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MGMA reports 564 factories actively running, 177 inactive as of May

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Sunday, 6 June 2021

We, Myanmar people, love trees and forests and have had a sense of consciousness on the conservation of forest since a long time ago:
Senior General



Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and attendees are posing for the documentary photo at World Environment Day 2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 June 2021.

World Environment Day 2021 was observed at Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 (MICC2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present were SAC members Admiral Tin Aung San, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Mahn Nyein Maung,

Daw Aye Nu Sein, U Moungh Har, Saw Daniel, Dr Banya Aung Moe, U Shwe Kyein, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union ministers U Win Shein, U Aung Naing Oo, U Tin Htut Oo, U Khin Maung Yi, U Aung Than Oo, U Shwe Lay, Dr Thet Thet Khine, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, permanent secretaries, directors-general and managing directors of the Min-

istry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and related ministries, rectors, officials, teachers, students of basic high schools in Nay Pyi Taw and prize winners.

In his keynote address, the Senior General said the theme for World Environment Day 2021 is "Ecosystem Restoration" which emphasizes the work of ensuring a greater correlation between man and nature.

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... the theme for World Environment Day 2021 is "Ecosystem Restoration" which emphasizes the work of ensuring a greater correlation between man and nature.

Pyin Oo Lwin

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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.

MoI Deputy Minister inspects IPRD, retransmission stations in Sagaing, Mandalay

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met the Katha District Head, officials of Katha, Htigyaing, Bamauk and Indaw IPRD and in charge of Htigyaing MRTV Retransmission Station of Sagaing Region at respective township IPRD offices and inspected the retransmission station on 2 June.

Then, the Deputy Minister met officials of MRTV Tagaung Retransmission Station and inspected the station. He also checked the Retransmission Station of Thabeikkyin after he met the staff of Thabeikkyin and Mogok IPRD in Thabeikkyin Township.

He also met the Patheingyi District officials at the district office and Township heads of Mahaaungmyay and Chanmyathazi townships, including the Mandalay Bureau



of MRTV in charge.

On 3 June, he inspected the PyinOoLwin Public Library and PyinOoLwin Retransmission Station and met the officials at the PyinOoLwin IPRD office.

Then, he met the Mandalay Region Head and staff of

the District Office at Mandalay District IPRD office and discussed matters related to the work plans and employees.

The Deputy Minister gave instructions based on the proposals of staff, department and factories.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

96 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 June, total figure rises to 144,253

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 144,253 after 96 new cases were reported on 5 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,449 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,223 after two died. —MNA

Myanmar lost billions of kyats in the loss of natural disasters on a yearly basis

MYANMAR lost billions of kyats in the loss of natural disasters on a yearly basis. Currently, it is possible to begin the storms and squalls in Myanmar. Preventive measures must be taken at respective buildings and in relevant regions. Township administrative bodies and development committees need to coordinate the plans to ensure the proper water flow in drains of respective townships.

(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)

We, Myanmar people, love trees and forests and have had a sense of consciousness on the conservation of forest since a long time ago: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

As regards global environment conservation, the Senior General said the sustainable development of the natural environment is the basis for human survival and existence. The world environment is facing indiscriminate clearing and felling of trees, an extension of urban development plans on wildlife habitats, extreme agricultural extension, overfishing, forest fires and excessive carbon emission caused by industrial development and burning of fossil fuels for energy generation. Hence, there are clear signs that the ecosystem is facing deterioration every day.

In dealing with the ecosystem of Myanmar, he said the Evaluation of FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (FRA 200) shows the annual decrease in the forested areas. Forest depletion is followed by the destruction of an ecosystem which includes the pollution of watercourses and lakes, drying up of freshwater sources, deterioration of coastal areas and oceans, climate change, soil erosion in upland areas and loss of biodiversity. So, the survival of the human race is facing a major threat.

According to UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for 2021-2030, issued in 2020, it aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, to prevent mass extinction and to ensure food security, water supply and strong vocational works. For this year's World Environment Day, the theme "Ecosystem Restoration" has been announced.

2020 was a year experiencing many disasters, including the Covid-19 global pandemic. With the continued outbreak of the pandemic this year, all must place emphasis on ecosystem restoration as a priority to solve the problems of depleting natural



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and attendees are paying an observing tour around the panel displays at the World Environment Day 2021 event.

2020 was a year experiencing many disasters, including the Covid-19 global pandemic. With the continued outbreak of the pandemic this year, all must place emphasis on ecosystem restoration as a priority to solve the problems of depleting natural resources, environmental pollution and climate change.

resources, environmental pollution and climate change.

Regarding Myanmar's environmental conservation efforts, the Senior General said section 45 of Chapter 1: the basic principles of the Union in the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that the Union shall protect and conserve

the natural environment.

In section 390 of Chapter 8: Citizen, Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens also, the provision that every citizen has the duty to assist the Union is related to environmental conservation. This means that not only every citizen of Myanmar but also the entire country needs to take

part in environmental conservation measures.

Myanmar is rich in the diverse ecosystem, biodiversity and natural resources from northern glacial areas to southern coastal areas. So the long-term existence of a sound ecosystem and natural environment must develop the people's national economy and socio-economy.

Myanmar aims to establish natural forest reserves and buffer zone areas spanning 30 per cent of the country's area by 2030 for ecosystem protection. Now, 25.61 per cent of the country area has been protected with those establishments. Of the 10 per cent of the country's area set for establishing natural habitats for biodiversity, 6.08 per cent has been completed. Myanmar has 48.52 million acres of arable land, and

17.3 million acres are for paddy plantations.

Myanmar has enough agricultural land for the current population. It produces rice more than sufficient for the country with a rice self-sufficiency rate of 127 per cent. Among other crops, the country can also produce major crops more than enough for itself. Therefore, it is necessary to accelerate the application of modern techniques to acreage crop yields. As the country has enough agricultural land, it is important to conserve forests without clearing them systematically. Relevant ministries are implementing measures to systematically replace shifting farming of the traditional customs of the national race with permanent highland farming.

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SAC Chairman receives Chinese ambassador to Myanmar



CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting discussed matters related to the 30th Anniversary of China-ASEAN relations to be held in China, Sino-Myanmar friendship and bilateral cooperation, and border stability.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar.—MNA

We, Myanmar people, love trees and forests and have had a sense of consciousness on the conservation of forest since a long time ago: Senior General

FROM PAGE-3

Myanmar has the seventh-largest mangrove area in the world and the third-largest mangrove area in Asia. According to a report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 2020, the mangrove area of Myanmar was about 3.9 per cent (1,107,745 acres) of the country's forested area, contributing to social affairs, economy, and environmental conservation of the country. As Myanmar has been rehabilitating mangrove forests through various ways and means, the country has tended 26,990 acres of mangrove forest plantations, 15,436 acres of community forest plantations, 3,065 acres of private forest plantations, 8,130 acres of assisted natural regeneration plantations and 10,348 acres of mangrove forest plantations under cooperation with domestic and foreign organizations so far.

As felling trees for firewood is one of the major causes of the loss of natural forests, biodiversity, and energy resources, the forestry sector is systematically fulfilling the country's daily consumption of firewood energy. The use of firewood and charcoal makes up 76.41 per cent of the country's total energy consumption, which needs 16.53 million cubic tons of firewood annually. According to the estimation of the major national forestry sector project, a rural household uses 2.5 cubic

tons of firewood a year while an urban household needs 1.4 tons of firewood annually.

The 10-year project for restoration and rehabilitation of forest in Myanmar, which started in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, aims to establish 104,563 acres of rural firewood plantations, and 21,436 acres of firewood plantations have been established so far. State and region administration councils and relevant ministries are required to coordinate for the establishment of a firewood plantation of at least two acres in each village every year.

As it takes a certain time to supply electricity to rural areas, firewood and charcoal will have to be used for energy. Region and state administrative councils are required to supervise the establishment of community firewood plantations as a national duty instead of extracting firewood and charcoal from natural forests.

