

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 191, 7th Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Wednesday, 27 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.

Press Release

MYANMAR received the invitation from Brunei Darussalam, the current Chair of ASEAN, to the non-political representative (Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to attend the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits on 19 October 2021.

Downgrading the level of the participant from Myanmar and limiting the role of participants, in discussions and decisions making at the Summits, are contrary to the principles, procedures of the ASEAN Charter and precedent of ASEAN, especially with

Article 2 on respecting the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all ASEAN Member States and Article 5 of the ASEAN Charter on equal rights and obligations of ASEAN Member States. **SEE PAGE-3**

Upgrade of Pammawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) completes 35%

THE Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction undertakes the upgrade works on Pammawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) in Ayeyawady Region and the operation now completes about 35 per cent, according to the ministry.

The upgrade works of the Pammawady Bridge over the Pammawady River on Pathein-Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya road section of Myaungmya Township cost more than K6,600 million. The original capacity of the old bridge is 35 tonnes but it now becomes only 16 tonnes due to ageing. Seven experienced engineers and more than 60 workers are working hard in upgrading the bridge with Steel Box Girder.

The new two-lane bridge is 1,260 feet long and 31 feet wide with a 24 feet wide motor road. The waterway clearance is 200 feet in width and 20 feet in height. It has a capacity of H.S 25 (Load Class) 60 tonnes. There will be three spans for the main bridge section and six spans on the side



The upgrade works started on 2 October 2020 and are estimated to complete in the 2022-2023 financial year, according to the ministry.

PHOTO : SOE MYINT AUNG

of Pathein and another six spans on the side of Myaungmya.

The 1.5 metres in diameter of R.C.C bored piles are also used, and the processes to keep the main suspension bridge are

now completed and the engineers will do the remaining upgrading works, according to the bridge special task force 15.

The residents of the Ayeyawady Region mainly rely

on the agriculture and marine sectors. If the bridge completes, it will benefit the locals in transporting domestic products as well as in the education, social and health sectors.

The upgrade works started on 2 October 2020 and are estimated to complete in the 2022-2023 financial year, according to the ministry. — Pwint Thitsar/ GNLM

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
COVID-19 centres accept positive patients, patients to be monitored
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
MoHT Union Minister joins Future of Tourism World Summit-Ministerial Debate online
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Russia, Myanmar discuss boosting agricultural exports
PAGE-4

NATIONAL
Terrorists committed assassination, bomb attack on school arrested with explosives, ammunition in Ayeyawady region
PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS
Yellow metal price drops below K1.8 mln per tical
PAGE-7

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

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

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

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

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

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

COVID-19 centres accept positive patients, patients to be monitored

COVID-19 positive patients and those required to be monitored are systematically admitted to Tatmadaw hospitals, local military training depots, Transit Centre in respective military commands and are being provided with healthcare services.

In addition, officials from the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with relevant departments, charitable organizations and responsible citizens, are opening quarantine centres in respective townships.

Till 7 pm yesterday, the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre

admitted a total of 150 people (85 men and 65 women), who needs to be monitored, and Hline Township Transit Centre received a total of 2 women who were diagnosed with COVID-19.

Local medical teams and officials in respective military commands are assisting in accommodation, health and medical care of the patients, it is reported. — MNA

Health staff are processing necessary paperwork to receive the positive patients and patients to be monitored at the COVID centres.



Kengtung Township provides free screening for COVID-19



WITH the aid of RDT test kits, free screening for the COVID-19 virus was provided to local people in villages of Kengtung Township on 26 October to reduce the rate of the pandemic infection as soon as possible, officials said.

To help local people in the villages in Kengtung township and reduce the incidence of the virus, a total of 635 people were tested free of charge with the RDT Test Kit.

A total of 28 people were

tested positive for the virus and are under treatment at present at an medical ward of the hospital.

Screening for the COVID-19 virus was carried out in urban areas and villages in Kengtung Township.

Chairman of the Township Administration Body U Hlaing Maung Maung, departmental staff, members of the police force, military doctors, health workers, members of the fire brigade, members of the Red Cross carried out the screening processes in collaboration with social organizations. —Aung Zin-Myint (IPRD)/GNLM

Kengtung locals get tested for COVID-19.

Emergence of the genuine democratic federal Union

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

(Excerpt from the Speech made by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the State Administration Council meeting 16/2021 on 15 October 2021)

Press Release

FROM PAGE-1

Furthermore, Myanmar has made it known its inability to accept the decision taken by the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held on 15 October 2021 as it was not based on ASEAN consensus as required by the ASEAN Charter in making decisions and thus Myanmar made a reservation on the decision taken in that meeting.

However, Brunei Darussalam in the capacity of ASEAN Chair extended the invitation letter to U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar on 25 October 2021 for his attendance in ASEAN Summits ignoring the points

made by Myanmar.

Therefore, Myanmar has communicated with Brunei Darussalam, as the current Chair of ASEAN, on 25 October 2021, informing Myanmar can accept the participation of the Head of State or Head of Government or his Ministerial level representation at the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits.

Myanmar's absence at the ASEAN Summits due to denial for the Head of State or Head of Government or his Ministerial level representation does not intend to show its protest against ASEAN or to boycott ASEAN. Myanmar rather exercises its rights as an ASEAN Member State in accordance with the principles en-

shrined in ASEAN Charter while demonstrating its willingness to consult with the ASEAN Member States.

Since Myanmar joined the ASEAN, Myanmar has been respecting and complying with the principles and procedures enshrined in the ASEAN Charter in contribution to the ASEAN Community Building process. Myanmar will continue to constructively cooperate with ASEAN, including in implementing the five-point consensus.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Date, 26 October 2021

MoHT Union Minister joins Future of Tourism World Summit-Ministerial Debate online

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung joined the virtual "The Future of World Tourism Summit-Ministerial Debate" yesterday being conducted under The Future of Tourism World Summit programme jointly organized by the United Nations World Tourism Organization-UNWTO, the Advanced Leadership Foundation (ALF), the Chambers of Commerce INCYDE Foundation and Municipal and Regional Administration of Barcelona.

During the meeting, UNWTO Secretary-General Mr Zurab Pololikashvili and Secretary-General Mr Juan Carlos Salazar of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

respectively made opening speeches.

Then, the tourism ministers of 18 countries continued the meeting under the topic of UNWTO Ministerial Debate: The Future of Tourism for People, Planet, Prosperity.

During "The Future of Tourism-Ministerial Debate", the Union Minister discussed the use of technology in the tourism sector, the drive of the Internet of the Things (IoT), innovative techniques for tourism business people and travellers and implementation of the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

He also highlighted the draft of the Myanmar Tourism

Strategic Recovery Roadmap (MTSRR), the first priority to create job opportunities in reviving the tourism sector and digital transformation.

Then, the leaders continued the Towards NetZero Tourism for Planet regeneration: High-Level Roundtable Funding the Future of Tourism: High-Level Debate, Digitalization & Smart Destinations.

Moreover, the leaders will also discuss the investment in human resources for the tourism sector, strategic communication and other related matters during the Summit on 27 October, and issue the Barcelona Call to Action under the topic of Towards a New Agenda



for Tourism: For People, Planet and Prosperity.

More than 80 participants of 70 countries, officials of UN-

WTO member countries, partner organizations and Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister joined the event. — MNA

Bank Holiday

ALL Banks will be closed on 4 (Thursday) November 2021 "Deepavali National Day" being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Russia, Myanmar discuss boosting agricultural exports



DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi met Mr Andrei Lunak at the Union Minister's Office

At the meeting, the Deputy Minister discussed issues related to the possibility of increasing the export of new items such as rice,

legumes, sesame crops, mango, cucumber, pineapple, butter, fish, and shrimp to Russia.

They also discussed crops technology and research on livestock and fish production development, the production of agricultural products, Russian business ventures in logistics and storage, Myanmar's National Food Safety and Nutrition, and issues for cooperation in the food security programme.

Exports of Myanmar's seafood (Pangasius and Vanamie) to Russia, and Russia's imports of artemia, live foods for shrimp, were also discussed. — MNA

Delegations from Russia and Myanmar hold talks to boost agro exports yesterday.

National Strategy (3) Against Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism Supervisory Committee holds coordination meeting

THE National Strategy (3) Against Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism Supervisory Committee held a coordination meeting via videoconferencing on 25 October.

