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Hatgyi hydropower plant to be built on Thanlwin River will contribute to Kayin State: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the Kayin State Administration Council members and departmental officials in Hpa-an, Kayin State on 31 May 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning met the Kayin State Administration Council members and departmental officials at the state administration council office in Hpa-an.

Kayin State Administration Council Chairman U Saw Myint Oo, at the briefing hall, reported to the Senior General on social, economic, health and regional development tasks in the state, COVID-19 vaccination and border trade measures.

In his response, the Senior General said roads must be expanded to meet set standards. It is necessary to consider the construction of the roads with motorcycle ways for traffic safety. Protests will be staged in the democracy. But, action will be taken against those who incited exaggeration of problems with fake news and cause dangers to the people. More than 239,000 voters cast votes without citizenship scrutiny cards in Kayin State. So, efforts are being made to issue CSC to the people during the set period. CSC will be issued to those in line with the 1982 Cit-

izenship Law. In its tenure, the State Administration Council is striving for holding a free and fair election in accord with the five-point roads map. Arrangements are being made to issue the CSC to the citizens to cast votes.

The Senior General pointed out that in improving the sports arena, athletes must be healthy and fit in modern sports techniques and stadiums and gymnasiums must meet set standards. The government will build stadiums, gymnasiums and swimming pools in regions and states. Sports can uplift the health sector as well as patriotic spirit. So,

The government will build stadiums, gymnasiums and swimming pools in regions and states. Sports can uplift the health sector as well as patriotic spirit.

it is necessary to enhance the sports sector by uplifting the prestige of the State.

As the people from Kayin State are some 2.5 years less

than the expectancy of the lifespan of Myanmar, local ethnic people need to have nutritious foods and healthcare services.

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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.

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 30 June 2021

1. With a view to further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 31 May 2021 by the Ministry’s announcement dated 30 April 2021.
 - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the afore-mentioned entry restriction measures until 30 June 2021.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 31 May 2021

Union Ministers inspect work plans of relevant departments in Kayin State

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe met professors, teachers and education staff at Hpa-an University and discussed the work programmes to reopen universities and school and promote the education sector yesterday during his inspection tour to Hpa-an Township of Kayin State. Similarly, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win comforted patients and healthcare workers at Hpa-an General Hospital and inspected the kidney centre.

Moreover, Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay met employees of the four departments of Kayin State affiliated to the ministry and gave the necessary instructions. Then, the Union Minister inspected the construction site of the 3-storey extension building of Hpa-an General Hospital.—MNA

58 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 31 May, total figure rises to 143,629

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **143,629** after **58 new cases** were reported on 31 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,319** have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Tatmadaw values democracy

THE Union ministers need to explain voting frauds and the situation of voter lists in the 2020 general election to the service personnel. All State service personnel need to understand the political crises based on the dishonesty of democracy in the previous general election, although the Tatmadaw values democracy.

(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 21 May 2021)

Hatgyi hydropower plant to be built on Thanlwin ...



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party are watching the football match under the Kayin State Administration Council Chairman's Cup football tourney yesterday.

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Moreover, they have to avoid consumption of monosodium glutamate, liquor, cigarette and betel quad as much as possible. In the agriculture sector, Kayin State is of rice sufficiency. The state is seen with better efforts of growing groundnut, sesame, green gram and other crops on farmlands. It is necessary to increase the yield of paddy for local food sufficiency.

people's socio-economic life. The development of a country is based on the GDP of the State and foreign trade. Myanmar is included on the list of less developed countries due to higher budget deficiency. So, all need to consider how to develop the State economy while improving the socio-economic life of the region. With regard to generating electricity, Kayin State possesses

to Kayin State. Those objecting the project for various reasons should understand the benefits of the project. The sufficiency of electricity in Kayin State will help factories run for improvement of living standard of the local people.

The population of above five years old in Kayin State is illiterates, accounting for 20 per cent, according to the interim population in 2019. Agriculture and livestock institutes will be opened for local people to learn agriculture and livestock techniques. During the Covid-19 period, schools were closed for one year when students faced a delay of learning for one year, causing loss to students, parents and the State. Now, as Covid-19 declines its infection rate to some extent, arrangements are being made to teach the students. In this regard, unscrupulous persons disturb the education system and commit

The Tatmadaw is striving for strengthening the democracy based on federalism the State and the people aspire. So, the Tatmadaw will do appropriate ones.

destructive acts not to open the basic education. The Tatmadaw is striving for strengthening the democracy based on federalism the State and the people aspire. So, the Tatmadaw will do appropriate ones. The Senior General, wife and party paid homage to venerable Sayadaws in Hpa-an and supplicated religious affairs. They donated cash for nine prerequisites and offerings, rice and cooking oil donated by families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air).

The Senior General and party inspected the improvement of Zwekapin advanced stadium and instructed officials to build the stadiums meeting set standards for supporting the development of the state sports arena. After inspecting Aungthanhwin state stadium, the Senior General and party watched the football match in the Kayin State Administration Council Chairman's Trophy football tournament. They left instructions on the expansion of the stadium. — MNA

Agriculture and livestock institutes will be opened for local people to learn agriculture and livestock techniques.

cy. They all need to emphasize the breeding of poultry, cattle and fish. Quality value-added products can be exported to reduce import goods for the local

es water sources like renewable energy to meet the state's electricity demand. The Hatgyi hydropower plant to be built on Thanlwin River will contribute

Defending the State also means dutiful discharging of individually assigned tasks with loyalty to the State: Senior General



SERVING the State defence duty is not only the protection of the State and tasks to ensure peace and stability but also management for peace and stability based on the political ground. Moreover, defending the State means preventive measures against natural disasters, providing care to those facing the pandemic as much as possible, and dutiful discharging of individually assigned tasks with loyalty to the State, said State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with officers, other ranks and families of Hpa-an Station yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General said Tatmadaw has temporarily controlled the State duty for four months depending on situations of the country to ensure genuine and disciplined democracy and firm democracy. Although the Pro Tem President handed over legislative, executive and judicial powers of the State, the Tatmadaw abides by the 2008 Constitution approved by 92.48 per cent of the people. The Constitution of the State is different from that of other countries.

Myanmar is exercising a multiparty democratic system. The President of the State is not directly elected by the people but elected through Hluttaw representatives. So, the Hluttaw

Tatmadaw members who are born of the people are discharging duties in their assigned areas across the nation. Their families, along with them, live in the military units. So, officers, other ranks and families need to have a family spirit, brotherly spirit and sisterly spirit of giving helping hands to each other.

representatives must be those correctly chosen by the people. Although Tatmadaw urged them to hold the election to bring about genuine and fair results, they did not solve it. However, they attempted to grasp the State power forcibly. So, officers and other ranks need to understand the realities of the root cause of this situation.

Efforts are being made to restore perpetual peace for the whole nation the entire national people aspire. Myanmar is a Union where all the ethnic nations reside in unison. They have to enjoy equal term of rights. The Constitution clearly stipulates that all ethnic people shall have equal rights. Despite having equal rights in a democracy, they all have to strive to

achieve equal qualification in individuals. They all have to apply the education and knowledge they learned to develop their regions and the country.

As officers and other ranks join the Tatmadaw without persuasion from anyone, they have to be loyal to themselves, their units, Tatmadaw and the State. Training depots have given training to them to abide by the military disciplines. As the Tatmadaw members have to follow the civilian and military disciplines, they must maintain their good traditions of systematically doing things. All Tatmadaw members need to have skills in individual duties. Although every Tatmadaw member does not need to fight, they must take training to have

combat capability.

