

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 197, 13th Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Tuesday, 2 November 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.

The address delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on assumption of State duties by Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar the State Administration Council during nine-month period

Esteemed ethnic national people,

I wish health and happiness for all the national people of the Union.

Nine months ago on this day, the State Administration Council started to assume the duties of the State after declaring a state of emergency due to a political situation. I will now explain the accomplishments of SAC during the nine-month period. I will now deal with the matters essential for the nation. First, the SAC adopted the five-point roadmap. In the first point, the government declared the re-establishment of the Union Election Commission, after which, it would take necessary legal action after checking the voter lists. The government is now dealing with the issue in accord with the law as the newly established UEC has completed its voter list scrutiny process.

Secondly, I would recount my determination to launch continuous, effective and accelerated preventive measures against COVID-19. COVID-19 first wave hit the country on 23 March 2020 and ended on 15 August. The second wave hit the country during the period from 16 August last year to 26 June this year. The



records showed 500,073 persons were infected and 18,697 died (3.74 per cent) in the country till 31 October. The infection rate reached new heights in July as 141,908 (33.38 per cent) positive cases were detected. The number of deaths reached the highest point in August as 6,055 (6.05 per cent) deaths were recorded. As the situation was critical dur-

ing the third wave, I had led the meetings of the COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Central Committee and tried to contain the virus. The country was facing a lot of difficulties then. There were many requirements. The economy was sluggish, medicines and oxygen were in short supply and the strength of health staff was weak. My mot-

to amidst the many difficulties was "nothing is more important than life", and in accord with the motto, we made a determination to curb the virus at any cost. So, the government sought both local and foreign supply sources to fulfil the requirements. Moreover, our people showed their culture of providing assistance, which is superior to other

countries. Inspired by this culture, people donated medicines, medical equipment and oxygen they acquired from all available sources. Likewise, retired health staff, Tatmadaw members and civil servants joined forces in the anti-COVID-19 drive by applying all possible means to address the health staff shortage. Through the strenuous efforts, the government could ensure the arrival of vaccines and protective gear from friendly countries, Thailand and China. In consequence, the virus control drive has gained momentum. Today, the infection rate fell below 5% on a national scale. The rate will be around 3% if we do not include the 15 townships where the infection rate was higher. As the government could control the virus within its capacity, it is now arranging to resume all machinery that came to a halt.

The government had to impose stay at home orders because of COVID-19. It issued the order in 119 townships during the period from 28-5-2021 to 24-8-2021. As the situation improved, the order was revoked in 50 townships. But 69 are still under the order.

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Political maturity

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

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Second Amendment Law to the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law State Administration Council Law No 63/2021

12th Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME
1 November 2021

THE State Administration Council hereby enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

- This law shall be called the Second Amendment Law to the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law.
- Section 2 (a) of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted as follow:-
 - Television and Radio Broadcasting means the broadcasting via ground-based TV and radio transmission stations, under ground and above ground cable links and satellite or any other technology for the people to directly catch the television and radio programmes.”
- The phrase “ the fine ranging from K30 million to K50 million” included in Section 96 of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted with the phrase “the imprisonment from three years’ in minimum to five years’ in maximum or the fine from K30 million in minimum to K50 million in maximum or both”.
- The phrase “ the fine ranging from K5 million to K10 million” included in Section 97 of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted with the phrase “the imprisonment from six months’ in minimum to one year’s in maximum or the fine from K5 million in minimum to K10 million in maximum or both”.
- The phrase “ the fine ranging from K10 million to K30 million” included in Section 98 of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted with the phrase “the imprisonment from one year in minimum to three years’ in maximum or the fine from K10 million in minimum to K30

million in maximum or both”.

- The phrase “ the fine ranging from K30 million to K50 million” included in Section 99 of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted with the phrase “the imprisonment from three years’ in minimum to five years’ in maximum or the fine from K30 million in minimum to K50 million in maximum or both”.
- The following section shall be inserted as Section 99-a, under Section 99 of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law:-
 - “99-a: If anyone shall be sentenced for failure to follow or for breaching bylaw, rules, discipline, notification, order, directive or any item of procedure released in accord with the Section 106, one year’s imprisonment in minimum to five years’ imprisonment or K10 millions of fine in minimum to K50 millions in maximum shall be sentenced to the person and the materials related to the case shall be confiscated as public finance.”
- The following section shall be inserted as Section 105-a, under Section 105 of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law:-
 - “105-a: Offences in this law shall be identified as cognizable offences.”

I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Remaining companies notified to report export earnings in 2019

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) has notified relevant companies to clear their accounts of export earnings in 2019 under the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

If the remaining companies (A detailed list can be found on the Central Bank of Myanmar’s website — www.cbm.gov.mm) do not clear their accounts within 30 days from the date of this announcement, they will be required to comply with the Export and Import Procedures of the Ministry of Commerce. Please be informed that we will continue to do so under provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Central Bank of Myanmar

877 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 November, total figure rises to 500,950

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 500,950 after 877 new cases were reported on 1 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 469,218 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,714 after 17 died.—MNA

The address delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on assumption of State duties by Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar the State Administration Council during nine-month period

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The remaining townships should strive to release themselves from stay-at-home orders. As the 12 February was Union Day, which has significant features, the government released 23,369 inmates from prisons under an amnesty order. Myanmar has two significant days, Myanmar New Year Day and Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, on which people do meritorious deeds.

On those days, people pay respects to their teachers and parents. So, we with the goodwill of letting them gain such merits issued the amnesty order for 23,184 persons on Myanmar New Year Day. Likewise, an amnesty order was issued for 5,636 persons, including the ones whose ongoing court hearings were dropped on Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. An amnesty order was also issued for 114 persons on 15 October, the sixth anniversary of NCA. So, a total of 47,869 persons were freed and court hearings of the cases of 4,434 persons were dropped.

Then, I'd like to explain the vaccination of COVID-19. A total of 33.8 million units of vaccines were purchased from India and China in addition to donations. As of 27 January, we started vaccination. Up to 31 October, a total of 13.3 million people have been vaccinated comprising once and twice vaccinated people. Of them, more than 35 per cent of the population aged 45 and above have been vaccinated. Likewise, there are more than 800,000 public service personnel, over 354,000 of whom have been vaccinated, accounting for more than 44.2 per cent. Similarly, we make preparation for the opening of the schools but students need to be vaccinated. So, we emphasized vaccination for the students aged 12 and above. There are more than 1.1 million registered students. Up to 31 October, 980,000 of people have been injected for the first dose, accounting for 84.6 per cent. I notify to all for vaccination of the second dose on 9 November. Likewise, as we are striving for reopening universities and colleges in the near future, we inform the people about preparation for the soonest vaccination to the students registered at universities and colleges. With

regard to the opening of schools, the schools were opened on 1 June. But these schools were closed due to surging of the third wave of COVID-19 on 9 July. At present, infection of the pandemic declines, the basic education schools, private schools and monastic education schools were reopened today except for the schools in 46 townships from nine regions and states where the infection rate of the disease is still high. In this regard, I'd like to request the people to fully abide by the restrictions related to the COVID-19. If so, their moves will mitigate the impacts of the opening of schools. So, they need to strictly follow the disciplines. On one hand, we need to strive for declining COVID-19 infection so as to reopen the schools in 46 remaining townships. Hence, I expect that those from relevant townships and region and state governments need to supervise the preventive measures to secure good situations. I'd like to inform the people about assigning a deputy minister to supervise the Shan State where the infection rate is high and encouraged special task forces in Shan State (East), (North) and (South).

Moreover, I'd like to explain the economic sector. As Myanmar is an agro-based country, I pointed out the importance of water and fertilizer. In collecting data from 75 model townships on rainfalls in Myanmar, we found 54 townships that secured the larger rainfalls more than that of the last year. In collecting data on 250 dams, 31 of them received the water exceeding the volume of last year's. Water inflow to 174 dams was larger in comparison with corresponding period of last year. Another 45 dams could restore the lesser water. Now, there are 15 million acres of monsoon paddy in Myanmar. These acres of land have been placed under monsoon paddy nearly cent per cent. Although water at the dams and volume of rainwater are larger this year, these dams need to be filled with water in summer for irrigating the summer paddy. Likewise, these facilities must have water for irrigating the farmlands for the thriving of crops in October, November and December. Hence, we need to save the

use of water from the dams and control the minimum supply of water from the dams. I would like to urge all to efficiently use the water. Fortunately, although the country received a large volume of rainwater the whole year, the country did not face terrible natural disasters except flooding in some townships of lower Myanmar.

