

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 156, 2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Tawthalin 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Wednesday, 22 September 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.

## Tatmadaw aircraft transports Sinopharm vaccines to Kengtung Township



**T**ATMADAW aircraft transported 6,198 units of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines from Yangon to Kengtung in east-

ern Shan State yesterday.

Dr Kyaw Kyaw Lin, deputy head of Shan State (East) Medical Services and Public Health

Department and other officials received the vaccines. A single vial of Sinopharm vaccine can be used for five people each and the

needed vaccines for 30,990 people will be allocated in the townships of eastern Shan State. — Aung Zin Myint/(IPRD)GNLM

## Police arrest suspects involved in attack on security forces

SECURITY forces were attacked with homemade bombs and small arms while conducting a patrol in Thandata Ward of Sangyoung Township of Yangon Region on 9 September.

According to the report of the people, security forces raided room No (41) of No (70) building in Pikelone Street of Myoma Ward in Bahan Township on 15 September and arrested Kyaw Soe Lin (aka) Michael, Zaw Lin Tun and Sithu Phyo (aka) Zin Ko.

According to the confes-

sion of the suspects, the police inspected Super Luck teashop in No (4) Ward of Hline Township and arrested Thae Maung Maung and Aung Pyae together with one MG-1 grenade, 5 homemade bombs and other materials.

Moreover, the police arrested Wai Yan (aka) Wai Yan Paing, Kyaw Kyaw Khant and Ye Yint Ko (aka) Ye Ye in Aung Chan Thar Street of No (5) Ward in Kamayut Township while La Min Tun (aka) Ah Moon at Sangyoung

street in Sangyoung Township together with one 9mm pistol, 68 bullets, one MG-1 grenade and 3 mobile phones.

According to the words of suspect La Min Tun, the security forces arrested Bo Bo (aka) Y2B near City Mart in South Okkalapa Township and raided his house in Sangyoung Township and seized one AK-47 rifle, 2 magazines, 60 5.56 bullets, one MG-1 grenade, 25 homemade bombs, 2 detonators and other explosives.

Moreover, another suspect Sithu (aka) Dennis was detained at Khine Shwe Wah Street of Kamayut Township.

According to the confession of La Min Tun, the police raided Room No 35 of No 22 building of Pyi Yeik Mon Housing in No (7) Ward of Kamayut Township and arrested Aung Thiha Hein, Cherry Bo Kyi Naing, Arkar Kyaw Htoo and Wai Yan Tun Oo together with 1 SIG Sauger pistol, 2 magazines and 19 Luger bullets.

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# Police arrest suspects involved in attack ...

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According to the words of Wai Yan Tun Oo, the security forces went to the house of Arkar Kyaw Htoo in No (3) Ward of Kamayut and seized one MK-12, 5 12-volt bullets, 5 9mm bullets, one 91 grenade and one each of small and big magazines.

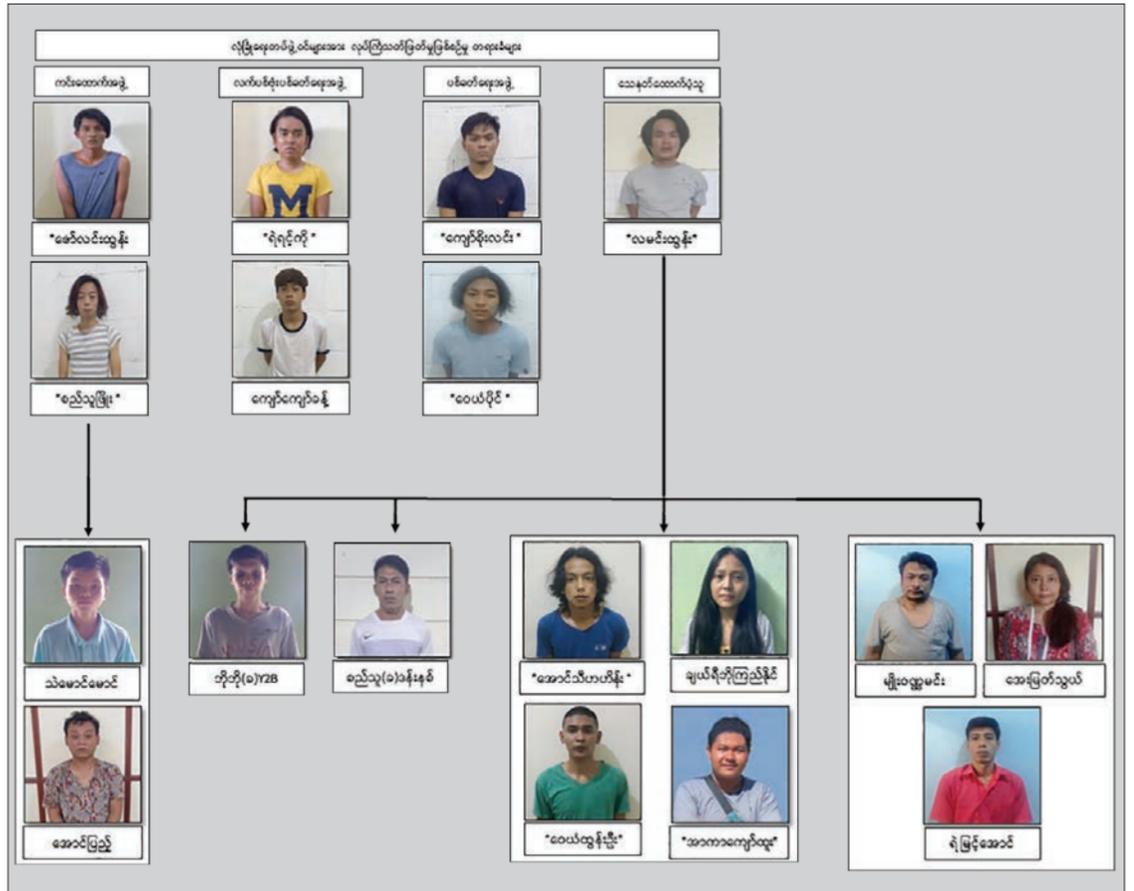
The police also raided the house located in No (3) Ward of Kamayut township on 16 September based on the words of La Min Tun. They arrested Myo Wunna Min, Aye Myat Thwe and Ye Myint Aung together with 1 FGC-9 MkII, 59 mm bullets and 1 drone.

The police arrested a total of 18 people — 16 males and 2 females and seized 5 firearms, 166 bullets, 4 kinds of grenades, 5 kinds of magazines, 30 homemade bombs and 1 drone.

Among the suspects, La Min Tun, Ye Yint Ko, Wai Yan Paing, Sithu Phyo, Zaw Lin Tun,

Kyaw Soe Lin, Kyaw Swar Thein, Ye Thu, Nyein Chan and Ko Zin completed the explosive training in KNLA Brigade 6 controlled area.

Moreover, Zaw Lin Tun, Wai Yan Paing, Ye Yint Ko, Kyaw Soe Lin, Sithu Phyo and Kyaw Kyaw Khant formed Generation Freedom Army (GFA) and Sithu Phyo and Kyaw Soe Lin conducted a bomb attack on the ward administration body office near the railway in Baho street of Sangyoung Township on 9 May, the ward administration body office in Kyuntaw street in Mote Lat Hsaung Ward (South) in Sangyoung Township on 15 May, education officer office at the top of Thiri Mingala Market on 9 July, Hijet car in front of Kaung Thar beer Pub in Baho street of Sangyoung Township in August, police housing in Kamayut Township on 4 September and CCTV Control box



near Sprit store in Myaynigone of Sangyoung on 6 September.

Moreover, Wai Yan Tun Oo also conducted bomb attacks near Mar Lar bus stop in Kamayut Township on 8 June, traffic police station under Myaynigon Flyover on 1 July according to the instructions of former Pyithu Hluttaw MP Pyo Zeyar Thaw (still at large) of NLD and Ei Ngon Phoo (a) Holly. Similarly, Bo Bo, La Min Tun and Ko Phyo (still at large) conducted bomb attacks near Bandarpin bus stop in front of Delta Plaza in Bahan Township on 27 August, near Halpin bus stop in Dagon Township and Bo Bo, La Min Tun, Ko Pyo (still at large) and Zin Yaw (still at large) also exploded Mytel towers in Mya Theintan Monastery in Pyinmapin Village-tract and in 10<sup>th</sup> Karya street of Thingangyun Gyi

Village in Mingaladon Township on 29 August.

The GFA conducted arson attacks in Mote Lat Hsaung Ward (South) of Sangyoung Township on 4 August.

Moreover, the GFA members Wai Yan Paing, Zaw Lin Tun, Kyaw Kyaw Khant, Kyaw Soe Lin, Sithu Phyo and Ye Yint Ko checked the condition and Aung Nyein Chan (still at large) stabbed one traffic police to death in at Thiri Mingala market on 13 August.

Moreover, Kyaw Soe Lin shot innocent civilian U July Myo Min who lives in No (1) Ward of Hline Township on 2 September.

On 9 September, Aung Nyein Chan (still at large) and Kyaw Soe Lin opened fire to a security vehicle that patrolled in Thandata Ward of Sangyoung

Township on 9 September and Ye Yint Ko threw a homemade bomb into that car. Zaw Lin Tun, Thae Maung Maung, Sithu Phyo and Aung Pyae scouted the situation.

The suspects were found guilty of committing 12 explosions, 1 arson attack and 3 murder cases.

The arrested suspects will face legal actions under the law. The security force will also investigate to arrest the absconders. Moreover, announcements are also released that the entire people can participate in fight terrorism and arresting perpetrators as quickly as possible, secretly report to the officials about their hiding places and activities, and the whistle-blowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded. — MNA



## It is necessary to ensure edible oil sufficiency

IT is necessary to ensure edible oil sufficiency. Oil palm plants are grown in Taninthayi Region whereas edible crops are grown in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Shan State. Efforts must be made for increasing the per-acre yield of cotton to be able to cut the import volume of cotton.

