula da Silva, the move was seen by several analysts as a pre-election sweetener.

The measure rattled investors. The Sao Paulo stock market fell 2.75 per cent, while the price of the US dollar rose to 5.65 reais, its highest level in six months.

Concerned by the plan, several economic officials quit their posts, including top treasury officials Bruno Funchal and Jefferson Bittencourt, authorities said.

Bolsonaro denied that his project, whose source of funding

has not been specified, is against the law.

"There are around 16 million people registered with the 'Bolsa familia', and though the financial aid reaches an average of 192 reais, many people receive 40, 50, 60 reais. What we are saying is: 400 reais for all," he said Thursday.

Bolsonaro also offered to "help" 750,000 truckers with compensation for increases in the price of diesel.

The president made the announcements at a time when his popularity is at its lowest level since he took office in 2019, and amid high inflation and high unemployment.—AFP ■

## Aussie rock lobsters a Hong Kong security threat: customs chief



Lobsters are one of a number of products from Australia that China has restricted imports of as relations between the countries plunged. **PHOTO: AFP**

RAMPANT smuggling of Australian rock lobsters into mainland China is a national security threat, Hong Kong's new customs chief said Thursday as she vowed to crack down on the trade.

Lobsters are one of a number of products from Australia that China has restricted imports of as relations between the countries plunged.

But they remain a prized and much sought-after delicacy in mainland China.

Imports of Australian rock lobsters to Hong Kong -- which maintains no restrictions on the crustaceans—have since sky-rocketed, with suspicions that the vast majority end up on mainland tables.

Louise Ho was announced as the city's new customs com-

missioner on Thursday, the first woman to hold the position.

During her inaugural press conference, she explained why lobsters were one of her priorities when it comes to safeguarding China's national security.

"On the surface, it is a simple matter of smuggling lobsters, but these activities undermine our country's trade restrictions against Australia," Ho told reporters. "Stopping lobster smuggling is a very important part of protecting national security, so we will pursue it diligently."

Smuggling goods by speedboat has been a mainstay of the triad organized crime gangs operating on both sides of the border for years but the phenomenon has surged during the coronavirus pandemic.

Police embarked on a crackdown after a marine officer was killed last month when her vessel was rammed by smugglers during a high-speed chase.—AFP ■

## France sets fuel price cap following anger, protests

FRANCE on Thursday sought to defuse growing anger about record fuel prices, announcing a cap until the end of 2022 and aid for poor households struggling with energy bills.

Almost three years since the start of "yellow vest" protests that rocked French President Emmanuel Macron's government, Prime Minister Jean Castex said 100 euros (\$116) would be paid to those earning less than 2,000 euros a month to help them with rising energy prices. This will affect some 38 million people, he said, adding that "petrol prices will be frozen for the whole of 2022".

Like all countries, France has been hit by a surge in oil and gas prices since the middle of the year caused by a spike in global demand and supply shortages. But Macron has particular reason to worry: the violent anti-government protests of 2018 by low-income voters in fluorescent yellow safety vests

were sparked by anger over rising fuel prices and attempts to tax heavily polluting vehicles.

In six months' time, the 43-year-old head of state is also set to seek a second term—and was hoping to build his campaign around his record on job creation and tax cuts. "We obviously want to protect French people, above all those people who work hard and are taking the full force of these price rises," government spokesman Gabriel Attal told journalists on Wednesday. Last weekend, small protests were held in some rural areas and small towns—the heartland of "yellow vest" discontent—suggesting the first rumblings of dissent over recent rises. Average diesel prices hit an all-time record last week of 1.5583 euros a litre, while petrol neared a 10-year high at 1.6567 euros a litre, slightly below the all-time record reached in April 2012, official data shows.—AFP ■

## Biden upbeat on spending deal, but new corporate taxes unlikely

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said Thursday he is confident about getting his major infrastructure and social spending packages through Congress, but downplayed chances of securing his aim for a higher corporate tax rate. "I do think I'll get a deal," Biden told a town hall with a live audience on CNN.

Biden said his feuding Democratic party was "down to four

or five issues" but "I think we can get there".

Democrats have razor-thin majorities in both houses of Congress. However, internal divisions are preventing passage of a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure revamp and a huge, separate social spending bill that Biden says will transform finances and fairness for ordinary Americans.

