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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.

YMBA celebrates 101st Anniversary of National Victory Day in Mayangon Township

THE ceremony to mark the 101st Anniversary of National Victory Day, organized by the Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA, took place at Zabuthiri Beikman in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region yesterday, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and officials.

Vice Chairman of the YMBA (Central) Maha Mingala Dhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Aung Min Kyaw Thu read the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Perpetual Patron of YMBA Tha-

toe Thiri Agga Maha Mingala Dhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Thray Sithu Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of YMBA (Central) Agga Maha Mingala Dhamma Jotikadhaja U Ye Tun talked about the victory of National Victory Day and presented medals.

The ceremony followed announcement of the executive committee member list for 2022-2024 and affirmation. U Ye Tun, reelected as Chairman of YMBA (Central), extended greetings.

The ceremony ended with singing the Zartiman song.—MNA



YMBA's 101st National Victory Day ceremony takes place at Zabuthiri Beikman in Mayangon Township on 28 November 2021.

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**State Administration Council
Press Release**

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

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MoE organizes ceremony to mark 101st Anniversary of National Victory Day



THE ceremony to mark the 101st Anniversary of National Victory Day was organized at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, the deputy ministers, ceremony organizing committee members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Permanent Secretary, and education officers including headmasters and other officials online.

First, the national victory day ceremony was honoured

with a song of Okaw Ba Thaug.

Then, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe read out the message sent by Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 101st Anniversary of National Victory Day.

Finally, the ceremony came to an end after the video clip of Myanma School song filmed by the Department of Alternative Education as presented. —MNA

The ceremony to mark National Victory Day is being held at Ministry of Education.

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

THE Ministry of Commerce arranges import of the essential medical supplies through border trade zones and camps, international airport and sea-ports in line with standard operation procedures.

Yesterday, anti-COVID-19 products were imported by two companies using seven vehicles.

A total 19 tonnes of liquid oxygen carried by one bowser and 45 tonnes of masks imported via Myawady and Chinshwehaw trading posts, officials said.

One oxygen bowser was transported to Yangon via

Myawady trade zone, officials added.

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



Cargo trucks carrying medical equipment rolling on the road in a row are leading to regions and states.

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)

Border Affairs Union Minister inspects human resources development activities in Ayeyawady Region



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung meets principal, teachers and students of Border Area National Race Vocational Training School in Bogale on 27 November 2021.

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Kyaw Swa Hlaing and officials inspected training schools in Ayeyawady Region from 26 to

28 November. The Union Minister and party arrived at the Women's Domestic Vocational Training School in Pathein on the evening of 26 November. The Director of Ayeyawady

Region explained the details of the training school and the Union Minister provided necessary assistance. After that, the Union Minister inspected the trainees' tailoring works, dormitory on

campus, mess hall, cooking with electric and gas stoves, lecture halls, library, staff housings and financial management for 2021-2022 financial year. On the morning of 27 November, the Union Minister ac-

companied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win visited Border Area National Race Youth Vocational Training School and Women's Domestic Vocational Training School in Labutta, Bogale and Maubin. A total of five training schools: one each training school for ethnic youths in the border areas in Bogale and Maubin, one each women's vocational training school in Pathein and Labutta and another one vocational school in Labutta were established for rehabilitation and human resource development in the region after Cyclone Nargis 2008 hit. Schools have been set up to provide basic education and vocational training to local young men and women, officials said. So far, these schools have turned out 2,292 trainees.—MNA

Settings, studios for TV broadcasting under construction in Pindaya area

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Shan State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun and Chairman of Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone viewed construction of settings and studios for production of television programme broadcasting of Forever Yay Wati Co Ltd in Pindaya area yesterday morning. In meeting with officials of Forever Yay Wati Company, the Union Minister said as artistes miss chances to do artistic works due to various reasons, some artistes face difficulties. The Ministry of Information decides to solve the problems of artistes and fine arts arena. He recounted that the Prime Minister gave guidance to assist in solving their problems as persons from the fine arts arenas are recognized as professionals. He expressed

his pleasure for turning out the new generations of fine arts arenas in production of film and TV broadcasting in Pindaya. He urged all to systematically produce the films meeting the international standard and to seek the foreign market. He said he believes successful process of television broadcasting in Pindaya endowed with natural scenes, peace and tranquility and smooth transport facilities. But, it is necessary to maintain the soil damage due to erosion. The Union Minister pledged to give aid for improvement of the film industry together with Shan State government as success in the work process at Pindaya will reflect the development of the region. The Shan State Chief Minister explained plans of the state government for imple-



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn meets local authorities and officials of Forever Yay Wati Company Ltd in Pindaya.

mentation of the infrastructures and studios in Pindaya. The Union Minister and the chief minister of Shan State viewed construction of studies, soil preservation and greening

tasks. Forever Yay Wati Company is constructing necessary buildings on more than 800 acres of land as of 2018 to produce TV programmes and

films. In the afternoon, the Union minister visited Danu Self-Administered Zone Information and Public Relations Department.—MNA

Myanmar delegation attends 89th Session of INTERPOL General Assembly



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of MPF Lt-Gen Than Hlaing attends 89th session of INTERPOL General Assembly in Istanbul.

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Than Hlaing attended the 89th Session of INTERPOL General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, between 23 and 25 November at the invitation of INTERPOL.

Of 194 member countries, the chiefs of police, senior officials, Mr KIM Jong Yang, President of INTERPOL's Executive Committee, Mr Jurgen Stock, general secretary and other officials of 169 member countries attended the event.

On the first-day session, the leaders discussed the increasing transnational crime around the world day to day, enhancement of cooperation in the fight against cybercrime and terrorism and adoption of proper high techniques in exchange of infor-

mation. Then, Myanmar participated in secret voting for new President and 12 seats of regional committee representatives.

On the second-day session, President of WHO delivered a speech online and the assembly then approved the ways to ease the impacts of COVID-19, conducted secret voting for Federal State of Micronesia, selected the INTERPOL's governance and the use of information, executive committee members, INTERPOL 2022-2025 Strategic Framework and approved the 14 decisions made at the 89th Session of INTERPOL General Assembly.

On the third day of event, INTERPOL signed agreement with AMIC, OIE and IACP.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Than Hlaing separately met with Mr KIM Jong Yang, President of INTERPOL's Executive Committee and Mr Ju-

rgen Stock, General Secretary. Moreover, he also met with Police Inspector General Mr. Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi of UAE, Alternate President of INTERPOL 2022-2025, Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs of Russian Federation Mr. Sergey N. Lebedev, Deputy Minister for Public Security of Viet Nam Nyugen Duy Ngoc including other police chiefs of China, India and Thailand, and discussed the cooperation between the police forces and enhancement of collaboration in the fight against the crimes.

As Myanmar Police Force joined the 89th Session of INTERPOL General Assembly, it can improve the sector of police force in capacity building training of INTERPOL and cooperation works among the police forces. The Myanmar delegation arrived back at Yangon International Airport on Saturday evening.—MNA

Health officials conduct field study in Shan State to ensure COVID-19 preventive measures

DEPUTY Minister for Health Professor Dr Aye Tun conducted an inspection tour to Shan State (South) while Deputy Director-General of Public Health Department Dr Tun Tin to Shan State (North) and Deputy Director-General Dr Tun Myint to Shan State (East) between 29 October to 27 November to ensure the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities.

The Deputy Minister and field study team met the Shan State Chief Minister and Ministers, military commanders, relevant administration bodies, departmental officials of respective districts and townships and health officials. During the meeting, the deputy minister stressed the neces-



Health officials take preventive measures of COVID-19 in meeting with health staff in Shan State.

sary things regarding with the outbreak of COVID-19 in the state, strategic plans to

fight against the pandemic, projects, lab tests and surveillance programmes and vacci-

nation programmes under the guidance of the government.

Moreover, the Deputy

Minister and other officials conducted field study in their specific locations of Shan State and discussed the searching of new cases and lab tests reviewing the infection rates of disease in townships, contact tracing, proper vaccination programmes for target groups, education programmes and the needs to follow the health rules of the Ministry of Health.

Due to the close supervision of the Deputy Minister, the infection rate in the State drastically declines in the third and last weeks of November compared to the last week of October.

Therefore, nine townships in Shan State were removed from the list of Stay-at-Home townships.—MNA

350 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 November, total figure rises to 521,561

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 521,561 after 350 new cases were reported on 28 November 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 496,081 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,088 after 9 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 27-11-2021, a total of 16,485,315 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 11,615,096 people have been vaccinated two times and 4,870,219 people once.—MNA

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Terrorist groups destroy 151 government's stuff, 79 private stuff

CRPH and NUG terrorists targeting to committing the utter devastation formed PDF terrorist group, murdering the people peacefully residing in some areas

with various reasons, setting fire to and robbing State owned buildings, public hospitals, schools, housings, villages, markets, State owned banks and private banks.

From 1 February to 20 November 2021, a total of 151 government's stuff and 79 private stuff were destroyed by terrorist groups.

List of government's stuff destroyed by terrorists from 1-2-2021 to 20-11-2021

No.	State/Region	Township	Gov't Stuff	Remark
1	Nay Pyi Taw	5	6	
2	Kachin	2	4	
3	Kayah	1	1	
4	Chin	1	1	
5	Sagaing	17	34	
6	Taninthayi	2	4	
7	Bago	4	6	
8	Magway	5	8	
9	Mandalay	10	16	
10	Mon	5	7	
11	Yangon	26	52	
12	Shan	5	5	
13	Ayeyawady	6	7	
Total		89	151	

List of private stuff destroyed by terrorists from 1-2-2021 to 20-11-2021

No.	State/Region	Township	Private Stuff	Remark
1	Kachin	1	1	
2	Kayah	1	2	
3	Kayin	1	1	
4	Chin	3	3	
5	Sagaing	13	20	
6	Taninthayi	2	3	
7	Bago	1	2	
8	Magway	5	7	
9	Mandalay	9	13	
10	Mon	1	1	
11	Yangon	15	20	
12	Shan	2	2	
13	Ayeyawady	1	4	
Total		55	79	

The people is urged to work together to prevent terror acts such as mine planting and setting fire to the State owned and private property by the terrorists for ensuring development, peace and stability of the State, and if they receive information about the terrorist activities, they should secretly contact the nearest security forces and cooperate with them until the terrorists can no longer stand.—MNA



A traffic police post was damaged in homemade bomb blast in Lanmadaw Township.



