

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 194, 10<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME

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Saturday, 30 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.

## State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy Vice-Admiral Vladimir Lvovich Kasatonov and party



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing takes the salute of the Guard of Honour on board the Russian Warship Gremyashiy on 29 October 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning received Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy Vice-Admiral Vladimir

Lvovich Kasatonov and delegation members on board Russian Warship Gremyashiy.

On arrival at MITT Jetty of Thilawa Port, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Rus-

sian Navy Vice-Admiral Vladimir Lvovich Kasatonov, Commanding Officer of the Warship Captain Andrey Kuznetsov. The Senior General took the salute of the Guard of Honour on board the Russian Warship.

The Senior General received the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy and party at the meeting hall of the vessel.

They discussed multisector cooperation in two armed forces of the two countries, exchange of

goodwill visits to further cement friendly relations and trust between the two countries and the two armed forces, and exchange of maritime technology and information between the two navies of the two countries. **SEE PAGE-3**

### INSIDE TODAY

#### NATIONAL

Shwedagon Pagoda to extend opening hours from 5 am to 6 pm daily

**PAGE-2**

#### NATIONAL

Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers holds 2/2021 meeting

**PAGE-6**

#### NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister meets members of National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award selection committees

**PAGE-7**

#### LOCAL BUSINESS

Sagaing region plans to grow over 300,000 acres of sunflower in cold season

**PAGE-11**





## Shwedagon Pagoda to extend opening hours from 5 am to 6 pm daily

DUE to the increased number of pilgrims to the Great Shwedagon Pagoda in the morning, the opening hours of the pagoda will be extended from 5 am to 6 pm every day starting today, according to the Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Since the last week of March, the opening hour to the pagoda was set from 6 am to 6 pm daily, and it was extended from 5 am to 7 pm on 20 and 21 October, which include the full moon day of Thadingyut (Abhidhamma Day) as increasing numbers of visitors came to the pagoda to pray and share good deeds on such holy days.

The pagoda reportedly admits more visitors in the morning and it is crowded even on working days, according to U Bo Thin, member of the Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon



PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

Pagoda. According to the record of the Board of Trustees, the number of pilgrims to the pagoda is roughly 8,000 and 10,000 per day, and between 30,000 and 50,000 pilgrims pay

homage to the pagoda during public holidays and weekends. It is also learned that a total of 127,793 pilgrims visited on the full moon day of Thadingyut (Abhidhamma Day).

The Board of Trustees takes COVID-19 preventive measures and ensures the pilgrims strictly follow the rules and regulations set for the prevention of the disease. Visitors have to wear masks and face shields systematically at the entrance to the lifts and pavilions.

During the time visitors are not present at the pagoda, the areas around the precinct are sprayed with disinfectants to protect against the disease. In addition, facts to follow to prevent the COVID-19 disease are printed on posters and vinyl and held at the pagoda. —Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health Order No 479/2021

9<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME  
29 October 2021

THE Ministry of Health has exercised its rights stipulated in Article 21 (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law to issue this order.

- (1) The Ministry of Health has recently issued orders not to gather more than 50 people except for exceptional cases to prevent the spread of the disease concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019-COVID-19.
- (2) Due to the current situation of the COVID-19 outbreak at present, from 30-10-2021, it was amended not to gather more than 100 people instead of 50 except for the exceptions mentioned in these orders.
- (3) Failure to comply with the instructions, orders issued by the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Department regarding the COVID-19 disease will result in legal action under the existing laws.

*Dr Thet Khaing Win*  
Union Minister

### Second-year courses at government technical high schools to be reopened

SECOND-YEAR courses of Government Technical High Schools, Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Science and Technology, including Myitkyina, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Mindat, Tiddim, Mawlamyine, Sittway, Taunggyi, Pinpat, Ywama, Latkhokgon, Kyaukse, Myingyan, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Hkamti, Kalay, Monywa, ChaungU, Pakokku, Magway, Pyay, Toungoo, Patheingyi, Hinthada, Maubin, Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung will be reopened on 1 November 2021.

### Fuel distribution at fairer prices

1. Under the collaboration of the Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA), people are provided fuel at fairer prices since 22 September 2021 in respective regions and states, and a total of 19,840,399 litres of 92 Ron, 12,869,441 litres of Diesel and 18,627,571 litres of Premium Diesel have been sold.
2. The names and addresses of the petrol stations selling at fixed prices in regions and states have been announced.
3. If the people may not be able to purchase fuel at the following prices at designated petrol stations in regions/states, they can report to the Working Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, calling at 09664075683, 09664596327, 09687635943 and 09676320826, to Yangon consumer affair department-01250270 and Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association-09421006794.

### 905 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 October, total figure rises to 498,605

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 498,605 after 905 new cases were reported on 29 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 464,954 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,644 after 22 died.—MNA

### Erratum

Please read "Arakan National Party" instead of "Arakan Front Party (AFP)" in the photo caption of the news item titled "UEC continues inspections on political parties" on page 4 of The Global New Light of Myanmar issue dated 28 October 2021.



## Without satisfaction of traditional breeding systems

IT is necessary to modernize the livestock breeding tasks in technology without satisfaction of traditional breeding systems. To do so, the government needs to encourage and provide assistance to breeders. If so, agricultural products can be produced at high yield rate to earn foreign exchange for building the prosperous country.

*(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the State Administration Council meeting 2/2021 on 25 October 2021)*

## State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy Vice-Admiral Vladimir Lvovich Kasatonov and party



### FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General visited Warship Gremyashiy where the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy and the commanding officer explained the installation of machinery, the capability of defence weapons, installation of modern systems for the resilience of bad weather, and preparations for performing rescue works in an emergency situation.

The Senior General discussed cooperation in the building of warships.

The Senior General had the lunch hosted by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Rus-



sian Navy. The Senior General introduced officers of Myanmar Tatmadaw (Navy) who studied warship building technologies in Russia to the Russian Vice-Admiral.

Warship Gremyashiy of the Russian Navy on 28 October anchored at MITT jetty of the Thilawa Port with a goodwill visit programme for three days. Those from the vessel plan to pay visits to the significant places, organize friendly sports events and hold the meetings. — MNA



# Myanma Thakaung War Veterans' Housing (Laydauntkan) is being built as a war veteran city as model housing to contribute to development of Yangon City, says Senior General

PLANS are underway to implement small and medium scale industries for the creation of jobs for offspring of war veterans, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in his inspection tour of Myanma Thakaung war veterans' housing (Laydauntkan) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon Region yesterday afternoon.

Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Myo Thant



Plans are underway to implement small and medium scale industries for the creation of jobs for offspring of war veterans and it is necessary to consider the construction of agriculture, livestock and technological schools. Emphasis must be placed on the running of the circular trains as public transport for the convenience of those from the war veterans' housing and local people.