And I would like to explain a little about fuel oil. In the previous 2020-21 financial year, US\$ 2.129 billion worth of diesel and gasoline was imported into the country. I talked about it in my previous speeches. Similarly, more than 800,000 tons of palm oil worth US\$ 826 million was imported into the country in the same fiscal year. We had to spend almost US\$ three billion on fuel and edible oil. The main point is that I would like to make a request to save fuel oil as much as possible. Especially, I believe that it is more beneficial to use public transport like trains, buses and circular rail when travelling. Therefore, railway lines have been reopened as much as we can. Despite sabotages, we are trying to do it because it is beneficial for the country. Therefore, I would like to request the public to encourage travelling by bus and train. Similarly in connection with edible oil, oil crops are grown in Myanmar including peanuts, sesame, niger, sunflower, soya bean and oil palm. According to the statistics reported by the Ministry of Commerce, 66,000 tonnes of edible oil was produced by milling the oil crops after setting aside some for other forms of consumption during the previous year. It suggests that we can produce edible oil at home to some extent. Some of the more than 800,000 tonnes of edible oil we imported were used in industries as some people pointed out. Nevertheless, edible oil consumption is high in Myanmar, according to research. Take a glimpse of curries sold in restaurants. It can be seen that there are many curries cooked in edible oil. In houses, people consume a lot of edible oil. In our traditional eating habits, we consume a lot of tea leaves, boiled yellow peas, toasted dried fish with abundant edible oil. I myself like them. Therefore, the point I would like to make is to use

as little edible oil as possible to save edible oil. This will reduce the imports of edible oil for the country. Therefore, I would like to request the public to mainly reduce the use of fuel oil and then to reduce the consumption of edible oil.

Then, I would like to explain a little about the trade of our country. Trade volume in the 2020-2021 budget year stood at US\$ 29,585.149 million including US\$19,832.131 million worth of maritime trade and US\$9,753.081 million worth of border trade. In terms of export and import, we exported US\$14,927.065 million worth of goods and imported US\$14,658.084 million worth of goods, resulting in a trade surplus of US\$268.98 million. During a similar period in the 2019-2020 financial year, Myanmar's trade deficit stood at US\$ 1,638.749 million. Therefore, it can be said that we are in a better position in trade this year. We can also see that border trade plays a major role. Important countries in the border trade of Myanmar include China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. China and Thailand are major countries in border trade. In the border trade with China, the country imposed some restrictions on our exports in accordance with their disease control policies as COVID-19 infection rates in border areas were high and we could not export as much as we had done. However, as the pandemic is under control at present, we are exerting efforts to reopen border trade. I would like to say that border trade will flourish with momentum if we carry out COVID-19 control measures more strictly in townships in border areas. Therefore, I hope, as I pointed out, that we will have a trade surplus during the mini-budget period from October to March if we can reduce the consumption of the two oils to some extent. I have adopted the export-oriented system and have been encouraging manufacturing.

We encourage the productivity of our ethnic people. I encourage SMEs. If we do it systematically, our export volume will increase and we will see good results in our trade. This is about trade.

There is another thing I

want to urge the people to do. And it is a change in our eating patterns. Traditionally, rice is the staple food of our country. Some eat rice two times a day while some eat three times. Rice is more nutritious. However, eating rice till our stomach is filled cannot guarantee full nutrition in some parts of the body. So we need to reduce eating rice a little bit. If we eat meat, fish and vegetables as necessary, this will facilitate our health. As our country relies on agriculture and livestock breeding, basically, we have enough food. I set aims to ensure abundance in food. First, there must be peace and prosperity. Second, we must have abundant food. This is why the government is helping in various ways to increase agricultural and livestock breeding products. For example, our country is blessed with rivers and creeks. The State is putting fingerlings into the rivers by spending millions of kyats. This will be beneficial to those who receive them. Once we change our eating patterns, our socio health will improve significantly. Normally, a person eats rice in about a condensed milk container each for his breakfast and lunch. In the early morning also, a person eats a half. So, there are about two and a half containers of rice. It is the same in the Tatmadaw also. If we reduce about 10%, we will have a lot of benefits, according to research. So, changing our eating patterns will benefit public health. This is my advice. I would like to urge the people to consider this. There are some regions where rice is not sufficient. For this, coordinative efforts are being made with relevant ministries. If the regions and states concerned are to consider this, I want to say that there will be benefits.

Now is the time we the people must be working together to make the country progressive and stable. There is no reason we cannot achieve this aim if all citizens work with love for the country. Politically, we are also facing various criticism and restrictions. As the saying goes by we must worship ourselves, I strongly believe that our self-reliant efforts and cooperation will make our country develop.

Thank you all.

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 30 November 2021

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 31 October 2021 by the Ministry's announcement dated 1 October 2021.
 - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the afore-mentioned entry restriction measures until 30 November 2021.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 1 November 2021*

Broader and more effective efforts should be made for MITV development by laying down short- and long-term plans, says the MoI Union Minister

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the meeting on the development of the Myanmar International Channel (MITV) held yesterday morning in Yangon.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said the MITV was the first broadcast in English in Myanmar since 2001 intending to help the international community to know the real situation of Myanmar and the development of tourism. In 2010, it partnered with Shwe Thanlwin Media Company to develop MITV's business rapidly and more effectively. He commended the efforts of those who made progress with reforms after 10 years of cooperation. He urged to make efforts to make the international community aware of the real situation in Myanmar, which is also the aim of MITV, as false news about Myanmar is being spread intentionally to put pressure on the country. He called



The MoI Union Minister addresses the meeting on the development of the Myanmar International Channel-MITV in Yangon yesterday.

for long-term plans to be made more effective through a wide range of activities as the role of MITV is very important for the country.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister, accompanied by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, Yangon Region Ministers, and executives from the

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, visited Wazira Cinema located in Kyauktada Township and inspected to upgrade to a red carpet theatre and to hold national-level events in the film industry.

During the visit, he urged to coordinate with the archaeological conservation organi-

zations for renovation as the Wazira Cinema is an ancient heritage building. He instructed them to renovate the cinema into a venue for film festivals, plays, workshops, and an art environment that combines ancient influence with modern cinematic techniques.

Afterwards, he inspected

the demonstration performed at the Thamada Cinema as per the rules of COVID-19 prevention. The Union Minister and party inspected the seat placement system, the use of infrared thermal scanner, ticket sales system, display system and personal health care services, the condition to purify the air inside the cinema with air-conditioners and blowers, and events scheduling for film screenings. He instructed officials concerned to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to prevent the disease infection.

A total of 196 cinemas (221 screens) across Myanmar were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and screenings were suspended from 16 March 2020. At present, as the COVID-19 infection rate has dropped, plans are underway to open cinemas under the COVID-19 rules and regulations so that artists could resume their work that the people would enjoy. — MNA

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

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Religious leaders from Kachin State meet National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and religious leaders from Kachin State was held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre (NSPC) meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and Union Minister at the Office of the Union Government Ministry (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and committee members, pastors from Christian churches in Kachin State, and the Joint Secretary and officials of the Kachin Baptist Church (KBC) attended the video conference.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar

Pyae and Father Dr Kha Aung Tu of the Catholic Church in Myitkyina, Kachin State addressed the meeting.

Then, Secretary of the Committee Lt-Gen Min Naung explained the progress of the peace process and the current situation.

The participants discussed peace and stability in Kachin State. The two sides also discussed the ongoing peace process and the repatriation of refugees.

After that, the Joint Secretary of the Kachin Baptist Church (KBC), Venerable Zay Khaung, and Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made concluding remarks and closed the meeting in the afternoon. —MNA



The meeting takes place between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and Kachin religious leaders.

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



Lorries are seen carrying the imported anti-Covid equipment.

