

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 195, 11<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME

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Sunday, 31 October 2021

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention,**  
**Control and Treatment of Coronavirus**  
**Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**  
 10<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME  
 30 October 2021

AS it is necessary to continuously control the infection of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 31 October 2021 have been extended until 30 November 2021 for the prevention, control and treatment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Ministry of Education**  
**Department of Higher Education**  
**Announcement**

DISTANCE students who remain to enroll in sciences and arts subjects for the 2020 academic year in the distance education departments of various universities under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, are required to register as follows: -

- Academic Year - 2020 Academic Year
- Registration period - from 1-11-2021 to 9-11-2021 (including weekends)
- Course Years - First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Fourth Year, and Fifth Year

SEE PAGE-2

**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.

## Kyauktaga prepares to welcome back schoolchildren

FOLLOWING the announcement of reopening schools on 1 November 2021 in various parts of Myanmar, arrangements are being made in schools to welcome students back under the COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

Yesterday, members of the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, Red Cross Society, charitable organizations, ward/village administrators, and teachers carried out a collective cleaning in basic education schools in Kyauktaga

Township, Bago Region. There are a total of 228 basic education schools in Kyauktaga Township, and every student who enrolled in those schools will continue to be able to access education, according to the Township Education Department.

The Chairman and officials of the Township Administration Body, township police and education officials assisted the activity as necessary.—Khin Ko (Kyauktaga)/GNLM



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Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Education  
Department of Higher Education  
Announcement

**FROM PAGE-1**

Distance Education Departments

- Myitkyina University; Bhamo University; Mohnyin University; Loikaw University; Hpa-an University; Pakokku University; Haka University; Monywa University; Kalay University; Shwebo University; Sagaing University; Dawei University; Myeik University; Toungoo University; Pyi University; Bago University; Magway University; Yenangyaung University; Mandalay Distance University; Yadanabon University; Meiktila University; Kyaukse University; Myingyan University; Mandalay University; Mawlamyine University; Sittway University; Taungup University; Yangon Distance University; Dagon University; East Yangon University; West Yangon University; Taunggyi University; Panglong University; Lashio University; Kengtung University; Patheingyi University; Hinthada University; Maubin University.

*Department of Higher Education, Nay Pyi Taw*

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*News and Periodicals  
Enterprise*

## Swe Myo Pauk Phaw magazine introduced to media

A ceremony to introduce the "Swe Myo Pauk Phaw Magazine" organized by the Myanmar-China Cooperation Association was held yesterday afternoon in Yangon.

At the ceremony, Central Executive Committee Member of the Association U Aye Min addressed the ceremony and the Editor-in-Chief of the magazine clarified the objectives and purpose of publishing the "Swe Myo Pauk Phaw Magazine".

The magazine was launched in January 2020, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic rela-

tions, with the aim of further developing the Myanmar-China friendship. It is a monthly magazine and was discontinued in July 2021. It will now be re-released in November.

"We always welcome the friendly and helpful articles and news from the writers," said the editor-in-chief of the Swe Myo Pauk Phaw Magazine. It is learned that under the auspices of the Myanmar-China Cooperation Association, the magazine aims to support the association's objectives, such as the development of Myanmar-China friendship.—MNA



Debut of the Swe Myo Pauk Phaw magazine is held in yangon yesterday.

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

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

On 30 October, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by three companies and transported by five vehicles.

A total of 1,920 empty oxygen tanks, two oxygen generators, and 12 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw trading posts.

From 1 to 30 October, 333



Lorries are seen transporting the imported anti-Covid aids to states/regions.

tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by 186 bowsers, two oxygen storage containers, three oxygen distributors, 19,271 empty

oxygen tanks, 47 oxygen plants, four oxygen refilling machines, 32 oxygen generators, 2,739 oxygen concentrators, 15,105

test kits, 250,175 PPE suits, 116 tonnes of gloves and 737 tonnes of masks were imported by 86 companies.

In the same period, 14 liquid oxygen were transported to Yangon and three to Mandalay respectively. Out of 47 oxygen plants, 33 to Yangon, two to Myitkyina, two to Kume, another two to Loikaw and one each to Mandalay, Homalin, Kyonedo, Sinbaungwe, Minton, Thayat, Salin and Pwintbyu.

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

## 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)*

## MIFER Union Minister encourages investment project of performing fish breeding, processing, cold storage and manufacturing-related products in Ayeyawady Region

THE Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Aung Naing Oo accompanied by departmental officials inspected the investment of Global Earth Agro and Aqua Industry Public Company Limited's fish breeding, processing, cold storage and manufacturing related products under the permission of Myanmar Investment Commission in Ayeyawady Region, Panntanaw Township yesterday morning.

The responsible personnel from the investment project welcomed the Union Minister and explained the operational procedures and the situations on incubation and the production of fish, fish feed, fish meal and fish oil by utilizing modern steel tank, eco and smart grow-out technology, operational challenges,



upcoming plans of the project and investment issues.

The Union Minister coor-

minated and assisted the needs of the project. He also encouraged the responsible person-

nel of the project to increase the productivity of value-added products, support import

substitution, extend foreign market availability, create job opportunities, improve technology and focus on research and development, share new technology, the improvement of rural development and livelihood.

After that, the Union Minister visited the farming project sites including the hatcheries, aqua feed factory, modern steel tank fish ponds, eco and smart grow-out fish ponds, fish processing factory, fish powder factory, the situation of incubation and the production of fish and accommodation for employees.

The company is doing investment in breeding, processing of fish, production of fish meal, fish oil and fish powder in one place by transforming modern technology from the traditional system.—MNA

## MoHT Union Minister inspects tourist destinations in Thanbyuzayat Township



UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung visited the Myanmar-Thai Death

Railway Museum in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State yesterday.

The museum was established to lure foreign visitors and develop the region in 2016.

It features historic paintings, steam locomotive and records photos and video clips of soldiers paving ways. The museum was reopened to the public yesterday after a temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Then, the Union Minister and party went to War Cemetery of Thanbyuzayat Township and the officials reported the maintenance works of the cemetery.

The cemetery was the very first one established in Myanmar in 1946 and the prisoners of war from the UK, Australia, the Netherlands and Asia who died in paving the Myanmar-Thailand Death Railway from 1942-1945 were buried there. Most of the visitors pay a visit there.

Then, the officials visited the Kyaikkhami mid-water pagoda and donated offertories including cash. The pagoda is crowded with domestic travellers during the public holidays.

The Union Minister then inspected the preparations of 21 Paradise Hotel at Setse beach.

The Union Minister met the Mon State Chief Minister U Zaw Lin Tun and discussed hotels and tourism development programmes and appreciated the efforts of the state government for working together with the ministry.

Finally, the Union Minister inspected the place to construct Information Counter for destinations in Mawlamyine Township.—MNA

# MoI should adopt innovative ways in line with current trend instead of old methods, says MoI Union Minister

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo viewed the recording of music festival at MRTV in Yangon and comforted the performers on 29 October.

First, the Union Ministers cordially greeted the performers and singers who will entertain in “Myu Kyawa Hla Pa –Yaung Sone Nya” programme, including the comedian group and Ko Lu Chaw team and young artistes.

They also enjoyed the Live show of MRTV band and appreciated the efforts of singers after the show.

The MoI Union Minister visited the three-storey building of the Printing and Publishing Department on Bo Aung Kyaw street and central press on Theinbyu Road to inspect the literary development plan and conditions to open Sarso Beikman.

During the visit to the three-storey building of Printing and Publishing Department on



The MIFER Union Minister and MoI Union Minister view the recording of music festival at MRTV in Yangon on 29 October.

Bo Aung Kyaw street, he checked the structure, strength and upgrade work of building and plans to open Sarso Beikman. He also inspected the structure of central press on Theinbyu Road and future work plans of the factory.

Then, the Union Minister met the members of Myanmar Affairs Research Team at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road and discussed the systematic researches and

publishing of books on Myanmar affairs, global affairs and ethnic affairs.

He also said the ministry plays a key role as it is responsible for media and it should keep eye on the developing political, economy, social and technology sectors of local and foreign countries. Therefore, it needs to discuss the impacts of changing conditions of the local and foreign countries.

The Prime Minister has also

instructed the responsible officials to carry out the Research and Development activities systematically in order to develop the researches. It should not choose the old methods but the innovative ways in line with the trend. In conducting researches, it should uncover the history and compare with the current conditions. It also needs to present the information to achieve positive views between the government and public.