Later, the Senior General visited the housing in a motorcade. —MNA



reported to the Senior General on completion of the housing and future plans, settlement of war veterans and further settlement process, cultivation of windbreaks, undertaking for agriculture and livestock tasks, preparation to systematically facilitate the housing with the disposing system, septic system, firefighting station and administrative office for beautifying of the housing, and plans to build the hospital (100-bed) for healthcare services, a pre-primary school and post-primary school for learning of children.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said the Myanma Thakaung War Veterans' Housing (Laydauntkan) is being built as a war veteran

city as a model housing to contribute to the development of Yangon City. Upon completion, Myanma Thakaung War Veterans' Housing (Laydauntkan) will have a population like that of a town. Small-scale industries and livestock breeding tasks must be undertaken for the creation of job opportunities. The livestock breeding tasks need to apply modern technology so as to produce livestock products for providing food supplies to Yangon City on one hand. Moreover, the city must be a model for Yangon. Efforts must be made for manufacturing a large number of products in a small area. It is necessary to grow shade trees and windbreaks for public recreation in the compound of the housing.



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## Resistance Park is historic for the State and the Tatmadaw: Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected preparations for public relaxation and the site for people to take physical exercises at the historic Resistance Park at the corner of U Wisara Road and Dhammazed Road in Dagon Township yesterday morning.

The Senior General instructed officials to systematically carry out preparations for greening and beautifying as the Resistance Park is historic for the State and the Tatmadaw. He also instructed officials to make necessary preparations for public relaxation and physical exercises and open the public recreation centres, including the historic Resistance Park, under the rules and regulations of the COVID-19 as of 1 November.

The historic Resistance Park plays a significant role in Myanmar's independence struggle. The Armed Forces ceremonies were held at the park until the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day in 2005. Sanitation and landscaping tasks are being carried out at the Eugenia plant where martyr leader General Aung San delivered a speech to launch the marching to the battlefields on 27 March 1945, another Eugenia plant where the horse of the General was tied, the dais to take the salute and flag poles, the bronze statue of the General, the flaming torches, the physical training grounds, water fountains, playgrounds, archways, trees and flowery plants and statues decorated with lights. It will be reopened for the public as of 1 November.



In the afternoon, the Senior General arrived at the Myanmar Equestrian Federation and the sports zone in Dagon Myothit (North) Township where an official reported on the brief history of the sports zone and sports grounds in the zone.

The Senior General gave instructions on plans to emerge the sports grounds in Dagon Myothit (North) (South), (East) and (Seikkan) townships meeting standards. After inspecting the gymnasium for those with disabilities and the national swimming pool, the Senior General instructed officials to reopen the swimming pool for the public under the disciplines and uplift the swimming sport.  
— MNA





## Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers holds 2/2021 meeting



The MoD Union Minister chairs the meeting 2/2021 of the Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers yesterday.

UNION Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, Chairman of Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers, presided over the (2/2021) committee meeting yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the government and the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) signed the prevention of child soldier recruitment project on 27 June 2012.

According to the project, Tatmadaw discharged 1,029 child soldiers to reunite with their parents and arrangements will be made for the

resignation of the remaining underage soldiers.

Currently, Tatmadaw is working accordingly to the laws and regulations of the agreements between the committee and UNCTFMR in their recruitment and the committee holds the meeting once every three months.

Moreover, completed work plans will also be reported to UNICEF.

Then, the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion.

The meeting was also attended by the committee members and relevant departmental officials. — MNA

## New Fisheries Institute to be established in Twantay Township, Yangon Region

UNION Minister for Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo addressed a coordination meeting for the establishment of a new Fisheries Institute yesterday.

“We are working to increase the number of advanced technicians and agriculture livestock-based vocational experts as an important task, and we will work to establish a new fisheries institute that is needed for the country,” the Union Minister said.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, the Permanent Secretary and Director-General, Rector and Departmental officials also attended the coordination meeting.

“Myanmar has access to inland freshwater resources. Concerning the long coastline, it is necessary to focus on long-term sustainability and the benefit of the country in extracting fishery

products.

“In carrying out these activities, research activities and human resource development play important roles. To meet the need of fish and shrimp farmers and develop model fish ponds, export promotion is expected,” the Union Minister added.

The Union Minister continued that he hoped to expand to the level of Fisheries University through fisheries institutes.

“The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is making efforts to upgrade fish farming training school as a Fisheries Institute in Twantay Township, Yangon Region.

The fisheries institute will produce skilled fish farming professionals to improve livestock production and provide job opportunities for young people who have passed the matriculation exam who are interested in fisheries.



The MoALI Union Minister addresses the coordination meeting to set up a new Fisheries Institute.

“The aim is to raise the living standards of the rural people through scientific fish farming, and upon completion of the three-year course, a diploma will be awarded,” the Union Minister

elaborated.

Plans to open a fisheries institute, schedules for practical and theoretical teaching, subjects to be introduced in the school, qualification tests for the

trainees, training support for students, issues related to bridging universities for outstanding students and job creation for graduates were also discussed during the meeting. — MNA

## Police seized firearms at RC cemetery in Haka Township

THE terrorist groups—NUG and CRPH—brutally killed innocent people and committed bomb attacks on public roads, bridges and state-owned buildings to destroy State stability and the rule of law. The security members conduct measures to prevent such terrorist

attacks.

Meanwhile, the security forces cooperated with locals of Chin State and seized 17 single-shotguns, 84 homemade mines and seven bulletproof vests in four tombs in the RC cemetery of Kyaw Bote Ward of Haka Township.

According to the investigation, the police found a suspected person near the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Haka Township on 16 October. When they stopped him to examine, he ran away and they found a Huawei mobile phone on that spot. The suspected person

was identified as Van Kyan, son of U Htan Laro, Chin/Christian (Priest) from Matupi street, Kyaw Bote Ward of Haka Township.

The police also found the group photos of suspects with the armed terrorists on his phone. It was reported that

Van Kyan hid arms and ammunition in the tombs of the cemetery as he was worried that the police would raid his house.

The police conducted an investigation together with locals to arrest the suspect Van Kyan (priest). — MNA

## Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



# MoI Union Minister meets members of National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award selection committees

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met members of the National Literary Award Selection Committee and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee yesterday afternoon in Yangon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the National Literary Award Selection Committee U Maung Maung Latt (Naung), Chairman of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) and 22 members.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the Ministry of Information is very important as it is dealing with various media platforms, and the literary scholars who attended the meeting are regarded as invaluable figures of the nation and are highly respected. He said the Prime Minister also recognizes people in the



The MoI Union Minister makes the opening speech at the meeting with the members of National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committees yesterday.

literature, music and film industries as professionals and has instructed to provide assistance as much as possible.