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

On 1 November, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical prod-

ucts, including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by five companies using seven vehicles.

A total of 40 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by two bowsers, one oxygen generator, 1,438 empty oxygen cylinders, 63,600 PPE suits, and 32 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshehaw and Myawady trading posts.

Two bowsers carrying liquid oxygen transported them to Yangon and Mawlamyine via

Myawady trading posts.

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

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

Terrorists threaten schoolchildren going to school with bomb blasts

IN addition to committing acts of vandalism and armed attacks, CRPH, NUG, and PDF terrorists have taken up a next-level terrorist act by exploding schools in some regions and states in Myanmar.

On 31 October, at around 6:50 pm, a bomb explosion happened near No (1) Basic Education Primary School in Kadoekon ward, Myoma ward, ChaungU town in Sagaing Region. When the security forces arrived at the scene following the report, a dead terrorist was found with wounds from the explosion and a mobile phone was confiscated near him. The blast shattered the school's ceilings and win-

dows.

A similar situation was happened yesterday afternoon in front of the Basic Education High School (Kyimyindine) on Bagayar road and security forces seized the pieces of PVC pipe and circuits with the pieces of the exploded phone. It is reported that the blast didn't affect anyone or any building.

As a result of these incidents, the people are requested to work together with the security forces for the stability of the country, and it is also reported that investigations are underway to arrest them as soon as possible and to take effective action against them. — MNA



Shreds of damages are seen in the aftermath of handmade bomb blast.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Students return to schools in Yangon Region

STUDENTS are now happily back in school in Yangon Region as the COVID-19 cases across the country significantly dropped. All the schools were reopened on 1 November, in line with the health protocols for COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health.

The handwash basins are installed in front of the class and at the exit of the school. All the students and the teachers are

mandatory to strictly adhere to the health guidelines, including measuring body temperatures, handwashing and maintaining six-feet social distancing.

There are a total of 2,758 basic education schools, 244 private schools and 230 monastic schools, totalling 3,232 schools in Yangon Region during the 2021-2022 academic year. — Ko Ko Zaw/GNLM



Students get their body temperatures measured at No.5 BEHS in Mayangon Township. **PHOTOS: LATT LATT**



Body temperatures measurement at the Aungsan Thuria Hla Thaug School.



Schoolchildren are seen learning under protective measures from the Covid pandemic.



Basic education schools reopened in Mandalay

PRIMARY schools in Mandalay Region have been temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Now that the number of infections has dropped, primary schools have been allowed to reopen since yesterday.

Teachers measured body temperature for students at school entrances. Teachers also distributed ready-made masks and supervised handwashing at the school basins.

COVID-19 epidemic education posters are also posted in public places to raise health awareness. It is learned that the Myanmar Police Force was responsible for the security outside the school.

Currently, teachers are accepting students who have not been enrolled during the enrollment week for various reasons so that they do not lose their rights to study and will be accepted for up to three weeks.

For the successful reopening of primary schools, authorities have organized seating in the classrooms following the COVID-19 rules. The pandemic prevention programs were set up in schools and school renovations are being carried out in advance.

Students aged 12 and above in Mandalay Region have been vaccinated against COVID-19 for the school reopening, authorities said.

In Mandalay Region, basic



Schoolchildren are seen returning to classrooms following Covid rules.

education schools were opened on 1 June for the 2021-2022 academic year, and schools were temporarily closed on 9 July due to the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic.

The number of infections has gradually decreased and

thus primary schools have been allowed to reopen.

There are a total of 4,821 schools including 4,263 basic education schools, 241 private schools and 317 monastic schools in the region. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM

Schools reopened under COVID-19 precautionary measures in Nay Pyi Taw

AFTER a speedy vaccination to students over the age of 12, the Government has announced to reopen schools on 1 November that were temporarily closed since July in various regions and states due to the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak.

As the spread of the COVID-19 virus has also declined in the country, schools are now welcoming students back under the COVID-19 prevention measures set by the Ministry of Health. Teachers make sure that students are wearing masks and

face shields at all times, in addition to taking temperature and monitoring the hand washing of the students before entering the school.

To prevent the crowd, classrooms are also prepared for only 30 or 40 students in one room. It is also learnt that a total of 971 students, 90 per cent of the students, attended No (6) Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw, according to U Win Khaing, headmaster of the school. He also added that students who have not been enrolled for various reasons



The BEHS No.5 headmaster.



The BEHS No.6 headmaster.



PHOTOS : KO KO HTEIN



Classrooms are alive once again with schoolchildren returning to schools in Nay Pyi Taw.



Students are seen learning while abiding by the health protocol.

will be accepted within three weeks, and a total of 517 students in the school have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

At No (5) Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw, classroom arrangements have been made to ensure that students can attend school as per the COVID-19 guidelines. As the school is in a central location, it is guarded by security. There are reportedly a total of 877 students who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, and students are invited to come and receive the vaccine. U

Win Myint Oo, headmaster of the school, said arrangements will be made to vaccinate the rest of the students, and those who haven't enrolled yet will be admitted within three weeks.

It is also seen that teachers, township administration bodies, members of the Fire Brigade and the Myanmar Police Force are providing security in and out of the schools so that children can learn safely. Schools were opened on 1 June and closed on 9 July during the COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar. It is reported that there are a total of 757 basic education schools, 28 monastic education schools and 74 private schools in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. — Aung Thant/GNLM

Prohibit high decibel sounds in the society for public convenience

THE acts which are beyond nature can be identified as pollutions. Wikipedia identifies pollution as the introduction of contaminants into the natural environment that causes adverse change. Pollution can take the form of chemical substances or energy, such as noise, heat, or light. Sound pollution of which is one of the pollutions namely air pollution, light pollution, litter, noise pollution, plastic pollution, soil contamination, radioactive contamination, thermal pollution, visual pollution, and water pollution.

Hence, those using the high decibels of sound especially vendors using the hand-speakers should conscientiously control their activities with sympathy for all of the people in the Myanmar society.

Currently, the people from urban and rural areas are troubled in mind because of loud sounds of some vendors with the use of hand-speakers. Loud sounds are covering all the streets all day time, making the mental and physical troubles to the people. Some vendors do not have any consideration in turning on their loud sounds in the sale of goods. Their acts harm the daily lifestyle of the people. Especially, older persons and patients suffering from chronic diseases, pregnant women as well as children can face the side effects under the high decibels.

In fact, anyone who always hears sounds with more than 75 decibels may face a disorder of hearing. Those who always hear the sounds with more than 55 decibels may face health problems, according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization.

Despite having the fundamental rights of citizens, the people do not have the authority to prohibit the use of high decibel sounds. But, the local authorities have the authority to take any action against those who breach the laws related to sound pollution. As such, they have to manage the mitigation of sound pollution as part of serving the interests of the people.

Those hand-speaker users should avoid the acts of turning on the loud sounds in their daily works such as selling products, holding donation ceremonies and accepting donations. They should culture the sympathy over the people in using the loud sounds of the vendors in the streets one after another.

In fact, the restrictions related to noisy sounds have been prescribed in Myanmar but following the disciplines and control measures are still weak in the society. Hence, those using the high decibels of sound especially vendors using the hand-speakers should conscientiously control their activities with sympathy for all of the people in the Myanmar society.



As rivals reopen, Hong Kong doubles down on virus isolation

HONG Kong's decision to descend deeper into international coronavirus isolation as rivals reopen is causing consternation among managers at multinationals who see no end to a zero-Covid strategy imposed by a leadership beholden to Beijing.

The southern Chinese business hub has kept the coronavirus at bay thanks to some of the world's strictest quarantine rules with most arrivals undergoing 14 to 21 days of hotel confinement.

Competitors such as London, New York, Tokyo and Singapore have begun to live with the disease with face-to-face meetings, conferences and executive travel slowly returning.

But Hong Kong, which dubs itself "Asia's World City", has gone in the opposite direction.

And earlier this week officials further tightened the rules to try to secure a travel bubble with the mainland, even as China experiences its fourth outbreak in the past five months.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam has said restoring travel to the mainland is "more important" than reopening internationally

and that the city needs to be even stricter than authorities north of the border to win Beijing's trust.

