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Friday, 20 August 2021

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Cambodian government donates medical supplies to Myanmar

A DONATION ceremony of anti-COVID-19 equipment to Myanmar was held at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday.

The medical supplies were donated by Cambodian government and its people to help Myanmar battle the COVID-19 outbreak.

The three special flights carrying medical supplies donated by Cambodia to Myanmar arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

During the ceremony, Cambodian Health Minister Professor Mam Bunheng read the greeting message of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen to Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the State Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. In his message, the Prime Minister of Cambodia extended best wishes for all Myanmar people. There is prolong bilateral relationship between the two countries and proper cooperation in regional

peace, security and development programmes via ASEAN community.

Currently, as the whole world faces the health and security related challenges due to COVID-19, Cambodia donates such materials to help Myanmar fight against the pandemic.

It can bring the regional peace, security and development in addition to the proper unity and socio-economic development via Cambodia-Myanmar bilateral relationship.

Then, the Cambodian Health Minister handed over the COVID-19 protective gears to Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win expressed words of thanks for the donation.

The Cambodia donated three millions of masks, 500,000 COVID-19 AG sets, 2,000 PPE suits, 100 Oxygen Concentrators, 20 Ventilator Machines and 20 Patient Monitors and accessories.

The donations include US \$ 100,000 donated through the



Cambodian Health Minister Professor Mam Bunheng hands over COVID-19 protective gears to Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win.

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and another US \$ 200,000 donated by the Government of Cambodia to

Myanmar. The ceremony was attended by Permanent Secretary of th Ministry of Foreign Affairs U

Chan Aye, Directors-General, and senior officers of Cambodian Health and Foreign Affairs.—MNA

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People requested to cooperate in arresting terrorists attacking COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities

THE State Administration Council in cooperation with the people is making utmost efforts for taking preventive, control and treatment measures in all aspects while COVID-19 infection rate is high in the third wave in Myanmar. As the people embracing the frats for the pandemic are actively participating in the combating of COVID-19 in line with the restrictions issued by the Ministry of Health.

In so doing, NUG and its follower extremist NLD members and saboteurs called People's Defence Force (PDF) declared as terrorists by the government are committing terror acts to civilian targets with setting fire to schools, blowing up bombs, assassination to administrators and members of other parties as well as security forces so that the government's administrative machinery are halted.

Currently, these terrorist groups commit the terror attacks on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities and innocent people without rationality as follows:-

- (a) blowing up bombs at the COVID-19 vaccination sites and innocent people receiving vaccines;
- (b) bombing the COVID-19 checkpoints;
- (c) committing bomb attacks on vehicles carrying anti-COVID-19 gears;
- (d) destroying oxygen pipelines at North Okkalapa Township Hospital;
- (e) ambushing the people on their way back from the vaccination;
- (f) assassinating members of philanthropic groups which distributed COVID-19 preventive gears;
- (g) killing innocent people who led vaccination of anti-COVID-19 measures;
- (h) brutally killing innocent people by those terrorists wearing PPE suits as volunteers.

Their terror acts target to collapse the State health sector as very danger for health and family safety of the entire people. Moreover, they staged strikes to spread virus of COVID-19, arranged contacts of infected persons with others, and spread misinformation about prevention, control and treatment activities of COVID-19 with the aim of spreading the virus by applying COVID-19 as a political tool.

As all their acts may directly or indirectly commit bioterrorism harmful to COVID-19 infection control measures, any international community and organizations cannot accept such terror acts.

As such, the State Administration Council opens the files of lawsuit against those terrorists, manipulators and supporters at relevant police stations depending on their crimes for punishing them in order to stop all terror acts directly threatening the public interests, life and property.

Moreover, the government cooperates with international community in arresting the terrorists who evaded to foreign countries and seeking condemnations of the international community against them in line with the legal procedures and diplomatic ways and has sent information to following international organizations, offices and departments.

- (a) foreign embassies to Myanmar;
- (b) international organizations in Myanmar;
- (c) office of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism;
- (d) the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Counter-Terrorism Convention Office;
- (e) Secretariat of ASEAN National Police Force and nine police forces of ASEAN countries;
- (f) ASEAN + Counter-Terrorism Expert Task Forces;
- (g) INTERPOL General Secretary and Counter-Terrorism Directorate of INTERPOL;
- (h) Counter-Terrorism Task Force of BIMSTEC, Home Affairs Ministries of China, Russia, Laos, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and Thailand and Counter-Terrorism Centres.

That is why relevant organizations and people are requested to actively participate in the activities of COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment and to continuously cooperate with the government to totally wipe off the terrorism and terrorists any country accepts from the Myanmar.



The vehicle carrying anti-COVID-19 equipment was damaged in mine attack near Nantsiaung checkpoint.



Tatmadaw FAW vehicle was damaged by bomb attack in Mingaladon Township.



A handmade grenade was thrown to house of U Myint Naing in Pale.



A civilian was killed on the way back from wetphyu village of YeU Township after receiving vaccination.



People were injured in bomb attacks of terrorists at COVID-19 vaccination in Mayangon Township.



Oxygen pipelines were destroyed by unscrupulous persons at North Okkalapa General Hospital.



The government is striving for narrowing the development gap

The government is striving for narrowing the development gap between regions and states, districts and townships as much as it can. Especially, it makes efforts for improvement of living standard of the people from rural areas. Manufacturing is based on rural areas. As such, efforts to increase income of rural people will be prevailing rule of law and ensure peace and stability of the country based on political and security measures.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 1/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the State Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 11 August 2021)

Union Minister for Transport and Communications inspects subordinate departments in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San made an inspection tour to the subordinate departments in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the tour, he inspected Myanmar Post (Head Office), Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Information Technology and Cyber Security Department, data centre of Myanma Posts and Communications, Mobile Communication Exchange, Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station and New Locomotive Plant (Nay Pyi Taw).

The Union Minister and party fulfilled the needs of the construction of e-Government Integrated Data Centre while visiting the Information Technology and Cyber Security De-

partment.

He said special attention needs to pay cyber security as it is an important task in the IT age, adding the need to systematically develop human resources and to formulate and implement international standards, laws, rules and regulations that meets the need of Myanmar.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station and observed the presentation on the design work of the construction of railways museums to be built in Nay Pyi Taw Station and Mahlwagon Station. The Union Minister and party also inspected the proposed land plots for the museums and the Nay Pyi Taw New Locomotive Plant.—MNA



Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San views operation of machinery of Nay Pyi Taw Locomotive Plant.

CBM deputy governor attends SEACEN virtual-level Seminar and meeting of deputy governors of financial stability and supervision



Deputy Governor of CBM Daw Than Than Swe attends SEACEN Virtual-level Seminar and Meeting of Deputy Governors of Financial Stability and Supervision.

DEPUTY Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe attended the SEACEN Virtual-level Seminar and Meeting of Deputy Governors of

Financial Stability and Supervision, held on 18 August through video conferencing.

The meeting was also joined by deputy governors

of SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities, subject speakers on financial stability and banking supervision, risks, innovations and

climate risks, Center Executive Director and Directors of SEACEN Centre and high-level representatives.

The seminar discussed the Financial Technology (Fintech) and Big Tech, data management and challenges encountered, banking risks related to COVID-19 crisis, risks of climate change, digital banking operation of central banks and recent cyber-attacks.

At the meeting, the participants discussed courses related to financial stability and supervision supervised by SEACEN, research projects, current priorities and trainings and research projects related to financial stability and supervision to be held in 2022.—MNA

2,590 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 August, total figure rises to 365,759

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 365,759 after 2,590 new cases were reported on 19 August 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 286,775 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 13,945 after 159 died. — MNA

MoEE, MoI discuss natural gas and electricity supply required for factories' resumption



The coordination meeting to electrify factories of Industry Ministry is in progress.

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy held the coordination meeting on the supply of natural

gas and electricity required for the reopening of the workshops and factories under the Ministry

of Industry, yesterday morning in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Deputy Minister U Thant Zin, Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Lwin, Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw and department officials.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than, Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Lwin and officials discussed the condition of natural gas and electricity demand and supply for factories that will be reopened in the first phase, and the condition and timing of the inspection of power lines and natural gas pipelines.