*(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 2/2021 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 Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7-9-2021)*

## Coordination meeting held to harmonize rehabilitation in COVID-19

A coordination meeting to explain the status of the Ministry of Construction and the collaboration of all ministries to harmonize the COVID-19 rehabilitation process was held at 3 pm yesterday at the Assembly Hall of the ministry in line with COVID-19 directives.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the projects being implemented with international loans.

“Projects under the local joint venture B.O.T system have not been halted due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It is difficult to control staff at project due to

compliance with COVID-19 orders and directives,” the Union Minister said.

“It is also difficult to collect materials and contractors and local private B.O.T companies have been asked to extend the time due to delays in transporting machinery to the site.

“Requests from local private B.O.T companies are subject to the terms and conditions of the B.O.T contract and reviewed in detail and initially approved during the Ministry of Construction Management Committee meeting,” the Union Minister added.

Officials from the Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay City Development Committee, and departmental officials discussed the rehabilitation process for the COVID-19 epidemic and the Union Minister asked for suggestions on the important issues.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction U Aung Myint Oo has also explained the work being carried out on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

After that, officials from relevant ministries and development committees focused on



The Construction Ministry coordination meeting in progress.

recommendations for economic rehabilitation and further action on the COVID-19 epidemic with local joint ventures and the

B.O.T system.

It is reported that the Union Minister coordinated all the necessary matters. — MNA

## Bringing peace and stability to the country, uniting people for development and joining forces with people to fight destruction highlighted: MoI DM



Deputy Information Minister U Ye Tint meets Information Ministry staff in northern Shan State.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met the township chief and staff at the Information and Public Relations Department in Nawnghkio Township, northern Shan State on 19 September.

After instructing the operation, the Deputy Minister inspected the Nawnghkio retransmission Station.

On the morning of 20 Sep-

tember, the Deputy Minister met the district head, Township IPRD heads from Kyaukme, Monglon and Mong Ngaw, officials from Kyaukme Retransmission Station at the District Information and Public Relations Department and stressed essential procedures. The Deputy Minister then inspected the Kyaukme Retransmission Station.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister met township chief and staff at Hsipaw township office and inspected the Retransmission Station in Hsipaw and gave necessary instructions.

In the evening, the Deputy Minister met the Shan State (North) joint state head, staff from the Information and Public Relations Department,

Lashio District office staff and town elders and leaders from Namtu, Mongyai and Tangyang townships, engineers from Lashio Township Retransmission Station, and officials from Lashio, Muse, Kunlong, Hsenwi, Kutkai, Namhtu, and Laukkai, and Lashio sub-printing house of newspaper and gave orders.

Officials from the Information and Public Relations Departments of Lashio District, Muse District, Momeit District, Laukkai District, Hopang and Namhsan districts attended the meeting by videoconferencing.

The Deputy Minister then visited the Lashio Community Centre and instructed them to make good arrangements to provide better services to the public if the COVID-19 outbreak is reduced.

On the morning of 21 September, the Deputy Minister inspected the Lashio Retransmission Station and sub-printing house of newspaper and met with the staff.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister called for information to be disseminated to the public and to give correct knowledge to young people. The Deputy Minister discussed loyalty to the State.

In addition, the Deputy Minister said that the staff should continue to implement the ongoing COVID-19 infectious disease prevention and control alert, although the current disease infection is declining.

Bringing peace and stability to the country, uniting people for development and joining forces with people to fight destruction were also discussed.

The COVID-19 outbreak has dropped dramatically and the violence will soon be reduced with the participation of the people, the Deputy Minister continued.

The Deputy Minister urged to resume the information and public relations work when all the conditions return to normality. — IPRD/ GNLM

# Answer of Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Leader of Information Team of the State Administration Council for the death of pastor from Christian Church in Thantlang

**W**E see some destructive media broadcast fake news related to Myanmar. Such broadcasting was started by Khit Thit Media which aired fake news such as setting fires to Kinma Village in Pauk Township of Magway Region on 19 September.

In this regard, the broadcasting features a clash that happened in Thantlang on 18 September when pastor Cung Biak Hum of Christian Baptist Church was dead due to bullet-hit by the Tatmadaw. With regard to the reality, the security troops performed the patrol in Thantlang between 4 pm and 4:30 pm on 18 September. During the patrol, some 100 terrorists called PDF taking positions in urban areas and houses ambushed the security troops in Ward 1 of Thantlang. Both sides exchanged fires. After the clash, it was scrutinized that a fire broke out to destroy 20 houses and a three-storey building of the Department of Highways. Pastor Cung Biak Hum of Village Baptist Church of Thantlang left his house from Ward 2 of Thantlang by motorcycle to the scene of a fire outbreak. It was reported that he was dead due to a bullet hit on arrival at Htar Htar Pharmacy Shop on Bogyoke Street in Ward 2.

The clash started from 4 pm to 4:25 pm. The pastor was dead at 6 pm. So, it was learnt he was cremated at the tomb by Christian religious officials at Thantlang Cemetery of Ward 2 at noon on 19 September. After the event, fake news emerged. I explained the reality. In the incident of Thantlang on 18 September, terrorists called PDF taking cover of the resident housings in Thantlang opened fire at the security troops. Now, further investigation over the death is being conducted.

In this regard, fake news items are being broadcast on the one-sided accusation that the pastor was shot by the Tatmadaw, and his ring and watch were taken. In addition to the broadcasting, Chin Christian Church of Chin State released its attitude dated 19 September. The Kachin Theological College-KTC also issued its statement on stance. Such a statement comprised accusations of killing and destruction of the religious building. So, I have explained the death of the pastor.

I'd like to explain NUG and CRPH terrorist organizations are committing to undermine the peace and stability of the entire nation. On 7 September, it released an announcement sparking the conflicts. Then, some instability were found in some parts of Chin State. Some 400 terrorists attacked the Lonte camp of the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force in Thantlang in Chin State. We saw the statements of Chin Baptist Church (CBC) and Kachin Baptist Church (KBC).

These statements were designed to highlight the reality but derailed religious affairs. It is very dangerous. Such kind of process should not be done. According to the Constitution 2008, Section 34 gives equal rights of independent faiths to all. Moreover, the Constitution stipulates Sections 361, 362 and 363 for religious affairs. Section 362 mentions that the Union also recognizes Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Animism as the religions existing in the Union at the day of the coming into operation of this Constitution. Section 363 clearly states that the Union may assist and protect the religions it recognizes to its utmost. Our Myanmar is a Union formed by various ethnicities and various

religions.

We analyze that based on the event it triggered the instigation to religions as a conflict. It should not be done. Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on behalf of the State as well as the Tatmadaw has been giving encouragement and aid to all religions before forming the government. In this regard, the Tatmadaw has been assisting the religions and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has attended the religious ceremonies.

During his tours to various parts of the country, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services from his assumption of military duty to date met with leaders of religious associations regardless of religion and social affairs, provided assistance and held talks many times. On every Christmas, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services always arrives at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Botahtaung of Yangon. He makes speeches at the Xmas festivities. I'd like to take an excerpt from the speeches of the Prime Minister as the original one. He said, "There are 3.2 million Christians in Myanmar, account for six per cent of the population. Christians, Muslims, Hindus and other religious members together with Buddhism which is a faith of the largest number of people have been serving the interests of the State in unison for many years. They all are living together with brotherly spirit under the noble orders of all religions. The Constitution 2008 of the country guarantees the freedom of religion in Sections 362 and 363. So, all citizens need to take care of breaking down the unity by utilizing the religion."

Now, NUG and CRPH organizations and destructive



Leader of the SAC Information Team Major-General Zaw Min Tun.

media broadcast fake news. They commit to driving the instigation among the ethnic nationals and then religions. So, people need to take care of their acts. In the life of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Senior General has been amicable with KBC of Kachin State. Such an organization has provided aid and efforts for peace to the Tatmadaw. In this regard, such organization expressed their concerns. So, we don't blame it. But we would like to explain it is not concerned for Christians.

KBC asked the Tatmadaw at the time of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of the Senior General for clearing mines in Kachin State. We also cleared landmines for enabling the displaced persons to return home. The process achieved success. Moreover, the engineering corps of the Tatmadaw repaired Christian Churches damaged in Kachin and Shan (North) states. Such moves were released on time. Concerning prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, we

are performing the vaccination to the people at IDP camps regardless of race and Bengalis in Rakhine State.

Moreover, we are arranging vaccination for those of EAOs. Myanmar is a country formed with various ethnic nationals and religions. Likewise, the Tatmadaw is formed with various ethnic people in religions. Our Tatmadaw has many ethnic people. The Myanmar Police Force is also formed with various ethnic nationals. They are allowed to believe in various religions. Military units provide assistance to the respective persons to hold their religious ceremonies. So, I'd like to say that NUG and CRPH and destructive media are always making attempts to instigate the ethnic nations and religions in the country.

Hence, I'd like to say that the people and ethnic nationals in various religious should analyze realities of the current events and build the Union in line with the motto: We'll always unite whoever instigates".

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Myanmar Gazette

### Appointment of Permanent Secretary

THE State Administration Council has concurrently assigned U Hla Maung Thein, Director-General of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the duties of Permanent Secretary at the same ministry.



### COVID-19 vaccines for 90,000 people in northern Shan State arrive in Lashio

COVID-19 vaccines for more than 90,000 people in northern Shan State have arrived at Lashio yesterday morning via air travel.

Chairman of the Lashio Township Committee on the prevention, control, and treatment of COVID-19 U Zaw Naing Oo, Lashio General Hospital Medical Super-

intendent Dr Ye Aung Tun, and officials received the vaccines.

It is reported that the vaccines will be distributed to respective townships in northern Shan State and will be administered according to the set guidelines at designated places. — Ohnmar Cho (IPRD)/GNLM

### COVID-19 second dose administered in Pannandin, Kachin State

THE second dose of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine was administered in Pannandin town, Putao District in Kachin State on 20 September 2021.

The vaccination took place at the Basic Education High School in the town at around 6 pm under close supervision of the Chairman of the Nagmon Township Admin-

istration Body.