Tatmadaw members who are born of the people are discharging duties in their assigned areas across the nation. Their families, along with them, live in the military units. So, officers, other ranks and families need to have a family spirit, brotherly spirit and sisterly spirit of giving helping hands to each other. They all have to discharge the assigned duty with conscientiousness. The Senior General urged them to be always loyal to Tatmadaw and the State and serve their duties conscientiously, not for the derailment of the State.

Later, the Senior General cordially greeted officers and other ranks at the ceremony. —MNA

Serving the State defence duty is not only the protection of the State and tasks to ensure peace and stability but also management for peace and stability based on the political ground.

Hotels welcome back guests in Yangon

HOTELS in Yangon that were among the first to suspend operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic have welcomed travellers back.

Many small hotels in the Yangon hotel zone have reopened since domestic tourism has been boosted. Though there is not much profit from the hotel business at present, reopening at least will cover employees' salaries and maintain the electricity and utility cost of the hotel.

According to the Yangon

Hotelier Association chairman, prolonged closure makes them difficult maintain in the long run.

Due to the suspension of international travellers to Myanmar, foreign-invested hotels have not yet reopened.

Yangon, which has been hard-hit by the global pandemic, has 359 small hotels related to domestic tourism and about 20 foreign-direct-invested hotels that target international travellers. — Myint Maung/GNLM



Many small hotels in the Yangon hotel zone have reopened since domestic tourism has been boosted.

Bamauk residents start elephant-foot yams cultivation



Residents of Bamauk Township of the Sagaing Region start cultivating elephant-foot yams for commercial purposes to generate foreign income from the yams.

RESIDENTS of Bamauk Township of the Sagaing Region start cultivating elephant-foot yams for commercial purposes to generate foreign income from the yams.

Only some people grow the crops on their manageable scale, and there is no longer cultivation of commercial crops. Therefore, local people increase their yam cultivations. They buy

the seedlings at K15,000 per pyi from Minkin Township of Sagaing Region. We currently grow the yams as a trial operation, and we will expand the cultivation if we get the techniques from the experts, said yam farmer U Pyae.

Only a few people plant the perennial crops in Bamauk Township, and the natural lands are damaged due to gold-related mineral exploration. Therefore, the government supervises perennial crops growing processes and breeding farms in order to produce marketable products for local and foreign countries. Therefore, there are a massive number of yam farmers, and I want the government to control the gradual rise in commodity prices, he considered. — Ngwe Oh (Katha)/GNLM

About 76 complaints filed against YBS buses from Feb to May 2021

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) received about 76 complaints about Yangon Bus Service (YBS) from February to May 2021 and took action against those YBS buses, said an official from YRTA.

“From February to 25 May, we received a total of 76 complaints and took action against the buses. Most of the complaints were related to collecting the extra bus fares instead of letting passengers fare in the slot machines. We have also issued a letter for handling and preventing such acts. Now, we’ve called the meeting and already talked about that,” he added.

Regarding the complaints, YRTA banned the drivers for a week and imposed a fine of K 30,000. The meeting was called

on 26 May afternoon at which decision was made not to collect the extra bus fares and not to add the bus conductors. The meeting was attended by the officials from four private bus lines and 19 companies.

Besides, collecting the extra bus fares is not conducted by the companies but the owners. Thus, the YRTA will take severe action starting from 1 June.

The Yangon Bus Service was first launched on 16 January 2017. Before the pandemic outbreak, more than 100 bus lines were running 4,500 buses on 135 routes, along with the airport shuttle and the city transit. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million. — Zin Yaw Aye/GNLM

Summer and monsoon paddy, sesame achieve high yield in Magway region

A total of 958 acres of summer paddy and 714 acres of summer sesame planted this summer in Sedoktara township, Magway Region, have achieved high yield.

With assistance from the Township Agriculture Department, which conducted fieldwork for farmers in order to get good seeds and cultivate them in the GAP system, the summer paddy and summer sesame are thriving in the region.

According to an official from the Township Agriculture Department, a total of 5,401 monsoon paddy and 12,023 acres of monsoon sesame will be grown in the coming rainy season. — Township (IPRD)/GNLM



According to an official from the Township Agriculture Department, a total of 5,401 monsoon paddy and 12,023 acres of monsoon sesame will be grown in the coming rainy season.

Announcement of Union Election Commission

31 May 2021



1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Lashio, Langkho, Laikha, Hopan, Namhkam, Laukkai and Mongyawng townships in Shan State.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 479,039 eligible voters in these seven townships in Sagaing Region. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population list in November 2020 showed 388,745 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned 95,272 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, with 2,568 persons being repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 33,892 persons 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 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	Lashio	145	220,399	138,965	52,931	1,103	14,902
2	Langkho	39	26,453	40,614	1,530	51	1,564
3	Laikha	36	39,684	29,364	9,415	66	1,790
4	Hopan	43	22,617	22,381	4,626	178	1,962
5	Namhkam	115	86,634	81,051	10,322	960	10,554
6	Laukkai	29	56,061	30,290	16,236	210	3,058
7	Mongyawng	68	27,191	46,080	212		62
	Total	475	479,039	388,745	95,272	2,568	33,892

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Lashio, Langkho, Laikha, Hopan, Namhkam, Laukkai and Mongyawng townships in Shan State together with the respective township election sub-commissions, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 475 polling stations in these seven townships took out 521,483 ballots and used 272,526 ballots. It left 231,377 ballots instead of 248,957 ballots. The difference was 29,714 ballots, and it found 12,134 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	Lashio	145	230,950	118,130	112,820	104,720	18,791	10,691
2	Langkho	39	29,686	22,185	7,501	7,501		
3	Laikha	36	45,167	18,798	26,369	25,931	507	69
4	Hopan	43	24,400	13,404	10,996	10,287	1,091	382
5	Namhkam	115	97,350	60,680	36,670	29,886	7,651	867
6	Laukkai	29	61,226	17,938	43,288	42,993	295	
7	Mongyawng	68	32,704	21,391	11,313	10,059	1,379	125
	Total	475	521,483	272,526	248,957	231,377	29,714	12,134

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships in Shan State, the numbers of eligible voters are more 90,294 than the 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 Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
7. There are 95,272 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.” However, 2,568 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 33,892 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Shan State.
8. It was found that a total of 10,691 unused ballot papers were kept separately in the township election sub-commission in Lashio Township as the used ballot papers, which were on the hands of the polling station chiefs and village/ward election-sub commissions for various reasons, were returned on 20 November 2020 after the election.
9. In Langkho Township, when inspecting the 61 advance ballot papers sent to the eligible voters outside of the constituency abroad with the permission of the government, voter name, ballot paper number, polling station number, ward/village name were not filled in the receipts.
10. Although 365 voters cast the ballots in the polling station number (2), Tonhone (Kachin) village tract, in Namhkam Township, it was found that the signature and the fingerprint of the voter were not included in the voter list Form (1).
11. It was found that polling station bags returned from the polling station number (1) of Ward (14), polling station number (2) of Kaungkat village-tract and the polling station (1) of Manpan (Lwai) village-tract in Namhkam Township, voter list Form (1) books, receipt of the Pyithu Hluttaw ballot paper receipt and the remaining ballot papers were not included.
12. Findings from these seven townships in Shan State are as follow:
- (a) There were 283,724 voters, and they used 272,526 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 11,198 less than the numbers of voters.
- (b) A total of 29,714 ballots papers were missing.
- (c) A total of 12,134 ballots papers were found extra in some polling stations.
- (d) Without abiding by the Hluttaw Election Rules 66 (h), ballot paper receipts and remaining ballot papers were returned to the township election sub-commission only after the election.
- (e) Voters were allowed to vote without the permanent signature and the fingerprint of the voter in the voter list Form (1).
- (f) Voters were also allowed to vote without registering their names, ballot paper number, polling station number, ward/village name, signature or fingerprint in receipt

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ballot papers.