With pressure growing on

the party not to come away empty handed, Biden is stepping up efforts to broker a truce between more conservative members and the left-leaning progressive wing. At issue are the items on Biden's original wish list and how to pay for it all. He originally pushed for \$3.5 trillion in spending on the social support bill, but the latest figure under consideration is about \$2 trillion.—AFP ■



Pump prices of diesel hit a record high in France, while those of petrol neared their 2012 peak. **PHOTO: AFP**

# China becomes world's largest carbon market

CHINA'S national carbon market covers around 4.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, with more than 2,000 power companies enlisted, said Zhai Qing, vice-minister of Ecology and Environment, at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Forum on Green and Low-Carbon Development on Wednesday.

The market, which began online trading on 16 July this year, has become the world's largest in terms of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions covered, he said. Zhai noted that China has achieved remarkable results in

tackling climate change through a series of measures like adjusting industrial structures, optimizing energy mixes, improving energy efficiency, and promoting the construction of carbon markets. In 2020, China's carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP was slashed by 48.4 per cent compared to 2005, he added. From 2016 to 2020, China cut 170 million tonnes of steel overcapacity and 1 billion tons of coal overcapacity, reducing the production of cement and plate glass by 300 million tons and 150 million weight cases, data from the Minis-

try of Ecology and Environment showed.

Statistics further revealed during the five years, the share of coal in total energy consumption dropped from 67 per cent in 2005 to 56.8 per cent in 2020, while the share of non-fossil fuels in the country's primary energy consumption increased to 15.9 per cent.

China has also constructively participated in and promoted the multi-lateral process on climate change by earnestly fulfilling its obligations under international environmental conventions, Zhai said.

— Xinhua ■



Employees work at a wind turbine plant of Goldwind Science and Technology Co., Ltd. in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 25 April 2020.

PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHAO GE

## US seals agreement to end European digital taxes



An Amazon employee seen working on 11 April 2015, in Lauwin-Planque in northern France. PHOTO: PHILIPPE HUGUEN /AFP

THE United States has resolved a key point of trade friction with Europe after inking a deal to end controversial digital services taxes on American tech giants. Washington said Thursday it will remove

punitive tariffs on products from Austria, France, Italy, Spain and Britain as part of the deal—a critical step in improving frayed relations even though the duties were never imposed.

Under the joint agree-

ment, those countries will end taxes on Big Tech companies once a global minimum corporate tax deal takes effect, which is expected in 2023.

Any levies paid for the DSTs in the interim will be

credited to future tax bills, according to the deal.

The United States argued for immediate withdrawal of what it said were discriminatory fees on American tech giants like Amazon, Apple and Google, while the countries preferred to wait until the new tax regime was implemented. "This compromise represents a pragmatic solution," the countries said in a joint statement

Nearly 140 countries early this month reached a agreement on a 15 per cent minimum tax under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).—AFP ■

## Samsung SDI and Stellantis in vehicle battery deal

SOUTH Korean battery maker Samsung SDI will jointly produce electric vehicle batteries in the US with global carmaker Stellantis, the South Korean firm said Friday – its partner's second such deal in a week. The two companies will set up a "joint production body" in the United States to produce "EV battery cells and modules", Samsung SDI said, with production starting in 2025 and the output supplied to Stellantis's auto factories in Canada, Mexico and the US. With the deal, Stellantis has "secured produc-

tion capacity" to realize its goal to have electric vehicles make up 40 per cent of its US sales by 2030, according to the Samsung SDI statement.

Stellantis, which includes the US brands Jeep, Chrysler and Ram, also owns the European carmakers Peugeot, Citroen, Fiat, Opel and Alfa Romeo, among others. It was formed in a merger between France's Peugeot and the US-Italian company Fiat Chrysler earlier this year, and some 2.2 million Stellantis brand cars were sold in North America in 2019.—AFP ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SEMPORNA VOY.NO. (10W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SEMPORNA VOY.NO. (10W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2021** 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 GOLD STAR SHIPPING LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NIMTOFTE MAERSK VOY.NO. (139S/141N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NIMTOFTE MAERSK VOY.NO. (139S/141N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREAT VISION V.03

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREAT VISION VOY.NO. (03)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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

## Animal rights becomes key issue in Japan's general election

AS campaigning for the 31 Oct general election heats up in Japan, ruling and opposition parties are not just touting their economic and diplomatic policies but also their plans for protecting animals in the hope of attracting broader support among voters.

Amid growing awareness of the tens of thousands of cats and dogs culled in the country annually and the issue of animal hoarding attracting public attention, a cross-party parliamentary

group has worked on legal revisions, with the Diet enacting in 2019 a law that boosts penalties for animal abuse and requires that pets be microchipped.