That choice has sparked alarm as executives find themselves increasingly struggling to retain talent and replace those that are leaving.

AFP spoke to six senior managers at international companies to gauge whether — as one banking lobby group warned last week — Hong Kong's long-term viability as a business hub is at risk.

All asked to remain anonymous so they could speak candidly, and painted a similar picture.

One basket

The pandemic began with praise for the way the city kept the coronavirus on the back foot and morphed into optimism that vaccinations would return some sort of normality this year.

But that has given way to fears that Hong Kong, like China, could remain closed off for much of next year.

"Everyone I talk to expects there will definitely be no quarantine lift until after the Winter

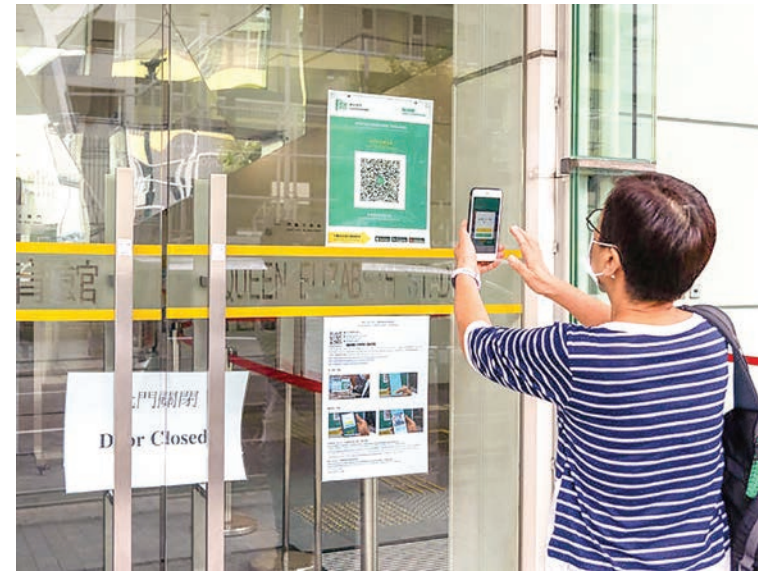
Olympics (in February) and also perhaps not until Xi Jinping gets himself re-elected," James, an Australian banker who has spent 30 years in Hong Kong, told AFP.

China's leaders will hold a gathering in October at which President Xi is expected to secure a third term and there are growing expectations that Beijing will not risk a reopening of the borders until that sensitive date has passed.

Regular leaving parties and a sudden drop in waiting lists for international schools, James said, pointed to a small but steady exodus of foreign white-collar workers from Hong Kong "especially those with families".

A managing director at a global investment bank who gave his name as John said he had spent 49 days in quarantine over the past 15 months and was now considering moving to either Singapore or London.

"We have staff every month relocating," he said, adding it felt like Hong Kong's government was putting "all the marbles... in one basket" by prioritising travel with China over



In this picture taken on 30 October 2021, a woman scans a QR code for the government's "Leave Home Safe" app to trace people in the advent of any COVID-19 outbreaks in Hong Kong. PHOTO: AFP

the rest of the world.

And Philippe, who works at a global consultancy firm, described how a major competitor recently held a gathering of all regional heads in London.

"They all went except their guy based in Hong Kong," he told AFP.

'Unsustainable'

Among the stricter rules Hong Kong announced this week were an end to most of

the few remaining quarantine exemptions, which included VIP business figures deemed crucial to the city's operation.

Officials have also declared recovered coronavirus patients must spend a further 14 days in quarantine once they have been discharged.

That latter provision has sparked criticism that Hong Kong appears to be drifting away from a science-based health policy.

Ben Cowling, an epidemiologist at the University of Hong Kong who advises the government, said ending the small number of exemptions "will have enormous economic costs" but is at least "evidence-based".

"But there doesn't seem to be any epidemiological rationale for that additional 14 days," he told AFP, adding that none of Hong Kong's 10,000 discharged patients has caused an outbreak.

The new rules are the latest public health inconsistency to fuel suspicions in Hong Kong that the coronavirus is being used to keep the population down after democracy protests two years ago and a subsequent crackdown on dissent.

At present, 240 people can attend an indoor wedding banquet but more than four people eating sandwiches together in a park remains banned.

One American who works for an asset management firm said his family had to undergo mandatory quarantine when someone in his building tested positive.

SOURCE: AFP

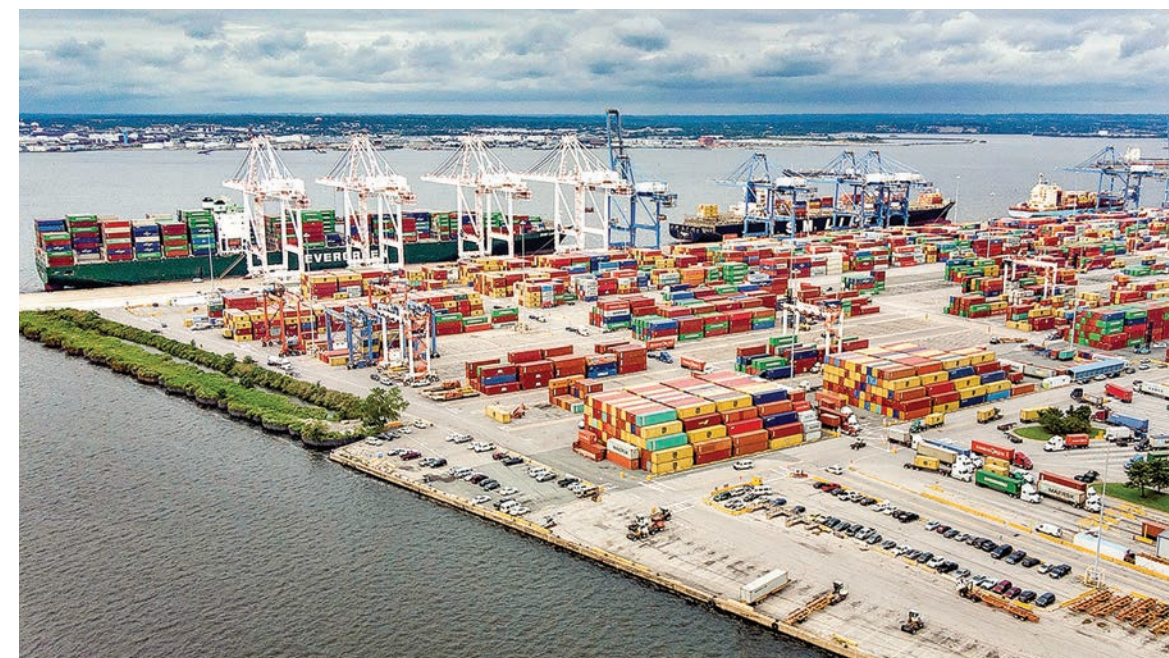
Delta wave slowed US economic growth in third quarter

THE US economic expansion slowed dramatically in the third quarter to an annual rate of just two per cent as consumer spending was choked by resurgent Covid-19 infections, the government said Thursday.

The spread of the Delta variant of the virus over the summer combined with renewed restrictions and global supply snags including shortages of workers and computer chips took a toll on the economy, cutting growth from the 6.7 per cent pace in the prior quarter.

The data was a setback for President Joe Biden and came shortly before he unveiled a \$1.75 trillion social spending package that will anchor his "Build Back Better" agenda and serve as the signal achievement of his presidency — if it wins congressional approval.

Biden called the framework "historic," saying it would help create jobs and "put us on a path not only to compete but to win



Ships, cargo containers, and tractor trailers are seen at the Seagirt Marine Terminal in the Port of Baltimore on 21 September 2018, in Baltimore, Maryland. PHOTO: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP

the economic competition for the 21st century against China and every other major country in the world."

The latest impact of the pandemic on the world's largest economy was most notable in the

more than 26 per cent collapse in purchases of big-ticket manufactured goods in the latest three months, the Commerce Department reported.

That drop was partly offset by the 7.9 per cent increase in

spending on services like travel and hotels, though that was slower than the gain in the prior quarter, according to the data.

