

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

The message sent by Chairman of State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony in commemoration of the 73rd Anniversary of International Human Rights Day (10 December 2021)

TODAY is of occasion in commemoration of the 73rd Anniversary of International Human Rights Day. As global countries mark the ceremonies of International Human Rights

Day which falls today, Myanmar also joins the ceremony to mark the same event together with the international community. Our Republic of the Union of My-

anmar regained the Independence on 4 January 1948 and became a member of the United Nations on 19 April. Myanmar cast the vote for releasing the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights through the voting decision among member states at the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948.

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It is necessary to turn out qualified, good leaders for the future endowed with good morals and disciplines



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with the commandants of the Defence Services Academy and Defence Services Technological Academy and senior officer instructors in PyinOoLwin on 9 December 2021.

THOSE qualified instructors at the military academies turning out military leaders must give systematic training combined with their lit-

erary and military experiences to the trainees for having leadership skills on the ground and good morale and turn out the leaders of the future reliable for

the Tatmadaw and the people, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

at the meeting with commandants of the Defence Services Academy and the Defence Services Technological Academy, senior officer instructors,

officials and officers yesterday morning.

Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Lin Aung and **SEE PAGE-3**

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The message sent by Chairman of State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony in commemoration of the 73rd Anniversary of International Human Rights Day (10 December 2021)

FROM PAGE-1

According to the decision, the UN General Assembly released the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and set the 10th December as the International Human Rights Day.

Although human rights are inborn rights of all humans that cannot be erased, they all need to show regard for the rights of others and not to harm these rights in enjoying their rights in line with the important essence of human rights.

Myanmar also signed the agreements on international human rights such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights-ICESCR, the Convention on the Rights of the Child-CRC, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women-CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities-CRPD in addition to some related protocols.

Chapter VIII of the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stipulates the citizen, fundamental rights and duties of the citizens. The internal laws were enacted for the citizens to enjoy the rights mentioned in the international human rights conventions.

The theme of the 73rd Anniversary of International Human Rights Day is "Equality – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights". It is related to the provision "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" mentioned in paragraph-1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As equality and non-discrimination are the most basic essence of human rights, relevant organization, including the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, contact each other with strenuous efforts for enabling Myanmar people to enjoy human rights in equal terms and minimize the inequality in Myanmar similar to that

of global countries.

Everybody knows that currently, the whole world is encountering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which primarily poses threats on the rights of life which is the most basic rights of humans. Global countries are striving for the implementation of the vaccination programme for the people to be free from the pandemic in connection with the international community, including the World Health Organization-WHO. At the same time, Myanmar is implementing the vaccination programme prioritized for the creation of the rights for all the people to equally receive the vaccines without leaving any persons under discrimination. Moreover, a future plan was adopted and is being implemented to recover the basic needs of the people, job opportunities and businesses of the people triggered by COVID-19 in possible ways.

Peace and stability in the entire

nation primarily play a crucial role for the people to fully enjoy the economic, social and cultural rights, improve their living standards and develop the multiple sectors of the nation.

As such, emphasis is being placed on the implementation of the agreements mentioned in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA for restoring the perpetual peace in the nation, and utmost efforts are being made for enabling all ethnic national brethren to enjoy the fruits of peace and development in equal terms.

I send the message, deeply urging all—Union ministries, Union level organizations, region and state governments, people, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and media organizations to follow the ways of human rights such as equality, all-inclusiveness and non-discrimination for the development of the nation and enhancement of the human rights in harmony.

Press Release

Myanmar objects to interference in internal affairs and statements based on false news

It is observed that Mr Abdou Abarry, Permanent Representative of Niger and President of the United Nations Security Council issued a Security Council Press Statement on Myanmar and that Ms Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar and Mr Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General respectively

issued statements on the verdicts passed against some individuals by the Special Court of Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Area on 6 December 2021.

The State-owned newspapers have reported the real account of the matter in a timely manner. Every person is equal before the court and no one is above the law. Likewise, it is not appropriate to make a one-sided judgement against the decision of the court which falls within the domestic jurisdiction of a

sovereign country. Such acts constitute interference in the judiciary process and internal affairs of Myanmar.

Similarly, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General and Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan, Acting Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Yangon respectively issued statements regarding the incident that took place in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region on 5 December

2021.

The incident was publicly announced in the 7 December 2021 issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. It is observed that the statements made by the UN do not reflect reality and are deliberately referred to as allegations and unverified online information. Certain foreign embassies also issued similar one-sided statements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly objects to such statements which interfere in

domestic jurisdiction and rely on distorted news.

The Ministry urges the UN personnel and responsible officials from foreign embassies to stop making one-sided allegations and to abide by the principles of the United Nations and provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Date: 9 December 2021*

Anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical aid imported daily



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

Anti-COVID-19 equipment was imported by two companies using six vehicles. A total of 470 empty oxygen cylinders and 43 tonnes of masks were imported

via the Chinshwehaw trade camp and international seaports yesterday. Officials from 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 and treatment of COVID-19 as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

It is necessary to turn out qualified, good leaders for ...

FROM PAGE-1

Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Zaw Myo Tin reported on the turning out of officers from DSA and DSTA within 20 years from 2000 to 2021, and the situation of their current in-service terms.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that trainees and graduate officers must control themselves to accomplish the missions and discharge assignments dutifully.

Instructors need to turn out qualified officers.

They need to note down the knowledge to be done and which should be done when they would serve the one-step promotion.

In reviewing the turning out of officers from 2000 to 2021, lecturing of literature and currently-served terms, some officers broke disciplines without self-control, inappropriate lifestyle and weakness

of health, so they could not continue their service terms, leaving much loss to the State and the Tatmadaw. As such, leaders must have a firm spirit and self-control for achieving goals.

Instructors must strictly supervise the trainees and not give indulgence to the trainees as well as themselves. Those qualified instructors must turn out the leaders of the future applying their experiences.

Priority must be given to quality rather than quantity in turning out the trainees on whom the State and the Tatmadaw rely. The Senior General said he emphasizes the building of the qualified Tatmadaw as well as capable Tatmadaw with high capability. Strenuous efforts were made for the enhancement of educational qualification of officers and other ranks and welfare for families. Moreover, female

officers are being produced to serve the duties in respective sectors similar to that of international armed forces.

Instructors from academies and training depots must give training to each junior leader to have basic spirit, concept, confidence, military skills and training and to become good leaders for the State and the Tatmadaw in the future upon completion of the training. — MNA

Myanmar celebrates 2021 International Anti-Corruption Day



International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 event is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo.