Of 44 people who received the first dose of the vaccine in the town, a total of 30 people — 11 men and 19 women received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and were provided with the vaccination certificates yesterday, it is reported.— Nawayawbaw (IPRD)/GNLM



A local receives the second jab of Sinopharm vaccine.

## MoC facilitates imports of anti-COVID-19 medical supplies, equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce is working hard to ensure people have access to essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, arranging the continuous importation by airways, sea and border trade posts.

Yesterday, a total of 3,390 liquid oxygen storage containers, 21 oxygen plants, 441 oxygen concentrators, 26 tonnes of the glove and 40 tonnes of the mask were imported through the border trade zones in Muse, Myawady and Chinshwehaw. Of 21 oxygen plants, 19 were transported to Yangon and one each to Mandalay and Patheingyi, respectively.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is giving priority to the import of essential medical supplies required in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 according to the SOPs.

It has also coordinated with relevant departments to avoid delays, and announcements and notices related to the import of medicines



Anti-Covid devices.

and related products have also been made available to the public on the Ministry's website, commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



Lorries are transporting COVID-19 medical aids to the needed regions.

### COVID-19 vaccines provided to people aged 55-64 in Maukmei, Shan State

VACCINATION against the COVID-19 disease was introduced to people between the age of 55 and 64 in Maukmei Township, Langkho District, Shan State (South) on 19 September to prevent and control the spread of the disease in the township.

Officials went to and administered the first dose of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in Honang village-tract and Holo village-tract, in Maukmei Township. Yesterday morning, the vaccination continued for the people in the township wards at the basic education high school in Zay Tan ward.

Officials from the public health care department, the township general administra-



Inoculation drive is underway in Maukmei, Shan State.

tion department and members of the Township Red Cross Brigade provided necessary assistance to complete the vaccination process.

This is the second time the

vaccination against the COVID-19 disease was administered in Maukmei Township, and it will continue in respective villages in the township, it is reported. — Sai Myo Thant/GNLM

# Armed robbers of two branches of Global Treasure Bank arrested

TWO armed men responsible for bank robberies happened at two branches of the Global Treasure Bank, South Okkalapa branch and the number (2) Bayintnaung branch on 15 July and 30 August, were arrested after the security forces launched an investigation.

At around 10 am on 15 July 2021, four armed men came by a white colour CALDINA (EE-4402) and fired three shots at the Global Treasure Bank located on 5/7 Bramaso road, (7) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, holding up K18.5 million from the bank.

At around 11:30 pm on 30 August, four armed men came by a white colour Crown (YGN-1J/9428) at the number (2) Bayintnaung Branch and robbed K117.9 million.

Following the investigation conducted by the security forces, the driver of the Caldina (EE-4402) was arrested. According to his confession, the security forces searched the apartments in Sangyoung and Tamway townships and confiscated the related items of the suspects.

Similarly, the owner of the CROWN brand vehicle was arrested. Following his confession, Soe Thu Aung (a) Soe Gyi was arrested at around 7 pm on 18 September. Security forces also arrested the parents of Thura Aung at his house in Insein Township, together with K6.2 million and the vehicle used in the armed bank robbery (YGN 9I/1163). Thura Aung was arrested on 19 August in front of the Insein Hospital gate, on Mingyi road, together with a KIA car (YGN 1F/4191) that was bought with the money from the bank robbery.

Thura Aung revealed that

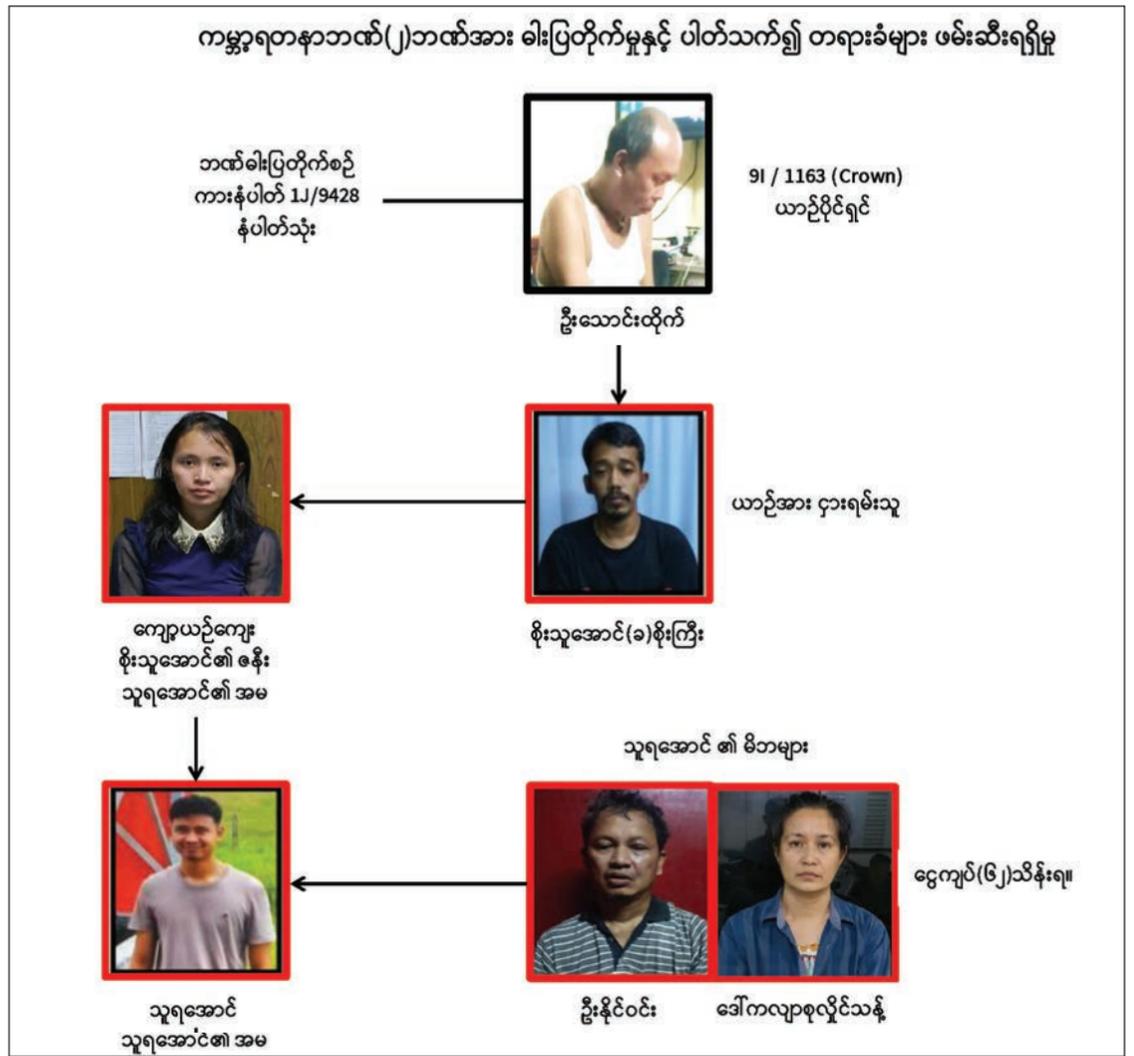
Patrick (aka) Win Htike Ko Ko, Hein Zay, Myat Min, Ma Win Htet Mar and Zaw Min Naing were involved in the bank robberies under the leadership of himself and Min Nyo.

Ma Win Htet Mar and Hein Zay were arrested at their apartment (ground floor) on 152<sup>nd</sup> street, in Tamway Township. Min Nyo was arrested together with Aung Aung, the owner of the apartment, and Pyae Phy Kyaw in Myittar Nyunt ward in Tamway Township. From their apartment, 2 pistols, 50 rounds of ammunition (USA 380), 50 rounds of ammunition (9mm Luger), 1 extra pistol magazine, 1 fake pistol used in the robberies, materials used in acts of violence, 1 Toyota Crown vehicle (9D/6787) were confiscated and K50.55 million were recovered.

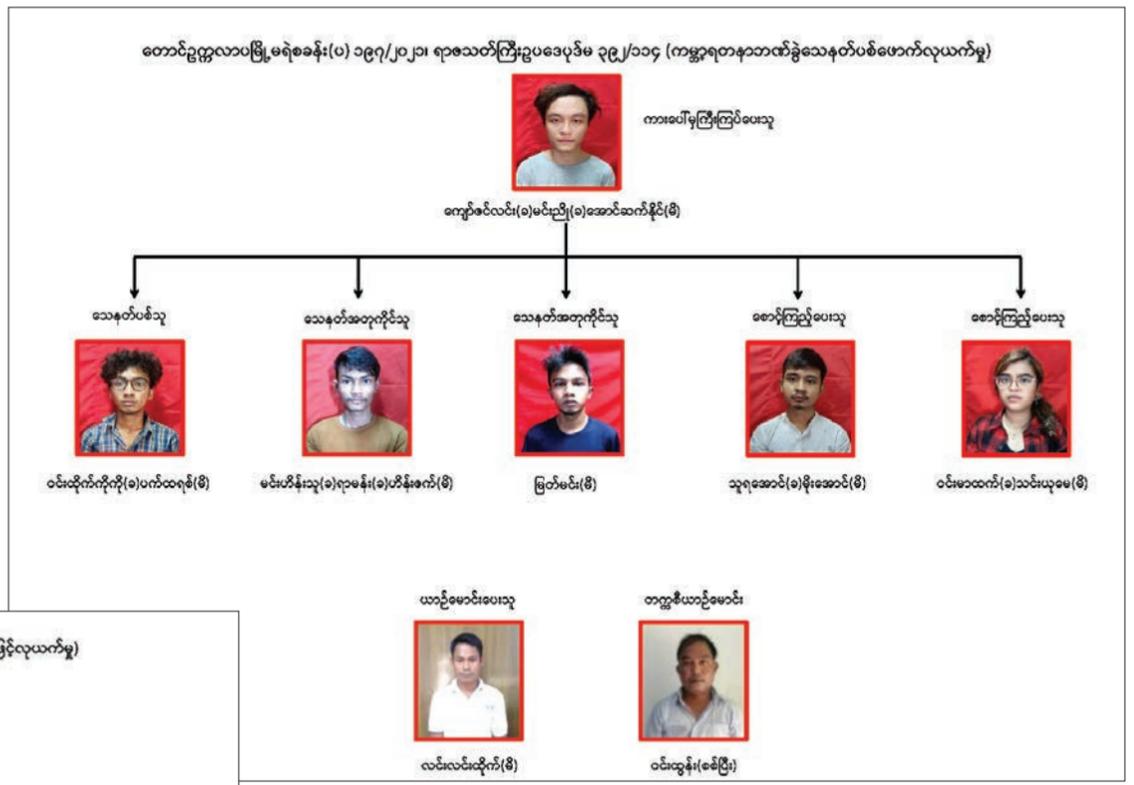
Patrick (aka) Win Htike Ko Ko was arrested during his visit to Ma Win Htet Mar at her apartment on 152<sup>nd</sup> street and Myat Min was arrested at his home in Mingala Taungnyunt township, respectively.