Damaged locomotive was burnt in Pinyinana.



Piles of timber logs of government were set on fire in Kalay Township.



An ambulance of social welfare association was set in blaze in Thabeikkyin Township.



A fule bowser burnt by PDF terrorist group was seen in Htigyaying Township.



Five buses of YBS (89) were set on fire in Kyimyindine Township.

Milestones in the State Administration Council's Ninth Month

By Kanaung

Overview

IN October, the management of and response to the third wave of COVID-19 — the COVID Delta variant — continued to show progress, with the authorities working in close cooperation with the public. Decisive victories were scored in this respect, with the pandemic finally becoming manageable.

Heightened public cooperation with government security forces led to the arrests of several terrorists who had been responsible for the violent killings of unarmed civilians and to the discovery and seizures of large amounts of firearms and ammunition.

Despite international pressure and challenges, progress continued on several fronts.

Consistent efforts for the people

On 1 October, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Haling met the members of Shan State government, officials of Self-Administered Zones, departmental personnel, local authorities and town elders to discuss and guide plans for the agricultural and livestock sector, the desilting of Inlay Lake, education and human resource development in the region, and the enhancement of electricity generation capacity.

On 2 October, the Prime Minister inspected agriculture and livestock programmes in the Shan Yoma livestock zone in Taunggyi. Together with concerned governmental officials, he also inspected the No 2 Steel Mill (Pinpet) under No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise of the Ministry of Industry near Pinngo Village in Pinpet region, Taunggyi Township.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services also visited the Eastern Command headquarters to meet with Tatmadaw officers, other ranks and families of



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits radiation department of military hospital in Aungban, Shan State on 2 October 2021.

Taunggyi Station, and highlighted the main duties and traditions of the Tatmadaw, related political issues, and the economy of the State. Military families received gifts of food.

During the visit, he also donated offerings to the Venerable Dr Bhaddhanta Dhammasami (Oxford Sayadaw) at the Shan State Buddhist University. He viewed religious literature and other items in the University Library and participated in a tree-planting ceremony in front of the Shan State Buddhist University.

Also on 2 October, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services unveiled the plaque at the radiation treatment centre and the operation theatre for cancer at the military hospital in Aungban, southern Shan State. The centre will provide cancer treatment for Tatmadaw members and families as well as residents from Shan and Kayah states. He also met with the senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees of the Command and General Staff College in Kalaw and emphasized the importance of understanding the duties and responsibilities of a commander and the practices of good leaders.

On 3 November, the Prime Minister presided over a meet-

ing with town elders, officials and representatives of business communities in Kalaw and Aungban townships. The meeting focused on topics of interest such as the transport sector, expansion of the tourism industry, promotion of health sector, plans to boost the region's livestock and breeding industries and international market penetration. Plans were made to launch Kalaw-based rail transportation services using coal-fired locomotives.

The first Myanmar Coast Guard

On 6 October, the Myanmar Coast Guard was constituted in a ceremony at No (3) Naval Jetty in Yangon, and coast guard vessels were commissioned into service. The Myanmar Coast Guard aims at (a) enhancing maritime security and the rule of law within Myanmar's economic zones bordering its coastline, (b) protecting national maritime interests, (c) conducting search and rescue operations in seas, (d) combating crimes on Myanmar's seas, (e) exchanging information with other coast guards and enhancing diplomatic relations with other countries, and (f) supporting the Tatmadaw Navy forces in conflicts.

During the ceremony, the

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met with the officials and members of the Myanmar Coast Guard and highlighted the historical importance of establishing the Myanmar Coast Guard. He also set noted the opportunity for the Coast Guard to serve the national interests, gave Myanmar's geo-strategic position, and outlined the two main roles of the Coast Guard, notably a constabulary role and a benign role. The constabulary role will enforce the law on Myanmar's seas while the benign role will include humanitarian aid, disaster relief, search and rescue, and so on.

On the same day, the Prime Minister inspected the operations and projects in the Thilawa Multi-purpose Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Zone, Yangon Region. During the inspection tour, he encouraged the business community to apply research findings, foster the emergence of sustainable and systematic livestock industries, and meet market demand.

The first underpass

On 7 October, the Prime Minister inaugurated the very first Underpass in the country. The population pressure and congested traffic in Yangon makes it imperative to construct double-decker roads/elevated highways and underpasses, as there comes a point when expansion of the road area becomes impossible. The underpass was constructed in line with the urban planning norms and allows for 6,000 people per hour. It is 427 feet in length with four exits, escalators and lifts, with provisions for 18 shops.

On the same day, the Prime Minister's meeting with the Yan-

gon Region government officials and departmental personnel focused on the city's cleanliness, sanitation and waste disposal systems, COVID-19 preventive measures, tax payment, strengthening of cooperatives, and water supply and provision. He then visited a factory in Insein Township producing sand-concrete blocks, Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Kyaikkasan Basketball Gymnasium in Tamway Township and the Sports and Physical Education Institute on Kyaikkasan Grounds, with a view to upgrading these facilities.

Encouraging projects and initiatives

Myanmar is having to import significant volumes of steel, an essential product for the country's development projects, since the country cannot yet produce sufficient amounts of steel. On 8 October, the SAC Chairman committed to supporting local initiatives to address this problem while inspecting the No (3) Steel Mill at Ywama, Insein Township in Yangon Region.

On the same day, the SAC Chairman inspected the Hepatitis B Vaccine production facilities at the Ywathagyi Branch of the Pharmaceutical Factory in Insein Township. Discussions were held with officials on the use of enhanced technology in the production of pharmaceutical products, the ongoing research to produce COVID-19 vaccines, and future work plans.

Also on the same day, the SAC Chairman attended the Choice of Arms ceremony for the cadets of the eighth intake of graduate female cadet course at the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School in Hmawby. He then inspected several agriculture and livestock breeding farms in the Danyingon area and inspected the breeding of broilers and dairy cows, and the cultivation of seasonal and perennial crops. He encouraged a shift towards a mechanized farming system that would maximize yields and minimize losses.

On 10 October, the SAC Chairman met again with the Yangon Region Government officials to give guidance on the region's security, the rule of law, traffic regulations, cleanliness of the city area, the issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards (or national identity cards), measures to calculate and address the

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The newly-established Myanmar Coast Guard vessels are seen putting into operation on 6 October 2021.

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minimum consumption needs per capita for the Yangon Region population, land disputes, the establishment of sports stadiums, and electricity generation projects.

On 15 October, the SAC Chairman attended the 16/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council. The meeting focused on the peace process, economic growth, agriculture and livestock, import/export markets and renewable energy.

On 25 October, at the second meeting of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the SAC Chairman in his role as Prime Minister emphasized the plans for the development of education and human resources, manufacturing, rural development and the situation of currency and banking systems.

On 31 October, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung

other officials and well-wishers.

On 29 October, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the facilities for public relaxation, sports and physical exercise at the historic Resistance Park at the corner of U Wisara Road and Dhammazedhi Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. He also visited the Myanmar Equestrian Federation and the sports zone in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. On the same date, he visited Myanmar Thakaung war veterans' housing (Laydaunkan) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon Region.

On 31 October, the SAC Chairman inspected the renovation work for the Maha Pasana Cave of the Sixth Buddhist Synod on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, Yangon. During the visit, he encouraged officials to promote systematic research to help

On 16 October, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the national peoples of Myanmar to mark the occasion of World Food Day. The message explained the government's endeavours in food self-sufficiency and nutrition and related the national efforts to the theme of 2021 World Food Day, which was "Our actions are our future — Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life".

On 13 October, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, also the Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, addressed the ceremony held to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021. He noted that it was necessary to learn lessons from past events to protect against loss of life, injury and damage, mitigate and reduce dis-

Committee on Organizing the 74th Anniversary of Independence Day 2022 held a coordination meeting. Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as Chairperson of the central committee, attended the meeting and provided guidance for the national Independence Day ceremony.

On 15 October, Chairman of National Unity and Peace-making Central Committee Senior General Min Aung Hlaing broadcast a video message to mark the 6th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). In his message, he said the government had clearly declared that it would continue the processes for achieving durable peace in line with the NCA and had always kept the door open for dialogue. He noted that only when Myanmar, which is rich in natural resources, achieves

ed the ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting. During the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Union Minister discussed the efforts of Myanmar to contribute to the advancement of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, the preparations for the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit, the implementation of the five-point consensus of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting and the visit of Special Envoy to Myanmar.

On 12 October, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs participated via video link in the Commemorative High-Level Meeting on the occasion of marking the 60th Anniversary of the First Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which was held on 11 and 12 October in Serbia. U Thura Thant Zin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Myanmar to Serbia, attended the meeting as the representative of the Government of Myanmar. In his statement, the Union Minister mentioned that Myanmar was proud to be a member country and that Myanmar hoped for mutual understanding and positive cooperation of the NAM member countries in its endeavour to bring about peace, democracy and development of the country.

Relevant Myanmar officials attended the 9th Meeting of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices, the Indo-ASEAN Business Summit & Expo, the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, the 15th Ministerial Meeting for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, the ITU Digital World 2021, the Russian Energy Week International Forum, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and related meetings, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and the 35th Chairs' Meeting of the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum held in October.

