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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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister receives former governor of New Mexico of USA



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives former governor Mr Bill Richardson of New Mexico of the United States of America in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 November 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing re-

ceived Mr Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mexico of the United States of America in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on the situation to help prevent and control COVID-19, efforts to improve international relations

with Myanmar and humanitarian measures in Myanmar.

Also present were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung

Lwin and U Ko Ko Hlaing, and members of the team led by former governor of New Mexico. —MNA

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Announcement on taking action against those who participated in electoral fraud, lawless actions in 2020 Multiparty Democracy General Election

15 November 2021

1. The Union Election Commission prosecuted 16 people, including former president U Win Myint, ex-State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, former UEC chairman U Hla Thein, former Union Minister at the Union Government Office U Min Thu, former UEC members U Myint Naing and U Than Htay, Dr Zaw Myint Maung (former Mandalay Region Chief Minister) and Dr Myo Aung (former Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman), who involved in electoral processes, election fraud and lawless actions in 2020 Multiparty Democracy General Election according to the findings, on 15 November 2021 for violating the existing laws in assigning the election sub-commissions, supporting in committing such doings, threatening the officials of respective sub-commissions to commit an act of obstruction while performing his duties under the existing law regarding the military polling booths, threatening the respective sub-commissions in conducting advance voting processes for the people aged 60 and above, misusing the authority in election for having signatures of respective ward/village-tract administrators by force to put the lists of voters who have no right to cast votes under the respective Hluttaw election law and rules in the voters lists, interference in election campaign for the winning of the NLD party and adding the names in the voter lists until 7 November 2020, just one day before the election.
2. The Union Election Commission has annulled the 2020 Multiparty Democracy General Election results and taken action against those who participated in electoral fraud and lawless actions with the aim of preventing a free and fair election by violating the existing laws and relevant Hluttaw election laws.

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Working Committee to address impacts of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Notification 4/2021

15 November 2021

1. The Working Committee to address the impacts of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) released a statement on 22 October that it will disburse loans of a one-per-cent interest rate for one year using COVID-19 funds to support the financial status of COVID-hit movie, music, theatrical industry, the press and media industry, and the application forms will be accepted at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Yangon) and Regions and States Chambers of Commerce and Industry during the office hours between 25 October to 19 November 2021.
2. The applicants have asked to extend the loan application deadline due to the difficulties of submitting the required documents, including making adjustments to meet the requirements of the loan application forms during the high public holidays. Therefore, the application forms will be accepted until 3 December 2021 during office hours, including the gazetted holidays.

Working Committee to Address the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

700 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 November, total figure rises to 513,962

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **513,962** after **700** new cases were reported on 15 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **484,992** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **18,946** after **17** died.—MNA

American citizen Mr Daniel Jacob Fenster pardoned and deported

MR Daniel Jacob Fenster, an American citizen holding passport number 567640043, who was being detained in Insein Prison, was pardoned and deported under sub-section(1) of Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure yesterday.

A pardon was granted at

the request of Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe, Special Envoy for the National Reconciliation in Myanmar and Chairman of the Nippon Foundation Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Former Governor of New Mexico of the United States of America and Chair-

man of the Richardson Centre for Global Negotiations Mr Bill Richardson, as well as with a view to maintaining friendly relations between nations and emphasizing on humanitarian grounds.

It is reported that he left with Mr Bill Richardson on the same flight yesterday. — MNA

Public request by Ministry of Health

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

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They must be placed at well-ventilated sites.
4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.
8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

Cementing the Union Spirit

EVERYBODY needs to notice a saying that “If one does not know the past, one may commit mistakes again. Likewise if one is too eager to embrace the past, one may lose the road to the future”. The government has decided to further promote the process of cementing the Union Spirit and peace process before the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Independence Day.

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister receives China's special envoy of Asian affairs in Nay Pyi Taw

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr Sun Guoxiang yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they had a cordial exchange of views on the implementation of the Five-point Roadmap and the Nine Objectives of the State Administration Council, efforts to continue to walk firmly on the path of multiparty democracy chosen by the people, relations between Myanmar and the ASEAN Member States, relations between China and the ASEAN, Myanmar's internal peace process and China's assistance.

The meeting was also attended by Joint-Secretary of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, and officials from both countries. —MNA



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr Sun Guoxiang in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 November 2021.

MoALI to make Taninthayi region palm oil-based Myanmar oil pot

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo met with officials of Taninthayi Region Palm Oil Research Farms and researchers at the Perennial Plants Research and Technology Development Farm (Maliwen) on 14 November.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said that palm oil research projects play an important role in the development of palm crop production and therefore those research projects need to be strengthened. He said it is necessary to produce high-quality palm oil varieties, as well as to do

competitive testing and proper application of fertilizers.

He urged researchers to keep an eye on international research findings as they focus on their work. Officials from the Hadsadin, Maliwen, Aww Gyi, Yaytagun research camps presented the ongoing research activities and requirements, and the Director of the Department of Agriculture's Perennial Crops Division presented matters related to the implementation of the Cocoa and Coffee Research Project in the departmental oil palm plantations in Taninthayi Region.

Upon the presentations, the Union Minister said implementations are underway to make Taninthayi Region a big oil pot based on palm oil. He requested officials to work for the development of palm crop production, and for the distribution of high-quality, disease-resistant varieties and technologies in line with the region in order to increase the yield of high-quality oilseeds.

He also discussed the need for systematic arrangements for the distribution of technology with the model plantation of mixed crops, tropical crops, and horticultural crops. The



Union Minister and party also inspected palm oil research activities and palm oil seedling nurseries. — MNA

MoST holds welcoming ceremony for newly-appointed tutors, demonstrators

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw attended a virtual welcoming ceremony for newly-appointed tutors and demonstrators from Universities, Colleges, Institutes and Vocational Training Schools under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Director-General Dr Sai Kyaw Naing Oo from the Department of Technical Vocational Education and Training, Deputy Director-General Daw Nwe Ni from the Department of Advanced Science and Technology, Yangon Technological University Rector Dr Myint Thein, Government Technological College (Nay Pyi Taw) Principal Dr Min Min Tun gave welcoming addresses during the virtual ceremony.

In saying this, the Union Minister said that the Ministry of Science and Technology should review the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council as the six objectives of the Ministry are implemented

amidst the nine objectives.

To nurture and develop skilled human resources is also required in the fields of technology and innovation and it is mainly on teachers to achieve this goal, the Union Minister said.

In implementing the Ministry's eight policies, "Increase access to local science and technology learning opportunities to increase career opportunities for young people and contribute to regional development" is essential, Union Minister added.

Teachers must cooperate successfully with the policies for the development of scientific and technological innovation and creativity. The Ministry appointed 557 teachers for the Department of Advanced Science and Technology and 442 teachers for the Technical Vocational Education and Training Department. A total of 999 teachers were newly appointed in the financial year 2020-2021, the Union Minister continued.

"The Ministry is proud of all the teachers who will be in



charge of coaching. The Ministry will continue to provide a good learning environment. Teachers must strive to become proficient in their respective fields and to develop continuously.

"In the 21st century, it is necessary to keep abreast of the evolving ICT technologies and make effective use of them in teaching and learning activities.

"English is also a subject that must be mastered. We need to train our students not only to be proficient in their respective fields but also to have the right knowledge and ethics for the socio-economic development of the country," the Union Minister added. The ceremony was held in line with the COVID-19 disease prevention and control regulations.

Officials from departments in the Ministry of Science and Technology, Rectors, Pro-rectors, Principals, and In-charge Instructors from 60 Technological and Computer Universities, 70 Government Technical Colleges, Institutes and school and 2,155 newly-appointed teachers from Universities, Colleges and Institutes attended the virtual ceremony. — MNA

MoHT Minister opens Ngwesaung beach, Chaungtha beach travel season



Chaungtha Beach reopens to the public.

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended the Ngwesaung Beach Travel Season Opening Ceremony at Yamonna Oo Resort yesterday.

The ceremony was organized by the Ayeyawady Region Government and held under the COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health.