The meeting was attended by the Committee Chairman Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe and the officials of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, Internal Revenue Department, Financial Intelligence Unit, Myanmar Banks Association,

UMFCCI, Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, Gold Entrepreneurs Associations of Yangon and Mandalay regions and Myanmar Real Estate Service Association.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the arrangements to strengthen the reporting system to the Financial Intelligence Unit for the gold and real estate transactions, the maximum amount of cash that can be paid in cash the use of the banking system in the excess of a fixed amount. — MNA



The CBM Deputy Governor and responsible officials attend the online coordination meeting on 25 October.

Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 26-10-2021

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Symptomatic				
1	PO Cetrizine	10x10's / Box	2,200	AA Medical
Supportive				
2	PO Multivitamin with/without zinc	3X10's / Box	5,600	OLIVE
3	PO Vitamin C	10X10's / Box	700	Pai Brother
4	PO - Pantocid	10X10's / Box	7,000	PL
5	PO Omeprazole	10X10's / Box	1,650	Shwe Htay Min

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

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

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

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

On 26 October, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants

and concentrators, were imported by four companies using six vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser, five oxygen concentrators for home use, 19 tonnes of gloves and 28 tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady, and Chinshwehaw trading posts, and Yangon International Seaports.

One bowser transported liquid oxygen to Yangon via Myawady trading post officials said. Officials from the

relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for better importation.

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



Local people receive COVID jobs in Mongyai Township

HEALTH officials gave the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines to above 18-year-old people at Nangai Hall and Mangphyat rural health branch in Mongyai Township,

northern Shan State yesterday. A total of 25 people received the second dose of COVID vaccines and 90 people got the first dose of COVID jobs at the same time, according

to the COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee of Mongyai Township.

Chairman of the township administration body U Soe Min Aung and members of the body and health-care workers assisted in the vaccination, officials said. — Kyaw Zin Htike/GNLM

Inoculation programme in progress in Mongyai Township, northern Shan State.

Students aged over 12 vaccinated against COVID-19 in Zalun Township

THE officials conducted the vaccination programme for students aged over 12 in Zalun Township of Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region.

The health workers vaccinated the students against COVID-19 at the four inoculation sites yesterday.

The middle and high school students aged over 12 are prioritized for vaccination in Zalun Township and the health officials checked the body temperatures and blood pressure of the students before the jab.



An above 12-year-old student gets jabbed in Zalun Township of Ayeyawady Region.

They were also kept under observation for 30 minutes after the inoculation. —Wai Yan (Zalun/IPRD)/GNLM

Schoolchildren get COVID-19 jabs in Kyaikto Township

IN collaboration with the township administration body, Department of Health and Department of Public Education, officials gave COVID-19 vaccines to students studying at 158 schools in Kyaikto Township, who are over the ages of 12 and under the ages of 18 to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The vaccination works were carried out at seven designated places in the township from 17 to 21 October.

The remaining students

were vaccinated on 26 October at No. 1 Basic Education High School, No. 2 Basic Education High School and Basic Education High School (Theinzayat) separately.

The students were vaccinated with the permission of their parents or guardians.

Other infected students were screened for the COVID-19 virus as vaccination works were systematically conducted by health workers. — Win Maung (Kyaikto)/GNLM

924 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 October, total figure rises to 495,898

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 495,898 after 924 new cases were reported on 26 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 460,224 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,582 after 22 died.



Covid immunization is underway in Kyaikto Township.

Terrorists committed assassination, bomb attack on school arrested with explosives, ammunition in Ayeyawady region



Ye Mon.



Waing Maung Soe (a) Wa Gyi.

37, Naing Lin Aung, 32, Yoon Ei Ei Aung (a) Yoon Yoon, 21, Kaung Khant Kyaw, 25, Lin Thike Aung (a) Lin Thike, 23 were arrested in villages in Kyangin, Ingapu, Zalun, and Myanaung townships respectively. In addition, 5 homemade mines were confiscated from the house of Wai Wai Aung, and Kaung Khant Kyaw and Linn Thike Aung were arrested with 1 pistol, 1 magazines and 3 bullets.

The arrested suspects revealed that Win Naing, Aung Zaw Oo, and Lin Thike Aung attended explosive training at the KNLA Brigade (3); Kaung Khant Kyaw attended the training at the KNLA Brigade (6) in Myawady Township. It is also learned that Ko Tauk and Tar Tay, who are still on the run, conducted an explosive training in Siektha forest in September.

It is also investigated that arrested suspect Aung Zaw Oo was assigned as in-charge of the Hinthada District Special Task Force by Ye Mon from NUG and Soe Htun, both are still on the run. Suspect Zarni Su Naing confessed that she brought 60 detonators from Waing Maung Soe (a) Wa Gyi from Zalun Township NLD party, who is residing

in Yangon, to carry out acts of violence in Zalun Township, and she kept them at Si Thu Aung, who is still on the run.

It is also learnt that Ko Tauk and Tar Tay brought ammunition and weapons transported from Ko Kyi (on the run) who is hiding in KNLA Brigade (6) through Ye Khe (on the run) to the forest in Seiktha village.

Arrested suspects also revealed that Kaung Khant Kyaw assassinated U Win Nyunt Aung, 36, an innocent civilian, in Thabayaygon village, Myanaung Township on 1 October and exploded three homemade bombs near the school located in front of the

Hinthada Township Administration body office on 4 October.

According to the statements made by the arrested suspects, Ye Mon from terrorist organization NUG has ordered Waing Maung Soe (a) Wa Gyi to form terrorist groups in each district in Ayeyawady Region to carry out destructive acts and to control the people under fear.

It is reported that the arrested terrorists will be taken action effectively under the law and the people are requested to report secretly the places and movements of the related suspects to the relevant authorities.

— MNA

TERRORISTS who assassinated an innocent 36-year-old man in Thabayaygon village, Myangaung Township on 1 October and who exploded three homemade bombs beside the Basic Education High School (1) in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, were arrested with homemade explosives and ammunition between 4 and 16 October.

A total of 21 men and 8 women were arrested with 11 MK-12s, 8 M-22s, 3 M-16s, 1 pistol, 2 homemade guns, 2,103 assorted bullets, 3 small landmines, 1 big landmine (without ammunition), 2 advanced mines, 1 homemade mine, 43 assorted magazines, 11 extra MK-12 barrels, and 27 related materials.

On 4 October, Ei Thet Paing, 31, who lived in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, was arrested for assisting PDF groups, and according to her statement, Win Naing, 46, was arrested in Mazalisu village in Ingapu Township on 7 October. He reportedly attended explosive training at the KNLA Brigade (3).

According to the statement made by Win Naing, Htoo Htoo Paing, 18, was arrested with one homemade mine, gun powder and related explosives in Ingapu Township on 8 October. He revealed the locations of Thant Zin, 35, Thu Thu Aung Nyein, 35, Thant Zaw, 47, Zarni Su Naing, 32, Zin Mar Win (a) Zin Mar, and Ei Ei Mon, and the suspects were arrested in Myanaung, Zalun, and Hinthada townships respectively. Ei Ei Mon was arrested with 2 homemade guns and related explosives.

According to the confession of suspect Thant Zin, Aung Zaw Oo was arrested on 9 October in Kyangin Township, and security forces confiscated 11 MK-12 weapons, 8 M-22 weapons, 3 M-16 weapons, 348 5.56 bullets, 130 7.62 bullets, 600 AK-47 bullets, 1,120 shotgun bullets, 6 mines, 42 magazines, 21 MK-

12 barrels, 3 MK-12 handlers, 4 bags of gunpowder, and 27 related materials near Thitseintgon village, Kyangin Township.

Following the statement of suspect Aung Zaw Oo, security forces arrested Paing Zin Phyto (a) Paing Gyi, 19, in Oh Pho Kone village in Kyangin Township on 10 October, and Hein Htet Kyaw (a) Pho La Pyae, 16, on Thitseikgon village. Chit Ko Ko, 38, was arrested in Yay Kyaw village in Ingapu Township.

According to the confessions made by the arrested suspects, Ohnmar Nyein Chan Oo, 38, Thiha Tun, 31, Wai Wai Aung, 30, Htay Win, 56, Hla Thein, 67, Myat San, 52, Pho Thar Aung, 65, Myint Soe, 57, Zaw Min, 48, Thaug Lin, 33, Kaung Myat Htet, 30 and Myint Myint Win,



Seized weapons, ammunition, explosives and related materials.