In presenting the information, it should cover the news that brings prosperity for the country and people. Priority should be given to eradicating false information. He also called on to make necessary things to be more successful and carry out effective services for the public.

Then, Myanmar Affairs Research Team reported on the ongoing work plans and the Union Minister concluded the meeting. —MNA



## Magway region chief minister meets teachers in Magway

MAGWAY Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin accompanied by Magway Region government officials met teachers and the school principal of the Basic Education High School (4) in Magway on 29 October.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister said basic education schools across the country will be reopened starting from 1 November, adding that it is necessary to reopen the schools in Magway Region

under the COVID-19 preventive measures set by the Ministry of Health so that students can study safely. He urged them to convince students over the age of 12 to be vaccinated against COVID-19, as well as to put on masks systematically.

Afterwards, Chief Minister U Tint Lwin and party donated books for the school library.—Maung Nyi Nya (Magway)/GNLM

Meeting between the Magway Region chief minister and teachers is in progress. PHOTO: MAUNG NYI NYA (MAGWAY)

### 716 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 October, total figure rises to 499,321

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 499,321 after 716 new cases were reported on 30 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 466,317 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,664 after 20 died.—MNA

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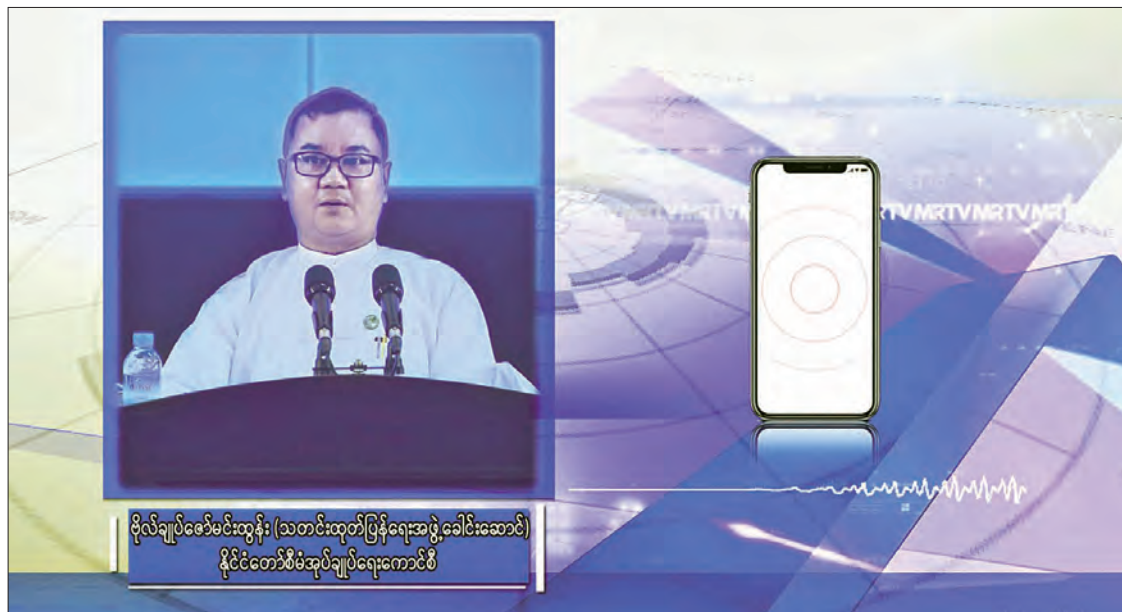
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Reply of Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Leader of Information Team of the State Administration Council for fire in Thantlang Township of Chin State

THE news has spread online that the homes in Thantlang township of Chin State were burned down due to the heavy weapons of Tatmadaw starting 10 am on 29 October. Regarding this cases, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the State Administration Council's Information Team replied to the questions of media as follows:—

“The baseless allegations are being made by the destructive media outlets. They are also widely spread on social networks. At about 11:45 am on 29 October, the Tatmadaw members and Myanmar Police Force conducted a patrol in Thantlang Township. The patrol was conducted in the centre of No (1) Ward of Thantlang. When they arrived there, the terrorist group PDF attacked them by exploding three homemade bombs. Then, they fired with small weapons. So, they conducted counter-attacks. Then, the PDF retreated under the cover of buildings. They set fire on four homes so that the security members could not follow them.

One of our members was



Team Leader Major-General Zaw Min Tun of the SAC Information Team.

killed in the incident. When they completed the operations, they returned here and found the fire. So, the further security members went there to put out the fire. At that time, they (PDF) shot the security members and relevant officials. Therefore, the security members could not extinguish the fire and it kept burning. It was not the doing of Tatmadaw. The PDF attacked the patrol team. When the security forces

chased them, they ran away after setting the fire.

If I say about the former case, they blew up the bridge connecting Thantlang and Haka on 21 October. The main aim is to cut off the transportation to Thantlang. We don't need to mention who committed bomb attacks on this bridge. They have already planned to do so in advance. The media posted the video files. For such reason, we can-

not get to Thantlang from Haka. In the downtown area, they also shot the security members and relevant staff. What I want to say is that they intentionally committed such doings in deliberate plots.

Regarding the situation of Thantlang, Myanmar Police Force and Tatmadaw are residing at their original positions. They conduct patrol only for the security of the residents in the

downtown area if they receive any strange tip-off. The terrorist PDF live among the people and buildings under the cover of people. They also set fire on the places where they retreated. About 3 or 4 days ago, one of their ministers of the terrorist group NUG who urged to commit terrorist acts also said and you will also notice about it. PDFs can move freely in Chin State and Sagaing Region and Tatmadaw no longer control the area. Based on such words, those who commit arson attacks and use human shields in Thantlang township are PDFs.

What I want to inform regarding this case the public is that we are issuing information about the terrorist acts of PDFs. Moreover, I want the people to know that they destroyed the cities and villages, roads, bridges to cut the transportation and also set on fire and destroyed the possessions and lives of people for their safety. Therefore, I urge the public to oppose such terrorism and cooperate with the security members to ensure the region stability and security.” — MNA

# Russian Navy Warship on friendly voyage left Yangon



Russian Navy Warship leaves Yangon.

RUSSIAN Navy Warship named Gremyashiy on a friendly visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by Captain Andrey Kuznetsov from the Russian Pacific Fleet left Yangon from the Thilawa Port yesterday morning.

Senior officers from the Navy, Tatmadaw officers, Russian military attache to Myanmar

and officials saw off the Russian Navy Warship at the Thilawa Port.

The warship was led by Captain Andrey Kuznetsov and 115 military officers accompanied him and stayed in Myanmar for three days (from 28 to 30 October).—MNA

# Sagaing Region Agro Dept to provide post-harvest technology for onions

SAGAING Region Agriculture Department is planning to disseminate post-harvest technology to the onion growers.

“The number of onion sowing acres has increased year over year in Sagaing Region. The growers are facing onion rotting during storage and so, therefore, the regional department is making efforts to provide post-harvest technology,” said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

During the mini-budget of 2021-2022, the department projects to cover 5,183 acres in Sagaing District, 10,802 in Monywa, 11,496 in Yinmabin, 13,609 in Shwebo, 100 in Kanbalu, 1,827 in Katha, 2,603 in Kalay, 300 in Tamu, 656 in Mawlaik, 324 in Kanni and 200 in Naga Self-Administered Zone, totalling 47,100 in the region, the department stated.

The regional department is carrying out market connec-

tions for the onion growers, sharing post-harvest technology and improving Good Agricultural Practices.

“The onion growers do not reap a handsome profit as they are lack post-harvest technology. The onions are rotted during storage even if the price rises. Some growers cannot even cover the cultivation cost. Some cannot afford to put investments in the coming onion season,” said an onion grower.

This year, onion prices plummeted to K250 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). The price jumped to K700 per viss in the first week of October, the growers said.

The cultivation costs K1.8 million per acre and an acre can produce about 5,000 visses. The onion acres are primarily found in Monywa, Yinmabin, ChaungU, Shwebo and Myinmu townships.—Lu Lay/GNLM

## PDF terrorists torch homes in Thantlang Township of Chin State

THE terrorist groups – CRPH, NUG and PDF intentionally committed terrorist acts and arson attacks on the road, bridge and houses of the civilians with the aims of undermining the State stability and rule of law.

They also blew up the Tee Myint Chaung Bridge connecting Haka and Thantlang of Chin State on 21 October to destroy the transportation system and socioeconomic status of the people.

