

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

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

## State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives former governor of New Mexico State of USA



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives former governor Mr Bill Richardson of New Mexico State of the United States of America in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 November 2021.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mex-

ico State of the United States of America, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they open-

ly exchanged views on the progress of taking preventive, control and treatment measures of COVID-19 in Myanmar, anti-COVID-19 vaccination, the opening of schools as the in-

fection rate of the disease declines, and plans of the United States for providing COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U

Wunna Maung Lwin, U Ko Ko Hlaing and Dr Thet Khaing Win. The former governor of New Mexico State was accompanied by delegation members. —MNA

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## Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

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

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

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

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

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

*Information Team  
State Administration Council*

## MoC oversees daily import process for anti-COVID-19 equipment



THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging

continuous importation through trading posts, international airports and seaports with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

On 2 November, anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including masks and oxy-

gen generators were imported by two companies using five vehicles.

One oxygen generator for clinical use and 32 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw and Yangon International Seaports.

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

## Over 13 mln Myanmar people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 until 30 Oct

MYANMAR has vaccinated over 13 million people for COVID-19 until 30 October 2021, according to the Ministry of Health.

As of 30 October, a total of 7.05 million people have been double jabbed and 6.19 million people have received the first shots of COVID-19 vaccines, according to the Ministry.

The country has already provided the vaccines to 13 million people, accounting for 35 per cent of the country's population, since the country started its vaccination programme.

The country announced a goal to vaccinate 50 per cent of the country's population by the end of this year, and 70 per cent of the population by the mid-2022.

Of the 24 million Sinopharm vaccines purchased from China a total of 20 million vaccines have already arrived in Myanmar and the remaining four million will arrive in November. Authorities are also making efforts to buy more vaccines, according to the Ministry of Health.

The health staff are giving the COVID-19 vaccines to peo-

ple aged 55 and above. Now, the vaccine has been given to the adult population, including any person over the age of 45 since 17 October. Since January 2021, the country has been administering vaccinations, using the China-made Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines, across the country.

The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths globally slightly decreased by 10 per cent each in last week, according to the WHO's weekly report on COVID-19 released on 28 September. — Aye Maung/GNLM

## Myanmar extends entry restrictions until end-Nov

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has announced that it will extend the COVID-19 entry restrictions for travellers in the country until 30 November.

The suspension will be applied to the entry of all travellers, the issuance of all types of visas and visa exemptions services until the end of this month.

The statement said that the MOFA had issued temporary restrictions on the tourists visiting Myanmar on 1 October to implement more effective measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

Just like the previous announcements, foreign nationals, including diplomats and UN officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by

relief or special flights due to urgent official missions or compelling reasons, are urged to contact the nearest Myanmar mission for possible exceptions to certain visa restrictions.

The country has extended its entry ban due to the COVID-19 in Asia, in an effort to contain the spread of the virus within the country's borders.

However, all travellers to Myanmar must abide by the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment guidelines set by the Ministry of Health.

According to a release by the Ministry of Health, Myanmar reported 500,950 COVID-19 cases and 18,714 deaths till 1 November. — ACM/GNLM

### Corrigendum

PLEASE read the sentence "medicines were shortages, medical equipment and oxygen were in short supply and the strength of health staff was weak." in the 8<sup>th</sup> line of the third column on the front page of The Global New Light of Myanmar issued on 2 November 2021.—Ed

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## Without satisfaction of traditional breeding systems

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

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

## State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivers the address by video message as guest of honour at 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions and Handover Ceremony of Chairmanship

THE 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (6<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit) was hosted by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 8:30 am yesterday via videoconference and the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered an address via video message on the occasion.

*(The address of the Vice-Senior General is reported on page 4.)*

A Myanmar Delegation led by Prof. Dr Kan Zaw, Union Auditor-General attended the meeting from the Room of ASEANSAI Chairman; participants were Auditors-General from ASEAN Nations — Dato Paduka Yusop Mahmud of Brunei Darussalam, Dr Som Kim Suor of Cambodia, Dr Agung Firman Sampurna of Indonesia, Mr Michael G. Aguinaldo of the Philippines, Ms Goh Soon Poh of Singapore, Gen Chanathap Indamra of Thailand, Mr Tran Sy Thanh of Viet Nam and Deputy Auditor-General of Lao PDR Mr Toy Phonthilath, Deputy Auditor-General of Malaysia Mr Rosalan Abu Bakar, General Secretary of the ASEANSAI Mr Bahtiar Arif and their members of delegates, and delegates from development partners of ASEANSAI.

At the opening session, the National Anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ASEANSAI song were played in honour.

Then, Prof. Dr Kan Zaw, Union Auditor-General, who would take over the Chairmanship (2021-2023) of ASEANSAI, delivered an opening address and the Deputy Auditor-General of Malaysia delivered an opening address.

Then, Chairman of the

Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) Gen Chanathap Indamra and Secretary-General of ASEAN Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi delivered their addresses by video messages.

According to the Agenda, Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Guest of Honour at the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit, the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister, delivered an opening address by video message.

Then Auditors-General from 10 ASEANSAI member States and the head of Secretariat took a recording group photo and the opening session concludes.

The First Session of the Summit proceeded and Prof Dr Kan Zaw delivered his opening speech on behalf of the Chairman of ASEANSAI. And then, the Deputy Auditor-General of Malaysia presented the Consolidated Progress Reports of the ASEANSAI's Committees and Secretariat for 2020 and 2021, the Committees' Consolidated Work Plan 2022-2023 and the ASEANSAI Strategic Plan 2022-2025, the revised ASEANSAI Rules and Procedures, the revised Terms of Reference of the Knowledge Sharing Committee and the Proposed Legal Capacity were discussed and approved according to the agenda.

Then, on behalf of the Chairman of ASEANSAI, the Union Auditor-General announced the Union Auditor-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as the Chairman of ASEANSAI, and Chairperson of the Commission on Audit of the Philippines as the Vice-Chairman of ASEANSAI and the Deputy



Auditor-General of SAI Malaysia conveyed his farewell speech on behalf of the current Chairman of ASEANSAI. Afterwards, a video clip regarding the launch of commemoration book 2019-2021 which comprises the active cooperation of SAI Malaysia during the two-year tenure of the ASEANSAI chairmanship, the programmes and activities of the chairpersons of ASEANSAI Committees and members, the collaboration with international organizations, the challenges and Strategic Plan was displayed.

Then, the ceremony of handover of the ASEANSAI chairmanship went on to be held and the video clip of the ceremony of the handover of the ASEANSAI flag and the “gavel”, which was used by the ASEANSAI chairman in deciding in the ASEANSAI Summit, from the Auditor-General of Malaysia to the Union Auditor-General.

After that, the Union Auditor-General delivered his speech of receiving the ASE-

ANSAI Chairmanship and then the first session was adjourned after taking a group photo of the Heads of SAIs and the ASEANSAI General Secretary.

The ASEANSAI was established in November 2011 and the ASEANSAI Summit was held every two years: SAI Indonesia (2012-2013), SAI Brunei (2013-2015), SAI Cambodia (2015-2017), SAI Lao (2017-2019) and SAI Malaysia (2019-2021) in alphabetical order rotation. The Office of the Auditor-General of the Union took over the chairmanship for 2021-2023 during the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit.

Then, the Meeting Session II proceeded and was chaired by Prof Dr Kan Zaw, the Union Auditor-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as the Chairman of ASEANSAI, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of ASEANSAI delivered their opening speeches respectively.

Following this, approvals of the chairmen of the four ASEANSAI's Committees, the

Consolidated Work Plans (2022-2023) of the Committees, the appointment of the ASEANSAI Auditor of the Financial Statements for the year ended 2020 and 2021 and Proposed Budget 2022-2023 for ASEANSAI activities were concluded as per the agenda.

Then the Union Auditor-General delivered closing remarks and the group recording photo of all participants was taken and the Meeting Session II concludes.