The ceremony was also attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and officials, hotel entrepreneurs and hotel general managers.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister Dr Htay Aung spoke about the disposal of garbage and waste for the long-term sustainability of Ngwesaung Beach, changing landscapes through the construction of buildings, air pollution. He said that care must be taken to minimize these impacts.

He said the ceremony aims to inform the public about the reopening of Ngwesaung Beach Hotels and Tourism in conjunction with the COVID-19 pandemic. Systematic development of domestic tourism will greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of the people, he added.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has opened Health and Safety Protocol-HSP to provide safe services to tourists and staff from the hotels and tourism in-

dustry need to work in line with the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines, he said. He also called on the government, business persons, and local people to work together to make Ngwesaung Beach an enjoyable tour for tourists.

The Chief Minister of the Ayeyawady Region Government also addressed the ceremony, and the Union Minister, the Chief Minister, and a Hotel Entrepreneur cut the ribbon to open the Ngwesaung Beach Travel Season. The Union Minister and the Chief Minister also observed the operation of hotels under the COVID-19 guidelines on the beach.

Afterwards, the Union Minister also attended the Opening Ceremony of Travel Season held at Azura Hotel in Chaungtha Beach. — MNA

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

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) meets JSC “Rosoboronexport” officials

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, received a delegation led by Deputy Director-General Mr Chekmarev Andrey Lvovich from JSC “Rosoboronexport” of the Russian Federation at the parlour of Bayintnaung Yekiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, senior officers and officials of the Tatmadaw (Navy) and a delegation led by Deputy Director-General of JSC “Rosob-

oronexport” of Russia. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on possible cooperation between the Myanmar Navy and JSC “Rosoboronexport”.

It is reported that a group photo was taken after the meeting. —MNA

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) receives JSC Rosoboronexport officials yesterday.



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



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

Anti-COVID-19 equipment and medical products, including

oxygen plants and masks, were imported by two companies using seven vehicles yesterday.

A total of 200 empty oxygen cylinders, six oxygen plants and, and 50 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw and Kampaiti trading zones, Yangon International Airport and Seaports.

Five oxygen plants were transported to Yangon via the seaports and one oxygen plant to Myitkyina via Kampaiti trading post, officials said.

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

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

Shwe Ni papaya plantation succeeds under GAP system

SHWE Ni (168) papaya, a rich in vitamins fruit, are being grown in Koywar Thanbyaygon, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. The Shwe Phoo agricultural group imported the Shwe Ni papaya seeds of Taiwan species and is cultivating them under the GAP method. Currently, papaya cultivation has succeeded and become marketable.

U Win Hlaing Myo, an agronomist from Shwe Phoo agricultural group said that we have cultivated about 20,400 plants of papaya in 30 acres plot of land. There are about 680 plants per acre and each plant is set at least eight feet apart. The Shwe Ni papaya has female and male plant. It can be cultivated in any weather. The Taiwan papayas seeds are put into plastic bags together with compost and grown in the shade place. After two months, the fruits begin to bear and are yielded when the fruit is ripe. Each tree can produce about 70

or 100 fruits. The cultivation costs per acre are about K1.8 million. The unripe fruits are sold for K500 per one while the ripe fruits are fetched at K1,500 or K2,000 per one. The nursery plant of papaya is also sold for K500 per plant for those who want to grow the plant. At present,



At present, Shwe Ni papaya has been distributed across the country and are being planned to penetrate the international market as well. PHOTO: MYO THIHA (IPRD)

Shwe Ni papaya has been distributed across the country and are being planned to penetrate the international market as well.

In addition, people who are interested in cultivating the trees are allowed to visit the Shwe Phoo farmland. — Myo Thiha (IPRD)/GNLM

Palm oil distributed at reasonable prices in different states, regions

THE Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate of USD 12 million and sold it at K4,240 per viss at wholesale price in different states and regions for the public beginning 9 November.

A total of 4,139,630 visses of palm oil equal to 6,764.10 tonnes have been sold in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago, Magway, and Taninthayi regions, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State and Mon State to date.

The officials arrange oil

tankers to sell in the wards of Yangon and also will provide trucks in regions and states.

The palm oil wholesalers will have to resell the oil with not more than 2 per cent of net profit at retail outlets and the wholesalers and retailers can contact Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association (No. 104/108, Strand Street, Lutlat Yay Quarter, Ahlon Township) at 09-444437295 and 09-401527049 and Department of Consumer Affairs, Yangon Region at 01-250270 and 09-43666668 to buy the palm oil. —MNA

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PDFs brutally kill monks

THE terrorist groups CRPH and NUG organized the PDFs to kill innocent people for various reasons, commit arson attacks on state-owned buildings, public hospitals, schools, homes and villages and rob

across the nation.

Moreover, they also kill the monks and children for many reasons. On 11 November, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Somanana of Mingala Hmankyaung Monastery was shot to death

by two terrorists in Thetawlay Village of Wundwin Township of Mandalay Region.

Similarly, on 14 November, the unscrupulous person killed a monk near the Pyidaungsu and Thazi junction traffic light in Dawna Ward of Monywa Township in the Sagaing Region.

Moreover, the terrorists stabbed a monk who was residing at Theikdhi Aung Monastery (Shwe Yaung Pya) Monastery in Tabet Swal Village-tract of Bilin Township of Mon State at the same night. The monk got serious injuries.

Section 361 of the 2008 Constitution states the Union recognizes the special position of Buddhism as the faith



professed by the great majority of the citizens of the Union and Section 362 also states the Union also recognizes Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Animism as the religions existing in the Union at the day of the coming into operation of this Constitution.

The terrorist groups inten-

tionally kill the monks of Buddhism as the faith professed by the great majority of the citizens of the Union and so the entire people should cooperate with the security force and report on the movement and activities of terrorists to the nearest security force. — MNA



Two PDF members arrested for delivering weapons, ammunition in Kayin state



Saw Nyi Nyi (a) Saw Min Min Hein



Zin Ko Ko

in Kyone Kwal village, Kyaikmaraw Township.

On 10 November, he took one .38 pistol and one magazine from Saw Win Ko Ko Min, a KNU member on the Maktha village-Phayathonesu road and delivered them to Ko Shar. Weapons and ammunition

which were taken from the vehicle on 13 November were taken from Hti Khaung (a) Nyi Nyi from Kyaikmaraw Township and to be delivered to Saw Patay (a) Zay Thahtay (on the run) from the PDF group in Tagontine village, Kya-In-Seikkyi Township.

It is reported that the arrested suspects will be taken action under the law, and the people are requested to work together for the peace and safety of the towns and villages by secretly providing information of the related suspects to the relevant authority. — MNA

DURING a search operation to vehicles crossing Chaunghnakhwa Bridge in Kyaikmaraw Township, Kayin State, security forces arrested two PDF members with weapons and ammunition on 13 November 2021.

Saw Nyi Nyi (a) Saw Min Min Hein and Zin Ko Ko, who were both 20 years old were arrested when they didn't stop their car (a black colour Hilux Revo) during the search operation conducted by the security forces. Three pistols, one 12-bolt shotgun, 75 rounds of 12-bolt ammunition, 250 rounds of 9mm ammunition and 600 rounds of .380 ammunition were confiscated from the back seat of their

car.

Both Saw Nyi Nyi (a) Saw Min Min Hein and Zin Ko Ko reportedly attended the explosion training course for 20 days at the headquarters of KNLA Brigade (6) in May.

This was not the first time they were distributing weapons and ammunition to other terrorists. As his first delivery, on 9 November, Saw Nyi Nyi (a) Saw Min Min Hein took 300 rounds of AK ammunition from Ko Shar (on the run) in Taung Dee village and delivered them to Hti Khaung (a) Nyi Nyi (on the run) who was waiting at Pyae Sone restaurant on the Chaunghnakhwa-Yadana road



Seized weapons and ammunition.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Suspects arrested for bombing Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, power station of Ottarathiri Township

ACCORDING to a tip-off, the security forces arrested Tin Ko Nyein (aka) Shwe Kaung and Khin Maung Yin together with four homemade guns, ten 5.56MM bullets, uniforms and explosives near the power station, B-4 road in Ottarathiri Township on 12 November. According to their confessions, the police seized two homemade mines and explosives from the house of Khin Maung Yin near Pynmana-Taungnyo road in Sithaaye village of the same township.

