

NATIONAL

MoPF holds meeting for natural disaster survey

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

MoHS discusses COVID-19 preventive measures

PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 33, 12th Waxing of Kason 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Saturday, 22 May 2021

Previous Union Election Commission was formed with NLD hard cores in November 2017 to commit voting frauds in ward and village polling stations: UEC Chairman



The Union Election Commission meets representatives from 59 political parties in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 May 2021.

A plan is underway to amend the law and rules for casting votes of voters who reside outside the constituency for more than 90 days, and township election sub-commissions will collect the number of eligible voters holding citizenship scrutiny cards from Form-66 of the immigration department checked with the list from the General Administration Department, said Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe in meeting with 59 political parties at the office of the UEC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The chairman invited political parties to give helping hands to the commission in collecting

voter lists, casting votes under the law, and providing necessary suggestions.

The commission has inspected voter lists from 306 of 315 townships, and the remaining nine townships are under examination. The findings from the lists have been presented through daily newspapers.

The immigration department showed 4,188,249 voters holding IDs cast votes, but there were 6,137,047 eligible voters in the Yangon Region. There were 3,979,695 voters holding various IDs. Among them, 747,138 voters did not have citizenship scrutiny cards, 280,482 voters with CSC repeated in the voter list twice and thrice. So, voting frauds may

be based on 1,027,620 voters.

Likewise, there were 212,916 people included on the voter list in Kayah State, 214,074 of whom held various IDs mentioned by the immigration department. A total of 162,857 voters cast votes, 5,552 of whom cast votes without CSC and 930 voters were included on the repeated lists for three and above times and 16,680 for two times.

There were 477,957 eligible voters in Rakhine State, 630,052, who held various IDs mentioned by the immigration department. A total of 329,264 persons cast votes, 77,573 cast votes without CSC, but 4,101 persons were repeatedly involved in the list more than three times and

department. A total of 305,987 voters cast votes without CSC, but 13,002 voters were involved in the voter list more than three times and 174,268 twice.

As an announcement was issued that more than 60 years old voters might cast votes in advance as of 29 October 2020, votes were collected. In some areas, members of NLD victorious teams gathered advance votes from the voters.

According to the health guidelines based on the outbreak of Covid-19, one more announcement was released on 8 October 2020 that those who could not return home might cast votes. So, it caused repeated voter lists and allowed the voters without citizenship scrutiny cards to cast votes. The previous UEC released a

A plan is underway to amend the law and rules for casting votes of voters who reside outside the constituency for more than 90 days, ...

47,712 twice.

There were 1,847,780 voters in Mon State, 1,602,960 of whom held various kinds of IDs mentioned by the immigration

directive on 19 October 2020 for those without CSC to cast votes. So, those without CSC were allowed to cast votes. Moreover, a

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

MoSWRR provides cash assistance to CSOs, people with disabilities and senior citizens in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

Fishery exports suspended after China restricts imported seafood amid COVID-19

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

People beat extreme heat in Mandalay main canal

PAGE-7



LOCAL NEWS

K400-mln Thanatpin-Kyaungsu bridge opened to rural community in Bago Region

PAGE-11

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.

Previous Union Election Commission was formed with NLD
hard cores in November 2017 to commit voting frauds in ward
and village polling stations: UEC Chairman

FROM PAGE-1

directive was released to count for ballots with the right mark but without the seal of the commission, ballots with the right mark and ballots in the torn envelopes as confirmed votes. These acts broke relevant election law and rules.

The previous Union Election Commission was formed with NLD hard cores in November 2017 to commit voting frauds in the ward and village polling stations. Region/State, district and township election sub-commissions were also re-constituted with NLD hard cores. Moreover, the General Administration Department was moved under the Government Office Ministry. The President formed immigration and human resources ministries in regions and states on 27 June 2019.

It can be vividly seen that attempts were made to enable a single party to win in the election to form the government. Newspapers proved the interference of the Union government and authorities. IDEA and IFES intentionally opened their offices at the UEC office to seek the funds from foreign organizations under the title of election and advised the commission. When inspection of the voter list is completed soon, necessary measures will be taken, and the report on findings will be presented to the people.

The voter lists and voting frauds were inspected after the 2020 election held by the previous UEC. Political parties which participated in the election experienced the illegal performance of the ruling party. So, those parties were

The forthcoming election will be held in a free and fair manner in line with the fifth point of the five-point road map by taking lessons from the past wrong events.

requested to send the voting frauds, illegal commitments and evidence they faced to the current commission. The wish of the parties was sought for taking action against NLD, which broke the law in the 2020 election based on the findings of the voter lists.

The first meeting focused

on the practice of the PR system. Some parties sent the papers to the election commission. So, political parties were urged to discuss whether the PR system should be exercised or not. Among them, the commission will select the appropriate election system depending on the situation.

The forthcoming election will be held in a free and fair manner in line with the fifth point of the five-point road map by taking lessons from the past wrong events.

Political parties discussed matters pertaining to the assistance of the commission in the rule of law and security measures, change of election system, taking care for using the system for ensuring the new election commission in conformity with Myanmar, taking legal action against the party which broke the existing laws and committed voting frauds, and the Proportional Representation (PR) system.

The UEC chairman responded to the discussions of the political parties. — MNA

Requirements of teachers will be fulfilled

THE teachers who joined the CDM due to misunderstanding based on the weakness in administrative measures and political attacks need to report back to the respective schools. The requirements of teachers will be fulfilled during the school opening period.

(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)

MoPF holds meeting for natural disaster survey

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance held a meeting on the National Disaster Management Committee’s Preliminary Needs Survey, Damage Confirmation and Needs Assessment Working Committee (1/2021) yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein addressed the meeting. Secretary of the Working Committee Director-General of the Central Statistical Organization presented the Working Committee’s implementation progress and natural disaster surveys to be conducted in 15 regions/states in 2021.

The Working Committee members discussed the implementation in respective regions and states, difficulties encountered, and natural disaster surveys to be carried out.

Afterwards, the Union Minister said to prepare for precautionary measures in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters, support the Central Committee following



the duties and responsibilities of the Working Committee, liaise with State/Region Administration Council members on survey forms and activities, setup and train mobile teams, construct telecommunications networks, publish survey reports early and coordinate for accurate information and fund management. The meeting was attended by members of the working committee from the relevant departments, secretaries of the region/state administration councils and officials from the Central Statistical Organization. — MNA

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

FROM 17-5-2021 to 21-5-2021, local/foreign donors contributed 4.530 million Kyats 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 21-5-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 17-5-2021	30,802,563,615.39
Received amount of money from (+) 17-5-2021 to 21-5-2021	4,530,000.00
Closed balance on 21-5-2021	30,807,093,615.39

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 17-5-2021	178,140,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) 17-5-2021 to 21-5-2021	-
Closed balance on 21-5-2021	178,140,149.53

28 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 May, total figure rises to 143,211

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,211 after 28 new cases were reported on 21 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,169 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Public information

Yangon Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175
Yangon Region Administration Council

MoHS discusses COVID-19 preventive measures



THE Ministry of Health and Sports organized a coordination meeting for COVID-19 prevention yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win mentioned that all should consider the country's infection rate in order to carry out COVID-19 prevention measures and public health awareness campaigns by cooperating with relevant region/state health officials. Although there is a low infection rate, it still needs to prepare staff and medical supplies to be ready when the highest confirmed cases are reported.

The Union Minister also discussed contact tracing processes, cooperation work between the states/regions administration councils/bodies and volunteers like Myanmar Red Cross Society, contract system and lab tests to be undertaken in regions/states hospitals, including systematic reporting system regarding health checks conducted at private hospitals and clinics.

Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun then discussed COVID-19 prevention and treatment at hospitals in Yangon, organizing treatment management committees, human resources and volunteers. Other departmental heads respectively coordinated the discussion. – MNA

MoSWRR provides cash assistance to CSOs, people with disabilities and senior citizens in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash assistance to voluntary organizations, people with disabilities and people over 85 years yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine said public services are provided by the Social Welfare Department, Disaster Management Department and Rehabilitation Department. They set seven social welfare activities to implement social welfare services for the people.

She expressed words of thanks to all stakeholders and local authorities for their cooperation in providing basic statistical data and access to the benefit of the people.

She urged the civil society organizations and people from the regions and states to continue cooperation.

A total of K235.683 million was provided to the voluntary organizations; K27.06 million to a total of 902 people with disabilities.

The Union minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials provided social pension assistance to the attended elderlies and people with disabilities directly at the ceremony.

A total of K421.653 million was provided to the voluntary organizations, 902 people with disabilities and 5,297 people over the age of 85 in Nay Pyi Taw Council area yesterday. – MNA



Fishery exports suspended after China restricts imported seafood amid COVID-19

THE fishery exports through the Sino-Myanmar border has ground to a halt following the consequences and safety measures on the imported seafood amid the COVID-19 pandemic, traders stressed.

Myanmar's fishery export was experiencing a downturn due to the import restrictions triggered by the detection of the COVID-19 on fish imports in China.

China was the second-largest buyer of Myanmar's fishery products, accounting for US\$254 million out of the overall fishery export value of \$850 million in the past financial year 2019-2020.

At present, the fishery sector is dependent on maritime trade only.

Export earnings from the fisheries sector over the first half (1 Oct-7 May) of the current Financial Year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$507.6 million, a decrease of \$80.59 million from the year-ago period. According to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry, the figures stood at \$588.25 million during a year-ago period. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidelines to ensure food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020.

Permitted companies are advised to carry out food safety plans, follow the WHO and FAO guidelines, formulate a safety management system. They must suspend exports if any suspicious foodborne virus or virus infection risk are found in the products. The export is likely to resume once the products meet food safety criteria set by the General Administration of Customs of the People Republic of China (GACC).

Myanmar Fisheries Federation stated that only the G2G pact could tackle problems faced in exporting farm-raised fish and prawns and ensure smooth freight movement between countries in order to bolster exports. During the last FY2019-2020, MFF expected to earn more than \$800 million from fishery exports, and it reached a target. Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes that meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

The foreign market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) certificates to ensure food safety.

Fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries compliant with GAQP to meet international market standards. The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system. Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department. There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth \$530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth \$480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth \$500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth \$600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth \$700 million in the 2017-2018FY and 580,000 tonnes worth over \$730 million in the 2018-2019FY respectively, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, the fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Its fishery production, including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish, is far better than the regional countries.

Yangon Region Fisheries Department stated that if the government can boost processing technology, it can contribute to its economy. It will also earn more income for those stakeholders in the supply chain. — KK/GNLM

Pagodas, mosques and temples peacefully alive with prayers

BUDDHIST pagodas, Hindu temples, mosques, churches and other religious buildings across the country are alive and peaceful with prayers since the reopening on 8 February.

The religious buildings and prayer halls in the country were temporarily closed to contain the spread of COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar and they have reopened since 8 February.

It is also reported that parks, playgrounds in cities, including Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, have reopened and markets, hospitals, flights, railways, waterway and bus lines are in regular operation. — MNA



Venerable Sayadaws, government employees, locals receive COVID-19 vaccine

TATMADAW keeps launching COVID-19 vaccination programmes for elderly people over 65 years, departmental officials and local ethnic people, including venerable Sayadaws in their respective military command areas.

The venerable Sayadaws, governmental staff and residents of Taunggyi and Yaksawk townships of Southern Shan State, Loikaw Township of Kayah State and Toungoo Township of Bago Region were vaccinated against COVID-19 by the Tatmadaw medical teams yesterday. – MNA

Tatmadaw hospitals provide healthcare services to over 210,000 outpatients

MILITARY hospitals and temporary hospitals in the townships of regions and states have given medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 214,731 outpatients and 65,206 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 10,041 major operations and 5,120 minor operations. The senior doctors treat severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 12,736 babies, while 12,736 pregnant women were taken to the respective military hospitals.

Officials from the respective commands also provided the patients with foods and encouraged them. – MNA

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace



TATMADAW, Police Force and Fire Brigade jointly conducted security measures to ensure the State's stability, security of people, the rule of law and community peace starting 14 February night.

Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members also jointly conduct security measures for the peaceful night and community peace in respective regions and states and keep serving security measures the whole day. – MNA



State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who arrive in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries with worries because of incitement and intimidation of NLD members, the extremists who support that party, CRPH unlawful association, incitement of CDM and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since after 1 February 2021 when the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibility.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of CRPH unlawful association and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in their areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. As those who evaded from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from evaded areas to various regions of Myanmar.
4. Information was released that if those who evaded to various areas except the persons who committed any kinds of crime wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord, the citizens abroad are to contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates without facing action taken in accord with the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Announcement of Union Election Commission

21 May 2021



- 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 Shwebo, KhinU, Dabayin, Tamu, Kawlin, Kalewa and Minkin townships of Sagaing Region.
- According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 802,065 eligible voters in these seven townships of Sagaing Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 681,475 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 74,390 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 4,900 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 77,982 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

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 CSC
1	Shwebo	171	224,563	165,854	28,035	1,897	24,172
2	KhinU	112	123,148	130,079	10,042	673	11,948
3	Dabayin	125	122,975	92,797	9,178	839	13,810
4	Tamu	76	84,384	67,059	4,833	521	8,036
5	Kawlin	133	114,817	107,035	6,047	446	9,840
6	Kalewa	69	44,058	42,737	10,645	111	2,608
7	Mingin	133	88,120	75,914	5,610	413	7,568
	Total	819	802,065	681,475	74,390	4,900	77,982

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Shwebo, KhinU, Dabayin, Tamu, Kawlin, Kalewa and Minkin townships of Sagaing 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.
- According to the inspection, a total of 819 polling stations in these seven townships took out 902,994 ballots and used 638,778 ballots. It left 251,187 ballots instead of 264,216 ballots. The difference was 26,608 ballots and it found 13,579 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	Shwebo	171	246,045	178,885	67,160	61,035	7,026	901
2	KhinU	112	139,146	99,832	39,314	36,507	9,798	6,991
3	Dabayin	125	138,993	97,596	41,397	40,730	1,527	860
4	Tamu	76	92,698	59,727	32,971	31,278	3,377	1,684
5	Kawlin	133	131,540	95,543	35,997	35,683	763	449
6	Kalewa	69	52,193	35779	16,414	15,105	1,634	325
7	Mingin	133	102,379	71,416	30,963	30,849	2,483	2,369
	Total	819	902,994	638,778	264,216	251,187	26,608	13,579

- According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Sagaing Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 120,590 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens who turned 18 in November 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
- There are 74,390 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 4,900 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 77,982 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Sagaing Region.
- The poll heads failed to follow the Hluttaw Election Law rule 66 (h) and two ballot books (100-ballot) of Chaung Sone Village-tract and 13 ballot books (650 ballots) of unknown ward/village-tract of Shwebo Township were returned to the officials after the election.
- At No (1) polling station of Nyaung Hla Village-tract of Dabayin Township, the advance ballots were not separately used and it found 18 ballot books (900 ballots) used in other polling stations. The poll heads did not follow Rules 66 (h) of the Hluttaw Election Law and 9 ballot books (450 ballots) of Aye Thaya, Settaw, Min Swe Hnint and Thabeik Le village-tracts were returned after the election.
- The Hluttaw Election Law Rules 15 (a) stated, “Every citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen and holder of temporary certificate, whose name is included in the voting roll of a constituency shall have the right to vote only in the said constituency”. It did not find the signatures of ward/village-tract election sub-commission chairman and secretary in Form (1) of 18 village-tracts in Kalewa township and 23 village-tracts of Minkin Township.
- Findings in seven townships of Sagaing Region were as follows:
 - There were 645,726 voters and they used 638,778 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 6,948 less than the numbers of voters.
 - It found 26,608 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.
 - It found 13,579 extra ballots at some polling stations.
 - They did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law Rules 66(h) and separately returned the ballot receipts/remaining ballots to the township election sub-commission only after the election.
 - In every page of Form (1) book, it did not found the signatures of the chairman and secretaries of ward/village-tract election sub-commission according to the Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a).
 - It did not find the names of voters, voting numbers, polling station numbers, Ward/village-tracts, signatures or fingerprints on the ballot receipts used in some polling stations.
 - Some of the ward/village-tract election sub-commissions failed to return the ballot receipts and extra ballots in accordance with the law and so the ballots were found missing.

FROM PAGE-6

(h) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards.
(i) They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballot.
(j) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
12. It found voting frauds in Shwebo, KhinU, Dabayin, Tamu, Kawlin, Kalewa and Minkin townships of Sagaing Region. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Union Election Commission

Bird-eye chilli farmers face losses as prices plummet

SOME villages in Kawlin and Wuntho townships of the Sagaing Region grow bird eye chillies for commercial purposes. The chilli farmers face losses for low prices and production cost during this year.

The bird-eye chilli is grown in November and harvested in February. The production cost is only about K100,000 for 0.5 acre, and it makes a profit. So the villagers expand their chilli plantation more than in the previous years.

The 0.5 acre of chilli plantation produced about 700 pyi



The 0.5 acres of chilli plantation produced about 700 pyi (basket) of chilli, and it can harvest once every ten days. The customers pay K2,500 per basket. It made more than K5.5 million of profits from half an acre of chilli last year.

of chilli, and it can harvest once every ten days. The customers pay K2,500 per pyi. It made more than K5.5 million of profits from half an acre of chilli last year. But this year, the cost is higher than the previous years, and the farmers face losses due to the low production rate. They get only 50 pyis from half an acre. The chilli price is only about K1,400 per pyi, said a chilli farmer from Kyine Khwin village of Wuntho Township.

For low production rate and prices, the farmers plant other crops.

The farmers initially plant a certain crop in small-scale farmland and plant other crops if they do not get fair prices.

—Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)/GNLM

People beat extreme heat in Mandalay main canal

DUE to the sharp rise in temperature these days, more and more people are coming to the Mandalay main canal in order to seek shade under big trees along the canal and swim in it every day.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the daytime temperature in Mandalay is currently rising to 40 degrees Celsius. It makes the residents in and around Mandalay, with their family members or friends, choose cool places to beat the heat.

The Mandalay main canal is about half an hour drive from Mandalay, and people have come to the canal due to its shady trees and cool water.

“Since the weather is too hot, although young people can bear it, not so well for children and the elderly. It is not healthy to be in an air-conditioned room all day long. Therefore, we have come to this canal as it is not so far, and it won’t cost, too. Sometimes we go to Yay Kyi village and sometimes to Kyaukmee village,” said U Raju, who has come to the canal from Chanayethazan township.

The canal starts from Hsedawgyi Dam in Madaya Township. It supplies water to farmlands, flowing from north to south in Patheingyi Township. Due to its old big shady trees, the number of people who come to avoid the heat is reportedly increasing. They rest in Yay Kyi village, Ai Gyi village, Lethit village and Kyaukmee village situated along the canal. – Min Htet Aung/GNLM



Try to conquer natural disasters with concerted efforts of entire people

EVERY season can bring impacts of natural disasters to the world. Likewise, three seasons namely cold season, summer and monsoon, can cause dangerous disasters to Myanmar at any time.

In fact, the monsoon will not bring disasters alone to the world, but it can mostly convey terrible impacts of natural disasters such as cyclonic storms, earthquakes, thunderbolts, torrential rains, landslides, floods and so on to the people.

However, just a cold wave in the cold season and winter can be identified as a disaster that can take out the souls of humans who are in weakness. Capping ice on something to harm humans can also be identified as occurrences of natural disaster. Moreover, overheat can kill humans in the summer in a short time. Such overheat may be a spark to burn many things as impacts of natural disasters. So, dictionaries define disasters as a sudden or great misfortune.

Whatever it may be, all the Myanmar people need to make preparations to encounter the natural disasters which may fall in any seasons. The government, the departments concerned and organizations, as well as NGOs and INGOs, have to make preparedness for natural disasters such as rescue, relief and resettlement for the disaster-hit victims in time.

In this regard, rescue processes and relief works are interrelated to each other. It is not easy to know when the rescue process can end and when the relief work can commence. That is why authorities need to manage preparatory tasks for rescue processes and relief works by using heavy machinery and various kinds of vehicles with well-prepared plans in order to provide humanitarian aid, including essential medicines to the disaster-affected areas.

All officials and rescue volunteers, in their working processes, may face unexpected barriers, including bad weathers and inadequate transport facilities. But, it is sure that they might have decided to do their works relentlessly.

Rescue, relief and resettlement plans are essential for encountering all kinds of natural disasters since part of efforts to secure the threshold to conquer natural disasters through might and main of entire people.

■ ■ ■

UN development system responds with ‘solid score’ in face of COVID-19 test

As the world continues to tackle the multiple impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, from pushing some 131 million people into extreme poverty to reversing years of development progress, the UN chief said on Tuesday that a more coordinated approach is key to moving forward.

“IN many ways, the COVID-19 crisis has shone a spotlight on international cooperation”, Secretary-General António Guterres told a meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Operational Activities for Development.

Among other things the pandemic has exposed shortcomings in international financing and vaccine equity, but it has also highlighted the value and enormous potential of international cooperation for development.

‘Solid’ success

The UN chief described the pandemic as a ‘litmus test’ for the new Resident Coordinator (RC) network, and repositioned UN development system that has passed “with a solid score”.

More than 90 per cent of colleagues in capitals agreed that RCs have helped ensure a coherent UN response to the pandemic with national ownership, and more than 80 per cent confirmed success in targeting at-risk groups most hurt by the COVID crisis.

The data suggest that gov-



Workers pack farm goods into boxes for sale via rural e-commerce sites, which seek to alleviate poverty, support entrepreneurs, increase employment and income and help farmers get rich in Qixian, Kaifeng city, in central China’s Henan province on 29 October 2020. PHOTO: IMAGINECHINA/AFP

ernments agree that UN Country Teams are more relevant to their development needs; that RCs are more effective in leading Country Teams; and that they serve as a genuine entry point to access the UN system at the country level around the world, the top UN official said.

UN ‘revolution’ of progress

Over the past year, the UN has made progress on five key areas of reform, beginning with its Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, which Mr. Guterres said has sparked “a true revolution in the UN System” and supported the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework towards achieving the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs).

Secondly, he noted that the UN is now better positioned for “more tailored responses to specific country contexts and to countries in special situations”.

He said there had been progress in advancing a regional review and headway made on the Organization’s commitments to transparency and results.

“We are making progress in securing more efficient business operations”, the UN chief said as his final point, giving the example of efficiency gains that should shift some \$100 million to development activities.

Crucial areas of work ahead

Despite encouraging progress, the top UN official warned that the unprecedented scale of today’s COVID-19 recovery and sustainable development challenges have exposed three crucial areas where more must be done.

Noting that 65 per cent of UN entities have no formal requirement linking them to the Cooperation Framework, he said “first, we must rapidly consolidate more robust accountabilities and the appropriate presence and configuration at the country level”.

The second area is to even the playing field, by delivering “integrated policy advice” and strengthening the international debt architecture.

The third area of action is boosting funding for the overall UN development system, particularly the RC system, according to the UN chief.

“Now is the time to see governments invest fully in the

reforms...to help a strong and different recovery to achieve the SDGs”, he said.

Strengthening coordination

A well-resourced coordination system is “essential” to bridge the gap between UN resolutions to advance sustainable development and poverty eradication, which are the actual resources on the ground to help make those resolutions a reality, Mr Guterres explained.

Crediting the UN’s progress with “a strengthened coordination function”, he said, “if we cannot sustain this drive, we may undermine our ability to maximize the results of these reforms, thereby further derailing our support to the 2030 Agenda”.

In early June, the UN chief will launch his report on the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator System, with proposals to strengthen the sustainability and predictability of funding.

“The RC system needs to be owned by all Member States...as the Organization steps up to meet the SDGs over the decade up to 2030”, the Secretary-General said. “Development coordination is at the core”.

SOURCE: UN

Vaccines stop variants but overseas travel still not safe: WHO

The so-called Indian variant, which might be more transmissible, has now been identified in at least 26 of the 53 countries in the WHO Europe region.

PROGRESS against the coronavirus pandemic remains “fragile” and international travel should be avoided, a World Health Organization director warned Thursday, while stressing that authorized vaccines work against variants of concern.

“Pockets of increasing transmission”

“Right now, in the face of a continued threat and new uncertainty, we need to continue to exercise caution, and rethink or avoid international travel,” WHO’s European director Hans

Kluge said, before adding that “pockets of increasing transmission” on the continent could quickly spread.

The so-called Indian variant, which might be more transmissible, has now been identified in at least 26 of the 53 countries in the WHO Europe region, Kluge said during his weekly press conference.

But he said that authorised vaccines are effective against the new strain.

“All Covid-19 virus variants that have emerged so far do respond to the available, approved vaccines,” Kluge said,

adding that all Covid-19 variants can be controlled with the same public health and social measures used until now.

In the WHO’s Europe region, which covers part of central Asia, the weekly number of new cases fell by 60 per cent in a month, from 1.7 million in mid-April to 685,000 last week.

Able to spread rapidly

Although the Indian strain is still being studied, “it is able to spread rapidly” and replace the dominant lineage in Europe, Kluge said.

Variants are “not in them-

selves dangerous, but they can be if they change the behaviour of the virus,” the WHO said in a note published on its website, adding that further lockdowns might become necessary to stop a new strain spreading out of control.

So far only 23 per cent of people in the region have received a vaccine dose, with just 11 per cent having had two doses, Kluge said, as he warned citizens to continue to exercise caution.

“Vaccines may be a light at the end of the tunnel, but we cannot be blinded by that light,” he said.

SOURCE: AFP



Passengers wearing face masks as a preventive measure against the Covid-19 coronavirus walk along a concourse at the departure area of Suvarnabhumi airport on 24 August 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Confirmation and Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed Daw Naw Muta Kapaw, Director-General of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce, after her one-year probationary period.
2. The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as the Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Win Win Than	Rector
Pro-Rector	University of Myeik
University of Myeik	Higher Education
Higher Education	Department
Department	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
(b) Dr Than Than Oo	Rector
Pro-Rector	University of Dawei
University of Dawei	Higher Education Department
Higher Education	Department
Department	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education-	

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 2:00 pm Friday 21 May, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22 May, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States, fairly widespread in Bago Region and Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah States and isolated in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions with isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon –Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6.9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon –Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Widespread to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. **FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 May, 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Scattered rain or thundershowers in Naypyitaw and Mandalay Region and widespread in Yangon Region.

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 and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Cho Cho Hmwe (Senior Nurse)	Aungbar Station Hospital	Thayetchaung Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	Daw Thet Mar Oo (Senior Nurse)	Myawady Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
3	Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye (Senior Nurse)	Namsang Hospital	Namsang Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
4	Daw Thinzar (Senior Nurse)	Poe Oo Sein Station Hospital	Waw Town, Bago Region	505-a	
5	Daw Khin Hnin Phyu (Senior Nurse)	Namsang Hospital	Namsang Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	

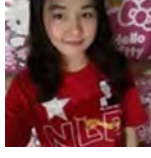
6	Daw Phyu Sin (Nurse)	Paunglaung Station Hospital	Loikaw Town, Kayah State	505-a	
7	Daw Naw Lay Wah Soe (Nurse)	Kawthoung Hospital	Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
8	Daw Nang Thin Thin Phyu (Nurse)	Myawady Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
9	Daw Ei Zin Phyo (Nurse)	Kyonpyaw Hospital	Kyonpyaw Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
10	Daw Phyu Phyu Zin (Nurse)	Myeik Hospital	Launglon Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those persons and action will be taken against the persons who admitted them, under the law.—MNA

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

THE following teachers 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 and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Hsu Myat Thu Lwin	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Launglon), Launglon Township	Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	Daw Hnin Phyu Win (a) Noe Noe	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Phayathonzu Town	Phayathonzu Town, Kayin State	505-a	
3	U Chan Myae Aung	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Paykunnhapin), Pauk Town	Pauk Town, Magway Region	505-a	
4	U Nay Lin Tun	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEMS-Branch (Nankhale), Thongwa Township	Thongwa Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Daw Khin Soe Oo	Junior Assistant Teacher, Basic Education Post-Primary School(Kyaint Khine Ye), Thanbuzayet Town	Thanbuzayet Town, Mon State	505-a	

6	Daw Sandar Myat Su Khant	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-1, Myawady Town	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
7	Daw Mon Mon Khine	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Launglon), Launglon Township	Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
8	Daw Phyu Moh Moh	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEMS-Branch, Palauk Town	Palaw Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
9	Daw Hnin Thida Hlaing (a) Bote Sone	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS-1 Sagaing Town	Sagaing Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
10	U Hla Myo Maung	Accountant, University of Myingyan, Myingyan Town	Myingyan Town, 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

Yuan vs Kyat exchange rate rises

VICE-Chair U Min Thein of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre said that the Chinese Yuan's exchange rate with Myanmar Kyat appreciated on the Myanmar and China border.

The Chinese Yuan exchange rate currently hit K250 per yuan, he added.

Although the appreciation of the Chinese Yuan is good for the exporters, it is difficult for the importers because of the depreciation of Myanmar Kyat, said U Min Thein.

"Rising price of Chinese Yuan is good for the exporters because they are holding the foreign currency (Chinese Yuan). However, it is not good for importers to import iron, cement, soil, foodstuffs, and electric items. Because the Myanmar currency is depreciating, the products are sold in Chinese currency," he explained.

Man Wein checkpoint, one of the major border crossings between Myanmar and China, was closed on 30 March because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Thus, the export and import items are traded to China through Kyin San Kyawt (Wan Ding) checkpoint. But, he added that the export of all the foodstuffs to China through the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint had delayed.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar is engaged in border trade with China through Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kyaidon border trade camps.

Among them, the Muse border sees an enormous volume and value of border trade with an estimated value of more than US\$ 2.53 billion this FY between 1 October and 16 April, decreasing by over \$35.3 million compared with the last year's figures of \$3.35 billion, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

— NN/GNLM

K400-mln Thanatpin-Kyaungsu bridge opened to rural community in Bago Region

A K400-million rural bridge project connecting Thanatpin Township to Minywar Kyaungsu village has been officially opened to facilitate transportation.

The bridge will help lessen transport difficulties and boost the rural economy, covering ten villages with 1,411 households and over 6,800 rural people.

The concrete bridge, with a bored pile foundation, has a load capacity of 30 tonnes. The bridge is 260 feet long and 18 feet wide. The bridge clearance is 9 feet.

The Department of Rural Road Development (Thanatpin) has been building the roads and bridges to cover 70 per cent of the rural population in Bago Region. This rural bridge was constructed over the Bago-Sittoung canal. — Kayan Soe Myint/GNLM



The concrete bridge, with a bored pile foundation, has a load capacity of 30 tonnes. The bridge is 260 feet long and 18 feet wide. The bridge clearance is 9 feet.

Thailand trade with Myanmar tops among ASEAN this FY2020-2021

MYANMAR and Thailand, a top neighbouring trade partner among ASEAN, hit bilateral trade worth US\$2 billion in the first five months (Oct-Feb) of the current financial year 2020-2021, indicated the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The ministry reported exports surpassed imports in trade with Thailand, with exports reaching over \$1.2 billion and imports valued at over \$791.5 million.

Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade partner among the ASEAN, followed by Singapore and Malaysia.

Thailand accounted for 18.48 per cent of total trade in 2016-2017FY with an estimated trade value of US\$4.6 billion, 19.17 per cent in 2017-2018FY with a trade value of \$5.57 billion, 40.38 per cent in 2018-2019FY with \$5.46 billion and over 40 per cent in 2019-2020FY with \$5.117 billion, respectively.

Exports of natural gas from the Taninthayi Region has contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand in the previous years. Last year, corn exports to Thailand rose significantly as well, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar primarily exports

natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corns, bamboo shoots, sesame seeds, garment, footwear, plywood and veneer, broken rice and other commodities to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products from the neighbouring country.

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Myeik, Mawtaung, Hteekhee, Kawthoung and Meisei border

areas, respectively. Among them, Myawady performed the largest trade in border trade with Thailand, followed by Hteekhee.

Nevertheless, the border trade is sluggish for now amid the coronavirus resurgences. Consequently, the trade via land border sharply fell in the current FY (2020-2021).

Apart from its leading trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was mostly carried out with the regional trade partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners. — KK/GNLM

Advertise With Us

The Global New Light of Myanmar

PLEASE CALL



09 974 424 848

The Global New Light of Myanmar Order Now

www.gnml.com.mm

PLEASE CALL

Myanmar's long-running & most circulated English Daily Newspaper



09 454 237 515

Print With Us

The Global New Light of Myanmar

PLEASE CALL



01 860 4530

Arctic nations pledge to fight global warming despite rising tensions

ARCTIC countries on Thursday pledged to fight global warming, which is happening three times faster in the Far North, and to preserve peace in the region as its geopolitical importance rises.

Accelerated global warming, untapped resources, new maritime routes opened up by retreating sea ice, and the future of local populations all topped the agenda as foreign ministers of countries bordering the Arctic gathered in Reykjavik in Iceland.

"We are committed to advancing a peaceful Arctic region where cooperation prevails on climate, the environment, science and safety," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told his Arctic Council counterparts from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

"The Arctic as a region for



Arctic countries on Thursday pledged to fight global warming, which is happening three times faster in the Far North, and to preserve peace in the region as its geopolitical importance rises. **PHOTO: AFP**

strategic competition has seized the world's attention" but "rule of law" must be ensured so that it remains "a region free of conflict where countries act responsibly,"

he added.

The statements were thinly-veiled warnings to China, which although only an observer on the Council has made no

secret of its interest in the vast territory rich in natural resources and where retreating sea ice has opened up new maritime routes. — AFP ■

William and Harry hit out at BBC over 'deceitful' Diana interview



Princess Diana at the Royal Opera in 1992. **PHOTO: AFP**

PRINCES William and Harry on Thursday hit out at the BBC and journalist Martin Bashir over "the deceitful way" Bashir obtained his explosive TV interview with Princess Diana, their late mother, in which she detailed her troubled marriage to Prince Charles. Their stinging criticism came hours after an independent inquiry found Bashir had used falsified documents to get his sensational 1995 sit-down with Diana, and that BBC leaders had failed to adequately probe how he had arranged it.

William said the deceitful way the interview was obtained

had "substantially influenced" what his mother said on the air, and made "a major contribution" to the demise of his parents' relationship.

He added that the BBC's oversight failures had "contributed significantly to her fear, paranoia and isolation" in her final years. Diana and Charles, the heir to the British throne, formally divorced in 1996. She died aged 36 in a high-speed car crash while being chased by paparazzi photographers in Paris the following year. "It is my firm view that this Panorama programme holds no legitimacy and should never be

aired again," William - second in line to the throne - added in a lengthy statement read in-person from Kensington Palace.

"It effectively established a false narrative which, for over a quarter of a century, has been commercialised by the BBC and others," he said, noting the narrative now "needs to be addressed".

In his own release, William's younger brother Harry said the enquiry report was "the first step towards justice and truth" but that the deceptive practices exposed were still widespread today - and had played a part in his mother's death. — AFP ■

US seizes tigers, lions from 'Tiger King' park

THE US Justice Department said Thursday that it had seized 68 lions, tigers and lion-tiger hybrids as well as a jaguar from the former animal park of Joe Exotic, the star of the Netflix hit "Tiger King". Justice Department officials on Monday raided the Tiger King Park in Thackerville, Oklahoma for ongoing Endangered Species Act violations.

They said the current operators of the park, Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe, had repeatedly violated laws requiring appropriate care for animals and had not complied with an order to hire a qualified veterinarian.

"This seizure should send a

clear message that the Justice Department takes alleged harm to captive-bred animals protected under the Endangered Species Act very seriously," said Acting Assistant Attorney-General Jean Williams. In an affidavit filed in US District Court in Oklahoma, a US Fish and Wildlife Service special agent described the park as actively breeding large cats without adequate care and without reporting the litters of baby cats as required. "The animals will be at great risk of further harm and harassment in violation of the ESA if they are not seized by the United States," the affidavit said. — AFP ■



Joe Exotic captured the imagination of Netflix watchers as the star of the true-crime documentary "Tiger King". **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Microsoft announces retirement of Internet Explorer

MICROSOFT said it is retiring Internet Explorer, the browser it created more than 25 years and which is now largely abandoned as people instead use competitors like Google's Chrome or Apple's Safari.

"We are announcing that the future of Internet Explorer on Windows 10 is in Microsoft Edge," the company said in a blog post Wednesday, referring to its other browser.

"Not only is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern: compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications," Microsoft said.

People ribbed Internet Explorer in tweets on Thursday. — AFP ■

US to stop using two detention centres accused of mistreating immigrants

THE US Department of Homeland Security on Thursday said it would stop using two detention centers accused of mistreating immigrant detainees. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said he had directed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to stop using the facilities in Georgia and Massachusetts.

"We will not tolerate the mistreatment of individuals in civil immigration detention or substandard conditions of detention," Mayorkas said in a memo to acting ICE director Tae Johnson.

"We have an obligation to make lasting improvements to our civil immigration detention system," the secretary said. "This marks an important first step to realizing that goal." "DHS detention facilities and the treatment of individuals in those facilities will be held to our health and safety standards," he said. "Where we discover they fall short, we will continue to take action as we are doing today." — AFP ■

EU fines banks €371m over bond trading cartel

THE European Commission fined top banks, including UBS and Unicredit, a total of €371 million on Thursday for running a bond-trading cartel during the worst years of the eurozone debt crisis.

The decision, announced by EU competition chief Margrethe Vestager, said traders from seven investment banks colluded in online chatrooms to fix prices and share sensitive information.

“It is unacceptable, that in the middle of the financial crisis, when many financial institutions had to be rescued by public funding, these investment banks colluded in this market at the expense of EU member states,” she said in a statement.

Bank of America and the French company Natixis escaped a penalty thanks to the statute of limitations.

Portigon (formerly WestLB), which did not generate any turnover



EU commissioner Margrethe Vestager. PHOTO: AFP

during the last financial year, had nothing to pay. Japan’s Nomura was fined €129.5 million, Switzerland’s UBS €172.4 million and Italy’s Unicredit €69.4 million, the statement said. —AFP ■

BASF in battery parts production deal with China’s Shanshan



Workers at a factory in China making lithium batteries for electric cars and other uses. PHOTO: STR / AFP

GERMAN chemicals giant BASF said on Thursday it had agreed a partnership with Chinese firm Shanshan to produce components for batteries, including those used in electric cars, in China.

In a statement, BASF said it had agreed to take

on a 51 per cent share of the joint venture to produce cathode active materials and precursors on Chinese soil.

Shanshan, a supplier of lithium-ion battery materials in both the e-mobility and consumer electronics sectors, operates several production sites in China.

The deal comes as German companies have been pouring in resources to ramp up battery production for the switch to electric vehicles.

“By combining BASF’s and Shanshan’s expertise, we will accelerate the electrification transformation of the transportation industry,” said BASF director Markus Kamieth in a statement.

BASF said the agreement, which is still subject to approval by the authorities, would see it expand annual production capacity to 160 kilotonnes of materials by 2022. The German group is already expanding its capacities in Europe, with a new factory set to open in 2022 in Brandenburg state, not far from Tesla’s electric vehicle “Gigafactory” just outside of Berlin. —AFP ■

McDonald’s sued for alleged discrimination against Black-owned media companies

TWO companies owned by a Black US business mogul have sued McDonald’s alleging the fast food giant discriminates against Black-owned media companies.

The suit was filed in Superior Court of California and seeks \$10 billion in damages.

It is part of a drive by the mogul, Byron Allen, to get major US corporations to spend more advertising money on Black-owned media.

This suit was filed by two companies owned



Two companies owned by a Black US business mogul have sued McDonald’s alleging the fast food giant discriminates against Black-owned media companies. PHOTO: AFP

by Allen: Entertainment Studios Networks Inc. and Weather Group LLC. Allen Media Group/Entertainment Studios produces movies and

owns more than a dozen television stations.

The lawsuit argues that McDonald’s spent approximately \$1.6 billion on television ads in the United States in 2019 but only 0.31 per cent of that went to Black-owned media. The two companies filing the suit did not say how they arrived at the \$1.6 billion figure.

“This is about economic inclusion of African American-owned businesses in the US economy,” Allen said in a statement. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Snapchat claims 500 mn users amid pandemic-fuelled surge

SNAPCHAT, the social network popular with young smartphone users, said Thursday it has 500 million monthly active users amid surging growth in many parts of the world.

The platform, which has expanded its offerings beyond its original disappearing messages, had not previously announced a figure for monthly active users, but said last month it had 280 million daily active users.

The announcement came at parent firm Snap’s partner summit where the company unveiled new partnerships for content and shopping, and revealed new “spectacles” for developers to create augmented reality content.

The new figure, higher than any prior estimates, reflects the surge in social media use during the coronavirus pandemic and also highlights how Snapchat is keeping pace with youth-focused rival platforms such as TikTok and Facebook-owned Instagram. —AFP ■

Norway fund dumps firms linked to West Bank settlements

NORWAY’S sovereign wealth fund, the world’s largest, has decided to dump two companies involved in the development of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, citing concerns about potential rights violations.

The fund will divest its holdings in the companies “due to unacceptable risk that the companies contribute to systematic violations of individuals’ rights in situations of war or conflict”, Norway’s central bank said in a statement late on Wednesday.

The companies are Shapir Engineering and Industry, a home builder, and Mivne Real Estate, which rents industrial premises in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel, Norway’s central bank said.

Over 465,000 Israeli settlers now live in settlements in the West Bank - three times more than when the Oslo peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians were signed in the 1990s.

The fund, which has nearly €1.1 trillion in assets and is managed by the central bank, also added a Japanese women’s clothing and accessories maker to its blacklist over worries of human rights abuses.

The fund, which holds equity stakes in some 8,800 companies worldwide, is governed by a set of ethical rules that prohibit it from investing in companies guilty of serious human rights violations, those that manufacture nuclear weapons, or produce coal or tobacco. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA HOMBURG VOY. NO. (119N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA HOMBURG VOY. NO. (119N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

G-7 to affirm cooperation towards net zero emissions by 2050



Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kajiyama attends an online conference of environment ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations on May 20, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ENVIRONMENT ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations began a two-day online conference Thursday, aiming to affirm their commitment toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

The gathering, hosted by Britain and coming ahead of a G-7 summit next month, is also expected to set the stage for the U.N. Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or COP26, which is hoped will accelerate momentum toward achieving the commitments set out in the Paris Agreement.

The U.N. meeting, which will also be chaired by Britain, has been delayed and rescheduled to November due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At the G-7 talks, Japanese Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi briefed his counterparts on the country's new goal of a 46 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by fiscal 2030 compared with fiscal 2013.

"By presenting ambitious goals along with other G-7 members, we were able to create a significant momentum toward carbon neutrality in the international community, including major emitting countries outside the G-7," Koizumi told reporters.

From Japan, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kajiyama also participated in the conference, in which nature and marine destruction as well as the loss of biodiversity are being discussed. — Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian table grape exports to China delayed at customs

ROUGHLY 20 per cent of Australian table grape exports to China have been delayed in clearing customs at their destination ports, Australian trade minister Dan Tehan said Thursday, in what could be a sign of further breakdowns in relations between Canberra and Beijing.

Speaking to the Australian Broadcasting Corp., Tehan said Australia is trying to ascertain the cause of the delays with the government liaising with local industry groups as well as Chinese officials.

"About 80 per cent of table grape exports seem to have got in seamlessly," Tehan said. "It seems to be the last 20 per cent where there are some issues."

Jeff Scott, CEO of Australian Table Grape Association Inc., said there has been no official directive from the Chinese government regarding table grape imports. However, Australian products arriving in China have recently been subjected to extensive customs inspections that are taking much longer than usual, he said. — AFP ■

Stocks rise on reopening momentum in Europe, US

EUROPEAN and US equities rallied Thursday on optimism about the economic recovery from Covid-19 as markets continued to weigh the risk of higher inflation and a possible shift in monetary policy. Bourses in London, Paris and Frankfurt all gained at least one per cent as EU member states reached a deal paving the way for a Covid-19 certificate to open up travel in Europe, and the Eiffel Tower in Paris announced plans to reopen in July.

"The more upbeat tone in Europe comes as authorities across the region are easing pandemic restrictions due to a falling number of Covid cases and rising vaccine rates," said OANDA analyst Sophie Griffiths.

Wall Street also had a good day, shrugging off three

straight losing sessions and finishing solidly higher following data showing a drop in jobless claims. Tech shares led the broader market as investors weighed chances that the Federal Reserve could move soon to scale back asset purchases and shift away from highly accommodative monetary policy.

Fed minutes released Wednesday showed some officials believe the US economy may soon be healthy enough to taper asset purchases, one of the first signs of a shift in the central bank's easy money policy.

"I think there has been so much discussion about it that the odds are pretty good that it's discounted in the market," Maris Ogg of Tower Bridge Advisors said of a possible shift in Fed policy. — AFP ■

US Treasury proposes tax on cryptocurrency transfers



The US Treasury Department on Thursday called for a tax on transfers of cryptocurrencies between businesses as it looks to raise revenue to pay for a \$1.6 trillion spending proposal aimed at expanding education and social protection. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE US Treasury Department on Thursday called for a tax on transfers of cryptocurrencies between businesses as it looks to raise revenue to pay for a \$1.6 trillion spending proposal aimed at expanding education and social protection.

The idea, part of a larger effort to fund the American Families Plan including through increased taxes on the wealthy, would require "businesses that receive cryptoassets with a fair market value of more than \$10,000" be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax authority.

Accounts or payment services that use cryptocurrencies like bitcoin would also be covered by new reporting requirements, Treasury said.

"Despite constituting a relatively small portion of business income today, cryptocurrency transactions are likely to rise in importance in the next decade, especially in the presence of a broad-based financial account reporting regime," Treasury said in an outline of the proposal.

Taxing the digital assets is part of a larger plan the Treasury detailed to increase staffing and enforcement powers at the IRS with the goal of closing the gap between what the government is owed in taxes and what it actually receives.

The department estimated that gap was nearly \$600 billion in 2019 and would grow to nearly \$7 trillion over the next decade unless addressed. — AFP ■

Argentine cattle farmers start 9-day strike against export pause

ARGENTINE cattle farmers on Thursday started a nine-day halt on cow sales to abattoirs to protest a government-imposed pause in exports designed to moderate skyrocketing domestic meat prices.

Argentina is the fourth-largest exporter of beef in the world, and one of its biggest consumers per capita, and the revenues are vital to the country's economy.

The usually-bustling Hacienda de Liniers cattle market in Buenos Aires was desolate on the first morning of the strike, its pens empty and with just a few administrative employees around. — AFP ■



Cafes, restaurants and other businesses re-opened in Paris and other cities after closures during the Covid-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Biden meets South Korean president, shoring up US-Asia alliance

PRESIDENT Joe Biden meets South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the White House on Friday to underscore a strategic focus on Asia, while playing down chances of quick progress on the two biggest challenges facing the United States.

The rising power of China as a rival for leadership in Asia and the powder keg of nuclear-armed North Korea loom over the talks.

The Biden administration admits it has no easy answer to either.

“The goal here is to understand that this process is likely to be challenging and to give ourselves maximum flexibility,” a senior White House official said about dealing with North Korea’s nuclear arsenal.

Against that backdrop, Washington’s main emphasis is on rebuilding traditional US

alliances in the region, especially with South Korea and Japan.

Where Donald Trump treated foreign partners alternately as cut-throat business competitors or freeloaders, Biden is once more leaning on democratic alliances forged in bloody 20th century conflicts as the core to maintaining US supremacy.

Moon comes to Washington as Biden’s second foreign guest. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, visiting in April, was the first.

The US-South Korean relationship “is the lynchpin of security and prosperity for northeast Asia and a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the White House official, who asked not to be identified, said.

“President Biden will reaffirm that ironclad commitment.” — AFP ■



What to do about North Korea’s regime has bedeviled US presidents for decades. PHOTO: AFP

Israel, Hamas, agree ceasefire in Gaza



People in Gaza City celebrate after the ceasefire comes into force. PHOTO: AFP

THE Israeli security cabinet and the Hamas Palestinian group have accepted an Egyptian recommendation for ‘a mutual ceasefire’ in the conflict in Gaza from 2 am on Friday.

The reports of a ceasefire came amid a flurry of diplomatic efforts on the 11th day of deadly violence between Israel and armed Palestinian groups in Gaza, as air strikes again hammered the enclave.

In the southern Gaza town of Rafah, devastating Israeli air strikes turned buildings into clouds of dust and rubble, as an ambulance sped across town to help the wounded on Thursday afternoon, an AFP reporter said.

Rocket fire from Gaza also

intensified in the afternoon, sending Israelis living on its borders running into shelters, according to Israeli army warnings.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres told the General Assembly Thursday that “the fighting must stop immediately”, calling the continued exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinian groups “unacceptable”. “If there is a hell on earth, it is the lives of children in Gaza,” Guterres added.

News of the Israeli security cabinet meeting came after pressure mounted to end the bloodshed, following US President Joe Biden’s call for a “significant de-escalation”. — AFP ■

Greek firefighters hopeful of containing forest blaze

HUNDREDS of Greek firefighters fought to master a large forest blaze burning for a second day on Friday, with better weather conditions providing hope the flames could be subdued.

Nearly 300 firefighters battled throughout the night to keep the fire contained on the Geraneia mountain range, some 90 kilometres (55 miles) from Athens.

“Conditions are much better (today),” fire department spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis told Skai TV, adding that emergency services were “hopeful” that the fire could be contained with the contribution of water

bombers.

Fifteen aircraft were assisting operations on Friday.

The state civil protection agency on Thursday said hundreds of people had been preventively evacuated from 17 villages and hamlets in the surrounding area, as well as from two monasteries.

Around 20 square kilometres (eight square miles) of pine forest are estimated to have been razed already.

Wildfires pose a challenge for Greece every year during the dry summer season, with strong winds and temperatures frequently exceeding 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit). — AFP ■



The government called on residents of Egirousses-Dourakos near Alepochori to evacuate on Thursday, following the raging of a wildfire in Schinos, the Loutraki area. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clashes on Morocco border as Madrid accuses Rabat of ‘blackmail’

SPAIN accused Morocco of “blackmail” on Thursday for allowing a record 8,000 migrants to reach the Spanish North African enclave of Ceuta, sparking a crisis that saw clashes on the Moroccan side of the border overnight.

Spanish authorities were caught by surprise on Monday when large numbers of mostly young people began swimming or using small inflatable boats to cross the frontier as the Moroccan border forces looked the other way, quickly leaving the tiny territory overwhelmed. Spanish authorities said police discovered the body of a male migrant floating in the water off Ceuta beach on Thursday, the second such drowning this week.

However calm had seemingly returned to Ceuta on Thursday after Madrid moved quickly to deploy reinforcements and send most of the migrants back to Morocco. — AFP ■

Blinken to travel to Middle East ‘in the coming days’

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to the Middle East “in the coming days,” the State Department said Thursday after Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire halting 11 days of fighting.

Blinken spoke with his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi, who “welcomed Secretary Blinken’s planned travel to the region,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

The top US diplomat “will meet with Israeli, Palestinian and regional counterparts in the coming days to discuss recovery efforts and working together to build better futures for Israelis and Palestinians,” Price said.

The announcement came after Blinken spoke twice Thursday with Ashkenazi ahead of implementation of the ceasefire, which was brokered by Egypt and followed mounting international pressure to stem the bloodshed. — AFP ■

Myanmar U-23 team falls into AFC Qualifiers Pot 2

AFC U23 ASIAN CUP 2022 QUALIFIERS			
EAST ZONE			
SEEDING POTS			
POT 1	POT 2	POT 3	POT 4
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN	INDONESIA	CHINESE TAIPEI
NORTH KOREA	CHINA	HONG KONG	PHILIPPINES
SOUTH KOREA	MALAYSIA	TIMOR LESTE	NORTH MARIANA
THAILAND	SINGAPORE	CAMBODIA	GUAM
VIETNAM	MYANMAR	LAOS	MACAU
			MONGOLIA
			BRUNEI

PHOTO: ASEAN FOOTBALL

MYANMAR U-23 men's national football team is included in the seeding pot 2 of the East Zone of AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers, said the ASEAN Football Federation officials.

Myanmar is falling in the same seeding pot with Singapore, Malaysia, China and Japan.

Meanwhile, Thailand and Viet Nam are placing in the Pot 1 with Australia, North Korea, and South Korea.

In Pot 3, four ASEAN teams -- Indonesia, Timor

Leste, Cambodia and Laos are seen together with Hong Kong.

Next, two other ASEAN teams, the Philippines and Brunei, are involved in the Pot 4 with China Taipei, North Marian, Guam, Macau, and Mongolia.

The 2022 AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualification will be held between 23 to 31 October 2021.

The drawing ceremony is set to hold at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, shortly. The 46 teams, including Myanmar from East and West Zones, will be drawn into

nine groups (four teams per group) and two groups of five teams. For the draw, teams are divided into two zones: West and East.

"The teams are seeded according to their performance in the 2020 AFC U-23 Championship final tournament and qualification," AFC officials said.

"Eleven teams which will indicate their intention to serve as qualification group hosts prior to the draw will be drawn into separate groups," officials added. —GNLM ■

Uncapped Goncalves called up by holders Portugal for Euro 2020

SPORTING Lisbon youngster Pedro Goncalves was handed a maiden Portugal call-up as coach Fernando Santos named his 26-man squad for Euro 2020 on Thursday.

The reigning champions will be led by Cristiano Ronaldo, who is just six goals short of Iranian Ali Daei's all-time international record of 103 goals and level with Michel Platini's record mark of nine European Championship strikes. The 22-year-old Goncalves has been rewarded for his impressive club form this season.

He scored a league-leading 23 Primeira Liga goals to help Sporting win their first Portuguese title since 2002.

"I think he can give the national team what he gave this season to Sporting," said San-



Sporting Lisbon youngster Pedro Goncalves was handed a maiden Portugal call-up as coach Fernando Santos named his 26-man squad for Euro 2020 on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

tos. "He is here for his quality, because that is my first criterion."

Goncalves will face a tough task to get into the starting XI, though, with Ronaldo, Man-

chester United star Bruno Fernandes, Bernardo Silva, Joao Felix and Liverpool forward Diogo Jota, despite currently being sidelined with an injury, all making the cut. — AFP ■

Fury-Wilder reach tentative agreement for third fight: report

TYSON Fury and Deontay Wilder have verbally committed to a third fight, ESPN reported Thursday night, days after an arbitration ruling halted fight talks between Fury and British champ Anthony Joshua.

After the independent arbitrator ruled Monday that WBC heavyweight champ Fury (30-0-1, 21 KOs) must face Wilder, plans for a unification fight between Fury and Joshua were put on hold, said ESPN citing multiple sources.

The Wilder and Fury fight could be held as early as July 24 in Las Vegas, the American sports broadcaster said, adding that August 14 has been set aside as a backup date.

Boxing promoter Bob Arum told ESPN he expects the contracts could be signed in the coming days. Fury would get 60 per cent of the purse with Wilder receiving the lower sum.

The heavyweights fought to a draw in 2018 and Fury earned a TKO victory to win the WBC heavyweight title in 2020.

The arbitrator ruled that Fury was contractually obligated to give Wilder a rematch, with retired judge Daniel Weinstein upholding a claim lodged by Wilder that Fury must face him in a third fight by September 15. While the arbitrator's ruling is not a formal court order, it will be deemed enforceable by courts if Wilder and Fury are unable to reach agreement.

Monday's ruling came just a day after Fury announced he had agreed to fight Joshua on August 14 in Saudi Arabia, where the WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO heavyweight belts will be up for grabs.

Wilder's camp had also argued their fighter had a contractual right to a third match. — AFP ■



Tyson Fury punches Deontay Wilder during their heavyweight bout for Wilder's WBC belt in February 2020 at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

Canada's Connors grabs PGA lead with 67 at windy Kiawah

COREY Connors defied the hammering winds of Kiawah Island to fire a five-under par 67 and seize a two-stroke lead after Thursday's first round of the PGA Championship.

The 29-year-old Canadian overcame gusting breezes and sandy waste areas that played havoc with many of the world's top golfers as second-ranked Justin Thomas and seventh-ranked Rory McIlroy struggled to 75s on the formidable Ocean Course.

"It was fairly stress-free," Connors said of his round. "I got a lot of putts to go in. Kept the ball in the fairway for the most part."

Four-time major winner Brooks Koepka, 2011 PGA winner Keegan Bradley, fellow American Aaron Wise, Norway's Viktor Hovland, Australia's

Cam Davis and England's Sam Horsfield were in a second-place pack on 69.

Five-time major winner Phil Mickelson was in an eighth-place group on 70, the 50-year-old US left-hander turning back the clock after four bogeys in the first six holes with four of his six birdies on the back nine to share seventh. "I was able to right the ship," he said. "I putted really well." Three-time major winner Jordan Spieth, who can complete a career Grand Slam with a victory, opened on 73 while top-ranked Dustin Johnson opened on 76.

Four-time major champion McIlroy, the 2012 PGA winner at Kiawah, made six bogeys while Thomas had three bogeys and a double bogey, all involving the sandy waste areas that penalized off-target shots. — AFP ■