It is learnt that the Preparatory Meeting and the Technical Meeting in preparation for the successful holding of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit were held on 1 November and hosted by SAI Myanmar via videoconference, attended by the Deputy Permanent Secretary. Similarly, the delegation led by the Union Auditor-General attended the ASEANSAI Development Partners Coordination Meeting, which was hosted by the ASEANSAI Secretariat via videoconference on 26 October 2021. — MNA

# Opening address delivered by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit

## Mingalaba! Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege taking pride in Myanmar to assume the responsibility of the Chairmanship of ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions and also host the Sixth Supreme Audit Institutions Summit of ASEAN Member States.

I wish to congratulate Malaysia for its exemplary leadership of ASEANSAI over the past years.

I would like to warmly welcome the Heads of SAIs and members of delegates from respective SAIs to our Virtual Summit today. Although we intended to welcome you in person at a Physical Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, the COVID-19 situation did not allow us to do so.

In fact, ASEANSAI General Assembly always reflects the continued commitment and sound progress in the enhancement of good governance within the ASEAN region. **ASEANSAI, being an entity associated with ASEAN, I believe it will continue contributing to the realization of the mission and vision of the ASEAN Community.**

## Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly explain our country's current situation. There was a lot of electoral and voting fraud in the multiparty democracy general election held on 8 November 2020 during the previous NLD government's term and the voter list and potential unfair number of ballots occurred terribly; there was a failure to resolve it legally and these were trying to grab the State power illegally, and therefore the Tatmadaw (military) declared the state of emergency and assumed the State responsibilities in accord with the stipulations of the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Taking State responsibility, we are doing our utmost to firmly build the disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system,



which is the wish and aspiration of the entire people of Myanmar. In practising a multiparty democratic system, free and fair multiparty democratic elections are "the fundamental of these isms". The basic necessity to become free and fair multiparty democratic elections is stability, peace and the rule of law. The State Administration Council has laid down Five-Point Roadmap, Nine Political, Economic and Social Objectives and is in the process of implementing them to achieve stability and peace in politics, security and economy in order to succeed and make progress more in nurturing the best practice such as the rule of law and compliance with the existing law. In order to implement these points more effectively and successfully, the Union Government of Myanmar was formed on 1 August 2021 and the Chairman of the State Administration Council himself took over the responsibility as the Prime Minister and accelerated the implementation of all the endeavours.

In doing so, we exercise an independent, proactive, and non-aligned foreign policy. The "principle" of peaceful coexistence among nations continues to be adhered to. I would like to say that we are working together for world peace, stability, and sustainable development

in the international community based on the international law of equality, fairness, and justice.

In this region, we, ASEAN countries stand united as part of the ASEAN Community in accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development, promoting regional peace and stability. For Myanmar, since we joined ASEAN in 1997, we have been going hand in hand with the principles of Consensus, avoiding interference in the other's internal affairs, the only ASEAN family spirit prescribed in the ASEAN Charter such as ASEAN Centrality, ASEAN UNITY and ASEAN WAY.

Today demands regarding Myanmar in ASEAN Summit and Plus Meetings are found to be suspicious of violating the images of ASEAN's solidarity, ASEAN Centrality, ASEAN UNITY and ASEAN WAY. Regarding the visit of the ASEAN Special Envoy to Myanmar, the Chairman of the State Administration Council, the Prime Minister discussed in the meeting held in Jakarta on 24 April 2021 related to the five-point consensus of ASEAN on Myanmar that it would be taken into consideration in relation to the current internal affairs, ASEAN's proposals and trips will be considered based on the internal stability, and it

would also be considered on the constructive wish of ASEAN for support if it was based on the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN WAY and ASEAN Spirit for the welfare of the State. And also with respect to the visit of the ASEAN Special Envoy, we are facing various coordination, claim, changes and demands to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi beyond the rules that any person, any organization shall not be allowed to meet a person who is facing a trial. I believe no country will allow anyone to do beyond the existing law like this. From the part of the State, we allowed as far as we can except for the restriction of the existing law but we sadly found that regarding the exclusion of Myanmar from the ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings to the denial of ASEAN Special Envoy into Myanmar is in contrast to para 20 (1), para 8(2) (a) and para 2(2)(a),(e) and (f) of the ASEAN Charter.

Conducting as such beyond the ASEAN Centrality, UNITY and WAY will have implications not only on Myanmar but also on the rest of the member states being managed as they wish and being pushed and a wedge being driven outside ASEAN Community in a time, a situation, may arise in the united ASEAN countries. In other words, I would like to remind

you that the effects on looking beyond the ASEAN Countries may occur among themselves.

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

As the Good Governance in the ASEAN Member States is a foundation for achieving the goals set in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the role of ASEANSAI is critical to turn these visions into actions while making practical impacts on ASEAN peoples to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, higher quality of life and resilience through good governance, greater peace, stability and prosperity.

I wish to acknowledge that ASEANSAI has made remarkable accomplishments since its establishment in 2011. Implementation of successive strategic plans has helped promote the capacity of SAI in the ASEAN Member States while also strengthening ASEANSAI as an organization.

In this respect, I would like to encourage ASEANSAI to continue its efforts to materialize the foundational objectives set on the ASEANSAI Establishment Agreement in strengthening ASEANSAI members' capacity in promoting good governance ensuring correct financial statements, to prevent misspending and detect fraud in public financial management.

I also wish to encourage a greater role of ASEANSAI in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals so that we can advance the ASEAN development agenda and strengthen its regional and global partnership.

I wish to conclude by wishing SAI Myanmar to successfully discharge its responsibilities as the Chair of ASEANSAI from 2021-2023 and also for successful deliberations at the 6th Supreme Audit Institutions Summit of ASEAN Member States in ensuring efficient and correct spending of public funds in the interests of citizens and taxpayers in the ASEAN Member States.

Thank you.



# Students back to schools under COVID-19 protocol



Bahan Township, Yangon Region



Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North).



Thanbyuzayet Township, Mon State.



Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region.



Namtu Township, Shan State (North).



Mindon Township, Thayet District, Magway Region.



Mongyan Township, Shan State (East).



Mudon Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State.

## Mobile library launched in Kyaukpyu, Rakhine State

OFFICERS from the Department of Information and Public Relations launched a mobile library in the beach area and Minpyin staff housing camp in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

The mobile library carried more than 200 books, magazines, cartoons and novels, and visitors to the beach and the people living in the housing camp enthusiastically rented the books from the mobile library.

Deputy Staff Officer of the Department of Information and Public Relations in



Book enthusiasts are seen borrowing books from the mobile library.



Kyaukpyu Township said this aims to increase knowledge and skills through reading. The renting of books was conducted

under the COVID-19 prevention guidelines, and it will continue weekly. – Tin Tun Oo, Phyo Wai Lin (IPRD)/GNLM

## Shwe Myintzu pagoda (Indawgyi) in Mohnyin township receives more visitors



Shwe Myintzu Pagoda, one of the ancient pagodas in Indawgyi, Mohnyin Township in Kachin State, is now alive with visitors as the travelling season has come.



SHWE Myintzu Pagoda, one of the ancient pagodas in Indawgyi, Mohnyin Township in Kachin State, is now alive with visitors as the travelling season has come.

The number of pilgrims is

increasing daily as the COVID-19 infection rate has dropped as well as the rainy season has finished. The pagoda received only a few numbers of pilgrims in 2020 due to the outbreak.

Ma May Thingyan, a resi-



Indawgyi Lake is one of Myanmar's biggest and the most beautiful lakes with a variety of birds, including seasonal migratory birds from all over the world and wintering birds.

dent of Indawgyi, said, "There are more pilgrims this year than last year as the spread of COVID-19 has significantly reduced." "I just want those who have never been here to come and visit the Indawgyi Pagoda as this is a well-preserved pagoda with a long history," she added.