U Tin Oo, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

THE Anti-Corruption Commission held the celebration of the 2021 International Anti-Corruption Day yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw, and Chairman of the State Administration

Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video message to address the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman U Tin Oo of the

Anti-Corruption Commission, the secretary, members and officials. Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Union ministers, Union auditor-general, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council,

state/region chief ministers, the chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, deputy ministers and departmental officials attended the ceremony virtually.

At the ceremony, the video message of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was displayed. (The full text of the speech is reported on page 4).

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo said that trust in the judiciary will be enhanced by establishing a fair judiciary that is impartial, honest and free from corruption and increasing access to court services and justice and accountability. Therefore, judges in the judici-

ary sector must abide by their ethics and perform their judicial duties without corruption, he continued.

He called on those related to the judiciary, such as litigation bodies, law officers, lawyers, the media, and the public, including the defendants, to work together to uphold their ethics and work together in a non-corrupt manner to ensure a fair judiciary and an effective rule of law.

At the ceremony, the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission explained the implementation of anti-corruption measures.

The ceremony was concluded after displaying a video clip commemorating the International Anti-Corruption Day 2021. — MNA

The speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark International Anti-Corruption Day 2021

I'd like to extend greetings to Union level officials, region and state chief ministers and specially-invited guests to the ceremony to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day which falls on 9 December, and I pray may all be auspicious.

The United Nations General Assembly designated the day of 9th December as the International Anti-Corruption Day under Resolution 58/4 on 31 October 2003. The ceremonies in commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day are marked across the world with the aim of widening the knowledge about fighting corruption and further understanding the primary role of the UN international convention in anti-corruption and preventive measures.

As such, Myanmar holds the ceremony to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day on a grand scale starting from 2017 similar to that of convention member countries in the global community. This year's ceremony is held in a virtual format but the ceremony of attendees is due to COVID-19. Goal-16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations mentions is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. Government departments/organizations accept the concept of implementation of anti-corruption measures as a national duty. If so, I'd like to express my belief that a clean government and good governance would develop to build a progressive and pleasant State.

Anti-corruption is of great importance in shaping the



good governance system as well as abiding by the codes of ethics and multilateral trusts among the public service personnel and the organizations. In fact, the public service personnel are a bridge between the State and the people. The service personnel need to be free from corruption and to follow the rules and regulations and ethics to seek the trust of the State.

To do so, the Union Civil Service Board has released the norms for the ethics of the public service personnel. These norms aim primarily to abide by the norms of basic ethics such as transparency, responsibility and accountability, free from bias, free from corruption, and fairness in the functioning of the personnel.

Definition and prohibition over usage of words on bribery and corruption have been existing in the Myanmar cultural arena for many years in

accord with the teachings of the Lord Buddha. Most people know four kinds of corruption as follows:-

Candagati-committing the inappropriate acts based on the bias for love,

Dosagati- committing the inappropriate acts based on the bias for hatred,

Bhayagati- committing the inappropriate acts based on the bias for fear,

Mohagati- committing inappropriate acts based on the bias for wavering. So, the definition of corruption in Myanmar cultural arena is larger and deeper than that of the world.

Corruption happens in various forms such as acts of monetary corruption, acts of corruption related to State-owned property, acts of corruption related to human resources and acts of corruption related to authority in the political, economic and administrative

arenas. The service personnel on the duty of the State in all sectors need to avoid the acts leading to corruption and focus on the public interests only.

Actually, corruption is an act of abusing the authority entrusted by the people for serving their interests. The root causes of many cases of corruption are the extreme entrusting of individual authority and power, adoption of complicated rules and regulations for the authority, lack of techniques effectively monitoring the acts of rationality, and lack of responsibilities for their decisions.

The government needs to keenly adopt the policies for anti-corruption so as to solve the problems of corruption whereas the framework of the law is of great importance. So, our government has already enacted the anti-corruption rules and is implementing the national anti-corruption strat-

egies to raise the knowledge awareness of anti-corruption, preventive measures against corruption and taking action against the violators.

As corruption can harm the development of the State as well as peace and stability in all aspects, cases of corruption were exposed in the country to take action against the violators under the law. Moreover, the corruption-prevention units are systematically formed in the government departments/organizations to minimize the corruption cases rather than now.

In order to emerge a righteous and honest culture in the society, only when the people in individuals participate in the anti-corruption measures will their workplaces and environs be shaped as a society with honesty free from corruption.

I'd like to point out that public participation plays a crucial role in the anti-corruption strategies in scrutinizing the corruption problems and implementing the reform process. It is important that any programmes to reduce corruption must admit all the persons who had faced losses in corruption. It is necessary to mention the directives, rules and regulations understandable for the people.

In conclusion, the cases of corruption must be investigated to take action against the violators so as to emerge a corruption-free society in Myanmar with minimizing the existing cases of corruption. As a gesture of hailing the International Anti-Corruption Day, I'd like to deeply urge officials from the government departments/organizations and the entire people to participate in the anti-corruption measures in harmony.

Thank you.



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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing opens upgraded Pwekawk Waterfall Resort (BE Fall)



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing formally inaugurates the upgraded Pwekawk Waterfall Resort (BE Fall) in PyinOoLwin on 9 December 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, attended the opening ceremony of the upgraded Pwekawk Waterfall Resort (BE Fall) in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday morning.

Firstly, the Mandalay Region chief minister, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Central Command and the Mandalay mayor opened the ceremony by cutting ribbons. The Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister pressed the button to open the façade of the Pwekawk Waterfall Resort (BE Fall).

The artists of the Myawady Music Band performed songs to the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, and party. A documentary on the formation of the Pwekawk Waterfall Resort and upgrade works which were carried out following the guidelines of the Prime Minister was displayed. Afterwards, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister awarded cash awards to the performers and the production team.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, and party posed for group photo and took a tour of the BE Fall which includes the construction of the world-class LED glass bridge, motorcars



The Senior General and party take the group photo.



used in the ancient time in PyinOoLwin, cable-stayed bridge and log houses through the jungle trail that was developed for the visitors to the resort.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister and party inspected the magic shows of the Mobile Public Relations Unit at the covered children's playground at the resort and provided cash awards. They also observed and encouraged the local shops, Smart P shirt shops and spraying water with solar

agricultural irrigation system. The Pwekawk Waterfall Resort (BE Fall) is located near Pwekawk village, between the Mandalay-Lashio railway road and the highway road. It is originated from the construction of a resort to commemorate the training engineer battalion who suppressed the insurgents who occupied PyinOoLwin in 1949 at the site of what is now BE Fall. It used to have no systematic layout, increasing number of shops, unregulated dumping and deforestation which all

caused environmental and ecological damage. Therefore, the upgrade was carried out under the guidelines of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister during his visit.