ဟင်္သာတခရိုင်အတွင်းရှိ မြို့နယ်များမှ PDF အဖွဲ့ဝင်များအား လက်နက်/ခဲယမ်းများနှင့်အတူ ဖမ်းဆီးရမိမှု အခြေပြုဇယား

ကြိုခင်းမြို့နယ်အတွင်းဖမ်းဆီးရမိ			
အောင်စိန်ခိုင်*	သန့်စင်	ဟိန်းထက်ကျော်	ဝင်းဝင်းမြို့(ခ)ဝင်းမြို့
အင်္ဂုမြို့နယ်အတွင်းဖမ်းဆီးရမိ			
ဝင်းနိုင်*			
ဟင်္သာတမြို့နယ်အတွင်းဖမ်းဆီးရမိ			
စင်မာဝင်း (ခ)စင်မာ	အိမ်အိမ်နီ		
စလွန်မြို့နယ်အတွင်းဖမ်းဆီးရမိ			
စာရည်ရခိုင်	သန့်စင်	ညွှန်ဦးစွမ်းဦး	
မြန်မာအောင်မြင်မြို့နယ်အတွင်းဖမ်းဆီးရမိ			
ကောင်းခင်ကျော်*	သုညအောင်ဦး		
လင်းဆိုင်အောင် (ခ)လင်းဆိုင်*			
အင်္ဂုမြို့နယ်အတွင်းဖမ်းဆီးရမိ			
အိသက်ပိုင်	ဌေးဝင်း	ထူးထူးပိုင်	မြတ်စံ
မျှော်စို(ခ)မျှော်စို	မြင့်စိုး	စိုးသာအောင်	စင်မင်း
သောင်းလင်း	ကောင်းမြတ်ထက်	လှသိန်း	မြင့်မြင့်ဝင်း
မြိုင်လင်းအောင်			
မြိုင်လင်းအောင်	ယုန်းအိမ်အောင် (ခ)ယုန်းလွန်း		

Yellow metal price drops below K1.8 mln per tical

THE price of precious yellow metal sank to below K1.8 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes), according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The drop in gold price is attributed to Kyat appreciation of the US dollar in the local forex market.

Last 28 September, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black market and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical in history.

On 26 October, the exchange rate on the US dollar slipped to below K2,000 and the domestic gold prices fell to K1.78 million per tical.

Therefore, there is a gap of over K1,000 in the forex market within a month, while the gold price was down by K440,000 per tical.



Gold jewellery is seen at one of the gold outlets in Yangon.

Last September, the gold market had a bumpy ride amidst the Kyat devaluation, bulk buying, shortage of raw metal and political development.

As a result of this, YGEA urged its members to regulate trade in order to deal with market volatility.

The association has curbed the amount of gold that investors can trade. It permits only 10 ticals for daily trading. In January 2021, the gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached

an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). The price has registered the highest of K1,455,000 (30 April) and the lowest of K1,389,000 (1 April). The price reached an all-time highest of K1,709,000 (12 May) and the lowest of K1,447,000 in May. The price moved in the maximum of K1,575,500 (11 June) and the minimum of K1,543,000 (19 June). It fluctuated between K1,562,300 (26 July) and K1,587,000 (K1,587,000). The price of gold reached the lowest of K1,572,800 (3 August) and the highest of K1,698,000 (31 August). Last month, it had recorded the lowest of K1,703,500 (1 September) and edged up to K2,220,000 (28 September), the

gold traders said.

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) 2020 and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal price moved in the range of 1,280,000 (1 December) and 1,332,000 (28 December).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. — NN/GNLM

Agricultural export tops \$132.9 mln as of 15 Oct

THE value of agricultural exports has registered US\$132.9 million in 15 days of the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), as per the statistic of the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures reflect an increase of \$45 million. The agro exports topped \$87.5 million in the corresponding period of the 2020-2021FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The agricultural exports jumped to \$4.6 billion in the financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups.

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

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

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for 37 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market

remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G-to-G pact also ensures a strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required to meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. — KK/GNLM



Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

Cotton crop cultivation succeeds in 19 townships of Sagaing region



In the 2021-2022 financial year, the Agriculture Department targeted to grow 79,346 acres of cotton crop in the Sagaing region. And, the department has cultivated 74,964 acres of the cotton crop from June to September 2021.

THE cultivation of cotton crop has succeeded in 19 townships of Sagaing, Monywa, Yinmabin, Shwebo and Kanbalu districts, in Sagaing Region.

The price of cotton crop in the Sagaing region is much higher than last year, said U Aung Kyi Win, deputy head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

“We have cultivated over 70,000 acres of the cotton crop. Some of the cotton crops started being harvested these days. Currently, the price of cotton fetched K1,600 per viss. But last year, it was only K1,200 per viss. This year, the cotton prices are significantly higher than last year. The increased demand for cotton

crop has pushed prices to rise in the market,” he added.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the Agriculture Department targeted to grow 79,346 acres of cotton crop in the Sagaing Region. And, the department has cultivated 74,964 acres of the cotton crop from June to September 2021.

The cultivation costs a farmer K350,000 per acre. And, the growers could yield around 1,000 visses per acre.

The growers for the Sagaing Region are engaged in the business of growing the crops. Most of them are using the mixed farming system instead of growing a single crop, and this has generated more extra income. — Lulay/GNLM

Don't give up on the dangers of COVID-19 and terrorism

DIGITS of infection rate and death toll triggered by COVID-19 are shown with the declines day by day as scheduled to reach less than five per cent.

At present, time is getting nearer to reaching the normalcy status against the pandemic in all cities across the nation when the infection rate and death toll plummeted down to the lowest level.

However, some townships are still seeing higher confirm positive patients. If the emphasis is placed on prevention, control and treatment of the pandemic in these townships, the infection rate of the disease will be down remarkably.

Hence, Myanmar is making utmost for battling the COVID-19 with might and main as much as possible. In the future, it is sure that Myanmar people will overcome any challenges through the united strength in building a peaceful and prosperous society and the country.

In retrospect, Myanmar people were under a serious situation in the second wave of the pandemic and under the terrible situation in the third wave in Myanmar till July and August this year. However, Myanmar people never give up on the outbreak of COVID-19.

The records showed the challenges such as insufficiency of medicines and medical equipment, inadequate number of health staff, and lesser number of opening hospitals as it was a worse period for solving the crises during the pre-electoral period, the post-electoral period and the political crises.

Thanks to the systematic management of the State leaders, utmost efforts of health staff, volunteers and relevant staff from other ministries in addition to the dutiful, conscientious and active participation of the people, the infection rate of the pandemic declines to around five per cent, up from eight per cent.

The government is joining hands with the people in fighting against the infection of COVID-19 so as to reach the infection rate to three per cent by 2021. In fact, COVID-19 brings subsequences of social and economic impacts the global countries are facing.

Myanmar is encountering the impacts of COVID-19 as well as the danger of terrorists. Now, the government is facing coercion and pressure imposed by saboteurs and neocolonialists with the wish to destroy the country.

Myanmar is a significant people capable of standing on its own as a self-reliant basis with never giving up any destructions and hindrances as well as dangers of the pandemic. Hence, Myanmar is making utmost for battling the COVID-19 with might and main as much as possible. In the future, it is sure that Myanmar people will overcome any challenges through the united strength in building a peaceful and prosperous society and the country.

Reinvigorate efforts to end TB

Why we need an urgent, synergistic TB response to accelerate towards the End TB targets

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

THE year 2020 marked a watershed in global efforts to end TB by 2030. First, because by 2020 TB-affected countries aimed to achieve the first set of End TB milestones – a 35 per cent reduction in TB deaths, a 20 per cent reduction in TB incidence, and zero catastrophic costs for TB-affected families. And second, because throughout 2020 and into 2021, the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic challenged health systems and TB programmes like never before.

Both globally and in the South-East Asia Region, TB case notifications and treatment have been disrupted. WHO data shows that several high-burden countries globally witnessed a decline of more than 50 per cent in the number of cases reported between January and June 2020

compared with the same period the previous year.

The social and economic impact of the pandemic has been immense. Tens of millions of people have been pushed into extreme poverty. Undernutrition – a key driver of TB morbidity and mortality – has been greatly exacerbated. WHO modelling suggests that these and other gaps could result in a level of global mortality last seen in 2012, leading to an additional 1.4 million TB deaths by 2025.