Indawgyi Lake is one of Myanmar's biggest and the most beautiful lakes with a variety of birds, including seasonal migratory birds from all

over the world and wintering birds. The lake is surrounded by mountains and located at 650 feet above sea level. It is 16 miles long and eight miles wide. Indawgyi Lake and five surrounding areas were designated as the Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary in 2004. It was also recognized as an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003, as the Ramsar site in 2016 and as a biosphere reserve in 2017. — Zwe Thura Aung (IPRD)/GNLM

## 276 markets permitted to reopen under Covid rules

A total of 276 markets in the Yangon region is permitted to reopen on 1 November with COVID-19 health regulations, it is learnt.

The markets in the Yangon region were temporarily closed due to the pandemic. And now, the Yangon region has brought the COVID-19 outbreak under control and the 184 Yangon

City Development Committee-YCDC's markets and 92 private's markets from 33 townships of the Yangon region are granted to reopened, strictly adhering to COVID-19 health protocols.

"On 1 November, the authorities from the markets announced that their shops have already reopened. Earlier, all the

markets in the Yangon region were ordered to shut down except the shops which sell essential food items and pharmacies. Now, all the shops from the markets are allowed to reopen starting from 1 November without any restrictions. Currently, the shops are reopening as per Version 3.1 of the Ministry of Health,"

said an official from the market committee.

The version 3.1 guidelines include placing a handwashing sink and sanitizers at the entrance and keeping a distance of at least six feet away from each other.

The markets have been closed for so long, causing

hardships for shopkeepers and workers.

We are very glad that the shops and the markets can resume their operation. But the shopkeepers need to follow the guidelines of the market committee and the government," said a resident. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

## Stock market goes down in October



The shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) declined in October, with K561 million worth of 99,837 shares of the six listed companies, the YSX's monthly report indicated.

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In February 2021, K442 million worth of 77,388 shares were traded on the exchange. The figures extended further drops to K110 million worth of 19,816 shares in March 2021. Then, the market slightly rose in April with K280 million worth of 42,964 shares. The stocks were main-

tained in the bull market in May with 78,642 shares worth K432.448 million as well. In June, 79,296 shares worth K430.285 million were traded on the exchange. Then, the volume of shares traded in the equity market plunged to 36,855 shares in July 2021 and the trading value also slipped to K198 million. It climbed up in August 2021 compared with those registered in the last two months, with over K300 million worth of 49,191 shares traded on the exchange. It edged up to a record

high in September, with over K825 million worth of 193,353 shares, the YSX's monthly report showed.

Last month, the shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) were traded in the equity market. The share prices per unit were closed at K8,900 for FMI, K3,200 for MTSH, K7,800 for MCB, K19,500 for FPB, K2,700 for TMH, K2,950 for EFR and K5,000 for AMATA, respectively.

The stock markets worldwide have reported their largest declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Similarly, the local equities market was also scared by the COVID-19 crash in the previous months, a market observer points out.

People like to keep emergency savings and purchase the

safe-haven asset gold, rather than make investments amid the COVID-19 crisis and current political conditions. Unexpectedly, people turned to the stock market when the prices of gold remarkably gained in September. However, the stock market went down in October, he continued. Amid the COVID-19 crisis and political changes, Myanmar's securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

In 2020, the value of stocks traded on the exchange reached a peak of K1.48 billion in February, whereas trading on the exchange registered an all-time low of K552.9 million in November due to the COVID-19 resurgences in Myanmar, the exchange's monthly report showed.

A total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2020, a significant drop compared to 2019. Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were

traded on the exchange in 2019, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market from 20 March 2020. Furthermore, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX, YSX stated.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars. The stock exchange has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge. — KK/GNLM

## US\$19 million worth of over 16,000-tonne palm oil sold at fairer prices

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that more than 16,000 tonnes of palm oil, with the estimated value of US\$19 million, have been sold at fairer prices, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

The volume of palm oil that was sold at the subsidized price (K3,700 per viss) is equivalent to \$19 million that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

About 16,138 tonnes (7.877 million visses) were sold between 20 September and 26 October.

The palm oil importers bought the foreign currency (US\$19 million) at the reference

rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar and distributed the palm oil to the wholesalers. The retailers are just selling them at present, said an official of the Consumer Affairs Department.

About 12,800 tonnes in Yangon Region, over 840 tonnes in Mandalay Region, over 860 tonnes in Magway Region, over 600 tonnes in Sagaing Region, over 460 tonnes in Bago Region, over 310 tonnes in Shan State, over 110 tonnes in Nay Pyi Taw, over 60 tonnes in Taninthayi Region and over 30 tonnes in Mon State have been sold. The wholesalers and retailers must also resell them to the consumers with a gross profit of less than two per cent.

Under the plan of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, palm oil is sold at the subsidized price of K3,800 with the mobile market trucks at present, whereas palm oil is priced at about K4,800 per viss in the retail market, the association stated.

The price hike in palm oil is attributed to Kyat depreciation in the local forex market. Additionally, the association notified the consumers not to worry over the supply of the edible oil on 15 July.

The association is also making concerted efforts with organizations concerned and related departments to secure the edible oil sufficiency and offer reasonable prices to the consumers, as per the statement. The association is



The volume of palm oil that was sold at the subsidized price (K3,700 per viss) is equivalent to \$19 million that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

trying not to occur unnecessary issues regarding edible oil during the global pandemic impacts.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association is attempting to maintain price stability, prevent market manipulation, import palm oil from foreign countries sustainably for self-sufficiency and distribute the edible oil at a

fair price to the consumers.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported. — NN/GNLM

## Old rice paddy fetches K8,000 per basket in Bamauk Township

THE old paddy is offered at K8,000 per basket in Bamauk Township, Katha District of Sagaing Region, allowing the farmers to earn a healthy profit.

The rice crop was earlier priced at only K4,000 per basket. This year, the traders bought the rice crop at K6,500-8,000 per

basket and so, the farmers are doing financially okay.

"The brokers purchased the paddy with the oversized basket last year and the farmers do not earn a handsome profit with the input cost. The rise in price this year allows them to earn for livings. The

fresh rice crop is priced K5,000 per basket for now," said U Min Oo, a farmer from Sinkan village.

This year, about 80 to 100 baskets are reaped per acre. There are more than 4,000 farming acres in Bamauk Township. The residents prefer Chin

3 paddy varieties, according to the Agriculture Department.

The floor price of the paddy which meets the prescribed criteria: 14-per-cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities such as sand, weed, and small stones are set at K540,000 per 100 baskets

(one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds). The committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Interests of Farmers has notified the brokers of purchasing the rice at K540,000 if the price will fall below the floor price. — Ni Toe/GNLM

## Remedy poverty problems for alleviation in Myanmar society

**T**HE gap between the rich and the poor is still a large challenge for the economy of countries across the world in the 21st Century.

Myanmar has been steadfastly implementing the poverty alleviation plan, securing good results in recent years. The reliable statistics showed that the country could mitigate the 48.2 per cent poverty rate based on the population in 2005 to 24.8 per cent in 2017. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic in waves hampers the success in efforts to reduce the poverty rate of the people.

The people and the government of Myanmar are responsible for setting the mission and vision to fight against poverty. Hence, they have to march forwards to remedy the poverty problems in the Myanmar society for alleviation with never giving up on the challenges so as to uplift the living standard of the people.

cent of the global population.

The root cause of poverty depends on the inequality of incomes between the rich and the poor. Hence, some global countries are making utmost efforts for mitigating the poverty rate by spending the budget on projects which can directly benefit the poor, increasingly levying the revenues from the wealthy persons. Thanks to these efforts, the poverty rate across the world declined a half between 1990 and 2015.

The people and the government of Myanmar are responsible for setting the mission and vision to fight against poverty. Hence, they have to march forwards to remedy the poverty problems in the Myanmar society for alleviation with never giving up on the challenges so as to uplift the living standard of the people.