Moreover, on 29 October, 5 PDF members exploded three homemade bombs and shot the security members who were serving duties near the junction of No (1) Ward of Thantlang Township at about 11:45 am. After the clash, the terrorists left to the northeast



Ravages are seen offermath of terror acts.

at about 11:50 am. The security members followed them

to arrest. Meanwhile, the terrorists set fire to the houses

and things near the football stadium in No (1) Ward and

retreated.

Although the security forces tried to put out the fire, they could only do security measures as the terrorists shot hiding in the houses. The security forces inspected the township yesterday and found 2 churches and about 70 homes were burned down.

The terrorist group NUG declared to open rebellion against the government in the country on 7 September. They also committed terrorist attacks in some areas of Chin State and the Sagaing Region and spread propaganda online that the country is lacking stability. The security forces are still conducting the necessary security measures to ensure stability and the rule of law. —MNA

## Officials conduct cleaning works for schools in Minbu (Sagu) Township

WEEKLY collective cleaning works are being carried out to clean and beautify the basic education schools in Minbu (Sagu)

Township, Minbu District, Magway Region.

Yesterday morning, a joint clean-up operation was carried

out in schools in the township, including Minbu No. 1 Basic Education High School.

“As all primary schools in Minbu (Sagu) Township will reopen on 1 November, the joint efforts are being made to keep the school environment clean and tidy”, said U Tin Myint, chairman of the township administration body.

Led by the Chairman and members of the Township Administration Body, Members of local battalions, members of the police force, members of the fire brigade, staff from Mann Oil field, Education staff, Township Development Affairs Committee, local people and volunteers gathered grasses and weeds growing on the campus, and cleared shrubs and weeds.

More than a hundred people worked together to clear the rubbish on the school campus, officials said.—Maung Maung (Minbu)/GNLM



Cleaning campaign is in progress in Sagu. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG

## Preparations underway to reopen schools in Ngathaingchaung



A school is seen ready to welcome back schoolchildren. PHOTO: KO OO

PREPARATIONS are underway for the reopening of the Basic Education High School in Ngathaingchaung, Yekyi Township, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region on 1 November with the COVID-19 Prevention Programme.

On the morning of 30 October, relevant teachers of the school, departmental staff, relevant ward administrators, and

members of social organizations cleaned the school campus and classrooms and set COVID-19 disease prevention equipment.

In addition, the COVID-19 vaccine is being given to students aged 12 and above in two affiliated high schools, two affiliated middle schools and three post-primary schools. — Ko Oo (Ngathaingchaung)/GNLM

## 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

must be placed at well-ventilated sites.

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-

cally discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.

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.

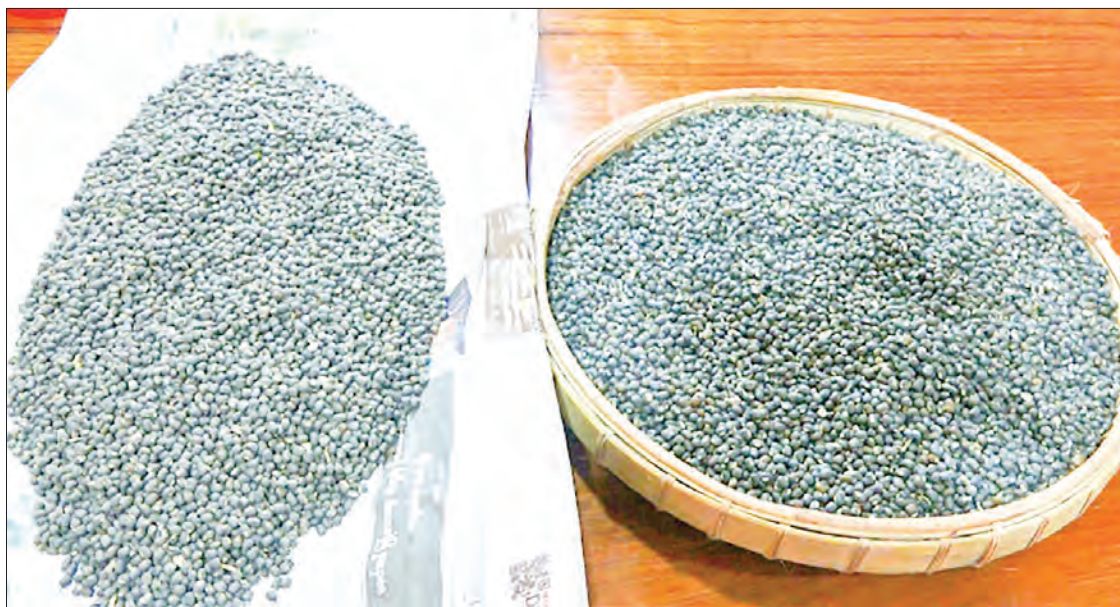
Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

## Irrigated black beans enter Mandalay market

THIS irrigated black beans from Madaya, Singu, Myaung, Monywa and Yesagyo regions are flooding the Mandalay market this season. And, the prevailing price of black beans is much higher than last year, according to Mandalay pulses traders.

The black beans are typically developed in June and July using Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers water while some growers cultivate them using underground water. The beans are started harvesting at the end of September and entered the market abundantly in October. Last year, a three-basket bag of black beans fetched only K85,000. But this year, a bag of black beans is worth K130,000, indicating K45,000 higher than last year's rate.

"The black bean grown using



Among the export pulses in Myanmar, the black bean is the most lucrative export crop.

of river water are entering Mandalay market these days. Those beans are grown in Yangon, Bago

and Ayeyawady regions only once a year. But it has been cultivated as a sequential crop for a decade

in the region. As a successful result of cultivation, the plantation has been expanded and the yields

of the crops also double year by year. There is a good yield of black bean cultivation this year and the prices are also somewhat higher than last year at a corresponding time. The trader predicts that the bean stocks are expected to be low this year due to strong demand from India. But there is no need to worry about cultivating because of new harvest black bean," said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of Soe Win Myint depot.

Among the export pulses in Myanmar, the black bean is the most lucrative export crop. It should be expanded its cultivation as a sequential crop in the region where river water is available easily, he suggested.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

## Myanmar, Thailand border trade reaches \$225.78 mln in FY2021-22



Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighbouring Thailand through seven border checkpoints - Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese borders.

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Thailand reached over US\$ 225.78 million as of 22 October in 2021 mini-budget year (October-March), according to the Ministry of Commerce's report.

The country's export to Thailand totalled \$134.29 million while its import shared \$91.48 million during the period.

This financial year's figures increased by 30.35 billion U.S. dollars, compared to the same period in the last fiscal year.

During the early 2021 mini-budget year, the Myawady border checkpoint topped

with \$141.86 million of bilateral trade.

Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighbouring Thailand through seven border checkpoints - Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese borders.

The country's agricultural and fishery products are exported to Thailand while cosmetics, food products and machinery and raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers are imported.

Thailand is Myanmar's second-largest trade partner and third-largest foreign investor. — ACM/GNLM

## CBM sells \$110 mln this month

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$110 million at its auction rate in October, it is learnt.

According to the sales of US dollars in October, the CBM sold \$50 million on 18 October and \$30 million each on 22 and 26 October.

The CBM is conducting an auction for foreign exchange to reduce the sudden fluctuation of foreign exchange rates. The dollar exchange rate against the Myanmar Kyat currently stood at around K2,900 per dollar.

Last September, the US dollar exchange rate rose to a record high of over K3,000 per dollar. Consequently, the CBM reportedly sold \$63 million at an

auction rate in September.

According to monthly sales of US dollars in 2021, the CBM sold \$28 million in August, \$39 million in July, \$12 million in June, \$24 million in May, \$12 million in April and \$6.8 million in February.

The local foreign exchange market's data in 2021, the highest and the lowest exchange rate is currently fixed around K1,327-1,345 in January, K1,335-1,465 in February, K1,420-1,550 in March, K1,550-1,610 in April and K1,585-1,730 in May, K1,595-1,620 in June, K1,626-1,670 in July, 1,660-1,682 in August and K1,696-3,200 in September.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-

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

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

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — NN/GNLM



Central Bank of Myanmar. (Yangon Branch)

# Conserve biospheres of Myanmar recognized by UNESCO

**F**AMOUS tourist destinations in Myanmar namely Inlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake have been designated as UNESCO biosphere reserves.