According to the investigation, they participated in riots, and Thura Aung, Min Nyo, Win Htet Mar, Patrick, and Hein Zay reportedly attended the terrorist training course in a KIA area. They arrived back in Yangon in May and were involved in Urban Guerilla Post. They later formed the People Republican Army and Thura Aung was in charge of the raising fund; Min Nyo was to purchase weapons and ammunition and Win Htet Mar was in charge of accounting. Their gang aimed to rob and lead to armed attacks.

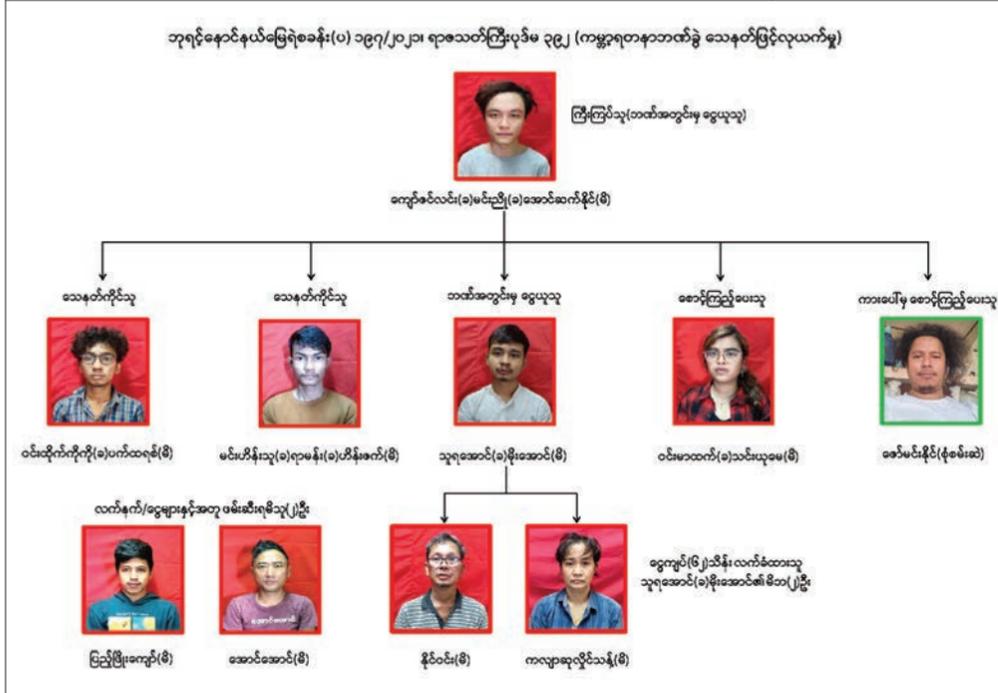
Win Htet Mar was appointed as the youth chair of the Ei Thinzar Maung's (from NUG) Myan-



Nabbed culprits of bank heist cases.



Arrestees charged of armed bank robbery (South Okkalapa Myoma Police Station).



Arrestees charged of armed bank robbery.(Bayintnaung Police Station).

ma New Society Democratic Party in Pabedan Township and she served until March 2021. She also participated in riots that happened in Hline Township together with Ei Thinzar Maung until the first week of March.

According to their confession, Min Nyo purchased 1 pistol (SIG Sauer 9mm), 1 extra magazine, and 55 rounds of ammunition with K3.8 million from Win Kyaw whom he knew during the riot in June 2021. He also purchased 1 pistol (SUR-2004-9mm-PAK) and 50 rounds of ammunition with K3 million which he later used

in the robberies. It was found that they spent the money from the robberies on purchasing vehicles and weapons, renting apartments, supporting protestors in Yangon and for their personal stuff. It is reported investigations are underway to take action under the law against the parents of Thura Aung, who kept the money from the robberies, and Aung Aung and Pyae Phy Kyaw, who admitted the robbers and weapons in their apartment, as well as to arrest Zaw Min Naing who has been escaped as soon as possible. — MNA

# Government repatriates 17 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia

A total of 17 Myanmar nationals in Malaysia have been defrauded of money while trying to return home and are having difficulty returning home.

On 6 September, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing organized the 11<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting on COVID-19 disease prevention and control to repatriate these citizens as soon as possible at the expense of the State.

To repatriate 17 Myanmar nationals who had difficulty returning to Myanmar as soon as possible, officials from the Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia and the Myanmar military attaché (Army, Navy and Air) office made arrangements for the repatriation to Myanmar after making necessary coordination with the Malaysian authorities.

They were given the necessary medical tests and found that 14 of them were infected with the COVID-19 virus.

Three uninfected people were flown back to Myanmar from Malaysia on the afternoon of 6 September by Myanmar Airways Relief Flight and arrived back at Yangon International Airport at around 4:30 pm.

Fourteen people with the COVID-19 virus were quarantined and the necessary tests were performed on 18 September.

After being tested negative for COVID-19, Myanmar citizens were brought back on 20 September by a Myanmar Airways Int'l (MAI) relief flight and arrived back at Yangon International Airport at around 4:30 pm.

The government is providing necessary assistance to those who are abroad for various reasons and have difficulty returning to Myanmar.

For those who want to return to their place of residence, contact the relevant attaché, military attaché office and the Consulate, officials said.

### Thaung Htaik Soe

My name is Thaung Htaik Soe. I am 34-year-old. I live in Thee Khaik village, Ngaliike village tract, Pauk Township, Magway Region. We want to return to Myanmar.

My mother was ill and had to return within two weeks. One of them is Ye Win Aung, a Myanmar national and said that we could go home within two weeks if we pay them 3,200 Ringgit for a service fee, and when we arrived there on 4 July, we gave them all the cash they asked.

If we do not return to Myanmar within two weeks, we will be reimbursed, they said.

We were postponed for more than two months. We were not allowed to leave the building for two and a half months and



Aung San Lin.



Thaung Htike Soe.

was not sent back to Myanmar.

At that time, the military attaché, Brigadier-General Aye Lwin, contacted us and helped us return to Myanmar.

The Brigadier-General also went to the Myanmar embassy to apply for the CIO.

Brigadier-General Aye Lwin waited for us until we boarded a plane to return to Myanmar with everything we needed in Malaysia.

When Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting on 6 September, we were very happy to see the news on Facebook that the remaining 14 had to be brought back to Myanmar.

We are also glad that we have been responsible for everything from the time we left Malaysia and arrive at the

Quarantine Centre.

### Aung San Lin

I am Maung Aung San Lin. I have been in Malaysia for over 3 years. I live in Saphaung village, MraukU Township, MraukU District, Rakhine State.

I met a broker from Sit-tway. The broker guarantees a two-week return. We are happy to be back. But he lied about everything. Before arriving in Myanmar, I did not have enough food and water.

The military attaché accompanied me to apply for a CIO. He helped us get to the embassy. There, a CIO is issued. In addition, when we went to the immigration office for medical check-ups and everything to Myanmar, the military attaché himself came and helped us from start to finish.

We are very happy to hear that we, as Myanmar refugees, will be sent to Myanmar effectively. We were so happy and we could not even eat. Special thanks to Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and other officials who arranged to bring us from Malaysia.

Many thanks to all who deserve it. When I return to Myanmar, I will be very happy to see my family and parents. There is nothing happier than this.

From here, I would like to express my special thanks to Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and all those who helped me get back to my country. — MNA

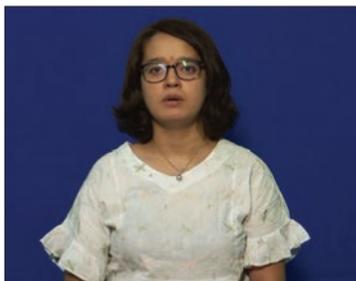
## Four suspects involved in robbing currency from two vehicles of Bago branch of AYA Bank

PDF terrorists robbed two vehicles carrying currency from the Bago branch of Ayeyawady Bank to Yangon on 13 September at milepost 25/5 of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Security forces with utmost efforts to expose the robbery case within nine hours arrested four main suspects of the case, and the information on arresting the suspects was released on 14 September. —MNA



Si Thu Phyoo.



May Thu Kyaw.



Aung Pyae Khant.



Han Win Zaw.

## Announcement on release of 5,315 people, who do not involve in violence, withdrawal of lawsuits against 702 runaways

AFTER Tatmadaw took the State's responsibilities in accord with the 2008 Constitution on 1 February 2021, the State Administration Council has set out the Five-Point Roadmap for the stability and development of the country. The SAC has lifted the charges against those who did not commit any criminal cases such as murders, robberies, arsons, attacks on the public, destruction of the government and privately-owned buildings and those who did not join CDM for financial purposes or by other means although they participated in the protests due to the incitements of political extremist NLD members and supporters, who do not want stability, CRPH and NUG, and freed 5,315 detainees.