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## Covid global death toll passes 5 mn

*Five million people have died worldwide from Covid-19 since the disease first emerged in China nearly two years ago, according to a tally from official sources.*

**M**ONDAY'S milestone, nearly four months after four million deaths were registered, came even as mortality rates slow thanks to a global vaccine rollout that has seen billions of people injected.

While the number of daily deaths worldwide fell below 8,000 for the first time in almost a year in early October, there remain blackspots globally.

"The total number of cases and deaths of Covid-19 is increasing for the first time in two months, due to the current increase in the epidemic in Europe," World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference on Thursday.

### Mounting death toll

In the 52 countries and territories that form the WHO's European region, the mounting death toll is mainly coming from the east.

Russia — a country with



A patient is taken from an ambulance outside Guy's hospital in London on 30 December 2020. A new variant of coronavirus appears to be behind the upsurge in cases. PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP

strong vaccine hesitancy — has seen infections and deaths reach new records, with average daily fatalities in excess of 1,000 since October 20.

And according to the authorities themselves, this toll is largely underestimated.

The government's daily toll shows a total of 239,693 deaths as

of 1 November.

However, national statistics agency Rosstat, which has a broader definition of Covid deaths, said at the end of September that

the death toll was nearly 450,000. After Russia, Ukraine and Romania are the two countries in Europe with the highest daily death toll — averaging 546 and 442 deaths per day, respectively, over the past seven days.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the world's deadliest region (1,521,193 deaths since the start of the pandemic).

But the number of daily deaths, currently around 840, has been declining since May. In the United States, more than 1,400 deaths were recorded each day on average over the past seven days, 15 per cent down on the previous week. With its total of 746,747 deaths, the country is bearing the brunt of the pandemic.

The WHO estimates that the pandemic's real toll could be two to three times higher than official records, due to the excess mortality that is directly and indirectly linked to Covid-19.

### Excess mortality

The Economist magazine looked at excess mortality and concluded around 17 million have died from Covid.

"This figure seems more credible to me," Pasteur Institute epidemiologist Professor Arnaud Fontanet told AFP.

Whatever the case, the death toll is lower than from other historical pandemics, such as Spanish flu that killed 50-100 million in 1918-1919.

Nonetheless, Covid has "caused a lot of deaths in a short period", said Jean-Claude Manu-guerra, a virologist at the French institute.

"It could have been a lot more dramatic without all the measures taken, particularly restrictions on movement of people and then the vaccinations," according to Fontanet.

SOURCE: AFP

■ ■ ■

## Philippines "more than ready" to welcome foreign tourists

**T**HE Philippines is preparing to welcome back foreign tourists to its pristine beaches and innovated "new normal" touristic attractions as the country's COVID-19 cases keep dropping and vaccination drive continue improving.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) recently unveiled its "More Fun Awaits" campaign which highlights new tourism products and packages, aiming to sustain the presence of the Philippines as a tourist destination amidst the pandemic.

Like other countries, the Philippines closed its borders to foreign tourists when the deadly coronavirus started to spread early last year.

Except for select foreign nationals granted special visas, the Philippines still bars foreign tourists as part of the border measures to curb the transmission.

With most of the tourism workers inoculated, the Philippines now looks forward to being open to international visitors

once again, vowing it is "more than ready to provide visitors a safe and pleasant experience."

According to the DOT's plan, fully vaccinated tourists will be welcome and whisked straight to the tourist destinations without the need for hotel quarantine.

"That is why we prioritized the vaccinations of tourism workers so we can start accepting domestic tourists and eventually foreign tourists," Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat told a recent radio interview.

### World-famous Boracay island

For instance, in the world-famous Boracay island in the central Philippines, she said 91.09 per cent of tourism workers and 62.78 per cent of the island residents had been fully vaccinated so far.

Famous for powdery white sand, shallow azure water, and spectacular sunsets, Boracay is a favourite destination for international tourists.

"Our vaccination rollouts are crucial in protecting our tour-

ism workers as they face visitors every day," Puyat said, hoping that the island will inoculate its target population by November.

"With 100 per cent of tourism workers in Boracay inoculated, the DOT is confident that in the weeks to come, tourism arrivals on the island will further increase, and more tourism establishments will be able to reopen to restore jobs," Puyat said.

### Various tours

Aside from the sun and beach tourist destinations that the country is well-known for, the DOT also spotlights new and enhanced bike tours, dive circuits, farm and food tourism circuits, hiking and trekking, and outdoor museums through historical and cultural tours, among others.

These activities cater to tourists' "new normal" preference for outdoor activities and well-ventilated areas.

Puyat said the DOT will continue innovating and developing destinations to ensure safe, fun,



"With 100 per cent of tourism workers in Boracay inoculated, the DOT is confident that in the weeks to come, tourism arrivals on the island will further increase, and more tourism establishments will be able to reopen to restore jobs," Puyat said. Boracay is paradise for certified sun-worshippers all over the world.

PHOTO: ECDN2.WN.COM/XINHUA

and sustainable tourism for local and foreign tourists.

As a key economic driver, the tourism industry's contribution to the Philippines' gross

domestic product (GDP) stood at 12.7 per cent in 2019, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data,

The COVID-19 pandemic

dealt a severe blow to the tourism sector, slashing foreign arrivals and displacing service workers.

SOURCE: Xinhua

## COVID-19 vaccines delivered to Sittway, Thandwe by Tatmadaw aircraft

COVID-19 vaccines were delivered to Sittway and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State by military plane yesterday morning.

Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines, which are stored at the expanded vaccine store depot on Min Dhamma Road in Yangon, are transported by Cold Chain Delivery Logistics trucks and military planes to various regions and states accordingly to the quality control standards.

On the morning of 2 November, 2,143 doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines and 4,286

syringes were delivered to Thandwe and 3,470 doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines plus 6,940 syringes to Sittway were transported by the military aircraft.

Authorities from each township have received all the vaccines and they will be distributed to other townships in Rakhine State and Paletwa in Chin State, officials said.

The COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed to the public as soon as possible as per the target population groups. —Tin Htun (IPRD)/GNLM



Covid vaccines are transported by the Tatmadaw aircraft.

**1,074 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 November, total figure rises to 502,024**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 502,024 after 1,074 new cases were reported on 2 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 470,793 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,728 after 14 died.—MNA

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 2 November 2021)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is cloudy over the West central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 3 November 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon states, scattered in Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon 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 isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States.



# China eases power crunch with boost to coal production



China said it has increased daily coal production by over one million tonnes, easing its energy shortage as world leaders gather in Britain for climate talks billed as one of the last chances to avert catastrophic global warming. Photo taken on 9 July 2019 shows China Railway Taiyuan Group Co., Ltd. inspectors patrolling on the Datong section of the Daqin Railway in Datong, north China's Shanxi Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CAO YANG**

CHINA said it has increased daily coal production by over one million tonnes, easing its energy shortage as world leaders gather in Britain for climate talks billed as one of the last chances to avert catastrophic global warming.

The world's biggest coal importer has battled widespread power cuts in recent months that have disrupted supply chains, due to strict emissions targets and record prices for the fossil fuel.

But the crisis is now winding down thanks to a boost in domestic coal output, according to a Sunday statement from China's top economic planning body.

The National Development and Reform Commission

(NDRC) said average daily coal production has risen to above 11.5 million tonnes since the middle of October, up by 1.1 million tonnes compared with the end of September.

The production surge comes as world leaders — but not Chinese President Xi Jinping — convene in Glasgow for COP26 talks to secure more ambitious global greenhouse gas emissions.

Xi, whose country is the world's largest emitter of planet-heating gases, has instead submitted a written statement to the summit.

