

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 4 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.

It is necessary to strive for putting all the tasks undertaken by the government in its tenure on record: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with members of the Mandalay Region government in Mandalay on 3 November 2021.

AS Mandalay Region is a focal point for travel, it is necessary to emphasize systematic operation of tourism services, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Mandalay Region government at its office in Aungmyaythazan Township yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Senior General urged the Mandalay City Development Committee and the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development to join hands in manufacturing

the value-added products of agriculture and livestock farming tasks. Products of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks must be mass production.

The Region Chief Minister and ministers reported on development tasks of the city and uplift of the sports sector in the region. Members of the State Administration Council and Union ministers gave supplementary reports.

In his response, the Senior General instructed officials to organize local farmers to use natural fertilizers and EM Bokashi in their farms. Efforts must be

made for increasing the per-acre yield of cotton in the Mandalay Region and for systematically growing of the staple cotton plantation to meet the demand of the country.

It is necessary to consider the construction of the underground circular railways in the future in implementing the public transport project. As a large sum of foreign exchange is spent on fuel supply, the use of fuel should be reduced. Efforts must be made for running the bus lines and circular trains in Mandalay City. Travelling and cargo transport play the key role

in fulfilling the requirement of the people, so domestic transport and tourism services are allowed. As Mandalay Region is a focal point for travel, it is necessary to emphasize the systematic operation of tourism services.

The Senior General noted farmers need to strive for increasing the per-acre yield of agricultural crops while the government must provide necessary assistance to them.

Trees must be grown in Mandalay City for ensuring favourable climatic conditions. Rural areas of the region need to grow village firewood planta-

tions. If a household solar system can be implemented in the rural area of the Mandalay Region, it will meet the electricity demand. The Government and the Tatmadaw are striving for the production of solar panels.

The Senior General pledged he encourages measures of ethnic culture, literature and ethnic affairs. All ethnicities need to be united. He stressed the need to complete the trials of cases in realizing the rule of law. It is necessary to strive for putting all the tasks undertaken by the government in its tenure on record. — MNA

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**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Central Bank of Myanmar
Notification No 43/2021**

14th Waning of Thadingyut 1383 ME
3 November 2021

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued this notification exercising the authority conferred under Section 121 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law.
2. In order to implement payment systems more effectively in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, payment in cash for the purchase, sales and transfer of basic goods, services or other types of payment in cash should not exceed K20 million per time. For any payment in excess of this amount, digital payment methods using the banking system such as mobile banking, payment through internet banking, payment by bank card, payment by check/payment order (PO), account transfer, paying the bank in cash and submit proof of payment must be used.
3. This notification shall be effective from the date of issue. Failure to comply with this will result in legal action.

*Than Nyein
Governor*

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No “1111” for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No “1111” and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

**Answer “1111” to fight against corruption
Answer “1111” to improve services
Let’s work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity**

Phowintaung Buddha Pujaniya Festival postponed

PHOWINTAUNG Buddha Pujaniya Festival to be held in archaeological site of Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region has been postponed said Chairman of the Board of Trustees U Cho Oo.

“There is no pagoda festival. It has not been celebrated for two years now. It is celebrated from the 10th waxing day of Tazaungmon to the full moon of Tazaungmon.

The official pagoda festival starts on the 8th waxing day of the

month. Later, it was held for 10 days due to fewer crowds,” said U Cho Oo.

People from Salingyi, Pale and Yinmabin mostly come and celebrate the pagoda festival.

As the pagoda festival and the spirit festival go hand in hand, it is a festival where the devotees from three townships gather and give alms at the pagoda festival.

“During the festival, people donate foods to 130 Buddhist monks from Salingyi, Pale and

Yinmabin at around 9:10 am on the 14th waxing day of Tazaungmon. Pilgrims return on the morning of the full moon day,” U Cho Oo explained.

“They come to the pagoda festival in bullock carts, rest in groups in the forest and do good deeds on the morning of the full moon of Tazaungmon. After that they returned home,” a local said.

“In the age of motorcycles, the number of carts has decreased. There are only about



Phowintaung Buddha Image.



According to records, there are 185 pagodas within 7 miles from Yinmabin Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, including the historic Phowin Mountain and Ingyin Mountain.



200 carts left. In the past, there were more than a thousand carts. There was no place for carts, so they huddled in the forest.

Now the cart is placed in the open space between Shweba Mountain and Phowin Valley,” said a Salingyi resident.

According to records, there are 185 pagodas within 7 miles from Yinmabin Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, including the historic Phowin Mountain and Ingyin Mountain.

—Lu Lay/GNLM

Construction of elevator tower at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda completes 70%

THE construction of elevator tower and sky walkway bridge was completed 70 per cent, said U Than Lwin, construction project manager.

The construction project is being carried out by Kyaw Thar Company and the project is linked between Hnakeik Shithsu pagoda and Koekhangyi pagoda. So far, the project was completed by 70 per cent.

“Regarding the elevator tower construction project, we are currently preparing to concrete lift towers 19 metres level. Then, two-span portions were completed. We are currently constructing pillars. The left side of portion-2 was concreted. There is also one portion-1 left on the sidewalk. So far, 70 per cent of the construction project have been completed,” said the project manager.

The elevator tower is 210 feet in length and 119 feet high. The tower also includes a 12-foot-wide walkway. The total cost is estimated to be about K1.6 billion. The construction project will be completed by the end of January 2022 before the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda festival.

The project started on 29 May 2021. — Ma Yu (Ngaphe)/GNLM



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)

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Bhamo Sayadaw, Maha Wizitayon Monastery Sayadaw, donates alms, supplicates flourishing of Buddha Sasana



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the donations made by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa Bhamo Sayadaw at Bhamo Monastery in Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay Region on 3 November 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid homage to Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa Bhamo Sayadaw at Bhamo Monastery in Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

The Senior General offered eight kinds of prerequisites, cash for nine prerequisites, 100 bags of rice, 10 bags of gram, 100 visses of edible oil, nutritious foodstuffs and medicines donated by families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to Bhamo Sayadaw. Members of the State Administration Council and Union ministers also donated alms to

members of the Sangha.

The Senior General supplicated efforts for building Maravijaya Buddha Image in the Buddha Park of Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, the building of the Buddha image with the aim of showing the firmly flourishing of Theravada Buddha Sasana of Myanmar to the world, ensuring peace and stability of the nation, helping the region develop through visits of the local and foreign travellers to the Buddha image and contributing to the development of the country, plans underway to create chance for visitors to pay homage to the Buddha image as well as to view the Pitaka stone inscription, posting of stone inscriptions on Pitaka treatises, efforts made for translating and

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The Senior General and party pay homage to the Buddha image and Buddhist stupas at Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay on 3 November 2021.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Bhamo Sayadaw, Maha Wizitayon Monastery Sayadaw, donates alms, supplicates flourishing of Buddha Sasana

FROM PAGE-3

publishing the Tri Pitaka treatises in Pali to English under the supervision of five Ovadacariya Sayadaws in line with the advice of former Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Ashin Silananda Bhivamsa, and arrangements for carving the stone inscriptions on Tri Pitaka treatises in Pali and English to the Sayadaw with the use of layout plans, stone inscription chamber and sample of stone plaques.

At Maha Wizitayon Monastery in Chanayethazan Township, the Senior General and party paid homage to Presiding Nayaka of the monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Vicarinda Bhivamsa. The Senior General offered eight kinds of prerequisites, cash for nine prerequisites, 20 bags of rice, five bags of gram, 50 visse

of edible oil, foodstuffs and medicines donated by families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to the Sayadaw. He then asked after the health condition of the Sayadaw and instructed officials to make arrangements for the Sayadaw.

The Senior General also paid homage to the Buddha image at Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda and donated cash to the fund.

In visiting the pagoda, the Senior General stressed the need to systematically maintain the pagoda for the convenience of pilgrims as the pagoda was built by King Mindon. Ancient works of doors must be maintained as much as the original. It is necessary to place tiles on the platform of the pagoda and the circular road of the park. Stone inscription chambers should be cleaned and the chamber and stone plaques must be recorded.