Myanmar has more than 4.4 million acres of 102 species of natural bamboo, and 18 of them are economically significant. Myanmar produces 120 to 180 million stalks of bamboo every year. Bamboo is widely used in foodstuffs, construction of houses, making furniture, and clothing made of bamboo fibre, which is suitable for health and popular in the market. Bamboo is mainly extracted from natural forests and rarely replanted. As bamboo is a major

forest product, it is necessary to systematically conserve and commercially extract bamboo and establish extensive bamboo plantations.

Trees, forests and a good ecosystem are also storage tanks that could absorb carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere. Creating small forests along the area on each side of mortar roads could reduce air pollution caused by carbon dioxide emitted from cars and play a vital role in reducing climate change. As a national duty, it is

ures of maintaining the nation's reserved resources through reducing extraction and use of underground and aboveground natural resources, ensuring rebalance of climate changes, greening state-owned forests, establishing village-owned firewood plantations, and re-conserving mangrove forests in coastal regions as a national duty. Domestic and external organizations are invited to cooperate and collaborate in taking these measures. It is needed to conserve reserved forests,

long time ago. According to the instances of the world's climate changes, it is to successfully carry out tasks for restoring the ecosystem for all the human beings to ensure reduction and relief from experiencing natural disasters. Giving attention to the mottos indicating benefits of trees and forests "Deforestation kills the soil", "Climate depends on forests", "Conservation of forests: solution to stop global warming", and "Nation is peaceful and pleasant only if forests are conserved and green", all are to be involved in conservation and restoration tasks for sustainable development of forests and ecosystem as a national duty.

Then, video messages sent by the UN Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNEP were shown.

Afterwards, the Senior General presented prizes to officials of cities that have achieved environmentally sustainable development. The first prize went to Nyaung-U Development Committee, the second prize to Waingmaw Development Committee, and the third prize to Loikkaw Development Committee. Later, an education video to mark World Environment Day 2021 was shown, and the dignitaries who attended the event had a group photo taken.

Afterwards, the Senior General and attendees took a tour around exhibits on display to mark the day.—MNA

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to conserve valuable natural resources and trees and forests that are helpful to Myanmar's sustainable development.

At the time that the State Administration Council is taking all the responsibilities of the State, regarding environmental conservation, it will take meas-

protected public forests and forest lands, and give special consideration to the importance of trees outside the forest (ToF) and ecosystem.

We, Myanmar people, love trees and forests and have had a sense of consciousness on the conservation of forest since a

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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.

MoC Union Minister inspects lab for trade, rice export procedures

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San inspected the establishment of laboratories for trade and rice export procedures in Yangon Region yesterday.

The Union Minister first conducted an inspection tour to CTQM of the Consumer Affairs Department in Hlegu Township and then inspected the lab test processes for quality agricultural products like crops and rubber products.

The CTQM in charge, including Chairman of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association U Aung Myint Htoo and other officials of the relevant department, clarified the working processes.

Then, Union Minister talked about the rubber exports. He also said about 90pc of rubber

productions are exported to foreign countries, and it is a promising export. Therefore, it should be prioritized in National Export Strategy. Then, the officials of UMFCCI should make efforts for rubber to grab ISO 17025.

The Union Minister and party also went to Shwe Me' Logistics Services Co., Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone and inspected about 100,000 tonnes of rice export to Bangladesh under the G to G agreement.

The officials of UMFCCI and Myanmar Rice Federation presented the rice exports of relevant companies and other ongoing work plans.

Then, the Union Minister stressed the need to strive to penetrate the market of neighbouring countries with pulses, including onions. — MNA



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects hotels in Meiktila and PyinOoLwin

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn inspected Meiktila Hotel and Wunzin Hotel in Meiktila Township, and Gandhama Myaing Hotel and Thiri Myaing Hotel in PyinOoLwin Township, which are operating in accordance with the COVID-19 protection

guidelines on 4 June.

During the inspection tour, officials from the hotels explained the current state of the hotel operation, further expansion of business conditions and operational conditions for providing service to tourists. The Union Minister stressed the

importance to abide by the rules and regulations of the COVID-19 set by the Ministry of Health and Sports. He also added the vaccination plan for hotel staff and the need to prepare for the safety of the tourists and hotel staff.

Meiktila Town, one of the

township in Mandalay Region, is situated about 750 feet above sea level, and it is one of the famous tour sites for both domestic and international tourists. With more than 22 hotels, motels and guest houses, plans are underway to develop new tourist destinations in the township.

While paying visit to Gandhama Myaing Hotel and Thiri Myaing Hotel, which have been leasing land and buildings owned by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Union Minister instructed to abide by the terms of the lease agreement with the ministry. — MNA

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

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

5 June 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 nine townships of Chin State.
2. There were 286,308 eligible voters in nine townships of Chin State and of them, 222,905 voters cast their vote that showed 77.85 per cent. The following 12 parties' candidates and independent candidates ran in 2020 multiparty general election.
- (a) National League for Democracy

(b) Union Solidarity and Development Party

(c) Zomi Congress for Democracy

(d) Chin National League for Democracy

(e) National Unity Party

(f) Union Betterment Party

(g) Zo National Region Development Party

(h) People's Party

(i) Khumi (Khami) National Party

(j) Ethnic National Development Party

(k) Chin National Party

(l) Democratic Party of National Politics

(m) Independent
3. The Union Election Commission has conducted inspection together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population, administrators and representatives of parties under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
4. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 286,308 eligible voters in these nine townships of Chin State. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 297,785 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 15,580 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 2,981 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 34,248 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 957 polling stations took out 427,455 ballots and used 218,595. It left 196,673 ballots instead of 208,860. The difference was 16,746 ballots, and it found 4,559 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations.
6. Findings on voter lists and ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township							
Sr	Township	Numbers of polling stations	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	Kanpetlet	80	14,712	11,073	455	152	2,134
2	Thantlang	105	33,806	32,898	2,124	175	3,306
3	Tiddim	140	56,764	58,567	3,259	620	7,102
4	Tinzang	83	17,827	17,416	1,226	90	1,608
5	Haka	95	39,204	33,097	2,967	262	3,712
6	Falam	169	39,273	30,236	1,482	506	5,026
7	Mindat	116	30,706	23,042	888	420	4,014
8	Natupi	150	38,019	35,559	646	675	6,074
9	Paletwa	19	15,997	55,897	2,533	81	1,272
	Total	957	286,308	297,785	15,580	2,981	34,248

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election in each township								
Sr	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Different	
							Missing	Extra
1	Kanpetlet	80	19,720	11,012	8,708	7,855	1,000	147
2	Thantlang	105	41,913	27,377	14,536	16,292	1,231	2,987
3	Tiddim	140	71,271	41,417	29,854	27,258	2,752	156
4	Tinzang	83	26,641	15,564	11,077	10,652	512	87
5	Haka	95	48,149	30,440	17,709	16,289	1,710	290
6	Falam	169	52,076	27,749	24,327	23,716	750	139
7	Mindat	116	39,465	23,844	15,621	14,273	1,448	100
8	Natupi	150	50,020	31,008	19,012	12,374	7,138	500
9	Paletwa	19	78,200	10,184	68,016	67,964	205	153
	Total	957	427,455	218,595	208,860	196,673	16,746	4,559

7. Findings in nine townships of Chin State were as follows:
- (a) According to Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a), citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen or holder of temporary certificate who has completed the age of 18 years on the day of commencement of election and who does not contravene the provisions of this Law. There are 15,580 non-identity voters. There were 2,981 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 34,248 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these nine townships of Chin State.