Moreover, when those who have been on the run due to various concerns voluntarily contacted the officials, the lawsuits opened against them are withdrawn if they did not commit any cases of the above-mentioned under the law, and the cases opened against 702 people, including civil servants, were dropped. The officials will continue to carry out in line with the procedures. —MNA

# Create new destinations attracting local and foreign travellers

SINCE January 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has been disturbing the work process of the tourism industry in Myanmar unexpectedly. Its impacts terribly destroyed the tourism services to halt the operations, leaving many employees from hotels and tourism sectors including tour guides jobless.

Not only the hotels and tourism sector but various sectors are topsy-turvy in operating their businesses with undreamt losses. Many employers and labourers are still seeking jobs for their livelihoods so as to solve the kitchen problems while packing the heavy burden of debts. It is because sources of their earnings have deteriorated since the suspension of jobs.

However, it is necessary to know that the start of resurging every work process may be difficult. But, if such a step has been overcome, the following processes would be smooth. Such a process is similar to the Myanmar proverb which goes: "Difficulty shows ascending from a boat, descending onto a horse".

As a step for the enhancement of the tourism industry. Its improvement will help other sectors seeing development. However, it is necessary to know that the start of resurging every work process may be difficult. But, if such a step has been overcome, the following processes would be smooth. Such a process is similar to the Myanmar proverb which goes: "Difficulty shows ascending from a boat, descending onto a horse".

Whatever it may be, everybody will not enjoy the taste of success in respective works without diligence, perseverance, endeavours and systematic moves. If they do, they will get things they do. Hence, they should try hard to change their dreams to truths in the future.

# Pfizer says its Covid jab safe for children aged 5-11

Pfizer and BioNTech on Monday said trial results showed their coronavirus vaccine is safe and produces a robust immune response in children aged five to 11, adding that they would seek regulatory approval shortly.

THE vaccine would be administered at a lower dosage than for people over 12, they said.

"In participants five to 11 years of age, the vaccine was safe, well tolerated and showed robust neutralizing antibody responses," US giant Pfizer and its German partner said in a joint statement.

They plan to submit their data to regulatory bodies in the European Union, the United States and around the world "as soon as possible". Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University School of Public Health and a leading Covid expert in the US, called it the "good news" many parents had been waiting for.

If all goes well and approval follows, "my 9-year will get a shot by Halloween!" he tweeted.

The trial results are the first of their kind for children under 12, with a Moderna trial for 6-11 year olds still ongoing.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna jabs are already being administered to adolescents over 12 in several countries, as well as to adults around the globe.

England, Scotland and Wales



Nine-year-old Marisol Gerardo gets her second COVID-19 shot as part of a clinical trial to test how well Pfizer's vaccine works in kids. PHOTO: SHAWN ROCCO/DUKE HEALTH/AFP

became the latest to join the list of nations vaccinating younger teenagers, rolling out jabs for 12 to 15 year-olds this week. Northern Ireland is to follow suit next month.

### Delta worries -

Although children are considered less at risk of severe Covid, there are concerns that the high-

ly contagious Delta variant could lead to more serious cases. Innoculating children is also seen as key to keeping schools open and helping end the pandemic.

"We are eager to extend the protection afforded by the vaccine to this younger population," said Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla, noting

was "carefully selected as the preferred dose for safety, tolerability and immunogenicity" for that age group, the statement said.

The side effects were "generally comparable to those observed in participants 16 to 25 years of age", it added. Among the most commonly reported side effects in the past have been pain and swelling at the injection site as well as headache, chills and fever.

The Pfizer-BioNTech statement made no mention of the rare side effect of myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle that has been linked to the vaccine, mostly among younger males.

### Under-5s before year-end

The Pfizer vaccine received full, formal approval in the US in August and is therefore technically available to younger children if prescribed by a doctor, but US authorities have cautioned against doing this until the safety data was in.

The US regulator, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said in a statement earlier this month it would "carefully" review

emergency authorization requests for vaccines for under -12s, a process it expected to take "weeks rather than months".

Israel has already given special authorization to vaccinate children aged 5-11 who are "at significant risk of serious illness or death" from Covid, using the Pfizer jab at the lower dosage.

Pfizer and BioNTech are also trialling their vaccine on infants aged six months to two years, and on children aged two to five.

The topline results for those trials are expected "as soon as" the fourth quarter of this year, the companies said.

All together, up to 4,500 children aged six months to 11 years have enrolled in the Pfizer-BioNTech trials in the US, Finland, Poland and Spain.

Like its Moderna rival, the Pfizer jab is based on novel mRNA technology that delivers genetic instructions to cells to build the coronavirus spike protein, in order to evoke antibodies when bodies encounter the real virus.

SOURCE: AFP

# Coronavirus: Latest global developments

HERE are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis.

### Worse than Spanish flu

More Americans have now died from Covid-19 than the terrible 1918 flu pandemic, according to new data, as the death toll reached 676,092.

### Anti-mask murder

A 20-year-old petrol station worker in Germany was shot dead by a customer angry about being asked to put on a mask while buying beer. The man said he was against masks and was sick of Covid rules.

### Protest turns violent

Melbourne police use baton rounds to disperse a violent protest against lockdowns and mandatory vaccinations for construction workers.

The violence led to the city

to shutter building sites for two weeks due to "widespread non-compliance" with virus rules.

### Empire strikes back

India warns Britain that its citizens would face reciprocal measures over London's new "discriminatory" rules requiring travellers from India to quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated with the local version of Britain's AstraZeneca jab.

### Blackface anti-vaxxer

A US teaching assistant was sent home after turning up at an Oregon school in Blackface as black civil rights icon Rosa Parks to protest at being ordered to be vaccinated.

Parks refusal to give up her seat to a white man in 1955 was a pivotal moment in the battle against racial segregation in the US.

### Nearly 4.7 million dead

The coronavirus has killed at least 4,696,559 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to an AFP tally from official sources.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 676,092 deaths, followed by Brazil with 590,955, India with 445,385 deaths, Mexico with 271,765 deaths and Russia with 199,808.

Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were the US with 2,296, followed by Russia with 812 and Iran with 344.

SOURCE: AFP

Construction workers and demonstrators attend a protest against Covid-19 regulations in Melbourne on September 21, 2021. PHOTO: WILLIAM WEST / AFP



## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date, they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. Thura U Aung Myo Myint Deputy Permanent Secretary Union Minister's Office Ministry of Transport and Communications	Managing Director Myanma Railways Ministry of Transport and Communications
2. Dr Than Htut Lwin Pro-Rector Taungup University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Taungup University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

**WORLD TOURISM DAY 2021** | **TOURISM FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

"ကဏ္ဍနိမ့် ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး၊ ဝန်ရောင်းလုပ်ငန်းဖြင့် မော်ဆောင်ရေး"

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**MYANMAR Daily Weather Report**  
(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Tuesday 21 September 2021)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 22 September 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from the Central Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## Pigeon pea prices double on extension of import validity period by India

THE price of pigeon pea rose to double in the recent days following the news of extension in the import validity period by India, Mandalay traders said.

During the harvest time in March, the price of pigeon pea was opened at K6,800 per three-basket bag. Following the news of extension, the price tremendously rose to K135,000 per bag. The prices of pigeon pea are rising in a brisk market, the Soe Win Myint depot from Mandalay stated.

“India extended the import validity period from October to December. Additionally, the price rise is attributed to the smaller stock, the Kyat devaluation and the strong demand. The growers are satisfied with



During the harvest time in March, the price of pigeon pea was opened at K6,800 per three-basket bag. Following the news of extension, the price tremendously rose to K135,000 per bag.

the price increase. The traders also make a healthy profit. The pigeon pea market relies

on the neighbouring country India. India set an import quota on beans including black gram

and pigeon pea in 2017, causing the price to drastically plummet to K30,000 per bag. The traders

and growers were battered by that consequences,” Soe Win Myint, a depot owner elaborated.

The pigeon pea is expected to have a high yield next season. The beans are actively traded after India relaxed the import quota. Myanmar’s pulses and beans exports can generate revenue to a large extent for the country,” he continued.

The pigeon pea cultivation is commonly found in the upper Myanmar regions such as Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing. The cultivation commenced in August and the favourable weather allows the plants to grow and flourish.— Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

## Sesame seeds price rising on Kyat depreciation



The price of black sesame seeds stood only K145,000 per three-basket bag in July, whereas it increased up to K200,000 on 21 September.

THE weaker Kyat and strong demand caused the sesame seed price to remain on an upward trend, Mandalay wholesale market’s price data indicated.

Additionally, the price of sesame seeds remains in the bull market on the small stockpile when the market raised its head, the pulses traders from the Mandalay market said.

The price of black sesame seeds stood only K145,000 per three-basket bag in July, whereas it increased up to K200,000 on 21 September, the Soe Win Myint pulses depot in Mandalay stated.

“This year, the sesame production is possible to drop compared with the previous years. The extreme weather condition can affect the sesame quality and production,” said a grower.

Both raw sesame seeds and value-added sesame seeds are conveyed to China. When the COVID-19 cases fall and trans-

portation barriers are eased, the sesame market will raise its head again for sure, a depot owner from the Bayintnaung wholesale market said.

Myanmar’s sesame seeds export has earned US\$292.28 million in the past eight months (October-May) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to data released by Myanmar Customs Department.

Normally, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the main buyer of Myanmar sesame, which was also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar. Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and pur-

chases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar were previously exported to South Korea and Japan.

China usually purchases various coloured sesame seeds from the country, yet, the trade is quite sluggish amid the restriction measures to contain the COVID-19 disease. This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar’s sesame yet.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation. About 600,000-800,000 tonnes of sesame seeds are yearly produced.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 metric tons, worth \$130 million, in the financial year 2015-2016; \$100,000 tonnes, worth \$145 million, in the 2016-2017FY; 120,000 tonnes, worth \$147 million, in the 2017-2018FY; 33,900 tonnes valued \$43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, 125,800 tonnes, worth \$212.5 million in the 2018-2019FY and over 150,000 tonnes of sesame, worth \$240 million in the previous 2019-2020FY, the trade data of Central Statistical Organization indicated. — KK/GNLM

## Palm oil price rockets up to K4,100 per viss

THE price of palm oil touched a high of K4,100 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association.

