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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 167, 13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tawthalin 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Sunday, 3 October 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.

## State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Shan Yoma livestock zone in Ayethaya Industrial Zone, pays homage to Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda

ONLY when those at present conserve natural environment will they hand over the good environment to new generations, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in his tour of raising of layers and pedigree pigs in Shan Yoma livestock zone in Ayethaya Industrial Zone of Taunggyi yesterday morning.

The Senior General heard reports on breeding tasks in Shan Yoma breeding zone, production of livestock products and requirements, the progress of industrial production in Ayethaya industrial zone, long term existence of Inlay Lake and future plans by officials.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General expressed his pleasure for the efforts of local people in successfully raising the layers. He stressed the need to successfully emerge the breeding of dairy cows and produce livestock, fish and other agricultural products in the industrial zone. Efforts must be made for manu-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officials at the Shan Yoma livestock zone in the Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi, Shan State on 2 October 2021.

facturing the finished agricultural and livestock products with the use of raw materials. He said it is necessary to export frozen fish and meat and agricultural

products to the domestic and international market.

The Senior General highlighted the supply of water and safety of industrial zone, opera-

tion of small and medium scale industries, and environmental conservation. Only when those at present conserve natural environment will they hand over the

good environment to new generations. The Tatmadaw is dropping seeds by helicopter for greening Inlay Lake as well as across the nation. **SEE PAGE-2**

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## State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Shan Yoma livestock zone in Ayethaya Industrial Zone, pays homage to Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda

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The Senior General stressed the need to move residence on the island from the water of Inlay Lake not to increase the population in the lake. It is necessary to reduce works on the floating lands. Locals and administrative bodies need to join hands in environmental conservation. In his past visits, the Senior General said he donated two aquatic weed harvesters for cleaning the weeds and water hyacinths in the lake. Efforts must be made for the production of fertilizers with the use of weeds and water hyacinths to create jobs for the



The Senior General and party pay an inspection tour around the Shan Yoma Livestock Zone in Taunggyi on 2 October 2021.

Only when those at present conserve natural environment will they hand over the good environment to new generations.

local people.

He discussed that relevant ministries and locals need to strive for the prevention of silting in the main water inlet creeks of Inlay Lake.

The Senior General visited the layer farm of Dr Sai Lon and the pedigree pig farm of Farm Myanmar Co Ltd in Shan Yoma livestock zone and discussed the development of the livestock sector.

The Senior General paid homage to Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda in the Inlay region of Nyaungshwe Township, offered flowers, water, oil lights and gold foils to the Buddha images in the pagoda and signed the visitors' book. He donated cash to the fund of the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees who returned Dhamma gifts.

The Senior General also paid homage to Sayadaw Bhadd-

anta Vijaya and members of the Sangha at Sein and Mya Monastery and donated cash for nine prerequisites. He also supplicated the health of the Sayadaw and the long term existence of the Inlay region and the pagoda.

The Senior General and party visited Inlay Lake by motor schooner to view round development of the region and situation to conserve the natural environment. — MNA

## Another 4 million doses of Chinese COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Myanmar

THE Ministry of Health conducts the vaccination programme as per target groups across the nation as a measure to control the disease. Of 24 million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines purchased from the People's Republic of China, 4 more million doses arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday and were received by the head of Yangon Region Medical Services/ Public Health Departments and officials.

These vaccines will be distributed to regions and states based on the requirement, via road transport or with the help of the Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanmar airways in the cold chain.

The newly arrived COVID-19 vaccines will be given to



the original target groups and extended groups according to their priorities.

Till 2 October, a total of 18

million doses – two million doses of Covishield, 14 million doses of Sinopharm and two million doses of Sinovac purchased by the min-

istry have arrived in Myanmar. Moreover, the country received more than five million doses of vaccines donated by China, India

and Russia.

The officials vaccinated a total of 8,264,157 people until 1 October while 3,863,344 people have been fully vaccinated and 4,400,813 people have received the first jabs of COVID-19 vaccines.

Therefore, the total doses of vaccine delivered are 12,127,501 in the country.

The people are urged to receive the COVID-19 vaccines, and those who have already received the first dose are encouraged to go to the nearest immunization centres and receive the second dose on the scheduled immunization date or near the due date, as well as to actively participate in the vaccination activities. — MNA

**1,347 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 October, total figure rises to 467,269**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 467,269 after 1,347 new cases were reported on 2 October 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 421,265 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,835 after 46 died.

# People aspire to the democratic election

THE general election is a very important process for a democratic nation, and those persons attempted to secure the victory in the election by turning a blind eye to the election process. The Tatmadaw emphasizes the desire of the people. But, they need to follow the disciplines. Although they can do anything in unison if their acts are not in line with the law, such acts cannot be done. All things must be done under the law.

*(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 1/2021 of the Union 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 27-9-2021)*

## SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing conducts inspections to resume No (2) Steel Mill Project (Pinpet)



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the reports on the No.2 Steel Factory (Pinpet) in Taunggyi Township of Shan State on 1 October 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by the SAC members, Union Ministers, the Shan State Chief Minister, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Office, the Commander of Eastern Command and other officials inspected the No (2) Steel Factory (Pinpet) operated by No (1) Heavy Industrial Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry near Pin Ngo Village of Pinpet region of Taunggyi Township on Friday

evening. Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo reported on the current situation of No (2) Steel Mill Project (Pinpet), effective management for work plans, arrangement to provide

sufficient power and natural gas to the plant while the in-charge of the factory explained the process of the factory.

In his response to the reports, SAC Chairman Prime Minister said the No (2) Steel Mill (Pinpet) project is the very first iron and steel project implemented in Myanmar, and when completed, it will provide the local demand without importing. It needs to carry out to be successful as it can create job opportunities and has solid market potential. Although the project completed 98.86 per cent, the operation was suspended due to irrational decisions made at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session held on 6 and 15 March in 2017 under the government that took office in 2015. Therefore, it causes huge losses to the country. The current government now makes efforts to resume the project as it can bring benefits to the country.

He then added that it needs to prepare a proper transport system in advance for the electricity, natural gas and raw materials to start the

project. In case of power outages, it is also necessary for the factories to take systematic measures to prevent power cutoff as the factories can face huge losses.

If the factory runs during a fixed period and produces steel, it can reduce the use of foreign currency. Moreover, it still needs to construct rail to run electric trains in transporting the mines and produced raw iron and steel and to make preparation not to occur power cuts.

Then, he inspected the factory and raw material extraction sites via the viewpoint.

The No (2) Steel Mill Project (Pinpet) was developed by Russian company Tyazhpromexport (TPE) and the Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) on 5 September 2006. The project was transferred to the Ministry of Industry on 1 October 2012. The operation was suspended for four years and six months. Currently, the officials plan to resume the project in the 2023-2024 financial year.—MNA



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party pay an inspection tour around the No.2 Steel Mill Project (Pinpet) in Taunggyi Township on 1 October 2021.

# State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inaugurates radiation treatment centre, operation theatre for cancer disease at military hospital



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presses the ceremonial opening button for a new radiation treatment unit at the military hospital in Aungpan of Shan State yesterday.

A ceremony to commission the radiation treatment centre and the operation theatre for cancer disease into service took place at the military hospital in Aungpan of Shan State (South) yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

After unveiling the radiation treatment centre and the operation theatre for cancer disease, the Senior General sprinkled scented water on the signboard of the centre.

The Senior General and party viewed round installation of machinery at the centre. They cordially comforted the patients and presented food-stuffs and cash assistance.