Despite the worse-than-expected result in the latest quarter, economists are confident

growth will accelerate at the end of 2021.

"Growth was crushed by consumption slowing" as government-funded pandemic stimulus payments ended, said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics.

But he predicted the fourth quarter "will be very different; spending on services is already rebounding as Delta subsides."

Inflation still high

Kevin Brady, the top Republican lawmaker on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, said the data shows "economic growth has already peaked for President Biden's presidency."

He warned that the new spending plan "will drive prices up higher and longer."

Rising prices — including oil pushing above \$80 a barrel for the first time in years — have become a growing source of concern, raising fears inflation could

spiral out of control and force the Federal Reserve and other central banks to hike interest rates and slow growth.

There was some good news as inflation measured by the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index retreated in the July-September period, but remained at a still-high 5.3 per cent compared to 6.5 per cent in the second quarter.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, the closely-watched inflation gauge increased only 4.5 per cent.

Inflation is expected to continue to rise until the pandemic-inflicted bottlenecks are resolved worldwide, likely sometime in 2022.

The hot real estate market, which has seen home sales and prices surging during the pandemic, showed signs of cooling as residential investment dropped nearly eight per cent, according to the data.

SOURCE: AFP

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 1 November 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 2 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Mon State. 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 continuations of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

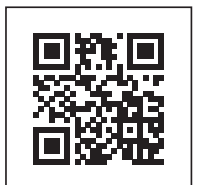
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Classrooms come alive as students return to schools while adhering to health rules



Chaungzon Township, Mon State. PHOTOS: IPRD



Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region.



Loikaw Township, Kayah State.



Madaya Township, Mandalay Region.



Taunggyi Township, Shan State.



Hlaingbwe Township, Hpa-an District, Kayin State.



Maei Town, Rakhine State.



Minbu (Sagu) Township, Minbu District, Magway Region.



Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region.



2021/11/01 10:07
Tanai Township, Myitkyina District, Kachin State.



Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region.

Companies registered on MyCO stands around 6,000 in ten months: DICA

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached 5,992 in the past ten months this year, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

During the January-September period, the number of registered companies on MyCO was 1,373 in January, 188 in February, 163 in March, 254 in April, 686 in May, 775 in June, 433 in July, 360 in August, 733 in September and 1,027 in October, the DICA's statistics showed.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, the DICA stated.

Last year, the figures of registered companies stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February and 1,015 in March, only 348 companies in April, 798 in May, 1,314 in June, 1,650 in July, 1,551 in August, 1,378 in September, 1,693



As per DICA's report, over 16,000 companies were suspended so far for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

in October, 1,099 in November and 1,521 in December, as per statistics of the DICA.

In 2019, the figure stood at 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, and over 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August and 1,181 in September. The figures reached a fresh new peak of 2,059 in October 2019. Then, 1,615 new companies in November and 1,772 in

December were recorded, data of the DICA showed.

When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies registered on MyCO. The figure stood at 2,218 in September 2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November and 1,364 in December 2018.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of

incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the pre-

scribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, over 16,000 companies were suspended so far for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. —NN/GNLM

China greenlights import of Myanmar industrial crops



The value of imports through the Chinshwehaw border stood at US\$461.378 million in the financial year 2020-2021, which plunged from \$541.8 million recorded in the FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

CHINESE authorities from Yunnan Province which is close to Myanmar's Chinshwehaw border in northeastern Shan State gave the go-ahead to four industrial crops from Myanmar, including sugarcane, rubber, tragacanth gum and cotton.

Those crops will be conveyed to China once the Ministry of Commerce in Myanmar grants a permit.

China shut down all the border posts because of the COVID-19 negative consequences. Only those four items are permitted for import at present, Sai Khin Maung, the executive of Muse-Namkham Border Trade Chamber of Commerce said.

Normally, Myanmar exports agricultural products including rice, beans and corns, sugarcane and chilli pepper. The

raw CMP materials, electrical appliances and consumer goods are imported into the country.

The value of imports through the Chinshwehaw border stood at US\$461.378 million in the financial year 2020-2021, which plunged from \$541.8 million recorded in the FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. —KK/GNLM

Potato prices up by K1,000 in Sagaing Region

THE price of potatoes in the Sagaing Region has registered an increase of K1,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg).

"This year, the price of the potato remains in the bull market and touched a high of K1,500 per viss. It fetched only K500-600 in the previous year. The prices may vary depending on the size," said a warehouse owner.

The cultivation of potatoes costs K800,000-900,000 per acre and an acre produces about 3,500-4,000 visses.

Sagaing Region Agriculture Department is primarily focusing on the expansion of sowing acreage, pedigree crops and Good Agricultural Practices.

"The number of potato acres are not expanded for now. The potato from Shan State also flows into the region. The potato is stored systematically in the cold storage for the coming growing season," said U Aung Kyi Win, head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

The department stated that about 6,800 acres of potato are projected this cold season in

Sagaing Region, covering 2,600 acres in Shwebo District, over 700 in Sagaing District, 650 in Katha District, 80 acres in Kalay District, 830 in Tamu District, 730 each in Mawlaik and Hkamti and over 450 in Naga Self-Administered Zone.

Normally, the price of potatoes rises in the monsoon season. This year, potato prices remain in the upward trend.

Additionally, tracking the strict restriction measures to contain the COVID-19, the commodity prices fluctuate in the domestic market.

Last year, flooding the market with a bulk supply of potatoes resulted in a price drop. Nevertheless, this staple food potato is highly demanded this year amid the COVID-19 consequences, causing the price to rise significantly.

There are over 90,000 acres of potato plantations across the country. About 600,000 tonnes are produced yearly. Local potato consumption is estimated at 350,000 tonnes. —Lu Lay, KK/GNLM

Sony upgrades full-year net profit and sales forecast

SONY upgraded its full-year sales and profit forecast on Thursday, saying it expected strong performances in the music, movie and electronics sectors.

The optimistic outlook came despite a lacklustre second quarter overall, with net profit down more than half compared with its extraordinary results in the same period

last year.

The Japanese conglomerate, which this year bought top online anime library Crunchyroll for \$1.2 billion, said it expected the purchase to boost sales and profit in its movie division.

Several factors, including sales via streaming services and “licence revenue in the anime business”, are also pro-

jected to lift music profits, as Sony enjoys steady growth in its entertainment businesses.

Sony Group is now projecting a net profit of 730 billion yen (\$6.4 billion) for this fiscal year, up from its earlier estimate of 700 billion yen. It also raised its annual sales forecast from 9.7 trillion yen to 9.9 trillion yen.

One business area that has posted strong results in the first

half is electronics, led by booming demand for digital cameras.

“Sony is displaying a strong performance in its mainstream electronics sector,” Hideki Yasuda, an analyst at Ace Research Institute in Tokyo, told AFP.

“Its music sector is seen to remain solid while movie-related businesses are expected to recover firmly. These strong sectors offset declines in its

gaming business,” Yasuda said.

The group’s net profit more than halved for the second quarter to 213.1 billion yen as the pandemic boom enjoyed by the gaming sector, when people turned to indoor entertainment during virus lockdowns, slowed.

A one-time tax reduction also contributed to strong net profit results in the same quarter last year. — AFP ■

Uzbek traders learn to do business with Taliban

AS lorries arrive in bursts of dust at a logistics hub in Uzbekistan’s southern city of Termez, squatting drivers share complaints about how trade has suffered since the Taliban seized power next-door.

“Before, our journey there and back took three days, now we are there for a week,” said Rafik Khujakov, an Uzbek who makes regular deliveries of beans to the Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif and brings back potatoes.

“Their people don’t know how to work the computers!”

Khujakov said the Taliban had cracked down on border corruption, but companies and drivers were losing money because of lengthy delays.

“They check and recheck



This picture taken on 27 October 2021 shows a truck arriving from Uzbekistan at the Afghanistan-Uzbekistan Friendship Bridge in Hairatan, about 82 kms north of Mazar-i-Sharif. PHOTO: AFP

each other. It has become very difficult,” he moaned, in a refrain echoed by several other traders at the hub.