- (b) A total of 957 polling stations withdrew 427,455 ballots and used 218,595 ballots. It left 196,673 ballots instead of 208,860. The difference was 16,746, and the extra ballot was 4,559. The missing/ extra ballots were found at some polling stations. The exact numbers of ballots were granted to the polling stations, and such extra, and missing ballots were found due to illegal activities.
 - (c) There were 222,905 people who cast votes for Pyithu Hluttaw in nine townships of Chin State in the 8 November election. They used 218,595 ballots, and 4,310 ballots were lesser than the numbers.
 - (d) Of 222,905 voters in nine townships of Chin State, 179,511 people cast votes at the polling stations, while there were 43,394 advance voters. The percentage for casting votes at the polling station was 80.53 per cent and 19.47 per cent for the advance vote.
 - (e) In Form (1) book, the voters were allowed to cast votes without their ID card no, date of birth and parents' names.
 - (f) The bags containing ballots, ballot receipts and Form (1) books were found missing and could not examine.
 - (g) It did not found the names of voters, voting numbers, polling station No, Ward/village-tracts, signatures of voters on the ballot receipts used at some polling stations.
 - (h) The ward/village-tract election sub-commission failed to return the advance ballots and remaining ballots to the officials in accordance with the Law.
 - (i) The non-identity voters were found in the voter lists, and they were allowed to cast vote just with voter certificates without ID cards.
 - (j) They conducted measures that violate the Law when they started collecting advance ballot.
 - (k) 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.
8. The frauds conducted in 8 November election were found as follows;
- (a) The ward/village-tract administrators served as chairpersons in collecting the numbers of the population to compile the voter lists. In this process, the ward/village-tract administrators appointed by the NLD government and some NLD members jointly collected the numbers of the population. They did not inspect whether the people live in their ward/village-tract, whether they are eligible voters in accordance with Hluttaw Election Law. Therefore, there were many non-identity voters on the voter lists and some repeated on the voter lists two times or over three times with just one NRC card. 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." And it found activities that violate the Law. According to Section 19 (b), the names not eligible are included in the voting roll; delete such names from the voting roll. But they did not remove the names.
 - (b) The former UEC also released instructions that the advance voting process for people over 60 can be conducted starting 29-10-2020 before the election day. But some NLD members conducted door-to-door service in collecting advance votes in some places, and it caused voting frauds. According to COVID-19 health rules, the announcement and instruction for voters who were unable to return to their constituencies were released on 8-10-2020 and 11-10-2020, respectively, by the former UEC. Due to such directives, the voters were found repeated on the voter lists, and non-identity voters were also on the lists and were allowed to cast votes.
 - (c) The former UEC also released a statement for voters without any ID cards to cast their vote on 19-8-2020. The non-identity voters cast votes with voter certificates at the polling stations. Therefore, the non-identity voters, those who repeated on voter lists for two times or over three times, were allowed to cast votes without complying with the Hluttaw Election Law section 59. Regarding the voting stamps, the instruction that the ballots with a tick without a UEC label will be recognized as valid votes also caused a complicated situation in counting the votes.
9. The voting frauds were supposed to be intentionally committed. Moreover, they also interfere in collecting voter lists, election campaign, advance voting process and voting processes even on election day with their power. Then, the former UEC also misused their authorities and violated the Law and rules.
10. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the officials inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in nine townships of Chin State. The NLD party misused the COVID-19 restrictions and State Power in election processes, including election campaigns of rival parties and Hluttaw MPs, to win the election and form a government. The party also arranged to seize power in advance. According to the above analysis, it was found that the election was not in conformity with the relevant Hluttaw Election laws/rules, so the election was not free and fair.

Union Election Commission

MOHS holds meeting of public health and medical services departments



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win discusses with officials of the Department of Public Health and Department of Medical Services at the coordination meeting yesterday.

THE Ministry of Health and Sports held the coordination meeting of the Department of Public Health and Department of Medical Services through videoconferencing on 4 and 5 June.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said the need to act as per the rules and regulations. At the same time, staff are invited to return to work on the other hand and make arrangements to review the human resource situation and relocate staff following the needs of the business.

He added the necessity to review national public health projects, set short term/long term plans in order to improve the expected life expectancy, which is an indicator of health, and arrange to reopen some hospitals that have been closed.

Deputy Ministers U Myo Hlaing and Dr Aye Tun discussed completing the construction processes in time and the need to work together to carry out hospital maintenance work and bring the hospital operation back to normal.

At yesterday's meeting, officials from the respective states and regions public health departments and medical service departments presented the work implementation.

The Union Minister, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General coordinated the meeting. — MNA

World Environment Day 2021 celebrated in Yangon

A ceremony to commemorate World Environment Day was held yesterday morning in Yangon. Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe addressed the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the videos of the speech of Secretary-General of United Nations Mr Antonio Guterres and UN Environment Programme Executive Director Ms Inger Andersen were showed.

The ceremony was concluded by presenting the educational video programme "Let's Restore Ecosystems for Environmental Sustainability" in commemoration of the 2021 World Environment Day, filmed by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

A total of 150 tree seedlings were distributed at the ceremony.—MNA



Uplift living standard of farmers with guarantee for farming rights

FARMERS passing their daily life of farming works with hardships are benefactors for all citizens of Myanmar. They are always emphasizing cultivation, harvesting and production of various crops.

In fact, farmers are working in all three seasons without holidays. They spend their lives in endless farming works. Despite striving for the development of farming works, those farmers are under the manipulation of businesspersons in sales of their products such as paddy and crops by getting low prices.

As a result, farmers will have the chance to uplift their living standard in producing a large volume of crops with a higher per-acre yield. So, we should support the farmers who faced loss in agricultural tasks in successive eras to continuously do their works and help them uplift their living standard.

agricultural and livestock sectors increase of income for farmers and development of socio-economic lives. The vision of the law is for enabling farmers not to lose in farmland confiscation and protect them for the safety of farming rights.

As a result, farmers will have the chance to uplift their living standard in producing a large volume of crops with a higher per-acre yield. So, we should support the farmers who faced loss in agricultural tasks in successive eras to continuously do their works and help them uplift their living standard. It is because we firmly believe the farmers with the high living standard are sure to produce quality crops.

■ ■ ■

Education and Schooling

By Sann Ni Lar Win



BEHS-7, Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

edge, values and skills from one generation to the next. As cultures began to extend their knowledge beyond skills that could be readily learned through imitation, formal education developed.

The famous philosopher who was named “Plato” found the Academy in Athens, the first institution of higher learning in Europe. Likewise, in China, “Confucius” (551-479 BCE) was the country’s most influential ancient philosopher, whose educational outlook continues to influence the societies of China and neighbours like Korea, Japan and Vietnam.

Education, since the early days, has been highly regarded in Myanmar. “Nicola Manucci”, a Venetian who travelled in Myanmar about 1700 AD described the country as “a kingdom governed by the pen, for not a single person can go from one village to another without a paper or writing”, like Manucci, many travellers from the West were impressed with what was practically universal education for boys long before anything of the kind existed in the European world.

Life revolved around the values of “extended families” that were strong. The village, then, was a self-contained agricultural unit of community life, the monastery served as the centre of culture and education where all children could learn the 3R’s. Education was largely religious and ethical rather than economic life, and education was very closely related in those days as it had been in medieval Europe. That education, or rather a formal schooling, was preparation for life was introduced into Myanmar with the coming of the British. Ironically, in this era of diminishing personal and family values and increasing awareness of the environment and the world we live in, many educators in the West are returning slowly to the idea that education is life itself and not merely a preparation for life and that life is education.

In present-day Myanmar, monastic education, which had been the mainstay of education in the country still exists side by side with the formal school system. In the civilization of mankind, spiritual culture and physical culture play an important role. In competing with internationals, to regarded as civilized and good-natured people, we have to obey the teachings of our parents, our first and foremost mentor, since the day we were born.

Now, politically extreme terrorist groups, who wish to destroy national interests, instigate teachers and education staff to CDM (Civil Disobedience Movements) and threaten, with death, those who do not do so. Innocent young students are forced to drop out of school. From 1 to 26 May, a total of 18 arson attacks, 115 times of bombings and attempted bombings occurred at basic education schools and universities across the country. Moreover, they commit vulgar acts that are unacceptable to any civilized society, such as sticking texts against the school

attending and drawing threat messages using spray paint.