The already-opened three-storey centre was built in the 2019-2020 financial year during the tour of the Senior General in June 2019. The LA machine installed in the centre is the Varian Series Vital Beam made in the United States of America. The machine was also installed with a 16 Slice CT Simulator. As the cancer treatment must be performed with the team comprising specialists of a multidisciplinary approach, surgery, radiation, X-ray and heart. At present, the military hospital in Aungpan will give cancer surgical treatment with radiation therapy to the Tatmadaw members and families as well as local people from Shan and Kayah States. Those cancer patients will be provided comprehensive treatment in a single place. The hospital has given cancer treatment and related diseases to 242 officers, other ranks and families and 276 local people, a total of 518 within one and a half years.—MNA



The Senior General looks around the military hospital in Aungpan of Shan State yesterday.

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kye 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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# Trainees must be capable of applying warfare ideologies theoretically and practically: Senior General



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees of the Command and General Staff College in Kalaw yesterday.

THE training gives theory and principle to the trainees who need to secure success in the practical field with critical thinking and initiatives, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees of the Command and General Staff College in Kalaw at the hall of Kalaw Station yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Senior General said the training course of the Command and General Staff College is the highest among the military training courses conducted by the Tatmadaw to give training on military leadership to the senior



The Senior General and party warmly greets the military senior officer trainees in Kalaw yesterday.

As the enormous voting fraud happened in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election, the Tatmadaw held negotiations several times to address the voting fraud. But the government neglected it and made attempts to illegally seize the State power. Hence, the country was declared as a state of emergency, and the State responsibilities were taken for implementing the genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democracy. The voting fraud was a very bad event in building democracy.

military officers from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air). The National Defence College is an institution to give training on political, economic, administration and defence outlooks to the trainees. In discharging the duty of commander, they have to manage the general staff, adjutant

and quartermaster measures of the argument. In systematically studying the management measures of a regiment, they will have invaluable experiences in management and they can apply it in other areas.

As the duties of a commanding officer are very wide, they

have to do everything systematically and have to always study everything. They need to culture a good practice to note down the topics to be done and should be done in discharging the one-step higher rank. When they serve the one-step higher rank, they will not face difficulties. They have to

consider the ways how to overcome the challenges they may face. Despite taking the example of the commanding officers, all trainees need to analyze the speech compared with their daily duties.

The trainees need to fully apply the experiences obtained from the training. Trainees must be capable of applying warfare ideologies theoretically and practically. They have to multilaterally hold talks about topics from the training course. The training gives theory and principle to the trainees who need to secure success in the practical field with critical thinking and initiatives.

The Tatmadaw paved the way for multiparty democracy the entire people aspire by holding the multiparty democracy general election in 2010. The Tatmadaw joined hands with the

government led by President U Thein Sein in the development undertakings of the nation. In 2012, some provisions of the election law were amended to enable the National League for Democracy to participate in the election. As the enormous voting fraud happened in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election, the Tatmadaw held negotiations several times to address the voting fraud. But the government neglected it and made attempts to illegally seize the State power. Hence, the country was declared as a state of emergency, and the State responsibilities were taken for implementing the genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democracy. The voting fraud was a very bad event in building democracy.

Concerning the military building, the Tatmadaw must always take training for possessing combat ability and combat power. The officers need to control themselves as well as subordinates and fulfil their actual requirements. They have to consider various ways and means for solving the difficulties of subordinates. Better studies will contribute to critical thinking, so they should strive for improvement of individual lives. In so doing, they must set aims with hard work. If so, their acts should not harm others by honestly doing everything. They should have to meet the goal and build their lives with vigorous efforts without showing just a display.

The Senior General and party cordially greeted senior officer trainees. —MNA

## MoHT Minister makes inspection tour to Bagan

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung arrived at NyaungU, Mandalay Region on 1 October and encouraged the Occupational Safety Training Course which was opened to recognize hotel and tourism services as safe services. A total of 30 trainees (10 through videoconferencing, 30 in-person) have been attending the training course, and it will be open for five days from 30-9-2021 to 4-10-2021.

During his inspection tour, the Union Minister also visited the oxygen plant established by the Min Din Foundation, which produces an average of 95 40-litre oxygen tanks per day, to meet the oxygen needs of the COVID-19 positive patients and those who need intensive care.

Afterwards, he inspected the operation of the Bagan Information and Training Centre opened by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to provide tourist information, and he inspected the Virtual Reality Tour venue



and ordered requirements for the venue.

The Union Minister also held a coordination meeting on tourism development with department officials, officials from the Hotelier Association, Tourism Entrepreneurs Association, Restaurants Association, the Tourism

Transportation Association, and hotel managers in the Bagan zone. At the meeting, the Union Minister said it is necessary for each individual to strictly follow the COVID-19 prevention regulations issued by the Ministry of Health in order to coexist with the COVID-19 pandemic. The

Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocol has been drawn up to promote Myanmar's tourism image, and it is necessary to provide services under the Health & Safety Protocol issued by the Ministry, he added.

The Government has set tourism as a priority and we must

focus on the socio-economic development of the local people from tourism, he continued. He called on the local people to work together with the Government and the private sector to develop tourism in the Bagan zone. He also said it is necessary to be ready for the resumption of tourism.

At the meeting, the Administrator of the NyaungU District General Administration Department awarded the regional certification under the Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocol to hotels that have been inspected and reopened under the COVID-19 regulations and received by a hotel manager on behalf of the Myanmar Hotelier Association (Bagan Zone).

In the afternoon, the Union Minister encouraged the first occupational safety training course conducted by outsourcing system at Popa Mountain Resort, a nature-based tourism area. — MNA

## Over 800 people vaccinated in Mongyai, northern Shan State

CIVIL service personnel and their families, and people above 18 from various backgrounds, including people with disabilities and people from IDP camps in Mongyai Township, northern Shan State received the first jabs of the COVID-19 vaccine yesterday.

The vaccination was systematically carried out fol-

lowing the COVID-19 rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Health, and department officials, members of civil society organizations and health care workers work together for the vaccination.

A total of 855 people were vaccinated yesterday in Mongyai Township, it is reported. —IPRD/GNLM



Inoculation drive is underway in northern Shan State.

## Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

FROM 27-9-2021 to 1-10-2021, local/foreign donors contributed K19.610 million to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 1-10-2021 is as follows: -

### COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 24-9-2021	246,053,000,503.91
Received amount of money from (+) 27-9-2021 to 1-10-2021	19,610,000.00
<b>Closed balance on 1-10-2021</b>	<b>246,072,610,503.39</b>

### COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 24-9-2021	70,362,349.53
Received amount of money from (+) 27-9-2021 to 1-10-2021	-
(-) 30-9-2021 Payment for buying medicines from Sinopharm Company of China	26,600,000.00
<b>Closed balance on 1-10-2021</b>	<b>43,762,349.53</b>

## Myanmar warmly welcomes 200 returnees transferred from Laos

MYANMAR officials warmly welcomed a total of 200 returnees (121 men and 79 women) transferred from Laos at Wang Pong port in Tachilek yesterday afternoon.

The Tachilek District COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee tested the returnees for COV-

ID-19 virus with RDT test kits and all of them were reportedly tested negative. They will be quarantined in Wan Long Quarantine Centre and will be tested again on the third day.

The returnees who will be tested negative on the third day will be transported to respective regions and states, it

is reported.

Myanmar has been receiving returnees from Laos since 30 July and yesterday was the 12<sup>th</sup> time acceptance of returnees. As of yesterday, a total of 3,271 Myanmar nationals have returned home from Laos. — Yar Say (IPRD)/GNLM

## Monsoon rice crop cultivation exceeds target in Sagaing Region

THE number of monsoon rice crop sowing acreage in the Sagaing Region passed the target this year, said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of the regional Agriculture Department.

During the financial year 2021-2022, the department projected a total of 1,825,000 acres of monsoon rice crop. The cultivation commenced in June 2021 and completed 1,858,335 sowing acres as of 30 September, surpassing the expectation, as per data of the regional department.