Such an outcome would be catastrophic, especially in the South-East Asia Region, the world's most TB-affected region. WHO's recently released Global TB Report highlights that in 2020 the Region accounted for 43 per cent of the 9.9 million patients who fell ill with TB globally. This is despite making up just over a quarter of the world's population. The Region accounted for almost half of global TB deaths.

Amid crisis there is opportunity. The Region has in recent

years mobilized unprecedented political commitment towards ending TB, which is one of eight Flagship Priorities. Ministerial-level commitments made in 2017 and 2018 have catalyzed increased and much-needed investments in ending TB, in line with the Region's Statement of Action, the UN Political Declaration on the Fight against TB, and the End TB and Sustainable Development Goal targets.

In all countries of the Region, pandemic-related disruptions have raised the stakes, highlighting the need for countries and partners to renew and reinvigorate the TB response – the focus of a high-level 26 October meeting of health ministers, policymakers and key donors from across the region and beyond.

Several priorities require targeted attention.

First, strengthening multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary action, for which accountability frameworks are vital. Such frameworks should define the

contributions of government departments, technical and funding partners, the private sector and civil society. They must include members of TB-affected communities, ensuring patient perspectives are not only represented but acted upon.

Second, increasing resource allocations to catch up on the lost ground. Regionally, it is estimated that up to US\$ 3 billion may be required annually to achieve the End TB targets. For every dollar spent on TB, an estimated 43 dollars are returned.

Third, we must ensure access for all to rights-based, stigma-free, quality-assured and people-centred services. Such services must provide the full spectrum of care, from preventive, diagnostic and treatment care, to rehabilitative and palliative care, with a focus on reaching marginalized and vulnerable groups. If appropriately leveraged, key technologies such as artificial intelligence-based screening can not only increase



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director of the WHO South-East Asia Region.

efficiency but also access and equity.

Fourth, strengthening the provision of socio-economic support. People who are undernourished are more prone to develop TB. They have a higher likelihood of dropping out of TB treatment. TB treatment interruptions are challenging for patients and

communities, increasing the likelihood of TB spread and drug resistance. To ensure all TB patients complete TB treatment, it is imperative that sensitive and accountable social protection services – including nutrition and financial support – are not only integrated into TB programmes but provided additional funding.

Our challenges are immense, but each can be overcome. In just a few short years, the Region has come so far in its efforts to address TB, mobilizing unprecedented investments that have achieved real progress at the grassroots and in the lives of the most vulnerable. That progress is increasingly at risk. Through urgent and synergistic action, together we must right course, ensuring all countries of the Region reinvigorate the TB response and accelerate towards the End TB targets, and a fairer, healthier, more health-secure Region for all.

Moderna COVID vaccine safe for kids

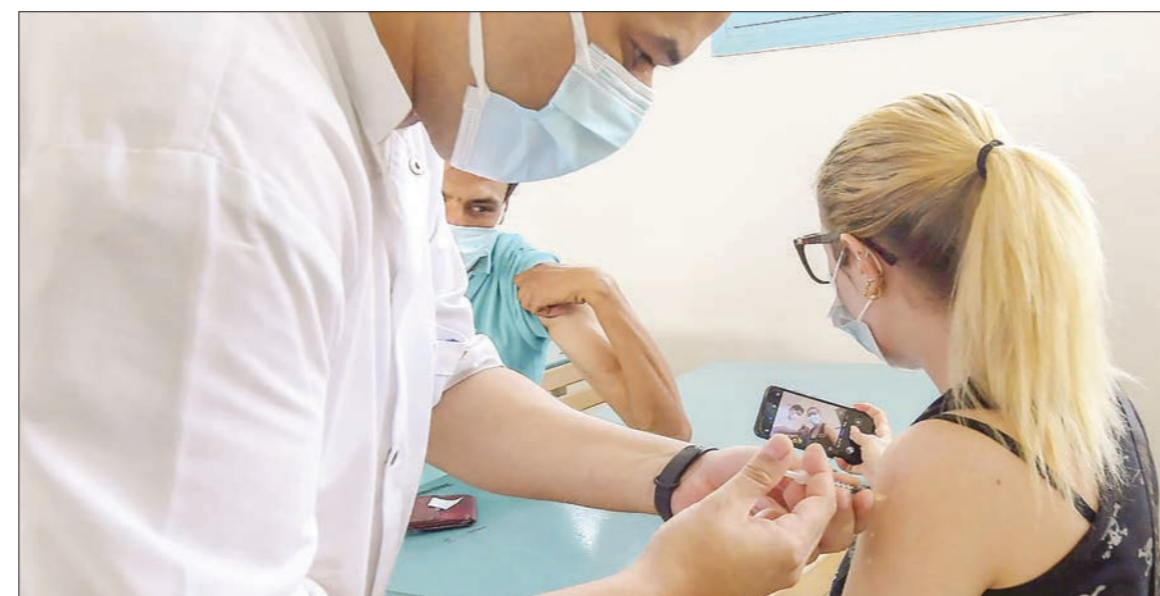
The Moderna news comes as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is preparing to convene a panel of advisors to vote on whether to greenlight the Pfizer shot for younger children, paving the way for 28 million more Americans to be vaccinated.

UNITED States (US) biotech firm Moderna said Monday its COVID vaccine was safe and produced a strong immune response in children aged six-11, adding it would submit trial data to global regulators soon.

The news comes as a panel of government advisors was preparing to meet Tuesday on the question of whether to authorize the Pfizer vaccine in kids aged five-11, with top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci predicting it would be available by mid-November.

"We are encouraged by the immunogenicity and safety profile of mRNA-1273 in children aged six to under 12 years and are pleased that the study met its primary immunogenicity endpoints," Moderna chief executive Stephane Bancel said in a statement.

An interim analysis from a mid-to-late-stage clinical trial of



A Tunisian medic administers the Moderna vaccine at an inoculation centre in a high school building in the capital Tunis on 15 August 2021. PHOTO: AFP

4,753 children showed that two doses of vaccine produced a high level of neutralising antibodies – Y-shaped proteins that bind to the coronavirus and block it from entering human cells.

The vaccine was dosed at 50 micrograms, which is half of what is used among adults, but still produced on average 1.5 times as many antibodies in children as it did in young adults given the

higher dose. The majority of adverse events were mild or moderate, including fatigue, headache, fever, and injection site pain.

These early results, released

via a press statement, do not yet include a vaccine efficacy estimate, which may be expected at a later time once cases have accrued.

FDA Meeting On Pfizer

The Moderna news comes as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is preparing to convene a panel of advisors to vote on whether to greenlight the Pfizer shot for younger children, paving the way for 28 million more Americans to be vaccinated.

A briefing document posted on the FDA's website indicated the agency believes benefits outweigh the most worrying side effect for this age group, namely myocarditis, or heart inflammation.

"The overall analysis predicted that the numbers of clinically significant COVID-19-related outcomes prevented would clearly outweigh the numbers of vaccine-associated excess myocarditis cases," the document said.

But it acknowledged the benefit-risk calculus would differ when community transmission is very low, as was the case in the US in June 2021. The FDA also uploaded Pfizer's efficacy analysis, with the company estimating a two-dose course of its vaccine at 10 micrograms was more than 90 per cent effective in preventing symptomatic disease.

Overall, more than 150 children aged five to 11 have died from COVID in the US since the start of the pandemic, according to official data.

"If all goes well, and we get the regulatory approval and the recommendation from the CDC, it's entirely possible, if not very likely, that vaccines will be available for children from five to 11 within the first week or two of November," Fauci told ABC News on Sunday. SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Confirmation and Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

- The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Win Htike	Director-General Union Minister Office Ministry of Planning and Finance
(b) Dr Myo Thant	Director-General Department of Myanmar Examinations Ministry of Education
(c) U Aung Myint Oo	Director-General Union Minister Office Ministry of Construction
(d) U Nay Aung Ye Myint	Director-General Department of Bridge Ministry of Construction
(e) U Wunna Zaw	Director-General Department of Rural Road Development Ministry of Construction

- The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Zaw Naing Win Deputy Director-General Department of International and Internal Affairs Ministry of Defence	Director-General Department of International Affairs Ministry of Defence
(b) U Myo Zaw Zaw Deputy Permanent Secretary Union Minister Office Ministry of Defence	Director-General Department of Internal Affairs Ministry of Defence

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 26 October 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 27 October 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4- 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

Asia suffered hottest year on record in 2020: UN

ASIA suffered its hottest year on record in 2020, the United Nations said Tuesday ahead of the COP26 summit, with extreme weather taking a heavy toll on the continent's development.