In its election campaign pledges, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party vows to crack down on irresponsible animal dealers and facilitate the adoptions of cats and dogs rescued after being abandoned by their original owners while seeking to reduce the number of euthanized pets



Voters listen to a candidate for the 31 Oct Lower House election in Itami, Hyogo Prefecture, on Wednesday. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

to zero.

The main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan calls for increasing animal dealers' responsibilities and en-

hancing penalties for abuse. It also pledges to craft legislation on animal welfare and establish a system for taking away pets from abusive owners.—Kyodo News ■

## Experts find UK parliament 'falling apart'



Big Ben, the nickname for the Great Bell of the striking clock of the Elizabeth Tower at Westminster, has been silent while undergoing its own restoration work. **PHOTO: AFP**

IT has been an enduring symbol of democracy since the 19th cen-

tury but Britain's parliament is crumbling, producing an eye-wa-

tering bill and urgent calls to fix it.

Officials on Friday detailed thousands of issues with the landmark building, from stone-work cracks and water damage to outdated electrical and mechanical systems.

"Despite a programme of maintenance works, it's falling apart faster than it can be fixed and is in urgent need of a programme of essential restoration," said the leader of the House of Lords, Natalie Evans.

The array of defects were recorded by dozens of engineers, architectural surveyors and other specialists who spent a combined 4,700 hours investigating the more than 150-year-old Palace of Westminster.

Built in the middle of the

19th century, it is home to Britain's Houses of Parliament -- the lower House of Commons for elected MPs and the unelected upper House of Lords.

At the north end of the royal palace, rising up above the River Thames, is Big Ben, the nickname for the Great Bell of the striking clock atop the Elizabeth Tower.

Big Ben, with its distinctive chime and "bongs", has undergone its own costly renovation in recent years.

The latest probe is seen as a key step in planned restoration and renewal works to the UNESCO World Heritage Site which have been repeatedly delayed, and are not set to be put to lawmakers for approval until 2023.—AFP ■

## El Salvador Congress upholds total abortion ban

EL Salvador's Congress voted on Wednesday to uphold the country's complete abortion ban, ruling against terminations even in exceptional circumstances.

Salvadoran law prohibits the procedure in all cases—punishable by up to eight years in prison.

Prosecutors and judges classify some cases of abortion, even involuntary ones, as "aggravated homicide", punishable by up to 50 years in prison.

"We have legislated in favour of protecting life from its conception," Rebeca Santos, congresswoman for the ruling New Ideas party, said after the vote.

Opposition Congress member Dina Argueta, however,

slammed the "lack of interest in giving women a right."

"Not considering abortion on specific grounds is a violation of their rights, as they are forced to accept situations that often endanger their lives," Argueta said.

The vote was on a petition brought in September by women's rights groups, seeking exceptions to the abortion ban.

The proposed changes would have allowed terminations to save the mother's life; in the case of a life-threatening fetal deformity; and if the pregnancy "is the result of sexual violence". But on Wednesday the petition was overwhelmingly rejected in Congress.—AFP ■



People march demanding the decriminalization of abortion in San Salvador. **PHOTO: AFP**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Australia sets \$1 million reward for missing four-year-old

AUSTRALIAN authorities on Thursday offered Aus\$1 million (US\$750,000) for information leading to the discovery of a missing four-year-old girl feared abducted from a remote campsite last weekend. Cleo Smith disappeared from her family's tent in Western Australia during the early hours of Saturday, sparking an extensive air, sea and ground search. But after six days of fruitlessly combing in the area surrounding the Blowholes campsite—a coastal tourist spot about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) north of Perth -- police said they were "urgently seeking" public assistance.—AFP ■

#### Haiti gang leader threatened to kill hostages: video

THE leader of a Haitian gang who kidnapped a group of North Americans over the weekend threatened to execute them, according to video seen by AFP. The footage shot Wednesday but released Thursday on social media showed Wilson Joseph, clad in a suit and surrounded by armed men, in front of coffins containing the bodies of five members of his gang. "Since I'm not getting what I need, I'll kill these Americans," Joseph said, speaking in Haitian Creole. The kidnappers are demanding \$17 million ransom for the hostages' freedom, security sources have told AFP.—AFP ■