Afterwards, the requirement of natural gas and electricity in steel plants, textile factories, paper mill branches, heavy industries, pharmaceutical factories and drinking water factories across the country that prioritize natural gas for power source were explained.

The Union Ministers, the Deputy Ministers and officials discussed the condition to provide technical support to replace the natural gas and electricity required for the workshops/factories with biofuels and other thermal energy, and coordinated the requirements.—MNA

Efforts being made to implement e-ID Population Registry

THE Ministry of Immigration and Population grants the citizenship scrutiny cards to those who are eligible as citizens in accordance with the law under the Pan Khin project.

Moreover, the ministry is conducting the work programmes with three sections—making preparations for Pan Khin project during the public holidays, cooperating with partner organizations and raising public awareness programmes via media, said Union Minister U Khin Yi during a coordination meeting on e-ID Population Registry held yesterday.

He also said efforts will be made continuously to apply the international standard CSC.

Therefore, the government is trying hard to adopt the e-ID Population Registry systematically as the e-ID system is the most basic function of e-Government system.

The upgrade of CSC with e-ID system will be linked with the services provided by other departments for the public.

Then, Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing reported on the e-ID Population Registry related matters and the other officials presented the formation of sub-



Union Minister U Khin Yi discusses measures for e-ID Population Registry.

committee for e-ID system.

The Union Minister finally instructed those present to co-

operate with the experts and department concerned in drafting the plan to upgrade the CSC card

with e-ID system as it registers the personal data of individuals.—MNA

Experimental cultivation of cauliflower succeeds in Wuntho

THE local villagers from Letpangyi village, Wuntho township, Sagaing region are growing cauliflowers on a trial basis after harvesting the paddy and their cultivation has succeeded.

Letpangyi village is located on Kawlin-Wuntho road and the villagers are growing the crops using the water supplied by Namhlaing dam.

“Last year, about 5,000 acres of summer cauliflower plants were grown on a trial basis. Although the price of cauliflower was good, the growers were losing about K 300,000 for growing cauliflower because of lower yield.

But, the growers cultivated again at the cauliflower nursery plants for 90 days on a trial basis in February

2021. This time, they cultivated it using a sprinkler system. Its cultivation costs over K 500,000 in acre. Currently, the price of cauliflowers is ranging K450-K600 per one depending upon the quality and size.

The growers are having a daily income of K 5,000 and making a profit of over K 900,000 for growing 9,000

plants,” said U Myint Lwin, a cauliflower grower from Letpangyi village.

The growers from Letpangyi village are also cultivating other crops such as cabbage, long bean, tomato, bottle gourd and pumpkin. They are growing them yearly on a manageable scale and having the daily income from selling them.—Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)

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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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health
Order No 302/2021
12th Waxing of Wagaung 1383 ME
19 August 2021

THE Ministry of Health hereby announced the order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health has taken preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in real-time. Therefore, people from Kengtung Township of the Shan State need to stay at home due to the number of confirmed patients on the rise in this township.
2. Hence, the people residing in the Kengtung Township of Shan State are involved in the Stay-at-Home programme.
3. The people inclusive of the Stay-at-Home programme of the township need to abide by the following disciplines: -
 - (a) Reside at their homes only;
 - (1) except for service personnel serving at government departments;
 - (2) except for those serving without fail at private firms such as filling stations, foodstuffs and livestock and fishery, cold storage, medicine and medical equipment production and distribution, purified water production and sales, factories of manufacturing daily personal goods and related industries;
 - (3) except for staff from communication service providers such as post services, line phones and mobile phone communication services, internet services (exclusive of sales of telephone and data at shops), tower and fibre maintenance services;
 - (b) relevant region and state governments to issue necessary orders and directives and supervision for prevention of COVID-19 infection at CMP factories and workshops;
 - (c) organizations and companies to perform their works from homes;
 - (d) one person from each house to go out shopping;
 - (e) only two persons per house to go to hospitals and clinics;
 - (f) wear masks if they go outside the houses;
 - (g) allow ferries and registered vehicles only to transport returnees from workplaces to pass the wards;
 - (h) allow one person only in addition to the driver in a vehicle for shopping in the ward and two persons except for the driver to go to hospitals or clinics;
 - (i) abide by the standard operating procedures (SOP) for trucks to ensure smooth flow of commodities in the township;
4. People need to inform relevant ward/village administration bodies about seeking approvals to go outside the houses if they have reasons to raise the limited number of participants in the measures and other emergency issues mentioned in subparagraphs (d), (e) and (h) of Paragraph 3. The relevant administrative bodies need not allow ingoing and outgoing persons, except for officials and those returnees from duty.
5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by the order under the existing laws.
6. The order came into force at 4 am on 20-8-2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

Medical supplies, equipment imported as planned on public holidays

THE Ministry of Commerce is working hard to ensure people have access to essential medical supplies which are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, arranging the continuous importation on public holidays.

Yesterday, a total of 739 oxygen concentrators and 6,760 test kits were imported via airways at the Yangon International Airport. In addition, 38 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 10 tonnes of liquid oxygen cylinders, 8,640 empty oxygen containers, one oxygen plant, 1,090 home oxygen concentrators, 4,400 PPE suits



Packed medical supplies on cargo trucks lead to regions and states.



and 15 tonnes of masks were imported through border trade points and sea ports.

A total of 1,025 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 257 tonnes of liquid oxygen cylinders, 72 tonnes of oxygen cylinders, 12 liquid oxygen storage containers, six oxygen distributors, 129,840 tonnes of empty oxygen containers, 33 oxygen plants, two oxygen refills, 11 oxygen generators, 81,427 home oxygen concentrators, 157,808 test kits, 551,065 PPE suits, 83 tonnes of gloves and 1,293 tonnes of masks have

been imported by far in August.

Of 91 bowsers carrying liquid oxygen imported between 1 July and 19 August, 68 of them were distributed to Yangon, 15 to Mandalay, two to Bago, four to Mawlamyine, one each to Thaton and Tnanbyuzayat respectively.

Among 41 oxygen plants, 11 were transported to Yangon, five to Lashio, four to Bago, two to Pakokku, three to Kyaukpadaung,

four to Mandalay, two to Hpa-an, two to Mawlamyine, two to Hpa-an, one each to Taunggyi, Thanbyuzayat, Magway, Dawei, Wakema, Myittha, Mogaung and Kyaukdaga respectively.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is allowing the importation of COVID-19 devices in accordance with the SOP priority negotiated by relevant departments, and announcements related to the imports of medical supplies and equipment are posted on commerce.gov.mm.—MNA



A vehicle is loaded with medical equipment and accessories.

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

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.

Livestock product prices likely to go up as feed prices incessantly increase



Fishermen capture fish in fish farm.

THE prices of livestock-based products are likely to go up as the feed prices are increasing incessantly, according to Mawlamyine commodity depot.

Most of the livestock businesses in Mon State have suffered losses due to plunging in tourists and consumption since the first wave of COVID-19, and rising feed prices since February.

With rising prices of feeds from K24,000 to K32,500 per bag, the production cost have risen, likewise the product prices have also mounted.

Besides, the live-

stock-based products have climbed slightly since the second week of July due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the need for medical nutrition.

On 30 July, the price of chicken egg rose to K130 per one while the duck egg jumped to K150 per one. Besides, the price of chicken has risen to K5000 per viss (1.6 kilograms or 3.6 pounds).

The price of house chicken eggs has also significantly increased K600-K800 per one.

The price of live-

stock-based products has mounted. This is not because of the wholesaler, but because of rising prices in local retail market.

National Enlightenment Institute (NEI) finds out that the chicken egg in the retail market is ranging K180-K200 per one.

The price of livestock-based products is likely to rise if the feed price continuously mounted.

Consequently, the livestock entrepreneurs may be difficult to stand for any further in their livestock industry.—NN/GNLM

Upgraded Marle Nattaung dam to irrigate more than 3,200 acres of monsoon crops this year in Singu

MORE than 3,200 acres of monsoon crops will be irrigated from the Marle Nattaung dam in Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Region starting from the third week of this month.

The Marle Nattaung dam received 17,282 acre feet of water in July and August and the water level reached RL-428.40 feet while the water level of the dam is RL-443.

