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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 31 May 2021

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Statement on Ceasefire and Perpetual Peace

5th Waning of Kason 1383 ME
30 May 2021

1. The Tatmadaw formed the State Administration Council and adopted the five-point road map and nine objectives, striving for development of all sectors such as politics, economy and social affairs of the State with might and main.
2. Moreover, as the accomplishment of restoring the perpetual peace is a must for the State, the Tatmadaw suspends the military operations to be able to soonest hold the dialogues on peace process with the ethnic armed organizations, some of which have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and some of which are still holding talks to sign the NCA.

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Hotel operation gets green light for tourism in Magway Region

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has given the hotels, motels and guest houses in Magway Region permission to welcome back customers starting from May, 2021.

A total of 50 hotels and motels have been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared last year and 20 of them were reopened in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health and Sports since April and now all of 50 are reopened.

The hotels and tourism sector in the region is reportedly relying on the domestic travellers and resumption of the business will yield income and eventually profit, an official from the ministry said.

The hotels, motels and guest houses are fully booked during the university graduation period and the “Shwesettaw pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival” which lasts about five months.

The hotels and tourism sector in Magway Region generates money from the domestic and international tourists who come to the pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festivals.

The tourist sites including Myathalun pagoda, Gangaw Tahtaung pagoda and Kwechaung fortress in Magway Township, Malun emerald alms-bowl pagoda and Minhla fortress in Minhla Township, Sekkeinte pagoda, Nagapwet mountain, Shwesettaw pagoda, Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary and the elephant camp in Minbu Township, Yokesone monastery and ancient pagodas in Sagu, and Sandagu Natha Kyaungtauya pagoda and Lekaing Yokesone monastery in Pwinthyu township are famous tourist sites in Magway Region.

It is reported that plans are



Flocks of tourists going sightseeing by trishaw. PHOTO: MAGWAY KOMYO

underway to develop new tourist destinations for the changing tourism industry in the post-COV-

ID-19 era so as to attract home-grown and international tourists in addition to preservation of

ancient cultural heritages and conservation of natural beauties.—Kay Tar/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.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Statement on Ceasefire and Perpetual Peace

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3. The Tatmadaw will further cease all military operations from 1 to 30 June 2021 across the nation except the period when security and administrative machinery of the government in addition to State defence and administrative measures are attacked and encroached on, to hold more talks with ethnic armed organizations until the perpetual peace is successfully restored, to smoothly accomplish the peace process and to enable students to conveniently learn education as of 1 June when the basic education schools under the Department of Basic Education will be opened for 2021-2022 academic year.
 4. During the period when the Tatmadaw further ceases military operations, concerted efforts should be made for restoring the perpetual peace through negotiations.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Effective period for temporary measures to prevent importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through air travel extended till 30 June 2021

The effective period for the Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel issued on 29 March 2020 by the Ministry of Health and Sports was extended up to 31 May 2021, 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time, in line with the approval of the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

As the infection of this disease remains increasing in most of the countries, and the current effective period will be further extended with the approval of the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, until 30 June 2021, 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time to prevent infection of COVID-19 to Myanmar through passengers of international airlines.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Tatmadaw medical team performs RDT on returnees in Mawlamyine

DUE to difficulties in conducting necessary COVID-19 medical check-ups, Mon and Kayin states residents repatriated from abroad were in quarantine at the hostel of Mawlamyine University in Mawlamyine. Military doctors, nurses and medics from the local military hospital in South-East Command in collaboration with members of the township administration body and CSOs performed Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) on 90 returnees at the quarantine centre yesterday. The Tatmadaw hospital has conducted the COVID-19 medical check-ups to a total of 7,175 foreign returnees from 19 February to date.—MNA



Need to implement the SME and cooperative sectors

It needs to implement the SME and cooperative sectors for doing the primary businesses of the State. Regions and states need to encourage SME and manufacturing. The cooperative system must directly sell products to benefit the manufacturers.

(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 Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19

4th Waning of Kason 1383 ME
29 May 2021

IT is announced that the statements to the public, orders, notifications and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of the Union-level organizations and Union ministries effective until 31 May 2021 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 30 June 2021 as it is required to continue the containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Yangon-Toungoo railway upgrade project, railway stations, dry dock inspected

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San made an inspection tour to the Yangon-Toungoo railway upgrade project phase-1 of the Yangon-Mandalay railway upgrade project, railway stations and the dry port on 29 May.

During the inspection tour of the upgrade work on Bago-Nyaunglebin railway section, the General Manager (Civil) from Myanma Railways explained the work progress and remaining work to be done, and the companies implementing the upgrade work of the railway section presented the difficulties encountered in implementation, and the Union Minister attended to the needs.

After inspecting the construction works of Pyuntaza railway station and the laying of rail tracks by RBE from Pyun-

taza station to DaikU station, the Union Minister met with the passengers waiting for the train at DaikU station and asked them whether the train service was convenient.

At the Bago Station, the Union Minister instructed officials to make arrangements for convenience of train passengers to travel, to keep trains clean, tidy and safe as well as to check and repair the staff housings and to oversee the construction of the station to ensure its long-term viability.

The Union Minister and party also inspected the laying of rail tracks from Bago Station to Ywathagyi station (33.25 miles long section) and the welding work at Htongyi Station.

He also inspected Dry Port in Ywathagyi and related works.—MNA



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MoEE Union Minister inspects Yeywa hydropower plant, Shwesaryan and Aungpinle main power stations



UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo inspected Yeywa hydropower plant and 230 KV Shwesaryan and Aungpinle main power stations in Patheingyi Township yesterday.

At Yeywa power plant, Managing Director U Than Naing Oo of Electric Power Generation Enterprise and head of the power plant presented the water storage processes of the dam. Then, the Union Minister gave necessary instructions and inspected feeding of electricity to national grid from the power control room by operating turbines, water storage process of dam, power intake structure and spillway.

The Union Minister and party also went to 230 KV Shwesaryan and 230 KV Aungpinle main power stations where the heads of the stations clarified the work plans.

The Union Minister stressed the need to inform the public about the duration of power cut-off in advance when the repair works and maintenance are conducted and he inspected the power control unit and power transmission system in the switch yard.—MNA

Union Minister U Aung Than Oo and party view functions of power control room of Yeywa Hydropower plant.

MoSWRR provides cash assistance to charity organizations, persons with disabilities, senior citizens in Mandalay Region

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash assistance to charity organizations, persons with disabilities and senior citizens over the age of 85 in Mandalay Region on 29 May.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, the Mandalay Region Administration Council Chairman and council members, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Tun Khaing, Colonel Thurein Tun from Central Command, department officials, representatives from the charity/voluntary organizations, senior citizens and the persons with disabilities.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister and officials handed over K1,650.324 million for 33,366

senior citizens, 10,826 persons with disabilities and the charity organizations to the Chairman and the officials of the Mandalay Region Administration Council.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party also met with staff of the Department of the Social Welfare, Department of Disaster Management and Department of Rehabilitation at the Children's School for the Deaf in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, and visited the school.

The Union Minister and party also viewed round the Mandalay Youth Training School, Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts (Mandalay) and the Patheingyi Youth Training School and inspected the students' living conditions and vocational course training conducted at the schools.—MNA



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine poses for documentary photo at ceremony of providing cash assistance to charity organizations, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

45 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 May, total figure rises to 143,571

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **143,571** after **45 new cases** were reported on 30 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,318** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Prices of traditional clay pots stable in Ngapthayauk

THE demand for traditional clay pots are moderate and the price is mostly stable in Ngathayauk, NyaungU District, U Nay Lin, a clay pot maker said.