More than two months after the Taliban seized power in

Afghanistan, border traders in southern Uzbekistan are nevertheless discovering that it is possible — if complicated — to do business with the religious hardliners. — AFP ■

Ryanair loss narrows sharply as skies reopen

IRISH no-frills airline Ryanair on Monday said net losses narrowed sharply during its first half as the lifting of travel restrictions saw passenger traffic more than double.

The group meanwhile added that it was considering a removal of its non-primary shares listing in London with Brexit having caused a material drop in trading.

Ryanair’s net loss for the six months to the end of September came in at 48 million euros (\$55 million), which compared to a loss after tax of 411 million euros a year earlier.

The Dublin-based carrier that flies mainly throughout Europe added in its earnings statement that the group’s recovery primarily occurred during its second quarter or three months to the end of September.

“Following a very badly disrupted first quarter, which saw most Easter flights cancelled and a slower than expected easing of EU government travel restrictions... traffic rebounded in the second quarter with the successful rollout” of the European Union’s vaccine passport, said Ryanair chief executive Michael O’Leary.

Ryanair said its passenger numbers soared by 128 per cent to 39.1 million in its first half.

Revenue jumped 83 per cent to 2.15 billion euros.

“In recent weeks, we have seen a surge in bookings for the October mid-term (school) and Christmas breaks and we expect this peak buoyancy to continue into Easter,” O’Leary said.

The airline carried 11.3 million passengers in October,

almost three times the amount in the same month of 2020.

But Ryanair nevertheless expects a full-year loss of between 100 million and 200 million euros.

“This outturn will be crucially dependent on the continued rollout of vaccines and no adverse COVID-19 developments,” O’Leary added.

Ryanair recently announced plans to create more than 5,000 jobs over the next five years as the aviation sector recovers.

Airlines, including Ryanair, axed thousands of jobs in 2020 as the deadly pandemic grounded planes.

The industry has since been boosted by the lifting of international travel restrictions — with full reopenings held back by the Delta variant of the coronavirus. — AFP ■

Manhattan office workers are coming back, but slowly

THERE is still a ways to go, but Robert Byrnes has been heartened by signs that more New Yorkers are getting back to the office after the coronavirus pandemic.

“The subway train was absolutely packed this morning,” he said. “I’m back to waiting in lines at lunchtime.”

Still, Byrnes, who heads the East Midtown Partnership, a trade group whose offices are near Grand Central Station, estimated that only about one third of the neighbourhood’s workforce has come back to their cubicles.

“Quick meal-type restaurants are still suffering a severe financial impact,” he said. “It’s slowly getting better.”

Other benchmarks corroborate Byrnes’s sense of the lag in New York office employees’ return to in-person workdays.

In May, 62 per cent of large employers surveyed by the Partnership for New York City estimated that their workers would be back in the office by September.

But in August, only 41 per cent gave that same timeframe.

Building security company Kastle estimates that New York’s buildings are currently at 32 per cent of their normal levels, putting it behind the 37 per cent average of the nation’s 10 largest cities.

The upshot is that around 30 per cent of the stores near Grand Central remain vacant, according to a report published in early October from the Real Estate Board of New York.

The casualties include some longtime institutions, such as the Marriott hotel on Lexington Avenue, which opened in 1924.

Lasting change?

Other New York neighbourhoods hit hard by lockdowns to combat Covid-19 are coming back more quickly. The catch is they tend not to rely on office workers.

This includes Times Square, which has seen more tourists of late as Broadway theaters have reopened. Tom Harris, president of the Times Square Alliance, said the neighbourhood now sees about 225,000 people a day, up from 145,000 a day in May. — AFP ■



Commuters walk through Grand Central station in Manhattan, New York city on 28 September 2021. There is still a ways to go, but Robert Byrnes has been heartened by signs that more New Yorkers are getting back to the office after the coronavirus pandemic. “The subway train was absolutely packed this morning,” he said. “I’m back to waiting in lines at lunchtime.” PHOTO: ED JONES / AFP

Tokyo leads most Asian markets up but China data hits Hong Kong

MOST Asian and European markets rose Monday, with Tokyo leading the way as a win for Japan's ruling party in a weekend general election fuelled hopes it will push ahead with a fresh stimulus, though Hong Kong was hit by data showing further weakness in China's economy.

News that inflation had hit a 30-year high in the United States and a 13-year peak in the eurozone added to long-running concerns that price rises are in danger of running out of control, while piling more pressure on central banks

to tighten monetary policy. The spotlight is now on the Federal Reserve's meeting this week, where it is expected to unveil a timetable for tapering its vast bond-buying programme, while boss Jerome Powell's statement afterwards will be followed for an idea about when it will start hiking interest rates.

"Given (the beginning of tapering) is well expected, more interest is likely to be in Chair Powell's press conference and whether this hints the Fed is becoming less comfort-

able with the inflation picture and whether they are starting to see the case for multiple hikes in 2022 as the market is pricing," said National Australia Bank's Rodrigo Catril.

Expectations for higher US rates have rallied the dollar and put it on course for 115 yen for the first time since early 2017. The decision comes as the Bank of England is tipped to lift rates this week, following in the footsteps of other financial authorities in South Korea, New Zealand and Singapore, among others. — AFP ■



A pedestrian walks past an electronic quotation board displaying share prices of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 1 November 2021. PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI / AFP

Itochu ties up with Chinese car designer IAT for commercial EVs

ITOCHU Corp has tied up with Beijing-based car engineering firm IAT Automobile Technology Co to explore business opportunities in global markets outside China.

The two companies have agreed on cooperation in a range of EV-related business, including promoting sales of IAT-designed EV vans and relevant components as well as creating opportunities for vehicle development, the Japanese trading house said.

IAT has engaged in automotive product planning, designing and customizing as well as auto parts development since its founding in 2007.

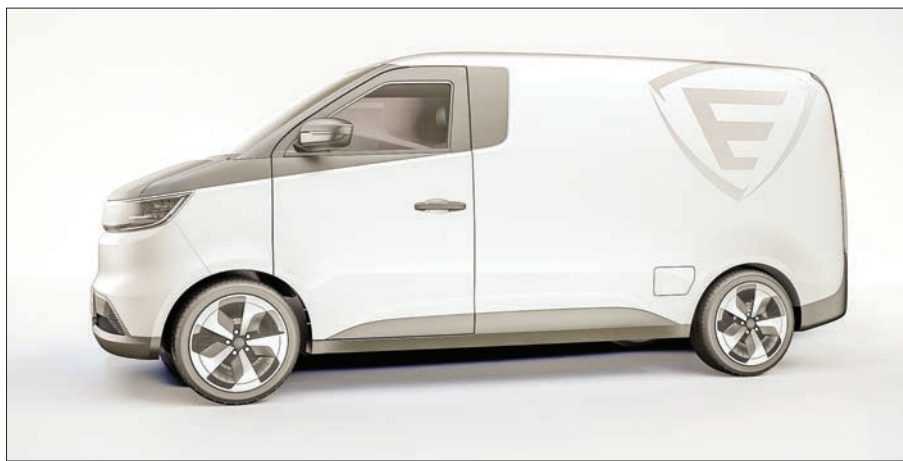


Photo shows an image of a commercial EV designed by IAT Automobile Technology Co. PHOTO: NNA/KYODO NEWS

It deals with both gasoline and electric vehicles, having started EV development in 2009.

It is one of the major independent auto engineering companies in China with a 1,700-strong

workforce in research and development activities and its customer list has more than 60 car-makers based in Europe, Japan, South Korea and China. Itochu plans to optimize the partnership

with IAT for marketing compact EV vans for delivery and distribution services, particularly in Asian countries, many of which have yet to see an EV market fully take off.—Kyodo News ■

Coca-Cola to buy out sports drink brand BodyArmor: report

COCA-COLA is preparing to take full control of the sports drink group BodyArmor in a deal worth \$5.6 billion, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.

Coca-Cola already holds a 30 per cent stake in the sports drink group.

The buyout, which would value BodyArmor at about \$8 billion, would see the soda giant buy the remaining 70 per cent from BodyArmor's founders and investors, as well as a group of professional athletes who have invested in the company.

BodyArmor was backed at its founding in 2011 by basketball star

Kobe Bryant, who died in a helicopter crash in early 2020 and had invested \$6 million in the company.