The Union Minister urged them to publish literature based on the development of young people and to work to-

gether with the belief that the nation will be elevated through higher literature. He also expressed words of thanks for their efforts to be able to award the National Literary Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

He said arrangements will be made to hold the award ceremony in line with a national-level ceremony, adding all must work together to implement the democratic system that the people want with discipline and justice. He also said

his Ministry will organize and publish modern books and upgrade bookstores. He called on literati to work together to get the idea of the people right, as the thoughts, opinions, and actions of readers and non-readers are very different.

Afterwards, Director-General for Printing and Publishing Department U Win Kyaw Aung presented the operations. Chairpersons of the National Literary Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award selection committees clarified the preparation of prize selection activities, complete receipt of entry books, and the selection process. The literati who attended the meeting discussed literature development matters and the formation of Sarso Beikman and provided necessary suggestions before the meeting was concluded by the Union Minister. — MNA

# MoHT Union Minister discusses tourism development with hoteliers in Mon State

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung held a coordination meeting with the hoteliers at Seinlaetin Hotel in Kyaikto Township of Mon State yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the decreasing COVID-19 infection rate, sharing knowledge on new destinations among people, tours to beaches and various destinations during this open season, preparations at the hotels for visitors, security measures and healthcare services for the travellers.

He underscored the need to follow the COVID-19 health rules, film video clips regarding hotel services, including the screening of these videos via state-owned media in addition to hotel areas, vaccination programmes for hotel staff and cooperation work

between the entrepreneurs and employees.

Then, the Union Minister went to Ngwe Moe Hotel in Mawlamyine Township and met the economic minister of Mon State, departmental officials, Hoteliers Association (Mawlamyine Zone), hotel managers and staff. During the meeting, the Union Minister talked about the resumption of domestic tourism, duties to conduct tourism development programmes without affecting nature and ancient heritage, development of the socio-economic status of locals with the sustainable development of domestic tourism and launching of health and safety protocol website of the ministry.

He also focused on the exploration of community-based tourism in Mon State with plenty of nature, pagodas and ancient



heritage and collaboration between the government, private and locals.

Then, Economic Minister U Naing Lal Tama of Mon State gave the regional level certifi-

cate granted in line with the Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocol to the hotels which reopened in line with the health rules, and the Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association

(Mawlamyine Zone) received the certificates.

After that, the video clip about the hotel services conducted in line with the COVID-19 health rules was played. — MNA

## Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They

4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systemati-

8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)



# Nothing is more important than human life

**P**REPARATIONS are being made to reopen schools at different levels as the infection rate is on the decrease in Myanmar. In this regard, vaccination against COVID-19 is being given to students aged 12 and above as part of creating a safe society at the schools.

As the Ministry of Health is striving for accelerating the momentum in taking preventive, control and treatment measures of COVID-19 across the nation, people need to abide by the health guidelines issued by the ministry in order to ensure success in the work process. Thanks to the systematic cooperation of the people, the infection rate in the country plunges to less than four per cent. Hence, all people need to strictly follow the health guidelines to reach zero COVID-19.

In vaccinating the students aged 12 and above, parents and teachers need to cooperate with the government with farsightedness for the creation of a safe learning society. It is because those who fail to receive the vaccines for various reasons will face loss in the outbreak of the disease. That is why all the people and those from the target groups need to take vaccinations against COVID-19 without fail as part of efforts for disinfection of the pandemic, especially in the learning society.

For the time being, the entire people are packing the burden of the pandemic. Hence, the government arranges the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines abroad and accepts the vaccines donated by foreign countries and well-wishers. Accordingly, COVID-19 vaccines can be jabbed at people in all parts of the country. In this regard, the Head of State gave guidance, saying that nothing is more important than human life. In line with the guidance, 24 target groups including age-wise people, health staff, prisoners and inmates, those with disabilities, members of ethnic armed organizations, those from migrant groups and those at internally displaced person camps and students aged 12 and above were set for giving vaccinations.

Vaccinations for those from the target groups are arranged in the vaccination management information system. It aims not to leave anyone in the vaccination programme, not to discriminate gender, face, socio-economic status and politics. As a sort of evidence of health-care services, the QR code certificates are delivered to the people as a piece of evidence for completion of being vaccinated. In vaccinating the students aged 12 and above, parents and teachers need to cooperate with the government with farsightedness for the creation of a safe learning society. It is because those who fail to receive the vaccines for various reasons will face loss in the outbreak of the disease. That is why all the people and those from the target groups need to take vaccinations against COVID-19 without fail as part of efforts for disinfection of the pandemic, especially in the learning society.

## WHO wants \$23.4 bn for Covid plan

*The \$23.4 billion needed to fund it "pales in comparison to the trillions of dollars in economic losses caused by the pandemic and the cost of stimulus plans to support national recoveries," the WHO said.*

**T**HE World Health Organization said Thursday it needed \$23.4 billion over the next 12 months for its plan to conquer Covid-19, urging the G20 to show some leadership and pay up.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus bluntly told the Group of 20 global powers, meeting this weekend in Rome, they could no longer leave poorer countries hanging out to dry in the pandemic. Tedros said the money was needed to secure COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments—and potentially prevent another five million deaths in the crisis.

### Commitments are needed

The G20 "have the ability to make the political and financial commitments that are needed to end this pandemic", Tedros told a press conference.

"We are at a decisive moment, requiring decisive leadership to make the world safer."

The WHO-led Access to Covid Tools Accelerator is aimed at developing, producing, procuring and distributing tools to tackle the pandemic. The \$23.4 billion needed



The WHO-led Access to Covid Tools Accelerator is aimed at developing, producing, procuring and distributing tools to tackle the pandemic.

to fund it "pales in comparison to the trillions of dollars in economic losses caused by the pandemic and the cost of stimulus plans to support national recoveries", the WHO said.

### 'Time to act'

"Fully funding the ACT-Accel-

erator is a global health security imperative for us all—the time to act is now," said Tedros. But the call to arms risks meeting the same fate as previous attempts to get wealthy countries to feel ashamed about the ever-growing gap between their own level of protection against

the virus and that of the world's poorest nations.

The WHO said only 0.4 per cent of tests and 0.5 per cent of vaccine doses deployed so far had been used in low-income countries, which make up nine per cent of the world's population.

The WHO said its plan would

see ACTA shift towards a more targeted focus on addressing the supply gaps in poorer countries.

"Nowhere is this inequity more apparent than on the African continent, where just eight per cent of the population has received a single dose of Covid-19 vaccine," said South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Just five of 54 African countries are projected to meet the WHO's year-end target of fully vaccinating 40 per cent of their population.