The prices of clay pots range between K2,000-K7,000 depending on design, size and quality.

Taunggon Village in Nga-thayauk has been relying on earthen pot making businesses for generations. The villagers execute that business on a commercial scale and send the pots to other regions and states.

The villagers prepare the clay pots ready for its toddy sap collecting season. The traders from the nearest villages come to such village to buy those clay

pots to collect the toddy sap before the season starts. The Taunggon village yearly produces more than 250,000 clay pots for collecting toddy saps. The clay pots for drinking water are demanded the whole year. Other pots for flower vase (Buddhist offering) and earthen pots for cooking, earthen toys and money saving pots are also sold. The clay pots from Ngathayauk is famous for its quality, U Nay Lin explained.

Most of the potters in the village are women. The clay pot brokers from Pakokku, Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha, Myingyan and NyaungU townships come the village to buy the pots. — KPD/GNLM



Local pottery workers place raw earthen pots under the sunray before baking them in kiln.

Singapore moves down a rank, becomes second largest foreign investor in Myanmar

FOLLOWING Japan moving up a rank with the largest investments, Singapore became the second-largest source of foreign direct investments into Myanmar in the past seven months (Oct-Apr) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Japan is the top investor in Myanmar in the past seven months, bringing in estimated capital of \$518.76 million with three projects. Meanwhile, the 13 Singapore-listed enterprises brought in US\$388.327 million into Myanmar. Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors. China stood as the third largest investors this FY with an estimated capital

of \$166.75 million in Myanmar, the DICA's statistics indicated.

Those enterprises listed from Thailand, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, UK, Viet Nam, Marshall Island, South Africa, Samoa, China, Hong Kong (SAR) and China (Taipei) also made investments this year.

Of 42 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by MIC and the respective investment committees between 1 October 2020 and 30 April 2021 of the current FY, 21 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector. The electricity sector received seven projects and the livestock and fisheries sector attracted five projects. Other service sectors drew five projects while the agriculture sector pulled two projects and one foreign enterprise each

entered industrial estate and the hotels and tourism sectors.

MIC intends to reach FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the current FY2020-2021.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar, pulling in the FDI of \$1.85 billion in the FY 2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY 2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013 FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after top investor Japan. —KK/GNLM

Myanmar imports over \$390.76 mln worth machinery, spare parts in five months

THE import value of Myanmar's machinery and spare are estimated at over US\$390.76 million in the first five-month (Oct-Feb) of the current financial year 2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

Similarly, the country imported \$397.84 million worth vehicles and spare parts.

Imports of commercial vehicles and machinery have been permitted through sea ports and three border gates — Muse, Myawady, and Tachilek.

"Starting from 1 January, imports of commercial vehicles on a company licence are not allowed. Importers are required to operate a car showroom in line with the prescribed rules and regulations. However, the new policy can pose difficulties for traders conducting business on a manageable scale," said importers.

At present, the market for those vehicles which have been registered and the second-hand cars are leading to a downward trend during the hard financial times.

Importing the vehicles will cost a lot owing to the dollar gains in the past three months, double shipping rate and price volatility with tax. The prices of those cars are likely to rise 20 to 30 per cent depending on vehicles' brands

and specifications.

Under the 2021 vehicle import policy, 2019 will be the oldest model to be issued an import permit for private cars with non-commercial purpose, according to press release of the Commerce Ministry.

Except machinery, all imported vehicles must be left-hand drive under the 2021 vehicle import policy.

When vehicles with less than 1,350 CC engine power are individually imported, the model year must be 2019 and later. Passenger vehicles such as mini-bus, city bus, express bus and commercial trucks manufactured in 2017 and later can be imported.

Under FOC Free-of-Charge licence system, fire trucks, ambulances and hearse vehicles manufactured in 2012 or later are allowed for import.

Heavy machinery such as excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders, vibratory rollers, clamp loaders, motor graders, road roller compactors, bridge cranes, gantry cranes, tower cranes, pilling machines, crawler drills/cranes, mobile cranes, rough-terrain cranes, forklifts, boom lifts and asphalt finishers that cannot be driven on public roads are allowed to be brought into the country as long as they are 15 years old or less.—KH/GNLM

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

30 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 in Myeik, Palaw, Thayetchaung and Yebyu townships of Taninthayi Region.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 561,431 eligible voters in these four townships of Taninthayi Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 376,050 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 82,183 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 4,263 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 56,590 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
3. 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 on voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved on voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved on voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1.	Myeik	227	226,798	143,563	38,519	1,548	21,276
2.	Palaw	89	114,023	76,772	16,862	1,325	13,104
3.	Thayetchaung	110	106,436	78,727	11,693	664	10,894
4.	Yebyu	114	114,174	76,988	15,109	726	11,316
	Total	540	561,431	376,050	82,183	4,263	56,590

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myeik, Palaw, Thayetchaung and Yebyu townships of Taninthayi Region together with the respective township election sub-commissions, heads of police force, immigration and population and administrators in accordance with Section 53 of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 540 polling stations in these four townships took out 611,931 ballots and used 370,749 ballots. It left 235,318 ballots instead of 241,182 ballots. The difference was 6,677 ballots and it found 813 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	Different	
							Missing	Extra
1.	Myeik	227	241,272	156,778	84,494	82,712	1,869	87
2.	Palaw	89	125,519	76,988	48,531	47,776	807	52
3.	Thayetchaung	110	118,522	66,041	52,481	50,204	2,641	364
4.	Yebyu	114	126,618	70,942	55,676	54,626	1,360	310
	Total	540	611,931	370,749	241,182	235,318	6,677	813

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these four townships of Taninthayi Region, the numbers of eligible voters are 185,381 more than the eligible voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens and naturalized citizens who had turned 18 in November 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Section 6(a) of the Hluttaw Election Law.
7. There are 82,183 non-identity voters. Moreover, Section (15) (c) of the Hluttaw Election Law in Chapter VI “Preparation of Voting Roll” stated “Whoever has the rights 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 4,263 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 56,590 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these four townships of Taninthayi Region.
8. A total of 53 of 207 voters did not have any ID at No (79) polling station of Yephyat village in Meike village-tract of Thayetchaung Township, and 90 of 233 voters without CSC at No (106) polling station in Pedet village-tract, and eight of 951 voters without ID and date of birth at No (52) polling station of Ponsinphyia village of Ponsinphyia village-tract, in addition to 244 without CSC, 10 with no date of birth, 11 without father’s names and 10 without mother’s names were allowed to cast votes.
9. The used ballot receipts of No (10) polling station of Kazi TadaU village-tract of Thayetchaung Township went missing and so the exact numbers of advance ballots and remaining ballots were not known.
10. Findings in these four townships of Taninthayi Region were as follows;
- (a) There were 372,972 voters and they used 370,749 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 2,223 less than the numbers of voters.
- (b) It found 6,677 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.
- (c) It found 813 extra ballots at some polling stations.
- (d) On voter lists Form (1), they did not fill CSC number, date of birth, parents’ name but they were allowed the voters to cast vote.
- (e) The signatures of ward/village-tract sub-commission chairman and secretary were not found on every page of Forms (1) according to the respective Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a).
- (f) Names of the voters, voter list number, polling station number, ward/village-tract names and voters’ signs were not filled in ballot receipts used in some polling stations in casting votes.
- (g) 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.
- (h) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any citizenship scrutiny 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 conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
11. It found voting frauds in Myeik, Palaw, Thayetchaung and Yebyu townships of Taninthayi Region. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

State Administration Council
Press Release

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

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

100,000 fingerlings released
into Shwetachaung Canal in
Madaya Township

THE Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation released golden sturgeon fingerlings into Shwetachaung Canal in Madaya Township of PyinOoLwin District in Mandalay Region yesterday.

Deputy Head of Mandalay Region Fisheries Department U Khin Maung Thein, Madaya

Township Administration Body, Chairman U Aung Thura Thein and officials released 100,000 fingerlings into the canal.

The township Fisheries Department arranges setting fingerlings on free at the natural water such as rivers, creeks and dams for sufficiency of fish resources in the areas.—Soe Kyaw Thu Htwe (Madaya)/GNLM

Woman arrested for
spreading fake news

THE unscrupulous persons threaten and commit social punishment against the non-CDM health staff, education employees, banking staff and other departmental employees in order to deteriorate the administra-



tive machinery and community peace.

Ma Phway Thu Aung, owner of Pan Ei Phyu facebook account from Kalwin Ywama of Kalwin village-tract in Myeik supposed to spread fake news, wrote articles in support of unlawful associations CRPH and NUG, made social punishment on non-CDM government employees and committed incitements to cause the public and government employees panic on the social networks. Therefore, she was arrested at her house on 29 May and charged under Penal Code section 505-a at Myeik Myoma police station. —MNA

Terrorists destroy two bridges in Kayah State



THE terrorists destroyed two bridges in Prusho Township of Kayah State yesterday.

According to the investigation, about 70 terrorists demolished two bridges on Loikaw-Dimawhso-Bawlakhe road in Pruhso Township.

They dug about 225 square feet of ground on each side of the 30 feet long bridge near Kadalar village and also dug 15 feet in width and 20 feet in depth of ground on each side of another 30 feet long bridge. But the latter did not collapse

but the vehicles cannot pass the bridge due to the holes in the ground.

The officials conducted repair works for the bridges and the security forces investigated to arrest the insurgents.—MNA

Public information

Yangon Region 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

Take initiative for production of pharmaceuticals with modern technologies

PHARMACEUTICALS are essential for global people in their daily life. As everybody faces deterioration of body structures every second, pharmaceuticals become a reliable tool to fight against their diseases.

In fact, it is necessary to take initiatives to conduct the tests of new pharmaceuticals with reagents while emphasizing research and technical development, which plays a vital role in upgrading pharmaceuticals' potency.

Today's world is encountering new and new diseases year after year. So, the global people need to strive to innovate and produce new drugs to eliminate the new diseases. Hence, the government needs to encourage the scientists in respective arenas in order to perform the research tests for the production of pharmaceuticals.

In this regard, those scientists need no physical and mental disturbances over their work processes. They must be allowed to fly their souls in various scientific fields. As a result, their talents will have the chance to shape their thoughts and realize their dreams so as to come out with new items of pharmaceuticals to be used in curing the diseases of patients.

Thanks to scientists in respective fields, the global people could overcome the challenges of diseases with extreme happiness. In fact, the scientists are delighted with such happiness reflecting the patients who have been cured with the use of modern pharmaceuticals. Smiles of those patients who have successfully been cured with modern medications are applause for scientists to carry on their work process.

On the other hand, those scientists who performed innovation to produce new medical drugs are benefactors to the people. Effective outcomes in research works and higher potent pharmaceuticals can change the lifespan of people. But, manufacturers need to notice that unacceptable chemical residues should not remain in medicines in producing the stocks for local sufficiency.

Indeed, western-style pharmaceuticals, as well as traditional medicines, have been benefiting the people for many years. These drugs help the patients recover from their diseases. That is why relevant governments need to encourage experts and scientists to produce better pharmaceuticals so as to fight against various diseases, including pandemics, day after day.

■ ■ ■

THE RULE OF LAW

U Khin Maung, a retired diplomat

THE topic of my article is the rule of law. In other words, the topic of my article is about the supremacy of law. Where there is no rule of law, there is “anarchy”, in other words, where there is no rule of law, but anarchy, lawlessness, disorder and chaos will be there, or lawlessness and anarchy shall prevail. In a simple and plain way, where there is no rule of law, there is no government elected by the people. If there were no rules, there would be jungle law. There would be lawlessness, and might is right shall prevail in any conflict, dispute or quarrel.

People matter most

2. In a country, to be exact, in any democratic country, people matter most. In a government, especially a democratic government, people matter most. Why? “Democracy is a system of government in which all the people of a country can vote in order to elect their representatives for the country.” And such a country, we can also call it a parliamentary democracy.

3. The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary explains “democracy” as “fair and equal treatment of everyone and in an organization etc., and their right to take part in making decisions”. As an example, the Pocket Oxford dictionary explains that the people can take part in the fight for justice and democracy”. In our university days, our lecturers explained “democracy” as “demos” = the people, “cracy” = the rule. So “democracy” was the rule of the people and I am sure our lecturers' explanation of “democracy” is true for all times. As such, men are ruled by the rule of law and not by other men. In another explanation, where there is no rule of law, there is no law and order; and disorder or lawlessness shall prevail. Human beings are social animals. Human beings contact, connect and can contract with each other as of necessity.

4. Where there is no rule of law, there will be no order; no proper contract, no connect and no contract, but agreement or disagreement. And then, when there is no rule of law, there will be no order; or orderliness or proper contract, connection, and contact. Might is right, just as the opposite of law and order will prevail. “In tackling this question, I think, we will, and we should first define some phrases which are directly or indirectly connected with the Internet. These phrases and their definitions are to mention only a few, and they are as follows:

(a) “To live and learn”. Learning is a never-ending process. Knowledge is power.

(b) “Unity is strength; solidarity is power”. That is the heart of the Union.

(c) “Our union, built with brotherhood, never forget our union days”.

5. In tackling this question. I think we should first define some writings, which are directly or indirectly connected with this article. These extracts and their definitions are as follows:

(1) “We should value freedom, friendship, fairness and fulfilment in our lives, through with contact.”

(2) In this day and age, learning English is a must

(3) “Age is no barrier to learning.

(4) “Heart is the greatest gain. Contentment is the greatest wealth. Friendliness is the greatest relative. Purity of mind is the greatest joy.”

Dhammapada, extract

(5) To create an education system that can generate a constant learning society capable of facing the challenges of the new era.

(6) All disputes should be settled and solved in accordance with the rule of law.

6. In conclusion, may I quote the English translation of the instructions of Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council, regarding the production of personal goods at home in order to cut spending on foreign exchange as follows:

The Senior General stressed the need to take measures on the rule of law to better basic needs for individual people and ensure the rule of law for enabling the people to enjoy the fruits of physical and mental well-being.

REFERENCE:

(1) **The Global New Light of Myanmar**

(2) **The Pocket Oxford Dictionary**

(3) **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary**

(4) **Notes from my constant learning**

Doctors urge global action against climate-linked health risks

Hundreds of health workers marched to the World Health Organization on Saturday demanding that authorities in all countries recognise and act to counter the health risks of climate change.



The petition slammed the “inertia, inaction and the abyssal distance between speeches and actions”. PHOTO: AFP

ROUND two hundred people wearing white medical coats and facemasks marched or were pushed in wheelchairs two kilometres (1.2 miles) through Geneva's international district to the WHO headquarters.

Some carried giant banners urging action, including a towering thermometer showing the red temperature scale rising towards a burning planet.

Once at the WHO building, representatives of the Doctors for Extinction Rebellion (Doctors4XR) climate activist network handed over a petition to WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Signed by more than 1,100 health professionals from around the world, the text slammed the “inertia, inaction and the abyssal distance between speeches and actions”.

It demanded that health authorities in every country, who are currently taking part virtually in the main annual meeting of WHO member states, “publicly state that climate change is putting people at risk of death, and act now to preserve life.”

“Year after year, declaration after declaration, multilateral institutions – including WHO – have warned us: climate change and the loss of biodiversity endanger human health worldwide,” the petition said.

Health workers worldwide are already “confronted every day with the consequences of environmental deterioration on our patients and communities,” they said.

“The list of ailments they suffer from is getting longer every day.

“We are seeing more and more respiratory and cardiovascular diseases due to polluted air; loss of working days and deaths due to heat waves, over- and undernutrition due to lack of quality food, and diarrhoea and intoxications due to polluted drinking water.

‘No vaccine for climate change’

To make the point, the petition came in an envelope decorated with a drawing of a healthy human at 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 Fahrenheit), then “sick” if two degrees were added, in “mortal danger” at +4C and at +5C, “too late”, followed by the words: “Same with the planet.”

“Despite accumulating evidence, repeated warnings... despite more frequent and more serious natural disasters, including the Covid-19 pandemic,” the petition said, “the concrete actions implemented by our governments are not nearly enough.”

Tedros hailed the activists, vowing to read their letter to the member states.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has once again highlighted the intimate relationship between the health of people and planet,” he said, stressing that it showed “what happens when we are under prepared and fail to cooperate with each other.”

In that sense, “the risks posed by climate change could dwarf that of any single disease,” he warned.

“The pandemic will end, but there is no vaccine for climate change.”

Richard Horton, the chief editor of the Lancet medical journal and one of the signatories, agreed.

“The climate crisis is not merely a threat to health,” he said by video link.

“It is a threat to life itself.”

SOURCE: AFP

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The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 30 May 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 31 May 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Yangon regions and Chin, Kayah states, and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 May 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 May 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 May 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

‘Beautiful gift’: How Croatia is luring digital nomads

MELISSA Paul described it as a “beautiful gift” when she became Croatia’s first official digital nomad earlier this year, benefiting from a visa scheme that the country hopes will help promote its pandemic-hit travel industry.

“Croatia is gorgeous, it’s beautiful living here, affordable compared to other places, has a great climate, good internet access,” says the American marketing consultant, who lives among cobblestone streets in Labin, a hilltop town overlooking the Adriatic.

Paul got her visa in January, joining a global army of workers plying their trades in foreign countries since the pandemic ushered in an era



Tourism makes up around one-fifth of Croatia’s economy. **PHOTO: AFP**

of working from home for millions.

Croatia offers the special visas to digital workers from outside the European Union,

allowing them to stay for up to a year and exempting them from income tax.

Applicants need to prove they work remotely, have ac-

commodation and health insurance and earn at least 2,200 euros (\$2,700) a month.

Paul is one of about 100 people to have applied since the scheme started in January, more than half of them Americans and British. The government has so far approved 33 visas and ministers hope the idea will take off once virus-related travel restrictions are lifted.

Tourism makes up around one-fifth of the economy in the EU nation of 4.2 million people, but the number of visitors plummeted from 21 million in 2019 to seven million last year.

Income more than halved to 4.8 billion euros in 2020 compared with the previous year. — AFP ■

Canada extends shelf life of AstraZeneca jab by 1 month

CANADIAN health authorities announced Saturday they were pushing back the expiration date on nearly 50,000 doses of AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine by one month.

Health Canada said in a statement its approval to extend the shelf life of two lots of vaccine from May 31 to July 1 was supported by “scientific evidence.”

“This change will ensure that provinces and territories are able to use up their existing inventory and provide Canadians access to much needed doses of the vaccine,” the agency said.

A spokesperson for Health Canada said that as of May 22, there were about 49,000 doses of AstraZeneca in the country with an expiration date of May 31. CBC reported that most were in Ontario province.

Canadian health authorities had previously approved a six-month shelf life for AstraZeneca’s Covid-19 vaccine.

But they said they received information from the company on May 27 including “product stability and mathematical modelling data” that showed the two lots could be safely and effectively used for an extra month.

Several provinces announced this month their decision to suspend use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for people receiving their first shot, due to rare instances of blood clots.

But Canadians who had received a first AstraZeneca dose were able to get their scheduled second dose.

Just over 55 per cent of Canada’s 38 million people have received one dose of Covid-19 vaccine, and 5 per cent have received two doses. In addition to AstraZeneca, vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are approved for use in Canada. — AFP ■

Hong Kong developers offer apartment to woo vaccine takers



Major real estate developers in Hong Kong are holding a lottery with a HK\$10.8 million (\$1.4 million) apartment as a prize for getting vaccinated against the coronavirus, in a bid to encourage more people to get jabs, according to local media. **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB FROM GOOGLE MAPS/KYODO**

MAJOR real estate developers in Hong Kong are holding a lottery with a HK\$10.8 million (\$1.4 million) apartment as a prize for getting vaccinated against the coronavirus, in a bid to encourage more people to get jabs, according to local media.

Only about 20 per cent of people in Hong Kong have been vaccinated so far, with many residents of the Chinese territory taking a wait-and-see approach. That has prompted Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam to call for cooperation from the business community on getting people inoculated.

The Ming Pao newspaper said in a report Saturday that the draw is open to permanent residents aged 18 or older who must also complete a two-shot vaccine regimen by

September 1. The Hong Kong government has secured 15 million doses, sufficient to provide two shots to every resident of the city of 7.5 million. About 4 million doses have already arrived in the former British colony.

Since the territory’s inoculation drive began three months ago, about 1.3 million people have received at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine. There is speculation that some unused vaccine, set to expire in August, could be wasted.

Some observers say the reluctance among Hong Kong people is partly attributable to concerns about possible side effects and a decline in infections in the city, as well as distrust of the government that has sought to stifle democratic voices. — Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanon vaccinates over 10,000 people in day-long drive

LEBANON vaccinated more than 10,000 people on Saturday as part of a day-long vaccine “marathon” organised by the health ministry to ramp up inoculation rates in the crisis-hit country.

The ministry said that by the early evening, 10,452 people over the age of 30 received jabs of the AstraZeneca vaccine at different facilities across the country. They were allowed to enter vaccination centres on a walk-in basis from early Saturday morning in what health authorities have dubbed a vaccine “marathon”.

The country of more than six million has administered at least one vaccine dose to over 700,000 people. Firass Abiad, the head of Lebanon’s main hospital for coronavirus patients, called the day a “big success”.

He said 170,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine were expected to arrive in the country on Sunday. — AFP ■

Neighbourhood in south China under lockdown after fresh virus outbreak

A neighbourhood in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou has been locked down as officials rush to quell an uptick in cases in the area. The industrial hub north of Hong Kong home to nearly 15 million people has reported 20 new cases of the coronavirus in the past week.

A notice by the Guangzhou municipal health bureau issued Saturday identified five streets in Liwan district in the city centre as “high-risk areas” and ordered residents to stay indoors until door-to-door testing is completed. Markets, schools and entertainment venues in the area were shut. The city government has rushed to conduct mass testing and about 700,000 people had been tested by Wednesday.

China has largely controlled the spread of the virus and has tightened quarantine rules after a surge in cases in neighbouring countries. — AFP ■



People receive their Covid-19 shot during a “Doses After Dark” overnight vaccination clinic in Mississauga, Ontario on May 15, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Endangered Iberian lynx population jumps 10-fold

ONCE on the verge of extinction, the Iberian lynx population in Spain and Portugal has risen more than 10-fold over the past 18 years, the Spanish government said Friday.

A total of 414 lynx were born in 2020 bringing their total number in the two countries to 1,111, a record high since monitoring of the species began, the ministry for ecological transition said in a statement.

That is up from fewer than 100 in 2002, when the first census of the spotted nocturnal cat was carried out, thanks to a programme of captive breeding and release of the animals into the wild.

"This demographic curve allows for optimism and raises scenarios that move the great Iberian feline away from the critical risk of disappearance," the statement said. — AFP ■

Kazakhstan sees rare antelope rebound after mass die off

THE population of the critically endangered Saiga antelope has more than doubled since 2019, Kazakhstan said Friday, giving conservationists fresh hope for the steppe-dwelling animal's long-term survival.

News that the Central Asian country's Saiga population rose from 334,000 to 842,000 since the last time an aerial survey was carried out suggests it is continuing to rebound after a massive die-off in 2015. Kazakhstan's ecology ministry said in a statement the boom was "an indicator of the effectiveness of measures to conserve saiga populations and counteract poaching".

The former Soviet country's vast steppe is home to a majority of the world's Saiga with Russia's Kalmykia region and Mongolia hosting smaller numbers.

In 2015, around 200,000 of the antelopes — well over half the total global population at the time — were wiped out by what scientists later determined was a nasal bacterium that spread in unusually warm and humid conditions. — AFP ■

EU moves against TikTok over child-targeted ads



The EU on Friday said TikTok must address concerns of aggressive advertising methods targeting children in a case launched by consumer authorities in several member states. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE EU on Friday said TikTok must address concerns of aggressive advertising methods targeting children in a case launched by consumer authorities in several member states.

The European Commission said the popular video-sharing app had one month to respond, saying "hidden marketing, aggressive advertising techniques targeted at children,

and certain contractual terms in TikTok's policies" were of "specific concern".

TikTok has faced many such cases globally, and the EU claim comes a month after

Britain accused the video-sharing app of illegally collecting personal data from millions of children in Europe.

The case by the EU executive came after a signal in February by the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) about TikTok's alleged breaches of EU consumer rights.

Taking up a case launched by Ireland and Sweden, the BEUC said TikTok had failed "to protect children and teenagers from hidden advertising and potentially harmful content on its platform".

It pointed to the use of online influencers to promote brands, but with the commercial intent hidden from young users.

The BEUC also said that a virtual gift system operating on TikTok represented a danger to children. — AFP ■

Univ. of Tokyo among top 10 for natural science research

THE University of Tokyo ranked eighth for high-quality natural science research in 2020, returning to the top 10 after falling to 11th the year before, according to a survey by research publisher Springer Nature Group.

In the list of 500 global institutions topped by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, five other Japanese universities and a scientific research institute ranked among the top 100.

Although researchers have had to deal with laboratory closures and disruptions to experiments amid the coronavirus pandemic, a surge of articles related to COVID-19 contributed to an overall increase in research output in 2020, said the German-British academic publishing group.

Kyoto University and Osaka University ranked 37th and 65th, respectively, in the latest survey based on institutions' contributions to research articles published in 82 natural science journals that are chosen by an independent group of researchers.

Among other high-ranking Asian institutions were the University of Science and Technology of China in 11th place and the National University of Singapore in 29th.

In the ranking of institutions that achieved significant increases in research output in the 2019-2020 period, dubbed "rising stars," Japan's Riken state-sponsored research institute secured seventh place, while Nagoya University was 10th. — Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on Feb. 25, 2018, shows students walking to the venue of entrance exams at the University of Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Retro milk float brings Londoners zero-plastic groceries



The electric vehicles were once commonly used by milkmen and women to deliver pint bottles of fresh milk on household doorsteps. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ELLA Shone's small electric truck used to deliver milk but now she drives it around London, selling groceries and household goods that are free of plastic packaging.

The 32-year-old bought her "top-up truck" last year after the first coronavirus lockdown got her thinking about innovative ways to reduce waste.

She has found plenty of demand for her service, with customers scooping up dry groceries such as lentils or filling bottles from large dispensers of vinegar or washing detergent.

On a rainy day in May, the 32-year-old plied a route to eight stops in the up-and-coming district of Hackney in northeast London.

"It's very straightforward: it's a bit like a go-cart ride," she said of driving the truck, which has a top speed of 30 miles (48

kilometres) per hour.

But she admitted the steering can get "a bit bumpy". At one stop, three customers bought dried mango, pasta, raisins and shampoo. The mobile shop was created to bring "packaging-free" shopping to people's doors, tapping into a growing demand for deliveries during the stay-at-home restrictions.

"I felt that there was a need to make it easier, to make it more accessible, more visible," she said.

Nevertheless, she wasn't immediately sure her idea was viable.

"When I started this, I thought I'd gone a bit mad on furlough leave", she admitted.

During lockdown, Shone was on government-subsidised leave from her job in sales at a company producing sustainable condiments. — AFP ■

Finland opens drive-in voting for a Covid-safe election



Finland’s municipal vote was due to take place in April but was postponed due to the pandemic. **PHOTO: ANTTI AIMO-KOIVISTO LEHTIKUVA/AFP**

CARS are queued up on an old airport runway on the outskirts of the Finnish capital Helsinki -- not for coronavirus tests but for drivers to cast their vote. Outdoor polling stations have sprung up across the Nordic country as authorities try to make voting as socially distanced

as possible ahead of the country’s local elections on June 13. “Signing in and filling out the ballot paper went brilliantly,” retiree Joukko Salminen tells AFP from inside his white car. “And corona safe too!” Finland’s municipal vote was due to take place in April but was

postponed due to the pandemic, after which officials began looking for ways to cast ballots outside during a two-week advance voting period, while protecting the legally protected privacy of voters. “We’ve built screens that stop people being able to see the voting happening,” polling station manager Vesa Kouvonkorpi tells AFP. “Because the car is the polling booth, and by law you’re not allowed to see into the polling booth.” Waiting cars are directed into one of three voting lanes, and the driver hands a polling clerk their voting ID through the window and is given a ballot paper. The clerk turns their back while the driver casts their vote, puts it into an envelope and returns it. — AFP ■

Nearly 300 rescued in Indonesia ferry accident

SEARCH teams are looking for one missing person after rescuing all other passengers from a large ferry that caught fire in Indonesia, an official said Sunday. The KM Karya Indah was heading to Sanana, a remote port in the northeast of the Indonesian archipelago when it was engulfed in flames. Shortly after departing, the ferry caught fire, forcing passengers and crew to jump into the sea to save themselves. There no reported casualties. “There were 275 people on board, 274 had been evacuated safely,” Muhammad Arafah, the head of the local search and rescue team told Kompas TV Sunday. “One person, a 43-year-old man, is still being

searched for.” He added that at least 35 passengers were children. Dozens of rescuers are still scouring the area for the missing person. Images shared by the search and rescue agency showed the large ferryboat enveloped in thick, dark smoke while passengers in life jackets were rescued by rafts. More than a dozen crew members have been detained and questioned by the local police to determine the cause of the fire. Maritime accidents are common in Indonesia due to poor safety standards. But passenger ferries are widely used for transport in the archipelago of some 17,000 islands. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazilians stage more protests against Bolsonaro

TENS of thousands of people in Brazil staged another day of protest against President Jair Bolsonaro, in particular for his chaotic handling of the pandemic, which has claimed more than 461,000 lives here. In downtown Rio de Janeiro, some 10,000 people wearing masks marched through the streets, with some chanting “Bolsonaro genocide” or “Go away Bolsovirus.” Similar rallies were held in other major cities, the latest in a wave of anger against Bolsonaro that began months ago. After the United States, Brazil has the world’s second highest coronavirus death toll. At the outset of the pandemic, the far right Bolsonaro dismissed Covid-19 as “a little flu” and as the death toll has risen steadily he has gone on to infuriate people in other ways, opposing stay-at-home measures and masks, touting ineffective medications, refusing offers of vaccines, and failing to anticipate oxygen shortages that left patients to suffocate. — AFP ■

Colombian army tightens grip on Cali after protests leave 13 dead

THE Colombian army on Saturday tightened its control over Cali, the country’s third largest city, after the latest anti-government protests left at least 13 people dead. The city’s streets were largely deserted after clashes late Friday pitted police against armed civilians. The country is in the second month of protests against the government of President Ivan Duque. In Cali, a city of 2.2 million, the smoking remains of barricades and rubble heaps testified to the chaotic night. There, as across the country, poverty and the pandemic have sparked widespread anger and resentment. The month of protests has left at least 59 people dead, officials say, including the 13 who died in Cali. More than 2,300 civilians and uniformed personnel have been injured, according to the Defense Ministry. — AFP ■

Coronavirus sweeps through Thailand’s overcrowded prisons

A coronavirus surge sweeping through Thailand’s prisons has thrown the spotlight on the kingdom’s overcrowded penal system, where some inmates have less space to sleep than the inside of a coffin. More than 22,000 people have tested positive inside jails, where inmates living cheek by jowl have been encouraged to keep wearing their masks even while they sleep. Authorities have floated plans to give early releases to prisoners with underlying medical conditions and have announced funding for more testing and medical care in recent days. But those behind bars say they have been kept in the dark about the seriousness of the outbreak.

“Prisoners don’t have the knowledge to protect themselves,” said Somyot Prueksakasemsuk, a high-profile activist facing charges under Thailand’s harsh royal defamation law. Somyot was bailed last month and told AFP that he had not been tested for Covid-19 once during his 10-week stint in custody. He was not worried about contracting the disease while in jail because he had no idea about the level of risk. “But after this I’m so scared (for everyone still inside) ... if you are inside the

prison you are at risk, it’s unavoidable,” he said. Thailand’s prison outbreak has skyrocketed from just 10 publicly announced cases a month ago and sparked growing public concern after a handful of prominent activists contracted the illness. Among them was student leader Panusaya “Rung” Sithijirawattanakul, who helped lead a series of rallies last year demanding political reforms in the kingdom, and who tested positive after she was released on bail. — AFP ■



Health workers vaccinate inmates at Minburi Remand Prison in Bangkok. More than 22,000 people have tested positive for Covid-19 in overcrowded Thai jails. **PHOTO: THAILAND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE/AFP/FILE**

Commercial facilities in Tokyo to reopen amid extended emergency

COMMERCIAL facilities in Tokyo, Osaka and other prefectures are stepping up preparations to resume operations on Tuesday, as the government hopes to strike a balance between curbing coronavirus infections and reviving the battered economy after extending the COVID-19 state of emergency to June 20.

Department stores, movie theaters, amusement parks and museums were initially requested to close under the country's third coronavirus state of emergency but will be



People walk in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district on May 29, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

permitted to partially reopen, four days after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga extended it in nine prefectures. Under new guidelines, department stores in the capital and Osaka

Prefecture will remain closed on weekends but will be permitted to open on weekdays with shorter business hours. Food halls in department stores have been open on weekdays throughout the emergency and on weekends since May 12.

Restrictions such as a ban on restaurants serving alcohol as well as a cap on attendance at sports events and concerts will stay in effect beyond Monday, the previous end date of the state of emergency. — Kyodo News ■

ANA offers weddings on plane grounded by prolonged pandemic

MAJOR Japanese airline All Nippon Airways Co. has been offering couples the chance to tie the knot in ceremonies aboard an aircraft it has been forced to ground as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hit international travel.

The service, launched in late May, will be available until June 13 on the B-777 large passenger jet at Tokyo's Haneda airport.

The company said that seven couples in all will have wedding ceremonies on board and it has finished accepting

reservations.

During the onboard ceremony, the airline provides live music, an inflight announcement by cabin crew to congratulate the newlyweds and celebrate their marriage, and special lighting to project an image of the galaxy on the ceiling of the cabin, ANA said.

ANA is offering the onboard wedding for some 1.56 million yen (\$14,200) and a combination of the ceremony and a party with food in the terminal building for 3 million yen. — Kyodo News ■

Greece unveils health pass to hasten EU travel revival

GREECE on Friday unveiled its digital health certificate aimed at rebooting the country's coronavirus-hit tourism sector and part of a wider EU scheme to reopen national borders. The certificate will be open to all EU citizens from July 1 at the latest, though Greece will try to start the programme sooner than that, Prime Minister Kyr- iakos Mitsotakis said. Eagerly awaited by Europe's tourism-dependent countries, the certificate was agreed and rolled out at a record pace in just two months, said EU vice-president Margaritis Schinas - himself a Greek politician. The certificate was "an example that shows how Europe can act when solidarity meets determination", he said during the announcement in Athens, adding that Greece was among the first countries in Europe to launch the health pass. It was designed to meet EU standards on privacy and security, "so Europeans can use it without fear", he said.

Together with European Council President Charles Michel, Schinas was in Athens to mark the 40th anniversary of Greece's entry into the European community. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

TG: AUGGUN SARI AND BG: TROPICAL ISLAND

Consignees of cargo carried on **TG: AUGGUN SARI AND BG: TROPICAL ISLAND** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MSTL** 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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CEA PROJECT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA COBURG VOY. NO. (120S/121N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA COBURG VOY. NO. (120S/121N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-5-2021** 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

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TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Dated: **31st May 2021**

G-20 eyes broad int'l corporate tax reform agreement in July

THE Group of 20 major economies plan to strike a broad agreement on international tax reform in July, featuring new rules for the imposition of levies on global technology companies to curb tax evasion, G-20 sources said Saturday.

The G-20 is considering allowing countries to impose levies on digital giants with large sales and profit rates of 15 percent and higher even if they do not operate in a country but generate sales and profits there, a practice known as digital taxation, the sources said.

The major economies including the United States, China, Japan and the European Union are also expected to agree on a global minimum corporate tax rate of around 15 percent, they said.

The G-20 talks are part of global tax negotiations involving around



The G-20 is considering allowing countries to impose levies on digital giants with large sales and profit rates of 15 percent and higher even if they do not operate in a country but generate sales and profits there, a practice known as digital taxation, the sources said. **PHOTO: AFP**

140 countries being led by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

amid criticism that digital giants such as Google LLC and Apple Inc. are not paying their

fair share of taxes.

With countries having cut corporate taxes to attract

multinational companies, an OECD agreement – which negotiating parties are aiming for around October – would mark a historic turning point in international tax reform.

The G-20 plans to agree on key elements of a deal during a finance ministers meeting slated for July in Venice, Italy. With technical details to be worked out, a final agreement can be expected when G-20 leaders meet in Rome in October.

The agreement would make it difficult for businesses to shift profits to low tax jurisdictions and ensure that tech giants pay more taxes in countries in which they make sales.

The deal is also intended to help countries restore their finances, which have deteriorated as a result of massive stimulus measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic. — Kyodo News ■

APEC's GDP projected to grow 6.3% in 2021 as vaccines buoy optimism

THE combined gross domestic product of the 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is expected to grow 6.3 percent this year, turning around from a 1.9 percent decline in 2020 as they gradually reopen while COVID-19 vaccines fan optimism, an APEC report showed.

The organization's Policy Support Unit said GDP is pushed up by "pent-up demand unleashed following a year of subdued spending," but cited an "uneven recovery" largely due to "differences in vaccine access and availability" in the region.

The unit forecast the region's growth will persist in 2022 and 2023 but at a more moderate pace of 4.4 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively, according to the report.

"The region continues to face significant uncertainties, largely linked to how the pandemic is evolving, while job losses due to the pandemic and expectations of higher inflation this year could surpass consumer spending," said Denis Hew, director of the unit.

The report said the 1.9 percent contraction last year was less than the 2.7 percent decline projected a year ago as member economies, such as the United States, China and Japan, stepped up fiscal stimulus and monetary easing measures.

The report was issued ahead of an APEC trade ministers virtual meeting slated for June 5, where pandemic response through trade is expected to be on top of the agenda. — Kyodo News ■

Ivory Coast hopes cashew 'grey gold' can conquer US market

FROM a "triangular trade" that sees its nuts shelled in Asia before being shipped to the US, top cashew producer Ivory Coast aims to process more of its own crop for sale in the huge American market. Starting from the present yearly average of just 10 percent, producers aim to shell half by 2025, Adama Coulibaly, director of the Cotton-Cashew Council, told AFP. This year alone the country's capacity should increase by 100,000 tonnes.

But processing more nuts domestically will mean a shift away from traditional export relationships, which currently see most raw nuts sent to Vietnam and India.

Until now, "triangular trade" has left the shelling up to workers there before the nuts were shipped to the United States at "an exorbitant price", said Losseni Kone, president of Ivory Cash-



Most African-grown nuts are currently sent to Brazil, India or Vietnam for processing. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ew, an American firm specialising in cashew certification and trade.

"The American market is worth 40 percent of world capacity, but accounts for just one percent of imports of Ivorian nuts," added the Maryland-based entrepreneur. Business prospects are promising if the country can get

all the steps worked out.

"There is no cause for concern about the cashew market in the USA. We love it. Ivorian cashew is the best," Association of Food Industries (AFI) president Bob Bauer told AFP, promising the group would "help" producers. — AFP ■



The combined gross domestic product of the 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is expected to grow 6.3 percent this year. **PHOTO: APEC/KYODO**

French budget deficit 47bn euros higher in 2021: minister

FRANCE'S budget deficit for 2021 will stand at 220 billion euros, some 47 billion higher than previously estimated, Olivier Dussopt, public accounts minister, told AFP on Saturday.

The increase is "a result of supporting measures that we're continuing to take to support the recovery" from the devastating effects that Covid-19 shutdowns wreaked on the eurozone's second-largest economy, he said.

It is not yet clear how the revised numbers will affect the budget deficit when expressed as percentage of GDP, which was previously forecast to hit 9 percent this year, a postwar

record. Public debt was previously forecast to reach 118 percent of GDP.

The Covid-19 pandemic is expected to cost the French state nearly half a trillion euros over three years – 158 billion euros in 2020, an expected 171 billion euros in 2021 and a forecast 96 billion euros in 2022, Dussopt said in April.

France has borrowed heavily to try to keep the economy afloat through three nationwide lockdowns, including money spent on supporting salaries of people furloughed and aid for companies struggling to stay afloat during the crisis. — AFP ■

Biden dismisses Texas voting bill as attack on democracy

PRESIDENT Joe Biden assailed a voting bill in Texas Saturday as an attack on democracy, as it lines up to become the next Republican-led state to restrict voting access for people of colour.

Biden said Texas is now joining Georgia and Florida in seeking to limit “the sacred right to vote.”

“It’s part of an assault on democracy that we’ve seen far too often this year – and often disproportionately targeting Black and Brown Americans,” Biden said in a statement after a final draft of the legislation began circulating at the Texas legislature.

Among other restrictive provisions the Texas law bans drive-in voting, limits voting by mail, and cuts back on voting hours on election day.

Proponents say the law is designed to make voting more



President Joe Biden says Republican-sponsored state laws restricting voting access are an attack on democracy. **PHOTO: AFP**

secure but critics say it aims to make it more cumbersome for Blacks, Latinos and other non-whites who tend to vote Democratic.

Republicans say they are

acting to head off election fraud, as claimed by Donald Trump in his repeated false assertion that he beat Biden last November and that the election was stolen from him. — AFP ■

UK’s Boris Johnson weds in ‘secret ceremony’: reports

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson married his fiancée Carrie Symonds in a “secret ceremony” on Saturday, UK media reports said.

Known for his colourful love life, 56-year-old Johnson wed Symonds, 33, in Catholic Westminster Cathedral in front of close friends and family, the Mail on Sunday and The Sun newspapers reported.

He is only the second British prime minister to marry while in office, and the first in nearly two centuries with Robert Jenkinson the last in 1822.

The nuptials are a surprise development, after reports earlier this week said the couple had sent out “save the date” cards for a wedding on July 30 next year.

However, they have been waiting months to tie the knot after their original plans

to marry last year were delayed by the pandemic. The pair got engaged in December, 2019, and have a one-year-old baby son, Wilfred. Around 30 guests attended Saturday’s service — the maximum currently allowed under coronavirus rules — in central London, after being invited at the last minute, according to the Mail on Sunday.

A small number of church officials were involved and Downing Street aides were not informed, sources told the paper. However, The Sun tabloid said the couple had been planning the “cloak and danger operation” for a secret ceremony for up to six months.

Symonds arrived at the lunchtime nuptials in a limousine and wore “a stunning long and flowing white dress” but chose not to wear a veil, it added. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mali’s new president heads to ECOWAS over double coup

WEST African leaders will meet in Ghana on Sunday to discuss a response to Mali’s second coup in nine months, with the new president Colonel Assimi Goita attending.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) invited Goita to come to Ghana’s capital Accra for “consultations” ahead of an extraordinary summit on Sunday devoted to Mali, according to a letter from the 15-nation bloc seen by AFP.

He flew to Accra on Saturday, military and airport sources said.

In a statement on Facebook, the office of the Mali presidency said Goita would “take part alongside his counterparts in the sub-region”.

He had served as vice president since leading a coup last August that ousted the democratically elected president, with the roles of president and prime minister held by civilians after pressure from ECOWAS, which has served as a mediator.

However on Monday, soldiers detained transitional president Bah Ndaw and prime minister Moctar Ouane, releasing them on Thursday while saying that they had resigned.

The twin arrests triggered a diplomatic uproar and marked the second apparent coup within a year in the Sahel country. — AFP ■

Pro-Palestinian rally in Washington seeks end to US aid to Israel

MORE than 1,000 rallied Saturday in Washington in support of Palestinians and calling for an end to US aid to Israel.

The demonstration on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial came as a ceasefire that ended 11 days of intense fighting between Israel and the Islamist movement Hamas in the Gaza Strip has so far held.

“We are hoping to send a clear message to the United States government that the days of supporting the Israeli state without repercussions are over,” one of the demonstrators, 39-year-old Washington lawyer Sharif Silmi, said as he stood in the crowd where many protesters held red, white, green and black Palestinian flags.

“We will stand against any politician that continues to fund weapons to Israel. We will oppose them, we will vote against them, we will fund their opponents, until we vote them out of office,” said Silmi.

Lama Alahmad, a resident of neighboring Virginia who is of Palestinian origin, said US public opinion is turning in favor of the Palestinian cause. — AFP ■

Indonesia releases Iranian and Panamanian tankers after four months

INDONESIA has released an Iranian tanker and a Panamanian vessel that were both seized at the beginning of the year on suspicion of illegal oil transfers, officials said on Saturday.

Following legal proceedings, the crude oil tankers — Iranian-flagged MT Horse and Panama-flagged MT Freya — left Indonesia on Friday, the country’s Maritime Security Agency spokesperson told AFP.

The captains of both tankers were found guilty on Tuesday of entering Indonesian

territory without a permit.

MT Horse’s Iranian captain Mehdi Monghasemjahromi and MT Freya’s Chinese captain Chen Yo Qun were each handed a suspended prison sentence of one year with a two-year probational period.

The court also ordered Chen to pay a two billion rupiah (\$140,000) fine for dumping oil illegally in Indonesian waters.

Both captains were released from detention and were believed to have left Indonesia with the rest of the

crew Friday despite their sentences.

In January, the tankers were spotted off Kalimantan, Indonesia’s section of Borneo island, and were later seized after the crew failed to respond to radio calls.

Indonesia’s Maritime Security Agency or Bakamla claimed the crew were suspected of a string of violations, including failing to display the vessels’ national flags, turning off their identification systems to avoid detection and illegally transferring oil. — AFP ■



The Iranian tanker MT Horse has left Indonesian waters four months after it was seized /Indonesian Maritime Security Agency. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tokyo Olympics badminton players to be announced on 15 June

THE Tokyo Olympics, which has been postponed due to the pandemic, will be held from 23 July to 8 August, and officials will announce the badminton players list on 15 June.

Myanmar badminton player Thet Htar Thuzar is trying to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics and she is currently in good shape. The Badminton star is currently ranked 29th in the latest Olympic qualifying rankings released on 25 May, and also in a good position to qualify for the Olympics.

According to BWF, Thet

Htar Thuzar has competed in 15 events during the Olympic qualifying period with a total of 23,650 points.

She has competed in competitions organized by the World Badminton Federation for the past few years and has achieved great success.

The Tokyo Olympics' Badminton event includes men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed events.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which struck the world early last year, has postponed all events of the World Badminton Feder-

ation, including the Olympics.

Previously, the Olympic qualifiers was held from April 2019 to early May 2020, but due to the pandemic, the competition was postponed from 4 March to 13 January 2021.

Therefore, points for admission to the Olympics will be calculated from April 2019 to June 13, 2021. The BWF had planned to hold 10 or more competitions this year, but only a few were held due to the epidemic, and most of the competitions were postponed and cancelled.—Ye Yint Lwin/GNLM



Myanmar badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar. **PHOTO: THET HTAR THUZAR'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Kai's the limit as Chelsea fans revel in Champions League glory

CHELSEA fans piled into the streets surrounding the Stamford Bridge ground of the new kings of European football following their 1-0 defeat of Manchester City in the Champions League final on Saturday in Portugal. Some lit flares as they sang and cheered the club's triumph earned thanks to Kai Havertz's first-half goal in Porto. The goal from the club's most expensive ever signing gave the Russian-owned club their second European crown nine years after the first in 2012.

Coronavirus restrictions meant far fewer Chelsea supporters were able to attend Saturday's clash compared to the night they beat Bayern Munich.

Many of those who could not be there congregated in the fashionable west London neighbourhood, near the stadium where the same supporters had gathered for an angry protest



Chelsea supporters unable to go to the Champions League final piled onto the streets surrounding the club's Stamford Bridge stadium in London after their team beat Manchester City to be crowned European champions. **PHOTO: DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/ AFP**

against Chelsea's shortlived membership of the European Super League in April. A light show in the club's blue spelled out "Champions for the Fans" as fireworks went off in the distance.

The fans' joyous celebrations, standing shoulder to shoulder in the streets, showed

a complete disregard for the present social distancing advice in England that groups of no more than 30 can congregate.

Some climbed up to balconies of houses raising their arms in triumph — several whipping off their shirts to celebrate half naked on a warm night. — AFP ■

Donaire knocks out Oubaali in the fourth to reclaim WBC title

NONITO Donaire used a powerful left hook and three knockdowns to become the oldest fighter to win a bantamweight title with a fourth round knockout of WBC champion Nordine Oubaali on Saturday night in Los Angeles.

The 38-year-old Donaire reach up and turned back the hands of time at the Dignity Sports Health Park venue as he reclaimed the WBC title that he held in 2011.

The Filipino fighter is also the oldest, at 38 years and 204 days, to win a bantamweight world title, breaking the mark he set in 2018 when he was 35 and captured the WBA belt.

"Father time is on my side," said Donaire

of Bohol, Philippines. "I believe the human body is an incredible machine if we take care of it. Mentally you are only as strong as your mind can be.

"Being at this age is not the question. It is my ability to grow. It is not what age you are, but how strong you are mentally.

"I am back. The whole time I was not fighting I was learning. I am ready for the next one."

Donaire knocked the French champion down twice in the third round and then finished him off halfway through the fourth round with a stinging upper cut to raise his record to 41-6 with 27 knockouts. — AFP ■

Hong Kong mountaineer on a high after fastest Everest climb by a woman

FORMER Hong Kong schoolteacher Tsang Yin-hung said Sunday she always believed in aiming high after setting a new record for the fastest ascent of Everest by a woman.

Tsang scaled the 8,848.86-metre (29,031 feet) mountain in 25 hours and 50 minutes, a Nepal government officer who recorded her time told AFP on Thursday.

The 44-year-old reached the summit of the world's highest peak on May 23 and arrived back in Kathmandu on Sunday.

"I am... relaxed and happy because I set this target around four years before," she told AFP.

"I have always shared with my students and my friends that if you aim high and expect high, you can achieve high."

Tsang had tried to reach the summit earlier in May, but

was stopped by poor weather conditions when she was at 8,755 metres, her guide Pemba Sherpa said.

She had to return to base camp and climb up the mountain again to make her record attempt.

Tsang was born in mainland China and her family moved to Hong Kong when she was 10 years old.

As a child, Tsang said they lived with "no resources" and sport — which was free to participate in at her school — became her source of joy.

"When I was young I used to run on the mountains, play basketball and do other sports," she said.

She started to train as a mountaineer 11 years ago and summited Everest in 2017 — the first woman from Hong Kong to achieve such a feat. — AFP ■



Hong Kong mountaineer Ada Tsang (foreground) reached the summit of Mount Everest in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes on Sunday. **PHOTO: HANDOUT**