The pagoda was built by King Mindon who came onto the



The SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General offers alms to the Maha Wizitayon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw yesterday.

throne in 1852. There are 729 stone plaques at the pagoda and these inscriptions were carved in 1868. Each stone plaque is kept

in the chamber until present. In 2013, these plaques were recognized as the Worlds' Largest Book by UNESCO. It is neces-

sary to systematic preservation of Kuthodaw Pagoda and UNESCO's heritage stone plaques in successive eras. —MNA

COVID-19 vaccines distributed to different states/regions

MILITARY doctors, health workers and civil society groups are working hard to provide health care services, and the COVID-19 vaccine is being transported by Tatmadaw (Air) and motor vehicles as per cold-chain standards.

A total of 882 doses of the vaccines with 5,034 sets of the

syringe to Dawei, Taninthayi Region, 6,681 doses of the vaccines with 13,362 sets of the syringe to Kalay, Sagaing Region, 462 doses of the vaccines with 924 sets of the syringe to Loikaw, Kayah State, 4,808 doses of the vaccines with 9,616 sets of the syringe to Kengtung, eastern Shan State, 10,483 doses of

the vaccines with 20,966 sets of the syringe to Lashio, and 12,263 doses of the vaccines with 24,526 sets of the syringe to Myitkyina, Kachin State were transported by Tatmadaw aircraft. Officials have received them and will distribute them to the relevant authorities, authorities said. — MNA



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Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing make tours to stadium upgrades, Mandalay University



At the Practising Middle School in Mandalay.



At the Mandalay University Library.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Council member General Maung Maung Kyaw, Joint-Secretary of the Council Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister U Hla Moe, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe and Union Minister U Min Thein Zan, Mandalay

Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko, Tatmadaw senior officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo, and officials, inspected the Practising Middle School, Stadiums, and Mandalay University in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council and party firstly arrived at the Practising Middle School and cordially met with students and the school headmistress, and provided school funds, COVID-19 immunization materials, and coordinated for the school's renovations. The Chairman then met with school-

masters of the primary, middle, and high schools. He said it is necessary to provide education to the children, and urged them to work together until they are proficient in basic literature as basic education is important. He said the need to keep classrooms clean and tidy, as well as to train and supervise the students to have good practice of proper waste disposal. He also made instructions to strictly follow the COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

where they were welcomed by Rector Dr Tin Htun, Pro-rectors, Librarian Daw Aye Aye Soe and members. They made a tour of the library and observed the book arrangements, preservation of ancient inscriptions, International Human Rights Resource Centre, establishment of the E-library and CMU Corner.

During the tour, the Chairman of the State Administration Council said it is important to have good literature at the library as it can provide historical and cultural and community knowledge. He added the need to preserve ancient inscriptions and precious books in the library with technical assistance to make them long-lasting and easy to read and study, as well as there is a need for systematic maintenance of libraries and books and periodicals.

During his visit to the Aungmye Mandalar Stadium and the Bahtoo Stadium which are now under renovation, the Chairman of the State Administration Council said stadiums must be good to upgrade the sports sector, and he said resting rooms for athletes and routes to enter the stadium need to be taken into account in upgrading the stadiums as well as the stands need to be upgraded to accommodate the number of spectators.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council and the party afterwards inspected the university campus and coordinated the requirements presented by officials. — MNA

In the evening, the Chairman of the State Administration Council and party arrived at the Main Library of Mandalay University



At the Bahtoo Stadium.



The Senior General views the Aungmye Mandalar Playground.



Ethnic affairs, public management and services committee holds meeting (15/2021)

THE Ethnic Affairs, Public Management and Services Committee held a meeting (15/2021) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The State Administration Council members, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and other officials of the departments concerned attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Committee Chairman Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, SAC member made an opening remark.

Then, Secretary of the Committee Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung clarified the meeting minutes of the previous meeting (14/2021) and ongoing work plans.

After that, the attendees to

the meeting respectively briefed all on the proposals to the committee.

The chairman of the committee also highlighted the plans to submit the proposals of ministries to the SAC management committee and other cases to be implemented based on the committee's decision.

Moreover, Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw and Director-General Daw Thida Tun clarified the completed operations.

The respective officials coordinated the matters related to ethnic affairs, public management and services, and Committee Chairman General Mya Tun Oo concluded the meeting. — MNA



Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) holds its regular meeting

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) held its (5/2021) meeting yesterday morning at office No.18, the Union Government Office, Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was chaired by the member of the State Administration Council, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and the members of Myanmar Investment Commission participated in the meeting.

The meeting is the first time of the 2021-2022 financial year (short term) and approved 13 new projects for agricultural, hotels and tourism, manufacturing, and other services sectors and it also approved the increase in capital of 19 existing projects. The approved projects



amounted to US\$204.838 million and K225,520.015 million and 2,972 job opportunities are ex-

pected to be created.

According to the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan

(MIPP), the amount of investment targeted for the last financial year (2020-2021) was US\$5.8

billion, although, there was the impact of the COVID-19 on the economy around the world, the amount of investment in Myanmar reached nearly 3.8 billion US dollar which was over 65 per cent of the investment target for the last financial year.

By the end of September 2021, the countries/ regions with the largest investment out of 51 countries investing in Myanmar are Singapore, China, and Thailand. The electric power sector leads the list of most invested sectors out of 12 business sectors with 28 per cent of total investment. This was followed by oil and gas sector, accounting for 25.18 per cent, and the manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.26 per cent. — MNA

Mon reports 1,071 new COVID-19 cases, 60 deaths in October

MON state reported 1,071 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 60 deaths from the pandemic, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Health.

Among the cases in Mon State comprised of seven cases with one death in Kyaikto township; 92 cases with five deaths in Bilin township; 11 cases with no reported death in Thaton township and 89 cases with five deaths in Paung Township in October.

Similarly, there were 93 cases with four deaths in Mawlamyine township, 72 cases with three deaths in Kyaikmaraw township, 410 cases with 23 deaths in Chaungzon township, 47 cases with six deaths in Mudon township, 139 cases with three deaths in Thanbyuzayat township, 58 cases with 10 deaths in Ye township and 53 cases from returnees from Thailand.

Besides, authorities from Mon State lifted the stay-at-home order in Thaton Town-

ship on 27 October. Stay-at-home restriction has been cancelled due to a decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases in Thaton township, which is less than five per cent for two weeks.

The number of COVID-19 cases and death tolls in Mon State reached 6,645 cases with 466 casualties in July, 4,987 cases with 590 deaths in August and 3,209 cases with 262 casualties in September, the Ministry of Health stated. — Aye Maung/GNLM

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

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



Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region.



Ye Township, Mon State.



Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region .



Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region .



Tahlay Town, Tachilek District, Shan State (East).

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

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

On 3 November, anti-COV-

ID-19 equipment, medical products, including masks and oxygen generators, were imported by one company using one vehicle.

A total of 200 empty oxygen cylinders, one oxygen generator for clinical use, 30 oxygen concentrators for home use and nine tonnes of gloves were imported via the Myawady trading post and Yangon International Sea-

ports. 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

3,400 schoolchildren in Hsihseng get jabbed against COVID-19



Inoculation drive for schoolchildren underway in Shan State (North).

THE COVID-19 vaccine is being given to the students aged 12 and above in Hsihseng Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, southern Shan State, from 17 October to 1 November by vaccination teams in designated areas.

The vaccination was administered by the township public health department staff, officials from the Department of Education, departmental officials, members of the Red Cross and volunteers.

A total of 3,400 students middle and high school students aged 12 and above in the township have already been vaccinated, officials said. The vaccine was administered in 14 immunization sites including

Basic Education High School (Saikkoung), Basic Education High School (Noughtaw), Basic Education High School (Banyin), Basic Education High School (Lwepud), Basic Education High School (Htamyang), Basic Education High School (Pankann), Basic Education High School (Saile), Basic Education High School (Pachakaloe) Basic Education High School (Panoh), BEHS (Namon) BEMS (Narmon), Middle High School (Mamongson), Post-Primary School (Noungyin) and the remaining 12-year-old middle and high school students will be vaccinated against the pandemic, officials said.—Myo Myat (Hsihseng)/GNLM

COVID-19 vaccinations continue in Katha Township



A Katha local gets jabbed against COVID-19.