In recent months, several Chinese factories were forced to halt operations due to power outages, raising concern about global supply chains.—AFP ■

## Behind big business' climate promises

AS warnings have intensified about the massive damage that climate change will have on the world in the coming decades, big business has started to make commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

But are these companies making a genuine attempt to fight global warming, or simply “greenwashing” their brands to try to divert criticism while still reaping huge profits from their carbon-based industries?

With the COP26 summit in Glasgow coming after the UN warned the world was barreling towards “climate catastrophe”, analyses by consultants and think tanks show there is still much more that can be done.

### The omissions of 'net zero' emissions

The International Energy Agency (IEA) says that industry accounts for almost 40 per cent of the world's energy consumption



The International Energy Agency (IEA) says that industry accounts for almost 40 per cent of the world's energy consumption and still overwhelmingly uses fossil fuels. Fuel tanker trucks park at the Klang Valley Distribution Terminal (KVDT) in Dengkil outside Kuala Lumpur. **PHOTO: AFP/MOHD RASFAN**

and still overwhelmingly uses fossil fuels: oil, gas and particularly coal, which all hugely contribute to human-induced global warming. The IEA said that “a number of companies around the world have set ambitious targets, but their potential impact remains

uneven”. Out of 1,300 companies surveyed by the Boston Consulting Group, only 11 per cent said they had reached their carbon emission targets over the last five years. And just nine per cent accurately measured their emissions.—AFP ■

## Lahore ranks second among top five most polluted cities in world: report

LAHORE, the city of gardens, is ranked second in a list of top five cities in the world with dirty air, reports said.

The city recorded a Particulate Matter rating of 188, placing it under the “unhealthy” category of air quality.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency regards air quality as satisfactory if

the Air Quality Index is under 50.

The environmental experts have blamed the transportation sector and industries, besides the burning of crops, for the pollution.

A resident tweeted: “Air quality in Lahore is the worst. It's becoming increasingly difficult to be healthy in this pollution. All those planning to settle

in Lahore should rethink their decision and settle elsewhere.”

“We should also consider to change Lahore as a capital city. It's too populated.”

More than half of Pakistan cities are still plagued by dirty air, new data shows, despite a reduction in traffic emissions and other pollutants during last year's lockdowns.—ANI ■

## Sunny but isolated, Cyprus toils to boost green energy

“WE have 340 sunny days per year,” Georgia Mouskou said, as sunlight streamed through her windows. “But we're still not betting on renewable energies in Cyprus.”

Faced with her skyrocketing electricity bill, Mouskou says she wants to “rent a plot” to install solar panels.

Like Mouskou, rising energy costs and environmental concerns have caused residents of the east Mediterranean island to see solar power as an obvious option.

In the past year, the number of solar panels increased by 16 per cent, according to the Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC). But Cyprus is still struggling to increase its use of renewable power.

In 2019, just 13.8 per cent of its energy came from solar and wind energy, well below the 19.7

per cent European average, according to Eurostat figures.

Cyprus hopes to boost its share of renewable energy to 23 per cent by 2030 as part of its National Energy and Climate Plan.

### Heavy polluter

But a shift to green power faces many hurdles.

“The problem is renewable energies are unpredictable,” said Markos Asprou, an electricity specialist at the University of Cyprus' KIOS research centre. “In case of shortfall, you need to be able to act.” Cyprus, which lies some 800 kilometres (500 miles) from the Greek mainland, its nearest EU neighbour, does not have a nearby national power network that can at present bail them out in an emergency.—AFP ■



The 1,478 megawatt Vasilikos power station runs on imported diesel and heavy fuel, placing Cyprus among the worst EU nations for its use of fossil fuels in producing energy. **PHOTO: AFP**

## ‘Stock up’, China says, amid new Covid outbreak

CHINA'S government has urged citizens to stock up on daily necessities and for authorities to take steps to ensure adequate food supplies as the country adopts increasingly tight measures to contain its latest Covid outbreak.

A notice posted on the website of the Ministry of Commerce late on Monday urged “families to store a certain amount of daily necessities as needed to meet daily life and emergencies”.

The directive made no mention of a food shortage or of whether the instructions were motivated by fears that Covid measures could disrupt supply chains or leave locked-down citizens in need of food.

But China, which has kept its infection numbers relatively low through a Covid-zero strategy of border closures, targeted lockdowns and long quarantine periods, is increasingly adopting tough measures to contain the latest outbreak, especially ahead of the Beijing Winter Olympics beginning on 4 February.

The Commerce Ministry notice also told authorities to take measures to facilitate agri-



The Ministry of Commerce urged ‘families to store a certain amount of daily necessities’. Citizens buy vegetables at a market in Nanjing, east China’s Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

cultural production, keep supply chains smooth, ensure that regional food reserves were adequate and maintain stable prices.

Besides Covid concerns, China has been hit hard over the past two years by heavy summer flooding that impacted agricultural output and drove up prices, raising concerns that the problem could worsen as climate change brings increasingly extreme weather.

The government last year launched a national campaign to curb food waste.

Average wholesale prices

of 28 kinds of vegetables in October were up 16 per cent from the previous month, state media reported on Monday, citing government numbers.

China has generally kept daily new case counts in the low double digits for much of the pandemic.

But daily cases rose to as high as 143 in August amid a Delta outbreak, eased off for several weeks, but have begun climbing again amid what the government called a “serious” new outbreak, with cases popping up in a dozen provinces.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Iranian Minister tests positive for Covid at key moment for nuclear talks

Iran’s foreign minister has tested positive for Covid, local media reported, at a key moment in diplomatic efforts to revive a nuclear agreement with major powers.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian “tested positive today for coronavirus”, the Tasnim news agency reported late Monday.

The 57-year-old career diplomat, who was named foreign minister in August by ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi, was a close confidant of military strategist General Qassem Soleimani who was assassinated in a US drone strike early last year.

“His general health is satisfactory and he is continuing his daily duties from quarantine,” ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told the official IRNA news agency. Khatibzadeh had said just Monday that talks with the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal would resume “in the next two or three weeks”, although he added that ministers would not take part.—AFP ■

#### UK registers over 40,000 new coronavirus cases

ANOTHER 40,077 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 9,097,311, according to official figures released Monday.

The UK also reported a further 40 coronavirus-related deaths, bringing the total in Britain to 140,672. These figures only include people who died within 28 days of their first positive test.

Meanwhile, there are currently 9,065 patients in hospital with COVID-19.

The latest data comes as a new survey has suggested that between 27 September and 2 October only 78 per cent of all individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 reported fully adhering to the rules of quarantine.—Xinhua ■

## Pandemic-hit Mexican town awaits reunion with dead



Mexico’s Day of the Dead festival centres around the belief that souls of the deceased return for a brief reunion. **PHOTO: AFP**

SANDRA Jimenez lost two sisters to the coronavirus, which devastated her small Mexican town. On Monday she awaited the return of their souls for the Day of the Dead.

Many events linked to what is considered Mexico’s most important festival were

canceled last year as the Latin American country battled to contain the virus.

But with a third wave of infections now subsiding, this year has seen the return of cemetery visits and other public celebrations, including a parade through the capital.

In Santa Cruz Atizapan, in the central State of Mexico, church bells rang out for months at the height of the pandemic in a show of respect for the many victims.

The residents found it so traumatizing that they asked for the tolling to stop, Jimenez said as she tidied the graves of relatives in the town’s cemetery.

“It was horrible, distressing!” the 64-year-old said.

The Day of the Dead, which is rooted in indigenous culture, centers around the belief that the souls of the dead return on the night of 1-2 November.

Families put out altars with pictures of relatives and their favourite foods, along with candles and decorative skulls.

Atizapan is the Mexican municipality with the highest mortality rate due to Covid-19 relative to its population size, according to data from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. — AFP ■

## Tonga enters lockdown after first Covid case recorded

TONGA’S main island entered a week-long lockdown Tuesday just days after recording its first case of Covid-19, ending the Pacific nation’s run as one of the last virus-free places in the world.