On 1 July, the palm oil was priced only K3,200 per viss, whereas it soared to K4,100 on 21 September, showing an increase of K900 per viss in the past two months.

The local currency depreciation on the US dollar is the main reason for a price hike, traders stressed.

The association is striving for adequate edible oil supply, price stability and offering a reasonable price to the consumers.

To deal with the exorbitant price tracking the Kyat weakening in the local forex market, the consumers can purchase the palm oil at the wholesale price of K3,700 per viss through Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association. The volume of palm oil which will be sold at wholesale price is equivalent to the amount that the oil importer companies directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

This scheme is to offer the fairer price to the consumers with a profit of less than two per cent. Starting from 20 September, those interested retailers and wholesalers can buy them through

the contact numbers (09-444437295 and 09401527049) of the association located on Gangaw Road, Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

Additionally, the association notified the consumers not to worry over the supply of the edible oil on 15 July.

The association is also making concerted efforts with the organizations concerned and the related departments to secure the edible oil sufficiency and offer a reasonable price to the consumers, as per the statement.

The association is trying not to occur unnecessary issues regarding edible oil amid the global pandemic impacts.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association is attempting to maintain price stability, prevent market manipulation, import palm oil from foreign countries sustainably for self-sufficiency and distribute the edible oil at a fair price to the consumers.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported. — NN/GNLM

## Vietnam to buy 10 million Cuban vaccine doses

CUBA agreed Monday to provide Vietnam with 10 million doses of its home-grown coronavirus vaccine, Abdala, for which the Asian nation has given emergency approval.

A deal was signed between the two countries during an official visit by President Nguyen Xuan Phuc to the communist island, the government said.

The agreement concerns an initial five million doses, but Vietnam has already authorized the purchase of 10 million doses in total, Cuban media reported.

On Saturday, Vietnam became the first foreign country to approve the emergency use of Abdala, which Cuba is already using along with Soberana 02, another locally developed vaccine.

Venezuela has signed a contract to acquire 12 million Abdala doses, while Iran is producing Soberana 02 under agreement.

Argentina and Mexico have also expressed interest in the Cuban vaccines.

Last week, Cuba started the process of seeking World Health Organization approval for Abdala

and Soberana 02.

The vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have yet to undergo international scientific peer review.

Cuban scientists say the jabs have been shown to be more than 90 per cent effective at preventing symptomatic Covid-19 cases.

They are based on recombinant protein technology -- the same used by the United States' Novavax and France's Sanofi inoculations. — AFP ■



Abdala, technical name CIGB-66, is a COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Cuba. PHOTO: KATELL ABIVEN/AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### EU commissioner hopeful people vaccinated with AstraZeneca can enter US

WHILE Washington has not authorised the AstraZeneca vaccine against Covid-19, a European commissioner on Monday expressed hope that travellers from the continent inoculated with the jab will soon be able to enter the United States.

The US government on Monday announced that starting 1 November, it will lift the pandemic travel ban on all air passengers who are fully vaccinated and undergo testing and contact tracing.

The unprecedented travel restrictions had raised tensions between the United States and its European allies and had kept relatives, friends and business travelers around the world separated for many months as the pandemic grinds on. — AFP ■

## More Americans lost to Covid-19 than 1918 flu pandemic



White flags are seen on the Mall in front of the Washington Monument in Washington to symbolize all those lost to Covid. PHOTO: AFP

DESPITE a century of medical advances, more Americans have now died from Covid-19 than the number who succumbed to the 1918 flu pandemic, according to new data.

The latest grim milestone

comes as the country is experiencing a fourth-wave driven by the highly contagious Delta variant, with low vaccination uptake in many regions the main cause of death.

Johns Hopkins Universi-

ty tracker showed 675,722 US coronavirus deaths as of Friday, which surpasses the 675,000 US deaths during the influenza outbreak that began in the last year of World War I.

All told, some 50 million died worldwide in the flu pandemic — sometimes inaccurately referred to as the “Spanish flu” — making it the deadliest event in human history, according to epidemiologists.

That far exceeds global Covid deaths so far — around 4.7 million.

But the United States has borne a disproportionate 14 per cent of those fatalities, despite making up only five per cent of the world's population.

The American population in 1918 was less than a third of what it is now, meaning the

flu deaths would be equivalent to some 2.2 million in today's terms.

Unlike today's influenzas, which impact children and the elderly the most, the 1918 flu caused unusually high mortality among young adults.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with no vaccines and no antibiotics for secondary bacterial complications, control efforts were limited in the 1918-19 to non-pharmaceutical measures.

These included “isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings,” it said.

Many of the same measures, including face masks, were recommended when the Covid pandemic began. — AFP ■

## Amid official denials, Nicaraguans battle Covid surge

IN Nicaragua, governed with an iron fist by Daniel Ortega, official coronavirus figures do not reflect the reality of a population scrambling to find oxygen tanks for stricken loved ones.

The government insists there is no shortage of hospital beds and says the pandemic has killed 201 Nicaraguans out of a population of 6.5 million.

But observers and residents paint a different picture.

A network of independent doctors, Observatorio Ciudadano, says more than 4,500 people have died with Covid-19-like symptoms, and lists at least

25,150 suspected cases — almost double the government's official figure of 13,206.

Ortega, who since June has arrested dozens of opposition candidates ahead of 7 November elections in which he will seek a fourth consecutive term, dismisses these numbers as “pandemic terrorism.”

Last Wednesday, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said that despite a lack of “official figures to allow a proper analysis” there were “other sources indicating high demand for health services, particularly hospitals” in Nicaragua.



A network of independent doctors in Nicaragua, Observatorio Ciudadano, says more than 4,500 people have died with Covid-19-like symptoms. The official toll is 201. PHOTO: AFP

“The situation is critical — it is very bad,” said Erika, who declined to give her surname, one of hundreds queuing for oxygen in the capital, Managua.

She said she had lost two family members to the pandemic. “I no longer want to go onto social media and be faced with

all the condolences” expressed for people who had passed away, added Yonarqui Martinez, a human rights advocate.

The Catholic Church said that among its ranks alone, 16 priests have died of the virus in Nicaragua to date, most of them this year. — AFP ■

#### US school staffer wears Blackface in Covid vaccine protest

AN elementary school staff member arrived for work in Blackface claiming to be portraying Rosa Parks, in protest at Covid-19 vaccine mandates in the United States, local media reported Monday.

Special educational assistant Lauren Pefferle told colleagues she was channelling the Black civil rights icon, as a way of highlighting her opposition to rules making the shots compulsory for school staff, Oregon's Newberg Graphic newspaper reported.

Pefferle said she had used iodine to darken her face in order to look like Parks, whose dignified refusal to cede her seat to a white bus passenger was a pivotal moment in the battle against racial segregation in the United States. Blackface — where non-Black people wear dark make-up to portray a caricature — is generally considered highly offensive. Oregon is one of a growing number of jurisdictions in the United States that require staff in schools to be vaccinated against Covid-19, as the country grapples to reverse a surge in case numbers. — AFP ■

NEWS  
IN BRIEFEU analyzing  
AUKUS deal's  
impact on trade  
talks with Australia

THE European Commission is currently analyzing the impact the new security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (U.S.), dubbed AUKUS, on the next round of its trade negotiations with Australia, a Commission spokesperson said here on Monday. "We are analyzing the impact that the AUKUS announcement would have" on the schedule of the trade talks between the EU and Australia, said Eric Mamer, the European Commission's chief spokesperson. The new trilateral partnership has angered France after Australia pulled out of a 56-billion-euro (65.6 billion U.S. dollars) contract. Back in 2016, Australia signed a contract with France for the purchase of 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines. The AUKUS deal was announced last Wednesday during a joint online press conference by U.S. President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. —Xinhua ■

Cyber 'farming' to  
boost income in  
Venezuela

ZACARY Egea works two jobs as a motorcycle taxi driver and courier in economically crippled Venezuela. In his downtime, the 32-year-old plays an online game to earn extra money by amassing so-called non-fungible tokens, or NFTs. Egea is one of many Venezuelans to have turned to NFT gaming to augment their income as the country confronts its eighth year of recession and fourth of hyperinflation.

NFTs are one-of-a-kind digital collectibles, each with a certificate of authenticity created by the same blockchain technology that underlies cryptocurrency. It cannot be forged or otherwise manipulated.

Egea plays the game Plant vs Undead, in which plants "grown" in an online garden battle zombie-like monsters. Players invest time in "watering" and otherwise caring for their plants -- purchased with cryptocurrency. —AFP ■

## Land prices continue to fall in Japan amid pandemic



Photo taken on 11 September 2021, shows the Meidi-ya Ginza commercial building in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district, where the highest land price per square meter in Japan was recorded for the 16th consecutive year. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

THE average price of land in Japan as of 1 July fell 0.4 per cent from the previous year for the second consecutive year of de-

clines amid the prolonged coronavirus pandemic, government data showed Tuesday.

But the margin of decline

narrowed from 0.6 per cent last year, with demand for residential land slightly improving. Reflecting a drop in demand for hotels and shops due to the pandemic, prices of commercial land decreased, according to the data released by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

In Japan's three largest metropolitan areas — Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya — the average land price edged up 0.1 per cent, while that of the Osaka area only saw declines.

The survey covered the average prices for all types of land nationwide, including commercial, residential and industrial, based on the value of 21,443 sites across the country.

A ministry official said land

prices would bounce back from the fall only after COVID-19 subsides and people return to the streets. "We will monitor the influence" of the pandemic, the official said.

The average price of commercial land dropped 0.5 per cent from a year earlier, a sharper decrease than 0.3 per cent last year, and 41 of the country's 47 prefectures saw declines, compared with 36 prefectures in the previous year.

By region, average commercial land prices fell in the Osaka area for the first time in nine years, with the Dotonbori district in western Japan's Osaka city plunging 18.5 per cent, the largest drop among commercial land nationwide, the data showed. —Kyodo News ■

Afghanistan's central bank allows merchants  
to withdraw 25,000 US dollars monthly

AFGHANISTAN'S central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), has allowed merchants and owners of private companies to withdraw 25,000 U.S. dollars from their bank accounts once in a month, reported a local TV channel on Monday.