THOSE who have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine got the second dose at Katha City Hall, Katha Township, Sagaing Region from 8 am on 3 November:

The second batch of COVID-19 vaccine (Sinopharm), which arrived in October, is being administered to a total population of 2,000 in the region.

Sayadaws, monks and nuns from wards and villages in the township, elderly people aged over 65 and above 18-year-olds came and got the vaccines, officials said.

Necessary health care and assistance activities are being carried out in groups by township-level departments and social organizations in collaboration with public health department officials.

People who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the township are being vaccinated for the first time, according to the Township COVID-19 disease control and emergency response committee. —Katha District (IPRD)/GNLM

Carefully adopt firm population policy with farsightedness

EACH country needs to be formed with the internationally recognized land area and the population as main factors for the country characteristics. It is because the land area of the country becomes the mother home for the people. The rapid growth of population in a country or a region can be identified as the population explosion. On the other hand, some countries may face the decline of population unexpectedly for various reasons.

As such, Myanmar needs to sustain the proper increasing rate of population in order to support the economic development of the nation while preventing the acts of trafficking in persons which badly undermine enhancement of the socio-economy of the people and peaceful and prosperous nature of the society.

As the increasing number of populations may contribute much towards the economic development of some countries, it is dubbed as the rewards of population. However, the decline of the population may be a hindrance to the productivity of the country, harming the rate of its economic growth.

Consequently, such a kind of situation may cause the raising of dependents as well as the crisis for looking after the older persons. As such, it is necessary to adopt the appropriate population policies avoiding the two edges such as population explosion and population decline for enabling the people to enjoy the fruits of human development.

Some countries across the world face deep poverty situations not to escape from the bad vicious circle with the increasing number of populations more than the workable age people. In this regard, the appropriate population policy may support the gradual reform process in these countries to solve the crises

of a bad vicious circle in a patient manner.

As part of implementing the population policy, all the citizens of Myanmar need to serve the inborn duty for the prevention of trafficking in persons, especially forced marriage to those from other countries. Currently, some women from poor families in Myanmar similar to those from neighbouring Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam become the victims of forced marriage to foreigners.

According to the data of the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force of Myanmar, suspects from 239 cases of human trafficking were arrested in regions and states in 2019. Of them, some Myanmar women victims fell under the human traffickers in 196 cases to China.

As such, Myanmar needs to sustain the proper increasing rate of population in order to support the economic development of the nation while preventing the acts of trafficking in persons which badly undermine enhancement of the socio-economy of the people and peaceful and prosperous nature of the society.



Wrongful media campaign of misinformation on genocide from Kinma to Thantlang

By Ko Myanmar

ASAYING goes, "A lie can travel full way around the world, while the truth is just putting on its shoes," is absolutely true in the IT era as the electromagnetic wave travels the earth seven and a half times per second.

Beginning on the afternoon of 29 October, the news "the whole Thantlang township of Chin State was engulfed by the fire due to the attack of security forces" has spread via media outlets and social networks. The photos and videos of downtown buildings on fire were also captured by high-quality drone cameras and were spreading online in a timely manner.

While such irresponsible media is blatantly broadcasting as they expected, the authorities are making efforts to provide accurate and on-ground facts and information. So they cannot make any reply instantly but on 30 October, the day after the incident. At that time, there had been frustrated criticisms. Regarding this case, the knowledgeable experts considered that such doings were intentionally committed even before the issuance of the statement of the government.

Because the Thantlang case resembles the previous case of Kinma Village of the Sagaing Region and it becomes more systematic than the incident of Kinma Village.

First, while the villagers were fleeing during the incident, the PDF terrorist groups started setting fires to the houses of the people with whom they were angry and they took photos and video recordings only when the entire village had been engulfed in the fire and broadcasted via online media. The western embassies also accused the security forces of the fire without any verification. The western media outlets also covered the news and some media broadcasted fake interviews featuring a PDF member of Kinma Village under the guise of an innocent villager. The assassination allegations were silenced when the video footage emerged that the security members carried the old men and women out of the fire.

But the destructive media attacks have not completely given up. They are waiting for their opportune time and the Thantlang case occurs again. Setting fire on the villages is not a military operation, and it seems to be a political offence combined with media means. They deliberately fabricated news and misinformation based on a few facts. It is now becoming more and more popular as the political agenda to mix and match conspiracy theories and use fast-spreading media methods in order to stimulate the public emotions, shape their ideology and create their desired political

outcomes. This has been called "post-truth politics".

There may be a variety of political purposes behind the widespread propaganda that the security forces of the Myanmar government have attacked and set fire to towns and villages based on the reports that the towns and villages have caught fire.

The first point: It seems to open the way to foreign intervention by spreading the message around the world that Myanmar faces civil wars like Syria and Libya.

The second point: They want to stoke fear amongst innocent people in order for them to oppose the Tatmadaw and government.

The third point: They intend to attack the current ruling government in a political way by trying to prosecute the security forces, who served the duties under the laws, procedures and regulations, with heavy charges like war crimes, other criminal cases against society and genocide at the respective international criminal courts.

If we look at the Thantlang incident, it is learned that they take time to systematically make preparations in advance. Thantlang town, which is only 20 miles from Haka, the capital of Chin State, is a peaceful and pleasant place. But the armed insurrection broke out due to the attacks

of CNF and CDF in Mindat and Matupi townships of southern Chin State. Since the terrorists fled from these areas and reached Thantlang, the peace of Thantlang was started being destroyed. The administrative, economic and religious buildings were attacked and the residents moved to safe places, and the town became a deserted place. On 21 October, the Theemit bridge connecting with Haka was exploded and the communications were cut off. For such doings, the fire engines could not reach there to extinguish the fire and the military troops also could not be reinforced there.

Moreover, the media sector prepared in advance for the arson attack in Thantlang. They also chose the best time to be the most effective way to showcase the attack to the international community. On 18 September, the serious attacks occurred in Thantlang and one pastor, who tried to put out the fire, was accused of being an informer and killed by CDF. They also took his watch and ring by cutting his hand. The incident was widely reported in the media as a reversal of the truth and religious persecution. (Before this case, the Lonele Buddhist Missionary Monastery was burned down and the Abbot was killed, and such incident was covered up.) The international media did not make any control on the case

that created hate speech. Furthermore, Dr Sasa of NUG widely used the word 'genocide' to motivate the public. Organizations such as the UK Campaign for Burma called for the UN Security Council Meeting led by the UK accusing Myanmar of being civil wars with the disintegration of security in northwestern areas.

The Thantlang issue happened on 29 October and it was the very day before the G20 Summit, which was to be held in Rome, Italy on 30 October. It also occurred just before the time the U.S President Joe Biden met the Pope at the Vatican whenever he comes to Italy to join the summit, and it seemed to be happening just in a coincidence with his visit.

Besides, the CDF flew a high-performance drone to capture the fire in Thantlang, and the images were immediately posted on the ASEAN Heritage and History page along with a Chin lady wearing a face tattoo. Such doings reflect their advance intent to do so. Like an adage says, "The cat cannot dive in the water for long," the truth emerged that the fire broke out not because of the security forces but because of CNF and CDF. It was also found that they had taken the photos and video records by themselves according to their photos and video footage. (See the following links: <https://www.Facebook.com/1649751183/posts/10217776615881004/>, <https://www.Facebook.com/100013635930616/posts/1288218518309334/>, <https://www.Facebook.com/100037730252712/posts/583234746277529/>).