Due to the use of natural water purification systems in the waterfall, those who want to play in the water can play clean and healthy water. There are three waterfalls in the resort, and the first LED glass bridge in Myanmar has been built with world-class standards, and the scenery under the bridge can be very exciting. As PyinOoLwin is a flower and tourist city, a variety of flowers are grown and annual flower festivals will be held. It has been upgraded to entertain visitors, with cable-stayed bridges, log houses, coffee shops, jungle trails, recreation areas, children's playgrounds, and it is reported that detailed arrangements have been made for security and relief efforts. — MNA



Authorities need to consider beautifying PyinOoLwin, developing products, agriculture and livestock and tourism sectors, Senior General stresses

PYINOOLOWIN must be shaped as a clean city and green city and as well as smart city based on Yadanabon Cyber City and Anisakhan Airport, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with the Mandalay Region cabinet members and departmental personnel in PyinOoLwin District and Township at the Tatmadaw guesthouse in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

Union minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Union minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi and officials reported to the Senior General on modern agricultural techniques for growing coffee plants, allotment of land plots from the forest areas for cultivation of coffee plants, reopening of schools, preventive measures against COVID-19, and beautifying of PyinOoLwin.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said that efforts are being made to shape PyinOoLwin as a hill station in its original style. The international community shows interest in measures of the town. Taking such an advantage can bring benefits to the tourism sector.

PyinOoLwin must be shaped as a clean city and green city as well as a beautiful city. It is necessary to ensure proper flow of water in the creek which flows from Kandawgyi and Kandawgale in PyinOoLwin and Gelaung Creek. Keeping



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing makes the speech at the meeting with the Mandalay Region cabinet members and departmental officials yesterday.

the city neat and tidy can attract local and foreign travellers, so it is necessary to systematically beautify the city. Relevant administrative bodies need to supervise the construction of the houses and buildings under the rules and regulations.

The government has set the coffee zone in the PyinOoLwin area. Flowery plants were grown in the past but cultivable lands are used in other measures, leaving the lesser sown acreage of agricultural tasks. Relevant departments need to conduct research on agricultural tasks and create a market for agricultural products.

The Senior General urged local people to strive not only for the domestic market but for the export of cream from PyinOoLwin to the international market. Local authorities were urged to boom the region-wise economy for generating jobs for the people.

Efforts must be expedited for boosting the per-acre yield of the crops grown in the cultivable lands to be able to minimize deforestation. Prevention of deforestation is a must for PyinOoLwin and its environs. Consequently, the area will have favourable weather.

The Senior General stressed that it is necessary

to clean the branches of trees covering the motor roads as erosion of rainwater may cause damage to the roads. Officials need to overview all sectors because beautifying the city is related to other functions.

The Senior General gave advice based on his experiences for the expansion of the urban area in PyinOoLwin. It is necessary to consider pavement systems, windbreaks, road construction and expansion of the urban areas in future projects. PyinOoLwin railway station and Gokteik viaduct are historical ones. Authorities need to consider the beautifying of PyinOoL-

win, products, agriculture and livestock and tourism sectors.

PyinOoLwin must be shaped as an education city while the health standard must be promoted centring in PyinOoLwin. PyinOoLwin must be shaped as a clean city and green city and as well as a smart city based on Yadanabon Cyber City and Anisakhan Airport. Manufacturing tasks must be done through the collaborative efforts of the people.

The Senior General stressed the need for officials to control the infection of COVID-19 with knowledge awareness and supervision under the restrictions of the pandemic. — MNA

Public Notice

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

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption

Answer "1111" to improve services

Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

Anti-Corruption Commission

Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on national economy holds 9th meeting

THE 9th meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy (9/2021) was virtually held yesterday afternoon at Office No. (1), Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the Working Committee deputy ministers from the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Commerce, deputy governor from the Central Bank of Myanmar and representatives of the ministries concerned attended the meeting.

During the meeting, it was discussed regarding the situation on providing loans under COVID-19 Fund including support for the fishery and livestock sector as a first tranche, the process to provide loans for the second tranche, the preparatory process to provide loans for the Film, Music, Theatrical, Press and Media and the upcoming plans of the committee.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by concerned ministries, future plans of action, and issues raised by the ministries and the business firms and corporations.—MNA



MoI joins Workshop on Social Media Practices virtually

STAFF from the Ministry of Information led by Director-General U Ye Naing of the Myanma Radio and Television joined a Workshop on Sharing Best Practices on the Use of Social Media towards a Safe, Secure and Reliable Internet yesterday.

The workshop was chaired by the Ministry of Information and Communications of Viet Nam in a videoconferencing format.

The workshop was aimed at fostering friendly relations among ASEAN member countries.

Sharing knowledge and mutual support of international experience, laws promulgat-



ed on the use of social media in the ASEAN Member States, and exchange of rules and the

development of good social media practices were also focused in the virtual meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Member States

at the Director-General level and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.

The discussion focused on the use of media on social media and online misinformation, fake news management plus sharing good management practices, public education and media role in public relations. The ASEAN Member States made PowerPoint presentations and the Director-General said that the current Telecommunications Law in Myanmar is enacted.

It is learned that the situation of detention under some sections of the law such as the News Media Law was discussed.—MNA

Myanmar hosts 4th Meeting of Mekong-Lancang Agricultural Cooperation Working Group

THE fourth meeting of the Mekong-Lancang Agricultural Cooperation Working Group, hosted by Myanmar, was held yesterday morning. The videoconference was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture of Myanmar, chaired the meeting, while Mr Wei Zhenglin, Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China co-chaired the

meeting.

Representatives from the members of the Mekong-Lancang member countries: Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand attended the meeting.

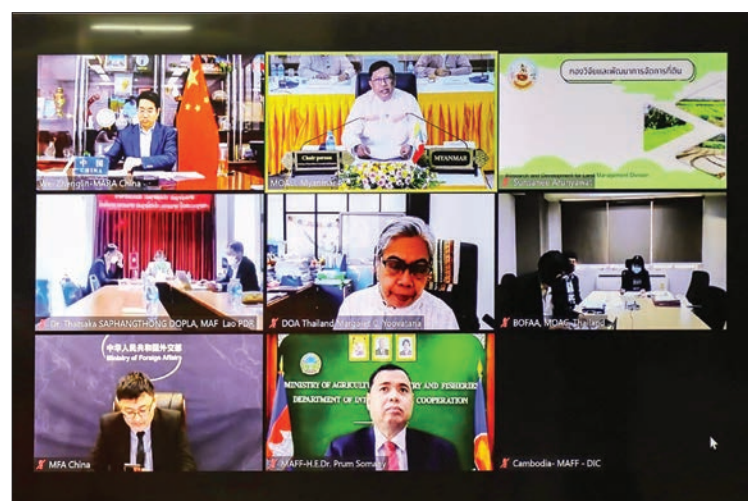
Myanmar representatives from the Department of Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Department of Fisheries and Yezin Agricultural University also joined the meeting.