In its annual "State of the Climate in Asia" report, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said every part of the region had been affected.

"Extreme weather and climate change impacts across Asia in 2020 caused the loss of life of thousands of people, displaced millions of others and cost hundreds of billions of dollars, while wreaking a heavy toll on infra-

structure and ecosystems," the WMO said.

"Sustainable development is threatened, with food and water insecurity, health risks and environmental degradation on the rise."

The report comes days before COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference being held in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November. The report also laid bare the total annual average losses due to climate-related hazards.

China suffered an estimated \$238 billion, followed by India at \$87 billion, Japan with \$83 billion and South Korea on \$24 billion.



India and other Asian countries have suffered deadly heatwaves in recent years. **PHOTO: AFP**

But when the size of the economy is considered, the average annual losses are expected to

be as high as 7.9 per cent of gross domestic product for Tajikistan, 5.9 per cent for Cambodia and 5.8

per cent for Laos.

Prolonged displacement

Increased heat and humidity are forecast to lead to an effective loss of outdoor working hours across the continent, with a potential cost of many billions of dollars.

"Weather and climate hazards, especially floods, storms, and droughts, had significant impacts in many countries of the region," said WMO chief Petteri Taalas.

"Combined, these impacts take a significant toll on long-term sustainable development."—AFP ■

Indigenous Australians sue government over climate change



Plaintiff Paul Kabai says worsening flooding and salt-ruined soils had left his people facing a potentially dire future. **PHOTO: GRATA FUND/AFP**

INDIGENOUS residents of low-lying islands off northern Australia filed a landmark lawsuit Tuesday aimed at forcing the government to protect them from climate change through deeper cuts to carbon emissions.

The Torres Strait Islanders say rising sea levels represent an existential threat to their home-

lands and culture, putting them "on the frontline of the climate crisis".

Lawyers for traditional land owners from Boigu and Saibai — among the worst-impacted islands — want the Federal Court to order the government "to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level that will prevent Torres

Strait Islanders from becoming climate refugees".

It is believed to be the first such climate change class action launched by Indigenous Australians. The lawsuit comes on the same day Australia's conservative government unveiled a 2050 net zero target, with a light-on-detail plan that attracted criticism for relying heavily on undeveloped technologies and carbon offsets.

Fewer than 5,000 people live in the Torres Strait, also known as Zenadth Kes, a collection of about 274 islands between Australia's mainland and Papua New Guinea.

The lawsuit argues some islands are expected to become uninhabitable if global temperatures rise more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned could be breached by 2030.—AFP ■

Rescued from extinction, bison rediscover Romania mountains

HOOF prints in the mud, tree bark nibbled away: even if the newest residents of Romania's Carpathian mountain forest shy away from visitors, their traces are there for those who know where to look.

They are signs of the success of a project to reintroduce bison to this region after a centuries-long absence, key to keeping the hairy giants off lists of critically endangered species.

Bison had all but been driv-

en out of Europe by hunting and the destruction of its habitats, but their reappearance in Romania has brought back a key component of the region's ecosystem.

Under gentle autumn sunshine on the edge of a centuries-old wood, young forest warden Matei Miculescu is on the lookout for members of the Carpathian herd.

The animals can be hard to spot, having been tempted

further into the forest by the abundant vegetation and the possibility of extending their habitat.

Miculescu says the animals are thriving in the forest, in contrast to captivity which "creates the risk of inbreeding" and weakens their chances of survival.

Nowadays, around 6,000 bison, Europe's largest mammal and a distant cousin of the American buffalo, can be found on the continent.—AFP ■

Bomb cyclone slams rain-starved US west, bringing floods

A "bomb cyclone" brought floods and landslides to drought-hit California as forest fire-scarred landscapes were unable to soak up record-breaking rains.

Severe thunderstorms deluged the northern part of the state, with strong winds pummeling the area, toppling powerlines and trees and leaving at least two people dead.

The cyclone roared in from the Pacific Ocean and struck San Francisco and Oakland, as well as the states of Oregon and Washington, further north, on Sunday.

It also lashed British Columbia, Canada's western-most province, leaving thousands without power: Two people were killed when a tree fell on their vehicle near Seattle.

California's state capital, Sacramento, which saw no rain at all in the six months to September, was deluged with 14 centimetres (five and a half

inches), beating a record that had stood since 1880.

The rains inundated towns, leaving some streets waist-deep in water, photographs showed.

In Ross, a small city in the northern part of the state, rescue crews were scrambling to remove trees blown down by the winds. In nearby San Rafael, streets were completely flooded, with water rising above the height of vehicle tires, while further south in Marin City, crews were working to redirect water into drains. Since the storms began Sunday night, nearly 400,000 people have been left without power because of the high winds, utility PG&E said.

Global warming increases extreme weather

Meteorologists say the desiccated landscape of the US west finds it difficult to absorb heavy rains, and water just washes destructively off the surface.—AFP ■



Workers try to divert water into drains in Marin City, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

China locks down city of 4 million over COVID-19 cases

CHINA placed a city of four million under lockdown on Tuesday in a bid to stamp out a domestic coronavirus spike, with residents told not to leave home except in emergencies.

Beijing imposed strict border controls after the virus was first detected in China in late 2019, slowing the number of cases to a trickle and allowing the economy to bounce back.

But it has stamped down hard on any local outbreaks and Tuesday's fresh restrictions came as China reported 29 new domestic infections — including six cases in Lanzhou, the provincial capital of northwestern province Gansu.

Residents of Lanzhou will be required to stay at home, authorities said in a statement.

Officials added the “entry

and exit of residents” would be strictly controlled and limited to essential supplies or medical treatment. China's latest outbreak has been linked to the contagious Delta variant, with the tally from the latest spread hitting 198 cases since October 17.

Health officials have warned that more infections may emerge as testing is ramped up in the coming days to fight the outbreak, which has been linked to a group of domestic tourists. Strict stay-at-home orders have already been imposed on tens of thousands of people in northern China.

In Beijing — which reported three new cases Tuesday — access to tourist sites has been limited and residents advised not to leave the city unless necessary.



People queue up to get decoctions for COVID-19 prevention and control at Gansu Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, 23 October 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN BIN

Several housing compounds in the capital have also been locked

down, and organisers on Sunday athon at which 30,000 runners were expected.— AFP ■

Mexico City starts COVID vaccinations of minors at risk



A minor in Mexico City is inoculated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against COVID-19 as part of the capital city's plan to vaccinate at-risk youths. PHOTO: AFP

MEXICO on Monday began COVID-19 vaccinations for adolescents with chronic diseases in the capital, the latest step in an immunization drive in one of the countries hit hardest by the pandemic.

Authorities in Mexico City said they had begun using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to inoculate minors with comorbidities aged between 12 and 17 years old. Fifteen-year-old Paola Abigail Chocooj, who has diabetes,

was among those participating, some in their school uniforms.

Her mother Ileana Silva said she had been “very nervous” since the pandemic started that her daughter would be infected, but was now feeling “a little bit calmer.”

The northwestern state of Baja California, bordering the United States, also began COVID-19 vaccinations for minors with serious illnesses.

The Mexican government did not include minors in its national immunization plan, saying that exposing them at an early age to the vaccine could affect their immune systems.

However, a court ruled this month the policy must be changed so that minors aged 12-17 are widely immunized — a verdict the government said it is analyzing.—AFP ■

Hong Kong to further tighten COVID travel restrictions

HONG KONG will tighten coronavirus travel restrictions to bring it more into line with the Chinese mainland, its leader said Tuesday, as the city extended its streak of more than two months without a major local outbreak.

The announcement came despite concerns from the international hub's business community that the city remains indefinitely cut off from the rest of the

world, with one of the strictest mandatory quarantine regimes of any jurisdiction.

Most arrivals have to undergo 14 to 21 days of hotel quarantine. Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Hong Kong will now go even further as she tries to persuade China's leaders to restore travel with the mainland. “Soon we will... announce that most of the quarantine exemptions granted to specific groups of

visitors coming from overseas and mainland will be cancelled,” Lam said, adding only essential workers such as cross-border truck drivers would be allowed to make quarantine-free trips.