In conclusion, we should consider and understand who are suffering or who are benefiting from being harmed in the real situation due to the political fabrications that cover the truth and distort the people's thoughts. They control innocent people to grab political power while living in foreign countries extravagantly since both keyboard fighters and they are prosperous with the donations. However, the people have to stay in fear within the country. They are accused of being informers and killed brutally. And there are also losses of lives and properties without any reasons. New generations who lead the wrong ways due to destructive incitements should reconsider their wrongdoings that have been detrimental to the people and the country and reshape their lives before the right time passes. The people who believe in whatever online news without being able to distinguish between the true and false are urged to open their eyes and ears with a much broader vision in order to consider everything conscientiously and knowledgeably.



Israel opens to vaccinated tourists

ISRAEL opened up to vaccinated visitors Monday after 20 months of closure, with Jews and Palestinians reliant on tourism voicing cautious hope the pandemic's economic devastation will gradually ease.

Rami Razouk, a Palestinian souvenir shop owner in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem's Old City, said he was "very happy" at the prospect of increased revenue, but conceded his store was not quite ready for an influx.

"Everything is dusty," the 35-year-old told AFP. "We have a lot of work to do."

Razouk and top Israeli officials said that Monday marked a partial reopening, and that it would be premature to immediately expect busloads of tourists to start spending across the region.

"We are far from the (complete) open-



Israelis and vaccinated tourists wearing masks for COVID-19 protection arrive to Israel's Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on 23 May 2021, after a partial reopening of the border to inoculated tourists from 14 countries. PHOTO: AFP/JACK GUEZ

ing of the skies," Jerusalem deputy mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum told reporters,

saying it will become clearer in coming weeks how many tourists will visit under

current rules.

As of Monday, foreigners can enter Israel with a negative covid test from the previous 72 hours and if their last vaccine dose was administered less than six months ago. Unvaccinated children remain subject to quarantine rules.

"It's not going to happen in one day or two," Razouk said, lamenting a long period with almost no sales. "It will take time."

Tourism hard hit

Before Israel imposed the first of several coronavirus closures in March 2020, tourism was growing at a galloping pace in a region home to countless religious sites sacred to Muslims, Christians and Jews.

A record 4.6 million people visited in 2019, an 11 per cent increase on 2018, generating revenue of 23 billion shekels

(\$7.3 billion), or 1.5 per cent of Israel's GDP, the ministry said.

"The tourism industry had been driving 200 kilometres an hour, and we stopped suddenly because of covid," Tourism Ministry Director General Amir Halevi told AFP 1 November. As expected, business from foreign tourists has plummeted since. Despite Monday's opening, just 1.5 billion shekel in revenues is expected this year. Ezechiel Grinberg, a Jerusalem-based independent tour guide, told AFP he survived on minimum wage government subsidies for nearly 18 months.

"It's great as a (tourism) professional," that visitors are starting to come back, he said. But he voiced concern that burdensome entry requirements will still suppress his income.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 3 November 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 4 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Mon State, scattered in Bago Region and Kayin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions.

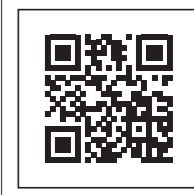
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Medical services provided to COVID-19 patients at quarantine centres

THE Tatmadaw hospitals, training depots, Tatmadaw Transit Centre offer medical services to COVID-19 patients and sus-

Covid tests are underway at one of the quarantine centres.

pected patients. Moreover, Tatmadaw works together with the officials of the Ministry of Health and department concerned, Parahita organizations and dutiful citizens to establish quarantine centres at the respective townships.

There were a total of 166 peo-

ple — 88 males and 78 females under observation at Tatmadaw Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw until yesterday.

Moreover, the Tatmadaw medics of respective commands provided the necessary things for the accommodation and medical services for the patients. — MNA

Returnees welcomed back at respective border crossings

MYANMAR officials have been welcoming the returnees repatriated from abroad through the respective land borders.

On 2 November, a total of 40 Myanmar nationals – 28 men and 12 women returned home through Chinshwehaw, northern Shan State while 2 men and 1 woman returned to Laukkai. Yesterday, a total of 496 people – 249 men and 247 women were repatriated to Myawady.

Healthcare professionals and members of the Tatmadaw medical team carried out the COVID-19 tests, provided documents required for quarantine, and explained the instructions of the Ministry of Health. Officials from the respective military commands and departments provided necessary assistance as well.

The returnees were transported to their respective homes by buses arranged by the township administration bodies, and those diagnosed with COVID-19 disease were sent to quarantine centres to provide the necessary medical and administration support. — MNA



Returnees check in for reception process.

Terrorists destroy schools nationwide, no casualty reported



TERRORISTS are carrying out armed attacks in some areas intending to undermine the country's stability and the rule of law.

In addition to road and bridge bombings, public houses, State and private factories and workshops are being set on fire and bombed.

Now that the basic education schools have reopened, the schools have been burnt down. It was found that landmines are being planted, but no casualties were reported, officials said. This is being done in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region as terrorists set fire to a primary school in Pho Kyar Kone

Village at around 6 am yesterday, destroying two classrooms.

Terrorists detonated grenades at Chanmyathazi Township's No. (35) Basic Education High School in Mya Yi Nanda Ward, Mandalay Region at around 6:30 pm on 2 November.

A same action saw at Sinmakaw village basic education middle school, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, around 7:15 pm, on the same day and no casualty was reported.

Security forces are continuing to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of the violence, officials said.—MNA

Village administrator shot dead during COVID-19 campaign

THE village administrator of Thinyo Village was shot to death by the insurgents while he was conducting COVID-19 education programmes with the loudspeaker in Kyaukse Township of the Mandalay Region on 1 November.

The victim, U Myint Thein Htay, carried out the COVID-19 education programmes at the village administration office along with other officials on that day. At around 6:30 pm, two terrorists riding motorcycles arrived there and fatally shot him with a pistol and ran away.

The victim was then taken to Kyaukse People's Hospital and died of gunshot wounds at about 8 pm.

The security members are investigating

in cooperation with locals to arrest the suspects who made destructive acts in the COVID-19 preventive measures. — MNA



Village administrator U Myint Thein Htay was shot dead.

955 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 November, total figure rises to 502,979

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 502,979 after 955 new cases were reported on 3 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 472,364 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 18,744 after 16 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 2-11-2021, a total of 13,484,963 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 7,399,986 people have been vaccinated two times and 6,084,977 people once.—MNA

Over 51 mln litres of fuel oil sold at fairer prices within one and half months: CAD

THE Consumer Affairs Department stated that more than 51 million litres of fuel oil were sold at the subsidized rate between 22 September and 2 November 2021.

Starting from 22 September, the total volume of fuel oil that is sold at very reasonable rates is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar, intending to offer fairer rates through the relevant association.

Over 19 million litres of 92 Ron, 12 million litres of diesel and 18 million litres of premium diesel have been sold.

The fuel oil at the fairer price is available at 229 petrol-filling stations in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw cities and Mon, Shan, Kachin, Kayin and Rakhine states and Sagaing, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions.



The fuel oil at the fairer price is available at 229 petrol-filling stations in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw cities and Mon, Shan, Kachin, Kayin and Rakhine states and Sagaing, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions.

Consumers can complain about overcharging for fuel oil which is sold at the subsidized rate under the public distribution system. If any overcharging is found, the consumers can

complain about it through the contact numbers 09664075683, 09664596327, 09687635943 and

09676320826 of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, (01250270) of Yangon Region Consumer Affairs Department and 09421006794 of the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

The fuel oil was pegged at around at K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market. Then, it remarkably climbs up to K1,425 for Octane 92, K1,490 for Octane 95, K1,370 for diesel and K1,380 for premium diesel at present. There is a remarkable price gap of K700-800 per litre, according to the local fuel oil market.

A dollar is worth K1,900 in the local forex market.

Normally, Myanmar yearly imports six million tonnes of fuel oil from external markets, the Ministry of Commerce stated. —NN/GNLM

Sugar price hike rally continues; sugarcane price surges to over K60,000 per tonne



Only 400,000 tonnes of sugarcane were produced across the country during the last sugarcane season, which is a drop of 100,000 tonne as against the last year's rate.