Officials discussed the en-

hancement of agricultural cooperation among the Mekong-Lancang member countries and the involvement of the Mekong region in the implementation of green agriculture in China-ASEAN.

Cooperation of Mekong-Lancang Member Countries with the aid of Mekong-Lancang Special Fund, success status of ongoing projects, difficulties encountered and challenges were explained on a country-by-country basis, and ways to implement projects were successfully discussed.

They also discussed the establishment of the Bumper



Harvest Projects of the People's Republic of China and the establishment of the Fisheries and

Aquatic Conservation Working Group in the Mekong-Lancang member countries.—MNA

Join hands among those in various faiths for serving the State

AS different attitudes may happen in the political trend of democracy, it is necessary to accept the anticipation of the majority but consider the wish of the minority. It is the true nature of the people and countries in democracy.

Shaping a Union based on democracy and federalism needs active cooperation of the Interfaith Friendship Organization. It is because the national causes must be implemented through united strength.

Multi-religious organizations need to strive for uplifting the capacity of human resources around their environs and mobilize them to pursue technologies and knowledge from various arenas. Significantly, religious organizations should cooperate with the government in nation-building tasks based on national causes but focus on just religious affairs.

All regions focus on prevailing peace, prosperity and unity. If they do not have unity, they may face difficulties. Prosperity leads to the socio-economic development of the people. The peaceful countries will have developed to enhance the living standard of the people. Hence, all the people need to harmoniously strive for restoring internal peace.

Although the number of Buddhists is the largest in Myanmar, Hindus, Islam, Christians and other religious members have been residing in the nation for many years. They have faith in respective religions as traditions.

The strength of a nation lies within, and the united strength is the strongest. Despite raising the high infection rate of COVID-19 at a time, religious and social organizations have been giving a helping hand to the people through various ways and means so as to mitigate the infection rate till today.

In fact, all people should not hold up the extremism regarding their religions. It is because they all should serve the State altogether not depending on the religions as they are residing in the country for a long time.

Multi-religious organizations need to strive for uplifting the capacity of human resources around their environs and mobilize them to pursue technologies and knowledge from various arenas. Significantly, religious organizations should cooperate with the government in nation-building tasks based on national causes but focus on just religious affairs.

All the people change their mindset to discard the narrowed minded behaviours in all arenas. They all need to join hands for serving the interests of the nation and the nationals remove the hate speech harming each other. It will be a basic tool to open the perpetual peace door.

All walks of life in various faiths should firmly join hands in nation-building endeavours without giving priority to their respective religions as they all are residing in the nation altogether.



Let us move for more NHRIs

By Hla Myint

GLOBAL governance of human rights started with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December 1948 at the UN General Assembly. Based on the standards in the UDHR, thanks to the collective efforts of the international community, the global legal framework gradually emerged over seven decades and led to nine core human rights instruments and the provision and reflection of these standards in constitutions of a large number of countries.

The observation of these standards at national, regional and international levels is the sine qua non in the creation of effective human rights governance.

At the international level, as we all know, the international system of

the promotion and protection of human rights exists strongly. At the regional level, there have been regional human rights mechanisms in a majority of regions to promote and protect human rights. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the South East Asian International Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF), and the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) are acting as regional human rights mechanisms in Asia under their different terms of reference. At the national level, many countries have now become state parties to certain core human rights instruments of their choice although they still face some difficulties in the full implementation of the provisions of those instruments.

The greatest challenge to the effectiveness of global governance of human rights is the continued failure of national governments to fully implement the obligations they undertake under the instruments they have ratified. In this regard, the United Nations has set up monitoring mechanisms like Treaty Body Committees, Special Procedures, etc. The General Comments or Observations of these Treaty Body Committees contain useful recommendations for State Parties to be able to correctly implement their treaty obligations. To complement these multilateral mechanisms, some regional human rights mechanisms have provisions in their enabling charters, constitutions and statutes for the monitoring of the human rights situ-

ations in the region. At the national level, some countries have established National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), based on the Paris Principles of the United Nations. Six countries in ASEAN have established national human rights institutions, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines and Timor-Leste. Currently, Cambodia is reportedly giving active consideration to the establishment of its NHRI.

These NHRIs are playing a very effective role as they are broadly mandated to monitor the human rights situation in their respective countries and to advise their national governments as and when necessary. They serve as a bridge between the government and civil society organizations while contributing

to the global monitoring of human rights situations as required by their mandate.

To be effectively able to monitor how far the global human rights standards are being implemented is the most significant element of global human rights governance. Out of over 200 countries, there are only 117 NHRIs in the world contributing to this important process. It is therefore vital that some countries should give serious consideration to the establishment of national human rights institutions, thereby strengthening the global system of promoting and protecting human rights and rendering the global human rights governance more effective.



Omicron may pose higher reinfection risk but could be milder than Delta: WHO chief

New coronavirus variant may pose a higher reinfection risk, but the latest research indicates it could be less severe than the Delta strain, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says.

EARLY data indicates the Omicron Covid variant may more easily reinfect people who have already had the virus or been vaccinated than previous variants, but could also cause milder disease, the WHO said Wednesday.

"Emerging data from South Africa suggests increased risk of reinfection with Omicron," World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters, adding that "there is also some evidence that Omicron causes milder disease than Delta".

But he stressed that more data was needed before drawing firm conclusions, and urged countries everywhere to boost their surveillance to help provide a clearer picture of how Omicron is behaving.

The hopeful assessments came as global concern grew over the heavily mutated variant, which has forced dozens of nations to re-impose border restrictions and raised the possibility of a return to economically punishing lockdowns.

More people die

Even if it does turn out that Omicron causes less severe disease, Tedros warned against slack-



A teacher (R) disinfects and checks the temperatures of students before classes at Ricardo P. Cruz elementary school in Taguig city, suburban Manila on 6 December 2021, after authorities loosened Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions to allow limited in-person classes in the capital city. PHOTO: AFP/TED ALJIBE/FILE

ing off vigilance against the virus.

"Any complacency now will cost lives," he warned.

WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan agreed, pointing out that so far the data indicates the variant is "efficiently transmitting, and probably more efficiently transmitting even than the Delta variant."

"That does not mean that the virus is unstoppable," he said.

"But it means the virus is more efficient at transmitting between human beings. And therefore we have to redouble our efforts to break those chains of transmission to protect ourselves to protect others."

Even if the new variant turns out to be less dangerous than previous variants, if it transmits more rapidly, it could still sicken more people, overburden health

systems, "and more people die," he said.