At present, Hong Kong allows certain groups of people to skip quarantine or isolate at home. They include diplomats and business leaders as well as some mainlanders with Hong Kong resident cards.—AFP ■



Hong Kong has one of the strictest mandatory COVID quarantine regimes in the world. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

300,000 Swedes believed to have impaired sense of smell due to COVID-19

An estimated 300,000 Swedes suffer from an impaired sense of smell due to COVID-19, Swedish national TT News Agency reported on Sunday. According to the report, queues are long for clinics that offer treatment for the condition in the country. With around 10 million inhabitants, Sweden has only two such clinics, of which the newest opened in September at Karolinska University Hospital in Huddinge near the capital city of Stockholm.

According to the latest statistic released by the Swedish Public Health Agency on Friday, nearly 1.166 million coronavirus cases had been confirmed since the pandemic started. The total number of deaths was approaching to 15,000.—Xinhua ■

Spain's COVID-19 cases top 5 mln

THE cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in Spain passed the 5-million mark on Monday after the country's Ministry of Health confirmed 4,485 new cases. The new cases, recorded for the 72-hour period from 2:00 pm Friday to 2:00 pm Monday, brought the total number of confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic in the country to 5,002,217. The country's COVID-19 death toll rose to 87,186 after 54 deaths were reported during the period, according to the ministry. Also on Monday, Spanish health centres began to give a third COVID-19 vaccine dose to people aged 70 and over.—Xinhua ■

China maps path to carbon peak, neutrality under new development philosophy

CHINESE authorities on Sunday unveiled a guiding document on the country's work to achieve carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals under the new development philosophy, laying out key specific targets and measures for the coming decades.

By 2030, China's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions will peak, stabilize and then decline, and by 2060, China will be carbon neutral and have fully established a green, low-carbon and circular economy, it says, reiterating the country's previous pledge.

"We are firmly committed to a green, low-carbon and high-quality development path

that gives primacy to ecological civilization," says the document titled "Working Guidance for Carbon Dioxide Peaking and Carbon Neutrality in Full and Faithful Implementation of the New Development Philosophy."

The document, jointly released by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, outlines five major tasks, including creating a green, low-carbon and circular economy, improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of non-fossil energy consumption, lowering CO₂ emissions and boosting the carbon sink capacity of ecosystems.

China aims to gradually increase the share of non-fossil energy consumption to around 20 per cent by 2025, around 25 per cent by 2030, and over 80 per cent by 2060, it says.

In 2019, non-fossil energy accounted for 15.3 per cent of total energy consumption in China, up 5.6 percentage points against 2012. By 2025, the country's carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will be lowered by 18 per cent from the 2020 level, and by 2030 will have dropped by more than 65 per cent compared with the 2005 level.

By 2025, China's energy consumption per unit of GDP will be



By 2025, China's energy consumption per unit of GDP will be lowered by 13.5 per cent from the 2020 level, the forest coverage rate will have reached 24.1 per cent, and the forest stock volume will have risen to 18 billion cubic meters. Photo taken on 27 September 2020 shows workers planting trees for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in Yanqing District, Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG CHENLIN**

lowered by 13.5 per cent from the 2020 level, the forest coverage rate will have reached 24.1 per cent, and the forest stock volume will have risen to 18 billion cubic metres.—Xinhua ■

Democrats mull tax on assets of US billionaires



Democratic senators are expected to soon detail the proposal that would allow Washington to reap revenue from the increase in value of stocks, property and other assets of the wealthiest Americans, which generally is not taxed unless it is sold. People walk in front of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) at the end of the trading day on 4 December 2017 in New York City, United States. **PHOTO: AFP/SPENCER PLATT**

US President Joe Biden's Democratic allies are considering imposing a tax on the wealthiest Americans, a longstanding goal of the political left that could finally be enacted to pay for a massive social spending plan. Democratic senators are expected to soon detail the proposal that would allow Washington to reap revenue from

the increase in value of stocks, property and other assets of the wealthiest Americans, which generally is not taxed unless it is sold.

The idea comes as Democrats in Congress scramble to find an agreement on a social spending bill worth just under \$2 trillion that party moderates have thus far refused to pass,

worried about its deleterious economic effects. "I wouldn't call that a wealth tax, but it would help get at capital gains which are an extraordinary large part of the income of the wealthiest individuals and right now escape taxation until they're realized," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday on CNN.—AFP ■

China conveys to US wish to discuss lifting of tariffs, sanctions

VICE-PREMIER Liu He, China's chief trade negotiator with the United States, told Washington that Beijing is keen to talk about the cancellation of tariffs and sanctions by the US administration, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said Tuesday.

During a video conversation earlier in the day, Liu also agreed with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen that the two countries will strengthen communication and coordination on macroeconomic policy, despite bilateral trade tensions.

Beijing expressed concern over issues, including the lifting of additional tariffs and sanctions by Washington and fair treatment of Chinese enterprises, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.—Kyodo News ■

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, launches digital currency eNaira

NIGERIAN President Muhammadu Buhari launched the country's new digital eNaira currency on Monday as Africa's largest economy looked to tap into the growing popularity of virtual money and cryptocurrencies.

With the eNaira, Nigeria becomes the first in sub-Saharan Africa to fully launch a digital currency and joins China and a few other countries using or piloting central bank-regulated electronic tender.

"We have become the first country in Africa and one of the first in the world to introduce a digital currency to our citizens," Buhari said at the official launch.

Nigeria has seen booming interest in cryptocurrencies as people look for ways to avoid the weakening naira currency and combat high costs of living and unemployment in Africa's most populous country.

Central bank-backed digital currencies or CBDCs and cryptocurrencies are both virtual money though the CBDCs are legal tender regulated by central banks while cryptos are out of government control.

Five countries have already launched CBDCs, with another 14, including Sweden and South Korea in the pilot stage, according to the Atlantic Council's CBDC tracking project.

In West Africa, Ghana is also looking to launch its own CBDC soon. Nigeria's central bank earlier this year sought to control the use of cryptocurrencies by ordering banks to close accounts that were involved in such transactions.

'Increasing the tax base'
But in spite of the central bank ban, many Nigerians still skirt traditional sectors to use cryptocurrency for overseas transactions.—AFP ■



In recent years Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city, has become Africa's most attractive tech hub for investors **PHOTO: STEFANN HEUNIS/AFP**

Japan puts successor to ageing GPS-improving satellite into orbit

JAPAN successfully launched into orbit on Tuesday a replacement for its ageing first-ever quasi-zenith satellite, which has been working to provide accurate global positioning data for services such as autonomous driving cars and drones.

The new satellite produced by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. will replace the Michibiki No. 1 satellite, which was launched in 2010 and has reached the end of its design life.

The new satellite will

work with three previously launched Michibiki satellites and complement the existing US satellite network.

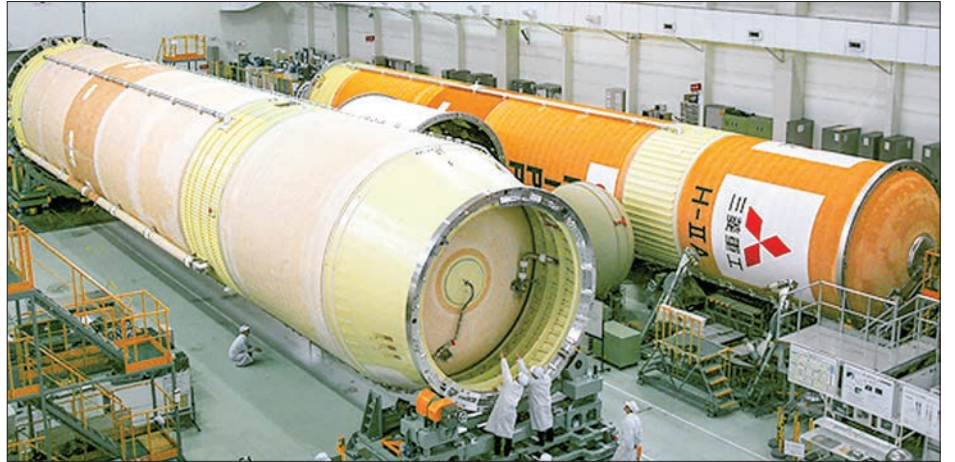
An H-2A rocket carrying the satellite lifted off at 11:19 am from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan. The satellite entered into the planned orbit about 30 minutes after the launch.

The satellite was previously scheduled to be launched on Monday, but it was postponed due to bad

weather. It marks the 38th consecutive time Japan successfully launched an H-2A rocket since the first in 2005.

The Japanese government plans to increase the number of satellites in orbit to seven in fiscal 2023 to enhance "Japanese GPS" with more precise global positioning system services.