“The number of targeted acreages is 1,825,000 and 1,858,335 acres have been planted. It exceeded the target amidst the difficulties in the industry. The department urged the growers to achieve the target. Additionally, the pedigree seed production was successfully implemented



Sagaing Region Agriculture Department made the five-year project (from 2021 to 2025) to produce 100 baskets of monsoon rice paddy per acre.

on over 10,000 acres last year. The adequate rainfall allows Thaphanseik Dam to supply sufficient irrigation to sowing acres

this year,” said U Win Hlaing Oo. The department covered 74,113 monsoon rice crop acres in Mawlaik District, 49,472 in

Tamu, 177,358 in Kalay, 72,395 in Kani, 80,908 in Monywa, 104,689 in Yinmabin, 672,773 in Shwebo, 183,310 in Kanbalu, 4,4206

in Sagaing, 173,608 in Katha, 199,823 in Kawlin and 25,680 in Naga Self-Administered Region in Sagaing Region. Each department in the respective districts and townships of the Sagaing Region has been conducting a survey to tackle the difficulties faced by the farmers. It is making effort to boost the yield, get access to pedigree rice crops, manage pest control, reduce the chemical fertilizer cost and encourage the use of natural fertilizer.

Last year, there were 12,000 acres of rice seed production in the Sagaing Region. The department distributed the seeds to the farmers. Sagaing Region Agriculture Department made the five-year project (from 2021 to 2025) to produce 100 baskets of monsoon rice paddy per acre. — Lu Lay/GNLM

## Onion downward market leads growers to reduce sowing acreage this year in Myothit Tsp



The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State.

THE onion growers in Myothit Township, Magway Region is planning to scale down the sowing acreage this year, following the negative consequences of the COVID-19.

A grower usually executes four acres of onion in Phogon village of Myothit Township. This year, the number of acreages will drop. The sluggish trade amid the current political conditions and shutdown of the restaurants, hotels, factories and donation events exacerbate the onion market, the growers stressed. Additionally, the growers cannot even afford the input cost this year due to the low price, forcing them to reduce the sowing acres instead, said U Win Zaw, a grower.

The onion market remains sluggish as the foreign demand has dried up, onion traders stated. The price stays on the low side. The price of onions stood at K275-550 per viss (a viss equals

1.6 kilogrammes) in the wholesale market, said a grower from Ba Yint Naung wholesale market.

The closure of border posts resulted in the drastic price drop during the COVID-19 pandemic, making the growers suffer loss.

The onion growers have been facing extreme losses on a downward trend due to the lack of foreign demand. They cannot even cover the cultivation cost as well as afford the harvesting cost for now. Consequently, the prolonged price declines led some growers in Magway Region to leave their onions unharvested last year as they cannot cover the labour wages and transportation charges. In early 2020, the onion fetched K1,200-1,300 per viss. Then, the price drastically fell in the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier, onions were highly demanded by Bangladesh and India. The trade with Bangladesh and India has been halted to contain the spread of the corona-

virus. Having said that, the price remained low. The onion growers, as well as traders, have been experiencing market fallouts due to the COVID-19 impacts, said the onion wholesale dealer from Mandalay. Next, Bangladesh's demand for Myanmar's onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

The high demand by foreign markets and a remarkable price rise prompted the growers to expand the onion cultivation in 2020. Unfortunately, the market is getting worse amidst the COVID-19 negative consequences. The prices of domestic onions exceeded K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019. The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. — Myint Myint Htwe (IPRD)/KK/GNLM

## Corn prices edge up on strong demand

THE prices of corn soared to K41,000 per three-basket bag on 1 October on account of the growing demand in the domestic market and Thailand's market, traders from Mandalay said.

The favourable weather condition resulted in a high yield during the 2021 corn season. Tracking the high demand by foreign trade partners, the corn price jumped to K41,000 on 1 October whereas it fetched only K31,000 per bag in mid-September. Furthermore, the corn market sees a brisk trade.

“Following the good rainfall, it is highly yielded. The price also tremendously

rose by K10,000 within weeks. Besides Thailand, India also purchased them these days to meet their market's needs. Additionally, the local feedstuff processing plants are also steadily buying them as raw materials, causing the price rise,” said an owner of the Soe Win Myint depot from Mandalay.

The corn can be planted in multiple cropping forms. At present, corn is abundantly produced in Shan, Kachin and Kayah states. It is soon to be harvested in Nay Pyi Taw areas (Tatkon and Pyinmana townships). — Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



At present, corn is abundantly produced in Shan, Kachin and Kayah states. It is soon to be harvested in Nay Pyi Taw areas (Tatkon and Pyinmana townships).

# Seek opportunities to resume varieties of tourism services

**T**HE tourism industry is a bridge connecting the peoples from various countries through travelling to destinations which showcase the attractive natural and manmade beauties.

The tourism industry which is one of the main pillars to meet the aims of poverty alleviation, gender discrimination, creation of good employments, and economic development involved in the sustainable development goals of the United Nations is facing unsuccessfulness and loss.

Hence, international and local organizations as well as global countries including the United Nations World Tourism Organization are making strenuous efforts for the resumption of the tourism industry.

Service providers need to focus on the implementation of community-based tourism in line with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health in order to expose the traditional culture of ethnic people, reducing the poverty of rural people and conserving the natural environment.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism cooperates with relevant ministries and private organizations in the soonest resumption of tourism services by creating new destinations and ancient cultural sites.

As building trust among the local and international travellers is important for the resumption of the tourism services, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism organizes the training courses on the prevention of COVID-19 to service providers in the tourism sector while implementing the work process to inspect hotels, lodges, restaurants, tourism companies, tour guides, souvenir shops and transport services whether they meet the standards or not for the prevention of COVID-19 and directives and identifying them at local, national and international levels with the issuance of the certificate of Health and Safety Protocol.

COVID-19 pandemic has changed the options of tourists to choose better, specific and healthy destinations. Those tourists are much interested in paying free visits to the less populous areas such as Nature-Based Tourism, Ecotourism, Agro-tourism, Marine Tourism and Rural Tourism rather than the populous urban areas.

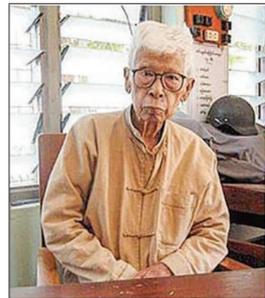
Myanmar is inhabited by 135 ethnic nationals. Each ethnic national possesses very interesting diverse items such as culture and customs, faiths, traditional festivals and domestic products as well as foods. Service providers need to focus on the implementation of community-based tourism in line with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health in order to expose the traditional culture of ethnic people, reducing the poverty of rural people and conserving the natural environment.

It is important that people from various arenas have to secure the proportional benefits obtained from the tourism industry. The tourism industry can create job opportunities for labourers having different skills and experiences with more social consolidation.



# Pakokku Literary Award founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe

By Maung Hlaing



Literary patron U Ohn Pe.

Ohn Pe, the proprietor of the 'Thein-ta-yar Tobacco Industry' of Bogyoke Street in Pakokku, with the aim of helping to promote Myanmar literature and culture, donated a sum of K.76,01,279 to the State and set up a fund known as the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Fund. The donation ceremony was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung-Lan Street, Dagon Township in Yangon.

In accordance with the wish of U Ohn Pe, rules and regulations were drawn by the executive committee of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association in cooperation with the legal advisers. As a result, the Supervisory Committee of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Fund came into being. In addition to 7.6 million, Kyats 1279 represented the donor's year of birth 1279 Myanmar Era.

The Selection Committee for Literary Award was formed with prominent literati, scholars, writers and poets to select the most deserving winners of each genre. The first chairman of the Selection Committee was the late eminent writer U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), who was once the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman. I myself became the Secretary of the Selection Committee when I was promoted to Chief Editor.

The manuscripts which could not be published for various reasons were invited to compete for awards. For the awards, Five genres of literature - novel, collective short stories, collective poems, treatise, and research works--in manuscript form were to be selected from among those competed.