#### Rival Sudan camps gear up for protests as tensions rise

SUPPORTERS of Sudan's transitional government took to the streets of the capital Thursday as rival demonstrators kept up a sit-in demanding a return to military rule. Both sides appealed to their supporters to keep apart and refrain from any violence but there was a heavy police and troop presence around potential flashpoints. The two sides represent opposing factions of the Forces for Freedom and Change, the civilian umbrella group which spearheaded the nationwide demonstrations that led to the army's overthrow of longtime president Omar al-Bashir in 2019.—AFP ■

## Rare Libya conference seeks support ahead of landmark elections



The Libya Stabilization Conference was the first of its kind to be held in the country for years, with representatives from about 30 nations attending. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIBYA'S fragile unity government hosted an international conference Thursday to build support ahead of the war-battered country's landmark December election.

"Your presence is proof that we are on the road to peace," said the head of the interim government, Abdulhamid Dbeibah, promising that the vote would be held "on time" and urging "respect for the results".

Libya and the UN have been striving to move past the violence that has wracked the North African nation since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

A ceasefire between eastern and western factions last year led to the unity government taking

office in March with a mandate to take the country to elections.

"Tripoli has recovered. It is the capital of all Libyans," Dbeibah said at the Libya Stabilisation Conference, the first of its kind to be held in the country for years, with representatives from about 30 nations attending.

The presidential vote is set to take place on 24 December, but legislative polls may be delayed, amid wrangling between factions in the country's east and west.

Libyan Foreign Minister Najla al-Mangoush, in a final statement, said Tripoli pledged to respect United Nations resolutions to "create a conducive environment" for the holding of "transparent and inclusive" elections.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Erdogan threatens to expel 10 Western envoys

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday threatened to expel the US, German and eight other Western ambassadors after they issued a rare joint statement in support of a jailed civil society leader.

Parisian-born philanthropist and activist Osman Kavala, 64, has been in jail without a conviction since 2017, becoming a symbol of what critics see as Erdogan's growing intolerance of dissent.

The 10 ambassadors issued a highly unusual joint statement on Monday -- distributed widely on their Turkish social media accounts -- saying Kavala's continued detention "cast a shadow" over Turkey.

"I told our foreign minister that we cannot have the luxury of hosting them in our country," Erdogan told reporters in comments published by Turkish media.—AFP ■

#### Nicaragua detains business union leaders as crackdown widens

Nicaragua on Thursday arrested the top two leaders of the country's business owners' union, police said, bringing the number of government opponents detained ahead of next month's election to 39.

Superior Council of Private Enterprise president Michael Healy and vice-president Alvaro Vargas are being "investigated for the crime of money and asset laundering", police said in a statement.

Since early June Nicaragua's authorities have arrested a host of opposition figures, including seven aspiring presidential hopefuls, as well as journalists and business, social and political leaders.—AFP ■

## Results of UK probe into French trawler tragedy due in weeks



Five crew died on the Bugaled Breizh when it sank off the coast of Cornwall, southwest England, on 15 January 2004.

**PHOTO: AFP**

THE conclusions of a British inquest into the 2004 sinking of a French trawler, which killed five people, will be delivered on 5 November, the coroner said on Thursday.

Judge Nigel Lickley has been hearing evidence since early October about how the Bugaled Breizh sank suddenly off Cornwall, southwest England,

despite good weather.

The bodies of two of the fishermen who died were recovered by British search and rescue teams.

Lawyers for the victims' families maintain that a submarine on exercises in the area at the time could have struck the boat and pulled it down.

But Britain's Ministry of

Defence said none of its subs were active in the exact area and that the trawler's nets likely got caught in sediment, dragging it to the bottom.

Lickley, a high court judge sitting as coroner, was originally due to give his ruling on Friday but said he would delay to November 5 as he considers the evidence.

The London court has been told that three subs—the Dutch Dolfijn, a German U22 and the British Torbay—were operating in the general area close to the crash site, getting ready for planned allied military exercises.

But the families' suspicions were focused on another submarine, the Royal Navy nuclear-powered vessel HMS Turbulent.

The navy, though, has ruled out any involvement, stressing that the Turbulent was docked on the day of the sinking, 15 January 2004.—AFP ■

## Ten FARC dissidents killed in shootout with Colombian army

AT least 10 dissidents from the former FARC guerrilla group were killed in clashes with the army in southwest Colombia, a military source said on Thursday.