FOLLOWING the sugar price rally, the price of sugarcane jumped to over K60,000 per tonne, said the sugarcane growers from Htigyaing Township.

"This year, sugarcane fetches up to K60,000 per tonne. It was priced at only K43,000 per tonne last year. The sugarcane price has risen tracking the hike in sugar price. We delivered the sugarcane to the sugar mills in Htigyaing Township only," said Daw Htway Yee, a sugarcane grower from Htigyaing Township.

Only 400,000 tonnes of sugarcane were produced across the country during the last sug-

arcane season, which is a drop of 100,000 tonnes as against the last year's rate.

Winter sugarcane growing season started in October and will finish in May.

The cultivation cost per acre is about K600,000-700,000 and an acre produces about 30 tonnes of sugarcane.

There are about 65,850 sowing acres of sugarcane in Htigyaing Township. It is cultivated in Shwebo, Kanbalu and Katha districts.

Myanmar produced about 450,000 tonnes of sugar from 440,000 acres of sugarcane plantations in the 2014-2015 financial

year, over 390,000 tonnes from 390,000 acres in the 2015-2016FY, over 370,000 tonnes from 400,000 acres in the 2016-2017FY, over 500,000 tonnes from 400,000 acres in the 2017-2018FY, and 500,000 tonnes from 500,000 acres in the 2018-2019FY.

Sugarcane prices were pegged at over K50,000 per tonne in the 2015-2016FY, K45,000 in the 2016-2017FY, K41,500 in the 2017-2018FY, K38,000-40,000 in the 2018-2019FY and K40,000 in the last FY2019-2020 according to the news released online by the Ministry of Commerce. — Lu Lay, KK/GNLM

Despite plentiful production, banana prices slump

ALTHOUGH there has been a high yield of bananas year by year in the Sagaing region, the prices of bananas have significantly dropped during the pandemic period, according to the banana growers.

"The local growers cultivate around 1,000 banana trees per acre. The cultivation of bananas costs K2 million per acre. At the time of fruiting, the farmers get back around K5 million per acre," said a banana grower.

In the 2021-2022 financial year, the Sagaing region will cultivate a total of 1,351 acres of a banana plantation in the cold season, Sagaing Region Agriculture Department stated.

"The banana plantations are cultivated mostly on hills and in remote areas of the Sagaing region. Due to the drought, it is

not convenient to grow seasonal crops. Thus, local farmers are growing only banana plantations. Recently, banana plantations have been found on the dykes of the paddy field," said U Aung Kyi Win, deputy head of the regional agriculture department.

Last monsoon season in the FY2020-2021, the Sagaing region cultivated a total of 25,964 acres of banana plantation, including 645 acres in Mawlaik, 340 acres in Tamu, 896 acres in Kalay, 671 acres in Hkamti, 408 acres in Naga, 4,228 acres in Monywa, 2,877 acres in Yinmabin, 7,616 acres in Shwebo, 622 acres in Kanbalu, 488 acres in Sagaing, 5,447 acres in Katha and 1,726 acres in Kawlin districts, Sagaing Region Agriculture Department statistics showed. — Lu Lay/GNLM



In the 2021-2022 financial year, the Sagaing region will cultivate a total of 1,351 acres of a banana plantation in the cold season, Sagaing Region Agriculture Department stated.

15-member RCEP trade deal to take effect in January

THE Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade agreement will take effect on 1 January according to the Australian government, with the deal aimed at facilitating trade liberalization and economic integration in Asia and the Pacific.

The 15-member RCEP — the world's largest free trade agreement despite the absence of the United States — will be Japan's first trade agreement involving both China and South Korea.

The pact can enter into force now that Australia and New Zealand have ratified it, Dan Tehan, Australia's minister for trade, tourism and investment, said in

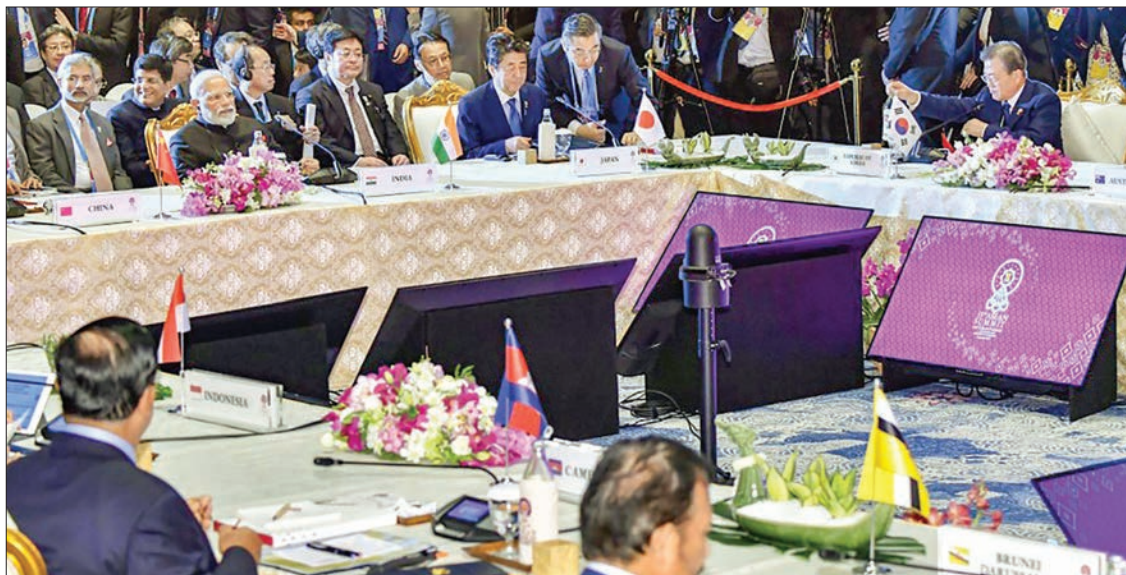
a statement released Tuesday.

"RCEP will enter into force 60 days after ratification by at least six ASEAN states and at least three non-ASEAN states. That milestone was reached on 2 November 2021 with ratification by Australia and New Zealand, which will pave the way for RCEP to enter into force on 1 January 2022," the statement said.

Phil Twyford, New Zealand's minister of state for trade and export growth, confirmed Wellington's ratification Tuesday of the pact, calling it a move that will further accelerate the country's economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Businesses will be able to take advantage of RCEP's opportunities from early next year," Twyford said in a statement. "This agreement will also enable our businesses to be better connected via regional supply chains and provide more certainty to exporters in what remain globally uncertain times."

Citing the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations as "a critical part of the global economy," he said, "New Zealand and Australia's dual ratification of the ASEAN-led RCEP agreement demonstrates the strong relationship we share with ASEAN." — Kyodo News ■



Leaders from Asia-Pacific nations attend a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership summit in Nonthaburi, north of Bangkok, on 4 November 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Taliban bans Afghans from using foreign currencies



Afghan currency exchange dealers reopen for business after the Taliban's takeover in Kabul on 5 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP / AAMIR QURESHI

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban government announced a ban on the use of foreign currencies on Tuesday, threatening further disruption to an already ailing economy.

Since the Islamist group seized power in mid-August, the national currency the Afghani has depreciated and the country's reserves are frozen abroad.

With the economy teetering banks are running short of cash and the international community has so far refused to recognize the new government.

Meanwhile, many transactions inside the country are conducted in US dollars, and in areas close to southern border

trade routes Pakistani rupees are used.

But, in a press statement, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid declared that from now on anyone using foreign currency for domestic business would be prosecuted.

"The economic situation and national interests in the country require that all Afghans use the Afghani currency in every transaction," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate instructs all citizens, shopkeepers, traders, businessmen and the general public to henceforth conduct all transactions in Afghani and strictly refrain from using foreign currency." — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK to unveil plan for first 'net-zero' financial centre

BRITISH Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak is to announce plans to make Britain the world's first net-zero financial services centre by 2050, the Treasury said on Tuesday.