The police also raided No 14, Building No (94) of Khayay Housing in Pynnya Theikddhi Ward of Zabuthiri Township on 13 November together with the uniforms, NLD logo shirts and explosives according to the words of Tin Ko Nyein (aka) Shwe Kaung.

Moreover, Tin Ko Nyein (aka) Shwe Kaung admitted that the ignite straps and other materials were kept at Zaw Min Aung who lives in Kywal Shin Village of Min Kone Village-tract of Ottarathiri Township, and the police arrested Zaw Min Aung.

Based on the words of suspect Zaw Min Aung, Thein Win from Min Kone village showed the news and photo records of the arresting of Tin Ko Nyein (aka) Shwe Kaung and Khin Maung Yin and told him to run away. Therefore, the security members arrested Thein Win.

The police arrested 4 male suspects together with 4 homemade guns, 10 5.56MM bullets, two homemade mines, camouflage uniforms/jersey shirts and NLD logo shirts.

The suspect Kin Maung Yin completed the explosive training conducted by Nay Pyi Taw PDF near Awaiyar Dam in



Arrestees for bombing the Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and the power station in Ottarathiri Township.

Pynmana Township in April. Pynmana Township NLD sec-

retary Sai Win Naing Oo (still at large) ordered Han Min Tun to organize Phoenix Urban Guerilla to conduct terrorist attacks. The Nay Pyi Taw PDF is running under the control of Yi Mon from NUG and they conduct attacks and killing of informers according to his instructions.

According to the confession of Tin Ko Nyein (aka) Shwe Kaung, he bought four homemade guns, one MG-1 grenade, 1 homemade bomb from Wai Lu (still at large) from Toungoo in June and received 10 5.56mm bullets from Khun Thura (still at large) from Aungban in July. In May, Khin Maung Yin ex-

ploded one homemade mine in front of a shop in Watsu village of Maung Yan village-tract in Ottarathiri Township according to the instruction of Han Min Tun, another remote-controlled mine near the ferry of the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Zabuthiri Township on 5 October; one homemade bomb near police outpost beside the township administration office near the market of Shwe Nant Thar Ward of Ottarathiri Township on 14 October; one homemade bomb near No (3) police station of Zabuthiri Township, one remote-controlled mine near the ferry in front of the

staff housing of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. On 3 November, he received 1 MG-1 grenade and 1 homemade bomb via Tin Ko Nyein (aka) Shwe Kaung sent by Han Min Tun and exploded the MG-1 grenade at EPC office of Ottarathiri Township on 6 November and another homemade bomb at the office of a municipal market officer of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market on 10 November.

The arrested suspects will face actions in line with the law and the people are urged to report on the movement and activities of the insurgents to the nearest security force. — MNA



Seized weapons and ammunition.

Raise reading habit of people young and old across the nation

THANKS to the outbreak of COVID-19, most of the global people, including youths, have a chance to raise their reading habits because they spend their spare time at home for about two years.

The reading habit means effectively utilizing the spare time of everybody. Reading can tame the rude persons as well as enhance knowledge of student youths and various ages of the people. It can be said that the reading habit can transform the nature of society into the better one.

The World Reading Habits in 2020 stated that a total of 35 per cent of the global people raised their reading habits, especially in India, followed by China and the Philippines. It is because these countries are still developing the print media for publishing fiction and non-fiction books at cheap prices all their people are reachable.

That is why all the people need to seek the good and knowledgeable sorts of books for reading to raise the level of soul for building the better society in the country. Reciprocally, a better society can help people raise their reading habits with innovative, initiative and creative measures.

The reading habit is directly related to literacy. The global people accounting for 12 per cent were literates in 1820, in comparison with 86 per cent at present. However, poor countries are facing a high illiteracy rate. Hence, raising the reading skill and habit depend on the literacy rate of both developed and least developed countries.

Currently, most of the people in Myanmar are searching the books through mobile phones instead of print media books. Whatever it may be, the reading habit of the people is satisfactory for the country as they can seek the knowledge in various ways and means.

Generally, sales of print media books are booming than the audiobooks but COVID-19 makes decline the sales of books. But, the sale number of books on subject-wise studies and religious affairs is still high in the market.

Significantly, some of the readers are satisfied with holding the books to read. Consequently, the book market of Myanmar is still alive. In fact, the reading habit during the COVID-19 period can be said that it is a precious gift of the pandemic for the people in Myanmar as well as in the world.

That is why all the people need to seek the good and knowledgeable sorts of books for reading to raise the level of soul for building the better society in the country. Reciprocally, a better society can help people raise their reading habits with innovative, initiative and creative measures.



Vietnam welcomes first foreign tourists in nearly 20 months

The flights came ahead of Vietnam's plans to reopen the resort island of Phu Quoc to vaccinated foreign visitors on 20 November – with hopes to welcome at least 5,000 travellers in coming months.

THE first international tourists touched down in Vietnam almost 20 months after the Southeast Asian nation closed its borders to contain the coronavirus.

Two charter flights brought more than 400 South Korean and Japanese fully vaccinated passengers from Seoul and Tokyo on 11 November to the southern resort city of Nha Trang, state media reported.

The area is popular with golfers, beach lovers and scuba divers, and boasts luxury hotels.

The flights came ahead of Vietnam's plans to reopen the resort island of Phu Quoc to vaccinated foreign visitors on 20 November — with hopes to welcome at least 5,000 travellers in coming months.

Foreign tourists seeking to enter Vietnam must show Covid-19 vaccination certificates and negative pre-departure coronavirus test results.

The communist country is desperate to revive its badly hit economy after months of lock-

downs.

Its borders have been shut to international visitors since March last year and there are almost no commercial flights entering the country.

Vietnam was widely praised for its handling of the pandemic last year, with only dozens of known coronavirus cases.

Vietnam had succeeded in keeping the virus under control for over a year with aggressive contact tracing and quarantine procedures but has been hit hard by the highly contagious Delta variant, which brought in the fourth wave of the outbreak since late April.

As many as 995,903 community cases have been registered in the ongoing wave, which has just been put under relative control for weeks. With its fast spread, the Delta variant has created a major public health emergency for the Southeast Asia country.

"The quickly escalating outbreaks within a short period of time have overloaded the medical



Vietnam's borders have been shut to international visitors since March last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: NHAC NGUYEN AFP/FILE

system and increased death rates, especially in Ho Chi Minh City and some southern localities," the National Steering Committee on COVID-19 Prevention and Control said in a recent report, adding that Vietnam's high population density and vaccine shortage have added

to the troubles.

During the deadliest weeks of the wave, between 300 and 400 deaths were reported per day.

Major socio-economic activities in Vietnam, especially southern cities, were halted for several months, or at least being disrupted

from time to time. COVID-19 restrictions, typically the stay-home ruling, have caused both material and mental hardships for people.

In late October, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said the country's GDP growth this year may fall far below the

6-per-cent target with between 3-3.5 per cent. In the first nine months, Vietnam reported a GDP growth of 1.42 per cent due to fall-out of the raging COVID-19 wave.

As such, bringing the country to the new normal as soon as possible in 2021 is a mission that the government of Vietnam has tasked itself with after COVID-19 paralyzed its economy for months.

Under the government's resolution on "Safe, Flexible and Effective Control of COVID-19 outbreak" adopted on 11 October, Vietnam seeks to protect people's lives, mitigate fatalities, and map out recovery plans in pursuit of the goal of containing the virus while developing the economy.

The resolution also categorized virus risks into four levels from low to very high, a basis for respective levels of socio-economic opening and public health measures to be applied.

So far, around 32 per cent of people have been fully vaccinated.

SOURCE: AFP/Xinhua

Merck expects Covid pill to reach rich and poor countries simultaneously

US pharmaceutical giant Merck has vowed to avoid the pitfalls of the global Covid vaccine rollout by ensuring its new anti-corona-

virus pill is made available in wealthy and poor countries at almost the same time.

Paul Schaper, the company's executive director of

global public policy, told AFP that Merck began working on its access strategy from July 2020, long before the efficacy results of the drug it developed

with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics were announced in October 2021.