(g) Some ward/village election sub-commissions failed to return the receipt ballot papers and extra ballot papers in accordance with the law and found ballot loss.

(h) Voters without national ID card were included in the voter list, and they were allowed to vote with just the voter only with the voter ID cards.

(i) Illegal voting was conducted in advance voting.

(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.

13. It found voting frauds in Lashio, Langkho, Laikha, Hopan, Namhkam, Laukkai and Mongyawng townships in Shan State. 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

Myanmar trade value tops \$1,200 mln for October-March this FY

MYANMAR average export value for March 2020-2021 financial year reached US\$565.33 million, and border export value touched \$637.84 million, with total export value coming at \$1,203.17 million as a result.

Meanwhile, the normal import value for the same period registered at \$963.86 million, and border import is pegged at \$159.10 million, reaching a total of \$1,122.96 million.

As a result, Myanmar total trade value for March 2020-2021FY hit \$2,326.13 million, creating a trade surplus of \$80.21 million.

From October to March of the current 2020-2021FY, Myanmar's normal export value generated \$3,995.57 million and border export reached \$3,828.69 million, totalling \$7,824.26 million.

The average import value for the same period reached \$6,292.21 million, and border import registered at \$1,492.93 million, bringing the total to \$7,785.14 million.

Consequently, Myanmar's total trade value for the first and second quarter of the 2020-2021FY is pegged at \$15,609.40 million, generating a trade surplus of \$39.12 million, according to the monthly trade report of the Central Statistical Organization. – MNA

Fish species added into Ayeyawady river in Bhamo

THE Department of Fisheries added fish species into the Ayeyawady river in Bhamo District of Kachin State in order to protect fishery resources, promote fish species, fisheries and fish consumption rate yesterday.

Bhamo District Administration Body Chairman U Khin Maung Lwin and other departmental officials freed 180,000 Labeo Rohita and 100,000 Barbus fish with each measuring 2 inches into the river.

U Mya Thein, head of the department, said that Bhamo District Fisheries Department adds fish species into the Ayeyawady river yearly, and they free only 2-inch fish to raise fish population this year. – District (IPRD)/GNLM



10,000-unit public rental housing project being implemented

FOR the convenience of the people, the 10,000-unit public rental housing project is being carried out in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay regions. So far, about 5,008 units have been undertaken on initial stages, according to the Urban and Housing Development Department.

According to the Ministry of Construction, a total of 41,369 units were constructed in 2019 under the sale and rental housing projects, which is a record high construction within the past nine years.

In 2019, a total of 41,369 units were constructed, including 26,969 units of the sale housing project and 14,400 units of the rental housing project.

At present, 55,600 units of sale and rental housing, including 10,000 units of public housing projects, have already been constructed since 2011.

The Ministry of Construction has targeted to construct about 1 million units of housing projects in over 330 townships by 2030.

With the growing population in Myanmar, it needs to construct approximately over 30,000 units of housing annually.

However, only 20 per cent of demand has been met because of the people's desire to invest in land and financial resources.

The department constructed 812 rental housing units in the 2018-2019 financial year in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon regions, which have the high-

est demand for housing. It expended K15 billion from the Union Fund. Besides, about 120-unit housing projects were implemented in Nay Pyi Taw in the 2019-2020FY.

The Urban and Housing Development Department of the Ministry of Construction constructed a total of 8,416 units under the low-cost housing projects for retired government servants and the low-income public in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw regions in the 2017-2019FY.

The department is also arranging for them to buy the housing units under a long-term installation payment system with a low-interest rate. — ACM/GNLM

Public ethics, undeniable advice to tame souls of the people

NETI in Pali means the guide called the ethic to the people as the best way to live in the world. It is a treatise purporting to guide the people in the affairs of the world. In fact, the public ethic was compiled with extracts from Buddhist literature. Originally, the first-ever public ethic was compiled by Minister Çaturangabala of King Thihathu in Myanmar history.

In successive eras, various kinds of public ethics compiled by Myanmar scholars as well as venerable Buddhist monks gave

If so, not only persons but also any workplaces or businesses giving better services than others in line with the advice of the ethics are sure to win over the opponents.

That is why everybody needs to rest assured exercising the expressions of public ethics and can apply its quotes in their work procedures and urge their staff to exercise these ethics for taming their souls so as to provide smooth services with politeness to the customers.

If so, not only persons but also any workplaces or businesses giving better services than others in line with the advice of the ethics are sure to win over the opponents.



advice to the people on how to control their minds, how to live in the world without committing the crime, how to seek ways and means for achieving prosperity, how to overcome challenges of life, how to associate with others, how to do anything without harming anyone and so on. Hence, the students were taught quotes from the ethics in successive eras as part of training them to understand and abide by the advice of ethics.

Nonetheless, these varieties of public ethics are still useful today. These ethics are always right because the scholars comprehensively conducted research and surveys on the ethics before compilation.

It is sure that those who exercise even one of these public ethics will not face the loss of interests in their lives. All contents involved in the public ethics were compiled with extracts from Jataka stories of Buddhism and realities in the social affairs in which the characters in the plots actually solved the problems and overcame the challenges as examples for the people in their lives. Moreover, some provisions in public ethics were based on the significant points of histories and nature.

That is why everybody needs to rest assured exercising the expressions of public ethics and can apply its quotes in their work procedures and urge their staff to exercise these ethics for taming their souls so as to provide smooth services with politeness to the customers.

COVID-19: Sustain and scale up the response to control spread, save lives and minimize impact

By Poonam Khetrapal Singh, World Health Organization's regional director

THE World Health Organization South-East Asia Region has in recent months witnessed a sharp and sustained surge of SARS-CoV2 infection. For consecutive weeks in April and May, the region has reported more than 2 million new cases, with some areas reporting test positivity rates of upward of 40 per cent.

Variants of concern and their sub-lineages have been detected in several member states and may be associated with increased rates of transmission. Both the region and world are at a critical moment in the battle against COVID-19. No country is safe. We are all at risk.

Populations are exhausted. For almost 18 months they have done everything they can to protect themselves and their loved ones. And yet we are still very much in the acute phase of this pandemic. Vaccine euphoria and the complacency it can bring are real dangers, especially as some

countries globally return to normal. In all countries of the Region, we must continue to sustain and scale up the response, and see this challenge through.

How must the region forge ahead?

First, by aggressively applying the public health and social measures that are proven to be effective, and which are our best defense against new variants.

Physical distancing works. Mask use works. Hand hygiene works. Ventilation, testing, contact tracing, and isolation – they all work to control spread, save lives and minimize impact. We must continue to act on the 3Ws – wear a mask, wash hands and watch distance. And we must continue to avoid the 3Cs – crowded places, close-contact settings, and confined and enclosed spaces.

Second, monitoring and expanding health system capacity to ensure it can meet population needs, whatever the caseload. In the event of a surge in cases, step-

wise plans must be activated to enhance space, staff and supplies – including oxygen and beds – and to heighten coordination between and among facilities. Essential health services must continue to be maintained to ensure that all people can access the services they require to stay healthy and well – one of the region's key points of focus throughout the pandemic response.

Third, vaccinating priority groups, as defined in national deployment and vaccination plans. Amid ongoing supply challenges, countries should optimize the use of available doses to expand protection among priority groups and maximize public health benefits. Political and public support for vaccination must continue to be promoted, while acknowledging that vaccination alone will not end the pandemic.

It is imperative that countries with a surplus of doses share them with the COVAX Facility, which aims to deliver 2 billion

doses to participating low- and middle-income countries globally by the end of 2021.