When the international community is not accepting or condemning such acts of vandalism, they are becoming more and more like extremist terrorist organizations in order to destroy the educational aspirations of future youths. The majority of the parents and the public are protesting against such activities and the organization behind them.

The primary need for the development of the country and the improvement of social life to improve the education sector. Every country in the world focuses on education to develop a new generation of talented young people in building a future nation.

The State Administration Council is overseeing the reopening of schools nationwide from 1 June following the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment regulations during the period of adequate control of the COVID-19 disease to prevent further loss of education. Enrolment of students is being accelerated at present.

Preparations are underway in order to ensure students can study safely, distribute free textbooks, teaching aids and masks, face shields to protect COVID-19, and install handwashing facilities at schools.

The people need to get wider knowledge with skills. An education motto mentioned, “The national discipline starts from the school”, which forges the conscious and nationalistic spirit.

The Constitution stipulates that every citizen shall compulsorily learn basic education according to Section 366 (a) and (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008).

“Education is in crisis”. This conclusion was reached by World Bank researchers as they write the 2018 World Development Report. Today, most children get to go to comprehensive school. However, merely going to schools does not guarantee to learn, the researchers write in the report.

Schools should teach skills that help young people secure a job and lead meaningful lives. Education is key in preventing social exclusion and lifting people from poverty.

However, the biggest obstacle to learning by far is still not going to school at all. In 2016, more than 61 million children of comprehensive school age and as many as 202 million children of secondary school age did not go to school.

According to the report, among the first to be left outside school are those already in a vulnerable societal position because of gender, disability, caste, or belonging to a certain ethnic group. Poverty is still one of the biggest obstacles to a child going to school.

In countries of low-income level, primary and secondary education completed by just one in three children. Over 60 per cent of comprehensive school pupils in developing countries do not even learn basic skills in school. If skills

learned in comprehensive school are weak, many are left lacking skills need in work, such as basic skills in mathematic or reading and writing.

In Myanmar, 12 per cent of the children between age 5 to 9 are out of school, and 11.7 per cent of the children age 10 to 13 are out of school as a result of their parent’s poverty, according to the report of UNICEF (2018).

Everybody benefits from investments made in education and in the quality of education. Education is important for societal development and for diminishing in equality. There is the best investment for education or human resources development of our country. In the developing countries, well-wishers used to donate the school-buildings and furniture, books and stationery, computers and accessory, money and scholarship for the necessity of the Basic Education schools.

For example, I studied in details concerning “The Education Foundation” which was named “Teacher Daw Khin Hla Hla’s Education Foundation in Padaung Township, Bago Division (West), set up by Colonel Tin Hlaing (Minister for Home Affairs, Retd) whose Daw Khin Hla Hla’s husband. This foundation was formed as a “Teacher’s Resources Centre” for their teaching skills. If the quality of education is seen as poor, parents may not be ready to send their children to schools. So, this foundation often donates money for poor students and teachers. As the progressive results of examination yearly, the outstanding students and teachers are honoured by patron U Tin Hlaing.

I pray that the well-wishers should donate and participate generously in the educational development of our mother country of Myanmar. During the reopening of schools, the people should condemn such brutal violence against innocent people and cooperate with the security members in a safe community. The terrorists who threaten the lives, property and social security of the people who want to live in peace will be taken actions under the law.

References,

- (1) အနောင်းသေချာဖို့ အကောင်းရန်လိုပါသည်။ (စန်းနီလာဝင်း-မြန်မာ့အလင်း ၂၂-၅-၂၀၂၁၊ ၂၃-၅-၂၀၂၁)
- (2) *Education in Crisis: World Development Reports* (World Bank, 2018)

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Aung Kyaw Soe, Director-General of the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, concurrently as Permanent Secretary (Immigration and Population) of the same ministry.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 5 June 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 6 June 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, and Mon states, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, and Yangon regions and Kachin, and Northern Shan states and scattered in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaim, Mandalay, and Magway regions and Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 June 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 June 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 June 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Over 234,000 outpatients provided with healthcare at military hospitals



MILITARY hospitals and temporary emergency hospitals in the townships of regions and states are providing medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in

healthcare services. A total of 234,862 outpatients and 70,016 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 10,956 major operations and 5,635 minor operations. Senior doctors treat severe cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 13,713 babies, while 13,713 pregnant women were taken to the respective military hospitals. It is reported that Tatmadaw will continue to accelerate the cooperation to develop the public healthcare sector. — MNA

Terrorists attack security forces in Kyonpyaw, Ayeyawady region

TERRORISTS attacked members of the security forces, taking U Kyay, a resident of Hlayswai village in Kyonpyaw Township, to conduct the necessary investigation in Ayeyawady Region. While they arrived near the banana farm outside of the village, terrorists attacked them

with homemade guns, gas guns, slingshots, and security forces to disperse the crowd. The incident led to three people died and two terrorists were arrested together with six gas guns. While arresting the fugitives, a bomber struck the vehicle escorted by security forces at around 11 am near Kannar Nyaung Zine village, damaging the car. It is reported that plans are underway to arrest terrorists on the run as soon as possible. Local security services are being provided. — MNA



Military tribunal sentences arsonists of TMR garment factory 7 years in prison

A total of six men was sentenced to seven-year imprisonment with labour for committing an arson attack to the TMR Garment Factory in Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya (West) Township, Yangon Region. They were sentenced under Section 436 of the Penal Code by the Military Tribunal on 4 June for committing vandalism by throwing petrol bottles at a fire on 15 March. As five of them have escaped, an arrest warrant was issued under Section 87/88 of the Criminal Procedure Code. — MNA

Three men killed, five teachers injured in mine blast



WHILE the government is reopening basic education schools across the nation, some of the insurgents keep doing terror acts for the sake of one party. About six people and five teachers inspected the school compound of Post BEPS in San Gyi Village of Nattalin Township in Bago Region in order to construct a school building on 4 June. Meanwhile, they found a black bag near the school fence. Then, U Myo Oo and U Than Win examined the bag, and it exploded. The two men, including U Zaw Moe Aung, died due to the mine blast. Moreover, five teachers were also injured. Wounded teachers were taken to Nattalin hospital. The officers of Southern Command comforted them and provided food aids, including cash assistance, yesterday. The terrorists launched attacks on schools as students attend the schools as usual in San Gyi Village. The civilians were killed in their attacks, and so the local populace was not satisfied with their wrongdoings. — MNA

World Environment Day ceremony held in Rakhine and Mandalay

RAKHINE State Administration Council Chairman Dr Aung Kyaw Min presided over a ceremony for World Environment Day in Sittway Township yesterday. The state chairman first made an opening remark. The attendees watched the video message of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN Environmental Programmes Executive Director Ms Inger Andersen and other video clips of 2021 World Environment Day. The ceremony for World Environment Day was also organized in Mandalay Region. Region Administration Council Chairman U Maung Ko and other officials, including the Commander of Central Command, attended

the event. The region administration council chairman first remarked. Then, video clips of environmental conservation delivered by UN Secretary-General and another video clip of the first prize winner in environmental conservation contest under topic Ecosystem Restoration, 2021 theme were played. Then, Director U Ye Tun of the region Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Department presented the painting to mark 2021 World Environment Day and books to the region council chairman, commander and mayor. Then, the officials and people visited the display booths.—MNA



MGMA reports 564 factories actively running, 177 inactive as of May

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) reported in the May newsletter that 564 factories are actively running the business, and 177 has no operation.

The factories include foreign investment, domestic investment and joint venture businesses. China constitutes a majority of the foreign investment with 302 factories.

The Swedish fashion retailer H&M is gradually placing orders from Myanmar again after it paused in March.

Then, more international fashion retailers such as Primark and Bestseller starts to resume new orders.

Germany will also continue its support for Myanmar garment businesses so that Myanmar women can continue their livings, Germany Embassy Yangon's Facebook posted.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is primarily concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis. It contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.



The Swedish fashion retailer H&M is gradually placing orders from Myanmar again after it paused in March. Then, more international fashion retailers such as Primark and Bestseller starts to resume new orders.