The United Kingdom last week became the first country to authorize molnupiravir. In a clinical trial, the antiviral was shown to cut Covid hospitalizations by 50 per cent in among newly infected people, and also prevented 100 per cent of deaths.

"We started developing our supply chain very early on," he said, with the company projecting it will have 10 million courses ready by the end of this year and at least double that figure in 2022.

These, he said, would be priced according to a tiered framework that is based on a country's ability to pay, as defined by World Bank data.

Beyond its own supply, Merck, known as MSD outside the US and Canada, struck deals with eight licensed generic partners in India, and has signed a voluntary licensing agreement with the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool to facilitate access in 105 countries.

On top of that, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation last month announced an investment of up to \$120 million in an effort to speed access to lower-income countries through a "volume agreement" that ensures supply of drug ingredients.

"In first quarter, in second quarter of 2022, we will have a significant amount of product from Merck available in low and middle income countries," Schaper added, without speculating on a combined total between the various strands.

"We have a really good chance of having really much more equitable access to this medicine than we've seen to date in the COVID response," he said, adding it was possible to reach low-, middle- and high-income countries "at roughly the same time."

The rollout of Covid vaccines, by contrast, has been highly inequitable, with high income countries hoarding supply since rollout began in December 2020.

While 51 per cent of the world has now received one or more doses, that figure plunges to four per cent of low-income countries, and three per cent for the continent of Africa.

On the other end of the scale, the United Arab Emirates has fully vaccinated 88 per cent of its nearly 10 million people.

While vaccines remain the "cornerstone" of the pandemic responses, "there's going to be a need for therapeutics, and that's probably an even greater need in areas where you have a lower per cent of populations that are vaccinated," said Schaper.

Molnupiravir, as a small molecule, has the advantages of not requiring cold-storage like messenger RNA vaccines.

Pfizer has also announced promising results for its oral Covid pill, paxlovid, and expects to produce 180,000 courses this year, and at least 50 million next year. It has begun talks with the Medicines Patent Pool but has not yet inked a deal.

SOURCE: AFP



US pharmaceutical giant Merck has vowed to avoid the pitfalls of the global Covid vaccine rollout by ensuring its new anti-coronavirus pill is made available in wealthy and poor countries at almost the same time. PHOTO: MERCK/AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 15 November 2021)

BAF INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the North Andaman Sea still persists. It is likely continuous to move West-Northwestwards and reach to East Central Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal around (17.11.2021). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in (Northern and Southern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kachin, Eastern Shan, Chin States, scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 November 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours M.S.T on 15-11-2021

ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the North Andaman Sea still persists. It is likely continuous to move West-Northwestwards and reach to East Central Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal around (17.11.2021).

General caution

DUE to the low pressure area, rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States during (15.11.2021) to (18.11.2021). Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

Advisory

DUE to the low pressure area, people should be aware rain or thundershowers with strong wind and domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

Export of Myanmar aquaculture products generates \$89.8 mln as of 5 Nov

THE value of Myanmar's seafood exports as of 5 November in the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022) was estimated at US\$89.88 million, which increased slightly from \$78.35 million in the corresponding period of the last financial year 2020-2021.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is attempting to grow fishery export regardless of the COVID-19 disruption on maritime trade, closure of border gates and fuel oil price instability.

Despite the open season of offshore fishing, Myanmar's fishery export industry is facing a series of challenges such as the oil price hike, surge in container shipping rate, the closure of border posts, disruption on maritime trade and the COVID-19 negative impacts. Consequently, it will harm the export sector somehow in the long term.

The high input cost such as fishing net, oil price posed another burden for the industry, coupled with the devaluation of Kyat in the forex market, Mawlamyine Commodity Centre stated.

The marketable fish products, especially fish, shrimp, eel and crab from Taninthayi and



China accounted for US\$254 million out of the overall fishery export value of over \$850 million in the FY 2019-2020.

Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State are primarily exported to foreign markets.

Myanmar normally exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets of 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

The federation is turning to the Bangladesh market with export potentials at present. MFF is working together with the stockholders in the supply chain to have sustainable export growth

in the industry.

The fishery exports through the Sino-Myanmar border have ground to a halt following the consequences and safety measures on the imported seafood amid the COVID-19 pandemic, traders stressed.

Myanmar's fishery export was experiencing a downturn due to the import restrictions triggered by the detection of the COVID-19 on fish imports in China. Chinese market constitutes about 65 per cent of Myanmar's fishery exports.

China accounted for US\$254 million out of the overall fishery export value of over \$850 million in the FY 2019-2020.

At present, China shut down the border areas in wake of the COVID surge in Myanmar.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation stated that only the G2G pact can tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery ex-

port earnings by developing fish farms that meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

To ensure food safety, the foreign market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) certificates.

To meet international market standards, fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries that are compliant with GAQP. The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system.

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

During the last financial year 2020-2021 (October 2020-September 2021), Myanmar shipped \$784.889 million worth of seafood, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. —KK/GNLM

Fresh green chilli plantation starts harvesting in ChaungU



This year, the Tharmo chilli plantations with irrigated water are earning the growers a higher profit. ChaungU township mostly cultivates Tharmo-11 and Tharmo-15 chilli species. The township cultivates over 2,000 acres of chilli in monsoon and cold seasons. **PHOTO: LULAY**

THE local growers from ChaungU township, Sagaing region started harvesting their fresh green chilli from cropland, it is learnt.

"Currently, the fresh chilli is priced at K2,500 per viss. The farmers should grow the chilli, which is a staple food in Myanmar cuisine. The prices of chilli are highly profitable and it is convenient for the growers. The chilli is popular among the customers and it is selling well

in the local market. We have to grow the seeds for one month to move them into the nurseries. After harvesting, the growers are sold them at the chilli depot," said Daw Khine, the chilli grower from Mangyigwa village.

This year, the Tharmo chilli plantations with irrigated water are earning the growers a higher profit. ChaungU township mostly cultivates Tharmo-11 and Tharmo-15 chilli species. The township cultivates over 2,000

acres of chilli in monsoon and cold seasons, according to the ChaungU Township Agriculture department.

"The farmers are urged to provide the fertilizers systematically to improve chilli yield and quality. Then, the departmental staff conducted field awareness to the local farmers to make natural compost EM bokashi, to irrigate systematically and to use a natural antibiotic," said Daw Khin Myat Myat Oo, the head of ChaungU Township Agriculture department.

The chilli seeds are planted two feet apart. More than 7,200 chilli plants can be harvested per acre and it can be started harvesting after 60 days. Then, the chilli can be picked up every 15 days. The fresh chilli has been produced around 4,000 visses and earned a profit of K2.5 million and K3 million per acres. —Lu Lay/GNLM

Myanmar bean market sees high potential on possible demand of India

MYANMAR beans and pulses market is expected to grow on the back of the prospective buyer India, the bean traders said.

Indian growers experienced severe weather damage to beans. Consequently, the demand will certainly rise in the coming months.

India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved to import of not only black gram but also other pulses from Myanmar, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 December 2021.

The prices of beans are positively related to the exchange rate and so, the price is unlikely to fall until December.

Last September, the bean price reached an exorbitant high tracking the Kyat weakening in the local forex market.

At present, Kyat is regaining in the local forex market and the prices of beans and

pulses have decreased accordingly. The prices per basket stood at K44,000 for green gram (Shwe Wah) variety, 40,000 for green gram, 46,000 for black gram, K39,000 for black-eyed bean, K36,000 for cowpea, K50,000 for soybean and K59,000 for peanut.

Despite the drop in bean prices, the agricultural input cost remains unchanged and stays high. The local growers will face a high input burden in the coming cold crop season.

Myanmar conveyed US\$1.57 billion worth of over two million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued at 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$604.3 million valued 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land borders. — NN/GNLM

UK terror probe after deadly blast in Liverpool

BRITISH counter-terrorism police were questioning three men on Monday after a “heroic” taxi driver reportedly foiled a plot to bomb a packed Remembrance Day service in Liverpool.

An explosion engulfed a cab outside Liverpool Women’s Hospital seconds before Britain fell silent at 11:00 am (1100 GMT) on Sunday to honour its war dead.