Prime Minister Pohiva Tuionetoa said the island of Tongatapu, which includes the capital Nuku’alofa, would remain in lockdown until next Tuesday.

Tuionetoa told reporters late Monday that the stay-at-home order was to “ensure the safety and health of our people ... to prevent or minimize the spread of Covid-19 within the kingdom of Tonga”.

Tonga’s first case was detected last week when a man who arrived on a repatriation flight from the New Zealand city of Christchurch tested positive.

The man, who was fully vaccinated, and another 214 people who were on the flight had been in isolation since landing and the health department said no community transmission had been found on the island.—AFP ■



The tiny Pacific kingdom had been among only a handful of countries to escape the virus so far. **PHOTO: ADLI WAHID/UNSPLASH/AFP**

**NEWS IN BRIEF****US manufacturers fought through pandemic chaos in October**

US factories continued to see their business expand in October, but ongoing supply snarls connected to the pandemic, including high employee turnover and shortages of needed materials, held back growth, according to an industry survey released Monday.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) reported its manufacturing index dipped to 60.8 per cent last month, slightly below the September reading but just above analysts' forecasts.

Businesses were overwhelmingly optimistic about the future, even as they dealt with the hangover caused by last year's Covid-19 restrictions, and the index remained above the 50-per-cent threshold indicating expansion for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive month, the survey said.—AFP ■

**S. Korea logs 2<sup>nd</sup>-highest export in October**

SOUTH Korea logged its second-highest export last month, keeping an upward momentum for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive month, a government report showed Monday.

Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, came in at 55.55 billion US dollars in October, up 24 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It marked the second-highest monthly figure since relevant data began to be compiled in 1956, continuing to grow for 12 months since November last year. The record high was 55.83 billion dollars tallied in September this year. Import soared 37.8 per cent over the year to 53.86 billion dollars in October, sending the trade surplus to 1.69 billion dollars. The trade balance stayed in black for 18 months in a row.

The outbound shipment topped 50 billion dollars for eight months since March amid a continued recovery in global demand from the COVID-19 pandemic.—Xinhua ■

**India to hit net-zero climate target by 2070: Modi**

INDIA'S economy will become carbon neutral by the year 2070, the country's prime minister announced Monday at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

"By 2070, India will achieve the target of net-zero emissions," Narendra Modi told more than 120 leaders at the critical talks.

India is the last of the world's major carbon polluters to announce a net-zero target, with China saying it would reach that goal in 2060, and the US and the EU aiming for 2050.

Modi also said India would increase its 2030 target for installed capacity of "non-fossil energy" — mostly solar — from 450 to 500 gigawatts.



India is at a critical moment in history where it has the power to create a thriving, innovative net-zero carbon economy **PHOTO: ANI**

In addition, 50 per cent of the country's energy requirements will come from renewable sources by the same date.

Modi also announced that the carbon intensity of India's economy — the amount of emissions produced per unit of GDP

— would be reduced by 45 per cent by 2030.

The previous goal was 35 per cent.

Modi made it clear, however, that emissions-cutting pledges from India and other developing nations would require finance from rich, historic emitters.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries that submitted carbon cutting plans under the 2015 treaty were to provide updates five years later, by the end of 2020.

India is the only major economy not to have done so, but Modi's announcement is likely to be formalized in a revised plan, experts suggested.—AFP ■

**Macron gives UK more time over fish feud**

French fishermen gather in a net near the port of Saint Helier off the British island of Jersey. **PHOTO: SAMEER AL-DOUMY**

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that retaliatory measures threatened against Britain over a row about

post-Brexit fishing rights would not be implemented at midnight, with fresh talks planned this week.

Discussions will "continue tomorrow" between France, the UK and the European Commission, Macron said on the sidelines of the COP26 summit in Glasgow.

He ruled out the application of French reprisals for the time being because "it's not while we're negotiating that we're going to impose sanctions".

Britain welcomed Macron's announcement.

Brexit minister David Frost said he had accepted an offer from French Europe Minister Clement Beaune to meet. "I look forward to our talks in Paris on Thursday," Frost tweeted.

Announcing the invitation to Frost to come for "in-depth discussions", Beaune tweeted that Britain had sent "the first sig-

nals... to accelerate exchanges".

France had vowed to subject British imports to tighter controls starting from Tuesday, in a bitter row over fishing rights that has grown since Brexit took full effect at the start of the year.

It had said it would prevent British fishermen offloading their catches in French ports, after Britain and the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey declined to issue dozens of French boats with licences to fish in their waters after Brexit.

In a statement, a UK government spokesperson added: "We welcome the French government's announcement that they will not go ahead with implementing their proposed measures as planned tomorrow.—AFP ■

**CIIE offers 'golden opportunities' for businesses entering Chinese market: Thai banker**

THE upcoming China International Import Expo (CIIE) will offer 'golden opportunities' for businesses that want to tap into the Chinese market, said Wichai Kinchong Choi, senior vice-president of leading Thai bank Kasikornbank.

The CIIE, the world's first dedicated import exhibition, focuses on bringing more overseas goods and services into the Chinese market. With a sluggish world economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic, "China is playing a very important role in helping the world economy recover," Wichai said in an interview with Xinhua.

There are many ways to re-

cover the economy, but promoting trade is the quickest and most effective way, he said, adding that the timing of the CIIE is great, "as we need such a big event to push the global economic recovery".

He noted that the CIIE gives Thai companies and exporters a good opportunity to better understand the Chinese market, which is crucial as among Thailand's traditional major export destinations, the European Union (EU) market remains weak while the US market is not stable, and "we rely quite a lot on the Chinese market." Businesses, by attending the CIIE, can also directly communicate with their end users instead of via interme-



Aerial photo taken on 19 October 2018 shows the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai), the main venue to hold the upcoming first China International Import Expo (CIIE), scheduled to be held from 5 to 10 November in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FAN JUN**

diaries, enabling them to better control their products and prices

to maintain a competitive edge, he said.—Xinhua ■

# Top Indian brands balk after threats by Hindu hardliners

INDIA'S biggest festive season is in full swing but top brands are under pressure from right-wing hardliners accusing them of hurting Hindu sentiments. Critics say an atmosphere of growing religious intolerance and fear since Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014 is behind the rise in social media vitriol and physical attacks on minority groups. Clothes and furniture retailer FabIndia and

wellness firm Dabur had to pull adverts in the busy shopping period ahead of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights later this week. Household name FabIndia triggered a storm of abuse online for using an Urdu term, "Jash-e-Rivaaz" ("celebration of tradition"), to describe its latest festive collection. Urdu is one of India's 22 official languages but uses a Persian-Arabic script and is considered a "Muslim language". While Urdu originated in India,

which is home to nearly 200 million Muslims, it is also the national language of bitter rival Pakistan. Many devout Hindus believe it should not be used for their rituals and festivals. Others were outraged that women featured in the advert were not wearing a bindi, a decorative design with religious significance often adorned by Hindu women on their foreheads. Soon, the hashtag #NoBindiNoBusiness began to trend on Twitter. — AFP ■



Clothing brand Manyavar had to roll back its campaign after one of its ads featuring Bollywood A-lister Alia Bhatt appeared to question a traditional wedding ritual  
PHOTO: INDIARETAILING.COM/AFP

# BP underlying earnings up on surging energy prices



British energy giant BP said 2 November that its bottom line was hit by an accounting charge in third quarter, but underlying earnings rose strongly on the back of soaring oil prices. PHOTO: ISTOCK/AFP