Unlike the National Literary Awards, the First, Second and Third prizes have been set apart for all the five genres. Besides the literary awards, one item of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award has attracted the literati since its beginning.

According to the wish of donor U Ohn Pe, the award presentation was to be held alternatively in Pakokku and Yangon. The first and foremost prize-giving ceremony was held at the Town Hall in Pakokku on 7 February 1994.

In addition to the literary awards, in order to encourage educational development, he created scholarships for the

students who gained the highest marks in the subjects they took in the Basic Education High School (BBHS) examinations. U Ohn Pe also donated K52,10,279 to the State for the educational fund on 9 January 1997. In this way, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards, Scholarships and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards giving-ceremony is held every year.

The emergence of U Ohn Pe's literary awards and scholarships for students were interesting and so was the donor's life. His life, indeed, was not a smooth one but full of difficulties. However, fortune smiled on



Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards, Scholarships and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards-giving Ceremony in progress.

Maung Ohn Pe was born of U Po Yu and Daw Kyet Yone at Hta-naung-gone Shar-taw village, Tingart village-tract in Pakokku Township. He was the eldest son out of five children.

As his parents lived in poverty, Maung Ohn Pe could not go to school up to the age of ten. Only after he was ten did he get a chance to pursue education from Sayadaw U Zawana of Myauk-Kyaung of Sou-dwin Village, Pakokku Township. From that day onwards, his parents put him under the care of the Sayadaw.

Later, under the arrangements made by the Sayadaw, he was able to work at a house of a well-to-do trader in Yesagyo as a worker for his daily meals without being paid for over two years.

After leaving Yesagyo, Ko Ohn Pe came to Yangon, the cap-

ital city of Myanmar, and worked as a stable-boy at a horse farm on Saya San Road in angon. At that farm, he had only two meals and was unpaid.

Due to some inconveniences, he left the job. Then he went around selling betel-quad in the vicinity of Theingyi-zay market to earn his livelihood and struggled for survival. At the age of 20, Ko Ohn Pe came back to his native village and worked as a farmworker. Then, he worked as a raftsmen at the Bombay Burma Company where he was engaged in a life-and-death struggle.

However, fortune smiled on

counts of earnings up to the last Pya. He was very frugal-minded and did not use a car to go about. Instead, he rode a bicycle. He always walked to his tobacco plantations every day. He worked at his tobacco farm rain or shine without any exceptions. The donor of literary awards worked hard, making use of his mental and physical abilities and spent his money most beneficially and economically.

U Ohn Pe also made contributions most generously in social welfare matters. Including the literary funds, his donation

amounted to a total of over ten million kyats. The literary funds donated by U Ohn Pe have stood as a model in the State and it will bring about invaluable benefits in the literary field.

In the later decades, U Ohn Pe wrote articles on his life experiences. He wrote 'Tway-ya kyon-ya kyundawt Bawa' (My life Experiences) of the first volume in 2001, the second volume in 2001 and the Third volume in 2004. He also wrote a book on 'Ngae-ga-chit Ahnit Taya' (collective articles) in 2004. He won the Social Outstanding Award (First class) in 1993. U Ohn Pe was one of the members of the delegation that visited the People's Republic of China from 29 May to 12 June in 1996.

U Ohn Pe passed away on 13 April 2008 in Pakokku.

U Ohn Pe used to keep ac-

U Ohn Pe's literary prizes

have been awarded to over 300 prize winners to date (2020). A total of 31 winners of Lifetime Literary Awards (Pakokku U Ohn Pe's literary funds) from 1994 to 2019 are as follows: -

1. U Htin Phat (Maung Htin) (1994)
2. U Tin Myint (Thin Khar) (1994)
3. U Yan Aung (Yan Aung) (1995)
4. U Thein Maung (Thu Kha) (1995)
5. U Ko Lay (Zeyar Maung) (1995)
6. U Tin Maung (Tekkatho Htin Gyi) (1997)
7. U Ohn Pe (Tet Toe) (1998)
8. U Maung Maung Tin (M.A.) (1999)
9. U Than Htut (Taik Soe) (2000)
10. U Htay Myaung (Dagon Taryar) (2001)
11. U Hla Kyaing (Paragu) (2002)
12. U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) (2003)
13. Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Hnyin) (2004)
14. U Kyi Aye (Sinbyu-Kyun Aung Thein) (2005)
15. Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) (2005)
16. Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Lay) (2006)
17. Daw Khin Swe Oo (Khin Swe Oo) (2007)
18. Dr Thaw Kaung (U Thaw Kaung) (2008)
19. Dr Kyaw Sein (2009)
20. Dr U Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Way-Kathar) (2010)
21. U Myint Kywae (Maung Myint Kywae) (2011)
22. U Maung Maung Khin (Tekkatho Maung Maung Khin) (2012)
23. U Ba Than (M.A.) (2013)
24. U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) (2014)
25. U Kyaw Win (Nyo Win) (2015)
26. Dr Chit (2015)
27. U Maung Galay (Thauk-Kyar U Maung Galay) (2016)
28. U Chit Lwin (Taw Thar Gyi Lu Naing) (2017)
29. Dr Than Oo (Pyi Soe Min) (2018)
30. U Myat Thu (Tekkatho Myat Thu) (2019)
31. Daw Kywae Kywae (2020)

SEE PAGE-10 >>



World Teachers' Day

5 October 2021



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 2 October 2021)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 3 October 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Bago regions and Kachin, Eastern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon regions and Kachin, Southern Shan and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Weak monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 October 2021:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 October 2021:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 October 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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# MoC allows import process of anti-COVID-19 devices, medical aids daily

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

On 2 October (yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by five companies and transported by eight vehicles, including two tanker lorries.

A total of 500 empty oxygen cylinders, two oxygen generators and 30 tonnes of masks were imported via Chinshwehaw, and Tachilek trading posts and seaports.

From 1 September to 2 October, 537 vehicles carrying 831 tonnes of liquid oxygen bowser, 127 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 60 tonnes of oxygen gas, six storage



Picture shows the imported anti-Covid equipment via Myawady.

containers, one liquid oxygen distributor, 110,000 empty oxygen cylinders, 302 oxygen plants, two oxygen refilling machines for hospitals, 20 oxygen generators, 13,349 oxygen concentrators for home use, 70,000 test kits, 1,400,000 sets of PPE, 132 tonnes of gloves and 2,818 tonnes

of masks were allowed to be imported from 279 companies.

In the same period, a total of 43 oxygen bowsers were allowed to be transported. Among the 43 vehicles, 30 vehicles were transported to Yangon, five to Mandalay, three to Mawlamyine, two to Bago, another two to Monywa

and one to Pyay respectively.

Out of 302 oxygen plants: 242 oxygen plants to Yangon, 14 to Mandalay, three to Pakkoku, three to Chauk, two to Lashio, two to Minbu, two to Maubin, another two to PyinOoLwin and one each to Mawlamyine, Monywa, Myitkyina, Moegaung,

Myinmu, Mudon, Pyay, Meiktila, Myaungmya, Wynemaw, Tachilek, Mohnyin, Kangyidaung, Phakant, Aunglan, Kawa, Singu, Myine, Gangaw, Htantalan, Tanyang, Paenwewon, Bilin, Nyaung Shwe, Hakha, Kyaukphyu, Patheingyi, Thazi, Kutkai, Kengtung, Momeik and Amarapura were successfully transported. Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including online registration for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments, facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm.— MNA

## IDPs in Pauktaw get second dose of COVID jab

PEOPLE aged 45 and above who are taking shelters at Sin Tat Maw Village IDP Camp and Anouk Ye IDP Camp in Ale Phayonekar Island, Sin Tat Maw Village Tract, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State received Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine for the second time yesterday.

Before the vaccination, healthcare staff and officials made records for the vaccinated people. Next, volunteers and healthcare workers measured the body temperature, blood pressure and oxygen level before the vaccination.