The WHO experts stressed the importance of vaccination, highlighting that even if vaccines prove less effective against Omicron, as some data indicates, they are still expected to provide significant protection against severe disease.

Chief WHO scientist Soumya Swaminathan cautioned against

knee-jerk reactions to early studies hinting that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may have reduced efficacy against the new variant.

She pointed out that the studies done so far were small and that the reduction in the "neutralizing activity" varied dramatically between different studies, from four to five fold in some experiments to up to 40-fold in others.

They also only looked at the neutralization of antibodies, when "we know the immune system is much more complex than that," she said.

"So I think it's premature to conclude that this reduction neutralizing activity would result in a significant reduction in vaccine effectiveness," she said. "We do not know that."

Booster shot

In another development, A booster shot of COVID-19 vaccine would provide enough protection against the Omicron variant while two doses may not be sufficient, said COVID-19 vaccine developers Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE on Wednesday.

Three doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine would generate sufficient serum antibodies to neutralize the Omicron

variant, said a joint release by the two companies citing results from an initial laboratory study.

The study shows that two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine "may not be sufficient to protect against infection with the Omicron variant."

However, individuals administered with two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may still be protected against severe forms of diseases resulting from Omicron infection, according to the release.

"Although two doses of the vaccine may still offer protection against severe disease caused by the Omicron strain, it's clear from these preliminary data that protection is improved with a third dose of our vaccine," said Albert Bourla, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Pfizer.

Receiving a booster vaccine after two doses remains the best course of action to prevent the spread of COVID-19, according to Bourla.

Pfizer and BioNTech continue to work on an adapted vaccine targeting a more lasting and higher level of protection against Omicron, according to Ugur Sahin, CEO and co-founder of BioNTech.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 9 December 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 10 December 2021: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and isolated in Kachin, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi Regions and Shan State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be 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 Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 December 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 December 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 December 2021: Generally fair weather.

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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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No (2) Industrial Training Centre (Mandalay) upgrading project inaugurated

THE opening ceremony for upgrading of No (2) Industrial Training Centre (Mandalay) was organized in Mandalay Region yesterday (in picture).

During the event, Union minister Dr Charlie Than of the Ministry of Industry said there should be peace to develop a country and the citizens also have proper knowledge and education. Only developing vocational education can improve the socio-economic status of the people. Nowadays, vocation training plays a key role day by day.

The ministry establishes eight industrial training centres in eight regions and states with the supports of partner organizations and produces about 1,000 skilled workers yearly. Moreover, it also conducts three-month training courses and mobile training for industrial and vocational educations.

The No (2) Industrial Train-



ing Centre (Mandalay) offered four subjects to 160 trainees in a year previously and if the upgrade works completed, the two new subjects will be added and it can offer six subjects and produce 240 skilled workers per year.

The Union minister also expressed words of thanks to the

Chinese government for providing for the development of Myanmar's TVET sector and Chinese experts of Zhongmei Engineering Group Ltd., which will do upgrade works on the training centre.

Then, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai talked about the boosting of cooperation

work in Belt and Road Initiative, sharing of China's industrial knowledge, high techniques and policy-making matters under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor to develop the industry sector of Myanmar and continuous supports to improve the socio-economic status of Myanmar

via bilateral relation of two countries and to produce skilled workers from TVETs.

The Union minister and guests to the event inspected the upgrade works of training centres.

The Union minister visited Myotha Industrial Park in Tada-U Township at noon.

During the visit, the officials of the industrial park reported on the implementation of an industrial zone and future work plans.

The Union minister instructed the necessary things and inspected the SKD car assembly processes of Gold Aya Motors International Group Co., Ltd.

Finally, the Union minister discussed with the Chinese Ambassador to produce Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines at the Pharmaceutical Factories under the Ministry of Industry. — MNA

347 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 December, total figure rises to 525,750

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 525,750 after 347 new cases were reported on 9 December 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 501,950 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,162 after 5 died.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

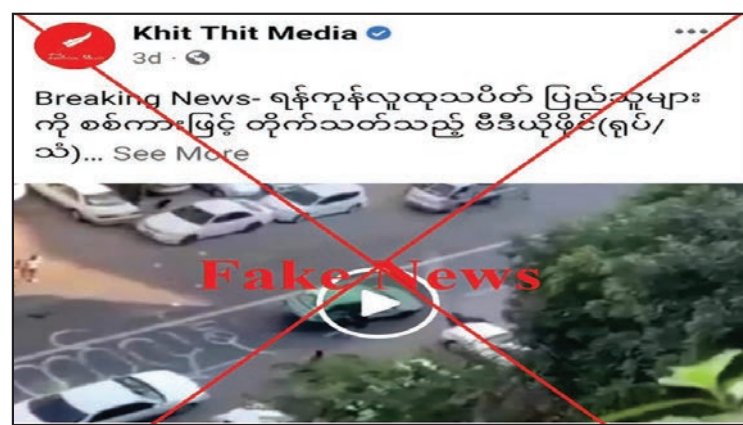
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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Press Release on Misinformation and Disinformation Appearing on Social Media

TAKING advantage of the current political situation in Myanmar, the local and foreign media that accompany some countries wishing to disintegrate Myanmar are inciting bloodshed in various ways to divide the people who want to live in peace and the Tatmadaw, to spread hatred and to escalate the conflict. In such doing, they provided fake news about the casualties of security forces in order to inspire and motivate terrorists and their supporters. They often broadcast misinformation and fabricate these news items on social media in the guise of Tatmadaw torturing and killing innocent people, to tarnish the image of the security forces and mislead the public. This is not just an ordinary act, but a conspiracy of spending a huge amount of money and providing technical support to spreading misinformation across social media in synchronization domestically and internationally.

For example, in the recent incident in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region, an official press release already reported that three rioters were



injured in the riots. But notorious nation-destroying media, some foreign media and some international organizations circulate false information that, in this protest, has left five people dead and many wounded. They are exploiting Myanmar people's kind-hearted

minds for their propaganda. It was also found that some foreign embassies and international organizations issued further press releases on this disinformation without seeking confirmation from Myanmar officials, to mislead the people and to tarnish the image of security forces.



In reality, according to the responsible citizens' information, these protests were not just ordinary protests but were consisting of terrorists, and would be transforming into terrorism. Therefore, the security forces have to undertake counter-terrorism measures under the Counter-Terrorism Standard Operating Procedures. In such riots, the terrorists targeted and misused some young people as human shields directly or indirectly.

The second misinformation is that the nation-destroying media is broadcasting a mispresenting video of the massacre by Myanmar security forces on social media. The video has been immediately

and widely circulated on social media because of a conspiracy by local and international connections. The initial on-ground investigation revealed that such a video file was not (at all) related to undertakings of the Tatmadaw and that it was a conspiracy to tarnish the image of the Tatmadaw.