Of 24,455 acre feet of the current water storage of the dam, 17,045 acre feet of water will be provided to a total of 3,285 monsoon crops this year.

The upgrade work has already done to the dam in order to provide enough irrigation water for the farmers.

The Assistant Director of the Department of Irrigation and Water Resources Management

Department for Mandalay Region urged farmers to use water sparingly so that they could use the water comfortably without wastage.

The irrigation water from the dam will be provided in each season, he added.

The inflow of rain water will be stored in the dam during this rainy season and arrangement will be made to continue to provide the irrigation water for summer crops.

As the dam is systematically upgraded, 6,500 acres of irrigated areas in nearby villages including Marle village, Nattaung village, Latpan village, Singu and Ngwetaung villages will be fully provided with the irrigation water from the dam, it is reported. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM

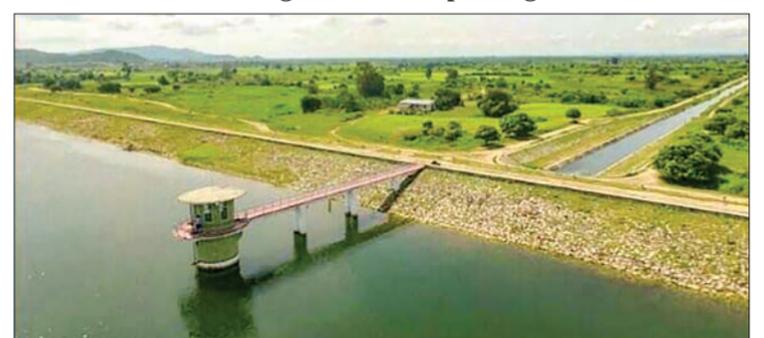


Photo shows panoramic view of Marle Nattaung Dam in Singu Township.

Imports down nearly by 25 per cent this FY, MoC reports

THE value of Myanmar's imports in the past ten months (Oct-July) of the current financial year 2020-2021 sank to nearly 25 per cent compared to the same corresponding period of last FY, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The import value stood at US\$12.25 billion, a sharp drop of over \$4 billion from \$16.28 billion registered in the year-ago period.

The value of imports in the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses groups declined in the current FY. The drop in foreign direct investment this year negatively affected the trade.

In the past ten months, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel ware, and airplane parts were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$4 billion. The figure was over \$2.139 billion lower than those value registered in the same period of the previous FY.



Worker are producing products at garment factory.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth \$2.67 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed a slight decrease of \$183 million compared

with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up the second largest share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import

items. This year, imports of raw materials plunged to \$4.25 billion from \$5.4 billion registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth over \$1.28 billion were also imported for

the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector, showing a decrease of \$557.8 million compared with last fiscal year.

At present, the CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling owing to cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of trade by western countries amid the COVID-19. Therefore, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses have been dropping.

At the present time, the traders have transaction problem triggered by the restriction of the private banks. Furthermore, the pandemic triggered the cargo shipping crisis, a market observer shared his opinion.

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. — KH/GNLM

MCCPMD calls for pharmaceutical import companies to exhibit medical supplies



Pharmacy companies display medical supplies at exhibition.

PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

THE Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical & Medical Device (MCCPMD) invited the pharmaceutical import companies for the second time to display the medical supplies under the pharmaceuticals retail and wholesale programme on 18 August.

The second expo is planned to be located at Myanmar International Convention Centre at the corner of Merchant Street and Bo Sun Pak Road in Pabedan Township.

This move aims to provide the quality and safe products with Drug Registration Certificate issued by Food and Drug Administration Department. People can

buy all the COVID-19 related medical supplies at one place.

The first expo is open from Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at No.104/108 on Strand Road, Ahlon Township, Yangon. About 30 pharma companies exhibited starting from 16 August.

Those who want to join the second expo can contact the mobile phone of the MCCPMD: 09403366882 and 09403366883.

In a bid to import the essential pharmaceuticals and medical devices from India, India reopened the cross-border traffic to Myanmar. Myanmar's Tamu border trade hub resumed operations starting from 2 August,

MCCMPD stated.

The import value of Myanmar pharmaceutical products was estimated at US\$343.78 million in the eight months (Oct-May) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

Myanmar imports 90 per cent of medicine and medical products through foreign markets.

India is the main supplier for Myanmar. Also, it is imported by Bangladesh, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, China (Taipei), Thailand, US and Viet Nam.

Trade has returned to normalcy after panic buying during the coronavirus pandemic. At present, pharmaceutical import is regularly flowing. However, the prices of pharmaceuticals were up by 5 to 10 per cent owing to the Kyat depreciation. The COVID-19 related medical devices including surgical masks and pulse oximeter are highly demanded in the country amid the COVID-19 surging cases.

The Ministry of Commerce has removed the red tape for imports of some pharmaceuticals which have been earlier imported.—KK/GNLM

Sagaing Region expects to meet target of corn sown acreage by September

SAGAING Region Agriculture Department projected to plant 248,344 acres of corn in the region during the monsoon crop season this year.

"The cultivation of sweet corn and baby corn started in June. At present, 201,443 acres of sweet corn and 45,908 acres of baby corn have been planted. The projected acres will be completed by September 2021," said U Aung Kyi Win, deputy head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

The region department covered 10,427 acres of sweet corn in Kalay District, 570 acres in Hkamti, 18,763 acres in Naga Self-Administered Zone, 1,625 acres in Monywa District, 12,016 acres in Shwebo District, 154,253 acres in Kanbalu District, 2,908 acres in Sagaing Region, 836

acres in Katha District and 45 acres in Kawlin District.

Additionally, 480 acres of baby corn in Mawlaik District, 595 acres in Tamu District, 6,007 acres in Kalay, 4,462 acres in Naga Self-Administered Zone, 626 acres in Monywa District, 17,677 acres in Yinmabin District, 11,434 acres in Shwebo District, 669 acres in Kanbalu District, 212 acres in Sagaing Region, 2,228 acres in Katha District and 1,518 acres in Kawlin District, as per the data of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

The department is raising awareness of fall armyworm invasion in the farms. It distributed 5,000 insecticide units for natural pest management, the department stated.—Lulay/GNLM



Baby corn plants are thriving in the farm.

Stand by for preventing natural disasters the whole rainy season

MONSOON is a season in which many kinds of natural disasters may fall in Myanmar because the country is teeming with various sizes of water sources such as rivers, creeks, lakes and ponds.

Disaster prone countries need to make preparations for preventive measures and preparedness to encounter the natural disasters and consequences. As Myanmar takes a position with long coastal areas close to the Andaman Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Mottama, natural disasters based on water and wind may enter the country's territory easily.

Hence, it is necessary to take disaster preventive measures, hold rehearsals in the disasters with participation of local people and carry out preparedness for rescue and searching in the events. Generally, Myanmar faces the monsoon-related disasters such as flesh flood, landslides, bank erosion, heavy rain, storm, overflow of rivers and creeks, inundation, etc.

Service personnel from the relevant departments and organizations should join hands with volunteers in conducting the rescue and searching for victims of natural disasters and carry out relief and rehabilitation processes. To do so, they perform their tasks at risk of their lives. Their families wait for them to return home safely. Whenever disasters hit, the authorities need to manage for rescue and search for the victims with least casualty.

These disasters bring negative impacts to the society such as damage of crop plantations, food and shelter problems of the people, collapses of buildings and bridges, loss of property, death of people and farming cattle and falls of trees. No event benefits the society. If so, how do we overcome such challenges?

The rescue and searching teams should be formed before the monsoon. Not to be concerned about basic needs of their families, the participants from the rescue and searching teams should be provided necessary aid. They should be camped with necessary facilities to be funded by the State the whole monsoon season for standing by to defy the natural disasters.

In fact, the voluntary task to rescue and search for the lives and losses in the natural disasters can be said as meritorious deeds designed to protect lives of the people in such bitter experiences. Hence, those volunteers and rescuers are deserved to honour as ideals of the society.

In fact, the voluntary task to rescue and search for the lives and losses in the natural disasters can be said as meritorious deeds designed to protect lives of the people in such bitter experiences. Hence, those volunteers and rescuers are deserved to honour as ideals of the society.