Myanmar's garment export exceeded US\$1.4 billion in the first five months (Oct-Feb) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector has recorded an accel-

erated downturn owing to the factory closures triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and the political changes.

The exports of finished industrial goods drastically fell to US\$4.43 billion over the first half (1 Oct-21 May) of the current financial year

2020-2021, an extreme drop of \$1.69 billion compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totalled \$6.13 billion during the same

period in the 2019-2020FY.

The IHS Markit Myanmar Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, a composite single-figure indicator of manufacturing performance, signalled the sharpest deterioration in manufacturing business conditions in May.

The higher material costs and unfavourable exchange rate movements contributed to a sharp increase in cost burdens, causing constraint to complete the order. It can do more harm to the foreign investment sector if the problem is still not resolved.

According to HIS Markit's statement, the PMI measures the output, new orders, performance, delays in the manufacturing process and stocks of both inputs and finished goods.

More than 500 members and over 700 garment factories in Myanmar are listed on the MGMA, with an employment of over 400,000 workers.

However, a third of garment industry workers are out of jobs in difficult times.—KK/GNLM

Export products to China drop by half because of closure of Man Wein checkpoint

MYANMAR export products including rice and broken rice to China have dropped by more than half because of the closure of Man Wein checkpoint, said Muse rice wholesale centre vice-chairman U Min Thein.

Since 30 March, the Man Wein checkpoint has been closed because the COVID-19 outbreak is ongoing in bilateral trading points between Myanmar and China.

The Man Wein checkpoint is mainly trading the rice and broken rice, pulses, aquatic products, onion and chili.

Because of the closure of Man Wein check point, Myanmar products exported to China through Man Wein checkpoint are now being traded through Kyin San Kyawt (Wan Ding) checkpoint.

Earlier, about 250 truckloads of Myanmar products entered China through Man Wein checkpoint and now only 60 truckloads are entering China, he added.

"China started a driver replacement system in April 2020 after COVID-19 outbreak started. At that time, about 250 trucks entered China daily. Myanmar exports rice and broken rice, corn, pulses, chili, onion and aquatic products mostly.

Now, only 60 truckloads of Myanmar products except melons entered China through Kyin San Kyawt (Wan Ding) checkpoint, said U Min Thein.

Consequently, export of all the food stuff to China through the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint has been delayed, he added.

Currently, the Man Wein checkpoint has been closed for over one month because of COVID-19 and it has not been planned to reopen yet, according to the Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone, the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

With the declining number of COVID-19 positive patients in the Kyalgaung area, the lockdown restriction imposed on

the Kyalgaung area has been lifted starting from 4 May. But, the observation is still going on for another three more months. As a result, the Man Wein checkpoint has not been planned to reopen.

Further, in coordination with the Shweli Foreign Relations Department, the Man Wein checkpoint has not been reopened yet and it will be reopened only after drawing the detailed plan, according to the Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone, the Trade Department.

Therefore, the relevant traders will be informed if there is an official notification from China to reopen the gate.

The five land borders linking China with Myanmar are Muse in northern Shan State, Lwejel in Kachin State, Chinshwehaw in northeastern Shan State, Kampaiti in Kachin State and Kengtung in eastern Shan State, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

—NN/GNLM

Value of Myanmar-India border trade hit \$188 mln in 2020-21FY

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and India hit US\$188 million between 1 October and 28 May in the current financial year 2020-2021, said a statistical report of Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce.

The border trade during the period increased by \$110 million compared with that of the same period of the previous FY.

The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was shared by Myanmar's export of over \$187 million and its import of \$1.3 million.

The two countries carry out the border trade mainly through Tamu, Reed and Thantlang cross-border trade camps, while a major part of bilateral trade is delivered through ships.

Most India-Myan-

mar border trade passes through the Tamu crossing. The Reed crossing in Chin State is the second busiest.

Myanmar mainly exports to India fruits and vegetables, fishery and forestry products while importing from India the medicines, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

India is one of Myanmar's top trading partners. The two countries signed a bilateral border trade agreement in 1994.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's border trade with four neighbouring countries, China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh, totalled \$6.98 billion, shared by \$4.55 billion in export and \$2.43 billion in import. — ACM/GNLM

Putin says wants to find ways with Biden to improve ties

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said Friday he hoped to improve deeply damaged relations with the United States when he holds his first summit with US counterpart Joe Biden later this month.

The face-to-face meeting in Geneva on June 16 comes amid the biggest crisis in ties between the two countries in years, with tensions high over a litany of issues including hacking allegations, human rights and claims of election meddling.

"We need to find ways to regularise these relations," Putin told the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, adding



Speaking to Russia's Channel One television later in the day, Putin said he did not expect any breakthrough in Geneva but said it would be good to discuss topics of mutual interest. Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow on March 17, 2015. **PHOTO: AFP**

that bilateral ties are currently at a "low level".

Usually joined at the forum's main session by other world leaders, the Russian president was alone on the stage on Friday with a moderator and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the emir of Qatar, participating via videolink.

"We have no disagreements with the United States," Putin said. "They only have one disagreement: they want to hold back our development, they talk about it publicly."

Speaking to Russia's Channel One television later in the day,

Putin said he did not expect any breakthrough in Geneva but said it would be good to discuss topics of mutual interest.

"I expect a positive result," said Putin, 68. The two previously met in 2011, when Biden served as vice-president and Putin was prime minister. Putin said he remembered that meeting, praising the 78-year-old US leader as a "very experienced" and "careful" politician.

Since taking office in January, Biden has ramped up pressure on the Kremlin, and his comments likening Putin to a "killer" were met with fierce criticism in Moscow. — AFP ■

Assange fiancée seeks safe haven for jailed WikiLeaks founder

JULIAN Assange's fiancée joined forces Friday with the mayor of Geneva and the UN's torture expert to seek the WikiLeaks founder's immediate release from a British jail and safe haven in another country.

In January, an English judge refused to allow Assange's extradition to the United States to face charges for leaking secret documents.

The 49-year-old remains in custody in a London jail awaiting a US appeal against the decision.

Assange's fiancée Stella Morris teamed up in Geneva with Nils Melzer, the UN special rapporteur on torture, and Geneva mayor Frederique Perler to call for his release and the scrapping of extradition proceedings.

They urged international organisations based in the Swiss city to help free Assange, and called on Switzerland and other democratic nations to

offer the Australian former computer hacker a refuge from potential further prosecution moves.

"My hope is that it will end today, it's being going on for too long, it's an absolute aberration that Julian is in prison at all," Morris, who has two children with Assange, told AFP.

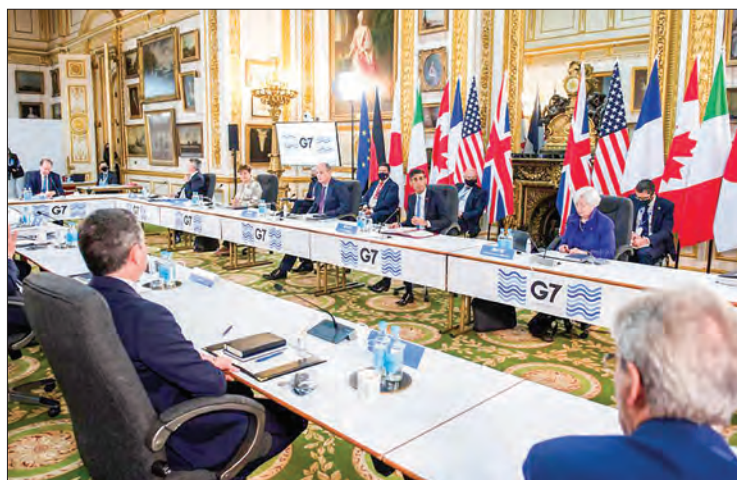
"He won his case of extradition at the lowest level in January and he is still in prison, and he is prosecuted for journalistic activities."

The lawyer said her fiancé was struggling in the "grim environment" of Belmarsh prison, the top-security jail in south-east London.