Therefore, the people who wish to live peacefully should be aware of the propaganda attempted by the nation-destroying media supporting terrorists and terrorism, and not be used as a human shield in terrorist-related riots. We urge the people to continue to work with the security forces to arrest the terrorists as soon as possible. — MNA

Taking advantage of the current political situation in Myanmar, the local and foreign media that accompany some countries wishing to disintegrate Myanmar are inciting bloodshed in various ways to divide the people who want to live in peace and the Tatmadaw, to spread hatred and to escalate the conflict.

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Suspect preparing for 'Silent Strike' arrested; homemade mines seized in Chanayethazan Township



Khine Zin Zuu (20 years old).



An arrestee is seen along with seized 'Silent Strike' -related materials.

THE combined security forces conducted a patrol at the corner of 30th and 63rd streets in Pyigyimythman Ward of Chanayethazan Township on 8 December. During the patrol, they examined Khine Zin Zuu and seized pamphlets and one cloth bearing letters for 'Silent Strike'. Then, they raided her house in Pyigyimythman Ward of Chanayethazan Township and seized 100 homemade mines, 33 gunpowder cords, 30 shields, three bullet-proof vests, one Bakatha flag with peacock logo, various kinds of medicines and other materials used in protests.

According to the confession of Khine Zin Zuu, the leader of protests in Mandalay is NLD extremist Thura Aung (yet to be arrested) and he rented a house in Yayninyaung street in Pyigyimythman Ward of Chanayethazan Township for the protestors to live in. Six people who are yet to be arrested — Hla Hla, Wint Wah, Nyein Chan Pyae Sone, Hein Min Zaw and Soe Lin Aung — lived there and made riots in Mandalay.

Suspect Khine Zin Zuu admitted that Hein Min Zaw bought signboards, posters



Seized homemade mines.



Seized homemade mines and other materials.

and clothes used in protests and Thura Aung mainly provided needed materials, food and accommodation for protestors.

Moreover, according to the instruction of Thura Aung, they made a plan to organize 'Silent Strike' on 10 December to mislead the international community that the administrative machinery is destroyed and attack on those who go out regularly on that day.

The people are urged to report regarding movements and hiding places of terrorists to the nearest security forces and they will be rewarded covertly. — MNA

US\$20 mln worth of fuel oil to be distributed at fairer prices in third batch

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that fuel oil valued at US\$20 million will be sold at the subsidized price in the third batch.

The fuel importers directly spent \$20 million at the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) to distribute 30 million tonnes of fuel oil. So far, over 26 million tonnes of fuel oil have been sold.

Over 11 million litres of 92 Ron, over four million litres of diesel and 10 million litres of premium diesel have been sold. At present, the oil is distributed through 136 filling stations in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady, Magway, Bago and Sagaing regions, Mon, Shan, Rakhine and Kachin states.

The consumers can complain about overcharging for fuel



A local fuel filling outlet in Yangon.

oil which is sold at the subsidized rate under a public distribution system, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

If any overcharging is found, the consumers can complain

about it through the contact numbers (09664075683, 09664596327, 09687635943, 09676320826) of the Central Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods (01 250270) of the Yangon

Region Consumer Affairs Department and (09421006794) of the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

In the first batch, \$20 million worth of fuel oil were sold, while

\$13.4 million valued oil was distributed in the second batch.

The Ministry of Commerce has purchased \$53.4 million worth of fuel at the reference rate of the CBM for the fuel oil sector.

The fuel oil was pegged at around K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market. Then, it remarkably climbed up to K1,245 for Octane 92, K1,295 for Octane 95, K1,220 for diesel and K1,230 for premium diesel in the first week of December. There is a remarkable price gap of K600 per litre, according to the local fuel oil market.

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

Imports down by \$208 mln as of 26 November, reports MoC

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 October and 26 November of the current mini-budget period 2021-2022 (October-March) plummeted to US\$2.1 billion, which reflects a drop of \$208 million compared to the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The import value stood at US\$2.3 billion last FY2020-2021.

The imports of capital goods declined last month, while the other import groups (consumer, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses) witnessed a slight increase.

Last month, capital goods, such as auto parts, ve-

hicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$396.34 million. The figure was over \$412 million lower than those values registered in the same period of the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth \$514.6 million, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed a slight decrease of \$13.3 million compared with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up the largest share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw

materials being the main import items. This year, imports of raw materials climbed up to \$873.4 million from \$695.7 million registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth over \$318.3 million were also imported for the cut-make-pack (CMP) garment sector, showing an increase of \$39.9 million compared with last FY.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. — KK/GNLM

Coffee seeds in Homalin start being harvested

THE coffee seeds are started harvesting in Homalin township, Sagaing region and they are having a high yield.

"Currently, the coffee seeds are being harvested. The yields of the coffee are also good. The raw coffee seeds from Homalin township are conveyed to Ywangan in Shan State and Mandalay market," said Daw Su Su Htwe, township head of the Agriculture Department in Homalin township.

Last year, the price of coffee seeds in Homalin was K5,000 per viss. But this year, the price fetched K8,000 per viss.

The cultivation cost of the coffee plantation is K500,000 per acre in Homalin township and it is yielded about 85 visses per acres

of coffee plantation.

"The coffee plants are cultivated with natural fertilizer and it became more expensive," said Daw Su Su Htwe.

Coffee plantation is grown mostly in Homalin, Hkamti, Naga, Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik, Katha and Kawlin districts. We are carrying out to boost the coffee cultivation in the Naga area. We are providing the coffee seed and nursery plants.

Currently, there are a total of 108 acres of coffee plants in Homalin township. Yearly, the coffee plants are cultivated mostly in June and July.

After three years of cultivating, the coffee begins to bear and is yielded in four years. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Some watermelons perish due to long days of watermelon trucks entering Chinese market

SOME watermelon qualities were diminished due to the long days of watermelon trucks entering the Chinese market, said U Sai Khin Maung of the Khwar Nyo Fruit Depot.

As a result, some of the first 26 trucks entered the Chinese market on 9 December and four watermelon trucks were sold for 90,000 yuan. If the watermelons are of better quality, they will get a better

price than the prevailing price.

"The market price of watermelon is depending upon the watermelon quality. The watermelon trucks reached in the market are no longer fresh and they are easy to get rotten. The traders are selling their products under negotiation. On 9 December, four trucks loaded with watermelon are sold for 90,000 yuan," said U Sai Khin Maung.

Nevertheless, the watermelons are conveyed to China step by step during the COVID-19 period and the trucks will take more time for waiting of new Customs regulation, the Khwanyo Trading Depot stated.

Consequently, about 10 per cent of watermelon trucks stuck in the Muse 105th mile trade zone are prepping for return, according to the Khwanyo Fruit Trading Depot.