The Journal reported that Bryant's estate should collect about \$400 million from the deal, citing people close to the case. Coca-Cola declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

BodyArmor is a competitor to industry giant Gatorade, which is owned by PepsiCo, Coca-Cola's main business rival. BodyArmor expects sales to reach \$1.4 billion this year, compared to \$250 million in 2018 when Coca-Cola first invested in the company. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KAIROS TRIUMPH V.59

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KAIROS TRIUMPH V.59 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-11-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MOL LOGISTICS (MYANMAR) CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0247-037N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0247-037N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-11-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

TUG;MJA GLORY BG;OLYMPIC MATAPURA

Consignees of cargo carried on TUG;MJA GLORY BG;OLYMPIC MATAPURA V NO.(V.11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-11-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

World leaders in Glasgow for 'last, best hope' climate summit

MORE than 120 world leaders meet in Glasgow on Monday in a "last, best hope" to tackle the climate crisis and avert a looming global disaster.

"It's one minute to midnight and we need to act now," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was due to tell them, according to extracts from his speech.

"If we don't get serious about climate change today, it will be too late for our children to do so tomorrow."

Observers had hoped a weekend meeting in Rome of leaders of the G20 nations, which between them emit nearly 80 per cent of global carbon



Visitors attend the first day of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow, Scotland, on 31 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

emissions, would give a strong impetus to the Glasgow COP26 summit, which was postponed for a year due to the pandemic.

The G20 major economies committed on Sunday to the key goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — the most ambitious target of the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement.

They also agreed to end funding for new unabated coal plants abroad — those whose emissions have not gone through any filtering process — by the end of 2021.

But this did not convince NGOs, the British prime minister or the United Nations.

"While I welcome the G20's recommitment to global solutions, I leave Rome with my hopes unfulfilled — but at least

they are not buried," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Twitter.

'Going to be very difficult'

"We've inched forward (at the G20). We've put ourselves in a reasonable position for COP in Glasgow but it's going to be very difficult in the next few days," Johnson said Sunday, before warning: "If Glasgow fails, then the whole thing fails." The Glasgow gathering, which runs until 12 November, comes as an accelerating onslaught of extreme weather events across the world underscores the devastating impacts of climate change from 150 years of burning fossil fuels. — AFP ■

Denied care, millions of Americans condemned to toothache

SWOLLEN gums, rotten teeth, patients in excruciating pain, children afraid to smile.

This is what Roslyn Kellum and her colleagues see when they crisscross the United States in a trailer van to provide much needed oral care to tens of thousands of patients who cannot afford to go to the dentist.

"They choose between getting their teeth treated or paying the bills, or gas in the tank, or food on the table, or paying rent," Kellum, dental director at Mission of Mercy, a Christian charity providing free medical and dental care to low-income Americans in several US states, told AFP.

"So they choose to put gas in the tank or food on the table and neglect their teeth."

Health care advocates had been hoping that President Joe Biden's huge social spending plan would finally reverse a decades-old situation where dental benefits were excluded from the national health insurance plan for millions of American seniors.

But faced with resistance from both Republicans and members of his own Democratic Party, Biden had to significantly pare back his plan and oral care has been left out of the latest \$1.75 trillion blueprint.

Historically, dental care has been separate from general health care in the United States, and when Medicare, the national health insurance program for the elderly and

the disabled, was established in 1965, dental benefits were left out.

"Keeping teeth in your mouth as you grow old should not be a luxury in this country," Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders fumed recently.

But for many Americans it is.

Maria Hernandez, 53, an in-home care provider in Washington, does not have dental insurance and cannot afford to pay out of pocket.

Earlier this week she went to get her teeth examined and treated at a free clinic run by Bread for the City, a charity that provides food and medical care to underserved communities in the US capital.

But Hernandez told of her friend, also uninsured but unaware of the clinic, who was in so much pain from an aching tooth that she tried to extract it at home herself.

"I think it's really bad. A lot of people southside, they cannot pay, because, you know, dental care is really, really expensive," Hernandez, a heavy-set woman with grey hair, told AFP, referring to an underprivileged area of Washington.

"We are low-income, we can't pay."

Twenty-four million American seniors, or nearly half of those enrolled in Medicare, don't have any dental coverage, according to a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a non-profit focused on health policy. — AFP ■

Sputnik jab proves ineffective against resistant Russians

SOME call it "experimental", some don't trust the government, some even buy fake certificates — as their country sees a record coronavirus surge, Russians are proving stubbornly resistant to the country's Sputnik V vaccine.

Russia is among the countries worst-hit by the COVID pandemic and a devastating wave this autumn has seen infections and deaths reach new records, with more than 1,000 fatalities per day.

But while the country has several locally produced vaccines including Sputnik V, only about a third of its population has been inoculated.

With global coronavirus fatalities soon set to top five million, the scepticism of Rus-



A healthcare worker administers a dose of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine to a patient at a vaccination centre in the GUM State Department store in Moscow on 21 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

sians underlines the difficulties that remain in the global fight against Covid.

Sputnik V was announced with great fanfare last year by

President Vladimir Putin as the first registered coronavirus vaccine and is freely available at clinics and vaccination centres across the country. — AFP ■

IMF head urges COP26 leaders to ramp up climate ambition

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva on Sunday urged world leaders gathered at the COP26 summit in Glasgow to show greater policy ambition, calling climate change a "grave threat to macroeconomic and financial stability." Georgieva published a blog post titled "Climate Threat Demands More Ambitious Global Action" before heading to Glasgow, where she will take part in the climate talks according to an IMF spokesperson.

If unchanged, "global poli-

cies will leave 2030 carbon emissions far higher than needed" to keep alive the goal of limiting global warming to only 1.5 degrees Celsius, wrote the International Monetary Fund's managing director. "To achieve these cuts, policymakers attending COP26 must address two critical gaps: in ambition and in policy." Georgieva urged advanced economies to reduce emissions "for reasons of equity and historical responsibility".

"Even if current commit-

ments for 2030 were met, this would only amount to between one- and two-thirds of the reductions needed for temperature goals," she said.

"Regardless of how cuts are spread across country groups, everyone has to do more." The IMF head called on advanced economies to stick to their commitment to provide \$100 billion per year in financing to low-income countries, starting in 2020, to offset the cost of moving away from fossil fuels. — AFP ■

Hopes high as tourists touch down for Thailand reopening

OVERSEAS tourists began pouring into Bangkok and the holiday island of Phuket on Monday as Thailand kickstarted its tourism industry after 18 months of COVID curbs.

The coronavirus pandemic hammered the kingdom's tourism-reliant economy, which last year saw its worst performance since the 1997 Asian financial crisis as arrivals dwindled more than 80 per cent.

Thai authorities have given the green light to vaccinated tourists from over 60 "low-risk" countries to skip hotel quarantine — providing the sector a much-needed lifeline.

Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport and Phuket's international terminal were the first on Monday morning to receive visitors, with mostly European tourists greeted by staff dressed

in PPE gear to process their documents.

"We are very, very happy," Andre Winkler, 55, told AFP after he and his partner passed immigration in Bangkok.

"We stay in Thailand for six months every year for winter time because in Germany, it's cold... The last time, before corona, we came to Thailand was 2019," he said. "It's been too long."

In Phuket, Susanne Peter, 57, said she and her partner will stay on the island for a week before moving on to Bangkok and Hua Hin, another beach getaway.

"We love the (Thai) people, they are really kind and really friendly," she told AFP, adding this was their first trip since the pandemic began.

Airports of Thailand —



Tourists walk on a beach on the Thai island of Phuket on 1 November 2021, as Thailand welcomes the first group of tourists fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 coronavirus without quarantine. **PHOTO: MLADEN ANTONOV / AFP**

which manages the country's international terminals — said it expects Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi to receive 30,000 passengers

on Monday.

Visitors are required to take a COVID test upon landing, and spend a night at a govern-

ment-approved hotel to await results before being allowed to travel freely across the kingdom. — AFP ■

Kishida gets mandate as Japan ruling bloc keeps majority in election

JAPAN'S ruling coalition retained a comfortable majority in the House of Representatives following Sunday's general election, giving Prime Minister Fumio Kishida a public mandate to deliver on his promises to revive the coronavirus-hit economy and deal with regional security threats.