WHO slams wealthy nations' rush towards Covid booster shots while millions worldwide lack first jab

The World Health Organization condemned Wednesday the rush by wealthy countries to provide Covid vaccine booster shots, while millions around the world have yet to receive a single dose.

SPEAKING before US authorities announced that all vaccinated Americans would soon be eligible to receive additional doses, WHO experts insisted there was not enough scientific evidence that boosters were needed and said providing them while so many were still waiting to be immunised was immoral.

"We're planning to hand out extra life jackets to people who already have life jackets, while we're leaving other people to drown without a single life jacket," WHO's emergency director Mike Ryan told reporters from the UN agency's Geneva headquarters.

"The fundamental, ethical reality is we're handing out second life jackets while leaving millions and millions of people without anything to protect them."

WHO called earlier this



A young man waits in front of a testing station in Berlin's Mitte district amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: TOBIAS SCHWARZ/ AFP

month for a moratorium on Covid vaccine booster shots to help ease the drastic inequity in dose distribution between rich and poor

nations. But that has not stopped a number of countries from moving forward with plans to add a third

jab, as they struggle to thwart the Delta variant.

US authorities warned Wednesday that Covid-19 vaccination efficacy was decreasing over time, and said they had authorised booster shots for all Americans from September 20 starting eight months after an individual has been fully vaccinated.

The officials said that while the vaccines remain "remarkably effective" in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalisation and death from the effects of Covid, protection could diminish in the months ahead without boosted immunisation.

Washington had already authorised an extra dose for people with weakened immune systems.

Israel has also begun administering third doses to Israelis aged 50 and over.

'Shame on all humanity'

But WHO experts insisted that the science was still out on boosters and stressed that ensuring that people in low-income countries where vaccination is lagging received jabs was far more important. "What is clear is that it's critical to get first shots into arms and protect the most vulnerable before boosters are rolled out," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told Wednesday's press conference.

"The divide between the haves and have nots will only grow larger if manufacturers and leaders prioritise booster shots over supply to low- and middle-income countries," he said.

"The virus is evolving and it is not in the best interests of leaders just to focus on narrow nationalistic goals when we live in

an interconnected world and the virus is mutating quickly."

Tedros voiced outrage at reports that the single-dose J&J vaccine currently being filled and finished in South Africa was being shipped for use in Europe "where virtually all adults have been offered vaccines at this point".

"We urge J&J to urgently prioritise distribution of their vaccines to Africa before considering supplies to rich countries that already have sufficient access," he said.

"Vaccine injustice is a shame on all humanity and if we don't tackle it together, we will prolong the acute stage of this pandemic for years when it could be over in a matter of months."

SOURCE: AFP

New Zealand says it has solved Covid outbreak 'puzzle'

New Zealand reported a breakthrough Thursday in tracing the source of a Covid-19 outbreak that plunged the nation into lockdown, with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern saying it should help "stamp out" the virus.

NEW ZEALAND reported a breakthrough Thursday in tracing the source of a Covid-19 outbreak that plunged the nation into lockdown, with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern saying it should help "stamp out" the virus.

Health officials have been trying to determine how an Auckland man contracted the coronavirus this week, ending a six-month run of no community cases in New Zealand.

Tests showed the man had a version of the Delta strain found in Australia, and Ardern said investigations narrowed down the origin to a person who arrived from Sydney on August 7.

She said the traveller had been in quarantine and hospital since touching down, indicating the virus had not been in the community as long as initially feared.

"We believe we have uncovered the piece of the puzzle we were looking for," Ardern told reporters. She said finding the out-

break's source also increased the "ability to circle the virus, lock it down and stamp it out".

Case numbers grew by 11 overnight to a total of 21, she said. Ardern ordered a three-day national lockdown -- New Zealand's first in 15 months -- when the first case emerged on Tuesday, with Auckland and nearby Coromandel facing restrictions for a week.

"We're all prepared for cases to get worse before they get better; that's always the pattern in these outbreaks," she said.

But she said there were grounds for cautious optimism "because we believe it wasn't here for long before it was found".

The infected traveller arrived from Sydney on a so-called "red zone" flight, arranged to bring back New Zealanders stranded when Wellington suspended a trans-Tasman travel bubble due to multiple outbreaks in Australia.

The person tested positive two days later and was hospital-

ised a week after that.

Officials said it was still unclear how the virus spread into the community and 1,000 close contacts of positive cases were being assessed.

A decision is due Friday on whether the three-day lockdown will be extended or end by Saturday.

'Covid zero' strategy

New Zealand has adopted a policy of eliminating the virus in the community, rather than containing it, which has resulted in only 26 deaths in a population of five million.

Neighbouring Australia has been pursuing a similar "Covid zero" strategy, but is struggling to contain outbreaks of the Delta variant. Health authorities on Thursday urged mass Covid testing for an entire Outback town in far western New South Wales, where an outbreak that began in Sydney two months ago is spreading. The area is grappling with



New Zealand motorists queue at the Otago testing station after a positive Covid-19 coronavirus case was reported in the community, as Auckland entered a three-day lockdown on 14 Feb, 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Australia's first significant outbreak in Aboriginal communities, with specialist military health teams deployed this week to boost sluggish vaccination efforts.

Early in the pandemic, Wilcannia's roughly 750 residents put up signs on the town's limits asking travellers not to stop -- fearing the virus could obliterate an already

vulnerable community, where more than 60 percent identify as Indigenous.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Aung Tin Soe, Director-General of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department under the Union Civil Service Board, concurrently as Permanent Secretary of the same board.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary U Soe Min Tun of Union Minister Office (Religious Affairs) of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture as Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duty.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 19 August 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 20th August, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 -7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Warning (Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 19-8-2021)

ACCORDING to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Shwegu is observed as about (2½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin is observed as about (4½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Shwegu and Phaungpyin townships to take precaution measure.

UN biodiversity summit postponed to April 2022

THE face-to-face portion of a critical UN biodiversity summit originally slated for last year will be delayed until April 2022, UN officials said Wednesday, citing the Covid pandemic.

An “official” virtual opening of the COP15 meeting hosted by China will take place in mid-October this year, followed by face-to-face negotiations in southern China’s Kunming from April 25 to May 8, 2022. Campaigners have for years called for an effective global agreement on halting biodiversity loss, similar to what the Paris Agreement lays out for climate change.

With more than one million species facing extinction and the world failing to meet existing nature preservation targets, the need for an accord among the nearly 200 nations taking part in the talks is pressing. Earlier this month, the UN unveiled a draft agreement for the summit calling for the preservation of at least 30 per cent of land and oceans, along with other biodiversity targets.

The fruit of months of online discussions, the draft mapped out the route for humanity to be “living in harmony with nature” by 2050. The draft outlined 21 targets and 10 “milestones” to be hit by 2030 to preserve biodiversity. These include restoring at least 20 per cent of degraded ecosystems and ensuring that existing intact wild areas are retained. At least 30 per cent of land and marine species should also be protected through conservation areas, the draft proposed.

The framework also called for more sustainable farming and fishing practices, including a two-thirds reduction in pesticide use, as well as “eliminating the discharge of plastic waste”.

“Addressing the challenge of halting ongoing losses of species and genetic diversity and the damage to our ecosystems will determine the well-being of humanity for generations to come,” UN biodiversity chief Elizabeth Maruma Mrema said after Wednesday’s announcement.—AFP

By chance, ozone treaty prevented ‘scorched Earth’ climate

A 1987 treaty to repair a thin layer of ozone in the atmosphere that shields life on Earth from cancer-causing ultraviolet rays probably had the unintended benefit of preventing runaway climate change, even if that danger persists for other reasons, researchers said Wednesday.

If the Montreal Protocol had not banned the manmade gases that dissolve naturally occurring ozone, by 2100 they would have heated up the planet’s surface 2.5 degrees Celsius above-and-beyond warming caused by the carbon pollution humanity is struggling to curb today, they reported in the journal *Nature*.

An increase of barely 1C since the mid-19th century has seen climate change amplify deadly heatwaves, rainfall and coastal storms made more destructive by rising seas.