A passenger was killed but the driver escaped with light injuries, after city authorities and newspapers described how he had locked the man inside after growing suspicious about his intentions.

The passenger had wanted to go to the annual Remembrance Day service in the north-west city’s Anglican cathedral,

according to UK media quoting investigators and friends of the cabbie.

But road closures forced the taxi to detour and they ended up at the nearby hospital, where the bomb went off just after the driver had escaped, the Daily Mail reported.

The taxi went up in a fireball and thick grey smoke billowed afterwards, as police rushed to cordon off the hospital and non-urgent patients were told to divert to other city clinics.

“The taxi driver, in his heroic efforts, has managed to divert what could have been an absolutely awful disaster at the hospital,” Liverpool Mayor Joanne Anderson said on Monday.



A specialist in a white suit walks away after inspecting the scene of a car blast outside the Women’s Hospital in Liverpool on 15 November 2021. British police announced the arrest of three men after a car exploded in front of Liverpool Women’s Hospital in the city centre, killing one man and injuring another. **PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS / AFP**

“We knew that the taxi driver had stood out and locked the doors, we knew that early on,” she told BBC radio, while warning against further speculation about the incident. — AFP ■

Argentina govt loses Congress majority, seeks opposition dialogue

ARGENTINA’S centre-left President Alberto Fernandez called for dialogue with the opposition after Sunday’s midterm parliamentary elections, with projections showing his governing coalition has lost control of Congress.

Ahead of the election, there was widespread discontent over the state of the economy, which has been in recession since 2018 and was hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Having already been in the minority in the Chamber of Deputies — the lower house — Fernandez’s Frente de Todos (Everyone’s Front) coalition looked set to drop from 41 to 35 seats in the 72-member Senate, based on projections with over 90 per cent of votes counted.

“If the numbers are confirmed, effectively we’ve lost the



Argentina’s President Alberto Fernandez (L) gestures at the ruling party “Frente de Todos” voters next to legislator-elect Victoria Tolosa Paz, after the mid-term parliamentary elections in Buenos Aires, on 14 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

quorum in the Senate,” a government source told AFP.

This would be the first time since Argentina’s return to democracy in 1983 that Peronism

— a leftist movement based on former president Juan Peron that now covers a broad spectrum of political leanings — would not have a majority in the Senate.

Fernandez will now likely be forced to make concessions to the opposition during the last two years of his mandate in order to pass laws or make key appointments, including to the judiciary.

“We need to prioritize national agreements if we want to resolve the challenges we face,” said Fernandez, adding that he would approach opposition groups to try to find common ground.

“An opposition that is responsible and open to dialogue is a patriotic opposition.”

Nearly half the seats in the Chamber of Deputies were up for grabs, as well as a third of Senate seats, in Sunday’s vote.

Interior Minister Wado de Pedro said turnout in the compulsory election was between 71 and 72 per cent. — AFP ■

Taliban launch operation against IS in southern Afghanistan

THE Taliban have launched a crackdown on suspected Islamic State hideouts in southern Afghanistan, officials said Monday, following an increase in bloody attacks by the group in recent weeks.

The operation against Islamic State-Khorasan — the local chapter of the jihadist group — started around midnight in at least four districts of Kandahar province and continued through Monday morning, Taliban provincial police chief Abdul Ghafar Mohammadi told AFP.

“So far, four Daesh (IS) fighters have been killed and ten arrested... one of them blew himself up inside a house,” he said.

A member of the Taliban intelligence agency who declined to be named told AFP at least three civilians were killed in the operation.

Local media quoted a Taliban official as saying there had also been a blast in a western suburb of Kabul Monday morning with no casualties.

In the three months since the Taliban came to power,

IS-K has been active in Jalalabad, Kunduz, Kandahar and Kabul.

Last month the group claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack on a Shiite mosque in Kandahar that killed at least 60 people and injured scores more.

That attack came a week after another deadly mosque blast claimed by IS-K in northern Kunduz province killed more than 60 people.

The group on Sunday claimed responsibility for a bomb that destroyed a minibus

in Kabul at the weekend killing a well-known local journalist and up to two others.

IS-K boasted it had killed or injured “20 Shiite apostates” in the incident.

Earlier this month IS-K fighters raided the city’s National Military Hospital, killing at least 19 people and injuring more than 50 others.

The group has also claimed several attacks in the city of Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province and a hotbed of IS-K activity. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fighting near key Yemen port displaces over 6,000: UN

A recent Huthi rebel advance near Yemen’s lifeline port of Hodeida has displaced more than 6,000 people, the United Nations has said.

The insurgents on Friday took control of a large area south of Hodeida, a key port where the warring sides agreed a ceasefire in 2018, after loyalist forces withdrew.

“Some 700 families (approximately 4,900 people) were displaced” to Khokha, over 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Hodeida, “while 184 other families (about 1,300 people) were displaced further south” to the Red Sea coastal town of Mokha, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said, citing Yemeni government sources.

“No displacement has been reported within the areas that came under control of the de facto authorities,” it said in a statement Sunday, referring to the Huthis. — AFP ■

Woman injured in knife attack at Japan’s Fukushima station

A man attacked an elderly woman with a knife in front of Fukushima station in northeast Japan on Monday, police and local media said, the latest in a string of recent assaults on and around the country’s train network.

The attacker has been taken into custody, regional police said, with local media reporting he had been caught by bystanders.

A woman in her 80s was hospitalized after the assault, national broadcaster NHK reported. Television station TV-U Fukushima said the victim sustained an injury in her abdomen but was able to speak.

“A man with a knife attacked (another person) in front of Fukushima Station today. Patrol cars rushed to the scene. The man has been taken into custody,” Fukushima Prefecture Police tweeted.

Police officials declined to comment further. — AFP ■

China's factory output, retail sales see surprise jump in October

CHINA'S economy showed signs of stabilizing in October, according to data on Monday, with retail sales and factory output beating expectations as a power supply crisis appeared to ease.

The recovery in the world's second biggest economy has been losing steam for much of the year after a swift bounceback from harsh lockdowns to contain Covid-19, with officials earlier citing an "unstable and uneven" economic rebound.

Power outages in recent months caused by emission reduction targets, the surging price of coal, and supply shortages also had impacted some factory production.



A worker produces heavy truck engines at a factory in Hangzhou, in China's eastern Zhejiang province on 18 October 2021. **PHOTO: STR / AFP**

But industrial production grew 3.5 per cent on-year last month, up from September, said the National Bureau of Statistics,

as China worked to boost coal production and ease the energy shortage. A survey of economists by Bloomberg News tipped a 3.0 per cent expansion.

However, NBS spokesman Fu Linghui cautioned Monday that the "international environment remains complex and severe" with many uncertainties, adding that China needs to "work harder to maintain economic stability and recovery".

"While electricity shortages and production cuts hampered output in early October, we don't think they are a significant problem anymore," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics on Monday. He added that this follows

"a range of policy measures to boost coal production and lower coal prices".

But economic momentum remained weak in October, he said, "with the real estate downturn weighing on industry and a new wave of Covid outbreaks dampening household consumption".

"The slowdown in the property sector continued, which is the key risk for the macro outlook in the next few quarters," said Zhiwei Zhang of Pinpoint Asset Management. Retail sales rose 4.9 per cent on-year, according to latest data, up from September and far exceeding forecasts for 3.7 per cent. — AFP ■

Asian markets swing as traders keep worried eye on inflation

ASIAN equity markets fluctuated Monday following a recent run-up, as investors struggled to keep up with another healthy showing on Wall Street with inflation continuing to weigh on sentiment.

While optimism about the global economic recovery remains intact, the rise in prices at rates not seen for decades has traders increasingly worried that central banks will have to tighten monetary policy quicker and more sharply than previously thought.

And data out of the United States last week showing consumer sentiment at a 10-year low indicated that the issue is being felt more in people's pockets, putting pressure on the Federal Reserve to step in.

However, for now officials are sticking to their view that the inflation spike will be temporary and peter out as supply chain problems are resolved.

National Australia Bank's Ray Attrill warned US President Joe Biden — who is seeing his popularity taking a hit because of the issue — could suffer.