The H-2A rocket carrying the satellite is 53-metre long and weighed around 290 tonnes at the time of the launch.—Kyodo News ■



The new satellite produced by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. will replace the Michibiki No. 1 satellite, which was launched in 2010 and has reached the end of its design life. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries is a launch vehicle manufacture and launch services provider to ensure the "secure" delivery of a customer's payload (satellite) to "a target orbit" on "a target date." PHOTO: MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD/ KYODO NEWS

Singapore's inflation rises to 1.2pc in Sept

THE Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said yesterday that the MAS core inflation rose to 1.2 per cent on a year-on-year basis in September from 1.1 per cent in the previous month.

The increase was largely driven by higher food inflation, said the authorities.

Meanwhile, Singapore's CPI-All Items rose by 2.5 per cent on a year-on-year basis in September, from 2.4 per cent in August. This reflected higher core and accommodation inflation.

Singapore's MAS

core inflation excludes the costs of accommodation and private transport, and CPI-All Items inflation represents the rise in the consumer price index for all items.

In September, Singapore's food inflation on a year-on-year basis rose to 1.6 per cent as the prices of non-cooked food and prepared meals increased at a slightly faster pace. Meanwhile, the accommodation costs grew by 1.9 per cent year-on-year, compared to 1.7 per cent in the previous month, as housing rents rose at a faster rate. MTI and MAS reiterated that the MAS core inflation will come in



Vessels berth along the pier of the Keppel container terminal next to the business district of Singapore. PHOTO: AFP /ROSLAN RAHMAN

near the upper end of the 0-1 per cent forecast range in 2021 and is projected to increase further to 1-2 per cent in 2022. CPI-All

Items inflation is forecast to come in around two per cent this year and average 1.5-2.5 per cent next year.—Xinhua ■

UK spy chiefs seal Amazon cloud data deal



The secret contract was signed this year and experts estimate its value at £500 million (\$690 million) to £1 billion. PHOTO: AFP

UK intelligence agencies have entrusted classified data to Amazon's cloud computing arm AWS in a deal designed to vastly

speed up their espionage capabilities, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. The secret contract was signed this year and

experts estimate its value at £500 million (\$690 million) to £1 billion, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with the discussions. It was said to be spearheaded by Britain's cybersecurity agency GCHQ, which had wanted to find a UK cloud provider but decided that none had the requisite capability as Amazon Web Services.

The arrangement reportedly covers MI5, the UK's domestic security service, and MI6, its foreign arm, as well as other government branches.

Amazon itself will not have access to the data,

according to the report.

It will allow UK intelligence "to get information from huge amounts of data in minutes, rather than in weeks and months", Ciaran Martin, formerly head of GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre, told the FT.

There was no comment from Amazon, GCHQ or the UK government.

The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) struck a cloud data deal with AWS in 2013 and last year expanded the contract to allow bids from Google, IBM, Microsoft and Oracle.—AFP ■

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4th NOVEMBER 2021 (Deepavali Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA MAGDEBURG VOY.NO. (141S/142N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HANSA MAGDEBURG VOY.NO. (141S/142N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-10-2021 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.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းဝင်ကာစံချိန်စိ ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530

ကြော်ငြာခွင့်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ဝိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်

09 974 424 848

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

NEWS
IN BRIEFUS State
Department sets up
cyber bureau, envoy
amid hacking alarm

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Monday that the State Department will establish a new bureau and envoy to handle cyber policy, revamping amid alarm over rising hacking attacks. In a memo to staff, Blinken said that a review showed a need for structural changes on "how the State Department should adapt to 21st-century challenges." He announced plans, subject to approval by Congress, to create a Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy with a new special envoy for critical and emerging technology.—AFP ■

UK says relationship
with Russia 'not the
one we want'

THE leaders of Britain and Russia spoke in a rare phone call on Monday in advance of the COP26 summit, with London expressing frustration at the tense state of ties.

President Vladimir Putin said he regrets being unable to attend the UN climate summit starting next week in Glasgow, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Downing Street office said. Johnson hoped that Russia would take more ambitious steps towards curbing carbon emissions and ending deforestation, his office added.—AFP ■

Former South
Korean president
Roh Tae-woo dies

FORMER South Korean president and general Roh Tae-woo, who was instrumental in crushing the Gwangju Uprising at a cost of hundreds of lives, died of natural causes on Tuesday aged 88, according to reports. Roh withdrew from public view around 20 years ago following a diagnosis of prostate cancer, and was being treated at the Seoul National University Hospital, Yonhap news agency reported. He was elected to serve as president from 1988-93, succeeding his old friend and dictator Chun Doo-hwan who took power in a military coup with Roh in 1979.—AFP ■

Princess Mako marries
commoner boyfriend
after years of controversy

JAPAN'S Princess Mako married her commoner boyfriend Kei Komuro on Tuesday, the Imperial Household Agency said, after years of controversy over a financial dispute involving his mother leading the couple to forgo traditional ceremonies associated with a royal marriage.

The agency submitted legal paperwork to register the couple's marriage on their behalf, four years since their relationship

was made public. Former Princess Mako Komuro said her new husband is "irreplaceable" and that their marriage was a "necessary choice" despite controversy over the union stemming from a family financial dispute. Speaking in front of the press at a Tokyo hotel, Kei Komuro said he will "do whatever possible" to solve the money trouble involving his mother and her former fiancée.—Kyodo News ■



Japan's Princess Mako bows before leaving her home in Akasaka Estate in Tokyo on 26 October 2021. PHOTO: KOKI SENGOKU/KYODO NEWS

Israel holds largest-ever air force drill with UAE visit



An Israeli soldier stands guard as an F-16 fighter lands during the Blue Flag multinational air defence exercise. PHOTO: AFP

ISRAEL is holding its largest-ever air force exercise this week, joined by several Western countries and India,

with the United Arab Emirates' air force chief set to inspect the drills.

Amir Lazar, chief of Israeli air force operations, told reporters the drills "don't focus on Iran", but army officials have said the Islamic republic remains Israel's top strategic threat and at the centre of much of its military planning.

Israel has held the "Blue Flag" exercises every two years since 2013 in the Negev desert.

Some preliminary exercises began last week.

Other nations taking part this year include France, the

United States and Germany, as well as Britain, whose aircraft flew over Israeli territory for the first time since the Jewish state's creation in 1948.

With more than 70 fighter jets — including Mirage 2000s, Rafales and F-16s — and about 1,500 personnel participating, the drills are the largest-ever held in Israel, Lazar told reporters at the southern Ovda airbase.

Ibrahim Nasser Mohammed Al Alawi, commander of the United Arab Emirates air force, landed in Israel on Monday, the Israeli army said in a statement.—AFP ■

Migrants march on Mexican capital demanding 'dignity'

AROUND 1,000 migrants seeking refugee status marched on Monday towards the Mexican capital, as the government faced a call by the United Nations to process the requests quickly.

The caravan, including foreigners from at least eight countries, set off from the southern city of Tapachula on Saturday demanding "justice, dignity and freedom."

The group was traveling on foot on highways in Chiapas state under the watch of immigration and National Guard personnel, an AFP reporter saw.

"My country, society, is in decline. I don't want my daughter to grow up with that," said 23-year-old Ecuadorian Ismael Gualapuro, who hopes to reach the United States with his wife and two-year-old.

The family spent two months in Tapachula, where the migration authorities and Mexico's refugee commission told them



Around 1,000 migrants are marching through southern Mexico towards the capital seeking refugee status. PHOTO: AFP

that they could not help "because there are too many people," he said.

When the protest march was announced the family was contacted by the authorities with an offer of an appointment, but not until next March, Gualapuro said.

Asked about the caravan, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Monday it was "important that migrants be treated with respect and dignity," and that requests for refugee status "be treated quickly."

Tens of thousands of US-

bound migrants, mostly Central Americans and Haitians, have arrived in Mexico in recent months fleeing poverty and violence.

Mexico has expelled 54,000 migrants so far in 2021, according to New York-based Human Rights Watch.—AFP ■

Post-Merkel parliament debuts, smashing diversity ceiling



Social Democrat Baerbel Bas, shown next to Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, is expected to become the third woman speaker of the Bundestag. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMANY'S new parliament will sit for the first time Tuesday after last month's election, ushering in a post-Merkel era that is more female, younger and more ethnically diverse.

Angela Merkel will remain caretaker chancellor until a new government is in place while the body that will elect her successor, the Bundestag lower house of parliament, will convene having swollen to a record 736.