Mr Sunak will set out the plans on carbon emissions in a speech at the Cop26 climate change conference in Glasgow on Wednesday morning. He will unveil proposals for financial institutions and listed companies that operate primarily in Britain to be required to publish net-zero transition plans. Mr Sunak will also propose an expert task force to develop a "gold standard" for such decarbonization plans.

The government will publish more detailed policies and interim targets for the transition next year. Mr Sunak will call these commitments "historic", saying they will help to fund the move away from coal, and the shift to electric cars and planting trees, his department said.

Wednesday will be Finance Day at the UN summit, with a programme of events for finance ministers, central bank governors and heads of financial institutions.

The Treasury said it would be the "largest ever meeting of finance leaders on climate change". A fact sheet on Mr Sunak's proposals specified that it would not be mandatory for companies to commit to net zero and they could have different targets. It also said that investments in carbon-intensive activities would still be allowed.

Mr Sunak will also welcome commitments by more than 450 companies in the global financial industry with more than \$130 trillion (£95tn) in assets to align with the climate goals in the 2015 Paris Agreement. — AFP ■

Xi's "common prosperity" goal may make Japan loath to invest in China

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's push to achieve "common prosperity", aimed at reducing income gaps at home, has sparked concern among Japanese companies that the most populous country would become a less attractive market in the future.

Since Xi earlier this year declared the ruling Communist Party had reached its long-held goal of building a "moderately prosperous society," his leadership has apparently started to levy severe restrictions on the rich in a bid to rectify economic inequality. In Shanghai, the annual China International Import Expo is slated to be held for six days through 10 November as Xi has been trying to show the world its commitment to free trade with economic and technology tensions with the United States escalating.

But Japanese businesspeo-



Chinese workers assemble a sedan at Honda's plant in Guangzhou. PHOTO: HANDOUT/KYODO NEWS

ple working in China say they have been disappointed with Beijing's current policy direction, which might stifle spending and investment by the Chinese wealthy and in turn could hamper the nation's economic expansion across the board.

"Should the Communist-led government focus too much on income distribution by siphoning money from the rich, the number of those who want to buy our

products would definitely decrease in China," said Kazuya Nakayama, an employee of a Japanese manufacturer.

"Our best scenario is that the Chinese economy would continue to grow and the country's affluent people would further increase their purchasing power. If the Chinese market becomes more socialistic, we may have to reconsider our business strategy," he added. — Kyodo News ■

S.Korea's online shopping hits record high in Q3

SOUTH Korea's online shopping hit a record high in the third quarter as people preferred shopping in the cyberspace amid the continued COVID-19 resurgence, statistical office data showed Wednesday.

Shopping in online stores reached a fresh quarterly high of 48.23 trillion won (40.8 billion US dollars) in the July-September quarter, up 19.6 per cent from a year earlier, according to Statistics Korea.

It was the largest

since data began to be compiled in 2001 as the COVID-19 resurgence discouraged people from shopping in offline stores.

Mobile shopping through smartphones advanced 26.9 per cent over the year to 34.96 trillion won (29.6 billion dollars) in the third quarter, accounting for 72.5 per cent of the total online shopping.

In September alone, the online shopping reached a new monthly high of 16.22 trillion won

(13.7 billion dollars), up 17 per cent from a year earlier.

Online demand for travel and transport services surged 40 per cent in September from a year earlier, and demand for online food services jumped 36.8 per cent. Purchase of electronic and communications devices in the cyberspace spiked 25.8 per cent in the month, and online demand for food and beverage expanded 9.8 per cent.—Xinhua ■



Coupang is Korea's largest e-commerce platform. PHOTO: KOREAHERALD/XINHUA

Hong Kong unveils new measures to boost fintech

THE Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced Wednesday two new initiatives to further strengthen Hong Kong's fintech capabilities, building on the momentum of the region's "Fintech 2025" strategy launched in June.

In terms of Green bond tokenization, the HKMA and the Bank for International Settlements Innovation Hub (BISIH) Hong Kong Centre concluded Project Genesis, which, among others, concept-tested the issuance of tokenized green bonds to retail investors in Hong



Photo taken on 10 October 2016 shows the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province.

PHOTO: XINHUA/MAO SIQIAN

Kong. As the next phase to encourage adoption of Regtech, or regulatory technology, the HKMA announced the launch of

AMLab series which will be held on 5 November in collaboration with Cyberport, aiming to strengthen banks' capabilities to pro-

tect customers from fraud and financial crime losses.

Five banks will work with data experts using synthetic data for the first time to explore the use of digital footprints and conduct more comprehensive network analysis.

The HKMA has made good progress on the initiatives implemented under its "Fintech 2025" strategy, covering areas, including data, cross-boundary fintech cooperation, talent development, Central Bank Digital Currency and funding support, it said in an online statement.—Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

British woman wins court battle against Australia 'backpacker tax'

A British woman on Wednesday won a lengthy legal fight against Australia's "backpacker tax", after the country's top court agreed the levy discriminated against foreigners on working holiday visas.

Catherine Addy, who had worked in Sydney in 2017, took her battle against the levy all the way to Australia's High Court, which unanimously ruled in her favour — putting potentially thousands of other backpackers in line for a tax refund.

From 2017, Canberra applied a 15 per cent levy for every dollar earned for two categories of working holiday visas linked to seasonal labour.

Australians begin paying tax once their annual income exceeds Aus\$18,200 (US\$13,500). That was also the threshold for working holiday visas before it was changed.—AFP ■

Belarusian tech firms find new home in Lithuania

A few days after Belarusian startup hub Imaguru was kicked out of its office in Minsk this year, founder Tania Marinich received an unexpected phone call.

Lithuanian Economy Minister Ausrine Armonaite was on the other end of the line, inviting Imaguru to move to the neighbouring Baltic EU state.

"That meant a lot, and not just to us," Marinich told AFP at the launch of the company's new headquarters in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

"I think we have found a home here," she said.

Imaguru provides co-working spaces and organizes workshops for dozens of Belarusian startups that have also made the move following a regime crackdown.—AFP ■

FamilyMart launches new private brand after controversy over naming

CONVENIENCE store operator FamilyMart Co. has launched a new private food brand "Famimaru" after an older version "Okasan Shokudo" — meaning mother's diner — drew criticism for potentially causing a bias

that women should cook for their families.

Okasan Shokudo, a series of prepared foods, had been under scrutiny since late last year after three high school girls started a protest asking the retailer to rename the brand. The

students garnered 7,268 online signatures and sent them to the company in April, according to the petition website used. The old brand name was introduced in September 2017 under an initial concept of offering food products that

are "as hearty as those made by mothers" and the peace of mind that "busy working mothers can give to their children and family members" through the use of safe ingredients, according to the company.—Kyodo News ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Zhongxin Kenong Biological Technology Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Close Friend Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd. Ph- 09403232551.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Fresh Green 25EC	Pyraclostrobin 25% EC	E2021-5259
2.	Nutritious Star 40 SC	Difenoconazole 40% SC	P2020-5150

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Qianchang Modern Agriculture Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Close Friend Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd. Ph- 09448045122.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Qiaochang Haloxyfop-P-methyl	Haloxyfop-P-methyl 108 g/l EC	P2021-5261

India sentences four to death for bombing Modi rally

FOUR people accused of bombing a 2013 election rally for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been sentenced to death, with two others jailed for life over the deadly attack.

A series of blasts rocked a park in the eastern city of Patna soon before then-opposition leader Modi was due to address a massive crowd gathered there for a campaign event.

The attacks also targeted a nearby train station, altogether

killing six people and injuring nearly 100 others.

The National Investigation Agency, the country's main counter-terrorism authority, said Monday that the accused were all from the banned Students Islamic Movements of India group.

Public prosecutor Lalan Kumar Sinha told AFP the group was convicted on Monday for conspiring to "wage a war against the government".

The court also jailed three others implicated in the bombings for terms of between seven and 10 years.

A lawyer for the accused said the sentences would be challenged in a higher court.

"The NIA has failed to identify the mastermind in the case," Syed Imran Ghani told AFP on Tuesday.