We must all do our part. False rumors and misinformation can increase risk-taking behaviours, facilitate disease transmission, and intensify or lengthen an outbreak. They can cause confusion and erode social trust, which is among the most important elements of any outbreak response.

Before sharing information, consider its source, and whether the information is verified and reliable. Be an ambassador of high-quality information, which can be accessed online via WHO's website and social media accounts, and those of national and local authorities.

No person or community can be left behind. Across the world, COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted key demographics, who for a range of social and economic reasons, may be more susceptible to transmission, or may struggle to access health care. This

is not only inequitable, but also inefficient. In all countries of the region, equity must continue to be a core feature of COVID-19 decision-making, whether on access to testing and treatment, or the provision of social and economic protection.

We must go hard and go all out. Since the beginning of the pandemic, WHO has provided member states in the region critical guidance and support, which has in recent months included thousands of oxygen concentrators, millions of respirator masks, and a series of auxiliary health facilities. Thousands of staff have been repurposed in support of national response efforts.

Countries in the region continue to reap life-saving benefits from the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, which is the fastest, most coordinated, and successful global collaboration in history to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treat-



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

ments, and vaccines.

It is only through solidarity, and by sustaining region-wide resolve, that we can drive infection down, prepare for and prevent new waves, and bring evidence-based treatments and technologies to all who need them.

Lives and livelihoods are at stake. We must all stay the course.



Why scientists are concerned about leaks at biolabs

The theory that Covid-19 might be the result of scientific experiments has thrown a spotlight on the work of the world's most secure biolabs.

WHILE the evidence linking SARS-CoV-2 to the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China is strictly circumstantial, a number of experts want tougher controls on such facilities over fears that accidental leaks could touch off the next pandemic.

Here's what you should know.

59 top facilities

The Wuhan lab belongs to the most secure class, commonly referred to as biosafety level 4, or BSL4.

These are built to work safely and securely with the most dangerous bacteria and viruses that can cause serious diseases for which there are no known treatment or vaccines.

"There are HVAC filtration systems, so that the virus can't escape through exhaust; any waste water that leaves the facility is treated with either chemicals or high temperatures to



A sign asks members of the public to adhere to current social distancing guidelines as a Covid-19 variant of concern is affecting the community in Bolton, northwest England, on May 28, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

make sure that there's nothing alive," Gregory Koblentz, director of the Biodefense Graduate Program at George Mason University, told AFP.

The researchers themselves are highly trained and wear hazmat suits.

There are 59 such facilities across the world, according to a

report Koblentz co-authored that was released this week.

"There are no binding international standards for safe, secure, and responsible work on pathogens," the report, called Mapping Maximum Biological Containment Labs Globally, said.

Accidents do happen

Accidents can happen, some-

times at the top tier facilities, and much more frequently at lower rung labs of which there are thousands.

Human H1N1 virus -- the same flu that caused the 1918 pandemic -- leaked in 1977 in the Soviet Union and China and spread worldwide.

In 2001, a mentally disturbed employee at a US biolab mailed out anthrax spores across the country, killing five people.

Two Chinese researchers exposed to SARS in 2004 spread the disease to others, killing one. In 2014, a handful of smallpox vials were uncovered during an Food and Drug Administration office move.

Lynn Klotz, a senior science fellow at the Centre for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, has been sounding the alarm for many years about the public safety threats posed by such facilities.

"Human errors constitute over 70 percent of the errors in

laboratories," he told AFP, adding that US researchers have to rely on data from Freedom of Information requests to learn of these incidents.

'Gain of function' controversy

There is disagreement between the US government, which funded bat coronavirus research in Wuhan, and some independent scientists, about whether this work was controversial "gain of function" (GOF) research.

GOF research entails modifying pathogens to make them more transmissible, deadlier, or better able to evade treatment and vaccines -- all to learn how to fight them better.

This field has long been contentious. Debate reached a fever pitch when two research teams in 2011 showed they could make bird flu transmissible between mammals.

Harvard epidemiologist Marc Lipsitch told AFP he was

concerned "that it would create a strain of virus that if it infected a laboratory worker could not just kill that laboratory worker... but also cause a pandemic."

"The research is not required and does not contribute to the development of drugs or vaccines," added molecular biologist Richard Ebright of Rutgers University, one of the staunchest opponents of this kind of research.

In 2014 the US government announced a pause in federal funding for such work, which gave way in 2017 to a framework that would consider each application on a case-by-case basis.

But the process has been criticized as lacking transparency and credibility.

As late as last year, a non-profit received funding from the US on research to "predict spillover potential" of bat coronavirus to humans in Wuhan.

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 Monday 31 May 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1 June 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Shan, Kayin, Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay regions and Kachin, Kayah states and scattered in the remaining regions and states. 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 1 June 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 June 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 June 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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.

Mine attack outside school leaves one man injured in Okpo



A man was wounded while planting a homemade mine in front of the basic education high school in Okpo Township,

Bago Region on 30 May. The mine reportedly exploded while he was on the motorbike in front of the school,

leaving him injured at lower part of waist. Security forces found and transported him to the township public hospital for medical treatment. According to his confession, the former Pyithu Hluttaw Representative and his son-in-law instructed him to plant the mine in front of the school for 100,000 kyats. During the search to their house, 9 NLD flags and 9 NLD shirts were confiscated, although ex-MP and his son were not found. Efforts are made to arrest them and take effective actions against them according to the law. — MNA

Illegal weapons confiscated in Kalay, Sagaing Region

ACCORDING to the report, security forces searched the house of Hlaing Tun, who lives in Thazi village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region. They arrested him with 49 iron pipes used in making homemade guns. While investigating, security forces were attacked from the west of the house with small

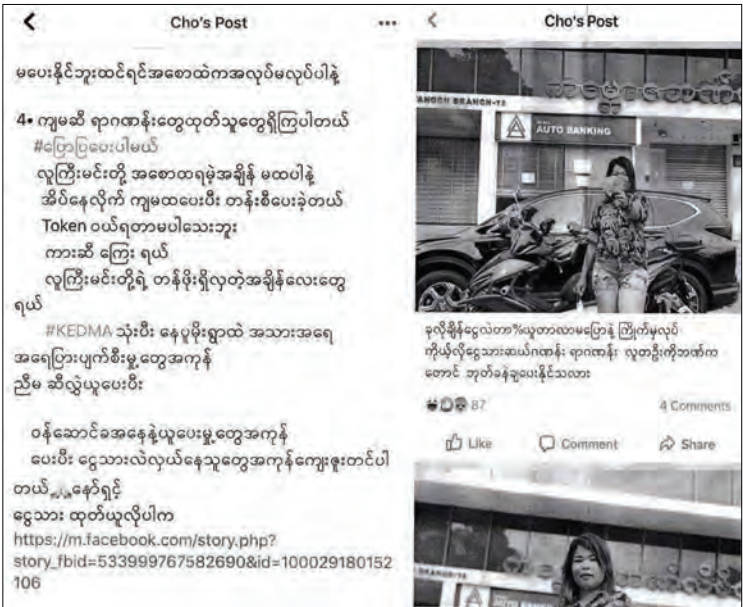
arms and retreated when they were retaliated. One MA-13 gun, one magazine, 28 bullets and a phone was seized from there. The security forces searched primary assistant teacher Myat Myat Khine's house next to Hlaing Tun's house. Although she was not found but nine bullets and 1.3

million kyats, which were transferred from abroad in order to provide those who join CDM and terrorists, three envelopes on which "Democracy Friends" was written, and anti-State slogans were confiscated. Those who are arrested together with illegal weapons will be taken effective actions according to the law. — MNA

Woman arrested for operating door-to-door illegal money remittance/ withdrawal service

AUTHORITIES take action against those doing door-to-door services of illegal money remittance/withdrawal in some townships of Yangon. Such services violate the Financial Institution Law and existing laws. Officials examined Ma Cho Cho Hlaing, who lives in North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region, on 20 May. She operated online shopping and conducted door-to-door cash withdrawal services with service charges by taking chances

upon those who wait in a queue for ATM cash withdrawal. She offered 4, 5 and 8 per cent for K100,000. She posted such services on her Facebook account named Cho Cho Hlaing (Shilly Shally) with phone number 09 705555610, and KPay at 09 778576160 and Mobile Banking through 09 421108059. A file was opened against suspect Cho Cho Hlaing, and officials will investigate those who operate illegal cash transfer/withdrawal, according to Myanmar Police Force. — MNA



Shiitake mushroom cultivation benefits Phaungpyin residents

ACCORDING to mushroom farmer U Tun Lwin Oo from Yin Mar Hlaing Ward, straw mushroom cultivation increases locals' incomes in Phaungpyin Township of the Sagaing Region.

The people themselves grow mushrooms and sell them at K500 per bundle. The price of mushroom is between K4,500 and K5,000 per viss. Moreover, three frames with 8 feet in length and 3 feet in width produce between four visses and six visses a day, and so mushroom farmers can get about K20,000 per day, he said.

"We can grow mushrooms

on about 20 feet by 20 feet land. The cost is low, and it can make profits easily, so it is the most appropriate crop to grow to cover the family expenses. We can plug mushrooms within 12 days, and that's why we can earn much with low production costs just in a short while," he added.

It can cost about K7,000 to grow mushrooms in an eight-foot and three-foot frame. The used materials in planting mushrooms can be recycled as fertilizers for other crops. The tropical and humid climate is the best one for growing mushrooms. — Ko Htun (Phaungpyin)/GNLM



The people themselves grow mushrooms and sell them at K500 per bundle. The price of mushroom is between K4,500 and K5,000 per viss.

CBM sells US\$24 mln in May at auction rate



The CBM sold \$6 million each on 12 and 13 May and \$3 million each on 17, 18, 20 and 28 May, respectively.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) reportedly sold US\$24 million at an auction rate in May, the CBM data showed.

The CBM's move aims at governing the market volatility, the CBM stated.

The CBM sold \$6 million each on 12 and 13 May and \$3 million each on 17, 18, 20 and 28 May, respectively.

The bullish hard currency gained in the local forex market, reaching the peak of K1,730 on 12 May from K1,330 in January-end. In a bid to control the sharp daily gains of the US dollar, the CBM reportedly sold about 6.8 million dollars on 3 February 2021, 6 million dollars each on 22 and 27 April and \$24 million in May in the auction market. Consequently, the exchange rate dipped to K1,580 in May-end.

The CBM trades the foreign currency with the authorized private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar ex-

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

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

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

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

Agro exports up 33 per cent this FY

THE agricultural exports spike 33.36 per cent to a high of US\$3.46 billion in the past seven and half months of the current financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups amid the banking restriction and the tightened coronavirus containment measures in the border.

The figures reflect a significant rise of \$866.066 million this FY. According to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce, agro exports topped \$2.59 billion in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020FY.

The agricultural exports unexpectedly surge regardless of the impact of the coronavirus on foreign demand for

other export groups such as fishery, livestock, mineral, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for over 22 per cent of overall exports. The top export items in the agricultural industry are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export mar-

ket remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product. They are currently exported to external markets based on supply and demand. Contract farming systems, regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups are required to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

The Commerce Ministry works to help farmers deal with challenges -- high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and unpredictable weather conditions. — KK/GNLM

Hteekhee border trade falls by \$454.9 mln as of mid-May

BILATERAL trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Hteekhee border over the past seven and half months reflected a decrease of \$454.9 million against a year-ago period.

Between 1 October and 14 May in the current financial year 2020-2021, the figures sharply fell to US\$911.4 million from \$1.36 million registered in the previous financial year, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

The surge in coronavirus cases in Myanmar led Thailand

to limit truck drivers' working hours at the border posts. Consequently, the trade via land border between Myanmar and Thailand sharply fell in the current FY.

The Ministry of Commerce stated that natural gas exports from the Taninthayi Region have contributed to an enormous increase in trade through the Hteekhee border during the previous years.

The border trade between Myanmar and Thailand through the border areas — Myeik, Kawthoung, Mawtaung, Hteekhee

and Meisei posts declined as of 14 May. In contrast, trade via Tachilek and Myawady posts rose due to corn exports.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corns and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — KK/GNLM



(FILES) This file photo taken on 4 April 2016, shows Assyrian artefacts originally from Mosul, displayed at Iraq's National Museum in the capital Baghdad, established by British archaeologist, writer, diplomat and spy Gertrude Bell. **PHOTO: AFP**

Searching for Gertrude Bell, colonial 'mother' of modern Iraq

FOR someone credited with being an architect of the nation, the grave of British archaeologist, writer, diplomat and spy Gertrude Bell in the Iraqi capital Baghdad is hard to find.

Down an alley in the heart of the capital, through a heavy locked gate into the Protestant cemetery, and then amid a confusing maze of gravestones, caretaker Ali Mansour leads the way.

"Miss Bell", as the Iraqis call her, played a key role in forging modern Iraq a century ago.

She helped redraw the map

of the Middle East as the Ottoman Empire was crumbling after defeat in World War I, based on intelligence she gathered during extensive travels with Bedouin tribes.

The controversial role Britain and its rival France played in dividing the region by creating new borders and nations reverberates in conflicts and politics today.

But the role Bell played in the formation of the nation — especially remarkable back then as a woman in a very male-dominated world — is largely unknown

by most Iraqis.

Scattered artificial flowers lie on her simple yellow-stone tomb.

"Those who do come leave real ones, but I take them off quickly because they wilt in heat," said Mansour, the 77-year-old caretaker, who inherited his job from his stepfather, who got it from the British more than 60 years ago.

Bell's role was key in expanding Iraq to include the vast northern regions of Kurdistan and Mosul, including valuable oil fields. — AFP ■

Over 30% of people in Japan see rise in secondhand smoke amid virus

OVER 30 per cent of people in Japan who live with smokers said they have been exposed to more secondhand smoke since the start of the novel coronavirus pandemic due to the rise of teleworking, the National Cancer Centre Japan said Monday in releasing the results of a survey.

Among 1,000 smokers and the same number of nonsmokers surveyed in March, 33.7 per cent of 258 nonsmoking respondents who live with smokers saw an increase in secondhand smoke exposure, the center said.

Kimiyasu Hirano, a researcher at the centre, said the fact that people are spending more time at home raises "concerns about adverse health effects" for passive smokers, who are at risk of disease, disability and death.

Meanwhile, 25.3% of the smokers surveyed said they wanted to quit to reduce the likelihood of developing severe symptoms of COVID-19. According to the World Health Organization, smokers are more at risk of severe

COVID than nonsmokers.

Eighteen per cent of the smokers said they smoked more since the start of the pandemic early last year, whereas 11.4 per cent smoked less. It also found that 49.4 per cent cited stress for the increase in their nicotine habit.

"Many of those currently still smoking are likely to find it difficult to quit," Hirano said.

The survey also asked respondents what they thought of the temporary closure of public smoking areas in parks and stations due to concerns over people smoking while taking off their face masks.

A total of 59.4% of all respondents agreed that the virus is more likely to spread in indoor and outdoor smoking areas, while 58.3 per cent backed the temporary closure of the smoking spots.

All of the 1,000 smokers surveyed responded, while of the 1,000 nonsmokers, 818 gave valid responses. Of the 818 nonsmokers, 560 said they do not live with smokers. — Kyodo News ■

France opens Covid jabs for all adults in race against variants

FRANCE on Monday opened up Covid-19 vaccines to all adults, a week before Germany, as Europe races to avoid another wave of infections caused by new virus variants. Until now, French authorities gave priority to people over 50, people in "priority professions" or younger adults with underlying health problems. So far, 25.4 million people have received a first shot of a vaccine, representing about 38 per cent of the population and nearly one in two adults.

Nearly 12 million have received the two shots required for full protection.

As the French savour a degree of freedom following the reopening of cafes, restaurants and museums two weeks ago, initially high levels of vaccine scepticism have begun to sub-

side. A Cevipof poll conducted in early May showed that 65 per cent of adults planned to get vaccinated, up from 48 per cent in February.

"I am fully convinced that we are going to see a lot of people getting vaccinated," Professor Alain Fischer, the immunologist who heads the government's vaccination advisory board, said Monday, adding that immunisation was the key to "getting back an increasingly normal life."

With 28 million adults eligible for a first shot, but only around half a million appointments available each day, many people have opted to travel outside their neighbourhood or even their region to secure highly coveted Pfizer or Moderna shots. — AFP ■

China limits travel in most populous province over Covid-19 cases

CHINESE authorities imposed fresh travel limits, cancelled flights and tested thousands of residents in Guangdong Monday after the Indian variant of the coronavirus was reported in the country's most populous province.

Travellers leaving Guangzhou — the capital of the southern province home to 100 million people — must show negative Covid-19 test results from the past 72 hours, starting from 10:00 pm on Monday, the city said in an announcement late Sunday.

Guangzhou, an industrial hub of nearly 15 million people north of Hong Kong, reported 18 new local cases of the coronavirus on Monday, causing alarm in a country that has largely brought domestic transmission



This photo taken on 30 May 2021 shows a woman (R) receiving a nucleic acid test for the Covid-19 coronavirus in Guangzhou in China's southern Guangdong province. **PHOTO: AFP**

under control.

Guangzhou authorities have ordered residents of entire districts to be tested for the virus, while the nearby cities of Fos-

han and Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, have also launched mass testing after local cases were detected in the past week. — AFP ■

Asian markets mixed as traders await fresh catalysts

ASIAN investors on Monday struggled to build on last week's gains as profit-takers stepped in while awaiting the next buying catalyst, with eyes on the upcoming release of key US jobs data.

Still, despite worries that the expected surge in economic activity this year will send prices soaring and force central banks to tighten monetary policy, a forecast-beating jump in a closely watched US inflation gauge was taken in stride.

The calm reaction marked a change from recent times, with benchmark 10-year Treasury yields, a key gauge of future interest rates, inching down slightly. "There is likely more upside to go on the inflation scare front in the months ahead as base effects, the lagged impact of commodity price hikes and bottlenecks continue to feed through, but there are now a few more signs that it will be transitory," AMP Capital's Shane Oliver said.

All three main US indexes ended Friday with small gains, though Asia fluctuated.

Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore and Manila dipped but there were gains in Seoul, Taipei, Jakarta and Wellington.

There was little reaction to figures indicating growth in China's factor activity slowed slightly in May.

Focus is now on the release of US jobs figures this week, which will provide a fresh update on the state of the world's top economy as it emerges from last year's pandemic-induced collapse. — AFP ■

Focus is now on the release of US jobs figures this week, which will provide a fresh update on the state of the world's top economy as it emerges from last year's pandemic-induced collapse. — AFP ■

OECD raises 2021 global growth outlook while cutting Japan forecast

THE Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on Monday upgraded its forecast for global economic growth this year but cut its projection for Japan, citing a resurgence of coronavirus infections and its slow vaccine rollout.

The world's gross domestic product is projected to grow 5.8 per cent in 2021, up from 5.6 per cent previously forecast in March, with progress in vaccinations and governments' fiscal spending expected to underpin the economic recovery, the Paris-based club of 38 mostly wealthy nations said in its latest economic outlook.

"In the advanced economies, the progressive rollout of an effective vaccine has begun to allow more contact-intensive activities -- held back by measures to contain infections -- to reopen gradually," the outlook report said. Additional fiscal stimulus this year is also helping to boost demand in these economies, it said, but warned growth in many emerging economies is likely to be held down for some time due to slow vaccination rollouts, infection outbreaks and steps to contain them.

Meanwhile, the projection for Japan's growth was downgraded to 2.6 per cent from the previous estimate of 2.7 per cent, as the reintroduction of containment measures early this year has dented near-term prospects, the OECD said.

Japan's latest emergency steps introduced in April, which include ordering restaurants to shorten their opening hours and stop serving alcohol beverages, "appear to have been insufficient to stop the spread of new variants," it said. It also pointed to slow progress in Japan's vaccination campaign compared with other OECD nations.

"Success in reducing transmission and progress in vaccination may allow a stronger recovery, whereas continued infections would hold back any recovery and may disrupt the Olympic and Paralympic games (in Tokyo this summer), causing further damage to the economy," it warned. — Kyodo News ■

Japan's Airdo to set up holding firm with Solaseed Air to cut costs

JAPANESE regional airlines Airdo Co and Solaseed Air Inc. said Monday they will set up a holding company in October 2022 to reduce costs through joint aircraft maintenance and procurement of supplies.

As part of efforts to improve their financial standing, hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, Airdo and Solaseed also said they will raise 7 billion yen (\$64 million) and 2.5 billion yen, respectively, in fresh capital, by issuing preferred shares to the state-backed Development Bank of Japan and regional banks.

Airdo, headquartered in Sapporo in the country's northernmost major island of Hokkaido, and Solaseed Air, based in Miyazaki in the southwestern region of Kyushu, will maintain their company names even after the establishment of the holding company.

The two regional airlines have accepted capital injections from the DBJ and ANA Holdings Inc. while expanding their businesses through code-sharing flights with the major Japanese carrier. — Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 31 May 2021, shows an Airdo Co. plane at Haneda airport in Tokyo. The medium-sized airline based in the northern Japan city of Sapporo will tie up with Solaseed Air Inc., another medium-sized airline based in Miyazaki, southwestern Japan, in aircraft maintenance and equipment procurement. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (059W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (059W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY. NO. (211N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY. NO. (211N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to Marlarmyaing Public Co Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and No
1.	Raintap 50 SP	Cartap 50% SP	Full / F2020 – 2528
2.	Riceup 300 EC	Pretilachlor 300 g/l EC	Full / F2020 – 2484
3.	Carwin 85 WP	Carbaryl 85% WP	Provisional / 2016 – 3122

RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD
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World leaders call for action, inclusion at Seoul climate summit

WORLD leaders on Sunday called for more action and inclusion of all countries in the global drive towards a cleaner and greener planet at a climate summit hosted virtually by South Korea.

Climate change is a major threat to global growth, with perils ranging from declines in crop yields, extreme weather that devastates tourist economies, disease outbreaks and other catastrophes that would sap productivity.

South Korea — which recently announced plans to cut finance for international coal projects — is seeking a bigger role in the global initiative to go green.

“South Korea will play a responsible role as a bridging nation between developing and advanced nations,” said President Moon Jae-in as he opened the 2021 Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030, or P4G, summit.



This handout photo taken on 30 May 2021 and released by the presidential Blue House shows South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2021 Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030, or P4G, summit in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP**

The two-day summit is the second of its kind following the inaugural meeting held in Copenhagen in 2018, and is focused on public-private partnerships, especially in developing countries.

Advanced nations have laid out ambitious emissions-cutting goals in recent months, as well as plans to ultimately go carbon neutral by 2050.

German Chancellor Angela

Merkel called on the countries to phase out their dependence on fossil fuels, warning climate change is threatening people's lives and the economy as much as the Covid-19 pandemic. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palau records first coronavirus case but says no infection risk

THE remote Pacific nation of Palau reported its first confirmed coronavirus case Monday, but authorities said it was historical and posed no transmission risk. The tiny island state of 21,000 has so far managed to avoid Covid-19 after closing its borders early in the pandemic, despite the huge cost to its tourism-reliant economy.

The health ministry said a traveller who arrived in Palau earlier this month was found to have the virus, even though they tested negative once before departing for the island and twice during a two-week quarantine.

“Further tests revealed that this is a historical -- past infection -- case of Covid-19, and it is not infectious,” it said in a statement.

The ministry estimated the person contracted the virus in January this year.

Authorities refused to release any details about the patient or the country they travelled from, citing privacy concerns. — AFP ■

China allows couples to have three children: state media

CHINA has relaxed its family planning policy to allow couples to have a maximum of three children after a census showed its population is rapidly ageing, state media Xinhua reported Monday.

For almost 40 years, China enforced a controversial “one-child policy” — one of the strictest family planning regulations worldwide — which was lifted in 2016 due to widespread concerns over an ageing workforce and economic stagnation.

“To actively respond to the ageing of the population ... a couple can have three children,” Xinhua said, citing a Monday meeting of China's elite Politburo leadership committee hosted by President Xi Jinping.

Despite government efforts to encourage childbirths, China's annual births have continued to plummet to a record low of 12 million in 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics said last month.

China's fertility rate stands at 1.3 — below the level needed to maintain a stable population, the bureau revealed. — AFP ■

French police in massive manhunt for rifle-toting ex-soldier

A massive manhunt for a former soldier who allegedly fired a hunting rifle at officers responding to a domestic violence dispute overnight in southwest France may last “many more hours”, gendarmes said late Sunday.

Elite tactical units and around 300 gendarmes backed up by seven armoured vehicles, seven helicopters and sniffer dogs are searching a forested area of the Dordogne region for the 29-year-old.

“Combing the area will be long and painstaking... It could take many more hours yet,” said Dordogne prefect Frederic Perissat.

The suspect is hiding out in a craggy, heavily wooded area of about four square kilometres (1.5 square miles).

Andre Petillot, commander of the regional police force, said he “knows the area well and adapts easily”.

Perissat said “contact had been established (with the gunman) several times... but was followed by gunfire. Each time there was contact with him, he's opened fire.”

Petillot added: “We are doing everything we can to get him to surrender but we also want to avoid a tragedy within our ranks.” — AFP ■



Members of the Raid, special unit of the French police get ready to intervene in Emerainville, outskirts Paris, on 30 May, 2021, during operations to arrest a man who holed up in his home in Emerainville as he is suspected of killing a woman and wounding his neighbour. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ryanair passenger jet makes emergency landing in Berlin

A Ryanair passenger plane made an emergency landing in Berlin before resuming its journey to Poland, German police said late Sunday without releasing further details.

The flight from Dublin to Krakow made the unexpected diversion after a reported bomb threat, German newspaper Bild Zeitung said.

With 160 people on board, the flight arrived at the Berlin-Brandenburg airport shortly after 8 pm (1800 GMT) Sunday, remaining on the tarmac into early Monday morning.

A Berlin police spokesperson said that officers had completed their security checks “without any danger being detected”.

“The passengers will resume their journey to Poland on board a spare aeroplane,” she told AFP, without giving more precise details for the alert.

The flight was emptied with the baggage also searched, German media reported.

“The Ryanair plane that made an emergency landed reported an air emergency and was therefore immediately given a landing permit at BER,” airport spokesman Jan-Peter Haack told Bild.

“The aircraft is currently in a safe position,” a spokeswoman for the police told the newspaper.

The incident comes a week after a Ryanair flight was forced to divert to Belarus, with a passenger — a dissident journalist — arrested on arrival.

And in July last year, another Ryanair plane from Dublin to Krakow was forced to make an emergency landing in London after a false bomb threat. — AFP ■

China cargo craft docks with space station module

A Chinese cargo space-craft carrying equipment and supplies successfully docked with the core module of the country’s future space station on Sunday, state media said. A Long March 7 rocket carrying the Tianzhou-2 cargo craft — loaded with essentials such as food, equipment and fuel — blasted off

late Saturday from the Wenchang launch site on the tropical southern island of Hainan, the Xinhua news agency reported. The docking with the space station’s Tianhe core module was completed at 5:01 am Beijing time (2101 GMT Saturday), the agency said, citing the China Manned Space Agency

(CMSA). China will need to carry out around 10 missions in total to complete assembly of the space station — named Tiangong, meaning “heavenly palace” — in orbit. The station is expected to become fully operational in 2022. Once completed, it is expected to remain in low Earth orbit for up to 15 years. — AFP ■

Asleep in Jesus

U Maungmaung Thatun
(66 years)

1st Engineer, Hackney College, Blue Star Ship Management Ltd., UK

The only son of (U Thatun, Daw Kyu Yin); son in law of (U Kyi Win, Daw Mya Mya); loving husband of Daw Mie Mie Khine, father of Daw Myitzu Thatun (FTA Shwe Than Lwin); brother of (U Banya Mon)- Daw Thwin Thwin Wai; Daw Thazin Thatun - (Commander Aung Chit, MN); Daw Sweswe Thatun -U Aung Ba Kyu; Daw Cherry Thatun; Dr Susu Thatun passed away peacefully at 4:05 pm on 31 May 2021 at his residence. The last rite will be held in Yay Way Cemetary at 1:15 pm followed by cremation at 2:30 pm.

Sri Lanka questions burning cargo ship crew as ecological devastation assessed

SRI LANKA’S criminal investigators began questioning the crew of a burning cargo ship Monday, as the Singapore-registered carrier smouldered for a 12th straight day in one of the island’s worst-ever marine ecological disasters. A fire broke out aboard the MV X-Press Pearl, which was carrying 25 tonnes of nitric acid and a huge amount of plastic raw materials, as it was about to enter Colombo harbour on 20 May. The intense flames, still burning at the rear of

the 186-metre (610-foot) vessel, have destroyed much of the cargo, some of which has fallen into the Indian Ocean. Tonnes of microplastic granules from the ship and its nearly 1,500 containers have inundated Sri Lanka’s famed beaches, forcing a fishing ban and sparking fears of ecological devastation. The Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) chief Dharshani Lahandapura said they were still assessing the ecological damage, but

believed it was the “worst ever in my lifetime”. The Police Inspector-General has ordered the Criminal Investigation Department to investigate the fire as well as the huge environmental damage caused, an official said. “The 25-member crew have completed their quarantine and we are able to question them today,” a police spokesman said. MEPA said the captain of the vessel had known about a nitric acid leak on May 11, long before the vessel entered Sri Lankan waters.



Members of Sri Lankan Navy remove debris washed ashore from the Singapore-registered container ship MV X-Press Pearl, which has been burning for the 12th consecutive day in the sea off Sri Lanka’s Colombo Harbour, on a beach in Colombo on 31 May 2021. **PHOTO: AFP** Authorities are moving to sue the owners of the vessel and its crew and claim damages from insurers. The fire has been under control since Sunday, officials said, adding, however, that the vessel continued to smoke on Monday and that high monsoon winds were fanning flames at the back of the ship. They said it was still too hot for them to attempt boarding the stricken ship. International salvage firm SMIT is leading efforts to douse the flames and is being assisted by Sri Lanka’s navy and the Indian coast guard. The three-month-old ship was heading to Colombo from Gujarat, India. — AFP ■

New Zealand military called in as hundreds flee floods

NEW ZEALAND’S military was deployed to evacuate hundreds of residents from flood-hit areas of the South Island Monday as heavy rains washed away bridges and cut roads. Rivers burst their banks as a weather system dumped 400 millimetres (15.5 inches) of rain in two days, an amount meteorologists said exceeded the entire rainfall so far this year in some areas. Authorities issued a rare “red” weather warning and declared a state of emergency in the Canterbury region, one of the South Pacific nation’s farming hubs. The New Zealand De-



This handout photo taken on 30 May 2021 and received on May 31 from the New Zealand Defence Force shows army soldiers helping evacuate a resident near the Canterbury town of Ashburton as authorities declared a state of emergency after the region was pounded by heavy rain. **PHOTO: AFP** fence Force said one of its helicopters rescued three people at Ashburton, near Christchurch, plucking one man from a tree and an el-

derly couple from the roof of a car. The defence force said soldiers, trucks and an ambulance were helping with

the evacuation effort. Ashburton mayor Neil Brown said the entire town of 35,000 had been cut off. “We have four bridges gone and a lot of damage to roads where the seal’s just been lifted off, we’ve got 17 roads that are shut... there’s a lot of damage,” he told reporters. Local media reported about 300 homes had been evacuated, with civil defence authorities establishing shelters in schools and sports centres. Forecasters said the weather was expected to ease overnight. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is scheduled to visit the disaster zone on Tuesday. — AFP ■

Over 500 kilograms of tortoiseshell seized by Japan in 2000-2019

AN estimated total of 564 kilograms of hawksbill turtle shell were seized by Japanese customs authorities between 2000 and 2019, showing evidence of the continued smuggling of the animals and their parts despite a global trade ban on them for over four decades, the World Wide Fund for Nature said Monday. The WWF urged Japan to immediately review its current policy as the buying and selling of tortoiseshell items, called “bekko” in Japanese, are allowed in the country and that has driven illegal trade. “Japanese authori-

ties should strengthen their domestic controls, international cooperation and use of advanced DNA forensics,” the WWF, one of the world’s largest and independent conservation organizations, said in a report after looking into official data with two other groups. They said the analysis also found that the major source region appears to have shifted from nations in South-east Asia, such as Indonesia and Singapore, to Caribbean countries, including the Dominican Republic and Haiti, in recent years. — Kyodo News ■

Good experience for our players: Myanmar football coach Hey



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

HEAD coach Antoine Hey said that team Myanmar had achieved valuable experiences from the previous opening qualifier against world-class team Japan.

"It was a difficult match for us but a good experience for our

players," said Antoine Hey.

Myanmar national team coach Antoine Hey is setting a good strategy for the upcoming two qualifiers against Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

"Now, we have to put our full focus on the last two match-

es. With no injuries or suspensions, we remain positive for the more important games against Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan," Antoine Hey added.

Myanmar national team will face their challenges in Group F of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Kyrgyzstan on 11 June and Tajikistan on 15 June, respectively.

Myanmar has scored six points in six matches played, while Tajikistan has garnered ten points from six games.

Meanwhile, the Kyrgyzstan team has scored seven points from five games played.

Standing in the fourth position with just six points from six games, Myanmar needs to secure all wins in the next two games in order to advance to the third round 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. —GNLM ■

Osaka faces French Open disqualification for avoiding media

FRENCH Open organizers have fined Naomi Osaka \$15,000 and threatened to disqualify her from the tournament after the world No 2 skipped a press conference following her first-round victory Sunday over Romania's Patricia Maria Tig.

In a lengthy statement, the board of the four Grand Slam tournaments said Osaka had been fined for refusing to "honour her contractual media obligations" and faced suspension or expulsion from the event if she continued to snub the press. Osaka, who sat out the French Open last year, beat 63rd-ranked Tig 6-4, 7-6(4) on the opening day at Roland Garros.

In a post on Twitter the same day, she wrote, "anger is a lack of understanding. change makes people uncomfortable."

The 23-year-old winner of four Grand Slams announced on social media before the French Open that she would be skipping news conferences for the sake of her mental well-being, likening journalists' questions to "kicking a person while they're down."

Osaka is scheduled to face Romania's Ana Bogdan in the second round.

In other action from the open-



Naomi Osaka gestures after winning in the first round of the women's singles during the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on 30 May 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ing day, Kei Nishikori turned in a gutsy performance to outlast Italian Alessandro Giannessi 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in four hours.

After going down 4-2 in the deciding set, the former world No. 4 battled back to avoid an upset against Giannessi, a qualifier making his first appearance in the Roland Garros main draw.

"The way he fought and the way he played was incredible.

I have to give credit to him," Nishikori said.

When asked about his Japanese compatriot Osaka, Nishikori said skipping interviews was not ideal, but he understood her situation.

Currently ranked 49, the 31-year-old Nishikori has been working his way back up the rankings after missing most of last year following elbow surgery. —Kyodo News ■

Tokyo Olympics fans to need vaccination or virus test: report

TOKYO Olympics fans may have to be vaccinated or test negative for the coronavirus before being allowed into venues, a Japanese newspaper report said Monday.

Cheering, eating, high-fives and drinking alcohol would also be banned under controls now being considered, the Yomiuri Shimbun daily said, citing unnamed government officials. Organizers are set to decide in June how many spectators — if any — will be allowed to attend the pandemic-postponed Games. Overseas fans are already barred, and the report warned domestic spectators may be denied entrance or kicked out for breaking the rules. "The plan is to stop the spread of infections during Games time with strict countermeasures," the paper said. Under the plan, spectators must be able to show a vaccination certificate or a negative test taken at their own expense less than a week before entering the venue. They must wear masks and fill in health-check sheets, and once inside must not cheer loudly or high-five each other.

Security guards would be stationed around venues monitoring behaviour, the report said, with public viewing venues cancelled or scaled down. Japan's vaccine rollout has been moving slowly, with less than 2.5 per cent of the population fully vaccinated so far.

Tokyo and other parts of the country are under a virus state of emergency which was extended on Friday until 20 June, just over a month before the opening ceremony on 23 July. The Yomiuri also published a new poll on Monday that shows 49 per cent of people living in Tokyo want the Games to go ahead, while 48 per cent want them cancelled. A total of 25 per cent said they wanted the Games go ahead with a limited number of spectators, while 24 per cent said they wanted them to be held with no fans.

A new country-wide poll by the Nikkei newspaper found that 62 per cent of respondents wanted the Games to be cancelled or postponed again, while 34 per cent were in favour of them being held this summer. —AFP ■

Copa America in Argentina suspended over coronavirus surge

ARGENTINA'S hosting of the Copa America football tournament has been suspended "in view of the current circumstances", CONMEBOL said on Sunday, as the country endures a record coronavirus surge. The South American football body, which last week stripped Colombia of co-hosting duties over deadly unrest, said it was considering other offers to hold the tournament.

"CONMEBOL informs that in view of the current circumstances it has decided to suspend the organization of the Copa America in Argentina," the governing body tweeted.

"CONMEBOL is evaluating the offer of other countries that showed interest in hosting the continental tour-

nament."

An Argentine poll published on Friday found that most respondents were against holding the tournament as the country experiences its worst phase of the pandemic so far. Less than two weeks before the Copa America's scheduled start, Argentina is under a nine-day lockdown and experiencing record daily infections.

Argentina had presented its "strict protocol" to CONMEBOL to host the tournament in its entirety, which involved preparing additional stadiums. The Copa America was originally due to take place last year, but was postponed for 12 months because of the coronavirus pandemic. —AFP ■