As a result of this, the growers are encouraged to harvest watermelons depending on market conditions.

Last 6 December, the Muse-Namkham Border Trade Chamber of Commerce and respective warehouses of fruits, rice, pulses and beans discussed the trade barriers and disruption in the border route.

Traders cannot expect trade facilitation according to

the changes in China's policy during the COVID-19 pandemic. If the restrictions are eased and negotiation goes smooth, the trade will go back to normality.

The Kyinsankyawt border post between Myanmar and China, which was earlier suspended from 8 July 2021 has been reopened starting from 26 November on a trial run. — NN/GNLM

EU extends free roaming to 2032

EU mobile phone users will continue to enjoy free roaming across Europe for mobile phone calls and web surfing until 2032, negotiators agreed on Thursday.

Since 2017, the abolition of roaming charges has been one of the most popular reforms for EU consumers, allowing

Europeans to use their national mobile plans throughout the EU at no extra cost.

According to the European Commission, mobile data usage increased 17-fold in the summer of 2019, compared to the summer of 2016, before these costs were removed. It affects all 27 EU

member states, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, but not Britain, which permanently stopped applying EU rules on January 1.

The arrangement was renewed after a political agreement between the European Parliament and Slovenia, which is currently holding the EU's

rotating presidency.

"The 'roam like at home' policy has made communication easier and cheaper whenever people are travelling in Europe," said Slovenia Public Administration minister Bostjan Koritnik.

He called it one of the EU's "greatest success stories".—AFP ■



The European Union's abolition of roaming fees has been one of the bloc's most popular initiatives. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Mazda starts accepting reservations for hand-controlled car

MAZDA Motor Corp. on Thursday began accepting reservations for purchase of a modified SUV that can be controlled solely with the use of hands by drivers who are physically disabled.

The MX-30 Self-empowerment Driving Vehicle, a modified version of the MX-30 SUV that is set to be released in January, is equipped with a lever on the left side of the driver that can be depressed



Supplied photo shows Mazda Motor Corp.'s MX-30 Self-empowerment Driving Vehicle that can be driven using hands only. PHOTO: KYODO

by hand to act as a break and a ring on the steering wheel that can function as an accelerator.

The car can also be driven using pedals by able-bodied users.

It also includes a board that wheelchair users can sit on in the process of moving into the driver's seat.

The additional equipment costs 528,000 yen (\$4,640) on top of the cost of the original MX-30 model. Mazda is considering developing disabled-friendly equipment for other models as well.—Kyodo ■

Hong Kong mandates Covid tracing app for most adults in bars, restaurants

THE Hong Kong government made its check-in app mandatory for most adults in bars and restaurants on Thursday, the latest expansion of coronavirus tracing tech at a time of heightened privacy concerns in the city.

The international finance hub has kept infections at bay thanks to mostly closed borders, some of the world's strictest quarantine rules and ongoing social distancing rules.

No local infections have been recorded in

months, but the city is further ramping up virus measures, aligning with China's zero-Covid strategy as it seeks quarantine-free travel with the mainland.

From Thursday, all adults under 65 must use the city government's

Covid app, scanning QR codes to log their presence at 18 types of premises -- including eateries, cinemas, gyms and karaoke venues.

The logs can be used to trace infections if there is an outbreak.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan enlists US-based chefs in videos aiming to boost farm exports

THE Japanese Embassy in Washington is featuring chefs at renowned US restaurants in promotional videos aiming to boost exports of Japan-made agricultural products, adding to its ongoing series as the coronavirus pandemic continues to prevent large gatherings.

As the COVID-19 outbreak intensified in the United States last year, the embassy produced promotional videos focusing on Japanese wagyu beef. This year's videos are centred on the theme of Japanese rice. In the video series, chefs at Michelin-starred restaurants in New York and Washington discuss the uses and benefits of agricultural products cultivated in Japan, while demonstrating artful preparation and presentation of Japanese dishes.—Kyodo ■

Growth opportunities in China-Europe freight train services

PAWEL Moskala, a Polish logistics veteran, has made multiple visits to the border city of Malaszewicze recently in preparation for opening a new office at the gateway to the European Union (EU). Thanks to its location, Malaszewicze has grown into one of the most important railway transshipment port for trains from China entering into the EU. Eyeing the fast development brought by China-Europe freight train services, Moskala said he is determined to seize the growth opportunities. "Nowadays, Malaszewicze is probably Poland's most well-known city to China and the Chinese, after the capital Warsaw, due to the rapid development of the CRE (China Railway Express)," Moskala said.—Xinhua ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (233N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (233N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-12-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (145W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (145W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-12-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Biden to call NATO's Eastern Europe allies on Ukraine: W.House

US President Joe Biden will call NATO's Eastern European members on Thursday to discuss his video summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin and fears of war in Ukraine, the White House said.

Biden "will convene a call with the leaders of the Bucharest Nine group of our eastern flank NATO Allies to brief them on his call with President Putin, hear their perspectives on the current security situation, and underscore the United States' commitment to transatlantic security," a statement said Wednesday.

The Bucharest group comprises Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.



Armed men wearing military fatigues gathered on armoured personnel carriers in the eastern Ukrainian city of Slovyansk in this undated picture. PHOTO: AFP

The White House said Biden would be holding the conference call after he speaks to Ukraine's President Volodymyr

Zelensky, who has appealed for more US help in warding off threats of further Russian attacks.

Western countries say they are deeply concerned by the buildup of around 100,000 Russian troops on the Ukrainian border. Russia has already seized the Crimean peninsula and backed a separatist rebellion since 2014.

Moscow says the additional troops are there to defend against Ukraine being absorbed into the US-led NATO military alliance, although Ukraine is nowhere close to being accepted in the group.

Biden and Putin discussed the tension during a two-hour video summit on Tuesday. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Burkina Faso PM, govt resign over security crisis

BURKINA Faso's premier and government resigned Wednesday as protests mounted against officials' inability to combat a wave of jihadist attacks that have killed thousands.

President Roch Marc Christian Kabore, who had already changed his military leadership over the security crisis, accepted Prime Minister Christophe Joseph Marie Dabire's resignation, according to a presidential decree. The resignation of a prime minister requires the resignation of the entire government, according to Burkina Faso law. After his resignation, Dabire called on citizens to "support the president... and the new executive that will be put in place" in a post on his Facebook page. —AFP ■

French minister resigns after conviction over assets declaration



Alain Griset, who worked in the Finance Ministry and oversaw relations with small and medium-sized businesses, was convicted of submitting an incomplete wealth declaration to the government transparency authority. PHOTO: AFP

THE French minister in charge of small and medium-sized companies resigned on Wednesday after being convicted for failing to declare all of his assets.