"The accused are not terrorists and have no criminal record."—AFP ■



A series of blasts rocked a park in the eastern city of Patna soon before then-opposition leader Narendra Modi (C) was due to address a massive crowd. PHOTO: AFP

Senior Taliban commander killed in hospital attack

A Taliban military commander was killed when his men responded to an Islamic State suicide bomb and gun attack on a hospital in the Afghan capital, officials said Wednesday.

The Taliban spent 20 years waging an insurgency against the ousted US-backed government before seizing control of Kabul in August.

Now they face the struggle of bringing stability to Afghanistan, which has been hit in recent weeks by a series of bloody assaults claimed by rivals, the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K).

At least 19 people were killed in Tuesday's attack on Kabul's main military hospital, according to a health ministry official who did not want to be named.

Hamdullah Mokhlis, a member of the hardline Haqqani net-

work and an officer in the Badri Corps special forces, is the most senior figure to have been killed since the Taliban seized Kabul.

"When he got the information that Sardar Daud Khan Hospital was under attack, Maulvi Hamdullah (Mokhlis), the com-

mander of the Kabul corps, immediately rushed to the scene," the Taliban media official said.

"We tried to stop him but he laughed. Later we found out that he was martyred in the face-to-face fight at the hospital," he added.—AFP ■



Afghan medical staff members (C) stand at the entrance of a hospital as they wait to receive the victims of blasts in Kabul on 2 November 2021, after Afghanistan's capital was hit by two blasts near a military hospital, Taliban officials said, with a witness also reporting gunfire. PHOTO: AFP

Czech model imprisoned in Pakistan over drugs is acquitted

A Czech model sentenced to over eight years in prison for drug trafficking in Pakistan has been acquitted, her lawyer said on Monday.

Tereza Hluskova, 25, was arrested at the airport in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore for trafficking nine kilogrammes of heroin in January 2018.

"The prosecution failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt, and the court ordered that she be released from prison," her lawyer Saif ul Malook told AFP. The paperwork for her release order will take up to one week to process, Malook added.

He said Hluskova intends to return straight to Prague.

"Based on information from (her) lawyer, we can confirm a



Tereza Hluskova after her sentencing in March 2019. PHOTO: ARIF ALI/ AFP

court of appeals has decided to acquit the Czech national in Pakistan," the Czech foreign ministry said in a tweet.

Footage released by Pakistani customs officials showed authorities uncovering drugs hidden in her suitcase as she was

trying to board a flight headed for the United Arab Emirates.

Hluskova, who was sentenced to eight years and eight months in prison and a fine in March 2019, has insisted someone had placed the drugs in her suitcase.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

International mediation underway to end Sudan crisis: UN envoy

MEDIATION efforts in Sudan and abroad are underway to find a possible solution for the country a week after the civilian government was ousted in a military coup, the UN envoy to Khartoum said Monday.

"Many of the interlocutors we are speaking with in Khartoum, but also internationally and regionally, are expressing a strong desire that we move forward quickly to get out of the crisis and return to the steps of normalcy," Volker Perthes told reporters at the United Nations headquarters in New York, during a videoconference from the Sudanese capital.

The UN envoy to Sudan met Sunday with ousted Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who is under house arrest. Perthes said on Twitter they "discussed options for mediation and the way forward for Sudan."

Perthes on Monday urged Sudan to return "to the steps of political transition, as we viewed it before 25 October," the date of the coup.

On Monday, Hamdok said the reinstatement of his government could pave the way to a solution in the country, according to a statement from the information ministry.

Hamdok, according to the statement, demanded that the situation in Sudan return to what it was before the coup, refusing to negotiate with the military rulers.

On 25 October Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan dissolved the cabinet as well as the ruling joint military-civilian Sovereign Council which had been heading Sudan's transition towards full civilian rule following the 2019 overthrow of autocrat Omar al-Bashir.—AFP ■

Search suspended for three missing French climbers in Nepal

RESCUERS on Wednesday suspended their hunt for three French climbers missing in the Himalayas after an avalanche, with little hope of finding the men alive when the search resumes later this week.

The group were attempting to scale Mingbo Eiger, a 6,000-metre (19,700-foot) peak near Mount Everest in Nepal, and were last heard from via satellite phone from their camp eight days ago.

Bad weather has hampered efforts to locate the men and Ang Norbu Sherpa, a member of the search and rescue team, said the area could have been buried in a depth of snow the size of a five-storey building.

"As we could not make any progress in tracing the missing climbers, we have decided to stop the search operation," he told AFP on Tuesday.

"We will continue the search after three or four days."

The three young climbers – Thomas Arfi, Louis Pachoud and Gabriel Miloche – were part of an eight-strong expedition. They had split into two groups to tackle different summits.

The French Federation of Alpine and Mountain Clubs (FFCAM) had already conceded on Monday that the chances of finding the trio were "practically zero".—AFP ■

Ukraine denies Russia border build-up as defence minister quits

UKRAINE has denied reports of a Russian military build-up near its eastern border that raised fears of a new escalation in fighting with pro-Moscow separatists.

The statement came hours before a government official said Tuesday that Ukraine's Defence Minister Andriy Taran had resigned — reportedly on health grounds.

Taran, who had led the ministry since March 2020, has not commented on his resignation, a decision which parliament must ratify amid reports of an impending wider cabinet reshuffle.

The 66-year-old Taran "has complaints about his health",

the leader of President Volodymyr Zelensky's faction in parliament, Davyd Arakhamiia, told reporters.

Opponents had criticized him during his tenure, citing insufficient reform of an under-resourced military.

Social media videos in recent days have shown Russian military trains and truck convoys moving tanks and missiles in the country's southwest near the Ukrainian border.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters Monday that Washington was monitoring the situation, and The Washington Post quoted US officials saying they were concerned.

But Ukraine's defence min-



Zelensky said he had discussed the conflict with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the COP26 climate conference. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

istry said in a statement late Monday that "no additional deployment" of Russian forces had been observed.

The videos could comprise

"special informational and psychological actions" and show a planned troop movement after a Russian military exercise, it added.— AFP ■

Peru minister resigns after party that breached Covid rules

PERU'S interior minister resigned Tuesday following reports that he held a Halloween party at his home in violation of Covid-19 rules.

The South American country has been hit hard by the pandemic, with over 200,000 people dead from the virus — the world's highest death rate per capita — according to AFP's tally of official data.

Minister Luis Barranzuela faced a storm of criticism after less than a month in office following TV reports that he had held a Halloween party at his home in the capital Lima on Sunday — the type of gathering prohibited by a government decree just days before.

The news prompted outrage from all sides of the political spectrum in the country of 33 million, forcing Barranzuela to claim the gathering was for work purposes and that he was the victim of "false accusations". "I have received and accepted the resignation of Interior Minister Luis Barranzuela. In the next few hours I will take the oath of office of whoever will succeed him," leftist president Pedro Castillo tweeted.

Peru's Congress — currently controlled by the right-wing opposition — must decide this Thursday whether or not to grant a vote of confidence to the cabinet headed by Castillo's prime minister, Mirtha Vasquez.

Local press had reported the government would have likely lost the vote had 58-year-

old former policeman Barranzuela had remained in office.— AFP ■



Peru's President Pedro Castillo (L) appointed interior minister Luis Barranzuela during a ceremony in Lima last month. **PHOTO: PRESIDENCIA DEL PERU/AFP**

Iran says fuel system running again after cyber attack



Cars and motorbikes line up to fill up at a service station in Iran's capital Tehran on 26 October 2021, amid a nationwide disruption of the gas distribution system. **PHOTO: ATTA KENARE/AFP**

IRAN'S fuel distribution system resumed full operation on

Tuesday, a week after it was paralyzed by a cyber attack,

the authorities said.

"The country's 4,300 service stations are once again connected to the central fuel distribution system," the spokesperson of the Iranian National Oil Product Distribution Company, Fatemeh Kahi, said in a statement.

"From now on, all the service stations will be able to supply subsidised petrol using the digital cards," Kahi added.