ACT-A gave birth to the Covax facility, designed to ensure poorer countries could access eventual vaccines, correctly predicting that richer nations would hog all the doses coming off the production lines. So far, Covax has delivered 425 million doses to 144 territories — way below where it hoped to be.

### Booster doses

WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said more than a billion donated doses had been pledged to the scheme—but only around 15 per cent have actually materialised.

She also said 62 countries had

started administering boosters and more states are considering the move.

Swaminathan said that close to a million booster doses were being injected per day—triple the amount of vaccines being administered in low-income countries.

The WHO wants a moratorium on boosters until the end of the year to free up jobs for poorer nations. The UN health agency has authorized six vaccines for emergency use during the pandemic.

Mariangela Simao, the WHO's access to vaccines chief, said the agency was assessing eight candidate jobs, including that of India's Bharat Biotech, on which it is hoping to finalise the process next week.

ACTA has so far delivered more than 128 million tests and halved the cost of rapid tests, according to the WHO, by transferring technology to low and middle-income countries.

It has also boosted essential oxygen, personal protective equipment and treatment supplies, including nearly three million doses of dexamethasone.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## Australian research finds vascular disease in COVID-19 not caused by viral infection of blood vessels

*Their findings, published in the Clinical and Translational Immunology and revealed to the public on 27 October, showed the cardiovascular complications of COVID-19 are triggered by inflammation caused by infected airway cells rather than the virus itself.*

**R**ESearchers of Australia's University of Queensland (UQ) found that the SARS-CoV-2 virus does not infect blood vessels, despite the high risk of blood clots to COVID-19 patients.

Researchers used real, infectious viruses rather than fragments of the virus's spike protein in the experiment to detect how the virus causes damage to blood vessels. They used sophisticated microscopy facilities to track where the virus travelled in the cells and visualize how blood vessels respond to the live virus.

### Cardiovascular complications of COVID-19

Their findings, published in the Clinical and Translational Immunology and revealed to the public on 27 October, showed the cardiovascular complications of COVID-19 are triggered by inflammation caused by infected airway cells rather than the virus itself.

"There have been many studies attempting to prove whether the virus is infecting cells of the inner blood vessel wall or not... we can definitively say it is not," said Dr Emma Gordon from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

Her colleague, immunologist Dr Larisa Labzin, said the body's inflammatory response had a big effect on the cardiovascular system because they work together to fight infection, the blood delivers the

immune cells to the site of infection and makes blood clots if the blood vessel is damaged.

"When our immune system works well, it clears the virus from our bodies. But sometimes it goes into overdrive and we get an overblown inflammatory response causing complications, in the case of COVID-19, this is often blood clots, when there shouldn't be any," Labzin said.

### At high risk of blood clots

At least 40 per cent of patients that are hospitalized with COVID-19 are at high risk of blood clots, and anti-coagulation therapies are now being routinely used, according to Gordon.

**SOURCE: Xinhua**



Students wait for their turn to receive their first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in Sydney on 15 August 2021. **PHOTO: DEAN LEWINS/AFP**



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 29 October, 2021)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Sri Lanka -off Tamil Nadu coast (India) still persists. It is forecast continuous to move westwards. Weather is a few cloud over North Bay and West central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30th October, 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Southern Shan State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Kayin, Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**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 rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October, 2021:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October, 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October, 2021:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

### Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours M.S.T on 29-10-2021

According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Sri Lanka -off Tamil Nadu coast (India) still persists. It is forecast continuous to move westwards.

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



Chinshwehaw

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 29 October, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products, including oxygen plants and

concentrators were imported by two companies using four vehicles.

A total of 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser, three oxygen generators, 20 oxygen concentrators for home use, and six tonnes of masks were imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw trading posts, and Yangon International Seaports respectively.

The bowser transported liquid oxygen to Yangon via the Myawady trading post, officials

said.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including online registration for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website: [www.commerce.gov.mm](http://www.commerce.gov.mm). — MNA

## Schoolchildren in Buthidaung receive 1<sup>st</sup> dose of COVID vaccines

HEALTH officials gave the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines to schoolchildren aged 12 and above at designated places in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State to help prevent and control the COVID-19 disease.

Health officials measured the body temperatures and blood pressure, monitored oxygen levels and made records for the students' vaccination before the injection.

Vaccines were given systematically to the students, and

only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated.

About 15 minutes after being vaccinated, students were given healthcare education and then allowed to leave, officials said. There are 8,593 students in basic education schools in Buthidaung Township who will be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The vaccination started on 16 October and 7,280 students have been vaccinated against COVID-19 by 28 October. — Hla Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM



An above 12-year-old receives the first dose of Covid vaccine in Buthidaung.

## Students aged 12 plus receive COVID-19 vaccines in Machanbaw Township



Vaccination drive for schoolchildren in Machanbaw.

THE officials used Sinopharm and Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate the middle and high school students aged 12 and above in Machanbaw Township of Putao District in Kachin State. A total of 209 students received their vaccines between 26 to 28 October.

Health workers conducted vaccination programmes at B.E.H.S Machanbaw, Branch B.E.H.S Namkham, Branch B.E.H.S Trandem, B.E.M.S Myoma (Machanbaw), B.E.M.S

Nanbuyang and B.E.M.S Alanga, and a total of 209 students were vaccinated against COVID-19 at Branch B.E.H.S Namkham, Branch B.E.H.S Trandem, B.E.M.S Nanbuyang and B.E.M.S Alanga until 28 October.

The township administration officials and members of the Red Cross Society participated in the vaccination processes in line with the COVID-19 health rules. — IPRD/GNLM

## Monastic education school students vaccinated in Myawady, Kayin state

STUDENTS aged 12 and above in monastic education schools in Myawady Township, Kayin State, continued to be vaccinated against COVID-19 yesterday.

Healthcare workers carried out the vaccination in three immunization sites in the township, and a total of 280 middle school students were vaccinated with the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine yesterday. — Mahn Than Shwe Myint (IPRD)/GNLM

The fifth dose of the vaccine

(the second dose) will be given from 29 October to 1 November. The current vaccine is Sinopharm, developed by the People's Republic of China, at a rate of five people per dose, officials said.

The second vaccine will be given to 8,370 people in the communities, according to the COVID-19 Prevention and Emergency Response Committee.

Vaccination activities are documented by the General Administration Department followed by measuring body temperatures and blood pressure, and monitoring oxygen levels by healthcare officials.

Vaccines were given systematically to the local people, and only those with normal health conditions are vaccinated.

About 30 minutes after being vaccinated, people were given healthcare education and then allowed to leave.