Vaccines were given systematically to the IDPs, and only those with normal conditions are vaccinated.

"This is my second dose of vaccine. This vaccine gives me some protection. Special thanks to the healthcare officials who came to the Sin Tat Maw IDPs camp

and provided the injections and heads of state. I am just happy", said Religious Teacher U Da Hora Mauk from Sin Tat Maw IDPs camp in Pauktaw Township.

"With this vaccine, even if infected, there is no risk to life. We have heard that there are many benefits to getting this vaccine, so we urge our campers to get vaccinated.

Special thanks to the government for providing vaccinations to our camps", said U Kar Lu, a local people.

A total of 374 men and women were vaccinated at the Sin Tat Maw Village IDP Camp and a total of 266 men and women were vaccinated at the Anouk Ye IDP Camp.

Vaccines were already given at Sin Tat Maw Village IDP Camp and Anouk Ye IDP Camp and a vaccination programme



Inoculation continues for the IDPs in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

will be conducted next at the Kyein Ni Pyin IPD Camp, Nget Chaung (1) IDP camp, and five designated places at

Nhet Chaung (2) IDP camp respectively, officials said. —Kyaw Than (Township IPRD)/GNLM

## Pakokku Literary Award founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe

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The 2019 Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards, Scholarships and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards giving ceremony was held at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road, Yangon on 2 April this year (2021). Although it was to be held last year, the ceremony was postponed to this year due to the COVID-19.

At the outset, this literary award emerged as 'Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award' and

all the processes of selecting all the manuscripts and celebrating the prize-presenting ceremonies were carried out by the Sarpay Beikman under the aegis of the Ministry of Information.

However, from 11 January 2011 onwards, the original name of 'Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award' was changed to 'Pakokku Literary Award Founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe'. It is for this reason that the processes of selecting all the manuscripts have gone to the Selecting Committee formed by the Myanmar

Writers Association.

"Throughout his lifetime, U Ohn Pe had donated a total of over Kyat 250 lakhs and much more for social and humanitarian causes. U Ohn Pe was a star speaker at every award ceremony which he attended regularly during his lifetime. His tanned skin was bespoke of a typical Anya gentleman. He was indeed a suave orator as he mesmerized his audience with poignant true-life experiences interspersed with tears and laughter."

Regarding the image of Pa-

kokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award and the donor's life, Sayagyi U Ba Than (Maha Weik-zar), or U Ba Than (M.A), a writer of national and worldwide reputation and a winner of U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award, said so in his article that appeared in the Global New Light of Myanmar, 28 October 2018.

Believe it or not. But I do believe it!

Ref:

- (1) ၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်အတွက် ပခုက္ကူ ဦးအုံးဖေတည်ထောင်သော ပခုက္ကူ စာပေဆု ပခုက္ကူဦး

အုံးဖေ စာကြည့်တိုက်ဆုနှင့် ပညာရည်ချွန်ဆု၊ ဆုချီးမြှင့်ပွဲ စာပေဆုအကြောင်းအရာနှင့် စာပေဆုရသူများ၊ ပညာရည်ချွန်ဆုရသူများ၏ အတ္ထုပ္ပတ္တိအကျဉ်း၊ ၂-၄-၂၀၂၁။

(2) 'Pakokku U Ohn Pe: Literary Award Donor and his legacy' By Ba Than, The Global New Light of Myanmar, 28 October 2018.

(3) The Guardian Magazine, Vol.41, No.4. April 1994, PP. 18-19

## Mon State reopens municipal markets in several townships

THE shops from municipal markets have been permitted to reopen in some townships, outside of the “stay-at-home” rule in Mon state beginning 1 October.

Some of the shop owners under the stay-at-home townships are also requested for permitting to reopen their shops but it can be reopened only when the stay-at-home rules are lifted. Thus, the related health departments are carrying out that issue. Although all shops have been permitted to reopen, the shop owners have to obey by the rules regarding the COVID-19. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has imposed the stay-at-home orders in three townships -- Mawlamyine, Thanphyuzayet and Thaton townships on 8 July and Bilin township on 3 August and Chaungzon township on 24 August.

Besides, the state municipal team has stated that only essential goods shops are allowed to open and the non-essential shops are ordered to close temporarily starting from 5 July as the COVID-19 cases increased in the state.

There were 4,987 cases and 590 deaths in August in Mon State. But in September, the state reported 3,209 COVID-19 cases with 262 deaths. — Aye Maung/GNLM

## Palm oil price touches around K6,000 per viss in domestic market

THE price of palm oil touched around K6,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the domestic market.

The palm oil was priced at only K2,400 per viss at the end-January, but the price rose to K6,000 on 30 September, an increase of K3,600 per viss in the last eight months.

Myanmar Kyat depreciation against the US dollar is the main reason for the rising of palm oil prices, traders said.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association is making efforts to avoid a shortage of edible oil supply in the market, price stability and offering a reasonable price to the consumers.

In order to avoid a sharp rise in oil price due to the Kyat weakening in the local exchange rate market, the consumers can purchase the palm oil at the wholesale price of K3,700 per viss through the 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.

The retailers and wholesalers who can sell the palm



In order to avoid a sharp rise in oil price due to the Kyat weakening in the local exchange rate market, the consumers can purchase the palm oil at the wholesale price of K3,700 per viss through the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

oil to consumers with no more than two per cent profit can contact the association through 09444437295 and 09401527049. The location of the association is No.104/108, Strand Road, Lutlatyay ward, Ahlon township. They can also contact to Consumer Affairs Department, Yangon Region through 01-250270 and 0943666668.

Nevertheless, Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association announced on 15 July statement that oil consumers should not have to worry over the supply

of cooking oil.

The association is also cooperating 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 attempting to prevent undesirable oil-related incidents in Myanmar due to the impact of a worldwide pandemic.

Moreover, efforts are being made to import cooking oil during public holidays, to carry out

oil extraction with the relevant department to maintain business, sufficient supply of cooking oil in the oil tanks and to distribute cooking oil to the retailers and wholesalers.

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 and about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are imported annually from Malaysia and Indonesia to meet the domestic demand. — Nyein Nyein/GNLM

## More okra grown to make good profit

THE local people from the villages from Kawlin and Wuntho townships in Sagaing Region are growing okra, known as ladies' fingers or Ochro, in their family as okra is a profitable crop for vegetables growers.

“We grew the Okra seeds last year. One acre of okra cultivation costs K250,000, including the seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and ploughing.

This time last year, the yield was 20,000 okras per day for a growing half-acre of the crop. This year, we have grown two baskets of okra seeds. We have collected the okra from farmland for three weeks and the yield was 25,000 okras. And, we have sent the okra to the regular customers from Kawlin depending upon the size. During the pandemic period, the

local farmers are happy with making good profit from okra farmland,” said U Maung Tun, a local villager from Oakpho village.

“For the half acre of okra farmland, we have to hire two labourers paying K2,500 to grow okra. The cultivation of okra can create jobs for the local villagers and they are earning daily income. On the

other hand, we can get the regular income as well,” he added.

“Last year, the local farmers could not make a profit from growing okra. We are buying the okra from growers and sent them to Phakant, Mohnyin, Moe Kaung, Mandalay, Monywa, Kanbalu and Shwebo towns by train, said Ma Kyaung, an okra seller. — Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)/GNLM

## Rice prices rising in domestic market within two months



The prices of rice have seen a sharp increase within two months and move in the range of K1,300-K4,700 per bag, as per the domestic market's data.

THE prices of rice have seen a sharp increase within two months and move in the range of K1,300-K4,700 per bag, as per the domestic market's data.

Last 1 August, the price of a rice bag containing 108 pounds was K 39,900 per bag for Paswan (80 marks), K42,100 for pawsan (90 marks), K32,900 for the package (80 marks), K34,400 for package (90 marks) and K28,300 for ehmeta.

After two months, the price of rice bag fetched K44,600 per bag for pawsan (80 marks), K46,700 for pawsan (90 marks), K36,000 for pawkawe (80 marks), K37,600 for pawkawe (90 marks) and K29,600 for ehmeta (90 marks).

As a result, the price of a 108-pound

bag of rice increased and ranged between K1,300 and K4,700 in two months.

The rice, an essential staple food, the price has slightly risen since last month. These prices have been rising steadily since May when monsoon paddy was started cultivating.

Moreover, the rice price usually rises during the monsoon season, and the year's monsoon season also saw a record high of rice price as previous years.

The current pandemic control activities and natural disasters are also affecting the rice market, and the price possibly remains high for next month. — NN/GNLM

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

As Democrats feud over historic spending plans, Biden vows to 'get this done'

PRESIDENT Joe Biden vowed Friday to get his sweeping domestic agenda over the line as he visited the US Congress to energize Democrats negotiating for a second day on twin make-or-break spending bills that could define his legacy -- or spell crippling political failure.

"I'm telling you, we're going to get this done," he told reporters after meeting with House Democrats who are deeply divided on a spending spree that Biden says would restore America's battered middle class. "It doesn't matter when. It doesn't matter whether it's in six minutes, six days or six weeks, we're gonna get it done."

The unusual presidential visit follows weeks of trips by party leaders in the other direction to the White House as Biden tries to get the two ambitious spending plans passed into law.

One would funnel \$1.2 trillion into repairing infrastructure and the other would allocate even more for education, child care, and promoting clean energy.—AFP ■

Venezuela's inflation-battered bolivar sheds 6 zeroes

THE official exchange rate of Venezuela's bolivar went from 4.18 million to the US dollar overnight to just 4.18 as the impoverished country slashed six zeroes off its inflation-battered currency Friday to simplify transactions.

It is the third banknote reform in 13 years, with a staggering 14 zeroes shed since 2008 -- giving Venezuela the dubious distinction of becoming the South American country to have lopped the most zeroes off its currency.

"Everything expressed in national currency shall be divided by a million," the central bank announced.

Housekeeper Josefina Galindo said that she "went shopping without problems this morning. The new prices were displayed above the old ones. And there was always the price in dollars."

"The price (in dollars) has not changed," added the 52-year-old, who was shopping in the upscale Caracas district of Chacao but said she had still paid in old prices using the old bolivars when she took the bus from her working-class neighbourhood of Coche.—AFP ■

UK army to deliver petrol from Monday amid fuel crisis: govt

THE British army will begin delivering petrol to fuel stations on Monday after fears over tanker driver shortages led to panic buying and forced the government to offer visa waivers to foreign truckers to plug the shortfall.

"Almost 200 military tanker personnel, 100 of which are drivers, will be deployed from Monday to provide temporary support as part of the government's wider action to further relieve pressure on petrol stations and address the shortage of HGV drivers," the government said in a news release issued Friday.

Motorists queued at fuel pumps across Britain at the beginning of the week, draining tanks and fraying tempers.

"Thanks to the immense efforts of industry over the past week, we are seeing continued signs that the situation at the pumps is slowly improving," said business minister Kwasi Kwarteng.

"It's important to stress there is no national shortage of



Motorists queue at a petrol station in Coventry, central England on 28 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP

fuel in the UK, and people should continue to buy fuel as normal. The sooner we return to our normal buying habits, the sooner we can return to normal," he added.

The government says a lack of tanker drivers to deliver fuel and unprecedented demand is behind the crisis.

Demand for fuel has stabilised throughout the week and stations are gradually stocking up again, but some parts of the country still face severe shortages.

The Petrol Retailers Association on Thursday said 27 per cent of stations had run dry —

down from earlier in the week, but the same as on Wednesday.

"PRA members are reporting that whilst they are continuing to take further deliveries of fuel, this is running out quicker than usual due to unprecedented demand," association chief Gordon Balmer said.—AFP ■

Mexico eyes state monopoly to tap lithium rush



The scramble for lithium and other metals used to make electric car batteries has been called a 21st century "gold rush". PHOTO: AFP/FILE

MEXICO plans to move towards a state monopoly in the exploration and mining of lithium, a vital material in the production of electric car batteries, the government said Friday.

The proposal is included in a constitutional reform bill submitted by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to the lower house of Congress.

If approved, future concessions to extract minerals considered strategic, such as lithium, will not be awarded to private firms, interior minister Adan Lopez told reporters.

"The state will control the exploration and production of these minerals," he said.

Eight concessions already

granted for lithium exploration would remain valid as long as the companies make the necessary progress towards starting production, the government said. Lithium is mined mostly in Australia and South America, while China dominates the supply chain. Mexico's deposits of the metal are mainly found in the northern state of Sonora, where drug traffickers and other organized crime gangs operate.

The British-based Faraday Institution, which specializes in researching electric batteries, has called the scramble for lithium and other metals used to make them a 21st century "gold rush."—AFP ■

US factories again overcome supply snarls to grow in September

SUPPLY shortages and delays continued to complicate operations at US factories but manufacturing nonetheless grew in September, an industry survey said Friday.

The Institute for Supply Management reported its manufacturing index was at 61.1 per cent last month, higher than analysts had expected and for the 16th straight month above the 50-per-cent threshold indicating growth.

Employment climbed 1.2 percentage points to return to growth at 50.2 per cent, however new orders were flat at 66.7 per cent and production fell slightly to 59.4 per cent, while

supplier deliveries slowed.

"Manufacturing performed well for the 16th straight month, with demand, consumption and inputs registering month-over-month growth, in spite of continuing unprecedented obstacles and ever-increasing demand," the survey's chair Timothy Fiore said. Those obstacles include "record-long raw materials lead times, continued shortages of critical materials, rising commodities prices and difficulties in transporting products," though he noted the survey received three positive comments for each cautious one, indicating optimism.—AFP ■



US factories are bouncing back from the pandemic even as they struggle with supply chain issues. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# Kishida to create new ministerial post for economic security

PROSPECTIVE Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida plans to create a new ministerial post for economic security in a veiled counter to alleged technology theft by China, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday.

Kishida, who will launch his Cabinet after being elected prime minister in an extraordinary Diet session Monday, is also considering appointing a prime ministerial advisor on the issue, the sources said. It was not immediately known who will take up the post, but the new minister is expected to craft a national strategy designed to block a technology drain from the country.

Kishida plans to offer ministerial posts to education minister Koi-



Businesses have welcomed the government's decision to lift the COVID-19 state of emergency in Tokyo and across 18 prefectures. PHOTO: KYODO

chi Hagiuda and Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa, both senior lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, in a new Cabinet, according to political sources. Kishida, who is on course to take up the premiership after winning the LDP presidential election last week, also plans to

retain transport minister Kazuyoshi Akaba, a lawmaker belonging to Komeito, the LDP's junior coalition partner, the sources said. Separately, Kishida is considering giving ministerial posts to five LDP lawmakers -- Satoshi Ni-noyu, Kozaburo Nishime, Shinsuke Suematsu, Yasu-

shi Kaneko and Shigeyuki Goto. Kishida has decided to name Shunichi Suzuki, a former environment minister, as finance minister and Hirokazu Matsuno, a former education minister, as chief Cabinet secretary, and retain Toshimitsu Motegi as foreign minister.—Kyodo ■

# 1.06 mln foreign tourists visit Indonesia in January-August period 2021



Tourists at Uluwatu beach in Badung regency on Bali island. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

AS many as 1,061,530 Indonesia in the January-August period 2021, foreign tourists visited

according to the country's Central Agency of Statistics.

The number of foreign tourist visits to Indonesia is still small due to the slow economic development, especially in areas that depend much on tourism as the main economic driver, the agency's Head Margo Yuwono said in a statement in Jakarta on Friday.

Yuwono pointed out that the foreign tourists

entering the country during that period consisted of 79,080 people by air; 301,340 by sea and 681,110 by land.

Meanwhile, the number of foreign tourists arriving in Indonesia in August 2021 reached 127,310, a decrease of 21.19 percent compared to 161,550 in the same month of 2020, he said. There was also a 6 per cent decline compared to the number of similar visits in July 2021. —Xinhua ■

# Italian exports to China expanding beyond fashion industry

ITALIAN exports to China are set to grow for the third consecutive year, with Italian products playing an increasing role in the trade partnership.

China has long been a key market for high-end Italian fashion items such as clothes, accessories, and jewellery, but now the trend is spreading to other areas.

The Italian media has recently reported that China has become the largest foreign buyer of Italian marble, accounting for around half of international sales.

Exports of Italian-made furniture to China are also on the rise, according to reports, and China has become the fastest-growing market for

Italian cheese. Officials in the Italian eye glasses sector say they expect exports to recover to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year, with sales to China helping to lead the way.

"China has always been a large and dynamic market and as the market develops the demand for well-known and high-quality products is growing as

well," Francesca Spigarelli, a professor of applied economics and an executive board member of the Chinese Globalization Association, told Xinhua.

According to the data firm Statista, Italy's exports to China slipped after reaching a peak of 15.5 billion euros (18.1 billion U.S. dollars) in 2018. —Xinhua ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Google pulls plug on plan for mobile banking in Pay app

GOOGLE has hit the brakes on a project to add mobile banking to its Pay app, even as the online financial services market for everyday investors heats up.

The company has ended work on its Plex project, but continues to eye ways to integrate financial services, a spokesperson said Friday confirming a Wall Street Journal report.

Plex would have allowed the Pay app to act as an interface for banks or credit unions, allowing users to access their savings and checking accounts.

Google development of the project came as a number of internet firms, from Amazon and PayPal to Square and Robinhood, have been riding a trend of providing financial tools for shopping, borrowing or investing online.

"We're updating our approach to focus primarily on delivering digital enablement for banks and other financial service providers rather than us serving as provider of these services," the spokesperson said in response to an AFP inquiry.

"We strongly believe that this is the best way for Google to help consumers gain better access to financial services."

Google said late last year that it was working with nearly a dozen credit unions and banks, including Citigroup, for inclusion in its Plex project for its Pay mobile app available on Android smartphones. The Pay app allows users to pay for transactions, send money to friends, and store loyalty cards, among other advantages.—AFP ■

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (219N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (219N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-10-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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## Japan's Princess Mako to marry after delay and controversy

AFTER years of controversy, Japan's Princess Mako will marry this month, but she will forego traditional rites and will not take a usual payment given to royal women marrying commoners.

"Princess Mako will marry on 26 October," an Imperial Household Agency official told AFP, adding that "wedding ceremony, reception banquet and other rituals won't be held, and a lump-sum payment won't be provided."

Princess Mako, who is the niece of Emperor Naruhito, has been engaged to sweetheart Kei Komuro since 2017.

But the union has come under criticism, with the agency saying the 29-year-old princess was suffering complex post-traumatic stress disorder because of media coverage.

Mako, the daughter of Japan's crown prince, has endured years of sniping and stalling over her plans to marry Komuro, also 29.



Princess Mako will marry fiancé Kei Komuro later this month after years of delay and controversy. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Japan's imperial succession rules mean that Mako will lose her title after the marriage.

But her partner has still been heavily scrutinized over allegations that his mother borrowed money from a former finance and failed to repay it.

After tabloid reporting on the claims, a furore erupted around the young couple in a country where the royal family

is held to an exacting standard.

The pair postponed their wedding, and Komuro moved to the United States for law school in a move that was widely seen as a bid to defuse the negative attention.

Crown Prince Akishino last year said he supported his daughter's marriage, but that she needed to win the public's "understanding".—AFP ■

## Iran begins war games near Azerbaijan border

THE Iranian army's ground forces began holding manoeuvres near the country's border with Azerbaijan on Friday, state media reported, despite criticism from its neighbour.

The exercises took place in open areas in northwestern Iran, said state television, which showed tanks, howitzers and helicopters firing at targets on the ground.

"We respect good neighbourly relations but we do not tolerate the presence of Zion-

ist regime (Israeli) elements and Islamic State terrorists in the region," ground forces commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari told state TV. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev had criticised the Iranian war games in an interview published on Monday.

"Every country can carry out any military drill on its own territory. It's their sovereign right. But why now, and why on our border?" he told Turkish news agency Anadolu.—AFP ■



Iranian army equipment on the move during a military exercise in the country's northwest close to the Iranian-Azerbaijani border. PHOTO: IRANIAN ARMY OFFICE/AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Two killed after helicopter, plane collide midair in U.S. Arizona

TWO people were killed after a helicopter and a fixed-wing plane collided in the air above an airpark in U.S. state of Arizona, local media reported, citing authorities.

The collision happened around 7:30 am local time near Chandler Municipal Airport in Chandler, a city in the southeast part of the Greater Phoenix area, according to Arizona's Family, a major news outlet in the state. The plane was able to land but the helicopter crashed and caught on fire. Two people onboard the helicopter died, the news outlet reported, citing local fire department officials. The Chandler Police Department said in a tweet that police officers "are at the scene of a mid-air collision between a plane and helicopter" and asked anyone who possibly witnessed or caught this incident on camera to contact the department.—Xinhua ■

#### French serial killer suspect found dead after 35 years

A serial killer suspected in some of France's oldest unsolved cases has been found dead after 35 years on the run, just as police were closing in on his identity. The man, nicknamed "Le Grele" ("pockmarked"), had been wanted by police since the 1980s for the murder and rape of young girls, but was never caught. He was wanted for a list of crimes committed in the 1980s and 90s, including rape of minors, murder, attempted murder, armed robbery and kidnapping of minors, Paris prosecutor Laure Beccau said in a statement late Thursday.

The man, identified as Francois Verove, committed suicide in a rented apartment, leaving a written confession, a source close to the case told AFP. In the most notorious case, he was suspected of raping and murdering an 11-year-old girl named Cecile who was found dead in the basement of the building where she lived in the 19th arrondissement of Paris. He is also believed to have strangled a couple to death in the central Marais district of the capital in 1987.—AFP ■

## Battle for abortion rights hits America's streets Saturday



More than three million people across the United States turned out for the January 2017 Women's March, with the central focus in Washington DC, seen here. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE abortion rights battle takes to the streets across America Saturday, with hundreds of demonstrations planned as part of a new "Women's March" aimed at countering an unprecedented conservative offensive to restrict the termination of pregnancies.

The fight has become even more intense since Texas adopted a law on September 1 banning almost all abortions, unleashing a veritable legal guerrilla warfare and a counterattack in Congress,

but with few public demonstrations until now.

Two days before the US Supreme Court, which will have the final say on the contentious issue, is due to reconvene, nearly 200 organizations have finally called on abortion rights defenders to make their voices heard from coast to coast.

The flagship event will be held in the nation's capital Washington, where thousands are expected to march to the Supreme

Court, which nearly 50 years ago recognized the right of women to have an abortion in its landmark Roe v. Wade ruling.

Now the court, stacked by former president Donald Trump with conservative justices, seems ready to head in the opposite direction. It has already refused to block the Texas law and has accepted reviewing a restrictive Mississippi law that could provide an opportunity to overturn its precedent.—AFP ■

## Guinea: Mamady Doumbouya sworn in as transitional president

GUINEA'S coup leader, president of the National Committee for Rally and Development (CNRD), Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in Friday before the Supreme Court of Guinea as the West African nation's transitional president.

The ceremony was attended by ambassadors accredited to Guinea and a Malian delegation led by the president of the National Transitional Council of Mali, Malick Diaw.

"Me Mamady Doumbouya, President of the Transition, I swear before the people of Guinea to preserve in all loyalty the national sovereignty, to respect and to ensure respect for the provisions of the Charter of the Transition, human dignity, the laws and regulations of the Republic, to fulfill my functions in the best interests of the nation, to consolidate the democratic gains, to guarantee the inde-



Mamady Doumbouya (2nd L) attends his swearing-in ceremony as transitional president in Conakry, Guinea, on 1 Oct 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

pendence of the fatherland and the integrity of the national territory", said Doumbouya.

Immediately after his inauguration as transitional president, Doumbouya reaffirmed the CNRD's commitment to ensuring the re-foundation of the state. He said all the organs of the tran-

sition including the transitional government and the National Transitional Council would play their role in the success of the political transition. He reiterated his will to respect all the national and international commitments to which the country has subscribed.—Xinhua ■

## Qataris vote in first-ever legislative elections for subdued advisory council



The first legislative elections will see native Qatari citizens elect 30 candidates of the 45-member Shura Council, in a landmark step towards a more representative system of governance. PHOTO: AFP

QATARIS began voting in the emirate's first legislative election Saturday in a symbolic nod to democracy that analysts say will not lead to power shifting away from the ruling family. The vote for the advisory Shura Council has also stirred domestic debate about electoral inclusion and citizenship.

The vote is for 30 members of the 45-strong Shura Council, a body with limited powers that was previously appointed by the emir as an advisory chamber.

Polls opened at 0500 GMT and will close at 1500 GMT with the results expected the same

day.

At a polling station in the Jawaan bin Jassim school in the Onaiza district of the capital Doha, Qatari citizens wearing white thobes signed in to vote at a registration desk.

After queuing briefly, they cast their ballots into a semi-transparent plastic box emblazoned with the dhow boat, crossed swords and palm tree emblem of Qatar.

Observers say the decision to hold the election, approved in a 2003 referendum but repeatedly delayed in the "national in-

terest", comes amid heightened scrutiny as Qatar prepares to host the 2022 World Cup.

"They consider that doing it before the FIFA World Cup will attract more positive attention as a way to show they are taking positive steps," said Luciano Zaccara, an assistant professor in Gulf politics at Qatar University. "It's a way to show that they are moving in the right direction, that they want to achieve more political participation."

No control over defence security, economic, investment policy bodies.—AFP ■

## Pakistan PM says gov't in talks with Pakistani Taliban militants

PRIME Minister Imran Khan said Friday the Pakistani government and elements of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan militant group have started reconciliation talks with the help of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"There are different groups which form the TTP. Yes, we are in talks with some of them," Khan said in an interview with Turkish state broadcaster TRT, adding the talks are part of a "reconciliation process."

The prime minister said the dialogue is taking place in Afghanistan, where the Pakistani Taliban's leadership has

been based since the group was thrown out of its tribal base in border regions in a series of military operations that began in 2014. The Taliban, who have returned to power in Kabul, are helping the Pakistani government in the process "in the sense that the talks are taking place in Afghanistan," Khan said.

The prime minister said that through the reconciliation process he expects the government to "forgive" the militants and expects them to be reintegrated into society as "normal citizens."—Kyodo ■



The Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, are a separate insurgent group from the Afghan Taliban. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Georgia's former President Saakashvili detained after returning

GEORGIA'S former President Mikheil Saakashvili has been detained, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili announced Thursday.

"I want to inform the public that the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, is arrested. He has been transferred to a jail," Garibashvili said at a special briefing in Tbilisi.

He said the law enforcement agencies had prior information about Saakashvili's movement from Ukraine to Georgia.

Local media reported earlier on Thursday that Saakashvili released videos saying that he was already in Georgia ahead of the 2 Oct municipal elections. Saakashvili was charged with several criminal offences including the violent dispersal of anti-government mass protests by the Georgian government.—Xinhua ■

#### US media platform Ozy to close after accusations of deceptive conduct

AMERICAN digital media platform Ozy will shut down after accusations its leaders had deceived investors and the public about the size of its audience, local news outlets reported Friday.

Launched in 2013 by former cable news anchor Carlos Watson, the brand secured millions of dollars in investor funding and a number of high-profile partnerships, including the production of an Emmy Award-winning talk show hosted by the Oprah Winfrey Network.

But a New York Times investigation on Sunday claimed that company executives had intentionally inflated traffic figures and views on other sites including YouTube.

The report also said cofounder Samir Rao had impersonated a YouTube executive to praise his own platform while in a phone meeting with representatives of Goldman Sachs, who were weighing a \$40 million investment in Ozy.—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.

## Myanmar head coach Hey: We're looking forward to December



Myanmar men's national football team head coach Antoine Hey. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR National Men's Football Team Head Coach, Antoine John Paul Hey said that they are looking forward to the Myanmar team matches in the ASEAN Suzuki Cup to be held in December.

"It will be very nice to be back on the field against very good teams. We will start preparation soon and where we are hopeful to play a good part in this year's tournament," Hey said.

"The biggest challenge for us is to prepare for it well. After a long break caused by the Cov-

id-19 pandemic, we need to get back to match fitness. Therefore, we are looking at ourselves first before concentrating on the opposition. We are looking forward to December. Well done again to all," the Myanmar head coach added.

Next, Brunei Darussalam Head Coach, K. Rajagopal said, "The draw is interesting, challenging and exciting. We need to be happy with the draw because you cannot expect what you want. The biggest challenge is to qual-

ify for the group stage."

Similarly, Cambodia Head Coach, Ryu Hirose said, "It is very challenging for us to face any country in our group. That is why we would like to prepare as much as we can. It is a good opportunity to gauge our progress in order to fight against Viet Nam who is rapidly developing their level of football."

The Myanmar national team is planning to start training in October for the 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup. —GNLM

## FIFA announces new 'Football Tribunal' is up and running

FIFA said on Friday a new "Football Tribunal" to unite its various disciplinary and dispute-resolution processes under a "single umbrella body" had started operating.

The world governing body said the tribunal will, ultimately, be made up of three chambers.

The "Dispute Resolution Chamber" will decide "employment-related disputes between players and clubs" and financial issues over training. The "Players' Status Chamber" will resolve disputes between coaches and clubs or associations and transfer disputes between clubs as well as making "regulatory" decisions on international transfers and national-team eligibility.

The members of those panels have already been chosen.

The plan also calls for an "Agents Chamber", to be created after FIFA has revised its rules on agents. FIFA estimated that the first chamber will decide "approximately 3,500 disputes per year", while the second would "rule on approximately 700 disputes and 6,000 regulatory applications" annually.—AFP ■

## US women's soccer league cancels matches after abuse allegations

THE top professional women's soccer league in the United States, under fire for its handling of allegations of sexual misconduct against a head coach, announced on Friday that it was cancelling this weekend's matches. "This week, and much of this season, has been incredibly traumatic for our players and staff, and I take

full responsibility for the role I have played," National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) commissioner Lisa Baird said.

"I am so sorry for the pain so many are feeling," Baird added in a statement. "Recognizing that trauma, we have decided not to take the field this weekend to give everyone some space to reflect."—AFP ■

## Man City still 'best team in Europe' for Klopp

MANCHESTER City remain the benchmark for Liverpool to catch, according to manager Jurgen Klopp as the two dominant forces in English football of recent years prepare to do battle at Anfield on Sunday.

City have won the Premier League title for three of the past four seasons, with Liverpool's first top-flight title for 30 years in 2019/20 halting a clean sweep. Chelsea and Manchester United have been talked up as title contenders this season after spending big in the transfer market.

But Klopp believes City remain the team to beat as they showed in a 1-0 win at Chelsea last weekend which was more convincing than the scoreline suggests.

"They are still really, for me, probably the best team in Europe in the moment and it's a tough one," said Klopp on Friday. "Last weekend, they played Chelsea and everybody was talking about Chelsea, how good they are — and they are good, oh my God, they are really good — but City was clear, clear better that day."—AFP ■



Premier League leaders Liverpool face Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday. **PHOTO: JON SUPER/POOL/AFP**