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

The Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve will become a model region for integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, and a centre for science and education for sustainable development in Myanmar.

Biospheres in Myanmar as well as wildlife sanctuaries are crucial for the prevention of climate change as much as possible. If global people participate in the process, all the people can save the planet Earth from the impacts of climate change in time.

UNESCO said the Inlay Lake biosphere reserve covers a total of 489,721 hectares. The wetland ecosystem of the freshwater lake is home to 267 species of birds – of which 82 are wetland birds – 43 species of freshwater fishes, otters and turtles. Diverse flora and fauna species are recorded and the lake is reported to be the nesting place for the globally endangered bird species.

Biodiversity and ecosystems, which are the main roles of tourism, are preserved, and the two ecosystems of the Inlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake are preserved by maintaining the socio-economic development of the local people residing in these two areas while preserving the development of the ecosystems in the region and integrating the human and natural harmony.

The Inlay Lake and the Indawgyi Lake draw the attention of international travellers in addition to Asian tourists. The Inlay Lake is recognized as ASEAN Heritage Park, Man and Biosphere Reserve and Ramsar site.

The various biodiversities, aquatic species and humans are living in the environs of the lakes. If the people conserve the ecosystems, it can support the development of the tourism industry and the socio-economic status of local people. Moreover, the tourism industry earns income for the country and so the world countries conserve the biospheres. Ecosystem and humans are interrelated and so all the people need to take pride that UNESCO which already recognized the two biosphere reserves.

There are 727 biospheres in 131 countries throughout the world. Moreover, the neighbouring countries are conserving the biospheres. There are 22 biodiversities in global countries, and the Myanmar tourism industry boasts of two UNESCO biosphere reserves Inlay and Indawgyi lakes.

Biospheres in Myanmar as well as wildlife sanctuaries are crucial for the prevention of climate change as much as possible. If global people participate in the process, all the people can save the planet Earth from the impacts of climate change in time.



# Needle-free vaccine patches coming soon

*The method may assist save kids's tears at medical doctors' workplaces, and assist individuals who have a phobia of syringes.*

**S**INCE the start of the COVID pandemic, researchers have doubled down on efforts to create patches that deliver life-saving drugs painlessly to the skin, a development that could revolutionize medicine.

The technique could help save children's tears at doctors' offices, and help people who have a phobia of syringes.

Beyond that, skin patches could assist with distribution efforts, because they don't have cold-chain requirements – and might even heighten vaccine efficacy.

A new mouse study in the area, published in the journal Science Advances, showed promising results.

The Australian-United States (US) team used patches measuring one square centimetre that were dotted with more than 5,000 microscopic spikes, "so tiny you can't actually see them," David Muller, a virologist at the University of Queensland and co-author of the paper, said.

These tips have been coated with an experimental vaccine, and the patch is clicked on with an applicator that resembles a hockey puck. "It's like you get a good flick on the skin," said Muller.

The researchers used a so-called "subunit" vaccine that reproduces the spikes that dot the



David Muller (right) and members of his team are working on developing a skin patch to deliver vaccines. PHOTO: AFP/HUNG VU/THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

surface of the coronavirus.

Mice were injected either via the patch over the course of two minutes, or with a syringe.

The immune systems of those who got the patch produced high levels of neutralising antibodies after two doses, including in their lungs, vital to stopping COVID, and the patches outperformed syringes. The researchers also found that a sub-group of mice, who were given only one dose of vaccine containing an additional substance called an adjuvant used to spur immune response, "didn't

get sick at all," said Muller.

### Easy To Apply What makes them more effective?

Vaccines are normally injected into our muscles, but muscle tissue doesn't contain very many immune cells needed to react to the drug, explained Muller.

In addition, the tiny spikes cause localised skin death, which alerts the body to a problem and triggers a greater immune response.

For the scientist, the logistical

advantages couldn't be clearer.

First, when dry-coated on a patch, the vaccine is stable for at least 30 days at 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) and one week at 40C (104F), compared to a few hours at room temperature for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

This offers a major advantage particularly for developing countries.

Second, "it's very simple to use," said Muller. "You don't necessarily need highly trained medical professionals to deliver it."

Burak Ozdoganlar, a profes-

sor of engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in the US city of Pittsburgh, has also been working on the technology since 2007.

He sees yet another advantage: "Less amount of vaccine delivered precisely to skin can activate an immune response similar to intramuscular injection," he explained. It's an important factor as the developing world struggles to procure enough COVID vaccine.

Ozdoganlar can produce around 300-400 patches a day in his lab, but hasn't been able to test them out on mRNA vaccines, which have come to the fore during the pandemic, because he hasn't been authorised by Pfizer or Moderna.

### 'The Future'

The patch used in the study published on Friday was made by Australian company Vaxxas, which is the furthest along. Human trials are planned from April.

Two other American companies are also part of the race: Micron Biomedical and Vaxess.

The latter, founded in 2013 and based in Massachusetts, is working on a slightly different type of patch, with microneedles that dissolve in the skin.

They say this approach has the benefit of requiring fewer spikes per patch – just 121 – made

of a protein polymer that is biocompatible.

"We're working on a seasonal COVID and flu combination product that will be mailed directly to patients' homes, for self-administration," CEO Michael Schrader said. The COVID vaccine they are using is produced by the company Medigen, already authorised in Taiwan.

Vaxess has just opened a factory near Boston, with funding from the US National Institutes for Health. They aim to produce enough patches to vaccinate 2,000 to 3,000 people in clinical trials, which are to be launched next summer. The main challenge right now is production, with no manufacturers yet able to make enough patches en masse.

"If you want to launch a vaccine you have to produce hundreds of millions," said Schrader. "We do not have that scale as of today – no one really has that scale."

But the pandemic has given a push to the nascent industry, which is now attracting more investors, he added.

"This is the future, in my opinion, it is inevitable," said Schrader. "I think you're going to see over the next 10 years, this (will) pretty dramatically reshape the way that we get vaccines around the world."

SOURCE: AFP

# Panama Canal breaks freight record despite pandemic crisis

*The new record comes despite the global trade crisis caused by supply chain failures and port congestion created by the pandemic, which have caused shortages in some markets.*

**T**HE Panama Canal had a record fiscal year 2021 with more tonnage transported through the waterway than ever before, despite a crisis in global port congestion, authorities said Thursday.

A total of 516 million tonnes passed through the channel, mainly consisting of containers, grains, chemicals and liquefied natural gas, from October 2020 through September 2021, according to the Panama Canal Authority (ACP).

The figure represents an 8.7 per cent increase compared to the previous fiscal year, which itself set a record despite a

slowdown in the global economy and trade linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Truly, fiscal year 2021 for the Panama Canal has been an exceptional year," ACP head Ricaurte Vasquez said on a video conference call.

The new freight record is due to ships growing ever larger and crossing the sea with as many containers as will fit to achieve maximum efficiency, Vasquez said.

In addition, increased demand for grain between China and the United States as well as a rise in the transport of liquefied natural gas led to greater

traffic through the canal.

The new record comes despite the global trade crisis caused by supply chain failures and port congestion created by the pandemic, which have caused shortages in some markets.

This, however, did not affect the canal, Vasquez said.

Since its inauguration by the United States in 1914, more than a million ships have passed through the canal.

Panama regained control of the channel in 1999 under the Panama Canal treaty signed in 1977.



A Chinese container ship is seen at the Panama Canal in December 2018. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SOURCE: AFP



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 30 October 2021)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 31 October 2021:** Rainor thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, fairly widespread in Bago, and Taninthayi regions and Southern Shan and Mon states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin 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 Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 October 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 October 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 October 2021:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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# China injects impetus into global climate governance



Bamboo rafting along the Jiuqiu (Nine Bends) River is popular with visitors. **PHOTO: RYAN PYLE/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES/XINHUA**

CHINA, a major contributor to tackling climate change and an active participant in climate talks, has been a source of strong impetus for global climate governance.

“China has contributed to the conclusion and quick implementation of the Paris Agreement; with its own vision and action it has charted the course for a new form of global climate governance,” stated a white paper released Wednesday, elaborating on China’s policies, actions and progress in mitigating climate change.

Deeming climate change “a task of great urgency” that needs to be addressed, the document said China has contributed to global unity on climate governance through its leaders’ climate

diplomacy. Chinese President Xi Jinping has on many occasions highlighted China’s view on global climate governance and expressed China’s firm support for the Paris Agreement, facilitating major progress at the global level.