Officials from township departments and members of the Red Cross Society also assisted in the vaccination programme. — Htway Nge (IPRD)/GNLM



Inoculation in progress in Nawngkhio.



## Sagaing region plans to grow over 300,000 acres of sunflower in cold season

THE Sagaing region is planning to grow over 300,000 acres of sunflower in cold season, according to the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

Sunflowers are primarily grown in the Sagaing region in winter mostly. It is rarely cultivated in the rainy season. However, over 35,000 acres of sunflower are cultivated in Sagaing, Shwebo and Monywa districts in the monsoon season. The volume of sunflower acres will be increased in cold season," said U Aung Kyi Win, deputy head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

In 2021-22 FY, Sagaing region targeted to grow a total of 317,900 acres of sunflower including 60,132 acres in Sagaing district, 29,140 acres in Monywa

district, 79,699 acres in Yinmabin district, 20,043 acres in Shwebo district, 4,520 acres in Kanbalu district, 45,987 acres in Katha district, 67,985 acres in Kalay district, 2,700 acres in Tamu district, 7,171 acres in Mawlaik district, 470 acres in Hkamti district and 47 acres in Naga Self-Administered Zone.

An acre of sunflower cultivation costs K250,000 and it will yield about 30 baskets per acre, according to the local farmers.

The staff from the township agriculture department is conducting awareness activities for the sunflower growers to improve sunflower yield and cultivate good quality sunflower seeds under the GAP farming system. — Lulay/GNLM



The staff from the township agriculture department is conducting awareness activities for the sunflower growers to improve sunflower yield and cultivate good quality sunflower seeds under the GAP farming system.

## Rubber price drips to below K1,000 per pound



As of August of the financial year 2020-21, the county generated US\$425.25 million revenue from the export of raw rubber, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

MYANMAR rubber price has dropped down to below K1,000 per pound, according to the domestic rubber market.

Last few days, the local 3 ribbed smoked sheets (RSS) hit K1,080 per pound. But it dripped to K940 per pound for local 3 ribbed smoked sheets (RSS) currently.

Myanmar Kyat depreciation against the US dollar is the main reason for decreasing rubber prices, according to the rubber entrepreneurs.

The local dollar exchange rate was at over K3,000 per dollar at the end of September,

but it downturned to around K1,900 per dollar on 29 October.

Besides, the price of rubber has declined due to the resumption of the rubber plantation business starting from mid-October, and the availability of raw rubber in the market has increased, according to the rubber entrepreneurs.

Rubber is primarily cultivated in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber seasons' data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres, ac-

ording to the MRPPA.

Besides, about 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber made in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries, according to the MRPPA.

As of August of the financial year 2020-21, the county generated US\$425.25 million revenue from the export of raw rubber, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar annually exports over 200,000 tonnes of raw rubber to foreign countries. — NN/GNLM

## Corn prices in bear market on bountiful harvest

THE prices of corn drop on account of the bountiful harvest in late October when the border export route suspends temporarily.

The price crash is attributed to the Kyat revaluation on the US dollar, bulk supply in the domestic market and export halt in the Myawady border post.

The corn price jumped to K41,000 per three-basket bag on 1 October whereas it fetched only K31,000 per bag in late October, Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre).

Thailand gives green light to corn imports through Maesot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. Consequently, the export through the Myawady border stopped temporarily. The small volume of corn is, therefore, exported only through the sea route at present.

However, the prevailing market price (K560 per viss) is higher than the price registered during the year-ago peri-

od. Last year, corn fetched only K450-K500 perviss.

Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of maize among regional countries. At present, maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three maize seasons—winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of maize.

Myanmar has exported more than 2.2 million tonnes of corn to foreign countries last financial year 2020-2021, said U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said. Of 2.2 million tonnes, about 1.6 million tonnes of corn were delivered to Thailand, whereas the remaining corns were conveyed to China, India and Viet Nam.

During the FY 2019-2020 ended 30 September, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the external market, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. — GNLM



Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of maize among regional countries. At present, maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.



NEWS IN  
BRIEFEU inches towards  
big tech clampdown

The European push to curb the power of big tech and radically transform the way Facebook, Apple or Google do business is gaining traction though efforts could still be derailed.

The European Union is currently negotiating landmark laws that once agreed could set a new standard worldwide on how US tech giants can operate.

The effort has picked up momentum after the revelations of Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, who will visit Brussels next month, of the company's systemic failure to fix the harmful effects of its products, driven instead by boosting traffic and profit.

The tech giants are spending millions of euros on lobbying to influence lawmakers in the European Parliament and across the 27 member states, eager to protect their powerful profit centres such as targeted ads or big fees on app stores.

The EU has split its regulatory revolution into two laws, the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Digital Services Act.—AFP ■

Ransomware attack  
hits PNG finance  
ministry

A cyberattack on Papua New Guinea's finance ministry briefly disrupted government payments and operations, officials said late Thursday.

Ransomware infiltrated and compromised a core server at the department of finance last week, hampering the government's access to foreign aid, its ability to pay cheques and carry out other basic functions in the midst of a spiralling Covid-19 surge.

"The department has now managed to fully restore the system, however, because of the risk, we are playing safe by not allowing full usage of the affected network," said John Pundari, acting treasurer.

Pundari said the department "did not pay any ransom to the purported hacker or any of its third party agents. We have managed to restore normalcy."

The attack took place in the middle of the night on October 22.—AFP ■

Russia, ASEAN agree to step up cooperation  
in Asia-Pacific region

ASEAN and Russia recently agreed to enhance and widen economic cooperation at the 10th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Russia Consultations held in September 2021, including by adopting a revised ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme for the 2021-25 period.

PHOTO: ASEANBRIEFING/XINHUA

RUSSIA and the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed on Thursday to step up cooperation to build "a peaceful, stable

and sustainable region".

"We all support the expansion of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in the vast Asia-Pacific space," Russian

President Vladimir Putin said at the fourth Russia-ASEAN summit via video link. "We now have real opportunities to intensify cooperation between Russia and

ASEAN, including with regard to strengthening stability and security, post-pandemic economic recovery, stimulating trade, and expanding humanitarian contacts," he said.

In a joint statement following the summit, Russia and the ASEAN members agreed to explore possible practical cooperation on issues of mutual interest among ASEAN, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

They pledged to seek synergies in development strategies to promote regional connectivity.

Both sides agreed to increase efforts to boost maritime connectivity and develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure logistics and port management.

They also voiced support for a sustainable economic recovery in the region and closer people-to-people exchanges.—Xinhua ■

Big Oil clashes with US  
Democratic lawmakers over  
climate 'disinformation'

US oil industry executives faced tough questions from congressional Democrats on Thursday over statements on climate science and whether their actions on green energy live up to their marketing campaigns.