BRITISH energy giant BP said Tuesday that its bottom line was hit by an accounting charge in third quarter, but underlying earnings rose strongly on the back of soaring oil prices. BP said in a statement that its net loss widened to \$2.5 billion (2.1 billion

euros) in the period from July through September from \$450 million in the same period a year earlier. The group attributed the deeper loss to "significant adverse accounting effects" of \$6.1 billion, "primarily due to the exceptional increase in forward gas prices towards the end

of the quarter". By contrast, underlying profit surged to \$3.3 billion in the third quarter from \$86 million a year earlier, BP said. Gas prices, along with oil futures, have risen sharply in recent months, boosting income for energy majors, but weighing on business costs and households' spending power. "Rising commodity prices certainly helped," said chief executive Bernard Looney. "But I am most pleased that quarter by quarter, we're doing what we said we would — delivering significant cash to strengthen our finances, grow distributions to shareholders and invest in our strategic transformation." — AFP ■

# Emirates set for Boeing talks on 777X delays: CEO

EMIRATES Airline will hold talks with US aviation giant Boeing over the delayed 777X "before and during" this month's Dubai Air Show, the company's chief executive said on Monday. The airline has repeatedly complained about the delivery of the long-haul jet, whose launch has been set back by a series of safety and

technical problems. "There will be a discussion before and during the air show," Emirates CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum told a news conference when asked about talks with Boeing. Emirates announced an order of 150 777Xs at the 2013 Dubai Air Show and later revised the deal. In May, Emirates president

Tim Clark was quoted as saying he feared a delay until 2025. According to Bloomberg News, Emirates has also raised the prospect of swapping some of its commitments for the smaller Boeing 787 Dreamliner, and has voiced concerns about the new plane's performance in desert conditions. Meanwhile, Sheikh Ahmed also said there were "positive" signs in the economic recovery and return of demand, especially as the end-of-year holidays approach. "We see growth as excellent," he said. More than 80,000 visitors are expected at the November 14-18 Dubai Air Show, which will be held with mandatory masks and social distancing, officials said. — AFP ■



Emirates Airline will hold talks with US aviation giant Boeing over the delayed 777X "before and during" this month's Dubai Air Show, the company's chief executive said on 1 November PHOTO: AFP

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V MAERSK NESNA VOY.NO. (141W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NESNA VOY.NO. (141W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (230N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (230N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING**

## Macron says Australian PM lied to him over subs spat

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday said Australia's prime minister outright lied to him over a cancelled submarine deal, deepening an already fraught diplomatic crisis.

"I don't think. I know," Macron said when asked by Australian media if Scott Morrison was untruthful in their private dealings.

Both leaders are attending the G20 in Rome and a major UN-backed climate summit in Glasgow, but the weeks-long spat continues to trail them.

In September, Australia's leader without warning tore up a decade-old multi-billion-dollar contract with France to build a new fleet of submarines.

At the same time, Morrison



French president Emmanuel Macron and Australia's prime minister Scott Morrison speak to the press at the Elysee Palace in Paris on 15 June 2021. PHOTO: AFP

revealed he had been in secret talks to acquire US or British nuclear subs.

Furious, Paris denounced the decision as a "stab in the

back" and recalled its ambassador, who is only now getting back to work Down Under.

Australian media asked Macron on the sidelines of

the G20 summit whether he thought the Australian leader had been untruthful to him in private meetings.

The French president left little doubt about his view, stressing the need for mutual "respect".

"You have to behave in line and consistently with this value," he said.

Macron crossed paths with Morrison at the G20, and spoke on the phone earlier this week, telling him that a "relationship of trust" had been broken between France and Australia.

The pair are yet to sit down for formal talks, although the French ambassador is set to meet Australia's foreign minister in Sydney on Monday.—AFP ■

## Japan govt condemns 'brutal' Joker train attack



People flee from a Keio Line train at Kokuryo Station in Tokyo on 31 October 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

THE suspect in a Halloween stabbing and fire attack on a Tokyo train expressed admiration for infamous comic villain the Joker, Japanese media reported, with authorities describing the incident as "atrocious and brutal" on Monday.

Police said they arrested a 24-year-old man for attempted murder over the Sunday evening attack which caused 18 people to be hospitalized, as videos aired of officers surrounding a man in a purple suit with a bright green shirt and tie, reminiscent of the Batman villain.

The incident sparked panic and chaos in a country where

violent crime is rare, and TV footage showed terrified passengers running through the train as smoke filled the carriage.

"With a knife he was carrying, the man stabbed the right side of the chest of a male passenger in his 70s sitting in the train, but couldn't achieve his aim (of murder)," a Tokyo police spokesman told AFP.

"He told police he wanted to receive a death sentence by killing someone," the spokesman added.

The elderly man is in a critical condition after being stabbed, according to media reports.—AFP ■

## Mexican forces open fire on vehicle, killing migrant

MEXICAN security forces opened fire on a pick-up truck carrying migrants that tried to ram a patrol vehicle, leaving a Cuban dead and several injured, authorities said Monday.

Leaders of a migrant caravan marching towards Mexico City to demand refugee status said the foreigners were part of their group, accusing the National Guard of an "attack".

The National Guard said its personnel had located a pick-up truck on a dirt track in the southern state of Chiapas on Sunday after reports that three vehicles had evaded a security checkpoint.

It said in a statement that the driver ignored an order to stop and accelerated towards the patrol, prompting its forces to open fire due to fears for their safety.

Several people tried to flee the vehicle but were detained,

while one person was killed and four injured, the National Guard said. In a statement released late Sunday that did not mention the National Guard's involvement, the Chiapas attorney general's office identified the man killed as Cristobal "N," a Cuban national.

The wounded—all Cubans according to a government source—were taken to hospital. Nine other foreigners were handed over to the immigration authorities, while the driver was detained by prosecutors, the National Guard said.

Irineo Mujica, one of the leaders of the migrant caravan, said the foreigners had been travelling with the group but decided to break off due to rumours of raids by the authorities.

"They were given a ride by a truck and shot," Mujica said.—AFP ■



Migrants traveling in a caravan walk through southern Mexico towards the capital to request refugee status. PHOTO: AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### US judge dismisses most money-laundering charges against Maduro ally Saab

A US judge on Monday dismissed seven of eight money-laundering charges against Alex Saab, a businessman close to the regime of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro, a court filing showed.

On trial in Miami, Florida following his extradition from Cape Verde earlier this month, the Colombian businessman still faces one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, which could carry a 20-year jail term.

Judge Robert Scola of the Southern District of Florida signed the order at the request of the prosecution. On 7 September 2020, during the extradition process, the United States "sent an assurance" to Cape Verde that it would not "prosecute or punish defendant Alex Nain Saab for more than a single count of the indictment," the prosecution said in its request to Scola.

The decision was made "in order to comply with Cabo Verdean law regarding the maximum term of imprisonment," the request said.

Saab, a Colombian national, and his business partner Alvaro Pulido are charged in the United States with running a network that exploited food aid destined for Venezuela, an oil-rich nation mired in an acute economic crisis.

They are alleged to have moved \$350 million out of Venezuela into accounts they controlled in the United States and other countries.—AFP ■

### Cuban news agency launches new web portal

CUBA'S news agency Prensa Latina on 1 November launched a new web portal.

Norge Lopez, an engineer at the Department of Technical Development of Prensa Latina, said that the new portal will provide the readers with interactive tools and a more attractive graphic design.

"We have made changes in keeping with the international media standards to better reach our audiences," he said, adding that "the website features podcasts, video stories, and photos."

Founded in 1959, Prensa Latina now has 40 offices across the world and a Havana-based multimedia center with the capacity to process 400 dispatches in six different languages daily.—Xinhua ■

## Pentagon watches possible Russian troop buildup near Ukraine

THE Pentagon is monitoring the Ukraine region closely amid reports of a new buildup of Russian troops on the country's border, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said Monday.

According to The Washington Post, US officials are concerned over unexplained movements of Russian military units in the area.

Videos posted on social media show military trains and truck convoys moving tanks and missiles in Russia's southwest near Ukraine.

A US official, speaking on the basis of anonymity, confirmed that there had been some move-

ment, though not as large as the surge in Moscow's forces early this year.

"We're aware of public reports of unusual Russian military activity near Ukraine," Kirby told reporters.