In 2015, Xi delivered a keynote speech at the Paris Conference on Climate Change, making a historic contribution to the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on global climate action after 2020.

In September 2016, he deposited in person the legal instrument of China’s ratification of the Paris Agreement. This came as a vigorous push for the quick implementation of the agreement, showing China’s ambition and resolution in tackling climate change.—Xinhua ■

## Smoke bombs, floods and virus fears as Glasgow readies for COP26

A soft drizzle fell on a cluster of American climate activists as they set off smoke bombs in George Square in Glasgow’s city centre. The clouds of white smoke were symbolically aimed at the heads of state beginning to arrive in Scotland’s biggest city for COP26, the United Nations climate change conference which starts on Sunday.

The demonstration on Thursday night was one of the first in an expected multitude

of protests and publicity stunts planned as tens of thousands of delegates pour into the city during the next fortnight.

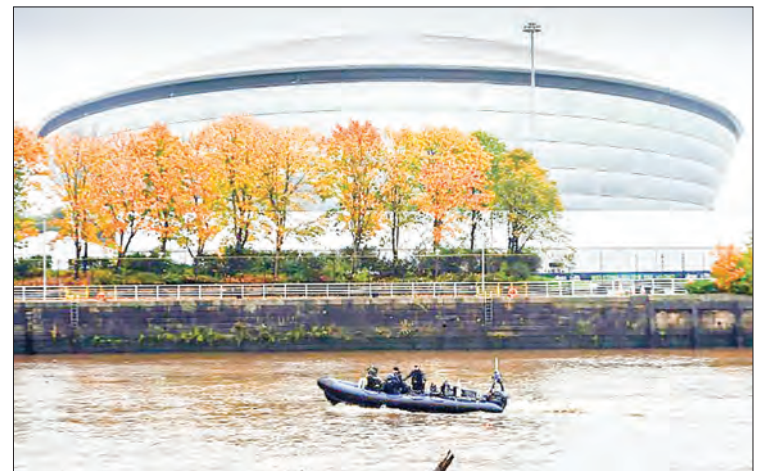
Home to around 635,000 people and still grappling with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, locals appear divided in their feelings towards the event.

“I am very proud that COP is being held in Scotland,” said Isabelle Barkley, a Glasgow resident who strolled over to join the activists. Barkley added she has

previously seen Nelson Mandela speak here, as well as countless Scottish independence rallies and Black Lives Matter protests in recent years.

In the coming two weeks the square, named after the 18th century British King George III, is set to be one of the main gathering areas for climate activists.

On November 5, up to 100,000 protesters will rally in the square after marching through the city, according to organisers.



Police have blocked off the streets surrounding the summit venue beside the River Clyde. **PHOTO: AFP**

“There is so much negativity in the world today,” said Barkley. “We need to be positive, to

remember that we can all do our bit for this. Eat less meat. Buy less plastic.”—AFP ■

## US East Coast hit by flooding

FLOODING from heavy rain hit parts of the US East Coast on Friday, particularly the area around Washington, with potential for some of the worst damage in decades.

The area stretching from the US capital north to Baltimore is facing “the biggest tidal flood events of the past 10-20 years,” the National Weather Service said.

It said that in some areas the damage could be the worst since that caused by Hurricane Isabel in 2003.

“Tidal flooding, strong winds, and severe thunderstorms capable of producing damaging wind gusts and localized rainfall flooding will impact the region,” the local office of the NWS said. Coastal flooding alerts have been issued from the state of Virginia all the way north to New Jersey.



A man travels in a kayak in the flooded streets of Annapolis, Maryland on 29 October 2021 **PHOTO: AFP**

In the Maryland state capital, Annapolis, located an hour’s drive from Washington on the Chesapeake Bay, the water came up to people’s knees. At least one man used a kayak to navigate the inundated streets.

Sand bags were posted outside stores to keep the water out.

On Monday, California was hit by torrential rain that caused several floods, after months of drought and repeated forest fires.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### California weather whiplash is climate change sentinel

It had been completely dry in Sacramento for six months. Then the heavens opened and a record-breaking amount of rain fell in one day.

Such extreme shifts are becoming more frequent in California and are a harbinger of what is to come for the rest of a warming planet, scientists say.

“California is a sentinel state. It’s like a canary in a coal mine,” said Justin Mankin, a Dartmouth College professor who specializes in climate change.

“The state is a crucial bellwether for society’s capacity to respond to these types of climate stresses happening today.”

And it’s not looking good.

Soaring temperatures have been responsible for multiple heat-related deaths this year, while a historic drought has left swathes of the western United States parched, with desperate pleas from officials to save precious water supplies.

Forest fires have torn through the countryside at an alarming rate, consuming more than 2.5 million acres (one million hectares) in California this year, and sending choking smoke over towns and cities.

Then, when the weather suddenly turned and a “bomb cyclone” smashed into the US West Coast last weekend, severe thunderstorms inundated towns and left streets waist-deep in water.—AFP ■

## Flights, weddings cancelled as China tackles Covid outbreak

BEIJING officials on Friday told residents to postpone weddings and keep funeral ceremonies short, as disease controls across China were tightened just months before the Winter Olympics kicks off in the capital.

The world's most populous nation has reduced infection numbers to a trickle since its initial epidemic last spring thanks to a zero-tolerance approach of border closures, targeted lockdowns and long quarantine periods.

But China is now grappling with flare-ups in a dozen regions linked to tourists, spurring officials to order millions to stay home, restrict inter-provincial travel and ramp up testing.

Case numbers remain far lower than in most countries,

with 48 new domestic infections on Friday bringing the tally to fewer than 250 in the past week.

But authorities are not taking any chances, with tens of thousands of people in Beijing—which will host the Winter Olympics in February—under lockdown after a handful of cases were detected.

Residents should “postpone weddings, keep funerals brief, don't organise banquets, and reduce unnecessary gatherings”, deputy chief of the city's disease control centre Pang Xinghuo said at a Friday press conference.

Tourist spots will further limit capacity, while the newly opened Universal Studios resort will enter a “state of emergency epidemic prevention”, said Bei-



People queuing to be tested for Covid in Lanzhou. PHOTO: XINHUA

jing's deputy publicity chief Xu Hejian, without giving further details.

Queues stretched down the roads outside Beijing's medical centres as people sought to comply with newly enhanced

Covid controls.

Software developer Tu Anling, 24, told AFP she needed a test before being allowed to board a train to Nanjing, a city 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) to the south.—AFP ■

## UK cuts last countries from Covid travel 'red list'



The UK government is to remove all remaining countries from its travel “red list”, scrapping bans on foreigners travelling to England, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said Thursday. PHOTO: UNSPLASH/AFP

THE UK government is to remove all remaining countries from its travel “red list”, scrapping bans on foreigners travelling to England, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said Thursday.

The minister announced the remaining seven countries on the list — Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Peru and Venezuela — will be taken off on 1 November.

Britons arriving from these countries will no longer need to spend 11 nights in a quarantine hotel, while nationals of those countries will now be allowed to travel to England.

“We will keep the red list cat-

egory in place as a precautionary measure to protect public health and are prepared to add countries and territories back if needed, as the UK's first line of defence,” Shapps said on Twitter.

The government will also recognise coronavirus vaccines for arrivals from more than 30 new countries and territories, he added.

Wales will also adopt similar changes, said its devolved government.

“I am glad we are able to reduce the travel list even further, giving a huge boost to businesses, families and friends wanting to travel,” said health minister Sajid Javid.—AFP ■

## Syringe shortfall threatens Africa Covid vaccine drive

AFRICA'S struggle to inoculate people against Covid-19 risks being hobbled by a shortage of syringes just as supplies of vaccines flood into the continent, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday.

UNICEF, the United Nations' fund for children, is predicting an “imminent shortfall” of up to 2.2 billion of the single-use syringes used to give jabs, WHO Africa said.

These include auto-disposable syringes used to administer Pfizer-BioNTech's Covid vaccine, it said.

The shortage will remain through at least the first quar-

ter of next year, it said in a weekly online briefing.

“Early next year, Covid-19 vaccines will start pouring into Africa, but a scarcity of syringes could paralyse progress,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa.

“Drastic measures must be taken to boost syringe production, fast.”