Even if nations manage against all odds to cap global warming below the Paris Agree-



CFCs and other molecules have mainly eroded ozone in the upper stratosphere, and over the poles. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL/PIXABAY/AFP

ment goal of 1.5C, the extra heat avoided thanks to the ozone treaty would have created an unlivable 4C world, the modelling study suggests.

It was already understood that the outlawed CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) would have added roughly 1.5 degrees to the global thermometer had they been allowed to further proliferate.

Besides their corrosive effect

on the ozone layer, CFCs — widely used in the 1970s and 1980s as a refrigerant — are also a potent greenhouse gas that traps heat up to 10,000 times more efficiently than carbon dioxide.

But what researchers have neglected to investigate until now is the impact that extra UV radiation would have had on nature’s capacity to absorb greenhouse gases.—AFP ■

African scientists call for policy shift to attain biodiversity targets

THE attainment of biodiversity restoration targets agreed by the international community, governments and donors will be realized subject to policy reforms, sufficient funding and greater community involvement, African scientists said in a study released in Nairobi on Tuesday.

According to the study titled “Integrating biodiversity targets from local to global levels”, there is an urgency to reshape poli-

cies and legislation governing the conservation of habitats, ensuring they are people-centered and inclusive.

The study called for action on social and economic drivers of biodiversity loss, adding that strengthening the resilience of local communities should run concurrently with the conservation of habitats.

David Obura, lead author of the study and Director at Coastal

Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO East Africa), said conserving biodiversity hotspots should aim at sustaining livelihoods and boosting climate resilience at the grassroots.

Obura said that subsistence farmers, pastoralists and indigenous people should be involved in restoring pristine landscapes that are a source of water, food, fiber and timber.—Xinhua ■



Campaigners have for years called for an effective global agreement on halting biodiversity loss, similar to what the Paris Agreement lays out for climate. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China villagers learn to live with the elephant in the room

Ma Mingliang rarely encountered wild elephants while growing up in southwestern China, after centuries of hunting and deforestation nearly eradicated them. Today, the 42-year-old village chief barricades his community to keep them out.

Ma Mingliang rarely encountered wild elephants while growing up in southwestern China, after centuries of hunting and deforestation nearly eradicated them. Today, the 42-year-old village chief barricades his community to keep them out. A wan-

dering herd of Asian elephants has captivated China for more than a year with a remarkable trek northwards through farms and cities hundreds of kilometres from their normal range in Yunnan province. But an elephant in the street is now a common sight for residents of the animals’ home territory on the Myanmar-Laos border, where a recovering elephant population is being squeezed into ever-shrinking habitat, leading to more conflict with humans. The tension is immediately apparent

in Ma’s village in Xishuangbanna, a subtropical prefecture the size of a small country where China’s elephant population congregates. The neatly ordered homes of the little community, called Xiangyanqing, climb up a gently sloping hillside, dotted by signs promoting human-elephant “harmony” and encircled by a steel fence separating it from adjacent jungle.

The village of rubber-tappers is entered through a wide steel gate that clangs shut at night, when hunger activates the elephants.—AFP ■



A wandering herd of Asian elephants has captivated China for more than a year with a remarkable trek northwards through farms and cities hundreds of kilometres from their normal range in Yunnan province. PHOTO: YUNNAN PROVINCIAL COMMAND OF THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS OF THE MIGRATING ASIAN ELEPHANTS/AFP

Pope urges people to get Covid-19 jabs 'as act of love'

POPE Francis said getting the coronavirus vaccine was "an act of love" Wednesday, as the head of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics joined a campaign to boost confidence in Covid-19 jabs.

"Thanks to God and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19," Francis said in a message for the US-based "It's Up to You" initiative. "They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and

if we work together," he said in the video, aimed at communities disproportionately affected by the virus in North, Central and South America. "Being vaccinated — is an act of love," the 84-year old said.

"And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love. Love for oneself, love for one's family and friends, love for all people".

Coronavirus has killed at least 4,370,427 people since the

outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data.

Despite mass vaccine campaigns, conspiracy theories and distrust of governments or pharmaceuticals are fuelling transmission of the virus. In the US, the worst-affected country in terms of Covid-19 deaths, the vast majority of new fatalities and serious cases are among the unvaccinated. Francis was joined by cardinals and archbishops



Vatican City's gigantic square, the St. Peter's Square. PHOTO: AFP

from Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Peru for the campaign by the Ad Council and COVID Collaborative and the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development.—AFP ■

Israel tightens restrictions as virus cases leap

NEW restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of Covid took effect in Israel on Wednesday, after the largely vaccinated country saw the highest daily infection rate since January.

The measures, announced Sunday, require vaccination certificates or negative coronavirus tests to enter a range of public spaces, including restaurants and bars, cultural and sports venues, hotels and gyms, the health ministry said.

The same applies to worshippers wishing to enter synagogues, mosques or churches with more than 50 people in attendance.

In addition, the capacity of stores, shopping malls and industrial parks will be limited to one person per seven square metres (75 square feet).

In recent weeks, the state has begun administering booster shots to Israelis aged 50 and over,



New restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of Covid took effect in Israel on Wednesday, after the largely vaccinated country saw the highest daily infection rate since January. PHOTO: AFP

while urging anyone aged 12 and older to get vaccinated. About one million Israelis have not been vaccinated even though they are eligible. According to the health ministry, more than 8,700 people tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday, the highest number for

a single day since January.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has been imploring Israelis to get vaccinated, warning of a possible lockdown that could affect the Jewish high holidays next month unless inoculation numbers rise.—AFP ■

Covid-19 statistics and data from around the world

THE novel coronavirus has killed at least 4,381,911 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019.

At least 208,545,350 cases of coronavirus have been registered. The vast majority have recovered, though some have continued to experience symptoms or even months later.

The figures are based on daily reports provided by health authorities in each country.

They exclude revisions made by other statistical organisations, which show that the

number of deaths is much higher.

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

A large number of the less severe or asymptomatic cases also remain undetected, despite intensified testing in many countries. On Tuesday, 10,906 new deaths and 637,703 new cases were recorded worldwide.

Based on latest reports, the

countries with the most new deaths were Indonesia with 1,128, followed by Brazil with 1,106 and United States with 998.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 623,322 deaths from 37,017,859 cases. After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 570,598 deaths from 20,416,183 cases, India with 432,519 deaths from 32,285,857 cases, Mexico with 249,529 deaths from 3,123,252 cases, and Peru with 197,539 deaths from 2,135,827 cases.—AFP ■

Spectator ban no barrier for Paralympics: IPC chief

HAVING no fans at the Tokyo Paralympics will be "a challenge", IPC chief Andrew Parsons said Wednesday, but he is confident the event will reach "more people than ever before".

The Paralympics are set to open behind closed doors on Tuesday, after organisers decided this week to follow the Olympics' example in banning spectators over virus fears.

Japan is currently battling record coronavirus infections, with Tokyo and other parts of the country under a state of emergency.

International Paralympic Committee president Parsons told AFP the decision to ban spectators will have "an impact that we cannot minimise", but he believes a global TV audience will still put the Paralympics centre stage.

"Of course, the fact that we will not have spectators

at the venues is a challenge, but we believe we will reach more than four billion people through broadcasting," he said.

"So we still believe the reach of these Games will be incredible. We will reach more nations and more people than ever before."

The Games come with virus cases surging across Japan. More than 20,000 new daily infections have been recorded in recent days, driven by the more contagious Delta variant.

Japan's government has insisted the Paralympics will be held safely and that it remains committed to hosting them.

Around 4,400 athletes are expected to take part in the event, and like their Olympic counterparts they will face daily testing and restrictions on their movement.—AFP ■



Around 4,400 athletes are expected to take part in the Tokyo Paralympics, which open on August 24. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Britain's legal cannabis market booms on Covid demand

BRITAIN'S legal cannabis market has boomed during the coronavirus pandemic to become the second biggest after the United States, as consumers rushed to alleviate Covid-linked symptoms, industry experts say.

Cannabidiol or CBD, which is most commonly sold as oil at high street retailers, is one of the active ingredients of non-psychoactive cannabis.

CBD is touted as have relaxing and anti-inflammatory properties, but experts argue the market has long suffered from questions about its efficacy and a lack of regulation.