Other meetings attended by Myanmar in October include the 20th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting, the Future of Tourism World Summit organized by the World Tourism Organization, the 11th ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting, the 43rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry and 21st ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry, the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment and its related meeting.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presses the ceremonial button to open the Underpass on Pyay Road in Yangon on 7 October 2021.

Hlaing inspected the Tatmadaw Heavy Industries facilities. During the inspection tour, he stressed the importance of having the capacity to manufacture adequate numbers of utility vehicles, such as oil bowsers, water tankers, garbage trucks, sprayers and fire trucks, not only for the Tatmadaw but also for municipal work and firefighting.

Culture, leisure and religious affairs

On 23 October, the grand auspicious ceremony of building Part 1 of the Yadana Throne for the Maravijaya Buddha Image took place at the pavilion of Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw. Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha, together with SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members,

restoration work for historical and religious buildings. On the same day, he met with writers and artistes from the film, theatrical and musical industries. He commented on the recent pardon and releases of artistes who had been involved in the unrest, incitements and riots. He also called on the artistes to work together for the sake of the country. The SAC Chairman then contributed K 400 million to the fund for artistes in the various fields, together with 100 bags of rice, 500 viss of cooking oil and 300 viss of gram.

Commemoration of international and national events

On 5 October, a ceremony to celebrate 2021 World Teachers' Day was convened and the Prime Minister sent a message highlighting the history of World Teachers' Day and the responsibilities of teachers during this era.

aster risks and develop work processes for raising public awareness of natural disasters and enhancing resilience to climate change. The disaster management mechanism in Myanmar should continue to with strong cooperation and collaboration among the Union, regions and state governments.

On 24 October, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing had a message delivered to mark the 76th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The message stated that Myanmar firmly believed in the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate with the United Nations and other member countries in support of constructive efforts to build a healthy, wealthy and thriving world for all people.

On 12 October, the Central

peace will it be stable and able to develop optimally. As now, the government and the Tatmadaw are both emphasizing the peace process, now was the best time to achieve this goal, not only for NCA signatories but also for non-NCA signatories.

On 18 October, the Prime Minister made a speech to the public on the occasion of the Thadingyut Festival. He announced that amnesty would be granted to those who deserved to be released from among those who had been convicted for their involvement in the riots. Action would be taken in accord with the law against those who commit attacks on the public and country. He also informed the public on Myanmar's position as a member of ASEAN.

International Engagement

On 4 October, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs attend-

TO BE CONTINUED

Leave newer and better environment for posterities

THE environment inherited by all living beings and non-living things should be improved properly for newer generations.

David Ross Brower, a prominent environmentalist and the founder of many environmental organizations, said, “We don’t inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children,” adding “We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations.”

It is true. As the environment is a common abode for all things, all need to emphasize the conservation of the environment. No one has the right to destroy the environment. At a set

time, everybody shall depart the living world by passing away. If so, all need to improve the environment as much as they can.

The environment is constituted with the world inherited by living and non-living beings and different things, trees, grounds, water and air in addition to natural objects. Some of them are used and some, new ones. Everybody wishes to make the new ones naturally. Hence, all beings should strive for leaving a new environment for the posterities.

Everything is changing day by day. Newer and newer ones emerge in the world. Society turns out new generations one after another. So, the environment for new generations must be better and better. Those from the current generations are responsible for leaving the newer and better environments for new generations.

As such, all living beings need to make efforts for the development of the environment with greening tasks which mean the growing of trees to maintain the radio of oxygen content in the atmosphere. It is because trees give food, shade, oxygen, natural protection, shelter and accommodation in addition to mitigating the climate

change and accumulation of mental tranquillity and chilling to human beings.

Naturally, the elder generations lent the environment from current generations for their living status. At present, the current generations borrowed the environments from future generations for solving daily needs. Similarly, the future generations would lend it from their posterity. Each generation is responsible for improving the environment again and again.

It is noticeable that although all living beings need to take the new environment without any loss and damage, they should hand over the newer environment in a good condition to the further posterities. Don’t leave bad legacies of the environment to the new generations.

It is noticeable that although all living beings need to take the new environment without any loss and damage, they should hand over the newer environment in a good condition to the further posterities. Don’t leave bad legacies of the environment to the new generations.

Democracy: Looking Beyond Elections

By an observer

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

The NLD government-appointed ethnic members at high-ranking positions in the executive and the legislature and as chief ministers of States. However, the lack of consultation with ethnic parties undercut NLD’s measures for national reconciliation. Arakan National Party’s (ANP) political disagreement with NLD was most obvious with serious ramifications. ANP was the single largest party that won 22 out of 35 seats in Rakhine State Hluttaw. ANP was of the view that if NLD wanted to see ethnic parties cooperate in the peace process, national reconciliation and constitutional amendment, it should first give an ethnic party like ANP the opportunity to nominate the chief minister and form the government of Rakhine State or at least negotiate with ANP. However, NLD failed to do so. Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) and Mon National Party (MNP) were other ethnic parties that expressed similar disappointment towards the NLD. The Chairman of ANP, Dr Aye Maung, who was selected as the representative of ethnic parties in U Thein Sein’s six-party talk, missed the opportunity to represent ANP as the Chief Minister of Rakhine State. Instead, U Nyi Pu, the NLD member was appointed as the Chief Minister. Since then, NLD’s relations with Rakhine ethnic parties had become troublesome. The political rupture exacerbated existing security concerns in the Rakhine State. NLD’s failure to seize the opportunity of engaging governmental and nongovernmental actors/stakeholders to build confidence and common understandings rendered its reform dialogues half strained from the very beginning.

In order to avoid security ramifications of political actions or inactions and to have multidimensional perspectives in decisions and policies, Tatmadaw repeatedly called for holding National Defence and Security Council meetings. The popular opinion about the compositions of NDSC is that the civil-military ratio of NDSC members favours Tatmadaw in decision-making/policy-making. A practical problem seems to be the State Counsellor post which is not among the NDSC member list. Whether it was to limit the Tatmadaw’s role in decision-making or for some other reasons, only the NLD government would know why it very rarely held the NDSC type meetings. Thus, it was not surprising for the distortion of decisions and policies as they mainly represented the NLD’s perspectives.

On 11 November 2019, Gambia filed a lawsuit against Myanmar at the ICJ accusing the country of committing genocide against a certain group of people in Rakhine State. A largely decision-implementing role of the Tatmadaw could be clearly seen in Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun’s interview with Voice of America (VOA) on 11 December 2019 regarding Tatmadaw’s opinion of the State Counsellor facing genocide accusation at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). According to Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun, Tatmadaw followed the government’s instruction on security and defence matters and had assigned two Tatmadaw officials to join a legal team formed under the President Office for responding to the accusation and explaining the reality. Likewise, Major General Thauang Naing, Deputy Judge Advocate General said on 24 December that they were ready to accompany the team to ICJ and it was up to the government of President U Win Myint to decide. Nevertheless, the NLD government proceeded without military members.

The NLD government’s shortfall in institutional management is also evident in its initiatives for the constitutional amendment. Despite apparent inclusiveness of the 45-member Joint Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Amendment (JPCCA), NLD’s 40 per cent composition and the use of voting as the procedure for approving a set of suggestions to be written into a bill means that the chance of the suggestions of other members to get approved was low without NLD’s support. The prevalence of individualist tendencies and no attitude for negotiation prevented proper assessment of different views. On the other hand, time constraints to deal with a bill during NLD’s remaining tenure and the need to avoid deadlock might have put pressure on the approval procedure. It means that the committee was yet to come up with persuasive techniques and cultivate the political culture of a negotiated settlement to treat everyone in a relatively fair and equal manner.

The committee submitted a report which included 3,765 amendment proposals. NLD made 114 amendment proposals while the rest were largely made by Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kachin ethnic parties. NLD’s proposals mainly sought civilianization—of executive and legislative power branches and decision-making authority—which among others

include: bringing a state of emergency under the control of civilian authority and institutions; requiring Tatmadaw appointed ministers to resign from the military post; the phased withdrawal of Tatmadaw from the legislature; raising the role and authority of the president and the Union Parliament and altering the composition of the National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) to become the civilian majority. Here, the NLD had sought to inject its strength of majority mandate into a decision-making mechanism that should largely be based on consensus. Regarding the NLD’s proposal to repeal the constitutional provision articulating the C-in-C of defence services as the supreme commander of all armed forces including the Myanmar Police Force, Tatmadaw representatives strongly believed that the provision should be upheld to keep the institution, its militia strategy and the national defence system cohesive and independent from partisan politics, especially because of uncertainties surrounding the institutional and interest management of civilian governments.

Meanwhile, uneven ethnic proposals expressing federal aspirations find it hard to make their way through the majority mandate in the Union Parliament and the final amendment bill of the JPCCA reportedly sidelined federal considerations. Thus, ethnic representatives were unsatisfied with the conduct of the joint committee and didn’t expect any substantive outcome. Being unhappy with the JPCCA, Tatmadaw and USDP representatives made no amendment proposal through it. Instead, they submitted separate bills for parliamentary review. In contrast to the NLD-led JPCCA, Tatmadaw and USDP representatives made suggestions on federalization—starting with the procedure of appointment of chief ministers and members of the state/regional cabinet. The trend in the constitutional amendment process was that Tatmadaw and USDP prioritized federalization over civilianization whereas the NLD leadership prioritized civilianization as part of consolidating democracy before it could address ethnic aspirations for federalization. NLD using the majority mandate in attempting to push the military out of the constitutional equation before a commonly accepted set of federal foundations can be established will impair the institutional stability which can seriously jeopardize the security of the country. Only two minor amendments irrelevant to civilianization or federalization passed through the parliament.