A cyber attack on 26 October brought all fuel distribution stations in the country to a halt, resulting in traffic jams and long lines at petrol stations.

The attack prompted sharp responses from top Iranian officials, who blamed outside actors.

On Sunday, leading general Gholamreza Jalali accused the United States and Israel of being behind the attack.

Iran enjoys among the cheapest petrol prices worldwide, but motorists must use the digital cards supplied by the authorities to purchase it at a subsidised rate.

Citizens are entitled to a monthly quota of fuel at the subsidized rate before they must buy it at the higher market rate.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU foreign policy chief slams 'fake' Nicaragua vote

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Tuesday branded Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega a "dictator" staging "fake" elections at the weekend, with his seven main challengers under arrest.

Ortega, 75, will be seeking a fourth successive term in Sunday's vote, with about 40 opposition figures, including seven presidential hopefuls, rounded up since June.

"Mr Ortega has occupied himself imprisoning all the political contenders who have presented themselves to run in these elections and we cannot expect that this process will yield a result we can consider legitimate. Quite the opposite," Borrell said on a visit to Lima, Peru — the first stop on a Latin American tour.

"The situation in Nicaragua is one of the most serious in the Americas at the moment," Borrell told foreign correspondents.

He said the electoral process, which he described as "fake," sought only to "keep the dictator (Ortega) in power".—AFP ■

New York elects Black ex-cop Adams as next mayor

EX-POLICEMAN Eric Adams was elected New York City's next mayor on Tuesday and will become just the second African American to lead the United States's largest city.

US TV networks, including NBC and CBS called the race for the 61-year-old centrist Democrat shortly after polls closed at 09:00 pm (0100 GMT Wednesday).

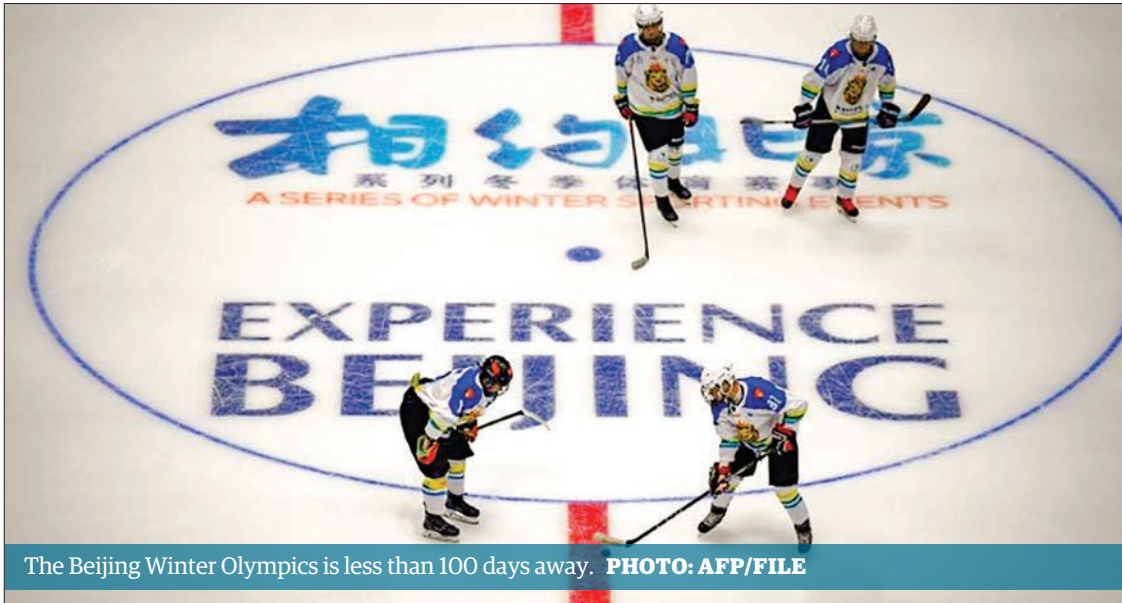
Adams had been the overwhelming favourite to defeat Republican rival and volunteer crime fighter Curtis Sliwa in the liberal-voting bastion where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by seven to one.

Early unofficial results released by New York City's Board of Elections suggested that Adams would win more than 70 per cent of the votes.

Being New York's mayor is often described as the most difficult job in the United States after president.

Adams's win caps a remarkable rise for someone who was born in poverty in Brooklyn and worked for a gang as a teenager before a beating by police officers spurred his determination to reform the NYPD from within.—AFP ■

China's struggling ice hockey team keep Beijing Olympics place



The Beijing Winter Olympics is less than 100 days away. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CHINA'S men's ice hockey team will not be kicked out of their home Winter Olympics at Beijing 2022, the sport's governing body said, having threatened exclusion over the hosts' "insufficient sporting standard".

China have an automatic place at February's Games as hosts, but there are fears that they could face embarrassment with matches in their group against NHL-packed rosters from the United States and Canada.

Speaking to AFP in September, Luc Tardif, the new president of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), said: "Watching a team being beaten 15-0 is not good for anyone, not for China or for ice hockey."

But following a three-day IIHF Council meeting in Zurich, Tardif said in a press release: "To be clear, the IIHF is not going to remove the Chinese team from the Olympic Games.

"The status of the men's na-

tional team as a host nation participant in the Olympic ice hockey tournament was confirmed by (IIHF) Congress and remains unchanged."

The IIHF said that it was working with China's ice hockey association to arrange two games "in a joint effort to evaluate the status of the team's preparations". China's men, who will also face fifth-ranked Germany at the Games, are 32nd the world rankings.—AFP ■

Ronaldo is Man Utd's Jordan, says Solskjaer after latest rescue act

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer compared Cristiano Ronaldo's talismanic influence at Manchester United to NBA legend Michael Jordan after he scored twice to salvage a 2-2 draw at Atalanta on Tuesday.

For the third time in four Champions League games since returning for a second spell at Old Trafford, Ronaldo rescued United with a late goal as his sweetly struck volley in the 91st minute snatched a barely deserved point in Bergamo.

The 36-year-old also scored late winners at home to Villarreal and Atalanta, when United came from 2-0 down to win 3-2 two weeks ago. However, another disjointed display bailed out by Ronaldo's brilliant finishing will do little to ease the pressure on United boss Solskjaer.

"Ronaldo is one of the best that's ever played this game. I'm sure this is the same feeling Chicago Bulls got with Michael Jordan," said Solskjaer, referring



Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice to salvage a 2-2 draw for Manchester United away to Atalanta. PHOTO: AFP

to the American star who won six NBA titles in two spells with the Bulls.

"If you want the ball to fall to someone in the last minute, Cristiano is the one. He's done it so many times for us and I'm okay with him scoring more goals than me." Ronaldo's double took him past Solskjaer's 126 goals for the club.

Solskjaer's switch to a back three for a 3-0 win at Tottenham on Saturday resulted in some much-needed defensive solidity after a humiliating 5-0 thrashing at home to Liverpool.

However, that was just the Red Devils second clean sheet in 22 games and their problems at the back were again easily exposed in Bergamo.—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.

Djokovic survives scare to battle past Fucsovics

WORLD No.1 Novak Djokovic endured a tough return to the ATP singles circuit but battled through to beat Marton Fucsovics of Hungary 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round of the Paris Masters on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old 20-time Grand Slam champion had said on Sunday his greatest fear was lack of match practice having not played since Daniil Medvedev dashed his dreams of a Grand Slam sweep in the US Open final in September.

The Serbian's fears were borne out as Fucsovics put up

a sterner test than the "rabbit caught in the headlights" one he had produced when they met in the Wimbledon quarterfinals earlier this year. "It is my return to competition after almost two months of not playing in an official tournament," said Djokovic.

"Thus it was difficult to get into my rhythm but I am happy it is a decent win." Djokovic - who rare for him is also playing the doubles in Paris - said he expected a tough match despite having beaten his opponent the three previous times they had met.—AFP ■



Novak Djokovic plays a backhand against Marton Fucsovics on Tuesday in Paris, France. PHOTO: VCG/AFP