Britain's Food Standards Agency now regulates the sector and its marketing, after the European Union classified CBD as food in 2019.

Such products will generate sales of £690 million (\$856 million, 811 million euros) in 2021, according to the Association for the Cannabinoid Industry (ACI).

That was almost a third higher than the UK trade group's pre-pandemic 2019 projection.

- 'Pandemic increased demand' -

"The pandemic increased CBD demand because there obviously were stress, sleep problems, anxiety, these kind of risks," ACI co-founder Steve Moore told AFP.

Britain has experienced a "quiet cannabis revolution" that has transformed it into "the world's second largest consumer cannabinoids market", ACI said.—AFP ■

S.Korea's earned, business incomes grow in Q2

SOUTH Korea's earned and business incomes grew in the second quarter despite the fall in gross income, caused by the lower transfer income from the government, statistical office data showed Thursday.

The monthly average income for households with at least one family member, which include farming families, stood at 4,287,000 won (3,640 U.S. dollars) during the April-June quarter, down 0.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to Statistics Korea.

It was the first reduction in four years since the second quarter of 2017, marking the fastest decline since the fourth quarter of 2016.

Earned and business incomes increased amid the economic recovery, but the combined income shrank on the back of the lower transfer income.

Transfer income tumbled 28.6 per cent over the year to 617,000 won (520 U.S. dollars) in the second quarter, logging the highest fall since data began to be compiled in 2006.

The public transfer income dropped 37.1 percent to 421,000 won (360 U.S. dollars). During the same quarter of last year, the public transfer income more than doubled as the government provided relief checks for all households to tackle the economic downturn from the COVID-19 pandemic.—Xinhua ■

Sri Lanka raises rates as rupee falls to record low



Sri Lanka banned a wide range of imports, including vehicles as well as industrial raw materials and machinery since March last year. PHOTO: LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI /AFP/FILE

SRI LANKA'S central bank raised interest rates for the first time in nearly three years Thursday as the rupee hit a record low amid a crippling foreign exchange shortage.

With the country of 21 million already facing shortages of

imported cooking gas and sugar because of the lack of dollars, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka increased its deposit and lending rates by 50 basis points to 5.0 per cent and 6.0 per cent respectively.

The bank said the move was to counter "imbalances" as the

rupee falls against the dollar "and to preempt the buildup of any excessive inflationary pressures".

The rupee fell to 216.55 to the dollar — its lowest ever level — despite the central bank urging currency traders not to allow the local currency to fall below 202.

The government had reduced rates after the coronavirus pandemic hit last year in hope of bolstering the economy.

But Sri Lanka still recorded its worst recession in decades, with the economy shrinking 3.6 per cent as tourist arrivals collapsed and with its foreign currency receipts.

Sri Lanka's foreign reserves fell to \$2.8 billion at the end of July, from \$7.5 billion in November 2019 when the government took office.

The rupee has lost nearly 20 percent of its value against the US dollar in that time, according to data from private banks.—AFP ■

Senators urge US probe of Tesla's Autopilot claims

TWO US senators requested a federal investigation of Tesla's statements about its Autopilot driver assistance system Wednesday, asserting in the wake of multiple crashes that the automaker's exaggerations have put consumers at risk.

The letter to the Federal Trade Commission concerning "Tesla's misleading advertising" comes two days after another federal agency launched a probe into Autopilot. Tesla and Chief Executive Elon Musk's "repeated overstatements of the vehicles' capabilities — despite clear and frequent warnings — demonstrate a deeply concerning disregard for the safety of those on the road and require real ac-

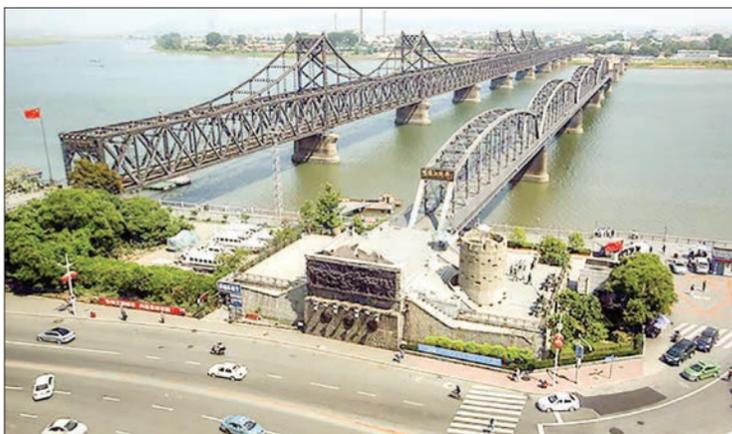


A Tesla Model S P85d. PHOTO: AFP

countability," Democratic senators Richard Blumenthal and Ed Markey wrote. "We urge you to swiftly open an investigation into Tesla's repeated and overstated claims about their Autopilot and

Full Self-Driving features and take appropriate enforcement action to prevent further injury or death as a result of any Tesla feature," they said in the letter to FTC Chair Lina Khan.—AFP ■

China's trade with N. Korea rises about 50% in July amid food crisis



A bird's view of the Yalu River which runs on the borderline between China and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is seen in this photo taken in May of 2015. PHOTO: CFP/XINHUA

CHINA'S trade with North Korea rose 48 per cent from a month earlier to \$20.92 million in July, the government said Wednesday, as the country under leader Kim Jong Un has been hit by a severe food crisis.

Last month, however, the total value of China's trade with North Korea plunged around 90 per cent from July 2019, when their borders were open, according to the Chinese General Administration of Customs.

North Korea has cut off land traffic to and from its neighbors

since early 2020 amid concern that the novel coronavirus, first detected in China's central city of Wuhan in late 2019, could intrude into the nation. But North Korea, which has been suffering an economic slump, has apparently imported goods from China by ship recently, given that land transportation between the two countries has not been confirmed as Kim has been stepping up anti-epidemic measures.

At a ruling party meeting in June, meanwhile, Kim said the food situation in the nation was

"getting tense," as North Korea's agricultural sector was devastated by powerful typhoons and flooding last year.

North Korea also said in a report to the United Nations this year that it had faced its worst food crisis in more than a decade, sparking fears that its citizens have encountered serious difficulties in obtaining daily essentials.

Beijing is known as Pyongyang's closest and most influential ally in economic terms. North Korea depends on China for over 90 per cent of its trade.—Kyodo ■

Chip crunch forces Toyota to cut Sept production by 40%: report



Toyota will cut auto production by 40 percent in September as the global chip shortage hits its supply chain, Japan's Nikkei daily said Thursday. PHOTO: KYODO

TOYOTA will cut auto production by 40 percent in September as the global chip shortage hits its supply chain, Japan's Nikkei daily said Thursday.

The world's largest automaker had planned to build just under 900,000 vehicles next month, but this has been revised to around 500,000, the Nikkei said, without citing

sources. The spread of the more infectious Delta coronavirus variant in Southeast Asia has also impacted Toyota's procurement of parts, ac-

ording to the Nikkei. Toyota had no immediate comment.

The Japanese giant's rivals have also been forced to slow or temporarily halt production due to the chip shortage.

Microchips are essential for the electronics systems of modern cars, and have been in short supply since the end of last year.

When the pandemic hit, carmakers scaled back orders and chipmakers shifted output to consumer electronics as people splurged on equipment to work and relax at home -- leaving automakers in a tight situation as demand for vehicles picked up.—AFP ■

U.S. cryptocurrency bourse Coinbase enters Japanese market

MAJOR U.S. cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase Global Inc. started operating in Japan on Thursday, its local arm said, as virtual currency investing intensifies in response to the impacts of monetary easing policies implemented to cushion the global economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

The entry into the Japanese market by Coinbase K.K., which directly sells and buys major cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and ethereum based on customer orders as well

as facilitating transactions, is expected to intensify competition among similar bourse operators including the Tokyo-based bitFlyer Inc. and Coincheck Inc. "We aim to enhance recognition that crypto asset transactions are safe and secure," Nao Kitazawa, president of Coinbase K.K., told an online press conference.

Those who have accounts with major Japanese commercial bank MUFG Bank can make deposits and withdrawals of cryptocurrencies at

Coinbase online, according to the company.