Big Oil critics in the House of Representatives likened the hearing with CEOs of ExxonMobil, Chevron and other oil giants to a famous 1994 congressional hearing in which tobacco executives testified under oath that

nicotine was not addictive.

But Democrats were unable to secure any expressions of regret by oil executives in a free-flowing session titled, "Fueling the Climate Crisis: Exposing Big Oil's Disinformation Campaign to Prevent Climate Action." Leading oil companies are on the record as acknowledging the science of climate change, supporting the Paris Climate Agreement and policies to set carbon pricing. But critics ac-



Natural gas flaring and venting systems on offshore platforms and in oil extraction are used globally to burn off waste gas, excess gases and are also a means to protect process equipment, the system's processes, and the environment. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP

cused the industry of "greenwashing," saying actions have not matched public relations efforts.

"Some of us actually have

to live the future that you are all setting on fire for us," said Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a New York Democrat.—AFP ■

## ECB sticks to stimulus amid rising eurozone inflation



An employee disinfects shopping trolleys at a supermarket in Vienna. The cost of food is rising at well above the headline eurozone inflation rate. PHOTO: HELMUT FOHRINGER/APA/AFP

THE European Central Bank maintained its massive stimulus programme on Thursday as it seeks to sustain the eurozone's tentative recovery from the coronavirus pandemic under pressure from supply shortages.

The ECB's 25-member governing council decided at its six-weekly meeting to keep interest rates at historic lows and continue the bank's monthly bond purchases at a "moderately lower" rate than in the second and third quarters in a turbulent

period for the eurozone economy.

The 1.85-trillion-euro (\$2.15-trillion) pandemic emergency bond-buying programme (PEPP) is the ECB's main crisis-fighting tool, aimed at keeping borrowing costs low to stoke economic growth.

Supply bottlenecks and energy price rises and one-off pandemic related effects meant that inflation "will last longer than originally expected", ECB President Christine Lagarde said in a press conference.—AFP ■



# Facebook changes name to Meta to emphasize metaverse business vision

SOCIAL media giant Facebook Inc. said on 28 October it has changed its name to Meta to focus on its metaverse business based on virtual and augmented reality platforms.

The rebranding came after critics accused Facebook of trying to divert attention from controversies over its strategies and a whistleblower alleged the company was doing little to screen harmful information.

“The defining quality of the metaverse will be a feeling of presence—like you are right there with another person or in another place,” said CEO Mark Zuckerberg in a letter on the company website.

“The metaverse is the next frontier in connecting people, just like social net-



A newly unveiled logo for Meta, the new name for Facebook's parent company, outside the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, California, on 28 October. PHOTO: AFP

working was when we got started,” he said.

The company has suffered tremendous reputational damage in recent years. In 2018 there was a massive leak of users' personal information. Allegations of a flawed internal structure and working

culture have also come to light.

Most recently a former employee leaked documents allegedly exposing Facebook's willingness to prioritize profits over stopping the spread of misinformation and hate speech.—Kyodo News ■

# Volvo Cars shares soar after IPO

SHARES of the Swedish car brand Volvo debuted Friday on the Stockholm stock exchange, with the price rising sharply in early trading.

As the market opened on Friday shares in Volvo Cars quickly rose nearly 10 per cent to over 58 kronor (\$6.8, 5.8 euros).

The price per share for the offering had been set at 53 Swedish kronor, at the bottom end of the range Volvo announced last week of between 53 and 68 kronor per share ahead of its initial public offering (IPO).

On Monday, Volvo Cars said it planned to raise 20 billion kronor from the offering after first announcing plans to go public in early October, while noting that China's Geely would remain its

largest shareholder.

The Swedish automaker had been struggling until Geely acquired it from US giant Ford for \$1.8 billion in 2010.

Volvo's image and sales have dramatically improved since then, riding the wave of popularity of SUVs.

“Our industry is

changing, and we strive to lead that transformation. That is why Volvo Cars has an ambitious strategy to become fully electric by 2030,” Volvo Cars CEO Hakan Samuelsson said in a Friday statement.

“Today's listing will help us get there,” he added.—AFP ■



Two models pose beside a Volvo XC40 car during the Auto Expo Casablanca 2018, on 9 April 2018. The 11th edition of Auto Expo Casablanca is held here from 9 to 22 April 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA/AISSA

# Mitsubishi Heavy launches LNG-fired power generation facility plant in Java

JAPAN'S Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. has announced the start of commercial operations of a 500-megawatt natural gas-fired power gen-

eration system it provided to a power plant run by Indonesia's state-owned electricity provider PT PLN on the northwestern coast of Java. The

gas turbine combined cycle power generation system was completed at the Muara Karang thermal power complex more than a month ahead of schedule despite the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Tokyo-based major engineering company, known as MHI, said Thursday. Located in the northwest of Jakarta, the plant was constructed by local state-run contractor PT Wijaya Karya (Persero) Tbk. MHI and PT Wijaya Karya jointly received a full turnkey contract for the plant in 2016. Under the contract calling for engineering,

procurement and construction, MHI supplied key equipment, including gas turbines and boilers for recovering exhaust heat, while Mitsubishi Electric Corp. provided power generation-related equipment.

The GTCC system generates power by gas turbines while steam turbines use exhaust gas for additional electricity generation, realizing effective energy consumption and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by some 90 per cent compared with the conventional coal-fired power plant.—Kyodo News ■



Photo shows the Muara Karang power plant on Indonesia's Java island, where Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. provided a 500-megawatt natural gas-fired gas turbine combined power generation system. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

# Huawei reports 32% revenue plunge in first three quarters

CHINESE telecom giant Huawei said Friday its revenue plunged by a third in the first three quarters of the year, as it continued to struggle under US sanctions that have hit its smartphone

sales. Huawei has been caught in the crossfire of a US-China trade and technology rivalry after the government of former president Donald Trump moved to cripple the com-

pany on concerns that it could pose a cybersecurity and espionage threat.

January-September sales volume fell 32 per cent to 455.8 billion yuan (\$71.3 billion), a company statement said.

It said the firm's net profit margin—a measure of the ratio of profits to revenue—increased slightly to 10.2 per cent, attributing that to increased operational efficiencies.—AFP ■

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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## US ban on China Telecom is 'malicious suppression', says Beijing

A ban by the United States to stop China Telecom from operating in the country on national security concerns is "malicious suppression", Beijing said on 28 October, warning it would damage a tentative thaw in relations.

Tensions are high between the world's two biggest economies on a plethora of fronts, including trade, human rights, Taiwan and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier this week Washington ordered China Telecom Americas to discontinue its services within 60 days — ending nearly 20 years of operations in the country and piling further strain on relations between the superpowers.