Unless there is a significant acceleration, only five African countries, or below 10 percent, will reach the target of 40 per cent of populations vaccinated by the end of the year, the WHO said.—AFP ■



Aid workers check a shipment of vaccines against the coronavirus sent to Sudan on 6 October 2021 - In Africa, less than five per cent of people are fully vaccinated. PHOTO: LEHTIKUVA / AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Int'l flights to remain suspended in India until 30 Nov due to COVID-19

COMMERCIAL international flights to and from India will remain suspended until 30 Nov due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said on Friday.

According to a circular issued by the country's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the restriction will not be applicable for international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the DGCA.

“However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on case-to-case basis,” it said.

The ban on international flights has been repeatedly extended amid restriction measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 in India.

However, Indian authorities have long allowed special international flights and those under bilateral “air bubble” arrangements with countries and regions.—Xinhua ■

### Childcare centres could be Australia's next COVID-19 frontline: report

A report from Australia's Mitchell Institute, an education and health policy think tank, has shown that as the nation opens up and learns to live with COVID-19, childcare centres could become the new frontline in the fight against the pandemic.

The report, released on Thursday, noted that while children aged under four only make up 6 per cent of Australia's population, they could, however, end up representing about 19 per cent of the nation's unvaccinated population.

By the end of November, children in Australia aged between five and 11 will likely be eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, leaving the under-fives as the only age group ineligible for any type of vaccine.

“Over 1.3 million children use early childhood education and care services every year. These services are where large groups of unvaccinated people will mix on a regular basis,” the report said.—AFP ■

# India's index of eight core industries rise 4.4 pct in September



Steel rolls are lined up at the Essar Steel plant in Hazira, Surat district of Gujarat state, 12 November 2018 **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE combined index of eight core industries for September in India rose 4.4 per cent year-on-year, showed data released by India's federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Friday.

"The combined index of eight core industries stood at 126.7 in September 2021, which increased by 4.4 per cent (provisional) as compared to the Index of September 2020," the ministry said in a statement.

"The production of Coal, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and

Electricity industries increased in September 2021 over the corresponding period of last year," it said.

The official data showed production declined in the crude oil industry.

Among the core industries, coal production increased by 8.1 per cent year-on-year in September, while crude oil production saw a 1.7 per cent decline.

The output of natural gas and petroleum refinery products increased by 27.5 per cent and 6.0 per cent year-on-year,

respectively.

Fertilizers production in September rose 0.02 per cent and steel production increased significantly by 3 per cent year-on-year.

Cement and electricity production increased by 10.8 per cent and 0.3 per cent year-on-year, respectively, in September.

According to the federal ministry, the eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).—Xinhua ■

## Marginalized Ivorians lament 'curse' of oil

AFRICAN governments typically hail the discovery of oil and gas as a blessing, but poor villagers in southern Ivory Coast are among those who say it can also be a curse.

On the petroleum-rich coastline of Jacqueline, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Ivory Coast's economic hub of Abidjan, locals say they have yet to benefit from a decades-old bonanza.

Workers are busy setting down a third pipeline, cutting across farms and villages, to help bring gas from offshore rigs to power stations.

But in the village of Addah, found at the end of a bumpy, dusty road, people say they have yet to see any trickle-down from the boom and complain the whole issue is shrouded in secrecy.

"I don't understand why a village that has an oil rig has no fire station and no secondary school, or why the hospitals don't have supplies," said Jean

Biatchon N'Drin, 32.

"We don't see any benefit from oil on our lives. They have been extracting oil since I was born, and I live in poverty," said Duval Nevry, 27.

"We feel that we have been abandoned — the state has forgotten us," he said, gazing out to the rigs, visible from the village's sandy slopes.

Fisherman Justin Dagry Yesso said fishing yields had been hit by the oil and gas development.

"Fishing hasn't been profitable since the pipelines came along," he said.

Ivory Coast is the world's biggest supplier of cacao, the precursor of chocolate, accounting for 40 per cent of the global market.

But it remains just a small producer of oil, pumping out 36,000 barrels per day in 2019, from a field off Jacqueline that is exploited by several foreign majors.—AFP ■



Pipelines are being laid to bring the offshore gas to power stations under construction in Abidjan and Jacqueline. **PHOTO: AFP**

## US income dropped 1% in Sept as pandemic aid ended: govt

AMERICANS saw their incomes drop by a full percentage point in September as pandemic aid programmes to support the unemployed expired that month, according to Commerce Department data released Friday.

While the decline in income was greater than expected, the report said personal consumption expenditures (PCE) increased by a better-than-forecast 0.6 percent, as consumers channeled their money toward services like health care, restaurants and hotels.

"As we approach 2022, the economy is regaining momentum. An improving health situation, rising mobility, improving employment trends and solid household finances should support consumer spending growth," wrote Lydia Boussoir of Oxford Economics, predicting stronger outlays in the last quarter of 2021. Meanwhile the PCE price index rose 4.4 per cent in September compared to September 2020, slightly faster than August's rate as the world's largest economy continues to grapple with strong demand and



US consumers steered their dollars towards restaurants in September, even as incomes declined with the end of government pandemic unemployment benefits. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

supply chains snarls that have pushed inflation higher.

That was the index's biggest jump since January 1991, but if volatile food and energy prices are excluded, the year-on-year increase was unchanged at 3.6 per cent in September. The decrease in income came as US government programmes offering aid to the long-term unemployed and freelance workers during the pandemic ended.

The report also pointed to the tapering of programmes, includ-

ing government stimulus checks, support to health care workers and loans to small businesses.

Spending rose by \$93.4 billion overall, \$63.6 billion of which went to services while \$29.9 billion went to goods.

Businesses that benefited from the services spending included doctors and other health care workers, as well as restaurants and hotels, two industries bouncing back from widespread disruptions caused by the pandemic.—AFP ■

## Saudi Arabia bids for hosting World Expo 2030

SAUDI Arabia announced on Friday that it is bidding for hosting the World Expo 2030, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The bid was submitted to the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), World Expo's organizing body, according to SPA.

The theme proposed by Saudi Arabia for the World Expo 2030 is The Era of Change: Leading the Planet to a Foresighted Tomorrow. The event is scheduled to take place from Oct. 1, 2030 to April 1, 2031.

The 2030 World Expo in Riyadh will coincide

with the culmination of the kingdom's Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said in a letter to the BIE. The World Expo 2030 will represent an extraordinary opportunity to share with the world Saudi Arabia's lessons from its unprecedented transformation, he added.

The World Expos have been held since 1851, and provide the largest global platform for presenting the latest achievements and technologies while uniting people across cultures and continents.—Xinhua ■

## Back in the black: Higher oil prices lift ExxonMobil, Chevron profits

PROFITS at ExxonMobil and Chevron rebounded in the third quarter on strengthening oil and natural gas prices, according to results released Friday that underscored the industry's improved financial position compared with the darkest days of the pandemic.

After US oil futures sank into negative territory in spring 2020 on widespread Covid-19 restrictions, demand has returned in a big way, lifting oil prices back above \$80 a barrel and driving European gas prices up more than five times their level from a year ago.

US oil giants, which reported losses during the worst of the pandemic, now are now generating a steady stream of free cash, raising questions about future investment plans.

The latest surge in oil and gas prices comes as the industry faces increased pressures from

investors to build up low-carbon businesses amid rising worries over climate change.

While both companies signalled more spending for share buybacks, ExxonMobil said it would boost investments in lower-emission projects, while Chevron said its 2022 budget would increase funds for both conventional and low-carbon ventures.

### More buybacks

ExxonMobil reported profits of \$6.8 billion, compared with a loss of \$680 million over the same period last year.

Revenues jumped about 60 per cent to \$73.8 billion. The oil giant, which announced a dividend increase earlier this week, said the extra cash enabled it to reduce debt by \$4 billion and to launch a program in 2022 to purchase up to \$10 billion in shares over the next two years.—AFP ■

## Japan promoting “mother cow” ethical wagyu exports

JAPAN is advancing an initiative to export a new type of wagyu -- lean, healthy beef from refattened mother cows, typically processed but still bursting with umami flavor.

The effort is a win-win for the local exporter and breeder of the animals, which are appealing to the tastes of overseas customers and the emphasis they place on animal welfare in livestock breeding, with those concerned attracted by the new wagyu from the standpoint of ethical meat production.

As part of the initiative, the government-backed Japan External Trade Organization and the Japanese Embassy in Switzerland organized an event in Bern to provide local meat



Photo taken on 14 Oct 2021, shows a Swiss meat purveyor asking questions about “mother cow” steak being offered for sampling at an event in Bern, Switzerland.