The September 26 general election left the centre-left Social Democrats as the biggest party, whose candidate Olaf Scholz is working toward cobbling together

a ruling coalition by early December. But while the top job is expected to pass from Germany's first female chancellor to a man, the Bundestag's powerful speaker Wolfgang Schaeuble is set to hand off the podium to Baerbel Bas — only the third woman to hold the post.

Meanwhile the new-look Bundestag boasts a number of firsts for the EU's most populous nation, although activists say it still has far to go to truly reflect the rich tapestry of German society.

The first-ever black woman MP, Eritrean-born Awet Tesfaie-

sus, 47, will take her seat among the Greens' parliamentary group.

Having arrived in Germany at age 10, Tesfaiesus went on to become a lawyer and has devoted her career to defending the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers. "We need diversity in this country," she told AFP. "We need people who have been victims of racism to be better represented."

'Latent racism'

During her mandate, Tesfaiesus said she wants to fight the "label" of foreigner that sticks to her despite her German passport. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US to begin UK appeal against Assange extradition block

The US government will on Wednesday begin an appeal to extradite WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to face trial for publishing military secrets, after a British judge blocked a request earlier this year.

Washington said after the decision in January that it was "extremely disappointed" by District Judge Vanessa Baraitser's decision, which was made on the grounds of Assange being a suicide risk.

It is seeking to overturn that ruling at a two-day hearing from Wednesday, arguing that the judge "didn't appreciate the weight" of expert evidence that said he was not at risk of taking his own life.

Instead, it claimed the judge was "misled" by relying on evidence presented by Assange's psychiatric expert Michael Kopelman.

Assange, 50, was arrested in Britain in 2019 for jumping bail after spending seven years inside the Ecuadorian embassy in London to evade extradition to Sweden to face allegations of sexual assault, which were later dropped.

Despite his extradition being blocked, Assange has been refused bail pending the outcome of the appeal over fears he would abscond and is being held at London's high-security Belmarsh Prison.

He is wanted in Washington to face 18 charges relating to the 2010 release by WikiLeaks of 500,000 secret files detailing aspects of military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

If convicted in the United States, he faces a maximum sentence of 175 years in jail. —AFP ■

Dutch court decides fate of Crimean treasures

A Dutch appeals court will rule on Tuesday on the fate of a priceless collection of Crimean gold loaned to an Amsterdam museum shortly before Moscow annexed the peninsula from Ukraine in 2014.

Four Crimean museums launched a joint legal bid seven years ago to force the Allard Pierson Museum to return the historic collection of archaeological artefacts dubbed the "Scythian Gold" to the peninsula.

A lower court said in 2016 that the treasures were part of Ukraine's cultural heritage and must be returned instead to Kiev, adding that Crimea was not considered a sovereign state.

The Crimean museums appealed against the judgement, saying that they belonged there, and the Dutch court of appeal said in 2019 that it needed more time to decide on the matter.

The treasures themselves have remained in "safe storage" with the Allard Pierson museum, which is the archaeological museum of the University of Amsterdam, pending the appeal. "We can't comment on this while it is under consideration by the courts," Yasha Lange, a spokeswoman for the University of Amsterdam, told AFP. —AFP ■

Division in Sudan's transitional gov't prompts military intervention: army chief

CHAIRMAN of Sudan's Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan said on Monday that the division among partners in the transitional government prompted the military intervention to prevent the country from chaos.

Al-Burhan, also general commander of the Sudanese armed forces, made the remarks in a speech broadcast by the official Sudan TV, in which he announced the state of emergency across the country, dissolution of the sovereign council and the government, and the relief of all state governors of their post.

The Sudanese army chief expressed commitment to the constitutional document but announced suspension of the items relating to the coalition with the Freedom and Change Alliance, the civilian component



Chairman of Sudan's Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan said on Monday that the division among partners in the transitional government prompted the military intervention to prevent the country from chaos. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

in the ruling coalition that accused Al-Burhan of carrying out a military coup.

Earlier in the day, Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, members of the Transitional Sovereignty Council's civilian component and several

ministers were arrested by joint military forces, according to Sudan's Ministry of Information and Communications. The office of the prime minister said in a statement that a security force took Hamdok and his wife to an unknown place. —Xinhua ■

China-Russia flotilla displays "show of force": Japan defence chief



A group of naval vessels from China and Russia sails during joint military drills in the Sea of Japan, in this still image taken from video released on 18 October. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/HANDOUT/KYODO NEWS**

DEFENCE Minister Nobuo Kishi said Tuesday a joint Chinese and Russian naval flotilla seen recent-

ly around Japan displays an unprecedented "show of force" that underscores the growing list of

security challenges in the region.

Five Chinese ships and five Russian ships on Monday last week sailed together through the Tsugaru Strait between Hokkaido and Japan's main island of Honshu into the Pacific Ocean. On Saturday, they passed through the Osumi Strait south of Kyushu before continuing into the East China Sea. "This is the first time we have confirmed activity on such a large scale and over such a long period," Kishi said at a press conference. "We believe this was a show of force toward Japan." —Kyodo News ■

Myanmar team arrives in Kyrgyzstan for Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers

THE Myanmar U-23 football team arrived in Kyrgyzstan on 26 October to compete in the 2022 Asian Cup U-23 Championship Qualifiers.

The Myanmar U-23 team left Dubai, the UAE, on the evening of 25 October after playing a friendly match in the UAE and arrived in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in the early morning of 26 October.

The Asian Cup U-23 Group I matches will be held from 27 October to 2 November. Myanmar team is included in Group I together with Viet Nam and China Taipei.

The team Myanmar will play against China Taipei on 30 October and Viet Nam on 2 November.

The AFC U-23 group stage matches have been underway for the past few days and will end on 2 November.

The tournament is divided into 11 groups, with the top 11 teams in each group and the top four runners-up will advance to the next



The Myanmar U-23 football team.

stage. Head coach Veliza Popov will handle the U-23 Myanmar national football team for the qualifiers. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

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.

Barcelona to play Boca Juniors in friendly tribute to Diego Maradona



Diego Maradona is pictured prior to the Best FIFA Football Awards at The London Palladium in London, England, 23 October, 2017. PHOTO: CFP/AFP

BARCELONA and Boca Juniors, two of Diego Maradona's former clubs, will play a friendly in honour of the late Argentine great on 14 December in Saudi Arabia.

The Maradona Cup will be held at Mrsool Park in Riyadh just over a year after his death. The 1986 World Cup winner died last November at the age of 60. Boca said Monday in a statement the match would help "celebrate the legacy" of one of football's greatest ever players.

Maradona had two spells at Buenos Aires giants Boca, playing for them during the 1981-82 season before rejoining the club in 1995 for the final two years of his career.

He also made 58 appearances for Barca between 1982 and 1984, winning the Copa del Rey in his first season. — AFP ■

Injured Federer slides further down rankings

FORMER men's tennis world number one Roger Federer dropped a further four places in the latest ATP rankings on Monday to 15th having exited the top 10 last week.

The 40-year-old Swiss is side-lined with a right knee injury and has not played since a humiliating straight sets quarter-final defeat at the hands of Poland's Hubert Hurkacz at Wimbledon on 7 July.

Whilst Federer falls there is a career high ranking of 11 for Italy's Jannik Sinner, who rises two spots on the back of his success in Antwerp on Sunday which was his fourth title of the season.

Indian Wells champion Cameron Norrie also reaches a career best ranking, the Briton moving up another two places to 14. —AFP ■

Legendary former Rangers manager Walter Smith dies, aged 73

FORMER Scotland and Rangers manager Walter Smith has died at the age of 73, the Glasgow giants confirmed on Tuesday. "It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our former manager, chairman and club legend, Walter Smith," Rangers said in a statement.

Smith is Rangers second-most successful ever manager, winning 21 trophies across two spells in charge.

Already at the club as assistant to Graeme Souness, Smith

was appointed full-time manager at Ibrox in 1991 and won seven league titles in eight years to lead the club to a record-equaling nine consecutive Scottish league titles. After a four-year stint at Everton and a brief spell as Alex Ferguson's assistant at Manchester United, he was appointed manager of Scotland in 2004. In 2007, he returned to Ibrox, winning three more league titles and guiding Rangers to the UEFA Cup final in 2008 before retiring in 2011. — AFP ■



Former Scotland and Rangers manager Walter Smith has died at the age of 73, the Glasgow giants confirmed on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP