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Announcement of Union Election Commission  
11 May 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Myanaung, Kyangin, Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships of Ayeyawady Region.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 1,151,044 eligible voters in these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 1,126,634 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 130,821 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 16,585 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 156,940 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
3. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

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Kitchen crops on alluvial land of Sindewa Creek give family incomes to local farmers

LOCAL farmers from Myingyan, Taungtha and Popa areas in Mandalay Region are enjoying fruits of cultivation that focuses on growing kitchen crops in addition to the onion along with the alluvial land of Sindewa Creek.

They relied on the cultivation of onion alone along both banks of Sindewa Creek in the past. Now, their income for daily life is higher because of growing kitchen crops such as roselle, rabbit green, Luffa gourd, Brinjal, Solanum molongena and bitter melon on a manageable scale after harvesting onion.

“Growers can earn income from selling of kitchen crops in domestic markets even though they cannot sell out the onion. If local farmers can be provided with agricultural techniques, loans and inputs, they will be convenient for living standard without the need to sell onion in the monsoon,” said U Than Swe, an agricultural technique observer from Natsaunt Village in Taungtha Township.



The alluvial land on both banks of the creek is very fertile soil for the cultivation of various kinds of crops.

In the past, local people bought kitchen crops sent by those from various areas of Shan State. Now, they are engaged in the cultivation of such crops on a manageable scale. Particularly, local farmers from Htanpinchan, Natsaunt and Inte villages in Taungtha

Township plant the crops on the vast croplands.

“We can earn income for families from the cultivation of kitchen crops. Now, local farmers grow the crops on a manageable scale. I plant roselle and rabbit green in early Tabaung. Within one month,

I have sold some two tonnes of plants on sale. People from other villages buy our crops,” said farmer U Kyaw Hsan Win of Natsaunt Village in Taungtha Township.

Currently, local people grow onion and kitchen crops as well as chrysanthemum plantations on the bank of Sindewa Creek.

The alluvial land on both banks of the creek is very fertile soil for the cultivation of various kinds of crops. —Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-printing House)/GNLM



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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.

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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee  
Declaration of Terrorist Groups  
Notification No 2/2021  
12<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tagu 1383 ME  
8 May 2021

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this order with the approval of the State Administration Council in exercising sub-section (e) of Section 6 and sub-section (b) of Section 72 of the Anti-Terrorism Law.

1. Unlawful Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH and National Unity Government NUG formed by CRPH constantly incited Civil Disobedience Movement-CDM participants to commit violent acts. Many riots occurred in many places of the country due to their incitements. They perpetrated bombing, arson, manslaughter, and intimidation to disrupt the state administrative machinery due to the influence of the leaders of CRPH and NUG. Moreover, NUG established People Defence Force-PDF. Violent acts occurred in the name of regional defence forces instigated by NUG and PDF. It is found that their acts to join CDM, threatening non-CDMs, inciting students and teachers not to go to schools, supporting terrorist acts and perpetrating such terrorist acts violate Section 3 (b) and Sub-section 13 of the Counter-Terrorism Law – acts with the intent to cause fear in public, to force Government or any internal and external organization to do an illegitimate act or to refrain from doing a lawful act, and other acts, stipulated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 23 on 4 June 2014.
2. Therefore, unlawful associations – Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH, National Unity Government-NUG, People Defence Force-PDF and all their subordinates have been declared as terrorist groups.

Chairman  
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

# Voting frauds and plans to take action for errors on voter lists scrutinized in two region and state will be presented to the country

THE State Administration Council is an organization taking responsibility in an interim period. So, priority must be given to implementing short-term projects with a broader consideration for the State, ... the need to implement the projects depending on the five-point road map. Voting frauds and plans to take action for errors on voter lists scrutinized in two region and state will be presented to the country.

(Excerpt from the speech to the Management Committee meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 11 May 2021)

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 127/2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Waxing of Kason 1383 ME  
12 May 2021

### Substitution of Rakhine State Administration Council Member

THE State Administration Council has substituted Col. Min Than, BC 23158, member of the Rakhine State Administration Council, with Col. Kyaw Thura, BC 25775, empowered with authority and duties of Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Region (or) State under section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

## MRTV to broadcast press conference 5/2021 of Information Team live

THE press conference 5/2021 of the State Administration Council will be held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 15 May. The Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube and Radio Myanmar will broadcast the press conference live.—MNA

# Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on country's economy meets



THE 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Committee (4/2021) to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy was held yesterday morning.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working committee Deputy Ministers, from Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Commerce, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and representatives of the Ministries concerned joined the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chairman of the Working Committee

highlighted that State Administration Council had rectified the terms of reference (TOR) of the Working Committee for more effective implementation. The Chairman also discussed further processing measures on policymaking, liberalization and streamlining of procedures, coordination and cooperation among the ministries in accordance with the Committee's functions to assist smooth operation of the businesses.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by ministries concerned, future plan of actions and issues raised by the business community. — MNA

## State Administration Council Information Team to hold press briefing 5/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press briefing on 5/2021 at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 15 May. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference. — MNA

# Training and technology needed for fisheries industry: Union Minister

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo held a meeting with the Chairman of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and officials of fishery-related associations on Tuesday.

The Union Minister said the meat and fisheries industries play a key role in the livestock sector for the country's food security and foreign incomes. The ministry will improve the fisheries sector, including freshwater and salt-water fisheries industry, to develop the skilled and qualified human resources and establish organizations to conduct fishery research and technology.



Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo chairs meeting on the development of the fisheries industry on 11 May 2021.

Currently, there are only small-scale researches as there is no firm research department and a separate fund for livestock and fisheries industries. The amount of allocated budget for research is still meagre. Although the private sec-

tors conduct some research, it still needs to perform several kinds of research on the genus of freshwater and salt-water fish.

In the prawn farming sector, fryshrimps are still imported from foreign countries. So the government and private should cooperate in implementing the shrimp production industry.

The Union Minister then discussed the study on the life-cycle of catfish at Maubin and Twantay fisheries camps, stainable fish production, domestic food security, and plans to double the marine-product exports in the short term.—MNA

# MoHT minister inspects hotels, tourism buildings for promotion of Chinese tours



UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn made an inspection tour of construction and upgraded works of hotels and tourism-related buildings in Yangon yesterday.

During the inspection tour, the Union Minister inspected the former Myanmar Shopping Mall, a three-story building on Sule Pagoda road owned by the ministry under renovation for a long-term lease.

The Union Minister also inspected the Myanmar Tourism Bank, Myanmar Tourism Federation office, and the operation of the Yangon Region branch of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited the HAGL Myanmar Center Project by Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Co., Ltd, which leases state-owned land under the B.O.T system and the Melia Hotel that is

included in the project.

The project covers an area of 18.132 acres and includes international standard hotels and commercial buildings on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.

During the meeting with the Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Committee members, he said the State Administration Council had reopened hotels in the whole country following the COVID-19 guidelines. He urged the attendees to discuss possible ways to promote Chinese tours according to the COVID-19 regulations, as Chinese tourists will be able to yield income for the country and local employment opportunities.

The meeting discussed preparation plans to facilitate the smooth flow of Chinese tourists in each sector. The Union Minister coordinated the meeting.—MNA

# Contract signed to transfer duties and responsibilities of State-owned cinemas in Taunggyi

THE duties and responsibilities of the State-owned cinemas – Mya Thu Kha cinema (Taunggyi) and Aung Thiri cinema (Lashio) were transferred in Taunggyi yesterday afternoon.

At the contract signing ceremony, Chairman Dr Kyaw Tun of the Shan State Administration Council said two transferred state-owned cinemas and Thein Htike cinema and Thida Aye cinema in Lashio that have been sold to the private sector would be supervised to screen films. He added that supervision to the screening of 10 cinemas that have

not yet been screened and taking action to the cinemas that could not be screened.

He urged the Ministry of Information to cooperate with the Shan State Administration Council.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint addressed the ceremony, and responsible persons signed the contract. Similarly, the Kayah State Administration Council held the transfer of duties and responsibilities regarding the state-owned Thiri cinema in Kayah State on 11 May. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/GNLM



# MoHS minister Dr Thet Khaing Win meets Myanmar red cross society



UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win met with President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) Dr Maung Maung Myint and the Vice Chair of the MRCS on 11 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society explained the humanitarian aids in collaboration with the international fellow Red Cross associations, the status of health care assistance in conflict areas and financial and technical assistance by the international partners to MRCS, community-based activities for the COVID-19 control activities and the support of the region

and state red cross societies in implementing the COVID-19 vaccination programme in the country.

The Union Minister expressed words of thanks for the community-based health care activities, humanitarian aids. He said his ministry is making an effort to resume the regular operation of hospitals and clinics. He pointed out Tatmadaw's assistance in healthcare services to the people and the COVID-19 vaccination programme in respective states and regions.

He urged cooperation with his ministry in providing humanitarian aids in conflict areas and for the COVID-19 vaccination programme.—MNA

## Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine discusses signing of Myanmar-Thai MoU to protect migrant children

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement presided over a meeting for signing MoU to protect children affected by migrating between Myanmar and Thailand yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine explained the benefits of MoU, especially for migrant Myanmar children.

She also said Thailand is the leading destination of Myanmar migrant workers for its proper economic growth. But some of the children or newly born children in Thailand will face some difficulties to get the fundamental rights in full, like in the education and health sectors. Myanmar and Thailand are

members of ASEAN and CRC. So the two countries can establish practical co-operation in protecting children rights. Then, the MoU will enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries.

During this government term, the needed processes to sign MoU will be carried out as quickly as possible.

Then, the relevant department heads clarified the drafted procedures of MoU, remarks of ministries concerned and Thailand officials, Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) to be conducted after signing MoU and pilot project areas in Myawady-Mae Sot out of designated areas like Myawady-Mae Sot and Kawthoung-Ranong. —MNA



## Yangon Region Investment Committee allows investment of Myanmar citizen, foreign investment

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee approved an investment of Myanmar citizen and a foreign investment which can create job opportunities for 635 local people.

The committee held the 4/2021 meeting at its office in Yankin Township yesterday, attended by the committee chairman Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe.

The committee allowed K2,500 million investments for the production of quality rice and broken rice for ex-



port purpose and US\$1.643 million foreign investment for the manufacturing of the garment industry through the CMP system.

The chairman, members U Aung Than Oo, U Htay Aung and Secretary Director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and the directors from Environmental Conservation and Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization discussed matters related to reports of three companies. —Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/ GNLM

Announcement of Union Election Commission

11 May 2021

FROM PAGE-1

Findings on voter lists in each township

| Sr | Township  | Total polling station | Township sub-commission | List from Immigration department | Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards | Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC | Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS |
|----|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Myanaung  | 211                   | 170,887                 | 182,306                          | 13,645                                                           | 1,569                                                              | 20,432                                                          |
| 2  | Kyangin   | 94                    | 75,640                  | 76,856                           | 3,215                                                            | 623                                                                | 8,966                                                           |
| 3  | Maubin    | 311                   | 247,844                 | 235,169                          | 37,154                                                           | 4,854                                                              | 37,402                                                          |
| 4  | Pantanaw  | 217                   | 201,655                 | 212,391                          | 34,626                                                           | 2,686                                                              | 25,872                                                          |
| 5  | Nyaungdon | 244                   | 170,168                 | 135,376                          | 12,056                                                           | 3,499                                                              | 28,214                                                          |
| 6  | Kyaiklat  | 260                   | 129,165                 | 128,578                          | 7,493                                                            | 1,056                                                              | 14,006                                                          |
| 7  | Dedaye    | 181                   | 155,685                 | 155,958                          | 22,632                                                           | 2,298                                                              | 22,048                                                          |
|    | Total     | 1,518                 | 1,151,044               | 1,126,634                        | 130,821                                                          | 16,585                                                             | 156,940                                                         |

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Myanaung, Kyangin, Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships of Ayeyawady Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.

5. According to the inspection, a total of 1,518 polling stations in these seven townships took out 1,297,130 ballots and used 874,412 ballots. It left 397,897 ballots instead of 422,718 ballots. The difference was 32,341 ballots and it found 7,520 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

| Sr | Township  | Total polling station | Withdrawal | Used    | Exact remaining | Remaining on the ground | Difference |       |
|----|-----------|-----------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
|    |           |                       |            |         |                 |                         | Missing    | Extra |
| 1  | Myanaung  | 211                   | 192,298    | 130,372 | 61,926          | 57,342                  | 6,195      | 1,611 |
| 2  | Kyangin   | 94                    | 85,566     | 60,640  | 24,926          | 24,244                  | 2,051      | 1,369 |
| 3  | Maubin    | 311                   | 277,897    | 178,685 | 99,212          | 89,434                  | 10,527     | 749   |
| 4  | Pantanaw  | 217                   | 223,306    | 159,654 | 63,652          | 60,992                  | 3,025      | 365   |
| 5  | Nyaungdon | 244                   | 193,994    | 135,607 | 58,387          | 55,220                  | 4,841      | 1,674 |
| 6  | Kyaiklat  | 260                   | 150,714    | 104,025 | 46,689          | 45,748                  |            |       |
| 7  | Dedaye    | 211                   | 192,298    | 130,372 | 61,926          | 57,342                  | 6,195      | 1,611 |
|    | Total     | 1,518                 | 1,297,130  | 874,412 | 422,718         | 397,897                 | 32,341     | 7,520 |

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 24,410 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens who turned 18 in 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).

7. There are 130,821 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI “Preparation of Voting Roll” stated “Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time.” But, there were 16,585 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 156,940 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Ayeyarwady Region.

8. Findings in these seven townships were as follows:

(a) There were 887,149 eligible voters and used 874,412 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 12,737 less than the numbers of voters.

(b) It found 32,341 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots

(c) It found 7,250 extra ballots at some polling station

(d) They did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law Section 66(h) and separately returned the ballot receipts/ remaining ballots to township election sub-commission after the election.

(e) Some village-tract election sub-commission did not inform the additional voters lists to the township election sub commission and permitted the voters to cast votes by filling their names in Form (1). In some village-tract, they removed the original names of voters and substituted with new ones.

(f) Those under the age of 18 were allowed to put in the voter lists

(g) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards

(h) They conducted measures that violate the law when they began advance ballot

(i) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near

9. It found voting frauds in Myanaung, Kyangin, Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships of Ayeyawady Region. The shortage/extra ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Union Election Commission

Three killed, over 1,000 houses destroyed by natural disasters in Ayeyawady

NATURAL disasters have destroyed over 1,000 houses and killed three people in the Ayeyawady region in four days, it is learnt.

During the four days from 6 to 9 May, the region was destroyed by lightning strikes and storms.

“More than 250 houses collapsed while the strong winds blew off 850 roofs. And, more than 11,000 households were hit hard by the strong wind, leaving two injured and three dead. The five religious edifices were also affected. Three people were killed by lightning strikes, including one in Pyapon district and two in Patheingyi district. In comparison, two people were injured by strong winds, including one each in Myaungmya district and Labutta district,” said an official from the Department of Disaster Management in the Ayeyawady region.

During the period, all six districts of the Ayeyawady region were affected by the natural disaster. Among them, Maubin district is mostly damaged, followed by Hinthada district. The regional authorities also give awareness of what the public should do or should not do during the strikes of the strong winds and lightning.

The Department of Disaster Management provided humanitarian aids worth over K48 million. The department is still providing relief aids to other remaining affected areas. — Aye Chan Moe/GNLM

Daily Newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper](http://www.issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper), [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlnm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlnm.com.mm/e-paper).

# Trade Department extends licence exemption deadline for 99 export-import items by 7 June

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce extended the licence exemption deadline for 99 exports and imports until 7 June 2021, according to the MOC's notification dated 4 May.

The department has notified that exporters and importers do not require to seek licences for 37 HS code lines for exports and 62 lines for imports by 7 June 2021 to facilitate the trade.

Export items with licence exemption include onion, garlic, rice, broken rice, raw sugar, refined sugar, natural rubber and cotton. The exemption covers the following import goods; flour, soybean seed, palm oil, food commodity, cement, gasoline, diesel, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer and lubricant.

Previously, a two per cent withholding tax on exports and imports was temporarily exempted in border trade, owing to the difficulties to pay tax amid



The department has notified that exporters and importers do not require to seek licences for 37 HS code lines for exports and 62 lines for imports by 7 June 2021 to facilitate the trade.

the closure of private banks. At present, the exempt status is revoked starting from 1 May.

Next, the department cut

the red tape for imports of CMP raw materials and some previously imported pharmaceuticals.

However, tax cut and licence exemption tackle the trade slowdown amid the heightened border security measure

triggered by the new wave of the coronavirus and the lack of money in circulation, an exporter shared his opinion. – HH/GNLM

## Summer green gram growing using underground water gets good price

THE growers from NyaungU township, Mandalay region, are growing the summer green gram using underground water. According to the local growers, the summer green gram is being harvested and fetch K 39,000 per basket.

“The growers from village-tracts in Nyaung -U township started sowing the summer green gram in March using un-

derground water. After sowing for one and a half months, the green gram started to sprout and blossom. After two months, it started to yield to be sold. During the harvest season, each acre of green gram needs around 20 labourers, and each labour is required to pay K3,000 per day. Each harvested green gram is dried for a day and sold back at the Pakokku brokerage,” said U

Zaw Win, a green gram grower from Ywarthitgone village.

Each basket of summer green gram contains 19 visses, and it fetches K39,000. The summer green grams are sold for the same prices this year as last year. According to the local growers, the growers are happy with getting handsome price over the summer green gram. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



Each basket of summer green gram contains 19 visses, and it fetches K39,000.

## Dollar appreciates on record high against Kyat, rising above K1,700

THE hard bullish currency has been gaining in the local forex market. A US dollar against Kyat reached the fresh high above K1,700 in history on 12 May, as per local money changer.

On 2 February, a dollar value stood only at K1,335, and then, it dramatically rose to K1,720 on 12 May.

The exchange rate between the US dollar and Myanmar Kyat showed a large gap of K380 over the past three months.

In a bid to control the sharp daily gains of the US dollar, the Central Bank of Myanmar reportedly sold about 6.8 million dollars on 3 February, 6 million dollars each on 22 and 27 April in the auction market.

The currency intervention is required to steer the own currency value. It is one of the responsibilities of the CBM to control the price. That is why the CBM practised the foreign exchange intervention.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar

exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. – NN/GNLM



# Files opened against nurses who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following nurses have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and health staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

| Sr | Name                                   | Hospital                           | Address                          | Section of Penal Code | Photo                                                                                 |
|----|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Daw Yamin Oo (Senior Nurse)            | Kengtung General Hospital          | Kengtung Town, Shan State (East) | 505-a                 |     |
| 2  | Daw Aye Chan Sabei Aung (Senior Nurse) | Kengtung General Hospital          | Kengtung Town, Shan State (East) | 505-a                 |    |
| 3  | Daw Naw Jacque Line (Senior Nurse)     | Myawady General Hospital           | Myawady Town, Kayin State        | 505-a                 |   |
| 4  | Daw Aye Mya Nwe (Senior Nurse)         | Thaphanbinseik Rural Health Centre | Okpo Township, Bago Region       | 505-a                 |   |
| 5  | Daw Ngun Kam (Senior Nurse)            | PyinOoLwin General Hospital        | Nanyun Town, Sagaing Region      | 505-a                 |   |
| 6  | Daw Tin Myo Wai (Senior Nurse)         | Shwebo Hos-pital                   | Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region      | 505-a                 |    |
| 7  | Daw May Zin Oo (Nurse)                 | Letpadan Hospital                  | Letpadan Town, Bago Region       | 505-a                 |    |
| 8  | Daw Phyu Phyu Hnin (Nurse)             | Kawlin Hospital                    | Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region      | 505-a                 |   |
| 9  | Daw Hnin Si Khine (Nurse)              | Thaton Hospital                    | Bilin Town, Mon State            | 505-a                 |  |
| 10 | Daw Myo Thiri Zaw (Nurse)              | Ngaputaw Hos-pital                 | Ngaputaw Town, Ayeyawady Region  | 505-a                 |  |

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, action will be taken against the the persons who admitted them for the supporting those who participated in CDM and CRPH activities. —MNA

# Files opened against education staff who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following eduction staff have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and education staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

| Sr | Name                 | Occupation                                                                 | Address                                | Section of Penal Code | Photo                                                                                 |
|----|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Dr Mya Thida Tun     | Vice–Principal, Government Technological College (Myingyan), Myingyan Town | Myingyan Town, Mandalay Region         | 505-a                 |   |
| 2  | Daw Myint Thanda Oo  | Staff Officer, Office of the District Education Officer, Kyaukme Town      | Kalay Town, Sagaing Region             | 505-a                 |   |
| 3  | Daw Nyo Nyo San      | Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS -1 Nawngkhio Town                           | Nawngkhio Town, Shan State(North)      | 505-a                 |   |
| 4  | U Ko Rei             | Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Prusho Town                                | Prusho Town, Kayah State               | 505-a                 |   |
| 5  | Daw Wah Wah Ko       | Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS -1 Kawlin Town                              | Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region            | 505-a                 |   |
| 6  | U Pyae Phyo Maung    | Headmaster, BEMS (Kunlong), Naungshwe Township                             | Naungshwe Township, Shan State (South) | 505-a                 |  |
| 7  | U Zaw Paw Tun        | Headmaster, BEPS(Kabo), TadaU Township                                     | TadaU Township, Mandalay Region        | 505-a                 |  |
| 8  | U Lin Lin Htaik      | Headmaster, BEPS(Kwetthit), Pyapon Township                                | Pyapon Town, Ayeyawady Region          | 505-a                 |  |
| 9  | Daw May Mie Mie Lwin | Primary Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Phayathonzu Town                          | Phayathonzu Town, Kayin State          | 505-a                 |  |
| 10 | U Zaw Hsan           | Upper Division Clerk, Myingyan University, Myingyan Town                   | Myingyan Town-ship, Mandalay Region    | 505-a                 |  |

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education staff charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those education staff, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. — MNA

# Armed attacks occurred at security forces camps and public buildings

TERRORISTS opened fire at security forces' bases and public buildings in Kyaikto and Tamu townships on 11 and 12 May.

Due to their bomb attacks on the USDP party office building at around 7:15 pm on 11 May in Kyaikto Township, glasses were shattered, wounding a man inside the building. He was taken to the hospital for medical treatment. Similarly, Kyaikto Myoma Police Station was attacked by weapons at the same time. Due to the defence by the police station, the fire was ceased at 7:40 pm, and the terrorists retreated. After about 15 minutes later, a terrorist opened fire from the

Shwebontha pagoda precinct about 100 feet away from the police station and ran away.

Yesterday morning, a group of 50 terrorists attacked the police station by a small arms fire in Kuntaung village, Tamu Township, Sagaing Region.

The incident resulted in one member of the security forces injured, and one magazine with 15 rounds of ammunition was confiscated.

Security measures have been tightened up, and investigations are carried out to identify the perpetrators and take legal actions against them. —MNA



## Police stop RSO insurgents from escaping into Myanmar territory

THE security forces take security measures in Rakhine state and along the border with Bangladesh daily in order to ensure border security, community peace and stop illegal trespassing and drug trade.

When the police patrolled in Maungtaw area, and borderline yesterday, they found

about 50 RSO terrorists attempting to enter Myanmar areas between border post No BP 51 and 52.

There was an attack between the police and terrorists. The police seized the dead body of an RSO terrorists together with an M22 gun and other materials.

One of the security members was injured and taken to the military hospital in Buthidaung Township.

The security members keep conducting security measures to ensure border security and community peace. — MNA



## Police outpost, government departmental offices set on fire in Sagaing Region

THE insurgents set fire to mobile police outpost, forest department office and Dry Zone Greening Department office in Taw Gyin Village of Taze Township of Sagaing Region on 11 May.

The Taw Gyin mobile police outpost, which was temporarily closed, was burnt at 8:30 pm

while another two buildings at 9 pm. The villagers put out the fire. The buildings and one 12-wheel truck were destroyed in the fire.

The security members investigate to take action against those who committed such fire attack in accord with the law. —MNA



## Homemade mine explodes while planting mine in Botahtaung township

A man was injured in an explosion while planting a homemade mine on 11 May in Botahtaung Township in Yangon.

The incident happened at 6:10 pm in the ward (8), Botahtaung Township and the man was found lying down

near Moe Kaung bakery with wounds on his left eye, fingers and right leg.

Members of the security forces took him to the local Tatmadaw hospital for medical treatment.

He will be prosecuted according to the law.

While searching his house, two keypad phones, two pairs of triple batteries, two six-inch-long steel pipes used to install homemade mines were found and confiscated. —MNA



## Two arrested with anti-State slogans in Tamway, Yangon

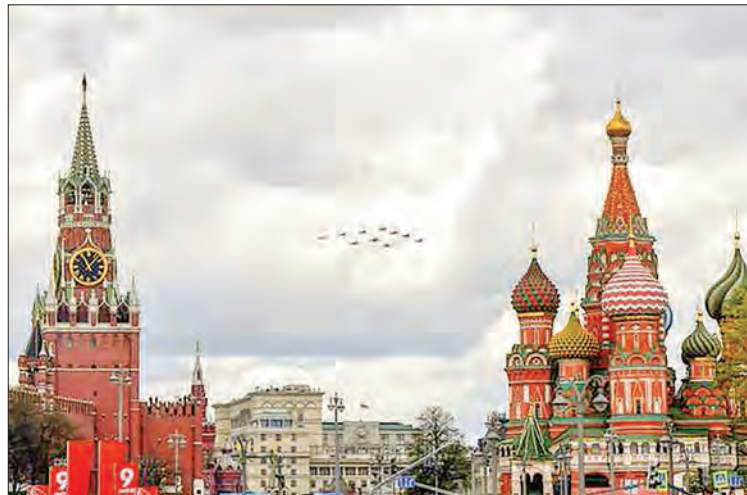
ONE women and one man were arrested yesterday as they hanged anti-government slogans on the fence of No (1) Basic Education High School at 6 am in Tamway Township of the Yangon Region.

security forces were patrolling the area. The perpetrators were arrested together with two red spray bottles and 12 anti-government slogans.

It is reported that action will be taken against them under the law. — MNA



# US says reviewing Open Skies as Putin moves to exit



Russian Sukhoi jet fighters fly over the Kremlin and Red Square during rehearsals for the Victory Day military parade as Moscow prepares to exit the Open Skies Treaty trashed by former US president Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE United States said Tuesday it was reviewing the previous administration's withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty as

Russia moved formally to leave the post-Cold War accord meant to build trust.

The United States official-

ly left the pact in November after former president Donald Trump's administration said Russia was violating the agreement that allows the two powers and their allies to monitor one another's airspace.

The administration of President Joe Biden said it was taking another look in consultation with US allies.

"We haven't made a decision on the future of American participation in the Open Skies Treaty. We are actively reviewing matters related to the treaty," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

"Russia's own continuing non-compliance with the treaty is one of several pertinent factors as we take stock of things,"

he said.

"As this process continues, we encourage Russia to take steps to come back into compliance with the treaty."

Moscow announced in mid-January it would leave the treaty, saying there was no progress in making it work in light of the US withdrawal. A government database showed on Tuesday that President Vladimir Putin has submitted the bill exiting the treaty to parliament.

A note accompanying it said the treaty had helped "to significantly strengthen trust in the defense sphere," adding that the US withdrawal "upset the balance of interests" of signatory states.

"Serious damage has been

dealt to the observance of the treaty and its role in strengthening trust and transparency," the note also said, adding that as a result Russia's national security was under threat.

Biden took office vowing a firmer line on Russia but has also been more open to international accords after Trump dumped a slew of agreements.

Days after entering office, Biden extended by five years the New START nuclear treaty – the last remaining arms reduction pact between the former Cold War rivals.

## Avoiding miscalculation

Open Skies was signed soon after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1992 and came into force in 2002. —AFP ■

## US approves its biggest offshore wind farm yet

THE US announced on Tuesday that it had granted final approval for its biggest wind power project yet, which will be located off the coast of the eastern state of Massachusetts.

The "Vineyard Wind" project calls for up to 84 wind turbines to be built 12 nautical miles off Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, two islands off the Massachusetts coast.

The administration of President Joe Biden has set a goal of generating 30 gigawatts of energy from offshore wind by 2030.

The 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind project would provide enough power for 400,000 homes and businesses, the Interior Department said in

a statement.

"A clean energy future is within our grasp in the United States," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said. "The approval of this project is an important step toward advancing the administration's goals to create good-paying union jobs while combatting climate change and powering our nation."

The United States currently relies very little on wind power, with only small wind farms located off the coasts of Virginia and Rhode Island.

Vineyard Wind, a joint venture between Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, said the project will be operational in 2023. —AFP ■

## China to set separation line with Nepal on Mt. Everest to curb virus

CHINESE authorities have decided to set a line of separation between the country and its neighbour Nepal on Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, in a bid to curb novel coronavirus infections, local media reported Tuesday.

The authorities have been aiming to prevent the nation's climbers from contacting with those from Nepal on the 8,848-metre mountain, called Qomolangma in China. The border of the two countries is located at the top of Mt. Everest.

China has so far reported zero infections on the north side of the mountain since the climbing season began in early April, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Around 20 Chinese people



Chinese authorities have decided to set a line of separation between the country and its neighbour Nepal on Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, in a bid to curb novel coronavirus infections, local media reported Tuesday. **PHOTO: KYODO**

have been permitted to climb the mountain from its north side this year.

They are expected to go

for the top after receiving PCR tests or being quarantined for a certain period, according to Xinhua. —Kyodo News ■

## Pipeline shutdown sparks fear of US gasoline shortage

FEARS the shutdown of a major fuel pipeline network would cause a gasoline shortage led to some panic buying and prompted US regulators on Tuesday to temporarily suspend clean fuel requirements in three eastern states and the nation's capital.

While it remained unclear the degree to which supplies would be affected, drivers lined up to fill their tanks at gas stations in the southeast, with some carrying extra containers amid fears of fuel scarcity. A ransomware attack Friday on Colonial Pipeline forced the company to shut down its entire network, but government officials on Tuesday urged calm and said the situation is only temporary.

The operator of the largest fuel conduit system

in the United States, Colonial Pipeline sends gasoline and jet fuel from the Gulf Coast of Texas to the populous east coast through 5,500 miles (8,850 kilometres) of ducts that serve 50 million consumers. The company said it expects to have the pipeline network fully up and running by the end of the week. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said some areas "may feel a supply crunch, as Colonial fully resumes."

However, "there should be no cause for hoarding gasoline, especially in the light of the fact that the pipeline should be substantially operational by the end of this week and over the weekend," she told reporters at the White House. —AFP ■



The US announced on Tuesday that it had granted final approval for its biggest wind power project yet, which will be located off the coast of the eastern state of Massachusetts. **PHOTO: AFP**

## US business group warns 42 per cent of members plan Hong Kong exit

MORE than 40 per cent of a top US business group's members in Hong Kong said they plan to leave the city in a survey released Wednesday, highlighting growing concerns over Beijing's sweeping national security law.

China blanketed Hong Kong in a broad security law last year to snuff out dissent after months of huge and often violent democracy protests.

The American Chamber of Commerce survey -- conducted between May 5 and 9 -- found 42 per cent of 325 respondents said they were planning a move away, with a significant majority (62 per cent) citing the national security law as a key reason.

Other reasons given included the city's pandemic control measures, its future competitiveness, the high cost of living and concerns over the quality of



The American Chamber of Commerce survey -- conducted between May 5 and 9 -- found 42 percent of 325 respondents said they were planning a move away. PHOTO: AFP

education as dissent is quashed. "While people share their love for living in this dynamic city, they also reveal growing underly-

ing tensions and nagging fears," said Tara Joseph, AmCham's president.

"Previously, I never had a

worry about what I said or wrote when I was in Hong Kong," one respondent wrote in comments published in the survey. — AFP ■

## French court to rule on Air France, Airbus trial over Rio-Paris crash



Flight AF447 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean during a storm on June 1, 2009, in the deadliest crash in Air France's history. PHOTO: AFP

A French court will rule Wednesday whether Air France and Air-

bus should stand trial over the 2009 crash of a Rio de Janeiro

to Paris flight that killed all 228 people on board.

A French court will rule Wednesday whether Air France and Airbus should stand trial over the 2009 crash of a Rio de Janeiro to Paris flight that killed all 228 people on board.

Flight AF447 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean during a storm on June 1, 2009, the deadliest crash in Air France's history.

It took two years to find the wreckage of the Airbus A330 jet, which was eventually located by remote-controlled submarines at a depth of 3,900 metres (13,000 feet).

Investigators determined

the crash was caused by pilot errors, who were disorientated by faulty speed monitoring equipment.

The general prosecutor's office is seeking a manslaughter trial against both Air France and Airbus, going beyond the Paris prosecutor's initial demand that only Air France face manslaughter charges.

Both prosecuting teams contest a 2019 decision to drop the charges by the two investigating magistrates assigned to the case, who said they could not ascribe fault to the companies in what appeared to be a case of pilot error. — AFP ■

## Swedish oat milk producer Oatly eyes \$10 billion IPO

SWEDEN'S Oatly, a pioneer in plant-based drinks, is eyeing a valuation that could exceed \$10 billion in an upcoming initial public offering on Wall Street, the company said Tuesday.

The company, which produces oat-based alternatives to dairy products, such as milk, yoghurt and ice cream, said it had applied to be listed on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "OTLY".

Founded in the 1990s and now operating in about 20 countries, the Swedish company has taken off in recent years, boosted

by the rise of vegan and vegetarian diets, as well as arguments for health and environmental benefits of alternatives to dairy.

In July 2020, Oatly announced that it had raised \$200 million, with the participation of the Blackstone fund, US TV star Oprah Winfrey and actress Natalie Portman, valuing the company at around \$2 billion.

Oatly on Tuesday set the terms for its IPO which would value the company at between \$8.9 billion and \$10.1 billion. There is no date yet for the IPO. — AFP ■



Back by US TV star Oprah Winfrey and actress Natalie Portman, Oatly has taken off in recent years, boosted by the rise of vegan and vegetarian diets, as well as arguments for health and environmental benefits of alternatives to dairy. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

### NEWS IN BRIEF

Toyota annual net profit jumps 10.3%, further growth forecast

TOYOTA'S full-year net profit jumped 10.3 per cent even as the pandemic hit the auto industry, the Japanese firm said Wednesday, projecting growth despite the ongoing semiconductor crisis.

The global pandemic has hit automakers hard, with demand collapsing as the coronavirus forced people indoors and hit spending.

But the world's top-selling carmaker has bounced back quicker than its competitors, and also successfully weathered a chip shortage that has forced rivals to slash production targets.

Toyota said it generated 2.25 trillion yen (\$20.6 billion) in the fiscal year to March, up from 2.04 trillion yen the year before, beating its own annual forecast. — AFP ■

SoftBank posts \$45 bn net profit, Japan's highest ever

INVESTMENT giant Softbank Group on Wednesday reported an annual net profit of \$45.8 billion, the best ever for a Japanese company, reaping the rewards of tech share rallies to recover from last year's record loss.

The telecoms firm turned investment behemoth has poured money into some of Silicon Valley's biggest names and hottest new ventures from AI to biotech through its \$100-billion Vision Fund.

"The technology sector, where the company focuses its investment strategies, has been positively impacted by the accelerated adoption of digital services to address the pandemic," SoftBank said in a statement.

"However, there is no guarantee that the current positive impact will be sustained in light of uncertainties associated with the pandemic." Net profit for 2020-21 was 4.99 billion yen (\$45.8 billion), SoftBank said -- exceeding its target and putting it in the ranks of the world's most profitable companies. — AFP ■

# Inflation fears rout global equity markets



Rising commodity prices are already having an effect on Chinese manufacturers. **PHOTO: AFP**

EQUITY markets across the world tumbled Tuesday as fears of spiking inflation set off a wave of selling across most bourses.

London stocks dived over 3.0 per cent at one point before recovering some ground to close 2.5 per cent lower.

Paris fell 1.9 per cent and Frankfurt 1.8 per cent.

Wall Street stocks also retreated, although the Nasdaq finished almost flat following a wave of bargain-hunting.

“European stock markets have taken a beating today over

concerns about rising inflation expectations,” said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

Traders are fearful that surging inflation could force the world’s central banks to wind back ultra-loose monetary policies earlier than forecast and damage the post-Covid recovery.

Earlier, Tokyo and Taipei each dropped more than 3.0 percent, while Hong Kong was off 2.0 per cent.

Data showed a 6.8 per cent rise in Chinese factory gate

prices last month, the biggest jump in almost four years.

That is due to a rally in commodity prices — particularly widely used copper and iron ore — which has markets concerned that costs will spiral.

“Investors do appear to be freaking out a little bit over the recent sharp rise in commodity prices that we’ve seen in the past few weeks,” said Hewson.

The yield on the 10-year US Treasury rose back above 1.6 per cent, a move typically reflecting concerns about rising prices. —AFP ■

## EU court to decide on Amazon tax appeal

AN EU court will rule Wednesday on an appeal by online giant Amazon against an order that Luxembourg recoup 250 million euros (\$295 million) in unpaid taxes.

The decision will land less than a year after iPhone maker Apple spectacularly won its appeal in the same court against the European Commission’s blockbuster order in 2016 that Apple repay Ireland 13 billion euros.

The French energy giant Engie will also learn the fate of its fight against a similar EU order to repay Luxembourg 120 million euros in taxes.

The cases came in the wake of the 2014 LuxLeaks revelations that unearthed secret deals between Luxembourg and hundreds of companies guaranteeing super low tax bills.

In the Amazon case, in 2017 Europe’s competition chief Margrethe Vestager accused Luxembourg of an illegal deal with the internet shopping giant to pay less tax

than other businesses.

At the heart of the EU’s case is a violation of the so-called “arm’s length principle”, which for tax purposes is meant to ensure that transactions between subsidiaries are based on prices other companies would pay.

At the time of the EU’s case, Amazon said it did “not receive any special treatment from Luxembourg and that we paid tax in full accordance with both Luxembourg and international tax law.”

Win or lose, the EU commission will likely insist that the point of their cases, to expose the practice of profit-shifting, will have been made, with new rules currently being worked on to close loopholes, especially for big tech.

In recent weeks, the United States has embraced the idea of a global minimum corporate tax that would make special deals offered to multinationals a thing of the past. —AFP ■

## Money sent home helps Mexicans survive pandemic recession



Maria Fernanda Camano leaves the money transfer office in Izucar de Matamoros in central Mexico where she receives remittances from her father in the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIKE millions of Mexicans struggling during the pandemic, the money sent home by her father from the United States became a lifeline for Maria Fernanda Camano after she lost her job.

Such remittances, which rose to a record high in March, have helped to cushion the devastating blow to Latin America’s

second-largest economy from the coronavirus.

Camano’s father Victor Hugo has lived for 15 years in California, where he works night shifts as a freight truck driver.

“It made me think: what would have happened if he had stayed here? Maybe he wouldn’t have been able to help me,” said

the 22-year-old former office worker. At one point her father received a telephone call from his employer telling him not to show up to work as the pandemic shut down activities in the United States.

“It was mortifying,” Camano told AFP in Izucar de Matamoros in the central state of Puebla, one of the areas of Mexico that receives the most remittances.

“Fortunately they decided that my father’s job was necessary, so he had more work,” she said, adding that she was “deeply grateful” and worried about the sacrifices he was making.

**‘Economic ravages’**

An estimated 1.8 million households receive remittances from Mexicans living abroad, mostly in the United States.

Some 12 million people born in Mexico live in the US, as well as another 26 million second or third generation Mexicans. —AFP ■



Europe’s competition chief Margrethe Vestager has accused Luxembourg of an illegal deal with Amazon to pay less tax than other businesses. **PHOTO: AFP**

## German investor confidence jumps as third wave eases

GERMAN investor sentiment jumped to its highest level in two decades in May on hopes that consumers will send growth soaring once Europe’s biggest economy finally reopens shops, bars and restaurants. The ZEW institute’s monthly barometer measuring economic expectations rose 13.7 points in May to 84.4, its highest reading since 2000 and by far the highest since the beginning of the pandemic, data showed on Tuesday.

“The slowing down of the third COVID-19 wave has made financial market experts even more optimistic,” said ZEW president Achim Wambach in a statement. “The experts expect a significant economic upswing in the coming six months,” he added.

Restaurants, bars, gyms and cultural venues

have been closed since November and shops since December in Germany, which was still battling with a third wave of infections and a slow vaccine rollout in the first few months of the year.

The inoculation drive has dramatically accelerated in recent weeks, with almost a third of the population now having received at least one jab. Meanwhile, a gradual decline in infection rates led Health Minister Jens Spahn to declare last week that the third wave “appears to have broken”.

ZEW’s assessment of the current economic situation in Germany jumped by 8.7 points to -40.1 — a marked improvement on the previous month but still deep in negative territory. The government also expects an economic upswing in the second quarter. —AFP ■

# Israel declares state of emergency in Lod, blaming ‘riots’ by Arab minority

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday declared a state of emergency in the central city of Lod as police accused Arab residents of waging “wide-scale riots”.

Netanyahu’s statement came after an Israeli Arab was killed in Lod the previous night as violence soars between Israel and the Palestinian territories.

According to an AFP photographer, Netanyahu himself went to the city, which is in the suburbs of economic hub Tel Aviv near the Ben Gurion airport, to call for calm.

The city of 77,000 people,



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tours the city of Lod.  
**PHOTO: AFP**

including 47,000 Jewish Israelis and 23,000 Arab Israelis, had been the scene of violent clashes on Monday, the local police

confirmed to AFP.

But on Tuesday evening, as protests multiplied across East Jerusalem, the occupied West Bank and also Israeli Arab cities, the situation degenerated in Lod, police said.

“Wide-scale riots erupted by some of the Arab residents and endangering communities,” the police said in a statement.

“Vehicle were burnt and damage caused to property.”

The government said reinforcements had been deployed after Israeli media reported that three synagogues and several businesses were set on fire in Lod. —AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Death penalty, hate crime charges sought in Georgia spa shootings

PROSECUTORS plan to seek the death penalty and file hate crime charges against the man accused of shooting dead eight people, including six women of Asian origin, in attacks on three spas in the southern US state of Georgia.

Robert Aaron Long, 22, was indicted by a grand jury in Georgia’s Fulton County on Tuesday for the murders of four women in a March 16 attack on two spas in the city of Atlanta.

Long, of Woodstock, Georgia, is facing separate charges related to an attack on a spa in Cherokee County the same day that left another four people dead.

The deaths of six women of Asian origin further stoked fears in an Asian-American population already alarmed by a surge in hate crimes during the coronavirus pandemic. —AFP ■

Several children killed in Russian high school shooting

AT least seven people were killed Tuesday, most of them children, in a shooting at a high school in the central Russian city of Kazan, officials and news agency reports said.

Officials said at least one gunman had been involved and detained, though there were unconfirmed reports of two attackers including one who had been killed.

A police spokesman said officers were dispatched to School No. 175 in Kazan, the capital of the Russian republic of Tatarstan, after reports of shots being fired.

Amateur footage on social media, apparently filmed from a nearby building, showed people escaping from the school by jumping from second- and third-floor windows, with sounds of gunshots echoing in the schoolyard.

Russia’s National Anti-Terrorism Committee said seven children had been killed and 16 people wounded. —AFP ■

# Libya’s latest unity government faces uphill battle



Analysts warn that despite moves towards peace in Libya, the country could slip back into conflict. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A new unity government in Libya had raised hopes the war-ravaged North African nation had turned a corner towards peace — but analysts warn that major stumbling blocks remain.

Thousands of foreign mer-

cenaries are still on the ground, political factions remain deeply divided, and the promise of elections in December seems to be slipping away.

“The honeymoon period of Libya’s GNU (Government of Na-

tional Unity) is now long gone,” said analyst Emadeddin Badi.

The toppling and killing of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a 2011 NATO-backed uprising plunged Libya into a bloody, decade-long struggle for power.

After a grim, year-long battle for the western capital of Tripoli, in which rival camps were backed by foreign powers, a truce last summer finally led to a formal UN-mediated ceasefire in October.

That was followed in March by the establishment of a new unity government to replace rival administrations in east and west.

Interim Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah’s administration is charged with unifying Libya’s institutions and preparing for elections on December 24.

But despite the rare wave of optimism, Libya’s deep rivalries are beginning to resurface.

“After an unprecedented breakthrough over the past two months, we have entered a new phase of doubt — and a resurgence of divisions between east and west,” noted analyst Imad Jalloul.

## Foreign forces

Last week, dozens of gunmen staged a show of force at a hotel used as a headquarters by Libya’s presidential council in Tripoli.

That came after interim Foreign Minister Najla al-Mangoush, from eastern Libya, angered many in the west by demanding that Turkey withdraw troops it had deployed during the civil war. —AFP ■

# Venezuela asks Spain to extradite convicted opposition politician

VENEZUELA’S Supreme Court on Tuesday sent a request to Spain for the extradition of exiled opposition politician Leopoldo Lopez, who has been sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Lopez was jailed in 2015 for inciting violence amongst protesters against the government of Nicolas Maduro.

The violent repression of demonstrations by security services from February to May left 43 people dead and 3,000 injured, and brought international condemnation of the Maduro regime.

Lopez was transferred to

house arrest in 2017 but was then released by rebel soldiers in April 2019 as part of a failed uprising against Maduro.

He has been living in Spain for the last seven months having left the country from the Spanish ambassador’s residence where he took refuge once the uprising crumbled.

Maduro accused the ambassador, Jesus Silva, of “complicity” in the escape and said he would “review” Venezuela’s relationship with Spain.

Nonetheless, Spain’s representative for Latin America at the foreign affairs ministry, Cris-



Venezuelan opposition figure Leopoldo Lopez fled to Spain in October 2020 after escaping house arrest the year before. **PHOTO: AFP**

tina Gallach, visited Venezuela in March and urged “a political

solution to the country’s crisis”. —AFP ■

## Nine teams to compete in 2021 Thai Son Bac Cup

A total of nine teams will take part in the 2021 Thai Son Bac Cup to be held in Viet Nam on 18 May, said the source with the ASEAN Football Federation.

Hanoi I Watabe FC, Hanoi II Watabe FC, Phong Phu Ha Nam I

FC, Phong Phu Ha Nam II FC, Ho Chi Minh City I FC, Ho Chi Minh City II, Son La FC, Vinacomin FC, and Thai Nguyen T&T FC are taking in the list, officials said.

"Women's Football continue to develop well in the last several

years, and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament is still being organized," said Bui Dinh Te of the tourney organizer.

"Following the official draw ceremony held this week at the VFF House in Hanoi, kick-off

has been set for 18 May 2021 with Phong Phu Ha Nam I taking on Son La FC at the Ha Nam Stadium.

The tournament will run on a double round-robin format. Each team is allowed to make a

maximum of five substitutions per match.

The first leg will run from 18 May to 20 June 2021, with the return leg set for 12 July to 13 August 2021," ASEAN football officials added. —GNLM ■

## 'Relentless': Pep hails City after fifth Premier League in nine years



Trophy time: Man City fans celebrate winning the Premier League outside the Etihad Stadium. PHOTO: AFP

MANAGER Pep Guardiola hailed "relentless" Manchester City after they clinched the "hardest" of his three Premier League titles on Tuesday, sparking wild celebrations among supporters who had gathered outside the Etihad Stadium.

City were handed the title when arch-rivals and nearest challengers Manchester United lost 2-1 at home to Leicester, leaving Guardiola's side 10 points clear with three games

remaining.

"This has been a season and a Premier League title like no other. This was the hardest one," said Guardiola after City became English champions for the seventh time -- five titles coming in the past nine years.

City missed a chance to celebrate on the pitch at the weekend, losing 2-1 at home to Chelsea with United keeping them waiting by winning at Aston Villa.

But two days later they

were able to savour a title triumph that is all the sweeter given the obstacles they have overcome in a coronavirus-condensed campaign played mostly without fans.

"We will always remember this season for the way we won. I am so proud to be the manager here and of this group of players," said Guardiola.

It was City's second trophy in a little over two weeks after beating Tottenham in the League Cup final. —AFP ■

## Solskjaer calls on Man. Utd to strengthen after Leicester loss

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer called on the club's owners to bolster his squad after a 2-1 loss at home to Leicester on Tuesday confirmed Manchester City as Premier League champions.

Second-placed United, who had to beat the Foxes to maintain their fading title hopes, fell behind to Luke Thomas' 10th-minute goal at Old Trafford.

Mason Greenwood equalised just five minutes later but Turkish defender Caglar Soyuncu's second-half header saw Leicester to a win that boost-

ed their bid for a Champions League place and set them up for this weekend's FA Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley.

Defeat left United 10 points behind City, with only a maximum of nine available to the Red Devils from their three remaining league games this season.

The Glazers, United's Florida-based owners, have been the target of bitter demonstrations by supporters in recent weeks as a result of their role in trying to take the club into the aborted European Super League. —AFP ■



Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer called on the club's owners to bolster his squad after a 2-1 loss at home to Leicester on Tuesday confirmed Manchester City as Premier League champions. PHOTO: AFP

## German FA in turmoil after embattled president steps down



German FA president Fritz Keller is set to resign following a scandal over comments he made comparing his vice-president to a Nazi judge. PHOTO: AFP

THE German FA (DFB) was in turmoil on Wednesday after its embattled president Fritz Keller said he would step down after comparing his own deputy to a notorious Nazi-era judge.

"President Fritz Keller has made a personal decision...that he is ready in principle to resign," the DFB said in a statement late Tuesday.

The move came just two days ahead of the DFB's flagship annual event, the German Cup final, and a month before the European championships.

Keller sparked outrage and calls for his resignation after likening DFB vice-president Rainer Koch to Roland Freisler, the infamous head of the Nazi party's court in the 1940s,

during a meeting last month.

The 64-year-old later apologized to Koch, acknowledging that his words were "totally inappropriate, notably towards the victims of Nazism", but ruled out stepping down over the incident.

Yet he is now set to step down next Monday, after facing a DFB tribunal to explain his comments.

Far from settling what appeared to be bitter power struggle between Keller and Koch, the president's resignation appears to herald a mass clearout of the federation top brass.

In their statement on Tuesday, the DFB announced it was "laying the foundations for a new orientation". —AFP ■