The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said China Telecom's "ownership and control by the Chinese govern-



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (2nd R), joined by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan (R), speaks while facing Yang Jiechi (2nd L), director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office, and Wang Yi (L), China's Foreign Minister at the opening session of US-China talks at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska on 18 March 2021. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / POOL / AFP**

ment raise significant national security and law enforcement risks".

But Beijing rejected the move as a "generalization of

the concept of national security, abuse of national power and malicious suppression of a Chinese company without basis in facts".

Commerce ministry spokes-

woman Shu Yuting told a press briefing that China's economic and trade team has "lodged solemn representations" with the United States and that Beijing is

seriously concerned by the ban.

The announcement came hours after Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen held trade discussions via video call that Beijing described as "pragmatic, candid and constructive".

But Shu said on 29 October that the announcement from Washington had "undermined the atmosphere of cooperation" between the sides.

The latest move in the long-running standoff comes as US President Joe Biden presses ahead with a hardline trade policy against Beijing broadly in line with that of his predecessor Donald Trump, whose bombastic approach sent tensions soaring.

China Telecom spokesman Ge Yu told AFP that the FCC's decision was "disappointing".

— AFP ■

## Assange lawyer argues WikiLeaks founder still suicide risk



Assange faces 18 charges in the US including espionage and hacking. **PHOTO: AFP**

WIKILEAKS founder Julian Assange remains a suicide risk if extradited to the United States, despite assurances he would not be held in isolation at a "super-max" prison there, his lawyer said on 28 October.

On the second of two days of

appeal hearings in London, Assange's legal team told the High Court new US pledges revealed on 27 October should not alter a lower court's decision to block his extradition on mental health grounds. The US government wants Assange to face espionage

charges that could put him in jail for up to 175 years, although its legal team claims his possible sentence is difficult to estimate and could be far shorter.

It has provided written pledges that Assange would not be detained at the ADX Florence jail in Colorado, which houses criminals including Al-Qaeda extremists in near-total isolation.

The US is appealing against UK district court judge Vanessa Baraitser's decision in January that it would be "oppressive" to extradite Assange because of his serious risk of suicide and mental health deterioration in the US penal system. She rejected US experts' testimony that Assange would be protected from self-harm, noting that others such as disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein had killed themselves in custody.—AFP ■

## China, Asian counterparts initiate alliance for cultural heritage conservation

CHINA and nine Asian countries jointly initiated an alliance for cultural heritage conservation at the two-day Asian Dialogue for Cultural Heritage Conservation that concluded on 28 October.

The alliance will be an inter-governmental platform for exchanges and dialogue on cultural heritage protection built on a voluntary and equal basis, upholding the principle of mutual respect, mutual benefit as well as a win-win outcome.

It is the common responsibility of Asian countries to conserve, carry forward and harness Asian cultural heritage as Asian countries are closely connected and share a natural bond of affinity, said Hu Heping, China's culture and tourism minister, when addressing the conference jointly hosted by China's National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Beijing municipal government.—Xinhua ■



Aerial photo taken on 1 July 2021 shows people practising Taijiquan at Chenjiagou Village, Wenxian County, Jiaozuo City of central China's Henan Province, 1 July 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LI AN**

## Georgia ruling party, opposition stage rival rallies ahead of polls

GEORGIA'S ruling party and the opposition on Wednesday staged rival rallies ahead of local elections with the Caucasus country's primary government critic Mikheil Saakashvili on hunger strike in jail.

Second round runoffs on Saturday will see candidates from the majority Georgian

Dream party and the opposition United National Movement (UNM) compete for mayoral posts in major cities.

Georgian Dream said it had bussed supporters from across the country for its rally on Freedom square in the capital Tbilisi.

The independent Pirveli TV station said state employ-

ees had been forced to attend the gathering that drew tens of thousands, according to an AFP estimate.

Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili urged voters to back Georgian Dream Saturday, calling opposition leader Saakashvili's UNM an "anti-state and anti-national force".—AFP ■



## Indian PM Modi to meet Pope Francis for first time



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Pope Francis in Rome, authorities confirmed. PHOTO: AFP

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Pope Francis in Rome for the first time this weekend when he visits for the G20 summit, officials said Thursday, in what could be a thorny encounter.

Activists say that religious minorities in Hindu-majority In-

dia have faced increased levels of discrimination and violence since Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014.

While Muslims who make up around 14 per cent of the population have borne the brunt, Christians, who account for just

over two per cent, have also suffered a rise in reported violent attacks.

Under the pretext that Christians are seeking forcibly to convert Hindus, more than 300 violent incidents have been recorded this year, according to a report by a group of NGOs released this month.

This included a reported attack on a prayer house by around 200 members of the BJP and Hindu groups in the northern state of Uttarakhand in early October. The local head of the BJP said the prayer house held "suspicious gatherings".

In March, a mob of Hindu radicals in the central state of Chhattisgarh attacked with axes, stones and wooden clubs around 150 people in a church, leaving eight people seriously injured, according to reports.—AFP ■

## Turkey pressing US for F-16 fighters after F-35 plan killed



Turkey's plan to buy the US-made F-35 stealth fighter was cancelled after Ankara decided to acquire Russia's S-400 air defence system. A military cargo plane unloads Russian S-400 missile defence system components in Turkey in July 2019. PHOTO: AFP

THE United States is discussing Turkey's request to buy F-16 fighters after a deal for more advanced F-35s was scrapped due to Ankara's purchase of a Russian missile system, officials said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on 17 October that Ankara wants to buy the cheaper F-16s using the \$1.4 billion it allotted for the cancelled F-35 deal.

But one US official said that any possible F-16 order could be dogged by the same issue that

forced the cancellation of the F-35s: Turkey's decision to buy an S-400 missile system from Russia.

The S-400, used to track and shoot down attacking aircraft, was seen as a threat to the F-35 joint strike fighter programme adopted in several NATO countries.

US defence officials met in Ankara Wednesday with Turkish counterparts to resolve remaining issues from the F-35 programme, and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke Thursday with Turkish coun-

terpart Hulusi Akar, saying in a statement that the Pentagon recognized "Turkey's military modernization needs".

The F-16 request could be discussed when US President Joe Biden meets with Erdogan on the sidelines of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow which begins on Sunday.

### Russian intelligence platform

According to Turkish media, the country wants to buy 40 F-16s and kits to upgrade 80 warplanes in its current fleet.—AFP ■

## Bali 'suitcase killer' released from prison

AN American woman convicted with her boyfriend of killing her mother and stuffing the body in a suitcase at a luxury Bali hotel was freed from prison on Friday. In the notorious case, then teenager Heather Mack was handed a 10-year jail term in 2015 while her boyfriend Tommy Schaefer got 18 years for the murder of Chicago socialite Sheila von Wiese Mack on the Indonesian holiday island.