"If consumer confidence, and (real) spending is seen to be suffering under the weight of six per cent consumer price inflation, then it suddenly becomes a political problem for the White House, not just a headache for the Fed," he said in a note.

Still, Wall Street's three main indexes ended last week on a strong note, paring steep

losses suffered on Tuesday and Wednesday in reaction to forecast-beating US inflation.

In early Asian trade, most markets were up but swung between gains and losses.

Tokyo enjoyed a strong showing after data showing the economy contracted more than forecast in the third quarter raised hopes the government will unveil a huge stimulus programme to stoke a recovery.

Hong Kong, Sydney, Seoul, Wellington, Mumbai, Bangkok and Taipei were also higher but Shanghai, Singapore, Manila and Jakarta edged down.

There was little initial reaction to data showing Chinese retail sales grew far more than expected in October, with traders concerned about a slowdown in economic growth owing to lockdowns put in place to battle fresh virus outbreaks. The weakness is giving the country's central bank a headache as it must try to nurture a recovery while at the same time keeping a lid on inflation, which is sitting at levels not seen since the mid-1990s.

Meanwhile, traders will be keeping tabs on a virtual meeting between Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that is planned for Monday evening US time. The virtual meeting of the presidents comes against a backdrop of rising tensions over several issues including Taiwan, trade, human rights and Hong Kong. — AFP ■

North African climate change threatens farming, political stability

TUNISIAN olive farmer Ali Fileli looked out over his parched fields and crushed a lump of dry, dusty earth in his hand.

"I can't do anything with my land because of the lack of water," he said.

Fileli is just one of many farmers who have been left high and dry by increasingly long and intense droughts across North Africa.

"When I started farming with my father, there was always rain, or we'd dig a well and there would be water," said the 54-year-old, who farms around 22 hectares (54 acres) of land near the northern city of Kairouan.

"But these last 10 years there has always been a lack of water. Every year the water table drops three to four



A farmer holds a handful of soil parched because of drought in Tunisia's east-central area of Kairouan, on 20 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

metres (10-13 feet)."

Fileli showed AFP his sprawling orchard of olive trees. With the olive harvest approaching, some bore small, shrivelled fruits, but the rest were dead.

He said that over the past decade, around half of his 1,000

olive trees have died due to drought.

The country's water crisis is clearly visible at the Sidi Salem reservoir, which supplies water to almost three million Tunisians, including the capital Tunis. — AFP ■

UAE says world still needs to invest billions in oil and gas

THE UAE, one of the world's top crude exporters, said a recent UN climate summit in Glasgow was a "success" but that the world needs to keep investing billions in oil and gas.

Nearly 200 countries at the COP26 summit pledged Saturday to speed up the fight against rising temperatures, after two weeks of negotiations.

But they failed to secure a consensus to keep coal in the ground, and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has warned that "climate catastro-

phe" is still knocking at the door.

The summit "was indeed a success", said Sultan al-Jaber, the UAE's minister of industry and advanced technology.

But he forecast that the oil and gas industry would have to invest "over \$600 billion every year until 2030 just to keep up with the expected demand".

"While the world has agreed to accelerate the energy transition, it is still heavily reliant on oil and gas," he told the opening session of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum

Exhibition and Conference.

"As economies bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic at the fastest rate in 50 years, demand has outpaced supply."

Both the United Arab Emirates and neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the world's number one oil exporter, have announced net zero carbon goals, despite plans to ramp up oil production.

Net zero refers to emissions created within a country, not by products sold and consumed abroad. — AFP ■

Japan, US ministers meet over steel, aluminum tariffs

THE Japanese and US industry ministers on Monday met to discuss Washington's imposition of higher tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Japan.

Japan's trade and industry minister Koichi Hagiuda met with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo in Tokyo in hopes of persuading the visiting official to move her nation toward abolishing additional tariffs imposed by former US President Donald Trump.

"It is a valuable opportunity to discuss the future of Japan-US cooperation. Through today's discussions I hope we can further expand the cooperative relations between the two countries," Hagiuda said at the outset of the meeting.

Raimondo responded the "Department of Commerce's commitment to Japan is unwavering as it is our desire to strengthen

our economic partnerships with likeminded countries."

She said she is deeply focused on topics including coordination in facilitating the digital economy, infrastructure development, semiconductors and supply chain resilience, which is "essential for our global economic recovery and our ability to seize opportunities in a post-pandemic world." The meeting comes after the United States ended a similar dispute last month with the European Union and is now allowing a certain quantity of European steel and aluminum to enter duty free.

"The United States and Japan will seek to resolve bilateral concerns in this area (of steel and aluminum)," the Office of the US Trade Representative said Friday in a statement, just ahead of the visit to Japan by its chief Katherine Tai and Raimondo. — Kyodo ■

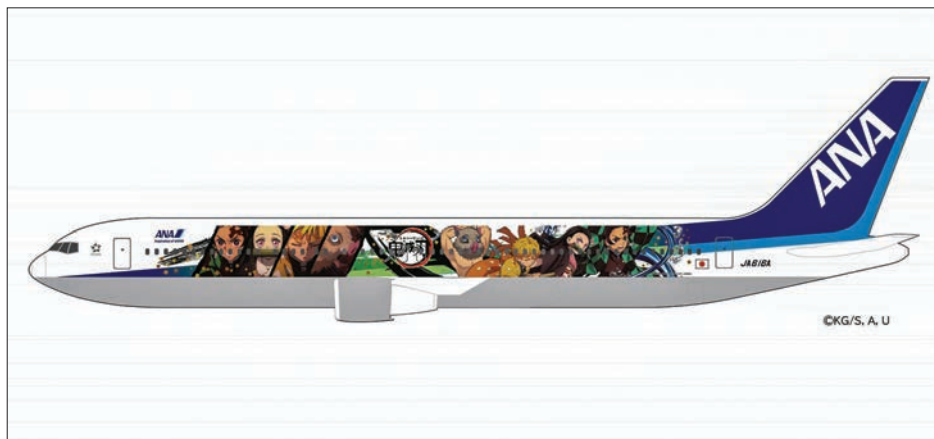
ANA to fly "Demon Slayer" anime-themed aircraft from next year

AN All Nippon Airways plane adorned with characters from the global hit anime series "Demon Slayer" will start flying on domestic routes from late January next year; the parent company of ANA said Monday.

In collaboration with the anime, which will air for its second season in early December, ANA will feature in-flight announcements with the characters' voices, said ANA Holdings Inc.

The images of the "Demon Slayer" characters, including hero Tanjiro Kamado, will appear on a B-767, with a second Demon Slayer-themed aircraft expected to operate sometime during fiscal 2021 through March next year, according to ANA Holdings.

Starting 1 December,



An All Nippon Airways Co plane adorned with characters from the popular anime series "Demon Slayer." (PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA) (KYODO)

the Japanese airline will also launch a yearlong campaign on all domestic flights providing children onboard with anime-inspired paper cups and toys.

Episodes of "Demon Slayer," which tells the story of Kamado, an adolescent boy fighting human-eating demons while searching for a cure for

his sister, who has turned into a demon, will also be shown on both international and domestic flights.

"We are excited to partner with Demon Slayer to generate excitement and share Japanese culture with a wider audience," said Junko Yaza-wa, senior vice-president of customer experience

management and planning at ANA.

A film based on the "Demon Slayer" manga series became the highest-grossing film in Japan's box-office history after its release in October 2020. The manga series, which put out its 23rd and final volume in book form that year, has sold over 150 million copies. — Kyodo ■



Japan's trade and industry minister Koichi Hagiuda (L) and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo meet in Tokyo on 15 November 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (231N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (231N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AN THINH PHU 08 V.08/2021

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AN THINH PHU 08 V.08/2021** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-6** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCP GRAZ VOY.NO. (21005S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCP GRAZ VOY.NO. (21005S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-11-2021** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NASSIO VOY.NO. (142S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NASSIO VOY.NO. (142S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-11-2021** 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 HANSA COBURG VOY.NO. (144S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA COBURG VOY.NO. (144S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-11-2021** 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

India opens to tourists after 20 months

INDIA on Monday opened to foreign tourists from countries with reciprocal agreements after a 20-month ban because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tour operators said, however, that demand was extremely sluggish due to high ticket prices and remaining restrictions on travellers from Britain, China and elsewhere.