"He is surrounded by dangerous criminals, his interactions are with criminals or with prison guards. He is isolated a lot of the time, his health is deteriorating and he hasn't seen his children since October."

Morris said she had not seen Assange since his January 6 court appearance. — AFP ■

Rich nations expected to back US plans for global corporate tax rate



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak (top-2R), US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (top-R) attend the first day of the G7 Finance Ministers Meeting at Lancaster House in London on June 4. **PHOTO: AFP**

FINANCE ministers from wealthy G7 nations are on Saturday expected to announce support for a minimum global level of corporate tax, aimed at getting multinationals — especially tech giants — to pay more into government coffers hit hard by the pandemic.

According to a draft communique seen by AFP, the finance

chiefs and central bankers of the world's seven richest nations will express "strong support" and a "high level of ambition" over the US-backed tax plans.

French economy minister Bruno Le Maire told journalists on Friday evening: "If we have an agreement tomorrow, it will be a historic step forward".

It will also "give considerable

momentum to the G20", scheduled to hold a finance meeting in July, he said.

British finance minister Rishi Sunak on Friday chaired the first of two days of meetings, held in person after an easing of COVID-19 restrictions and attended by counterparts from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

The talks were preparing the ground for a broader summit of G7 leaders in Cornwall, southwest England starting on June 11.

US President Joe Biden is set to attend on his first foreign tour since taking office in January.

'Difficult to accept' Momentum is growing behind the US-led plans to limit the ability of multinationals like tech giants to game the system to boost profits, especially at a time when economies around the world are reeling from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. — AFP ■

Facebook imposes two-year Trump ban, revises rules for politicians

FACEBOOK on Friday set its ban on former US president Donald Trump for two years, saying he deserved the maximum punishment for violating platform rules over a deadly attack by his supporters on the US Capitol.

The two-year ban will be effective from January 7, when Trump was booted off the social media giant, and comes after Facebook's independent over-

sight board said the indefinite ban imposed initially should be reviewed.

"Given the gravity of the circumstances that led to Mr Trump's suspension, we believe his actions constituted a severe violation of our rules which merit the highest penalty available under the new enforcement protocols," Facebook vice president of global affairs Nick Clegg said

in a post. In updating its policies, Facebook also said it will no longer give politicians blanket immunity for deceptive or abusive content at the social network based on their comments being newsworthy. At the end of Trump's two-year ban, Facebook will enlist experts to assess whether his activity at the social network still threatens public safety, according to Clegg. — AFP ■



A mural of Julian Assange is seen in a laneway in Melbourne. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UK competition watchdog probes Facebook use of ad data

BRITAIN'S competition watchdog said on Friday it has opened an investigation into Facebook's use of advertiser data as the EU announced a similar probe into the social media giant.

"We intend to thoroughly investigate Facebook's use of data to assess whether its business practices are giving it an unfair advantage in the online dating and classified ad sectors," Andrea Coscelli, head of the Competition and Markets Authority, said in a statement.

Coscelli said the CMA will be working closely

with the European Commission as they each conduct their investigations. It is the third investigation into a suspected violation of competition law in digital markets, the CMA said, noting it is also probing Google's "privacy sandbox" and Apple's AppStore.

The CMA said it was looking into whether Facebook "might be abusing a dominant position in the social media or digital advertising markets through its collection and use of advertising data".

Facebook collects



The European Commission said it had opened a formal antitrust investigation to assess whether Facebook violated EU competition rules. PHOTO: FILE/AFP

data from its digital advertising services, which allow another business to advertise to its users, as well as from a "single

sign-on" option that allows people to use their Facebook log-in to enter other websites and apps, the CMA said. — AFP ■

Nissan delays launch of electric car over chip shortage



Announced in July 2020, the model was supposed to go on sale in Japan from mid-2021, before arriving in Europe, North America and China by the end of the year. PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI / AFP

JAPANESE carmaker Nissan said on Friday it will delay the planned summer launch of its flagship new electric Ariya model to this winter over the global chip shortage plaguing carmakers.

Announced in July 2020, the new 100 per cent electric model was initially supposed to go on sale in Japan from mid-2021, before arriving in Europe, North America and China by the end of

the year. But in a press release on Friday, Nissan said customers in Japan could now order the limited-edition B6 model for "this winter", with no set date for those in other markets.

A Nissan spokeswoman confirmed that the semiconductor shortage affecting carmakers around the world was hampering the rollout.

"We have been facing various industry challenges, including semiconductor shortage, and our priority is to ensure that we deliver the highly advanced all-new model... to customers with the highest level of quality and care," she told AFP. "And to make

sure that those things are done, we have delayed the sales in our area."

The model is particularly important for Nissan, which sees it as key to opening a "new chapter" for the firm, according to its director general Makoto Uchida.

Ariya will be the troubled carmaker's first 100 per cent electric vehicle targeting the general car market since the Leaf debuted a decade ago.

Nissan was struggling even before the pandemic, and was rocked by the arrest and subsequent escape of its former chief Carlos Ghosn, currently a fugitive in Lebanon. — AFP ■

Japan's Toda begins building high-rise condo complex in Jakarta

MAJOR Japanese contractor Toda Corp. has launched construction of a high-rise condominium complex in Jakarta in a joint project with two Indonesian partners.

The company's local real estate consultancy, PT. Toda Group Indonesia, held a groundbreaking ceremony in southern Jakarta on Thursday for the 33-month project to build the 24-storey "Newton 2" complex jointly with major local property



Japanese contractor Toda Corp.'s Indonesian arm and local property developer Ciputra Group hold a groundbreaking ceremony in southern Jakarta on June 3, 2021, to build a 24-storey condo complex. PHOTO: NNA/KYODO

developer Ciputra Group.

Undertaking construction work on the 624-apartment building is Toda's affiliate PT. Tatamulia Nusantara Indah. The complex will have three types of apartments, measuring 24, 40 and 60 square metres.

The main target is millennials born in the last two decades of the 20th century, according to a senior Ciputra Group official. (NNA/Kyodo) — Kyodo News ■

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Shanghai to hand out millions in digital-currency envelopes

SHANGHAI will hand out 19.25 million yuan (about 3 million U.S. dollars) in digital currency to consumers in the city through a lottery system, the Information Office of Shanghai Municipality said Friday.

A total of 350,000 digital red envelopes, each containing 55 yuan of digital currency, will be given to lottery winners, the office said on its official WeChat account.

Individual consumers in Shanghai can sign up for the lottery through the official WeChat accounts of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Shanghai Branch and the cloud service of the Bank of Communications Shanghai Branch between June 5 and 6. — Xinhua ■

Sotheby's sells first NFT that sparked a craze

THE first non-fungible token (NFT) ever created, the origin of a craze that is sweeping the art market, has gone on sale at Sotheby's.

"Quantum" is an octagon-shaped animation by New York artist Kevin McCoy.

It became the first work to be associated with a NFT-type certificate of ownership in May 2014, three years before the term NFT was coined.

An NFT is a digital object such as a drawing, animation, piece of music, photo, or video with a certificate of authenticity created by blockchain technology. It cannot be forged or otherwise manipulated.

Sotheby's has no pre-sale estimate for "Quantum", which had already reached \$140,000 on Friday, a day after it went on sale. The sale ends on June 10.

"In 10 years looking back, if in fact these are to grow, this piece can represent and symbolize the start of something that is quite revolutionary and very impactful," said Max Moore, vice president of contemporary art at Sotheby's in New York.

NFT exchanges happen in cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin on specialist sites. Traditional auction houses are seeking to capitalize on the new phenomenon.

"I fell in love with Bitcoin in early 2013 and just got really interested in that world," said McCoy, a 54-year-old multimedia artist.

He is a pioneer of NFTs that currently generate several hundred million dollars in transactions every month.

McCoy even helped design his own platform for the exchange of certified digital objects: Monograph, which is no longer active. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC QINGDAO VOY.NO. (120N/121S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC QINGDAO VOY.NO. (120N/121S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-6-2021 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.