The subsidiary of Coinbase began preparing for entry into the world's third-largest economy in 2018 and was registered on the Japanese Financial Services Agency's list of crypto asset bourses in June, the firm said.

Large-scale stimulus packages and monetary easing measures by Japan, the United States and Europe to ease the economic fallout from the pandemic have been increasing interest in



Major U.S. cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase Global Inc. started operating in Japan on Thursday, its local arm said, as virtual currency investing intensifies in response to the impacts of monetary easing policies implemented to cushion the global economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: RAFAEL HENRIQUE/SOPA IMAGES/LIGHTROCKET/KYODO

cryptocurrencies as many investors look to hedge against the risk of rising inflation.—Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court approves seizure of S. Korean company payment to M'bishi Heavy

A team of lawyers representing South Koreans who won damages from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. for their wartime forced labor said Wednesday a local court has approved the seizure and collection of a payment intended for the Japanese company so that compensation can be provided to the plaintiffs.

The Suwon District Court on Aug. 12 approved the legal move concerning the 850 million won (\$723,000) that South Korean company LS Mtron Ltd. owes to Mitsubishi Heavy after the Japanese company continued to ignore the November 2018 South Korean Supreme Court ruling against it, according to the lawyers. The legal team already secured the seizure of rights to some trademarks and patents owned by Mitsubishi Heavy in South Korea and asked a court in July 2019 to sell off those assets to compensate the plaintiffs, but no liquidation order has been issued. Even if such an order is issued, Mitsubishi Heavy can request a stay of execution, meaning it could take a fair amount of time to actually see the assets liquidated. The ruling against Mitsubishi Heavy and a similar top court ruling against Nippon Steel Corp. in October 2018 as well as subsequent legal moves have strained bilateral ties. Japan's top government spokesman on Thursday reiterated Tokyo's stance that issues relating to property and claims stemming from Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945 were resolved in a 1965 bilateral agreement.—AFP ■

Soken Chemical to triple acrylic adhesive output capacity in China

Soken Chemical & Engineering Co. will triple its output capacity for acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesives at its plant in Nanjing to meet growing demand amid the intensive production of liquid crystal displays and related products in China.

Tokyo-based Soken said Tuesday that its fully owned subsidiary, Soken High-tech Material (Nanjing) Co., will add two new production units by June next year and another unit in April 2023 to the existing plant where two production units are now in operation.

Referring to the third new unit, Soken said it will invest 64 million yuan (about \$9.9 million) in the new unit whose construction will begin next month. Soken said it decided to swiftly boost its production capacity due to concerns about a possible medium-term supply shortage in light of the constant demand and capital investment among polarizing panel makers. — Kyodo News ■

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MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2020-2021)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-001(21-22)	14", 10", 4" HFERW API 5L Grade X-46, X-42 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (3) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-002(21-22)	Steel Ball Valve and Pipe Fitting (2) Groups	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-003(21-22)	Fire Fighting System for National Oil and Gas Information Center, Phase I, Nay Pyi Taw	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **20 August 2021** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 20 September 2021**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **20-9-2021, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V DANCEFLORA SW V.202103

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DANCEFLORA SW VOY.NO. (202103)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-8-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

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

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Australia voices caution on accepting Afghan refugees

AUSTRALIA on Wednesday said it had no plans to allow in tens of thousands of Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban, citing security concerns and casting doubt on promises from other Western nations.

Britain announced this week a resettlement scheme to let in up to 20,000 Afghans over the long term, with priority given to women, children and those facing persecution. Canada said last week it would take in up to 20,000 people.

Meanwhile Australia plans to provide Afghans with at least 3,000 visas over a year, Morrison said.

"I note that some are talking about figures of 20,000 but can I tell you there are no clear plans about that. Australia is not going into that territory," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told a news conference.—AFP ■

German man in dock for Christmas shopper car carnage

A German man will go on trial Thursday accused of killing five people including a baby when he rammed his car into shoppers in the southwestern city of Trier.

The 51-year-old is said to have been suffering from psychological problems and under the influence of alcohol when he sped down a pedestrian street in the run-up to last Christmas.

Alongside five murder charges, the man, whose name has not been released by authorities, faces 18 counts of attempted murder and another 14 of grievous bodily harm.

Judges in the city's regional court will determine whether the man, about whom little is known publicly, was wholly or partially responsible for the acts, owing to his known psychiatric issues. An expert evaluation prepared ahead of the trial determined that the accused suffers from psychosis, and according to police, could only give an approximate and sometimes contradictory account of events.—AFP ■

Hong Kongers plead guilty to 'national security' charge over sanction calls

TWO Hong Kongers accused of being part of a group that campaigned for international sanctions against China pleaded guilty under the city's national security law on Thursday in a case that is linked to jailed pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai.

Two Hong Kongers accused of being part of a group that campaigned for international sanctions against China pleaded guilty under the city's national security law on Thursday in a case that is linked to jailed pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai.

China imposed the sweeping security law on Hong Kong last year to wipe out dissent after the financial hub was rocked by huge and often violent democracy protests.

More than 130 people, including many of the city's best-



Hong Kong is on China's southern coast, 60 km (37 mi) east of Macau, on the east side of the mouth of the Pearl River estuary. PHOTO: XINHUA/LO PING FAI

known democracy advocates, have since been arrested under the law.

Democracy activist Andy Li, 31, and paralegal Chan Tsz-

wah, 30, admitted to a charge of "colluding with foreign forces to endanger China's national security" on Thursday.

Prosecutors said they were

part of a group that organised the publishing of adverts and articles in overseas newspapers calling for sanctions against China.—AFP ■

Afghan girls return to school in Herat after Taliban takeover



Schoolgirls attend class in Herat following the Taliban takeover of the city. The Taliban says it will allow the education of girls to continue. PHOTO: AFP

GIRLS wearing white hijabs and black tunics crammed into classrooms in the western Afghan city of Herat just days after the

Taliban's takeover.

As the school opened its doors, the students scurried down corridors and chatted in

courtyards, seemingly oblivious to the turmoil that has engulfed the country in the past two weeks.

The scenes — which many feared would be banned under the Taliban — were filmed by an AFP cameraman this week, just days after fighters from the hardline Islamist group took the city following the collapse of government forces and local militia.

"We want to progress like other countries," said student Roqia.

"And we hope the Taliban will maintain security. We don't want war, we want peace in our country."

With its close proximity to the Iranian border, the ancient Silk Road city of Herat has long been a cosmopolitan exception to more conservative centres.

Women and girls walked more freely in the streets, attending schools and colleges in huge numbers in a city famed for its poetry and arts.

Its long-term future remains uncertain, however.

Under the hardline version of sharia law that the Taliban imposed when they controlled Afghanistan in the 1990s, women and girls were mostly denied education and employment.—AFP ■

Mexico's Caribbean coast braces for Hurricane Grace



Fishermen and tour operators haul their boats onto dry land as a hurricane approaches Mexico's Caribbean coast. PHOTO: AFP

HURRICANE Grace bore down on Mexico's Caribbean coast on Wednesday, grounding flights and forcing tourists in some hotels along the Riviera Maya to hunker down overnight in storm shelters.

A hurricane warning was in effect for a string of beach resorts, including Cancun, on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami said. At least 124 flights to or from Cancun were canceled, the city's mayor, Mara Lezama, said on Twitter.

The Category One hurricane

-- the lowest on the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale -- was packing maximum sustained winds of 80 miles (130 kilometers) per hour, according to the NHC.

It was located 125 miles east of the Mexican resort town of Tulum late Wednesday and expected to make landfall early Thursday, having already drenched earthquake-stricken Haiti, the NHC said. "Hotels in Tulum have been evacuated and the tourists taken to various hotel shelters," said Carlos Joaquin, governor of the southeastern state of Quintana Roo.—AFP ■

Scandal-plagued Malaysian party poised to win PM race



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak (C) shouts slogans along with his deputy Mohiuddin Yasin (L) after his speech at the concluding session of the ruling party United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) annual general assembly in Kuala Lumpur on December 1, 2012.

PHOTO: SAEED KHAN/AFP/FILE

A scandal-plagued Malaysian party looked set Thursday to regain the country's leadership that it lost at landmark elections three years ago, after the last prime

minister resigned this week.