The country famous for the Taj Mahal, desert palaces and tiger reserves barred all foreign tourists in March 2020 as the pandemic intensified.

But after a devastating spike in Covid-19 cases earlier this year, the number of known infections



Workers clean a water fountain tank at the Taj Mahal in Agra on 16 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP

has fallen sharply and the government, under pressure from an industry that is an important pillar of the economy, last month

announced a loosening.

Tourist visas were issued for fully vaccinated foreigners from countries with reciprocal arrangements arriving on charter flights from 15 October.

This was widened to include other flights on Monday.

Visitors from the approved countries can acquire a tourist visa online and need only monitor their health for 14 days after arrival. But those from Britain, the European Union, China, Brazil, South Africa and elsewhere are subject to additional measures, including Covid tests on arrival.

The first half a million visas were also free. Rajeesh Mehra,

president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators, said that arrivals were expected to reach only around five per cent of pre-pandemic levels in the coming months. "We are getting inquiries and we are giving them quotations but when they see expensive airfares, they tell us will try and come later," Mehra told AFP. "If things remain stable globally, we expect a full house during October 2022 season."

Goa, a popular tourist destination in southern India, will see its first charter flight from Britain land on 13 December, the Times of India reported in late October. — AFP ■

Cambodia reopens to fully vaccinated travellers

CAMBODIA has announced that fully vaccinated foreign travellers can visit the kingdom without quarantine from Monday, giving a boost to the Covid-hobbled tourism industry.

Travel restrictions imposed to tackle the pandemic put the brakes on Cambodia's burgeoning tourism industry — revenue plummeted to \$1 billion last year, down from nearly \$5 billion in 2019, when the country attracted 6.6 million visitors.

Prime Minister Hun Sen made an unexpected announcement on Sunday night that all fully vaccinated international travellers, tourists and businesspeople could visit the whole of Cambodia freely without quarantine from Monday.

The decision overrode the previous reopening plan, under which popular beach spots Sihanoukville and the island of Koh Rong, as well as Dara Sakor — a Chinese-developed resort zone

— were set to welcome visitors from 30 November.

And the reopening of Siem Reap — the gateway to the world heritage-listed Angkor Wat complex — is brought forward from January.

Hun Sen said travellers would have to show two negative Covid tests — one taken no less than 72 hours before travel and one on arrival in Cambodia.

"When they arrive and we see they have received two doses of vaccine, we will take swabs for rapid tests. After results show they are free of Covid-19, they are allowed to travel across Cambodia," Hun Sen said in an audio message posted on his Facebook page. "I order the ministry of health, the ministry of tourism and relevant sectors to implement these measures from 15 November 2021 onwards," he said, adding that the move was a quick way to re-open the country. — AFP ■



Local tourists walk on a decorated floating stage at a tourist site in Kampong Speu province on 24 October 2021. PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY / AFP

Thai economy shrinks, hopes for tourism-led recovery

THAILAND'S economy shrank in the third quarter, official data showed Monday, but hopes for a gradual recovery are picking up after the kingdom's reopening to foreign tourists this month.

The country last year suffered its worst performance since the Asian financial crisis of 1997, with a 6.1 per cent economic contraction.

Gross domestic product shrank 0.3 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) said, blaming it on Covid restrictions.

"The measures to control the outbreak affected the economic activities," said Danucha Pichayana, secretary general of the board of the NESDC, on Monday during a news conference.

A coronavirus outbreak in April this year saw the emer-



Staff prepare tables at a restaurant on Khao San Road — a once popular tourist strip — in Bangkok on 1 November 2021, as Thailand allows travellers vaccinated against the Covid-19 coronavirus to enter the country without the need for a two-week quarantine. PHOTO: AFP

gence of the highly contagious Delta variant, which led to re-imposing tough restrictions on services and restaurants.

According to NESDC data, the food service and accommodation sector shrank 18.6 per cent July-September because of "a decrease in domestic tourism and household spending".

In Bangkok — a key hotspot

during the Delta wave — restrictions only started to ease in recent weeks, with the government allowing certain restaurants to reopen and serve alcohol.

The relaxation of Covid restrictions — along with a gradual return of vaccinated foreign tourists since 1 November — has officials hopeful for growth of 1.2 per cent this year. — AFP ■

Japan to launch 2nd SDF space operations unit in FY 2022

JAPAN will set up a second space operations unit at an Air Self-Defence Force base in the country's west to monitor any threat via electromagnetic waves to its satellites within fiscal 2022, Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said Sunday.

The establishment of the unit in the Hofu Kita Air Base in Yamaguchi Prefecture is part of Japan's efforts to beef up its capabilities in new domains such as outer space, as China and Russia

are building up their own capacity in the electromagnetic spectrum.

"As we expand our operations in new domains — the fields of outer space, cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum — it is extremely important to secure the stable use of outer space," Kishi told ASDF personnel at the base.

The creation of the unit follows the launch in May last year of Japan's first space operation unit tasked with monitoring space de-

bris, asteroids and other threats to artificial satellites. The ASDF unit is based in Fuchu, western Tokyo.

The launch of the second unit was included in the Defence Ministry's budget requests for fiscal 2022, starting in April next year, unveiled in August.

In Yamaguchi, a space surveillance radar is currently under construction and is expected to be operational in fiscal 2023. — Kyodo ■

Japan Railway Track to design India's high-speed rail track

JAPAN Railway Track Consultants Co has signed a memorandum of understanding with India's National High Speed Rail Corp to design the track for part of the project to construct a high-speed train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

JRTC, an East Japan Railway Co group firm, will undertake designs of the 116-kilometre section linking Vadodara with the Sabarmati depot in the western Indian state of Gujarat, according to the MOU signed last Thursday.

JRTC will provide detailed designs and drawings of such components as track slab arrangement and continuous weld-

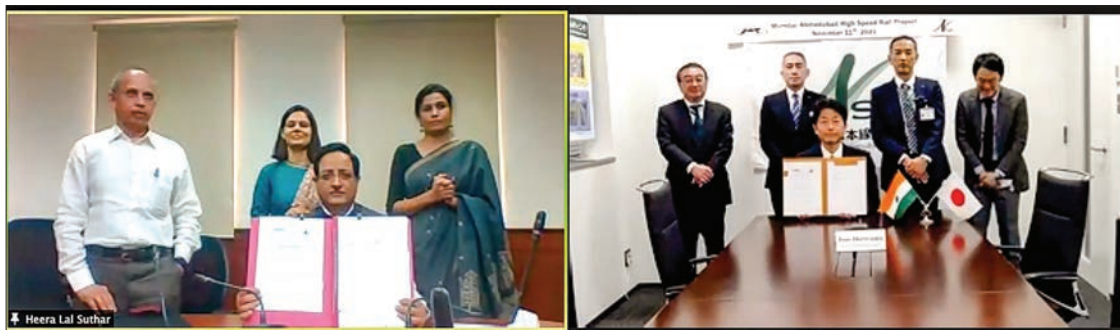


Photo shows a signing ceremony held online on 11 November 2021, for a memorandum of understanding between Japan Railway Track Consultants Co and National High Speed Rail Corp of India. (Photo courtesy of National High Speed Rail Corp) **PHOTO: KYODO**

ed rails as the Tokyo-based company plans to employ the type of technologies used for Japan's shinkansen bullet train lines.

The deal is the third package for the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed

Rail Corridor Project, following the second that was signed between both sides in March and involves a 237-km section between Vadodara and Vapi in Gujarat state. "JRTC is the only one specialized agency for this

kind of highly technical work and with their cooperation we are hopeful to finalize track designs quickly," Rajendra Prasad, director of NHSRCL, said during a signing ceremony held online. — Kyodo ■

Beijing Stock Exchange starts trading



Photo taken on 14 November 2021 shows the exterior view of the office building of the Beijing Stock Exchange, in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: (XINHUA/LI XIN)**

THE newly-established Beijing Stock Exchange (BSE) started trading Monday, marking a key

step in China's efforts to deepen capital market reform and support small businesses.