Japan consumers get mixed bag of slow wage growth, forced savings

JAPAN'S wage growth has slowed to levels last seen in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis as companies have taken a hit from the coronavirus pandemic.

Major companies have agreed on an average pay hike of 1.82 per cent in this year's annual spring wage negotiations, falling below 2 per cent for the time since 2013, according to data released by the Japan Business Federation. The final results are due out in July.

Tepid wage growth is seen as a drag on consumption, which makes up the bulk of the econ-



People wearing face masks walk in Tokyo's Marunouchi business district on Feb. 2, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

omy. This time, economists are keeping an eye on the role that "forced savings," or money that

households have been forced to save due to pandemic-caused restrictions, will play.

"Wage growth is seen falling below 2 per cent and this will add downward pressure on consumption," said Naoko Ogata, senior economist at Japan Research Institute.

"Under normal times, people tend to cut back on spending as income falls," Ogata said. "What's different this time is that they have money at their disposal, but they can't spend it amid the pandemic."

She estimates that the pandemic has forced Japanese households to save about 13 trillion yen (\$118 billion), or roughly 4 per cent of Japan's

annual consumption.

Such savings increased as people canceled vacation plans or leisure activities due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Bank of Japan, which counts on a virtuous cycle of wage growth spurring private consumption, puts such forced savings at 20 trillion yen last year.

Some of the disposable income that could have been spent on leisure or other activities had it not been for the pandemic was apparently spent on other items like durable goods.

— Kyodo News ■

US hiring underwhelms in May as economic reopening hits turbulence

THE United States added 559,000 jobs last month as hard-hit sectors rehired workers laid off during the worst days of the pandemic, but analysts warned the virus was continuing to complicate the economy despite massive government stimulus.

The Labour Department data undershot analysts' expectations for a lofty rebound in hiring enabled by accelerating Covid-19 vaccination campaigns, following the surprisingly weak employment gains in April.

Even so, the jobs gains pushed the unemployment rate down to 5.8 per cent from 6.1 percent in April.

Rubeela Farooqi of High Frequency Economics said the report indicated unemployed Americans were staying away from workplaces as companies rehired, which she blamed on the persistent aftershocks from business restrictions meant to

stop the virus from spreading.

"Job growth remains surprisingly sluggish in an economy that is no longer facing capacity constraints," she said in an analysis, adding, "Ongoing pandemic-related issues including childcare and health concerns are likely a constraint on job growth."

That echoes widespread reports from businesses about the difficulty filling open positions.

President Joe Biden acknowledged the bumpy recovery but said his bet on the \$1.9 trillion pandemic rescue measure he signed into law in March was paying off, helping the economy recover strongly from the mass layoffs that put tens of millions of people out of work as the pandemic began in March 2020.

"This is progress, historic progress" after "our worst crisis in 100 years," Biden said of the data. — AFP ■

Pandemic-ravaged Seville hopes for Euro tourism boost

SEVILLE'S pandemic-hit tourism sector is hoping to get a shot in the arm from UEFA's last-minute decision to name the southern Spanish city as a host for Euro 2020 matches.

While thousands of football fans are set to flock to the city later this month, hotels, restaurants and bars warn the event won't be enough to make up for the collapse in business brought on by the health crisis.

"It is a first-class showcase," said Antonio Munoz, the city councillor in charge of tourism.

"It is a draw to recover the appeal this city has always had to attract tourism."

European football governing body UEFA in April



Authorities say tourists will be greeted "with open arms" but the money they will spend will pale in comparison to the income the sector has lost. **PHOTO: AFP**

picked Seville to replace Bilbao in northern Spain as a host city for the rescheduled football tournament.

Bilbao was dropped because it was unable to guarantee organizers it could host fans in the stadium for matches due to the

strict virus measures in place in the region. Seville's 64,000-seat La Cartuja stadium is set to host all three of Spain's Group E games against Sweden, Poland and Slovakia, plus a last-16 match during the second half of June. — AFP ■

Miami, looking to be next crypto hotspot, hosts huge bitcoin event

THOUSANDS of people have descended on Miami for a massive two-day bitcoin conference that opened Friday -- a sign that the US city, in the midst of a tech boom, is hoping to become the next cryptocurrency hub.

"I don't think there's anything more important in my lifetime to work on" than bitcoin, given the flexibility it offers, billionaire entrepreneur Jack Dorsey, the co-founder of Twitter and payments firm Square, told a crowded audi-

torium.

"We don't need the financial institutions that we have today. We have one that is thriving, that is sound, that is owned by the community, that is driven by the community," said Dorsey, one of the keynote speakers at Bitcoin 2021.

Dorsey tweeted Friday that Square was considering making a hardware wallet for safely storing bitcoin.

With 12,000 participants and all speaker sessions sold out, the Bitcoin 2021 trade show

features exhibits from crypto mining companies, crypto traders and bitcoin exchange networks.

The conference was originally scheduled to take place in Los Angeles, but was moved due to tougher coronavirus restrictions in California.

The line to get into the Mana Convention Center in Miami's trendy Wynwood neighborhood wrapped around the building. Everyone was in high spirits and there were no face masks to be seen. — AFP ■



US businesses are hiring, but Labour Department data indicates some unemployed workers are staying away from the workplace, constraining employment growth. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Canada PM urges Church to 'take responsibility' for school abuses

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday urged the Catholic Church to "take responsibility" and release records on indigenous residential schools under its direction, after the discovery of remains of 215 children in unmarked graves.

And he warned that his government was prepared to take "stronger measures," possibly including legal action, to obtain the documents demanded by victims' families if the church fails to comply.

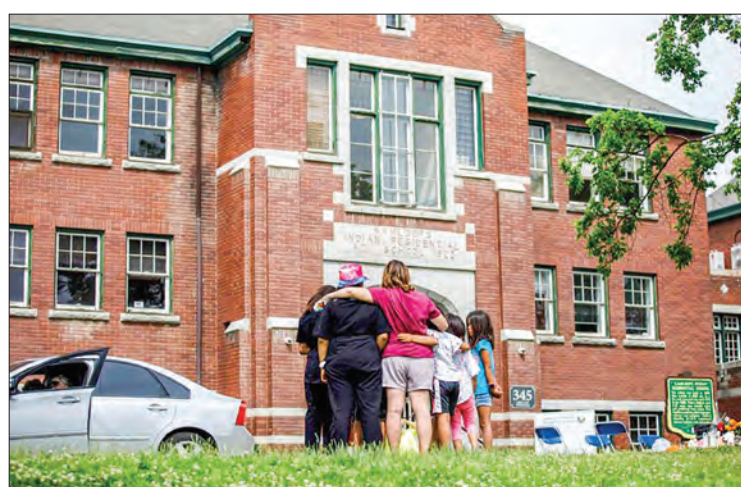
Canada has been convulsed by the discovery of the remains at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia -- especially as there

were only 50 deaths officially on record there.

The school was one of many boarding schools set up a century ago to forcibly assimilate the country's indigenous peoples.

"As a Catholic, I am deeply disappointed by the position that the Catholic Church has taken now and over the past many years," Trudeau told a news conference.

He recalled a May 2017 trip to the Vatican during which he sought a formal apology from Pope Francis for abuses of students, as well as access to church records to help account for more than 4,100 students believed to have died from disease



Jennifer Nickel holds her daughters as they look up at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School where flowers and cards have been left following the discovery of the remains of 215 children in unmarked graves. PHOTO: AFP

or malnutrition.

"We're still seeing resist-

ance from the Church," Trudeau said. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

A 'disturbing' interview with Roman Protasevich has been widely condemned

EUROPEAN powers on Friday lined up to condemn a tearful interview shown on Belarusian state television with a dissident journalist who was arrested after his plane was diverted to Minsk, saying he was only speaking "under duress".

Germany condemned the interview with Roman Protasevich as a "disgrace", while British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said it was "disturbing".

Speaking during a visit to Warsaw, Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya said: "All such videos are shot under pressure."

"We should not believe any of the words of these people, including Roman Protasevich," said Tikhanovskaya, who ran against Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko in an election last year. — AFP ■

China blasts US and EU consulates in Hong Kong for Tiananmen candles

CHINA on Saturday berated the US and EU consulates in Hong Kong for displaying candles to commemorate the June 4 Tiananmen crackdown, slamming it as a "clumsy political show" to destabilise the city. Candles were seen lit in the windows of the US consulate building, which is next to the residence of Hong Kong's Beijing-appointed leader Carrie Lam, and the European Union's office on Friday night.

The missions also posted photographs of their candlelit Tiananmen memorials on social media. "Any attempt to exploit Hong Kong to carry out infiltration or sabotage activities against the mainland crosses the red line ... is absolutely intolerable," a spokesperson for the Hong Kong office of China's foreign ministry said.

"We again urge the organs of relevant countries in Hong Kong to immediately ... stop meddling with Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs at large, and avoid playing with fire". — AFP ■

Mali opposition supporters rally as France warns ruling junta

SUPPORTERS of Mali's M5 opposition movement staged a rally on Friday, with the group poised to join the government following the crisis-stricken country's second coup in nine months.

Several hundred M5 supporters assembled at a central square in the capital Bamako, AFP journalists said, to commemorate the founding of the movement, which powered mass protests last year.

But the long-planned rally was held after strongman Colonel Assimi Goita, who led a coup on the back of the protests, ousted the civilian transitional president and prime minister on May 24.



Malian strongman Colonel Assimi Goita is expected to be installed as president of the interim government on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

The second putsch has sparked diplomatic uproar, prompting both the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States

(ECOWAS) to suspend Mali.

France on Friday suspended joint military operations with Malian forces, and stopped providing military advice.

The former colonial power has thousands of troops stationed in the Sahel to help fight jihadist violence that erupted in Mali in 2012 and now threatens the region.

"Mali must look for other partners, France is not the only country in the world," said Abdoulaye Cisse, a young M5 member at the protest.

Not everyone agreed.

Civil servant Kalou Sow said that the "Malian people should be grateful to France," but admitted that "eight years without results is not easy". Observers were closely watching Friday's rally for hints at Mali's future political direction. — AFP ■

France dismantles new Calais migrant camp

FRENCH security forces dismantled a new migrant camp on the outskirts of the northern port of Calais on Friday which was home to hundreds of people hoping to travel across the Channel to Britain. The head of the region and mayor of Calais had both called on Thursday for the temporary camp in abandoned industrial buildings to be broken up because of recent violence and fears of a new semi-permanent settlement developing. The operation involving hundreds of officers on Friday morning, which saw the mostly young, male migrants offered places in shelters, came amid a sharp rise in crossings of the Channel by boat this year.

"Thank you to the security forces who are mobilized and to



Police supervise the clearing of a camp near Calais, northern France, where about 600 migrants had been living. PHOTO: AFP

the agents who are working on providing shelter," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted, adding that the operation had been launched at his initiative and with judicial approval.

Last weekend, from Friday to Monday, 568 people made the sea crossing from France to Britain in warm, calm weather, according to the British interior ministry. Campaign groups and

NGOs working in Calais say migrants are left by authorities to live in miserable conditions, without access to basic sanitation or food, and are routinely harassed by security forces. — AFP ■

ONE Championship to hold Full Blast II on 11 June

ONE Championship will convene its thrilling contest named ONE: Full Blast II, featuring world-class fighters at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 11 June, said the ONE source.

In the main card or Muay Thai catchweight of 62.8 kilograms bout, Mongkolpetch Petchyindee Academy will take on Elias Mahmoudi.

Next in the mixed martial arts lightweight fight, Ben Wilhelm will face Amarsanaa Tsogookhuu.

In the mixed martial arts featherweight bout, Ma Jia Wen will fight against Yoon Chang Min.

Likewise, in the kickboxing flyweight fight, Wang Wenfeng will meet Taiki Naito.

"Fight fans are in for more non-

stop martial arts action at ONE: FULL BLAST II. Muay Thai phenoms collide in a main pivotal event, as the technical precision of Lumpinee Muay Thai World Champion Mongkolpetch Petchyindee Academy goes up against the flashy skills of Elias Mahmoudi.

Also on the stacked card are some spectacular kickboxing and mixed martial arts bouts, so mark your calendars, check your local listings, and download the ONE Super App now", said ONE Championship organizers.

The whole event will be streamed live on Skynet Channel at 7 pm Myanmar Time (MMT) on Friday, and a free-to-air show will also be available on the ONE Championship YouTube Channel and ONE Super Mobile application.—GNLM



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Italy cruise past Czechs in Euro warm up

A week before they kick off Euro 2020 in Rome, Italy crushed the Czech Republic 4-0 in Bologna on Friday, keeping an eighth straight clean sheet.

Ciro Immobile, Nicolo Barella, Lorenzo Insigne and Domenico Berardi all scored for the hosts who will open the Euro against Turkey next Friday.

In the absence of Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti, who is nursing an injured knee, Jorginho, a Champions League winner with Chelsea, and Barella quickly set the tempo for Italy.

Italy's strikers Lorenzo Insigne and Ciro Immobile wasted early chances, before Immobile of Lazio broke the deadlock in the 3rd minute.

Barella, who injected energy from midfield, added a second before half time.



A week before they kick off Euro 2020 in Rome, Italy crushed the Czech Republic 4-0 in Bologna on Friday, keeping an eighth straight clean sheet. PHOTO: AFP

Immobile set up Insigne to score the third with a deflected shot.

Berardi rounded off the party in style, much to the delight of the few thousand spectators in

the venerable Dall'Ara Stadium.

They also warmly welcomed the debut of Sassuolo striker Giacomo Raspadori, the surprise pick on the 26-man squad, with 12 minutes left. — AFP ■

Euro 2020 Group E: Spain's new era

SPAIN are no longer the most feared side in Europe that swept all before them between 2008 and 2012. A new generation is now tasked with restoring their former glories at Euro 2020. AFP Sport looks at what to expect from Group E with Sweden, Poland and Slovakia also hoping for a place in the last 16.

Spain

The three-time winners have failed to even make the quarter-finals in their past three tournaments. Luis Enrique is looking forward rather than to the past for inspiration as he controversially left out Sergio Ramos due to his fitness problems and for the first time Spain head to a major tournament without a Real Madrid player in their ranks. Instead there is

a crop of key players plying their trade abroad.

Manchester City's Ferran Torres scored a hat-trick in a 6-0 demolition of Germany in the Nations League in October, while his club teammate Aymeric Laporte has switched his allegiances from France. Bilbao was ditched as a host city late on due to coronavirus restrictions, but La Furia Roja will get a warmer welcome in Seville for their three group games.

Player to watch: Pau Torres

Few players on the continent come into the tournament on the high that Torres does after helping his boyhood club Villarreal to a first ever major trophy by beating Manchester United to lift the Europa League. — AFP ■

Tottenham's talks with Conte break down due to Italian's demands

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's hopes of appointing Antonio Conte as their new head coach seem to have faded on Friday night after it was reported that the English Premier League club have decided to end negotiations with the Italian coach.

SkySports News reported that on Friday evening negotiations between the two parties were at a standstill with Spurs holding concerns over some of Conte's demands including a reluctance to work with promising young players at the club.

Despite Tottenham's decision of halting talks with Conte, Fabio Paratici, who left Juventus last month and worked with Conte between 2011 and

2014, remains close to joining Spurs as their new sporting director.

After considering the role for several days, Conte remained unconvinced Spurs were a team ready to win trophies immediately.

The Italian has won five league titles in the last decade and is looking for another 'winning project'.

He was trying to understand if it were possible to bridge the gap with the top four or five Premier League teams in a short period of time, with Spurs having finished 24 points behind champions Manchester City. Conte may now decide to take a year out of management. — AFP ■



Tottenham Hotspur's hopes of appointing Antonio Conte as their new head coach seem to have faded on Friday night after it was reported that the English Premier League club have decided to end negotiations with the Italian coach. PHOTO: AFP