Following the latest decision and announcement of DAB, the Afghan entrepreneurs could receive 25,000 U.S. dollars or its afghani equivalent once in a month from their accounts from all banks across Afghanistan, reported Tolo News TV.

Reports of freezing Afghanistan's bank assets by the United States as well as a halt of funds by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) have recently fueled concerns among Afghans.

On 28 August, the DBA issued an order to all banks in the Central Asian country, setting a temporary limit of withdrawals of 200 U.S. dollars or 20,000 afghani for one customer every week.

Thousands of customers had waited in long lines to withdraw their savings since the Taliban's takeover of the country in mid-August.

Meantime, local businessmen and members of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce told the TV channel that the cash allowed to be withdrawn was insufficient and they could do less with the amount. They



An Afghan money changer counts U.S. dollar banknotes at an exchange market in Ghazni province, eastern Afghanistan, 4 April 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/SAYED MOMINZADAH**

said in order to run their business they need enough money to

withdraw from government-run and private banks. —Xinhua ■

Yunnan sees foreign trade  
up 51 pct in Jan-Aug

SOUTHWEST China's Yunnan Province reported strong trade growth in the first eight months of this year.

Yunnan's foreign trade totalled 199.08 billion yuan (about 30.8 billion U.S. dollars) from January to August, up 51.1 per cent from a year ago, said Kunming Customs.

The province's exports rose 82.1 per cent year on year to 106.06 billion yuan, while imports gained 26.5 per cent to 93.02 billion yuan.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remained Yunnan's largest trading partner during the eight months, with trade growing 24.5 per cent year on year to 82.45 billion yuan, the agency said. Trade with countries and regions participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries, grew by 24.9 per cent and 30.7 per cent, respectively. —Xinhua ■



Motorbikes are seen at a motorbike factory in China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone Dehong Area in Dehong, southwest China's Yunnan Province, 4 November 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG WENYAO**

## Airline sector relieved over lifting of US travel ban

THE United States' decision to lift restrictions on incoming travellers vaccinated against Covid-19 was met with a sigh of a relief by the global airline sector, which has been dealt a body blow by the pandemic.

With transatlantic flights traditionally among

the most lucrative for Europe's biggest airlines, the Monday announcement was "formidable news" for a sector that has haemorrhaged tens of billions of euros over the past 18 months, Air France-KLM chief Benjamin Smith told AFP. For most of Europe's

flag carriers — such as Air France, British Airways and Lufthansa — the restrictions on long-haul routes across the Atlantic were particularly hard to swallow. Air France-KLM, for example, generates 40 per cent of its sales from its North Atlantic serv-

es, and for Germany's Lufthansa, the proportion is 50 per cent. US airlines such as United, Delta and American are much more domestically orientated and less dependent on international services, which account for 25-30 per cent of revenues.—AFP ■



The International Air Transport Association described it as "a major step forward". PHOTO: AFP

## Shell scores deal to sell Permian oil assets to ConocoPhillips



Royal Dutch Shell announced on Monday it was selling its assets in the shale-oil rich Permian Basin of the United States to rival ConocoPhillips for \$9.5 billion. PHOTO: AFP

ROYAL Dutch Shell announced on Monday it was selling its assets in the shale-oil rich Permian Basin of the United States to rival ConocoPhillips for \$9.5 billion.

Shell plans to use the proceeds from the sale of the property, which produce an average of 175,000 barrels per day, to fund a \$7 billion payout to its shareholders and strengthen its finances, according to a statement.

"After reviewing multiple strategies and portfolio options for our Permian assets, this transaction with ConocoPhillips emerged as a very compelling value proposition," the company's upstream director Wael Sawan said.

Straddling western Texas and eastern New Mexico, the Permian Basin is rich in shale oil and gas and produces about 40 per cent of the country's crude.

The assets sold by Shell's US unit include 225,000 acres of land in Texas with more than 600 miles of oil, gas and water transmission pipes, according to ConocoPhillips.

Shell is highly dependent on profits from oil and gas, but aims to become carbon neutral by 2050. It plans to do this by investing in renewable energy and carbon offsetting technology, as well as reducing its dependence on crude as a source of revenue. The Anglo-Dutch oil giant has been present in the United States for more than a century, and said it "plans to remain an energy leader in the country for decades to come." ConocoPhillips said it hopes to complete the deal by the end of the year. The transaction is subject to approval of reg-

## Universal Music worth \$50 bn as shares soar on stock debut

SHARES in Universal Music, the world's biggest label with a lineup of megastars from The Beatles to Taylor Swift, surged on its stock market debut Tuesday, giving the company a valuation exceeding \$50 billion. With shares leaping from 18.50 euros to over 25 euros (\$29), the US-based music giant found itself valued at €46.3 billion (\$54.3 billion) in early trading.

That is way above the \$39 billion valuation it was given the night before its listing on the Euronext Amsterdam index. Trade magazine Music Business

Weekly said it had been "expecting an impressive opening for UMG on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange today — but even we weren't expecting this."



Universal Music owns a catalogue of four million songs. PHOTO: AFP

Universal Music Group (UMG), with its catalogue of four million titles, was floated by its owner, the French media conglomerate Vivendi.—AFP ■

### CAUTIONARY NOTICE FOR PATENT

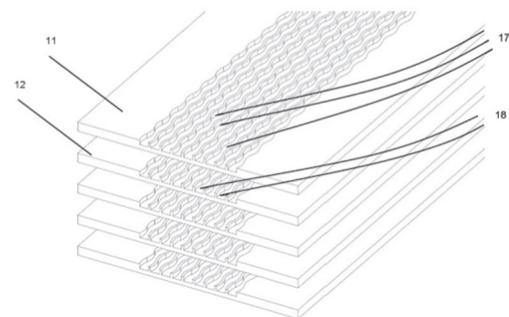
This is to declare the exclusive ownership of the Patent described herein in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Applicant/Owner	PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited ("PTTGC") and PTT Public Company Limited
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Inventors	TARAPOOM, Nattapong (Thailand) SOMPECH, Kawisra (Thailand) SIRIMUNGKALAKUL, Nichaporn (Thailand)
Title	A MICROCHANNEL HEAT EXCHANGER
International Application Number (PCT)	PCT/TH2019/000056
International Publication Number (PCT)	WO 2020/112033 A 1 (4 June 2020)

### ABSTRACT OF INVENTION

A microchannel heat exchanger comprising: at least one high temperature heat exchanging plate and at least one low temperature heat exchanging plate stacked in an alternating sequence, wherein an inlet of high temperature fluid and an outlet of high temperature fluid are disposed in order to pass the high temperature fluid through each said high temperature heat exchanging plate, and an inlet of low temperature fluid and an outlet of low temperature fluid are disposed in order to pass the low temperature fluid through each said low temperature heat exchanging plate, wherein the high temperature heat exchanging plate comprising the high temperature microchannel and the low temperature heat exchanging plate comprising the low temperature microchannel, wherein said channels have a length extending in the flow direction of fluids, and the side wall of each said channel has a symmetric wavy pattern with the center line of each said channel as a symmetric axis, wherein the high temperature heat exchanging plate and the low temperature heat exchanging plate are arranged in the pattern in which the high temperature microchannel and the low temperature microchannel are aligned.

### ILLUSTRATION OF INVENTION



The details of the above-mentioned Patent is available to the public through the PATENTSCOPE database of the World Intellectual Property Organization, or upon request.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Patent or other infringement whatsoever relating thereto will be dealt with according to law.

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Dated: 22 September 2021

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

107-yr-old Japanese identical twins recognized as world's oldest

TWO Japanese sisters aged 107 years and 300 days have been certified as the world's oldest living identical twins and the oldest ever recorded, Guinness World Records Japan said Monday.

As of 1 September, Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama had their record recognized, surpassing Japanese centenarian celebrity twin sisters Kin Narita and Gin Kanie who held the previous record of 107 years and 175 days. Narita died in 2000 and Kanie in 2001.

Fondly known to the public as Kin-san and Gin-san, the sisters were household names in Japan, having appeared on numerous television shows and in commercials.—Kyodo ■

Pakistan calls for unfreezing of Afghan assets ahead of UN talks

PAKISTAN on Monday called on world powers to unblock billions of dollars in Afghan assets frozen after the Taliban takeover but said it did not expect recognition soon of the new government.

Ahead of talks on Afghanistan at the UN General Assembly, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the most urgent priority was averting an even deeper economic collapse of the neighboring nation that could trigger a humanitarian catastrophe. "On one hand, you're raising fresh funds to avert a crisis and on the other hand money that is theirs — belongs to them — they cannot use," Qureshi told reporters.—AFP ■

Poland accuses Russia and Belarus of sending 'waves' of migrants to its border

POLAND on Monday accused Russia and Belarus of orchestrating a wave of illegal immigration at its land border, a day after four migrants were found dead at its Belarusian frontier. Thousands have been trying to cross from Belarus into EU members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in recent weeks. The EU suspects the influx of people mostly from the Middle East is being orchestrated by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in retaliation for sanctions on his regime.—AFP ■

## Biden bids to renew US leadership in UN speech

PRESIDENT Joe Biden will tell the world Tuesday that the United States wants to avoid a Cold War with China, while pivoting from continuous post-9/11 conflicts to an era of US-led diplomacy.

Biden's first speech as US president to the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York faces a tough reception.

He has spent his presidency branding countries like China and Russia as the opposing side in a generational, global struggle between autocrats and democracies.

Close ally France is also furious at what it calls backstabbing by Washington in a defense pact that will see Australia acquire US nuclear submarine technology, while ditching previous plans for French conventional submarines.

Throw in the hangover from the traumatic Afghanistan exit — where victorious Taliban guerrillas forced the US-led



US President Joe Biden flies to the United Nations where he will vow to steer away from Cold War with China and work to resolving the Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

alliance into a hasty, at times chaotic, withdrawal — and Biden can expect some skepticism.

However, Biden will argue from the UN rostrum that the United States is stepping in to

save the world from the Covid pandemic, leading on climate crisis measures and rebuilding democratic ties frayed under Donald Trump.