At the launching ceremony, Yi Huiman, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, has hailed the launch of BSE as "another landmark in China's capital market reform and development."

The launch came only two months after an announcement of the plan for a new stock exchange, in addition to the two existing bourses on the Chinese mainland — in Shanghai and Shenzhen respectively.

The first batch of 81 companies debuted on Monday, of which 10 were newly approved and 71 were transferred from the selected tier of China's Na-

tional Equities Exchange and Quotations, also known as the "new third board."

As of 10:20 am, shares of all the 10 newly-listed companies had triggered temporary suspension twice as their prices jumped over 60 per cent. These shares continued rallying after trading resumed, with the highest surging by over 500 per cent at some point. The stock exchange doesn't limit the price change of the newly-listed companies on the first trading day, but trading will be suspended for 10 minutes when stock prices fluctuate by over 30 per cent and over 60 per cent. — Xinhua ■

Philippines reopens 100 schools for in-person classes

THOUSANDS of children in the Philippines were allowed to return to classrooms Monday for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, as a pilot re-opening of schools got under way.

While nearly every country in the world has already partially or fully re-opened their schools to face-to-face learning, the Philippines has kept them closed since March 2020.

Kindergarten teacher Zyrex Damayo said he was "a bit nervous" as he greeted eight of his students at the Siocon Elementary School in Bogo city in the central island province of Cebu.

"I was expecting some of them to cry... (but) it went



A teacher (R) looks on as a child takes a temperature reading before attending face-to-face classes at Napo elementary school in the town of Linamon in Lanao del Norte province on 15 November 2021, after thousands of children were allowed to return to class for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: MERLYN MANOS / AFP**

smoothly and we did not have any problems," Damayo told AFP.

"They were quiet — they're still a bit shy."

A hundred public schools

out of more than 61,000 have been selected for the two-month trial, which is expected to be expanded in the coming weeks, education officials said.

Many of the schools are located in remote, mountainous or island communities considered to be low risk for virus transmission.

"I cannot guarantee that this will be 100 per cent successful, but in our assessment, we have high hopes that this pilot will be a success," Education Secretary Leonor Briones said last week.

Students in kindergarten, grades one to three, and senior high school are eligible to take part in the trial. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

India reports 10,229 new COVID-19 cases with active infections lowest in 17 months

INDIA'S COVID-19 tally rose to 34,447,536 on Monday as 10,229 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the health ministry's latest data.

Besides, as many as 125 deaths due to the pandemic were reported since Sunday morning, taking the total death toll to 463,655.

There are still 134,096 active COVID-19 cases, the lowest active caseload in 523 days in the country, with a fall of 1,822 active cases during the past 24 hours.

A total of 33,849,785 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals so far, out of which 11,926 were discharged during the past 24 hours. — Xinhua ■

Australia's Queensland unveils further detail for border reopening

THE Australian state of Queensland will ease some border restrictions on Monday, as the state hit its 70-per-cent COVID-19 vaccine milestone earlier than planned.

From 5:00 pm on Monday, the state will allow fully vaccinated returning residents and interstate travellers to fly into Queensland from a hotspot, with a new border pass which can be applied through the government website.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said travellers must also return a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours before arrival with a valid border pass.

Visitors arriving from Queensland-defined hotspot areas will need to quarantine at home for 14 days, so long as it has no shared common areas accessible by people outside the household.

As the state has marked days in a row without recording any locally acquired COVID-19 case, Palaszczuk said the state is also on track to potentially reach an 80-per-cent vaccination target earlier than expected. — Xinhua ■

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.



Former two division ONE World Champion Aung La N Sang. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Aung La N Sang's rematch likely to take place at year's end

A rematch of Myanmar sports icon and former ONE Championship two-division World Champion Aung La N Sang is likely to take place at the end of 2021, sports specialists predicted.

ONE Championship has announced the November bouts, but Aung La N Sang has not been included in the bouts so it is likely that only two main matches

including Aung La N Sang's bout will be held in December.

The ONE Championship is scheduled to hold ONE X Event on 5 December and Winter Warriors Event on 17 December.

After losing middleweight and light heavyweight world titles, Aung La N Sang has regained his sweet victory again by beating Brazilian fighter Le-

andro Ataides even in the first round on 30 July. Currently, ONE Championship has not yet decided whether to allow Aung La N Sang to challenge for his middleweight title again, and will only be confirmed after the release.

Aung La N Sang has decided to fight in the middleweight division after losing both world titles. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Serbia, Spain qualify for 2022 World Cup, Portugal stunned

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's hopes of playing in a record-equalling fifth World Cup hang in the balance after Serbia stunned Portugal 2-1 in Lisbon to qualify for the 2022 World Cup. Spain and Croatia did secure their places in Qatar on Sunday thanks to 1-0 wins over Sweden and Russia respectively.

Ronaldo already holds the record of playing in five European Championships and looked well on course for another milestone as Portugal stormed out of the

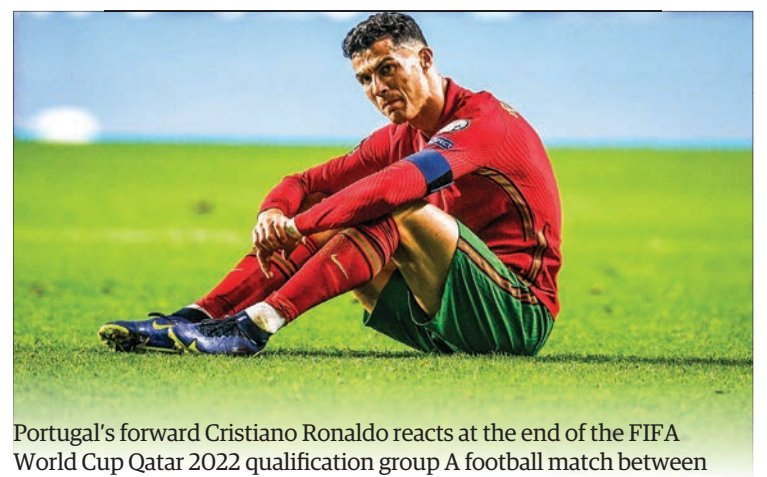
blocks to open the scoring after just two minutes through Renato Sanches.

However, Serbia bounced back to dominate the remainder of the first half and deservedly levelled when Dusan Tadic's strike squeezed in off the post after Dusan Vlahovic had hit the woodwork. Ronaldo was kept quiet as another chance to score his 800th career goal came and went. Instead it was Aleksandar Mitrovic who grabbed the vital goal as

stoppage time approached.

Just over a year ago, Mitrovic was the villain for his country as he was the only player to fail to score in a penalty shootout against Scotland that saw Serbia miss out on Euro 2020. However, the Fulham striker made amends in dramatic fashion when he steered in Tadic's header at the back post.

"It was an amazing game," said Mitrovic. "We were the better team today in every aspect of the



Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo reacts at the end of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualification group A football match between Portugal and Serbia, at the Luz stadium in Lisbon, on 14 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

game." Portugal must now navigate two tricky one-off playoff matches in March to maintain

their record of qualifying for every major tournament since the 1998 World Cup. — AFP ■



Muguruza edges Kontaveit to set up all-Spanish WTA Finals semi

TWO-time Grand Slam champion Garbine Muguruza booked her semi-final spot at the WTA Finals on Sunday with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Anett Kontaveit that ended the Estonian's 12-match win streak.

Muguruza's victory in her final round-robin contest in the eight-woman season finale in Guadalajara denied Karolina

Pliskova a place in the knockout phase.

The former world number one Pliskova battled to a gutsy 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over fellow Czech Barbora Krejcekova earlier in the day. Muguruza will face fellow Spaniard Paula Badosa on Tuesday.

"It's amazing there are four players left and two of them are Spaniards. I mean, that just shows that Spain has a great level of tennis and a great school. It's going to be a fun match," Muguruza said. — AFP ■

Spain's Garbine Muguruza returns the ball to Estonia's Anett Kontaveit during the 2021 WTA Finals Tournament women's singles match in Zapopan, Mexico, 14 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**