Alain Griset was handed a six-month suspended prison term and a suspended ban on holding public office for three years by a court in Paris on Wednesday, which found he had deliberately hidden his financial holdings when entering the government in July 2020.

All ministers are required to declare their wealth to a regulator in charge of public transpar-

ency, but the court found Griset had concealed an account holding €171,000 worth of shares, as well as direct shareholdings in other companies. The 68-year-old former taxi driver was also found to be actively managing 130,000 euros worth of assets for the Cnams business association from northern France which had deposited the money in his account.

A statement from Prime Minister Jean Castex noted that Griset's resignation had been accepted while hailing the "spirit of responsibility which was behind this decision." —AFP ■

UK police rule out Downing Street party probe

UK police said Wednesday they would not investigate allegations of illegal Christmas parties at Downing Street last year during coronavirus lockdown measures due to lack of evidence. Footage of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's aides making jokes about a Christmas party has aired on national television, following newspaper reports that staff inside his Number 10 Downing Street office held parties there in November and December last year. —AFP ■

Iraqi wars' deadly legacy: unexploded ordnance

IN the northern Iraqi hamlet of Hassan-Jalad, almost every family has a story to tell about a time when a child, nephew or brother was lost to wartime munitions.

Located near Mosul, a former stronghold of the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group, the area is littered with unexploded ordnance, sometimes dubbed UXO.

"We are afraid for the children," said one local man, Awad Qado. "We show them the routes to take, the places to avoid. We tell them not to pick up things they find on the ground."

It was in 2017 that Qado's family was struck by a landmine explosion in the hamlet of about

50 homes.

Two of Qado's nephews were killed while tending to their herd. His son was injured and a fourth man's legs were severed in the blast that also killed some livestock.

Across Iraq, about 100 children were killed or injured between January and September as a result of remnants of conflict, according to the UN.

In a country that has one of the world's highest UXO "contamination rates", almost one in four people is exposed to risk from unexploded ordnance, say non-governmental groups.

Iraq's successive conflicts have left a deadly legacy, from



Munitions recovered by Global Clearance Solutions (GCS), a private demining company, near the northern Iraqi hamlet of Hassan-Jalad. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, and the defeat of IS in late 2017. —AFP ■

Trial over 2016 Brussels bombings to open in October 2022

THE trial of 10 men accused of involvement in bombing attacks in Brussels that killed 32 people in 2016 will begin in October next year, a Belgian court said Wednesday.

Six of the suspects, including French-Moroccan Salah Abdeslam, are already on trial in France over the November 2015 Paris attacks. The Brussels appeals court judge Laurence Massart announced the trial would start at 9 am on 10 October 2022, but did not specify its duration. —AFP ■

Barcelona crash out as Benfica, Lille and Salzburg reach last 16



Magomed Ozdoyev celebrates after scoring Zenit's late equaliser against Chelsea. PHOTO: AFP

BARCELONA crashed out of the Champions League in the group stage for the first time in over 20 years with a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Bayern Munich on Wednesday, as Benfica, French champions Lille and Red Bull Salzburg all qualified for the last 16.

Meanwhile, Chelsea missed out on first place in their group to Juventus after conceding a late equaliser away to Zenit Saint Petersburg, while snow in northern Italy forced the postponement of Atalanta's decisive game against Villarreal.

Barcelona started the day in second place in Group E but had to win away to Bayern Munich to be sure of going through, otherwise they risked being overtaken by Benfica.

Xavi Hernandez's side were duly outclassed by an

already-qualified Bayern who made it six wins out of six in the group, with Thomas Mueller's 34th-minute header just crossing the line before Ronald Araujo could clear.

The game was played behind closed doors at the Allianz Arena due to coronavirus restrictions in Bavaria, but that did not handicap Bayern, with Leroy Sane's powerful strike doubling their lead before the break and then Jamal Musiala making it 3-0 just after the hour.

The Catalans were knocked out as Benfica beat Dynamo Kiev 2-0 in Lisbon, first-half goals by Roman Yaremchuk and Gilberto seeing them snatch second and a place in next Monday's draw for the last 16.

"We didn't compete. This is the Champions League but it is our reality and we have to

face up to it," Xavi told Spanish media.

"We are starting a new era from zero. Our objective is the Champions League, not the Europa League."

Barcelona, who scored just twice in the group stage, had appeared in the knockout rounds of the Champions League in each of the last 17 seasons, last missing out in 2003-04 when they played in the UEFA Cup after coming sixth in La Liga the previous year.

They last went out of the Champions League in the group stage in 2000/01 when a team featuring a 20-year-old Xavi finished third in their section behind AC Milan and Leeds United.

The five-time European champions will now drop into the Europa League knockout-round play-offs in February.—AFP ■

Ex-world No 1 Mauresmo named as new French Open director

EX-WOMEN'S number one Amelie Mauresmo was on Thursday named director of the French Open, replacing Guy Forget.

Mauresmo will be in place until at least 2024, French tennis federation president Gilles Moretton said.

A two-time Grand Slam winner (Australian Open and Wimbledon in 2006) and 2004 Olympic singles silver medallist in Athens, the 42-year-old Mauresmo expressed her "pride" at being named director of Roland Garros, the premier claycourt tournament in the world and federation's principal source of revenue.

Forget, who'd been in place since 2016 and also overseen the Paris Masters since 2012, was nearing the end of his contract but turned down potential offers, according to Moretton.—AFP ■



French former world number one Amelie Mauresmo. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Spurs' clash with Rennes postponed after Covid outbreak



Tottenham manager Antonio Conte. PHOTO: AFP

TOTTENHAM Hotspur announced the postponement of Thursday's Europa Conference League clash with Rennes following a severe coronavirus outbreak at the Premier League club, but their French opponents called into question the decision.

Tottenham boss Antonio Conte revealed on Wednesday that eight of his players and five members of staff had tested positive for Covid-19.

It had appeared UEFA would insist on the Rennes match going ahead in north London if Tottenham had the minimum number of 13 players available, but the rapid spread

of the virus forced a change of plan. "We can confirm that our UEFA Europa Conference League Group G home fixture against Stade Rennais will not take place tomorrow (Thursday 9 December at 8 pm UK) after a number of positive Covid-19 cases at the club," a Tottenham statement said.

"Additionally...the club has been advised to close the first-team area of its training centre at this time, in the interests of the health and safety of players and staff. "All other areas of the training centre remain operational." The postponement left Rennes furious, with the French side saying they had been told by Tottenham the game would go ahead before boarding a flight to London. "Tottenham did not want to announce the number of players with Covid when the rules stipulate a game must be played as long as a team has 13 outfield players and one goalkeeper," they complained in a statement.—AFP ■