PHOTO: KYODO

purveyors and restaurants with samples of a nicely marbled wagyu steak from the Jukuho Farm in Shimane Prefecture, western Japan.

At the 14 Oct event in the Swiss capital, Ginkaku-

mainly Swiss importers, retailers, butchers and chefs from prestigious restaurants.

Newly launched products such as wagyu salami of the same variety were also on offer for tasting.

Wagyu beef is known worldwide for its rich marbling, soft texture as well as exceptional flavor. It is one of the most expensive and luxurious meats in the world. The wagyu industry traditionally focuses on young animals aged 27 to 30 months because of the tenderness of their high-priced meat, but cows aged 90 to 100 months, which have given birth multiple times, are usually butchered for low-priced processed or minced meats.—Kyodo ■

## Ikea pays out €110 million in Covid bonuses

IKEA will pay a total of 110 million euros in bonuses to employees worldwide as reward for their work during the pandemic, Ingka Group, the company that operates most Ikea's stores, said Friday.

The group said the coronavirus crisis forced it to move much of its brick-and-mortar business online, even as sales remained robust with more people in lockdown buying furniture and housewares.

“The pandemic put us into a situation that I think

none of us really were prepared for,” Ulrika Biesert, a manager at IKEA Retail, told AFP.

“We went from mostly being an offline business to an online business within two weeks.”

The holding company that controls the majority of Ikea's stores, Ingka, said the bonuses would be paid to employees across all markets and vary depending on salaries.

It would be added to the general annual bonuses employees receive



Ikea is selling furniture through third-party websites as it tries to find new ways to reach customers in the digital age.

PHOTO: AFP

based on the company's annual performance.

Biesert said the bonus was a thank you to employ-

ees for “redirecting our business to try to serve the customer in the absolutely best way”.—AFP ■



Having returned to profitability, ExxonMobil plans to use extra cash to reduce debt and buy back shares.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Travel agency H.I.S. expects record 53 bil. yen loss amid pandemic

TRAVEL agency H.I.S. Co. said Saturday it expects to report a record net loss of 53 billion yen (\$465 million) for the year ending this month, its second straight year in the red, as the coronavirus wreaks havoc on the industry.

The Japanese firm's latest result follows the 25 billion yen loss it made in the previous fiscal year. Revenue for the current year is expected to fall 70 per cent to 125 billion yen, it said, adding it will not pay an annual dividend.

Nearly 80 per cent of the company's revenue comes from services linked to overseas travel.

H.I.S. in September sold its head office in Tokyo for 32.4 billion yen to improve its financial position. It also plans to raise 21.5 billion yen through third-party allotment and issuance of share warrants, it said.

Its rival JTB Corp. has also been undertaking restructuring efforts including the sale of offices.—Kyodo ■

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (351W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (351W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-10-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
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## World leaders to talk climate, economy, vaccines at G20



An employee is pictured outside the Palazzo dei Congressi, which will host the G20 summit with heads of state from major nations for a twoday meeting from 30 to 31 October in 2021 in Rome, Italy.

PHOTO: AFP

CLIMATE change and the re-launch of the global economy will top the G20 agenda as leaders of the world's most advanced nations meet Saturday, the first in-person gathering since the pandemic. Looming over the two-day talks in Rome is pressure to make headway on tackling global warming, ahead of the key COP26 summit kicking off in Glasgow Monday.

The stakes are high, with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warning G20 leaders Friday to show "more

ambition and more action" and overcome mistrust in order to advance climate goals.

"We are still on time to put things on track, and I think the G20 meeting is the opportunity to do that," Guterres said.

Security was tight in Rome as US President Joe Biden arrived in the Italian capital anxious to turn a page from the tumultuous Trump years and show that American leadership on the world stage is restored.

Yet the Democrat faces a credibility test as his own sig-

nature climate policy -- part of a sweeping economic package -- is held up amid infighting within his party in Congress. Absent from the G20 will be Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping, who plan to attend by video link.

Summit host Mario Draghi, the Italian prime minister, has called for a "G20 commitment on the need to limit the rise in temperatures to 1.5 degrees" above pre-industrial levels, the most ambitious target outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.—AFP ■

## Prince Andrew asks US court to dismiss 'baseless' sex case

BRITAIN'S Prince Andrew insisted his sexual assault accuser was out to profit from a "baseless lawsuit" against him as he asked a New York court to dismiss the case Friday.

In a filing in Manhattan, the Duke of York's lawyers accused Virginia Giuffre of suing the prince "to achieve another payday" from her accusations against the late disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein.

"Most people could only

dream of obtaining the sums of money that Giuffre has secured for herself over the years," wrote attorney Andrew Brettler.

"This presents a compelling motive for Giuffre to continue filing frivolous lawsuits against individuals such as Prince Andrew, whose sullied reputation is only the latest collateral damage of the Epstein scandal," he added.

Giuffre alleges Epstein, who killed himself while awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charg-

es in 2019, lent her out for sex with his wealthy and powerful associates. The 38-year-old sued Andrew for unspecified damages in August, claiming he sexually assaulted her more than 20 years ago when she was 17 and a minor under US state law.

Andrew, 61, has been not been criminally charged and has repeatedly and strenuously denied the allegations.

Last month, Queen Elizabeth II's second son accepted



Prince Andrew has vehemently denied claims he had sex with Virginia Giuffre, and said he has no recollection of meeting her. PHOTO: AFP

that he had been served legal papers in the case and was in-

structed to respond to the lawsuit by 29 October.—AFP ■

## Thousands mourn south Indian film star Puneeth Rajkumar



The actor was admitted to hospital on 29 October morning with chest pains. PHOTO: AFP

THOUSANDS of bereaved cinema fans thronged the streets of Bangalore 29 October after the sudden death of regional Indian film star Puneeth Rajkumar from a heart attack at just 46.

The actor, known as "Powerstar" for his action roles in the Kannada-language film industry, was admitted to hospital on Friday morning with

chest pains and died shortly afterwards.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led tributes, tweeting that a "cruel twist of fate has snatched away from us a prolific and talented actor... The coming generations will remember him fondly for his works and wonderful personality".

Karnataka chief minister

Basavaraj S. Bommai said that Rajkumar was the state's "most loved superstar... A huge personal loss and one that's difficult to come to terms with".

Authorities enhanced security around the actor's house fearing violence by his fans, some of whom could be seen chasing the ambulance in which his body was being taken from the hospital.

Elsewhere his admirers were crying and hugging.

"It is very painful to have lost him. He was a gem in the Kannada film industry and he is unforgettable. It is very painful," one bereft fan, Sandeep, told AFP. Local media reports said Rajkumar was rushed to hospital after he collapsed while working out in his gym.

Son of another actor known simply as Rajkumar, Puneeth Rajkumar had recently wrapped up the shoot of "James" and was to begin work on a new film soon.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### UK fishing boat captain to face French trial

FRENCH prosecutors on Friday ordered a trial for the captain of a British trawler detained for operating without a licence, escalating a fishing rights row that could spark a trade war as soon as next week.

Maritime authorities sequestered the vessel at the Channel port of Le Havre on Wednesday, saying a spot check revealed it had scooped up more than two tons of scallops in French waters without a proper licence.

"The captain of the Cornelis Gert Jan has been summoned to appear at a court hearing in Le Havre on 11 August 2022," the city's deputy prosecutor, Cyrille Fournier, said in a statement.

He faces charges of "non-authorized fishing in French waters by a boat from outside the European Union," he added, which carry a maximum fine of 75,000 euros (\$87,000) as well as potential "administrative penalties."—AFP ■

#### Hong Kong seizes record \$154 mn in luxury goods headed to China

HONG KONG customs announced a record seizure on Friday of luxury goods that were headed to mainland China on a river barge in the latest operation to target an explosion of cross-border smuggling.

The haul included an array of highly sought-after items such as luxury watches, handbags, cosmetics and fins from endangered marine species. Officials said the goods were worth about HK\$1.2 billion (\$154 million), by far the largest seizure made by the city's customs agents.

The operation took place on 14 October when customs discovered what they said was a suspicious vessel that claimed to be transporting plastic pellets.—AFP ■

# S.Korea's Moon presses Pope Francis again to visit North

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in on 29 October made a fresh attempt to have Pope Francis visit North Korea, at a meeting at the Vatican where the two leaders discussed peace efforts, Yonhap said.