"We're going to continue to consult with allies and partners on this issue... As we've said before, any escalatory or aggressive actions would be of great concern to the United States."

The buildup comes just after US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin toured the Black Sea region, stopping in NATO partner states Ukraine and Georgia and alliance full member Romania, to express

solidarity and build more support for confronting Russia in the area.

Russia-aligned separatists in eastern Ukraine have been battling Ukrainian government forces since 2014.

Also in 2014, Russian troops seized the Crimea region of Ukraine, sparking stiff Western sanctions on the country.

In March, just weeks after President Joe Biden's inauguration, Russia massed thousands of troops, heavy military equipment, naval vessels and aircraft on the Ukraine border and in Crimea, holding them there for weeks and sparking fears of an invasion.—AFP ■



Russian forces conduct military exercises near Ukraine in April 2021. PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP

## US nuclear sub struck uncharted seamount



The Seawolf-class fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut departs Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for sea trials in December 2016.

PHOTO: US NAVY/AFP

A US Navy nuclear submarine that was severely damaged in an accident while submerged in the South China Sea last month struck an uncharted underwater seamount, the Navy said Monday.

The US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, which operates in the western Pacific, said an investigation had con-

cluded that the USS Connecticut smashed into a geological formation and not another vessel on 2 October.

"The investigation determined USS Connecticut grounded on an uncharted seamount while operating in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region," a 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet spokesperson

said in an emailed statement.

The conclusions of the probe have been handed over to Vice-Admiral Karl Thomas, the commander of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, to "determine whether follow-on actions, including accountability, are appropriate," they said.

The Navy confirmed the incident a week after it took place, only saying that the Connecticut, a nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, "struck an object while submerged."

USNI News, published by the US Naval Institute, a think-tank close to the Navy, reported that there were some moderate and minor injuries in the accident.

It said the crash damaged the sub's forward ballast tanks and forced it to sail on the surface for a week back to Guam for repairs.

The ship's nuclear plant was not damaged, the publication said.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Japan opposition leader Edano to resign after poor election results

The leader of the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, Yukio Edano, said Tuesday he will resign from the post after his party failed to win over voters in last weekend's general election despite public dissatisfaction with the government's COVID-19 response.

Edano decided to end his four-year stint since founding the CDPJ in October 2017, after the CDPJ's seats shrank from 110 to 96 in the election on 31 October as it was shunned by voters in the proportional representation section of the election.

"My inadequacy is the reason this happened," he said at a party meeting. "I apologize from the bottom of my heart to all of the party executives, to all of our supporters across the country, and most of all to our colleagues who unfortunately were not elected."—Kyodo ■

#### Three Chinese hostages in Mali rescued after escape

THREE Chinese nationals kidnapped in Mali in July escaped their captors at the weekend and were rescued by security forces on Monday, the Sahel state's army said. On 17 July, armed men attacked a construction site in the southwest of the conflict-ridden country, making off with pick-up trucks and five hostages: three Chinese men and two Mauritanian nationals. The Mauritanians were freed 10 days later.

But the remaining Chinese captives managed to stage a successful escape on Sunday, according to a Malian army statement.—AFP ■



The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) was protesting over the detention of its leader, arrested in April when the group was outlawed by authorities, and was demanding the expulsion of the French ambassador from Pakistan. PHOTO: AFP

## Pakistani Islamists call off rally after govt talks

A banned Pakistani Islamist party on Monday called off a march to the capital and ended its occupation of a major highway after reaching a deal with the government, following more than a week of clashes that left seven policemen dead. The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) was protesting over the detention of its leader, arrested in April when the group was outlawed by authorities, and was demanding the

expulsion of the French ambassador from Pakistan.

The group has been behind major anti-France protests that earlier this year led to the French embassy issuing a warning for all its citizens to leave the country.

Several thousand supporters had begun a stop-start march from the eastern city of Lahore to the capital Islamabad, reaching about one third of the way.

"We have called off our

march to Islamabad after reaching an agreement with the government," Sajjad Saifi, a spokesman for the TLP, told AFP.

"Our supporters have moved to the nearby park and until 50 per cent of terms are fulfilled we will stay here," Saifi added.

At least seven policemen were killed and several injured in the latest clashes. The TLP said 14 of its supporters were killed and scores injured.—AFP ■

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

### 1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

### 2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

### 3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

## Myanmar suffer 0-1 loss to Viet Nam in U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR U-23 football team were eliminated from the Asian Cup Qualification after facing a 0-1 loss to Viet Nam at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Kyrgyzstan on 2 November.

Thanks to the 59-minute header from Viet Nam star Ho Thanh Minh, the team has already advanced to the Asian Cup tourney.

Both teams played tough even from the start.

With Myanmar head coach Velizar Popov absent from the sidelines after his

red card on Saturday, Viet Nam tried to find more dangerous attacks but the Myanmar side back was strong enough to clear the opponent's chances.

No goal is scored in the first 45 minutes although both teams create many chances, mainly from set-pieces.

Viet Nam gets a freekick in the right flank at 59 minutes and Nguyen Hai Long crosses to Ho Thanh Minh to head it in 1-0 for Viet Nam.

Myanmar increase firepower with two substitutions

in the 66 minutes to get their equalizer.

Hoang Anh of Viet Nam is hit in the face by Myanmar's Aung Wunna Soe at 80 minutes and the referee gave the Myanmar player a straight red card and team Myanmar was down to 10 men.

Viet Nam stayed strong till the final minutes to maintain their 1-0 win over Myanmar.

The narrow win is enough for team Viet Nam to qualify for the U-23 Asian Cup tourney. — GNLM ■



Viet Nam forward player (red) vies for the ball against the Myanmar player during their U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Kyrgyzstan on 2 November 2021. **PHOTO: MFF**



Barcelona striker Sergio Aguero will be out for at least three months while his treatment for a heart problem is assessed. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Aguero will be out for at least three months: Barcelona

BARCELONA striker Sergio Aguero will be out for at least three months while his treatment for a heart problem is assessed, the club said on Monday.

"Aguero has been subjected to a diagnostic and therapeutic process by Dr. Josep Brugada. He is unavailable for selection and during the next

three months the effectiveness of treatment will be evaluated in order to determine his recovery process," the club said.

The Argentine was taken to hospital after suffering breathing problems on Saturday as Barcelona drew at home with Alaves.

He was replaced before half time by Philippe Coutinho.

The club uploaded a photo of the player, known as 'Kun' on Twitter along with the hashtag 'ForcaKun' (Strength Kun).

The 33-year-old arrived last European summer from Manchester City. He has played five competitive matches, scoring just one goal. — AFP ■

## Tennis: Back injury shuts Kei Nishikori down for season

JAPAN'S top-ranked men's tennis player Kei Nishikori said Monday a back injury will keep him on the sidelines for the rest of the 2021 season, but he pledged to be back on court next year.

The 31-year-old former world No. 4 revealed on Twitter that he will pull out of the 7-13 November Stockholm Open, the last event of the ATP season before the tour final, because of the injury he sustained in the weeks leading up to

the San Diego Open in late September.

Just 90 minutes before he was scheduled to play his San Diego opener against Britain's Andy Murray, Nishikori withdrew with a back injury.

"It's been a long year, coming back from injury and I look forward to (the) off-season," he wrote. "Also, (I) look forward to having a strong pre-season training to make 2022 a great year." Nishikori, who had season-ending sur-

gery on his right elbow in 2019, has not won an ATP title since January 2019. He is currently ranked 49th in the world.

Also on Monday, Yoshihito Nishiooka, the second-ranked male player from Japan, tweeted he is also withdrawing from the same ATP 25-level tournament in the Swedish capital, citing a right wrist issue. — Kyodo News ■



Japan's Kei Nishikori is pictured during his Madrid Open second-round match against Alexander Zverev of Germany on 5 May 2021, in Madrid, Spain. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**