Muhyiddin Yassin quit Monday after a turbulent 17 months in office when allies withdrew support, and amid mounting anger

at his government's handling of a worsening coronavirus outbreak.

With an election ruled out due to the pandemic, the king will pick the country's next leader based on who commands majority support in parliament.

Ismail Sabri Yaakob, who was deputy premier in Muhyiddin's coalition, has received the backing of 114 out of 220 lawmakers, the Star newspaper reported.

The 61-year-old's supporters were called to the national palace Thursday to confirm their pick, one of his backers, MP Ahmad Maslan, said on Twitter.

If confirmed, it means the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the lynchpin of a coalition that ruled Malaysia for six decades until losing power in 2018, will reclaim the premiership. The party was already part

of the last government, although Muhyiddin is from a different group.

"People who voted for change in 2018 will not be looking favourably to his appointment, and it will be an unelected appointment," said Bridget Welsh, a Malaysia expert from the University of Nottingham.

"So you will see polarisation continue."

An official announcement is expected Friday after a meeting of the country's royals.

UMNO was booted out of power after facing a storm of corruption cases, notably the 1MDB scandal. Billions of dollars were looted from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB in a fraud involving ex-leader Najib Razak, and spent on everything from a super-yacht to pricey artwork.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden, Merkel discuss Afghanistan evacuation

US President Joe Biden and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday discussed the perilous evacuation of foreigners and Afghan allies underway at the Kabul airport, the White House said.

In a phone call, the two leaders also talked about the need to coordinate humanitarian aid for vulnerable Afghans.

Biden and Merkel "praised the ongoing efforts of their military and civilian personnel who are working closely together in Kabul on the evacuation of their citizens, vulnerable Afghans, and the courageous Afghan nationals who worked tirelessly over the last 20 years," the White House said in a statement.—AFP ■

What next for Taliban talks host Qatar?

THE sudden fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban has thrust the group's presence in the Qatari capital into the spotlight.

But what now for the sometimes controversial outpost which Doha gambled would boost its own diplomatic credentials?

Why is there a Taliban office in Doha?

Located far from war-ravaged Afghanistan, Qatar nonetheless invited the Taliban to open a political office in Doha in 2013, with Washington's blessing as conflict in Afghanistan raged.

It was intended to be a base for Taliban negotiators, including accused militants, so the international community could engage



The Taliban's political office chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar meets with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in Doha in this handout picture provided by the Qatari foreign ministry on August 17, 2021. PHOTO: QATARI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/AFP

the group politically.

The Qatar process got off to a rocky start, with controversy

erupting soon after when the insurgents raised their flag above the high-walled villa.

Together with the Taliban branding of their mission as the office of the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" — the name they used during their 1996-2001 rule — it provoked outrage in Kabul.

"The US increasingly pressured the Qataris to host some of the Taliban leaders that were released from Guantanamo," said regional analyst Andreas Krieg.

"The Taliban office then became more and more an integral part of the US strategy to negotiate a withdrawal from the country under the Trump administration." Qatar maintained contact with the Taliban during its 1996-2001 rule but, unlike Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan, never established diplomatic ties.—AFP ■

NATO: Foreign ministers to hold video talks on Afghanistan

NATO foreign ministers will hold an emergency videoconference on Friday to discuss the unfolding situation in Afghanistan and what steps they can take, the alliance's chief Jens Stoltenberg said.

"I have convened an extraordinary virtual meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers this Friday 20 August to continue our close coordination & discuss our common approach on Afghanistan," he tweeted on Wednesday.—AFP ■

Taliban's arms seizures embarrass Washington

VIDEOS of Taliban fighters parading in US-made armored vehicles, wielding US-supplied firearms and climbing on American Black Hawk helicopters after the defeat of Afghan government forces have embarrassed the White House. The Islamist insurgents, who easily captured control of the country after a months-long campaign, seized huge amounts of weaponry, equipment and munitions from the Afghan armed forces, most of it supplied over the past two decades by Washington.

Social media showed Taliban fighters carrying M4 and

M18 assault rifles and M24 sniper weapons, driving around in the iconic US Humvees and, in one video, apparently wearing US-style special forces tactical uniforms.

The images are underpinning a political attack on President Joe Biden for alleged mishandling of the US withdrawal from the country after 20 years of war. Most of the equipment has been seized from the Afghan forces who, despite two decades of training and tens of billions of dollars from the United States, conceded the capital Kabul at the weekend without a fight.—AFP ■



Taliban patrol Kabul in a US-made armored vehicle captured from the Afghan security forces. PHOTO: AFP

UAE says hosting Afghan president 'on humanitarian grounds'

THE United Arab Emirates said on Wednesday that it is hosting Afghan president Ashraf Ghani "on humanitarian grounds", after he fled his country amid a Taliban takeover.

"The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation can confirm that the UAE has welcomed President Ashraf Ghani and his family into the country on humanitarian grounds," it said in a brief statement.—AFP ■

AFF Futsal Cup tourney scheduled to be held with six teams

THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) plans to host the AFF Futsal Cup Championship in September with six teams, according to the ASEAN football authorities.

The football federation is planning to resume the Futsal Club Championship for the first time in more than a year and a half since the Covid-19 outbreak.

The AFF Futsal Cup will be held from 12 to 18 September in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, with clubs from Southeast Asia.

The ASEAN Football Fed-

eration has announced plans to host the AFF Futsal Cup earlier this month.

At present, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesian and Cambodian clubs have been allowed to compete in the tourney, but it is not yet clear if the Myanmar club will be able to compete in the tourney, officials said.

Myanmar futsal clubs have been without training since March last year due to the pandemic and are unable to hold domestic competitions.

The ASEAN football authorities previously changed the name of the ASEAN Futsal Club Championship to the AFF Futsal Cup. The competition has been held annually since 2015, but was not held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be held again this year.

Myanmar clubs competed in this competition every year, and MIU (formerly MIC) team won bronze medals in 2016, 2018 and 2019 respectively.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Inter's turbulent summer leaves Serie A crown up for grabs

INTER Milan kick off the new Serie A season on Saturday in the midst of fan protests and money troubles that threaten to derail their title defence before it has even begun.

A dramatic summer for the champions reached its lowest ebb last week when star striker Romelu Lukaku was sold to Chelsea, a transfer that enraged not just supporters but reportedly also CEO Giuseppe Marotta and new coach Simone Inzaghi.

The Gazzetta dello Sport reported that Inter's cash-strapped Chinese owners Suning forced the sale of Belgium forward Lukaku after having already offloaded buccaneering right-back Achraf Hakimi, a key figure in their first Serie A triumph since 2010, to Paris Saint-Germain.

The club's financial problems were clear well before the



Fans will be allowed to fill Serie A stadiums, including the San Siro, to half capacity early this season. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

league crown was claimed, and last month previous coach Antonio Conte left Inter knowing his team could be dismantled.

They are still strong in key areas and have one of Italy's Euro 2020 heroes in Nicolò Barella, but the squad has certainly been downgraded. Lukaku has been replaced with

Edin Dzeko, a capable forward familiar with Serie A, but the Bosnia striker is 35 years old and scored just seven league goals last season.

Dutch defender Denzel Dumfries however is an intriguing choice for the vacant spot at right-back after his exciting displays at Euro 2020.—AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council 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.

Bayern Munich wait on Neuer after ankle knock

BAYERN Munich captain Manuel Neuer sat out training Thursday with an ankle knock as the defending Bundesliga champions wait on their goalkeeper's fitness for this weekend's home game against Cologne.

Neuer, 35, needed treatment on his right ankle during Tuesday's 3-1 win at Dortmund in the German Super Cup.

He played the full 90 minutes and lifted the trophy on the pitch after Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski sealed victory with two goals.

In a statement, Bayern left it open whether the Germany goalkeeper will be fit for Sunday's home league game at the Allianz Arena.

The defending champions are hunting their first Bundesliga win of the new season after drawing last Friday's opening match at Moenchengladbach.

If Neuer drops out, he is set to be replaced by reserve goalkeeper Sven Ulreich, 33, who rejoined in the summer after a season at second division Hamburg.—AFP ■



Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer received medical treatment at Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**