Moon gave Francis one of 136 crosses created with barbed wire from a fence in the demilitarized zone (DMZ), the division across the peninsula for the past 68 years. He said that if the pope were to visit North Korea "when an opportunity arises," such a trip would provide "momentum for peace," presidential spokesperson Park Kyung-mee told the South Korean news agency.

Francis replied he was willing to go if he received a letter of invitation from Pyongyang, it added.

The Vatican said the pontiff

discussed the "promotion of dialogue and reconciliation between Koreans" with Moon, who is in Italy for the G20 summit.

Francis travelled to South Korea in 2014, and held a mass in Seoul dedicated to reunification.

During Moon's first meeting with the pope in 2018, he delivered a verbal invitation from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un for Francis to visit the North -- something which no pope has done before. There are 5.9 million Catholics in South Korea, according to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, accounting for one in nine of the population.

In the North, religious freedom is enshrined in the constitution but all religious activity is completely banned outside of state-sanctioned institutions.

—AFP ■



South Korea's President Moon gives Pope Francis one of 136 crosses created with barbed wire from a fence in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) which divides the Korean peninsula. PHOTO: VATICAN MEDIA/AFP

# Japan's PM Kishida seeks mandate as voters head to polls Sunday

VOTERS in Japan will decide in Sunday's election on whether to let the ruling coalition retain control of the powerful House of Representatives and give Prime Minister Fumio Kishida a mandate for his COVID-19 and economic policies less than a month after he took office.

The Liberal Democratic Party and its smaller partner Komeito are looking to keep their majority in the 465-seat lower chamber of parliament, with the outcome hinging on dozens of battleground constituencies.

Kishida has vowed to secure more hospital beds to treat COVID-19 patients and create a "new capitalism" that sparks economic growth while redistributing wealth to expand the middle class.

Opposition parties including the Constitutional Democratic



The leaders of Japan's ruling and opposition parties pose before taking part in a public debate at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on 18 Oct 2021, ahead of the 31 Oct general election. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who leads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, can be seen in the center. PHOTO: KYODO

Party of Japan have questioned the premier's commitment to addressing income disparity, arguing the "Abenomics" policies pursued by his predecessors Shinzo Abe and Yoshihide Suga have only served to boost

corporate earnings and share prices while failing to achieve wage increases.

Japan's first general election in four years is the first major political test since Kishida took office on Oct. 4.—AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Polish lawmakers approve Belarus border wall

Polish lawmakers on Friday gave the go-ahead to build a controversial wall on the EU member's eastern border with Belarus, in response to an unprecedented wave of migrants, mostly from the Middle East.

The wall will cost an estimated 353 million euros (\$407 million) and is planned to stretch over more than 100 kilometres (60 miles) on the European Union's eastern border.

Polish President Andrzej Duda vowed to sign the emergency legislation within the coming days. Thousands of migrants and refugees -- mostly from the Middle East and Africa -- have tried to cross the Polish border from Belarus since August.—AFP ■

### Philippines delays self-rule polls in predominantly Muslim region

The Philippine government has postponed planned elections for self-rule in a predominantly Muslim region in Mindanao in the southern Philippines until 2025, local media reported Friday.

First elections for the Bangsamoro parliament were supposed to be held in May 2022, but preparations have met delays due to the coronavirus pandemic, the reports said. President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday signed a law amending the Bangsamoro Organic Law, which authorized the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, allowing for the postponement.—Kyodo ■



The Treasury said lethal unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have been used to attack US forces and international shipping in the Gulf region PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# US targets Iran's drone programme with sanctions

THE US Treasury hit Iran's drone programme with sanctions on Friday, boosting pressure on Tehran ahead of the reopening of negotiations on the country's nuclear program.

The Treasury said lethal unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have been used to attack US forces and international shipping in the Gulf region.

The drones have also been supplied to Hezbollah, Hamas, and Yemen's Houthis, and have additionally been seen in Ethiopia, "where the escalating crisis threatens to destabilize the broader region," the Treasury said. The sanctions singled out Brigadier General Saeed Aghajani, who leads the Revolutionary Guards' UAV Command.

The Treasury said that Agha-

jani was behind a 2019 drone attack on an oil refinery in Saudi Arabia as well as the July 29, 2021 attack on a commercial ship off the coast of Oman that saw two crewman killed. Also named to the sanctions blacklist were two companies, Kimia Part Sivan and Oje Parvaz Mado Nafar, which provide components for and help develop the armed UAVs of the Revolutionary Guards.—AFP ■

## AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers: Myanmar beat China Taipei 1-0



Myanmar striker Win Naing Tun (red) tries to get the ball against China Taipei player during their AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 30 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFC**

MYANMAR U-23 men's national football team beat China Taipei 1-0 in the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan yesterday.

The victory of this match gave Myanmar hope to win the tourney but they will have to compete against Viet Nam.

As Myanmar and Viet Nam beat China Taipei 1-0, the winner of the clash will win the tournament and the losing team will have to try to get into the top four.

Myanmar team is lined up with key players: Soe Moe Kyaw, Lwin Moe Aung, Htet Phyto Wai, and Win Naing Tun.

China Taipei team also played with the toughest roster in the qualifiers.

As the China Taipei team have lost to Viet Nam, they tried to get points from the Myanmar team and played against each other.

At the beginning of the match, the Myanmar team was able to put more pressure, but after 10 minutes, China Taipei relied on the counter attack, and 20 minutes later, the match was reciprocated.

In the first half, the Myanmar team had two chances to score, but Win Naing Tun's first shot was sidelined and the second shot hit

the post.

In the second half, both teams changed players and attacked harder.

The Myanmar team did not get many chances to score in the second half but got the single or winning goal in the 79th minute.

The only winning goal for the Myanmar team was scored by substitute player Kaung Myat Thu. Myanmar will take on Viet Nam in the last match of the group on 2 November.

Myanmar and Viet Nam had three points each, and China Taipei, who had lost both games, has no more chances for the next stage.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Coutinho rejoins Brazil for World Cup qualifiers

BARCELONA midfielder Philippe Coutinho got the call-up from Brazil coach Tite on Friday after a year-long absence for upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina.

Coutinho, 29, was sidelined by a knee injury, but has recently resumed playing regularly with Barca. "He's a midfielder who creates plays, a great player regaining his form," Tite told a press conference, announcing his squad. Tite did not however recall 21-year-old Vinicius Junior, despite a sizzling start to the season at Real Madrid. The coach also left out Richarlison, whose season is off to an injury-troubled start at Everton. Neymar will lead Brazil's attack. The 29-year-old superstar will be looking to turn around a disappointing start to



Barcelona midfielder Philippe Coutinho got the call-up from Brazil coach Tite on Friday after a year-long absence for upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina **PHOTO: AFP**

the season, including a lackluster performance in Brazil's 0-0 draw against Colombia on 10 October.

"Ney" did however shine in Brazil's 4-1 thrashing of Uru-

guay on 14 October. Brazil lead the South American qualifiers with 10 wins from 11 matches, and are on the cusp of booking their tickets to Qatar.—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.

## Al Sadd play down talk of imminent Barcelona swoop for Xavi

QATARI club Al Sadd on Friday responded to speculation that Xavi Hernandez could very soon be appointed as the new coach of Barcelona, insisting that the Spaniard remains "fully focused" on his current club.

"In response to what's circulating recently, the #AlSadd management reaffirms that Xavi has a two-year contract with the club and is fully focused on the team's upcoming matches, to maintain our lead at the top of the league and to defend the title," tweeted the Doha-based outfit. The 41-year-old is due to take charge of his team's game in the Qatar Stars League on Saturday. He has been tipped to return to the club where he starred as a player and take over as coach following the sacking earlier this week of Ronald Koeman.

Barcelona are currently ninth in La Liga, six points

outside the top four.

Barca president Joan Laporta on Friday admitted he would like to have Xavi as coach at some point during his presidency. However, he refused to confirm that Xavi will succeed Koeman and maintained Barca have "other options". "I said it when he went to Qatar, that Xavi would end up being the coach of Barca, in fact I would like him to be coach of Barca during my presidency -- what I don't know is when," said Laporta.

Xavi is from the suburbs of Barcelona, came through their famed youth system and played 17 seasons and more than 750 games for the club before leaving for Qatar in 2015.

After playing four seasons for Al Sadd, he took over as manager in 2019 and led them to a league title last season. They won the Amir Cup last week, beating Al Rayyan on penalties in the final.—AFP ■