Soldiers engaged in "intense fighting" with the rebels in Micay Canyon in the Cauca Department, General Jonh Jairo Rojas

said. "We are talking about more than 10 dead" among the dissident fighters from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the leftist guerrilla organization that signed a peace treaty with the government in 2016. In a video shared with the media, the general said that members of the smaller National

Liberation Army (ELN), which did not sign the peace treaty, had also participated in the fighting, although he did not report any victims from that group.

Guerrillas from both groups in the area compete for income from drug trafficking because of its proximity to the Pacific coast.—AFP ■



The Colombian army said it had killed 10 dissidents members of the FARC guerrilla group in a shootout. **PHOTO: AFP**

## AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers to be held from 23 October (today)

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-23 Championship Qualifiers will be held from 23 October to 2 November, according to the statement with the football confederation.

The 2022 AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualification is an international men's under-23 football competition that decides the participating teams of the 2022 AFC U-23 Asian Cup.

A total of 16 teams will qual-

ify to play in the final tournament, including Uzbekistan who qualified automatically as a host country.

The tournament has been divided into 11 groups and 39 teams will compete in the tournament. Myanmar team is included in Group I together with Viet Nam and China Taipei.

The teams in Group G and I will not be able to host the match, so it will be held in the intermedi-

ate country and Group I matches with the Myanmar team will be held in Kyrgyzstan.

Myanmar will take on China Taipei on 30 October and Viet Nam on 2 November.

According to the format of the tournament, a total of 15 teams, including the top 11 teams from each group, and the best four teams from second place will qualify to the final stage. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Revived Man Utd face Liverpool, Chelsea battle injury woes



Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba. PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS/ AFP

ROCKED by injuries to Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner, Chelsea need their understudies to rise to the challenge when the leaders host Norwich.

After Steve Bruce's exit this

week, Newcastle head to Crystal Palace searching for a first win since the club's blockbuster takeover. On the brink of a disastrous Champions League defeat against Atalanta on Wednesday,

Manchester United staged a rousing fightback to ease the pressure on boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. United's recovery from two goals down was capped by Cristiano Ronaldo's winner, ensuring they avoided a fifth defeat in eight matches.

But the joy and relief that poured from the Old Trafford stands after that 3-2 victory will turn back to the jeers and angst of earlier in the match if United crash against old foes Liverpool on Sunday. United are already four points behind second-placed Liverpool after failing to win their last three league games and another slip against Jurgen Klopp's in-form side would be a major blow to their bid for a first English title since 2013. — 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.

## Nagelsmann out with Covid-19, but Bayern hope for a home full house

BAYERN Munich hope for full stands at the Allianz Arena for the first time in more than 18 months when the Bundesliga leaders host Hoffenheim on Saturday with head coach Julian Nagelsmann again sidelined by Covid-19.

The relaxing of regulations in Bavaria means that for the first time since the pandemic hit Germany in March 2020, Bayern could welcome a sell-out home crowd of 75,000.

Tickets are however still available and supporters need to be fully vaccinated or show a negative Covid-19 test result.

"The boys are really happy to be able to play in an

emotionally charged Allianz Arena again, that gives them extra motivation," said Bayern president Herbert Hainer this week.

"The excitement within the team for full stands is huge – as it is in the whole club."

However, Nagelsmann, also missed Wednesday's 4-0 win at Benfica. The 34-year-old is isolating at home after testing positive for coronavirus despite being fully vaccinated and could be away for up to two weeks. In his absence, assistant coaches Xaver Zembrod and Dino Toppmoller will be passing on his instructions. — AFP ■

## South Koreans show the way at home LPGA golf event

HOME golfers led the way after the second round of the BMW Ladies Championship in South Korea on Friday with four of the top five hailing from the country.

The tournament in the port

city of Busan is the only Asian event in the US LPGA season this year, after stops in Shanghai, Japan and Taiwan fell off the schedule because of coronavirus restrictions. Lim Hee-jeong and

An Na-rin were tied for the lead with 11-under-par 133. American Danielle Kang and Chun In-gee were one shot behind at the half-way stage.

"I am happy that I haven't made a bogey over the first two rounds and my ball striking and putting are pretty solid right now," Lim was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency.

Ko Jin-young, who missed extending an LPGA Tour scoring record a day earlier when she failed to make her 15th consecutive round in the 60s, rose to fifth after a bogey-free second-round 64. Prior to the BMW Championship, the 26-year-old world number two matched Annika Sorenstam's record for sub-70 rounds. — AFP ■



Lim Hee-jeong tees off at the BMW Ladies Championship. PHOTO: AFP