Despite losing seats and suffering a number of defeats by high-profile candidates, Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party performed better than media forecasts, suggesting voters opted for stability over the opposition's promises for change.

The LDP saw its strength in the 465-seat lower chamber of parliament shrink from 276 to 261, still enough to effectively control all standing committees



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida gives a TV interview at the Liberal Democratic Party's headquarters in Tokyo on 31 October 2021, following the day's House of Representatives election. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

and steer the legislative process. Junior coalition partner Komeito went from 29 to 32.

The main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, which had criticized the government's pandemic re-

sponse and vowed to reduce income disparities, also lost seats, down from 110 to 96, despite fielding unified candidates through an agreement with other groups, including the Japanese Communist Party. — Kyodo News ■

Flowers, cheers and tears as Australia's border reopens

AUSTRALIA'S international border reopened on Monday almost 600 days after a pandemic closure began, sparking emotional scenes at Sydney airport as loved ones reunited.

Shortly after dawn, bleary-eyed passengers began to trickle into the arrivals terminal at Kingsford Smith International and were quickly wrapped up in the tearful embraces of flower-clutching relatives.

On 20 March last year, Aus-

tralia introduced some of the world's toughest border restrictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Almost all travel to the island continent halted, prompting critics to dub the country a "hermit state".

Tim Turner, who had not seen his son for more than a year, said it was "pretty brilliant" that they were now able to reunite.

Arriving in Sydney was "beautiful, beautiful", he told

reporters at the airport.

Julie Choo, who flew back from the UK to visit her sick mother in hospital, said she was trying not to cry as the plane touched down.

"I just can't wait to touch my mother's hand when I see her. I can't wait to hold her," she said. "It's going to be very emotional."

For the last 19 months, Australians have been banned from travelling overseas without permission. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Several passengers injured as trains collide in England

SEVERAL passengers were injured after two trains collided in southern England on Sunday, official sources said.

Local media talked of around a dozen walking wounded.

"We are currently at the scene of the train accident, involving two trains between Andover and Salisbury," local police tweeted.

A spokesperson for the national Network Rail company said the last carriage of one of the trains was derailed after hitting an object as it exited a tunnel near Salisbury station, before being rear-ended by the second train. The accident happened around 7 pm (1900 GMT), involving a train from London's Waterloo Station and a Bristol train.

"There are reports of injuries and the emergency services are on site along with railway first responders," the spokesperson said.

Transport police reported that a centre had been opened to receive the injured.

Transport Minister Grant Shapps announced an enquiry into the accident. "We need to understand how this happened to prevent" a repeat in the future, he said on Twitter.

According to the transport police, a centre has been opened to receive the victims. — AFP ■

Nine firefighters dead in Brazil cave collapse

BRAZILIAN authorities said Sunday that nine firefighters had died in a cave after the roof collapsed while they were training inside.

The accident occurred as a group of 26 firefighters were on a training exercise in a cave near the city of Altinópolis, the Sao Paulo fire department said on Twitter.

"There were 9 dead and one person rescued. There are no more victims at the site," it said.

Earlier, officials had said there were three dead and six missing. The identities of the victims were not disclosed.

A previous report from the Altinópolis mayor's office said 15 firefighters were still buried, and that three of the victims who were rescued suffered fractures and hypothermia.

Five people in total were taken to a local hospital and discharged, according to the mayor's office. Police and emergency health teams had joined firefighters earlier Sunday in a desperate effort to free those still trapped, but the work was hampered by heavy rains. — AFP ■

Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers: Myanmar to play decisive match against Viet Nam today

MYANMAR team will play against Viet Nam for a decisive 2022 Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers in Kyrgyzstan on 2 November.

The match will start at 4:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time).

There are only three teams in Group I and Myanmar and Viet Nam will fight for the next stage.

Both teams beat Chinese Taipei 1-0 and goal differences and points garnered are the same.

The winner of this match will be the first-placed team to win the group stage, but in the event of a draw, a penalty will

be awarded for first place in the group.

Even if the Myanmar team play for a draw, it is almost certain to win the tournament and will have to wait and see if other teams win the tourney.

According to the format of the tournament, a total of 15 teams including the top 11 teams from 11 groups and the top four runners-up will advance to the next stage.

Some teams including Malaysia have already advanced to the next stage.

Another top-seeded team from Group I has yet to emerge,

and the top four runners-up will be confirmed by 2 November.

Currently, the best runners-up: Thailand and Turkmenistan, are almost certain to win the tournament, while Myanmar is in third place.

Therefore, if the Myanmar team can get at least one point in today's match, it will be almost certain to win the group stage.

If Myanmar loses, the team will have to watch out for other teams, and only a goalless draw will promote the chances for team Myanmar. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Retire? It has not crossed my mind, says Messi

ARGENTINE football superstar Lionel Messi says he has not given any thought about retiring after next year's World Cup adding he would love to be Barcelona sporting director when he does finally hang up his boots.

The six-time Ballon D'Or winner will be 35 by the time the World Cup — a trophy that has eluded him through his stellar career — comes round in Qatar next year.

Messi is tied to French Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint Germain till June 2023 — with the option of an extra year — after leaving his beloved Barcelona in August. He told Monday's edition of Catalan newspaper Sport retirement was not on his agenda.

"No, truthfully no," he said regarding hanging up his boots. "After all that has happened to me, I just live day to day, year after year. "I do not know what is going to happen at the World Cup or after it.

"I am not thinking about it.

"What will be will be at that moment."

Messi added that leaving Barcelona after almost two decades had been a huge wrench but he will return one day to live there and even perhaps be the sporting director of the club. — AFP ■



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and LOSC Lille at the Parc des Princes stadium, in Paris, on 29 October 2021. PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY / AFP

Spurs sack manager Nuno after just four months in charge

TOTTENHAM on Monday sacked manager Nuno Espirito Santo after just four months in charge following their fifth defeat in 10 Premier League games.

Spurs gave an insipid display in their 3-0 defeat at home by Manchester United on Saturday, with fans booing and chanting "You don't know what you're doing" at the former Wolverhampton Wanderers boss. Spurs chairman Daniel Levy and managing

director of football Fabio Paratici are understood to have met on Sunday to discuss the Portuguese manager's fate. A statement from the club on Monday said Nuno and his coaching staff had been "relieved of their duties".

"I know how much Nuno and his coaching staff wanted to succeed and I regret that we have had to take this decision," Paratici said in the statement. "Nuno is a true gentleman and

will always be welcome here. We should like to thank him and his coaching staff and wish them well for the future." Spurs said a further coaching update would follow in due course.

Former Chelsea and Inter Milan boss Antonio Conte, who worked with Paratici at Juventus, is the bookies' favourite to take over, with Sky in Italy reporting Conte is set to fly to London for talks. — 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.

Mueller urges Bayern to answer cup criticism in Europe

THOMAS Mueller says Bayern Munich must use the criticism from their shock German Cup disaster to help them secure a spot in the Champions League knockout phase by beating Benfica on Tuesday.

"When FC Bayern crashes out of the cup with a 5-0 defeat, it's clear that one or two comments are made that are slightly

below the belt," said Mueller. The 32-year-old scored and created three assists Saturday as Bayern romped to a 5-2 win at Union Berlin to stay top of the Bundesliga three days after their 5-0 cup thrashing at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

In Europe, Bayern are five points clear in Group E and a win over second-placed Benfica would guarantee a spot in the last 16 of the Champions League. Bayern were hurt by a string of negative headlines amid the fallout of their shock cup defeat which Mueller wants to use as extra motivation.

"(The criticism) is okay with me, we're not made of egg shells - you have to be able to take it sometimes, but we must not forget that we are still out of the cup," said Mueller.

"We didn't just lose a game, but (are out of) a competition that means a lot to us. We have to deal with that accordingly," he added. — AFP ■



Bayern Munich's German forward Thomas Mueller reacts after the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Union Berlin v Bayern Munich in Berlin on 30 October 2021. PHOTO: AFP