NLD’s move in the parliament pushed the Tatmadaw to the edge of public opinion that Tatmadaw members in the Union Parliament were obstructing endeavours for the constitutional amendment. Politically, it ill-informed the public and could raise displeasure against the country’s security institution. In contrast to the purpose of consolidating democracy, missteps or out-of-sequence measures led the NLD’s national reconciliation efforts away from both ethnic groups and the Tatmadaw. By pushing the majority mandate against ethnic groups and the Tatmadaw or against collectivity and collaboration in constitutional reform initiatives, the NLD was creating the risk of security impairment and a setback rather than democratic consolidation. Moreover, the majority mandate was turned into a structural barrier rather than employed as political capital.

The NLD government divided the peace process into three: 1) establishing a framework for political dialogue as the basis of the Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong Conference); 2) promoting inclusiveness, and 3) delivering the benefits of peace to the public. The 21st Century Panglong Conference brought 51 basic principles in Union Accord (1) and (2) as a confidence-building among the government, the Tatmadaw and the NCA signatory EAOs (NCA-S EAOs). Yet, a more challenging part relating to federal principles is to find their way into the Union Accord (3) along with agreements on post-2020 phase-by-phase implementation. Meanwhile, only two more EAOs signed the NCA during the tenure of the NLD government, making NCA-S EAOs altogether ten. The peace process is a complex process comprising many actors, stakeholders and mechanisms. With the NLD government’s fledgling management of interests and institutions demonstrated by mishandling of majority mandate, lack of adequate political capital and out-of-sequence measures, bringing about political cohesion among diverse interests and groups in drafting commonly acceptable and viable democracy and federal principles to be applied throughout the Union was a mission impossible.

In preparation for the 2020 general election, the ruling NLD party overlooked confidence-building, political cohesion and confirmation of

national causes for pursuing the majority mandate. In terms of engagement, the NLD party launched a grassroots campaign while remaining largely inattentive to consulting, at least virtually, security and post-election stability at the actor/stakeholder level. Neither the executive nor the legislature of the NLD government showed responsiveness when complaints about voters list errors and election irregularities loomed large after the election. Tatmadaw’s request to discuss the matter in the NDSC was turned down by the NLD government. Here, the failure of the 2020 general election was not indicative of one-off wrongful actions or inactions but the accumulation of deviations from democratic practices. NLD’s 2016-2021 tenure clearly demonstrated that elections and majority mandate alone could not ensure democracy.

Section (3)

NUG, CRPH, Populism and False Hope

To correct democracy that had been unacceptably deviated from its typical criteria, the State Administration Council (SAC) has to temporarily hold the state responsibilities and the three branches of power under the 2008 Constitution on 1 February 2021. It is not a coup. It has followed legitimate constitutional procedures, including the peaceful transfer of power, to deal with the election crisis and the deviations from the practices of democracy. The time period of SAC assuming state responsibilities is a politically defining moment to correct democracy and prevent disruptive tendencies. By looking at the civil-military composition of the SAC and subsidiary councils, the involvement of various infrastructural institutions of civil and military nature and the procedures and mechanisms of decision-making and enforcement, it is quite clear that the SAC is neither military junta nor military regime. Despite the temporary suspension of the division of powers and except for enacting certain new laws necessary for the public interest, the Council continues to practice the existing laws, rules and regulations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The UEC’s refusal to address objections and complaints about voters list errors and the failure of the NLD-led executive and legislature to take responsible measures activated the constitutional procedures to correct deviations from democratic practices. Since the time the constitutional procedures set in for the political defining moment, the legitimacy of NLD as a government and its executive, legislative and judicial powers have ended. Just as the legitimacy of the NLD government had officially ended, the results of a deeply flawed election could not extend legitimacy to the NLD to proclaim itself as a government or to form a coalition government. Seemingly out of contact with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD party and its associates are taking arbitrary measures. Some NLD senior members and senior appointees are acting as if their majority mandate and legitimacy extends indefinitely. In this respect, the so-called National Unity Government (NUG) and Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) proclaiming legitimacy and acting against the prevailing constitution were unlawful regardless of popular support. There is no justification under any manifestation for the terrorist activities of those groups. They are merely unlawful terrorist groups as declared by the present government.

A state has to create, maintain and enforce social order as necessary through the fulfilment of public goods with the minimum use of coercion. Public goods are the common or collective benefits expressible in political, security, economic and social terms provided by the governments. A state acquires its strength through the fulfilment of public goods. Here, a state is an institutional and territorial complex comprising four main elements: territory, population, sovereignty and government. Creating disruption to a government ability to provide public goods to its people means creating disorder and weakening of the state.

The opposition politics of NLD, NUG and CRPH today go everything against the SAC’s ability to provide public goods and establish social order. Under the incitement of the NLD, its supporters and extremists and due to media framing, peaceful demonstrations turned into confrontation, riots and violence. The public, particularly youths labelled as generation Z, was mobilized into violent and disorderly conduct. Former Myanmar Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York U Kyaw Moe Tun supported disorderly conduct on the street at a time when people should practice social distancing and avoid crowd activities according to the COVID-19 health guidelines.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 28 November 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29 November 2021: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 –7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah states.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2021: Partly cloudy.

The security forces took law enforcement measures following the riot control procedures practising utmost restraint with minimum use of force. However, only selective scenes of riots were distributed across social media and news media to create narratives against SAC’s handling of violent and disorderly conduct while remaining silent as to the reality unfolding behind the riots and violence.

The NLD camouflaged itself as an executive and legislative authority in NUG and CRPH respectively, continues to victimize the population for the consequences of its wrongful actions and inactions. The Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) is both conceptually wrong and against ethics, human rights and law. Conceptually, it is meant to fail the society and the state rather than the government. The civil services provide many essential public services. Urging civil service personnel to join CDM is irresponsible and shows total disregard for respective ethics. Due to CDM, a large number of doctors, nurses and other health workers stop coming to the hospitals, clinics and dispensaries failing to attend to elderly people, maternity care, accidents and other inpatient and outpatient care. Low-income people who need emergency care or continuous treatment for cases such as heart attack, kidney dialysis and patients receiving chemotherapy lost their lives due to the dysfunction of the health care sector. At this moment of COVID-19 third wave, much medical staff letting the health care system down is against ethics. The CDM in the health sector violates the people’s right to health and is also wrong from a humanitarian perspective. Urging or intimidating university and school teachers not to go to work and students not to go to class is an attempt tantamount to violating the right to education and destroying the future of the country. Civil service personnel must abide by the prevailing laws and by-laws promulgated with regard to their duties and obligations regardless of who the government is. It is also the purpose of bureaucracy in democracies. Provoking and intimidating civil service personnel not to perform their duties and obligations and bullying, harassing and launching the so-called “social punishments” campaign against responsible civil service personnel violate nonviolence and rule of law norms of democracy. Since the assumption of the state responsibilities of SAC, the same existing laws, rules and regulations have been practised in a way that they are supposed to be. Law-abiding citizens of Myanmar were persuaded into disorder as if the NLD, CRPH and NUG are above the law to command people to obey or disobey the law.

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By an observer

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Many civil service personnel followed the campaign “Do not go to the office, quit the job” under the false promise of giving salaries to those government employees who lose their job. They voluntarily ran into various hardships. In fact, the NLD, CRPH and NUG are together systematically destroying the bureaucracy and public services which take time to build capacity, skills and expertise. All the burdens of their intention for the state and society to spiral down into deep weakness fall upon the population.

Nevertheless, certain persons like Kyaw Moe Tun who claimed to be representing NLD, NUG and CRPH and NUG’s so-called “Minister for Health and Sports” and “Minister for Education” Dr Zaw Wai Soe continue to misleadingly advocate CDM as if it is for a noble cause. Against his ethics as a medical practitioner, Dr Zaw Wai Soe even talked about malicious conduct such as the use of explosives and poisoned foods for rebellion while committing more actions on the path of violent revolution. In fact, these measures fulfilling their own political purposes are inhuman and irrational. The CDM of bank staff interrupted banking services not limited to domestic and foreign transactions and transfers affecting trade and commerce. The purpose of pulling down the country’s economy already racked by the COVID-19 pandemic is cruel. What seems crueller is letting the elderly people, pensioners and disabled persons wait in a long queue under the hot sun to make their cash out merely for a monthly food expense. Just consider our elderly parents or grandparents in such a place. Although CDM seems to be a non-violent method, its consequences upon the population are inhumane and far worse than violent acts.

Members of NLD, CRPH, NUG, their supporters and extremists resorting to acts of terror for their political goal are also diverse and numerous. Terror attacks among others include the killing of village, ward and township administrators; attacks against security forces with pistols, assault rifles, hand grenades, catapults, slingshots, iron hooks, fire bottles, sticks, rocks, knives, spears and harpoons; the brutal killing of members of Myanmar Police Force; brutal attacks and killings of USDP members and their family members; and accusing innocent civilians and veterans as informers and killing lawlessly. The so-called “Defence Minister” and “Deputy Defence Minister” of NUG U Yi Mon and Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo openly incited rebellion against the Tatmadaw. They are also deeply involved in providing courses of training to the so-called People’s Defence Forces (PDF) for the rebellion.

Various destructive activities range from attending basic military training and mine explosion courses at the camps of EAOs; blocking of roads; destroying public properties and bridges; burning of factories related to foreign direct investments; attacking administrator offices and USDP offices with homemade bombs and time bombs; throwing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to banks; arson attacks or improvised mine and grenade attacks against hospitals, schools, township education offices, universities, township municipal offices, township immigration and labour offices, town hall, township courts, police offices, other villages, ward and township level government offices, telecommunication offices, housings of government employees, traffic-light control buildings and township power sub-station. Even COVID-19 vaccination checkpoints

and vaccination centres are targeted under attack. The type, nature and pattern of violence and targets and victims involved point to the fact that members of NLD, CRPH, NUG, their supporters and extremists are systematically disrupting public services essential for the proper functioning of the administration, security, economy and social wellbeing in order for the state and the society to plunge into disorder. By mobilizing individual or group attacks against the state and the society through populism to realize their political purpose, NLD and its associates are blatantly violating the democratic norms related to life, liberty and property and tolerance for differences. These violent and disorderly conduct demonstrate all but against what a government is supposed to do.

The NLD’s deviation from democratic practices in decision-making/policy-making has also turned into arbitrary. On 3 June 2021, the subordinate group of the NLD party, NUG, issued a policy paper regarding a certain group of people in Rakhine State. In doing so, the NUG pretends to have a participatory policy-making by mentioning a clause like “After consultations with the many different stakeholders in the Rakhine States”. Firstly, both NUG and CRPH are unlawful organizations. Secondly, the NLD appointed UEC had postponed the elections in a large part of Rakhine State and no sufficient ethnic Rakhine representatives had been elected for lawmaking and certain policy approvals. Thus, the NUG’s policy paper did not represent ethnic Rakhine people just as the CRPH did not represent ethnic Rakhine people. Even if they could say they’ve collected informal opinion, it is not yet a policy level consent of ethnic Rakhine people. The policy paper illustrates that the NLD, CRPH and NUG either don’t even know what representation is or they are playing dishonest against the international community for their own political purposes. And it is not surprising.

Not only the representativeness of policies and decisions of NLD, CRPH and NUG are questionable, the cohesion and coherence of their policies and decisions are also cynical. At the very day of his defection on 26 February 2021, U Kyaw Moe Tun said he represented “the legitimate and duly elected” NLD government. His statement about representation seems right but fundamentally wrong. The principle duty of permanent representatives and any other diplomatic representations are to represent the state not the government. A government is just one out of four main elements of a state. Because of the unrepresentativeness of NLD and its instrumental organizations, CRPH and NUG, they do not even represent a government, let alone representing the state. Besides, CRPH and NUG are unlawful, unconstitutional and terrorist organizations. Thus, the NLD, NUG and CRPH do not have decision-making/policy-making authority. Just as they don’t have the mandate, they lack decision/policy implementing institutions and mechanisms apart from online façades.

Kyaw Moe Tun has been dismissed from the civil services for his abuses of assigned duty and mandate since the morning of 27 February 2021 in accord with the existing civil services personal law, rules and regulations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Myanmar has repeatedly expressed its non-recognition of the participation of Kyaw Moe Tun at the United Nations. However, there have been misleading news on media that covers misinformation and one-sided opinions from different perspectives regarding the representation of Myanmar at the

United Nations. Some news agencies mistakenly mentioned that the participation of Kyaw Moe Tun at the United Nations would be the victory for the so-called National Unity Government. Such descriptions totally differ from the situation on the ground. By saying that he represents the NUG, Kyaw Moe Tun admits himself as a terrorist member.

According to Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, a Credentials Committee, consisting of nine members, shall be appointed at the beginning of each session by the General Assembly. The Committee shall elect its own officers and it shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the General Assembly.

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly stipulates that any representative to whose admission a Member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives until Credentials Committee has reported and the General Assembly has given the decision. It is considered that the participation of Kyaw Moe Tun in the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly and the committees’ meetings are because of Rule 29 of the General Assembly. It is further insisted here that his participation would not represent the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Kyaw Moe Tun no longer holds Myanmar diplomatic passport nor has the diplomatic status or any identity to represent. When his U.S. visa expires, he will not have a valid passport. Without a valid Myanmar identity document and without a valid visa on it, his legal status is merely an asylum seeker in the United States. Accordingly, his eligibility for representation is out of the question. From the policy perspective, the volte-face in his policy positions means that what he and his NLD government said right to the international community during the 2016-2021 tenure were now all terminated. It can be interpreted as the policy incoherence or NLD’s politicization of state policies. The trustworthiness and functionality of such arbitrary and unilateral policy-making and decision-making are out of the question. Besides, Kyaw Moe Tun is a wanted fugitive who is being prosecuted under Myanmar’s existing laws.

The people of Myanmar had invested in the NLD to realize their expectations. During its 2016-2021 tenure, the NLD has failed its supporters with its deviations from the practices of democracy. Instead of making the best use of the majority mandate, it has spoiled it into a structural barrier against nation-building processes or national community formation processes. After the irregularities of the 2020 general election have emerged, the NLD has failed the state and the society including its extreme supporters by disrupting law and order while victimizing people for the consequences of its wrongful actions and inactions. The NLD has repeatedly turned popular support into a false hope. What the NLD has been taking Myanmar into is not democracy but a state of failure. It can be concluded that the youths of the new generation are being put to death for the sake of a political party or a group of people, brutally murdering innocent people and civil servants, and attacking, burning and destroying public service sites such as schools and hospitals are all conduct of creating anarchy under the guise of democracy and systematic destruction of the country.

■

Terrorists who launch attacks in Kyaiklat Township of Ayeyawady Region arrested together with firearms

THE security members are making efforts to stop the bomb attacks and killing of innocent people by NUG. On 6 November, the police arrested Khine Soe at his house in Kyonthiwa Village of Kyaiklat Township.

According to the confession of Khine Soe, Pyae Phyo Aung (aka) Ko Pyae was arrested in Thaleikkyi Village of Pyapon Township on 7 November and based on his admission, Thant Zin (aka) Kalar and Hein Ko were arrested at Thametpyay Village on 8 November.

Moreover, according to the words of Khine Soe, the police arrested Than Than Oo at Kyonthiwa Village on 10 November and Aung Aung Oo at No (5) Ward of Kyaiklat Township while Myint Myint Si in Shwehlatyoe Village on 11 November and Myint Myit Yi in the same village on 12 November.

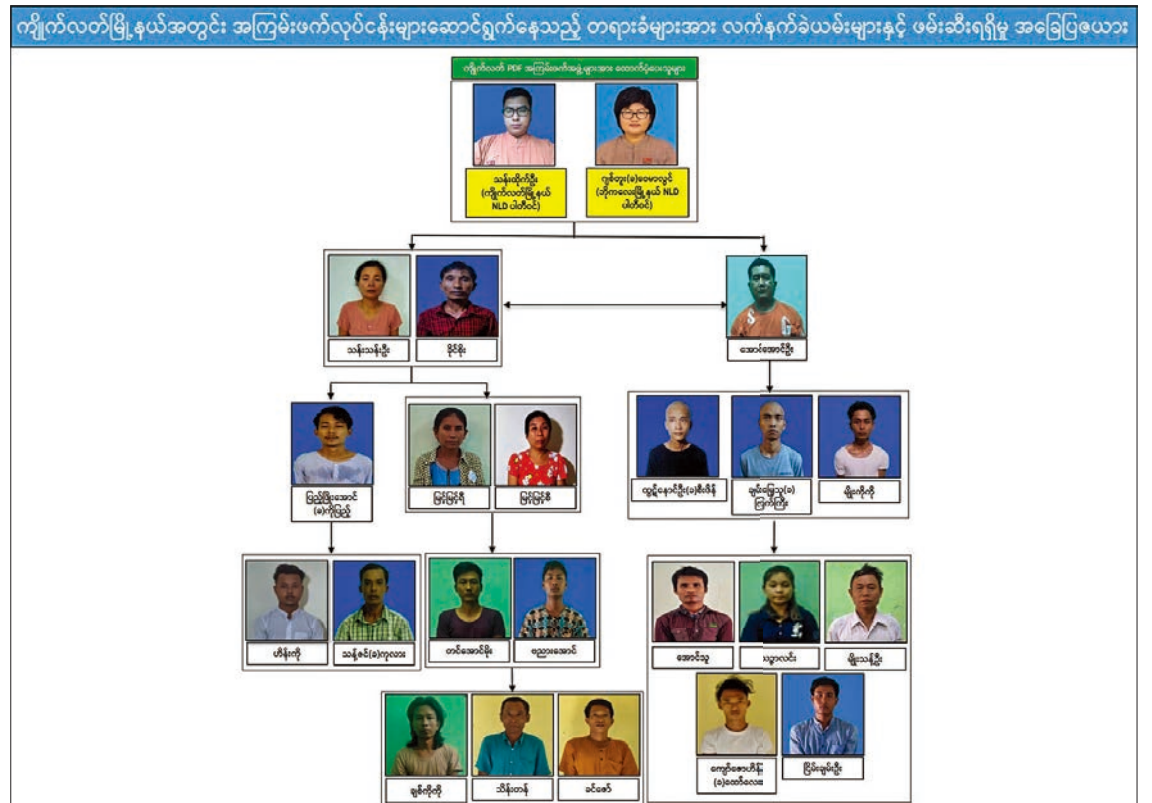
According to the confessions of suspects, the security force detained Kyaiklat PDF members Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Pein,

from Khamone Village of Kyaiklat Township and Tin Aung Moe from Thahtaygon Village of Bogale Township were arrested on 17 November, according to the confession of Myint Myint Si.

Based on the words of Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein, the police arrested Myo Thant Oo in Kyonton Letpan Village of Kyaiklat Township on 17 November and seized one sniper lens, two homemade mines, five TNT gunpowder, five detonators and other materials at the house of Khine Soe in Kyonthiwa Village on 18 November and arrested Kyaw Zaw Hein (aka) Htaw Lay and Nyein Chan Oo in No (18) Ward of Pyapon Township.

According to the confessions of Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein, the police seized two homemade air guns kept in a bag near a creek in Sakhangyi Village of Kyaiklat Township on 19 November.

According to the words of Nyein Chan Oo, Thein Tan and Khin Zaw were arrested under



and Than Than Oo in Kyonthiwa Village of Kyaiklat Township for about six days to other six suspects who are still at large San Zar, Bala Gyi, La Pyae, Du Shay, Khaw Gyi and Kyat Gaung. In the fourth week of July, they conducted multiplier explosive training courses 2 and 3 for 14 suspects including Gyo Kar (aka) Gyo Gyi who are still at large.

In the first week of August, they also started multiplier explosive training course 4 for Thant Zin (aka) Kalar, Hein Thu and Kyaw Gyi (aka) Kyaw Thu (still at large) and Aung Ko Min (still at large) while the training course 5 conducted in the second week of August at the house of Myo Thant Oo in Kyonton Letpan Village.

On 29 June, Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein, Pyae Phyo Aung (aka) Ko Pyae, Chan Myae Thu (aka) Kyat Gyi and Nay Naing (aka) Ko Thet organized Kyaiklat Township PDF and assigned Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein as in charge of Pyapon District PDF and Aung Thu (still at large) as in charge of Pyapon Township and Ko Gyi as Bogale Township in charge.

The suspects admitted that Myint Myint Si, Myint Myint Yi, Banyar Aung, Tin Aung Moe and Aung Thu provided the needed assistance to PDF members and Kyaw Zaw Hein (aka) Htaw Lay, Nyein Chan Oo, Thein Tan and Khin Zaw joined the explosive training of Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein and arranged to commit terrorist attacks in Pyapon Township.

Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein admitted that they created

homemade bombs at his house in Kyonthiwa Village in June and bought two pistols, 200 bullets and 2 magazines from Japan Gyi (aka) Aung Khant Zaw (still at large) at K 5 million and Aung Aung Oo gave him one air gun bought in Taunggyi in September.

According to the confession of Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein, he exploded one homemade bomb in BEHS 1 compound in No (1) Ward of Kyaiklat Township on 12 June and seized two homemade bombs in front of BEHS (1) beside Kyaiklat-Pyapon road in 29 June, one homemade bomb beside the warehouse of township education office in No (3) Ward and one homemade bomb at COVID-19 inspection gate beside Kyaiklat-Pyapon road in No (1) Ward together with Nay Naing (aka) Ko Thet.

Moreover, Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein and Pyae Pyo Aung (aka) Ko Pyae also exploded one bomb near the city entrance signboard of Chaung Phya Gyi Village in Dedaye Township on 3 October and three bombs

in front of EPC in No (2) Ward of Kyaiklat Township on 10 October. Pyae Phyo Aung (aka) Ko Pyae and Du Shay also committed one bomb attack on Mytel tower in Dauntgyi Village of Kyaiklat Township on 20 October.

According to the confession of suspects, Thinzar Lin, Aung Aung Oo, Tun Tun, Nay Chi Aye Myint (still at large), Gyt Tuu (aka) Wai Mar Lwin (still at large, Bogale NLD member) and Than Htike Oo (still at large, Kyaiklat NLD member) gave missions to conduct. The suspects will face legal action in accordance with the law.

The people are urged to work together to prevent killing of good service personnel by the terrorists for ensuring development, peace and stability of the State, and if they receive information about the terrorist activities, they should secretly contact the nearest security forces and cooperate with them until the terrorists can no longer stand.—MNA



Entrance to Kyaiklat BEHS-1.

Chan Myae Thu (aka) Kyat Gyi and Myo Ko Ko at Sittoung Bridge (Muppalin) checkpoint of Waw Township in Bago Region on 14 November. Based on the words of Chan Myae Thu (aka) Kyat Gyi, Aung Thu was arrested near Bonlon Creek Bridge in Kyaiklat Township on 15 November and according to his confession, the police seized one COLT DEFENDER pistol, 15 bullets and one magazine in the field, west of Thabyaytan Village of Kyaiklat Township.

According to the confessions of Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein, the police seized one RETAY MOD 92 pistol, five bullets and one magazine near Michaungaing Village of Dedaye Township on 15 November and arrested Thinzar Linn at Sein Phone trading shop in No (3) ward on 16 November.

Moreover, Banyar Aung

Pyapon Bridge in No (1) Ward on 19 November while Chit Ko Ko in Bandarbin Village on 21 November according to the admission of Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein.

The police arrested 21 suspects—17 males and 4 females—together with pistols, homemade guns and other materials.

According to the confessions of suspects, Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein, Chit Ko Ko and other people who are still at large Nay Naing (aka) Ko Thet, Kaung Htet Lin, Nay Myo Aung, San Linn (aka) San Linn Aung and Aung Aung Kyaw completed the terrorist training of KIA Brigade 8 in Mohnyin Township between 12 April and 20 May. After the training, Htut Naung Oo (aka) See Phein, Nay Naing (aka) Ko Thet and San Linn (aka) San Linn Aung conducted multiplier explosive training course (1) on 20 July at the house of Khine Soe

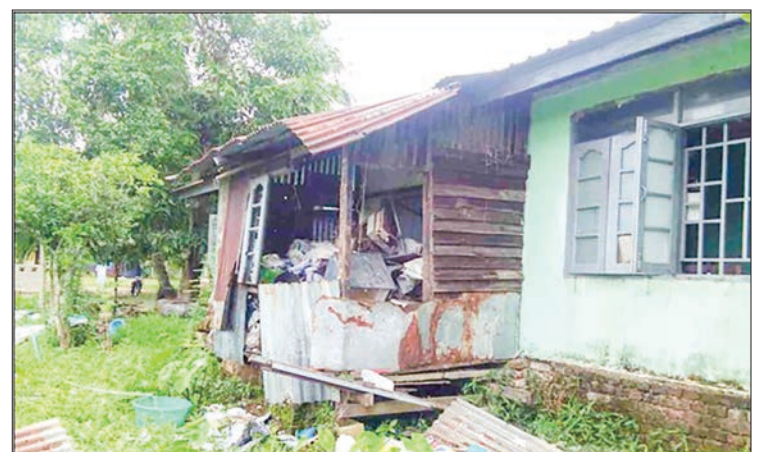


Photo shows store room damaged in homemade mine blast west of Township education office in Kyaiklat Township on 29 June 2021.

About 2,500 pilgrims throng Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone on National Victory Day



Pilgrims and visitors are seen on terrace of Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: KOHTEIN**

BAGAN cultural heritage zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, was packed with about 2,500 devotees on the National Victory Day, said U Than Myint Oo from Shwezigon Pagoda Trustees Board.

Bagan cultural heritage zone, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was crowded with pilgrims during the public holidays including the National Victory Day.

The pagoda is reopened for the devotees from 5 am to 6 pm daily.

The local pilgrims are interested in observing the temples, stupas and mural paintings. They usually learn about the history of the temples before the visit.

The majority of the visitors were seen in the famous historical temples of Bagan city; Shwezigon Pagoda, Tuyintaung Pagoda, Tantkyitaung Pagoda, Htilominlo Temple,

Ananda Temple, Bu Pagoda, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple, Culamani Temple, Mahabodhi Temple, Manuha Temple, Shwesandaw Pagoda, and other famous pagodas.

Now they also like to observe the structure, building and mural paintings of Khayminga pagoda, Yinmanawin pagoda, Wuttanahtaw pagoda, Sulegon Pagoda, Thagyapon and Thagyahit pagodas precinct, Shweleiktu, Ingyin Cave pagoda, Kyaukmyatmaw pagoda, and other pagodas in the cultural zone.

Around 2,500 visitors were seen in Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone.

The pilgrims must strictly obey the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health. The zone also received about 2,500 pilgrims on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmone (18 November).—Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 169,000 tonnes of various pulses as of 19 Nov

MYANMAR conveyed US\$144 million worth of 169,827 tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners as of 19 November in the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021-March 2022), according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

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

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

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

India is the main buyer of Myanmar beans, especially black bean, green gram and pigeon pea. Besides India, Myanmar's beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand by those countries is small, according to the domestic beans market.

The prices of pulses and beans drop tracking the Kyat revaluation on US dollar in the local forex market in late October, according to the traders from Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale

Centre.

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

The price of black gram hit an all time high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September. At present, the exchange rate of a US dollar dipped below K1,800. The price of black bean (Fair Average Quality) plummeted to K1.435 million per tonne. Similarly, the price of pigeon pea decreased slightly to K1.165 million per tonne.

The prices per basket stood at K43,500 for green gram (Shwe Wah) variety, 46,000 for black gram, K39,000 for black-eyed bean, K36,000 for cowpea, K50,000 for soybean and K59,000 for peanut.

In spite of drop in bean prices, the agricultural input cost remains unchanged and stays high. The local growers are facing high input burden in the winter crop season.

Myanmar conveyed US\$1.57 billion worth of over 2 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and \$604.3 million valued 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.—KK/GNLM

Local people in Ngaputaw receive first dose of COVID vaccines

HEALTHCARE officials gave first dose of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to over 18-year-old people at Kanni Village Health Centre in Ngaputaw Township, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region on 27 November.

A total of 430 people including three people from Kanni Village-tract, 120 from Okshittwin Village-tract, 172 from Kwinchaung Village-tract, and 135 from Gonnyindan Village-tract

received the COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with the pandemic precaution measures.

The remaining people will be vaccinated soon, official said.

The village administrators supervised the vaccination site and members of the fire brigade; healthcare officials and clerks provided necessary assistance, according to the Rural Health Centre.—Nu Nu Aye (IPRD)/GNLM



Health staff injects Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to over 18-year-old people and Buddhist monks in Ngaputaw Township on 27 November. **PHOTO: NU NU AYE (IPRD)**

For Americans, convenience of buy-now-pay-later services come with risks

KRISTA Michels can't get enough of the online services that allow American shoppers to pay for everything from Christmas presents to monthly bills without fees, known as "buy now, pay later."

"I'm kind of addicted now," said the young mother in Washington state.

She first turned to these solutions offered at check-out stores or online to rebuild her credit rating, which was too low to access a traditional credit card.

Michels now uses them whenever possible, at the supermarket or to

pay her internet bills.

Startups like Affirm, AfterPay, Klarna and Sezzle usually allow consumers to pay for a purchase in four installments without fees or interest, like a typical credit card but without the associated paperwork and the complexities of fees and interest payments.

They've also proven useful for consumers who do not have access to traditional credit, such as new immigrants to the United States.

But consumer advocates say they carry the same risks as credit cards



Shoppers in Rosemead, California on November 22, 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

and shoppers must be careful not to saddle themselves with excessive debt and stay mindful of the ser-

vices' differing terms.

"The concern is that people could get overextended if they're not

careful," said Chuck Bell, a program director at Consumer Reports.

- Don't 'overextend

your finances' -

The concept of paying in installments is nothing new in American commerce, but the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic were a boost to these new services, as more shoppers bought online.

From chain stores to small online sites, retailers have organized partnerships to offer such payment services to customers and help them afford what they usually could not, while financial institutions from Mastercard to Goldman Sachs are looking to offer their own. — AFP ■

Portugal receives Brazilian investment in wine sector



Picture of Portuguese wine shop in Lisbon. PHOTO: XINHUA

MANY Brazilian businessmen are leaving South America to invest in the wine sector in Portugal, seeking to fulfill a dream, a better quality product, and even easier access to the European and international market.

The regions of the Douro Valley and the Dao

River, in the north of Portugal, the Alentejo (in the south), and the Acores Island are the most chosen places by entrepreneurs.

Frederico Falcao, president of ViniPortugal (Interprofessional Wine Organization of Portugal), said in an interview with Xinhua that he considers

this migration as "very positive," as it "stimulates the market in Portugal and gives more visibility in the Brazilian market." "In my opinion, this movement is closely related to the prestige that Portuguese wines have in Brazil. This excellence is starting to be recognized and attracts Brazilian investors to acquire wine companies in Portugal," explains Falcao.

With an area of 192,000 hectares dedicated to the cultivation of grapes for wine production, Portugal is today one of the main wine-growing markets in Europe, with a turnover of more than 2 billion euros (2.26 billion U.S. dollars), according to ViniPortugal.

The Douro Valley was

the destination chosen by a pair of entrepreneurs from Brazil, who decided to invest in wine production by founding the Menin Wine Company (MWC).

One of the partners is Cristiano Gomes, a member of the board of directors of Banco Inter, and the other is Rubens Menin, owner of the construction company MRV and the television network CNN Brasil.

When he arrived in Portugal, Gomes found a panorama that caught his attention: Portugal manages to produce wines of the same quality as the best famous regions in France and Italy or Spain but does not have the fair international recognition as those other countries. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil looks to Chinese visitors to boost int'l tourism, minister says

THE Brazilian government is relying on Chinese visitors to boost international tourism to the South American country, Tourism Minister Gilson Machado has told Xinhua.

During an interview with foreign correspondents earlier this week, Machado said that the Brazilian government is working to boost foreign visits once the COVID-19 pandemic situation is stabilized, and that the presence of Chinese tourists is fundamental to that goal.

Brazil plans to open a tourism office in China and is going to formalize visa exemption for Chinese tourists, according to the minister. — Xinhua ■

China's industrial profits sustain growth in first 10 months

PROFITS of China's major industrial firms maintained sound growth momentum in the first 10 months of the year as industrial production continued to recover and business operations kept improving, official data showed on Saturday.

Industrial firms with annual business revenues of at least 20 million yuan (about 3.1 billion U.S. dollars) saw their combined profits jumping 42.2 percent year on year in the January-October period to top 7.16 trillion yuan, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed. — Xinhua ■

Nigeria lifts suspension on UAE's Emirates airline

THE Nigerian government has lifted the suspension it placed on the Emirates from flying to and from the West African country without conditions.

The move came in response to the yearnings of Nigerian travelers and after painstaking negotiations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Dubai-based airline's home country, said Minister of Aviation Hadi Sirika in a statement reaching Xinhua on Saturday.

The Nigerian government barred in March the Emirates from flying into and from Nigeria over alleged discriminatory policies on Nigerians as regards COVID-19 protocols by the UAE.

According to reports by local media, Emirates subjected Nigerian travelers to additional rapid antigen tests as against its stipulated negative PCR test at the Lagos and Abuja airports before departure.



The Nigerian government has lifted the suspension it placed on the Emirates from flying to and from the West African country without conditions. PHOTO: AFP

Sirika said the UAE has removed some travel restrictions on Nigerians. "We have received a com-

munication from the UAE removing some conditions of travel which we had concerns about. — Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (178W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (178W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Kyrgyzstan detains 15 in 'coup plot' before vote

Security services in Kyrgyzstan said Friday they had arrested 15 people in connection with an alleged coup plot as tensions build ahead of parliamentary elections this weekend.

The poor, mountainous nation of 6.5 million people has seen repeated political chaos since gaining independence with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

On Friday, the state committee for national security said it had detained 15 people who were part of a plan to get "1,000 aggressive young people" to protest the results of the vote.

"After the announcement of the results of the upcoming parliamentary elections...this group planned to organise mass protests in (the capital) Bishkek and subsequently to aggravate the situation, provoking clashes with the forces of law and order and further violent seizure of power," a statement said. — AFP ■

Nervous residents clean streets in riot-hit Solomon Islands capital

Nervous residents in the charred, riot-hit capital of the Solomon Islands cleared shattered glass, rubble and trash from the streets Sunday as foreign peacekeepers deployed to restore calm.

On one street corner in Chinatown -- the epicentre of a three-day bout of torching and looting buildings -- students from a technical institute used rakes and spades to clean the road, said AFP correspondents on the scene in Honiara.

Mounds of trash still lined the surrounding streets, a reminder of the explosion of violence blamed partly on poverty, hunger and frustration with the policies of Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

An indefinite night-time curfew and the presence of roughly 150 foreign peacekeepers from Australia and Papua New Guinea, as well as local police, appeared to have contributed to quelling the unrest.

"The situation has calmed down and people are moving about as normal but the environment is still unknown in terms of what may happen," Red Cross official Kennedy Waitara told AFP.

Waitara said many of the food shops had been burned down in the riots. — AFP ■

Ukrainian president says ready for dialogue with Russia



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. PHOTO: AFP

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Friday that he is ready for a dialogue with Russia over the Donbas crisis, the government-run Ukrinform news agency reported.

"We are ready for a conversation. If you don't want to meet, let's talk on the phone," Zelensky said during a press marathon.

Ukraine is prepared to resolve the Donbas conflict not only within the framework of the Normandy format, but also in another parallel format with the involvement of the United States, Zelensky said.

He emphasized that Kiev is willing to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine has been raging since April 2014, claiming some 14,000 lives. In June 2014, the Normandy format, also known as the Normandy contact group, consisting of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France, was set up to resolve the conflict. Relations between Kiev and Moscow have been deteriorating since early 2014 over their different stances on the developments in Donbas and Crimea. — Xinhua ■

Japan apology needed to solve wartime labour issue: S. Korea candidate

THE presidential candidate of South Korea's ruling Democratic Party said Thursday that a solution to wartime labour compensation issues can be found if Japan makes a "sincere apology," but did not offer a concrete plan to solve the issues that have aggravated bilateral relations.

At a news conference with foreign media in Seoul, Lee Jae Myung also disputed media reports that paint him as a hard-liner due to his past remarks, saying they are based on misunderstanding and that he respects Japan as a country.

"I'd like to say that I love Japanese people because I had very heartwarming experiences during my past visits to Japan," the former governor of Gyeonggi Province said.

Lee added that if elected, he would seek a "path that would

help each other" because South Korea and Japan are "geographically close and in an interdependent relationship."

In September, a South Korean district court ordered a local asset of Japanese manufacturer Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. to be sold so plaintiffs who have won damages from the company over forced wartime labor can be compensated. But Tokyo strongly opposes the sale.

Lee said that given the separation of powers between different branches of government, it is "impossible" for the executive to tell the judiciary not to take compulsory action. But he argued that a solution can be found if opposing sides meet halfway, because victims do not want money but rather hope to see the Japanese side acknowledge damage and apologize.

Japan-South Korea rela-



Lee Jae Myung, the presidential candidate of South Korea's ruling Democratic Party, speaks at a press conference with foreign media in Seoul on 25 November 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

tions have sunk to their lowest point in decades following South Korean Supreme Court rulings in 2018 that ordered Mitsubishi Heavy and another Japanese company to compensate groups of Koreans for forced labor during its 1910-1945 colonial rule of

the Korean Peninsula.

Tokyo takes the position that all South Korean claims stemming from its 35-year rule were settled under a 1965 bilateral agreement under which it provided grants and loans to Seoul. — Kyodo ■

Belarus calls on EU to solve refugee problem at border



Thousands of migrants are stuck on the Polish-Belarusian border. Poland has refused to let the migrants enter EU territory. PHOTO: AFP

PRESIDENT of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko on Friday met with refugees stranded on the border between Belarus and Po-

land and called on the European Union (EU) to resolve the migration crisis as soon as possible.

According to BelTA News

Agency, Lukashenko arrived at the gathering place of refugees near the Bruzgi border checkpoint. He called on Germany to

accept them as soon as possible since German Chancellor Angela Merkel had agreed to the refugee reception plan. Lukashenko also hoped that Poland will allow them to pass because the refugees want to go to Germany.

Lukashenko inspected the logistics center, where the refugees are temporarily staying, and checked their living conditions, food distribution, medical assistance, etc. He said Belarus will provide a trip to the Minsk airport for refugees wishing to return to Iraq. More than 1,000 people have returned to Iraq. Thousands of refugees, mostly from the Middle East, are trying to get to Poland, Lithuania and other EU countries from Belarus, in order to eventually obtain asylum in Western Europe. — Xinhua ■

Barbados to become a republic, replacing British queen

BARBADOS is about to cut ties with the British monarchy, but the legacy of a sometimes brutal colonial past and the pandemic's impact on tourism pose major challenges for the Caribbean island as it becomes the world's newest republic.

Famed for its beaches and love of cricket, Barbados will this week replace its head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, with her current representative, Governor General Sandra Mason.

Ceremonies on Monday evening into Tuesday will include military parades and celebrations as Mason is inaugurated as president, with Prince Charles — heir to the British throne — looking on.

The dawn of a new era has fueled debate among the population of 285,000 over Britain's

centuries of influence, including more than 200 years of slavery until 1834, and Barbados finally becoming independent in 1966.

"As a young girl, when I heard about the queen, I would be really excited," said Sharon Bellamy-Thompson, 50, a fish vendor in the capital Bridgetown who remembers being about eight and seeing the monarch on a visit.

"As I grow older and older, I started to wonder what this queen really means for me and for my nation. It didn't make any sense," she said. "Having a female Barbadian president will be great."

Colonialism and slavery

For young activists such as Firhaana Bulbulia, founder of the Barbados Muslim Association, British colonialism and slavery lie behind the island's modern



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will be replaced as head of state of Barbados by Dame Sandra Mason, the island's governor general. PHOTO: AFP

inequalities.

"The wealth gap, the ability to own land, and even access to loans from banks all have a lot to do with structures built out of being ruled by Britain," Bulbulia, 26, said.

"The actual chains (of slavery) were broken and we no longer wore them, but the mental chains continue to persist in our mindsets."

In October, Barbados elected Mason to become its first presi-

dent, one year after Prime Minister Mia Mottley declared that the country would "fully" leave its colonial past.

But some Barbadians argue there are more pressing national issues, including economic turmoil caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has exposed overreliance on tourism — which, ironically, is dependent on British visitors.

Eerie calm in usually bustling Bridgetown, paltry numbers at popular tourist spots and a dead nightlife scene all point to a country struggling after years of relative prosperity.

Unemployment is at nearly 16 percent, up from nine percent in recent years, despite sharply increased government borrowing to fund public sector projects and create jobs. — AFP ■

Honduras braces for trouble in presidential election



Supporters of Tegucigalpa's mayor and presidential candidate for the ruling National Party Nasry Asfura, aka 'Papi a la Orden' attend the campaign's closing event. PHOTO: AFP

HONDURAS is bracing itself for potential violence as more than five million people vote on Sunday to replace President Juan Orlando Hernandez, a controversial figure accused of drug trafficking in the United States.

Leftist opposition candidate Xiomara Castro led opin-

ion polls last month, but the ruling right-wing National Party (PN) — whose candidate is charismatic Tegucigalpa mayor Nasry Asfura — has had the benefit of better organization and greater resources to run its campaign.

Opposition fears of a rigged

poll and reports of pre-election intimidation have led to high tensions.

"If the PN wins the election, even legitimately, there will be a worrying level of violence," political analyst Raul Pineda, a lawyer and former PN lawmaker, predicted to AFP.

Four years ago, Hernandez stood for and won an unconstitutional second successive term amidst cries of fraud from the opposition and international observers.

That sparked a widespread month-long protest, with the subsequent government crackdown leaving more than 30 people dead.

"There is sufficient fuel... for a new electoral crisis to break out," said Eugenio Sosa, a sociologist and professor at the National University. — AFP ■

In Madrid, police protest against security law reform

THOUSANDS of police protested in Madrid on Saturday over plans to reform a controversial security law banning the unauthorised use of police images if it puts them in danger.

The rally focused on plans by Spain's left-wing government to change the citizen security law, known as the "gag law", passed in 2015 under the previous right-wing administration at the height of the anti-austerity protests.

The reform bill aims to bring the law in line with a Constitutional Court ruling that

requiring authorisation to use images of police was "unconstitutional" because it amounted to "prior censorship".

Waving Spanish flags and union banners, the protesters, accompanied by senior right-wing politicians, marched to the interior ministry in a rally called by Jusapol, an umbrella organisation from which emerged the police and Guardia Civil unions.

They say such reform would remove protection from police and security forces, endanger public security and re-

duce operational ability to stop violent demonstrations.

"We say no to this reform. We believe the law must be adapted to current times and must be reformed, but we must never trample the rights of those responsible for security who work with this law every day," Jusapol president Miguel Ángel Gómez told reporters.

Speaking at the march, opposition leader Pablo Casado, who heads the right-wing Popular Party, said he fully supported the protesters' demands. — AFP ■

Right-winger Petr Fiala to be named new Czech PM

RIGHT-WINGER Petr Fiala is set to be named the Czech Republic's new prime minister on Sunday and will face the urgent task of battling one of the world's highest Covid-19 infection rates.

President Milos Zeman, who has himself tested positive for Covid-19, is to appoint the 57-year-old Fiala in a socially distanced ceremony in his residence at the Lany chateau west of Prague.

Fiala, a bearded, bespectacled former political scientist, teamed up his Civic Democratic Party with two smaller parties to form the Together alliance which came first in last month's general election.

The grouping, which includes the centrist Christian Democrats and the centre-right TOP 09 parties, narrowly beat the ANO movement of populist billionaire Prime Minister Andrej Babis.

The alliance has since forged a coalition with two centrist parties — the Mayors and Independents, and the Pirate Party — to secure a majority of 108 votes in the 200-seat parliament.

The five parties have agreed on the composition of the future government and on a policy statement.

Post-election talks were held without the 77-year-old president, who was taken to hospital by ambulance on October 10, a day after the election, to be treated for liver problems.

Delays as Covid spikes

Zeman, a left-winger with a soft spot for Russia and China, had originally been expected to name Fiala as prime minister on Friday, a day after he was released from Prague's military hospital. But he was rushed back to hospital on the same day after testing positive for Covid. — AFP ■



The Czech Republic's Civic Party leader Petr Fiala is to take over as prime minister after forming the centre-right Together alliance. PHOTO: AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Limited number of spectators allowed to enter Suzuki Cup stadiums

A limited number of spectators will be able to watch the 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup in Singapore, official said.

The 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup will be held from 5 December, 2021 to 1 January, 2022, with all events taking place in Singapore.

All the ASEAN teams except Brunei are participating in the tourney.

The semi-finals and finals will be held at the National Stadium and Bishan Stadium in Singapore, with a capacity of between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the spectators.

Therefore, the 55,000-capacity National Stadium will allow a

total capacity of 10,000 while 6,000-seat Bishan Stadium will have a capacity of 1,000 spectators.

The Football Association of Singapore will start selling tickets for the first three group matches of the host Singapore team to its fans on 28 November, and tickets for fans from other countries and other group matches will go on sale on 1 December.

Group matches will be held from 5 to 19 December, and group tickets are currently on sale, while tickets for the semi-finals and finals will be on sale after the group stage.

According to the fixtures, Group A matches will be played

at National Stadium, Group B matches will be played mainly at Bishan Stadium and the last group matches will be played at the same time.

The Myanmar team will play against Singapore on 5 December, Timor-Leste on 8 December, Thailand on 11 December and the Philippines on 18 December.

Myanmar team's last match of the group against the Philippines, will be played at Bison Stadium and the rest of the group matches will be played at the National Stadium.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Lewandowski tipped for Ballon d'Or as Messi eyes seventh prize



Argentina's Lionel Messi kisses the trophy after winning the 2021 Copa America. **PHOTO: AFP**

ROBERT Lewandowski threatens to deny Lionel Messi a record-extending seventh Ballon d'Or title as the prestigious awards ceremony returns Monday after it was cancelled last year because of the pandemic.

The Bayern Munich and Poland striker pilfered a Bundesliga record 41 goals in just 29 games last season to eclipse the long-standing mark set by the late Gerd Mueller.

Lewandowski, 33, scooped FIFA's prize for best male player of 2020 and has the backing of both coach Julian Nagelsmann and Bayern team-mate Thomas Mueller after a prolific start to the new campaign.

"Lewy' has to win the thing on Monday when you see the way he is playing at the moment," Mueller said

of a player who has already scored 25 times in 20 appearances this season.

Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have combined to win 11 of the past 12 editions of the Ballon d'Or, the lone exception in 2018 when Luka Modric helped Real Madrid to another Champions League triumph and inspired Croatia to the World Cup final.

"Robert deserves to win it, because in my view he has been more unbelievably consistent than any other player," Nagelsmann said last month in an interview with Munich newspaper *Abendzeitung*.

While Messi has endured a stop-start beginning to life at Paris Saint-Germain, the Argentine bagged 30 league goals in his farewell season at Barcelona and also won the Copa del Rey. — AFP ■

Aussie Kambosos stuns Lopez to become unified lightweight champ



George Kambosos celebrates his split decision win against Teofimo Lopez during championship bout for Lopez's undisputed lightweight title at The Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden on November 27, 2021 in New York, New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

AUSTRALIA'S George Kambosos used a high-energy attack and a stinging overhand right to become the unified lightweight boxing champion with a shocking

split decision victory over Teofimo Lopez on Saturday night in New York.

Both boxers came into the fight undefeated but the heavy

underdog Kambosos made sure he was the one to leave with the 135-pound straps.

The 28-year-old Kambosos snatched the WBA, IBF and WBO belts in a close slugfest at the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden that left the fighters bloodied and bruised by the end of the 12th round.

He had to bounce back from a 10th round knockdown to earn his third split decision victory in a row.

"I wasn't hurt," said Kambosos of the knockdown. "I said to my corner 'Let's go hard. I am going to punish this kid.'"

Kambosos won by 115-111 and 115-112 on two judges' scorecards to improve to 20-0, with 10 KOs. One judge gave the fight to Lopez 114-113. — AFP ■