And he will insist that his

drive to deepen the US footprint in Asia — the new nuclear submarines pact with Australia is only the latest building block — doesn't have to mean confrontation with China.—AFP ■

## Shock at Russia university campus as gunman kills six



Witnesses described scenes of panic at Perm State University. PHOTO: AFP

A GUNMAN killed six people on a university campus in Russia on Monday before being detained, investigators said, leaving students and teachers shaken and terrified.

It was the second mass shooting in Russia this year to target students and came amid calls for stricter controls on access to firearms.

Video on social media showed students throwing belongings from the windows of university buildings in the city of Perm, around 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) east of Moscow, before jumping to flee the shooter.

Witnesses described scenes of panic at Perm State University, saying the city of around one million people was left in shock by the tragedy.

State media broadcast amateur footage reportedly taken during the attack showing an individual dressed in black tactical clothing, including a helmet, carrying a weapon and walking through the campus.

The gunman, identified as a student at the university, carried out the shooting with a hunting rifle he purchased this year, according to Russia's Investigative Committee.—AFP ■

## Uproar over mounted border agents turning back Haitian migrants

US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Monday that the authorities would investigate reports that Haitian migrants in Texas may have been abused by border patrol officers on horseback.

Mayorkas said the mounted officers were trying to manage the flow of hundreds of migrants crossing the Rio Grande river from Mexico near Del Rio, Texas. Pictures by AFP photographer Paul Ratje and video footage which spread quickly over social media appeared

to show riders swinging their long reins to threaten migrants and push them back toward the river. Ratje said many of the Haitians were crossing the river back and forth to get food for their families and were blocked by the horses. "Some of the migrants started running to try to get around the horsemen, and one of the agents grabbed the Haitian in the picture by the shirt and he ended up swinging him around while the horse trotted in a circle," Ratje said of one particular photograph.—AFP ■



A United States Border Patrol agent on horseback tries to stop a Haitian migrant from entering an encampment on the banks of the Rio Grande near Del Rio, Texas. PHOTO: AFP

## Japan to get new prime minister Oct. 4, general election seen in Nov.



(From L) Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Finance Minister Taro Aso attend a Cabinet meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 21 September 2021, wearing masks for protection against the coronavirus. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN'S parliament will elect a new prime minister on 4 October at an extraordinary session, according to a Cabinet decision Tuesday, meaning a general election is likely to be held in November, coming after lower house members' terms expire for the first time in postwar history.

To hold the election before the members' terms end on 21 October, campaigning needs to start on 5 October for voting on 17 October at the latest. But given the new prime minister needs to appoint Cabinet members and is likely to deliver a policy speech, Japan is certain not to meet those schedules.

Whoever elected in the 29

September presidential election of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is expected to be endorsed in the Diet as the successor of outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga as the LDP controls the powerful House of Representatives.

The race is between vaccination minister Taro Kono, former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, former communications minister Sanae Takaichi and the LDP's executive acting secretary-general Seiko Noda. The new prime minister will launch a new Cabinet on the same day and decide on deputy ministers and other personnel later. Although whether to make a policy speech and hold a

question and answer session with opposition parties is up to the new premier, all four have suggested they would do so.

Given such a scenario, the most likely two schedules are to start campaigning on 26 October for an election on 7 November or campaigning on 2 November for voting on 14 November.

The decision by the Cabinet to convene the Diet for the vote comes after the government had put off calls in July by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and three other opposition parties to hold an extraordinary session to discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.—Kyodo ■

## Trudeau's Liberals set to win minority government in Canada election

CANADIANS returned Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to power Monday in hotly contested elections against a rookie conservative leader, but he failed to gain an absolute majority, according to projections by television networks.

Trudeau called the snap election last month, hoping to parlay a smooth Covid-19 vaccine rollout — among the best in the world — into a new mandate to steer the nation's pandemic exit and pass his agenda without opposition support.

But after a bumpy five weeks of campaigning, his voice was raspy and he appeared set for a repeat of the close 2019 general election that resulted in the one-time golden boy of Canadian politics clinging to power yet weakened after losing his majority in parliament. "You (Canadians) are



Canadian Prime Minister and Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau (R) arrives with his family to cast his vote in the 2021 Canadian election in Montreal, Quebec on 20 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP

sending us back to work with a clear mandate to get through this pandemic into brighter days ahead," Trudeau said, flanked by his wife Sophie Gregoire and their children on stage at a victory gala.

"That's exactly what we are ready to do," he said. At 49, Trudeau had faced tougher po-

litical bouts and still came out unscathed. After six years in power, however, his administration is showing signs of fatigue, and it was an uphill battle for him to convince Canadians to stick with his Liberals after falling short of high expectations set in his 2015 landslide win.—AFP ■

## Biden administration doubles US refugee admissions

THE Biden administration announced Monday that it would double the number of refugees it will accept in the coming fiscal year to 125,000, amid rising pressure from people fleeing Afghanistan and other countries.

President Joe Biden has reversed a trend begun by predecessor Donald Trump to push down the number of refugees accepted each year to a few thousand. Trump set the official cap for the current fiscal year, ending on 30 September, at just 15,000, and actually admitted far less than that.

Biden overrode that number after he came into office,

pushing it back up to 62,500.

For fiscal 2022, the level will rise to 125,000.

"Today, the State Department is reaffirming our commitment to refugee resettlement in line with our long tradition of providing a safe haven and opportunity to individuals fleeing persecution," said spokesperson Ned Price.

"With the world facing unprecedented global displacement and humanitarian needs, the United States is committed to leading efforts to provide protection and promote durable solutions to humanitarian crises," Price said in a statement.—AFP ■



Refugees from Afghanistan disembark from a US air force aircraft at the Rota naval base in southern Spain, before heading to the United States. PHOTO: AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### French defence minister warns Mali against Russian 'mercenary' firm

FRANCE'S defence minister has warned Mali that hiring paramilitaries from Russian private-security firm Wagner would isolate the country internationally, during a visit to the Sahel state.

Florence Parly told reporters on Monday that if Mali hired the firm, at a time when international partners fighting jihadism in the Sahel "had never been so numerous, such a choice would be that of isolation". Parly's meeting with her Malian counterpart Colonel Sadio Camara follows a previous warning to Bamako from its former colonial power last week, after reports that Mali's army-dominated government was close to hiring 1,000 Wagner paramilitaries.

The Russian company is considered close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and has been accused of committing abuses.—AFP ■

### Lebanese parliament approves new government

LEBANON'S parliament on Monday approved Prime Minister Najib Mikati's new cabinet, tasked with pulling the country out of a deep economic crisis after 13 months of political deadlock.

The economic meltdown has depleted central bank reserves, devalued the currency by more than 90 per cent and plunged three out of four citizens below the poverty line, while those who can are emigrating by the thousands. The World Bank has called it one of the planet's worst economic crises since the 1850s.

After a marathon eight-hour session to examine the government's action plan, 85 lawmakers voted for Mikati's line-up while 15 voted against, according to a tally announced by parliament speaker Nabih Berri.—AFP ■

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

### 1. Political affairs

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

### 2. Economic affairs

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

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

### 3. Social affairs

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

## AFF Suzuki Cup: Myanmar placed in Group B with Thailand

ACCORDING to the official draw result of the ASEAN Football Federation Suzuki Cup, Myanmar men's national football team is placed in Group B with regional powerhouse Thailand. Group A consists of Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and (Brunei or Timor Leste).

On the other hand, defending champion Viet Nam is placed in Group B together with Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia.

Myanmar team will face

Thailand, and the Philippines in the group stage and is likely to play a tough role to reach the semi-finals.

The AFF Suzuki Cup tourney will be held from 5 December to 1 January.

There are two groups of five teams, with the top two teams advancing to the semi-finals.

Up to five current players will be subject to substitution rules, while group stage matches will start on 5 December.

Details of the tournament have not been released by AFF,



PHOTO: AFFSUZUKICUP.COM

but will be released promptly. Cambodia, Indonesia, Sin-

gapore, Thailand and Viet Nam are reportedly interested to host

the tourney, officials said. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Koeman defends direct approach after Barca held by Granada



Ronald Koeman defended his direct tactics after being accused of betraying Barcelona's attacking traditions in a 1-1 draw at home to Granada on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

RONALD Koeman defended his direct tactics after being accused of betraying Barcelona's attacking traditions in a 1-1 draw at home to Granada on Monday.

Koeman brought Gerard Pique off the bench at Camp Nou to play up front alongside Luuk de Jong, with Ronald Araujo,

another central defender, also thrown into the attack as Barca sent in 54 crosses in search of an equaliser.

Araujo finally headed home in injury-time after Domingos Duarte had given Granada an early lead but the whistles at the end from the Barcelona fans in-

dicated a point was not nearly enough.

"We changed our style a little bit," Koeman said. "The spaces were out wide, not in the middle. We went with Pique, De Jong and Araujo and from one of those crosses we got the draw."

Koeman's position was already fragile after last week's 3-0 drubbing at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League, a game in which his team failed to muster a single shot on target.

After the latest disappointment against Granada, it was put to him that supporters were even angrier about Barcelona's style than the result. "If you see the list of players, what do you do? Play tiki-taki? Tiki-taki when there are no spaces?" said Koeman.— AFP ■

## Challenger Usyk 'jumping in at the deep end', says Joshua

BRITISH world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua praised Oleksandr Usyk for being bold in challenging him for his belts after just two bouts at the weight. Joshua is set to face World Boxing Organization (WBO) mandatory challenger Usyk in London on Saturday, with a crowd of some 60,000 expected at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, the home of the Premier League club.

Joshua, whose World Box-

ing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) titles are also on the line, compared Usyk's lack of experience to boxing legend Evander Holyfield's before tackling a heavyweight championship fight. Usyk -- who moved up to heavyweight in 2018 after being undisputed cruiserweight world champion -- beat Chazz Witherspoon in 2019 before easing to a points win last November over veteran Derek Chisora.—AFP ■



British world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua. PHOTO: AFP/FILE