Schaefer beat the 62-year-old victim to death with a fruit bowl during a heated argument at the five-star St. Regis resort,

before the couple abandoned the suitcase containing the battered body in a taxi and fled.

Mack, who was pregnant at the time of the crime, was found guilty on a lesser charge of assisting in the murder.

Now 25, she was freed from Bali's Kerobokan prison on Friday, the head of the prison's female section said, saying Mack had been granted early release for good behaviour.

"Heather is completely free," said prison head Lili, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.—AFP ■



Heather Mack (centre) of the US is escorted by Immigration guards to the immigration detention house in Jimbaran, on the resort island of Bali on 29 October 2021. PHOTO: AFP/SONY TUMBELAKA

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### US reaches \$88 mn settlement with Black victims of white supremacist

THE US Justice Department on Thursday announced an \$88 million settlement with victims of a self-proclaimed white supremacist who shot dead nine Black parishioners in a historic church in South Carolina in 2015. The settlement stems from allegations that the FBI was negligent when it failed to prohibit the sale of a handgun by a licenced firearms dealer to the shooter, Dylann Roof.

Roof, 27, who prosecutors said carried out the shooting to spark a "race war", has been sentenced to death for the massacre at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, one of the oldest African American churches in the southern United States. "The mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church was a horrific hate crime that caused immeasurable suffering for the families of the victims and the survivors," Attorney General Merrick Garland said, announcing the settlement. "Since the day of the shooting, the Justice Department has sought to bring justice to the community, first by a successful hate crime prosecution and today by settling civil claims."—AFP ■

### Argentine ex-president Macri in court over illicit spying claims

FORMER Argentina president Mauricio Macri briefly appeared before a judge Thursday in a probe into claims his government spied on relatives of 44 sailors who died in the sinking of a navy submarine.

The hearing in Dolores, some 200 kilometres (124 miles) south of Buenos Aires, was postponed within minutes after Macri's lawyer argued the court "does not have the authority" to lift secrecy provisions on state intelligence for him to testify.

But late Thursday, current President Alberto Fernandez signed a decree shortly before leaving for the G20 summit in Rome that lifted those secrecy provisions, allowing his testimony, officials said.—AFP ■



## Myanmar to play China Taipei today for AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers

MYANMAR U-23 men's national football team will play against the China Taipei team on 30 October (today) for the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The match will begin at 4:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

There were only three teams in Group I, and in the first match on 27 October, Viet Nam beat China Taipei 1-0.

The match would be a decisive match for China Taipei, who lost the opening game and can only be hoped for if they win.

The Myanmar team is in the debut and has two good competitors, thus all the group matches are important and they need to get full points in this match as well.

The Myanmar team can expect to advance to the next stage only if they beat the China

Taipei team, and it is important to avoid making any mistakes.

Myanmar and China Taipei also met in the 2016 World Cup Qualifiers, with Myanmar winning by three goals to nil.

A total of 38 teams are competing in the current AFC U-23 Championship, which is being held with 11 groups.

The top 11 teams in each group and the top four teams in total 15 will win the tourney.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## VAR controversy as Monterrey win CONCACAF Champions League



Rogelio Funes Mori celebrates after scoring the winner for Monterrey against Club America in the CONCACAF Champions League final.

PHOTO: AFP

MONTERREY defeated Club America 1-0 to clinch their fifth CONCACAF Champions League and a place in the Club World Cup on Thursday after an all-Mexico final.

Argentina-born Mexico

international striker Rogelio Funes Mori scored the only goal at Monterrey's BBVA Stadium in the ninth minute, sidefooting into the net from close range after a miskick from America defender Se-

bastian Caceres.

The goal was shrouded in controversy, with Funes Mori appearing to be in an offside position when Jesus Gallardo's low cross into the area caused havoc in the America defence.

However, Caceres' miskicked clearance effectively played Funes Mori onside and after a VAR review, the goal stood.

A frantic finale deep into stoppage time saw America hit the woodwork before a lengthy VAR review for a possible handball in the area against Monterrey.

But no penalty was given and Monterrey escaped with a win to set alongside their CONCACAF club titles from 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2019.

Monterrey's victory sees them advance to FIFA's Club World Cup, which will take place in the United Arab Emirates in early 2022.— AFP ■

## Solskjaer fights for Man Utd job as top three flex muscles

MANCHESTER United travel to Tottenham on Saturday desperate to stay in touch with the Premier League's top four as Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City threaten to break away from the pack.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is clinging to his job after United's humiliating 5-0 defeat at the hands of Liverpool last week. His side have taken just one point from the past 12 on offer.

Leaders Chelsea, Liverpool and defending champions City

all have winnable matches this weekend while Leicester and Arsenal go head to head in an intriguing battle between two sides who have found their form.

### Solskjaer on the brink

Solskjaer called his team's humbling by Jurgen Klopp's men at Old Trafford his "darkest day" as Red Devils boss.

The Norwegian has reportedly been given three games to save his job but the fixtures are daunting—trips to Tottenham and Atalanta before a

derby against Pep Guardiola's Manchester City. The Liverpool drubbing came a year after 10-man United collapsed to a 6-1 home defeat against Spurs. "This is miles worse," Solskjaer said. "We have big games coming up, so no time to sulk, no time to feel sorry for yourself. We have to come together." United have flattered to deceive since Solskjaer replaced Jose Mourinho in December 2018, failing to win silverware or mount a realistic title challenge.—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.

## Socceroos to play first home match in more than two years

AUSTRALIA will play their first match on home soil in 763 days after next month's World Cup qualifying clash with Saudi Arabia was Friday confirmed for Sydney.

The Socceroos last played in front of their fans against Nepal in Canberra in October 2019 before being forced overseas when Australia's borders slammed shut because of the coronavirus.

It has seen them play 11 of their 12 qualifying games for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar abroad, although it hasn't hurt their form.

They clocked 11 wins in a row—a new record in the same World Cup qualifying campaign—before Japan ended the run this month with a 2-1 triumph in Saitama.

Australia's strict coronavirus rules have begun easing and coach Graham Arnold said the 20,000-plus fans expected



Australia last played a home game in October 2019.

PHOTO: AFP

for the game between the top two in Group B would give the team new energy.

"I believe that playing in front of home fans at a beautiful stadium and on a great pitch will help us," he said.

"Fans can provide energy to players and teams, and after having been away from Australia for so long, I expect that our players will harness and utilize the support that will be in Western Sydney Stadium on 11 November."— AFP ■